

Pattern-avoiding Parking Functions

Lara Pudwell  Valparaiso University
joint work with Ayomikun Adeniran (Colby College)

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Definition

A **permutation** is a list where order matters.

\mathcal{S}_n is the set of all permutations of $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$.

Examples:

- $\mathcal{S}_1 = \{1\}$
- $\mathcal{S}_2 = \{12, 21\}$
- $\mathcal{S}_3 = \{123, 132, 213, 231, 312, 321\}$

$$|\mathcal{S}_n| = n!$$

Visualize $\pi = \pi_1\pi_2 \cdots \pi_n \in \mathcal{S}_n$ by plotting the points (i, π_i) in the xy -plane.



123



132



213



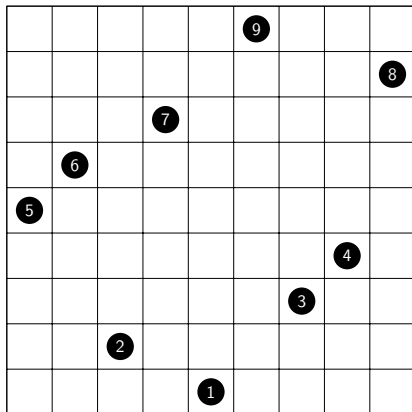
231



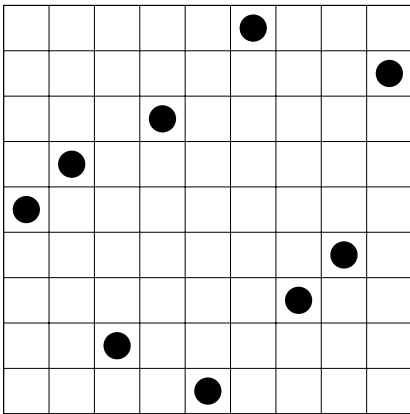
312

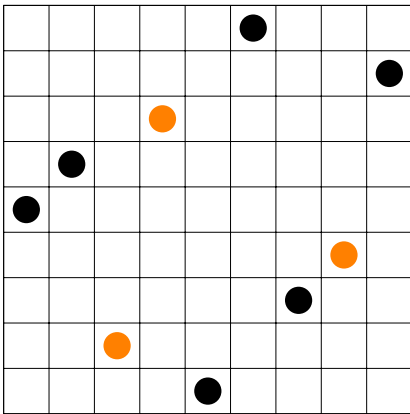


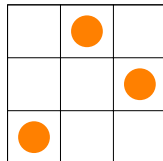
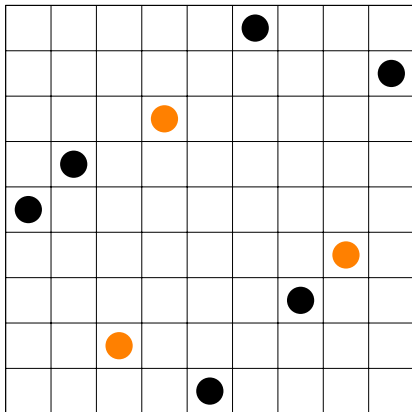
321



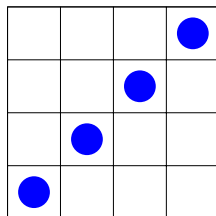
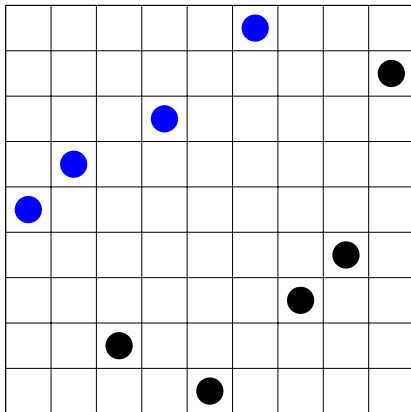
$$\pi = 562719348$$



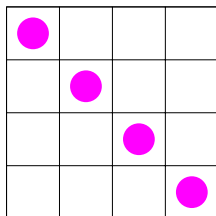
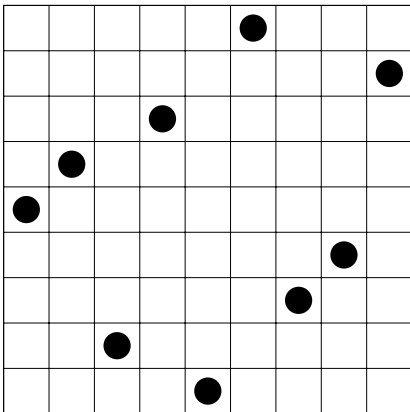




562719348 contains the pattern 132



562719348 contains the pattern 1234



562719348 avoids the pattern 4321

Big question

How many permutations of length n contain the pattern ρ ?

Or, alternatively...

Big question

How many permutations of length n avoid the pattern ρ ?

(depends on what ρ is!)

Notation

$\mathcal{S}_n(\rho)$ is the set of permutations of length n *avoiding* ρ .

Definition

A **parking function** is a sequence $a_1 \cdots a_n \in [n]^n$ such that if $b_1 \leq b_2 \leq \cdots \leq b_n$ is the increasing rearrangement of $a_1 \cdots a_n$ then $b_i \leq i$ for all $1 \leq i \leq n$.

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Examples: 11111, 32123, 45312
11111, 12233, 12345

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22222, 12445, 11155

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Observations

- There are $(n+1)^{n-1}$ parking functions of size n .
- Every permutation of size n is a parking function of size n .

History

Jelínek and Mansour (2009)

- Consider parking functions as words on $[n]^n$
- Determined all equivalence classes of patterns of length at most 5

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- Each Dyck path is associated with a permutation (many-to-one correspondence)
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- Each Dyck path is associated with a permutation (many-to-one correspondence)
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Current project:

- Follow Remmel and Qiu's definitions
- Count parking functions avoiding a subset of \mathcal{S}_3 .

Parking functions of size 2

Sequences:

11

12

21

Parking functions of size 2

Sequences:

11

12

21

Blocks:

$\{1, 2\}, \emptyset$

$\{1\}, \{2\}$

$\{2\}, \{1\}$

Parking functions of size 2

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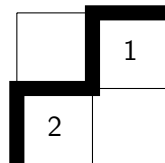
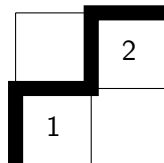
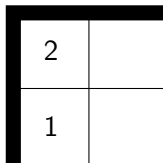
12

21

Blocks:

 $\{1, 2\}, \emptyset$ $\{1\}, \{2\}$ $\{2\}, \{1\}$

Dyck paths:



Parking functions of size 2

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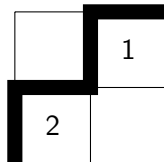
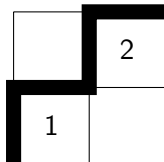
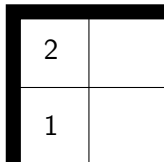
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 $\{1, 2\}, \emptyset$ $\{1\}, \{2\}$ $\{2\}, \{1\}$

Dyck paths:



Associated permutations:

12

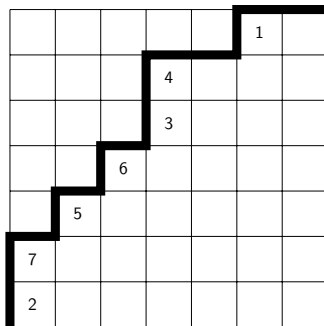
12

21

Parking function:

6144231

Blocks:

 $\{2, 7\}, \{5\}, \{6\}, \{3, 4\}, \emptyset, \{1\}, \emptyset$ 

Dyck path:

Associated permutation:

2756341

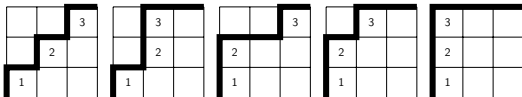
Warmup

Notation

Let $\text{pf}_n(\rho)$ be the number of parking functions of size n whose associated permutations avoid ρ .

Proposition

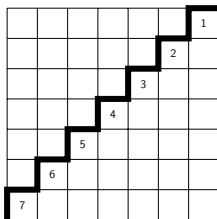
$\text{pf}_n(21) = C_n$ (n th Catalan number)



Warmup

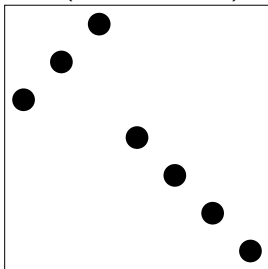
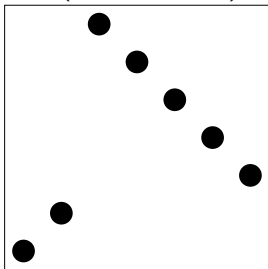
Proposition

$$pf_n(12) = 1$$



Theorem

$$\text{pf}_n(132, 213, 312) = \text{pf}_n(213, 231, 312) = \frac{3(2n)!}{(n+2)!(n-1)!} = C_{n+1} - C_n$$

 $\mathcal{S}_n(132, 213, 312)$  $\mathcal{S}_n(213, 231, 312)$ 

$$\mathcal{S}_n(213, 231, 312) \quad \boxed{\begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \end{array}}$$

Let $a(n, k)$ be the number of size n parking functions whose associated permutation begins with $k - 1$ ascents.

- $a(n, 1) = 1$
- $a(n, n) = C_n$

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Two cases:

- 1 Last block has one element
- 2 Last block is empty

$$\mathcal{S}_n(213, 231, 312) \quad \boxed{\begin{matrix} \bullet & & & & \\ & \bullet & & & \\ & & \bullet & & \\ & & & \bullet & \\ & & & & \bullet \end{matrix}}$$

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Two cases:

- 1 Last block has one element ($a(n - 1, k)$)
- 2 Last block is empty

Case 1? Deleting/reinserting last block (and standardizing) is bijection

$$\{1, 2\}, \emptyset, \{7\}, \{6\}, \{5\}, \{4\}, \{3\} \leftrightarrow \{1, 2\}, \emptyset, \{6\}, \{5\}, \{4\}, \{3\}$$

$$\mathcal{S}_n(213, 231, 312) \quad \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \hline \end{array}$$

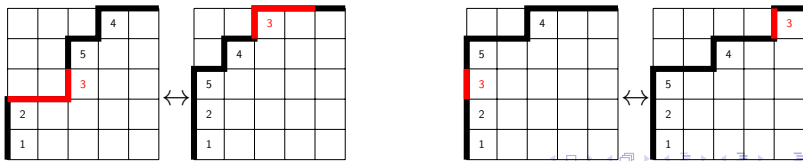
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Two cases:

- 1 Last block has one element ($a(n - 1, k)$)
- 2 Last block is empty ($a(n, k - 1)$)

Case 2? Bijection via moving last element before decreasing run.



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In general:

$$a(n, k) = a(n - 1, k) + a(n, k - 1).$$

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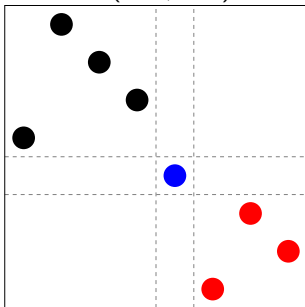
$$\text{pf}_n(132, 213, 312) = \text{pf}_n(213, 231, 312) = \sum_{k=1}^n a(n, k) = C_{n+1} - C_n$$

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 $\mathcal{S}_n(123, 213)$ 

Encoding $\{123, 213\}$ -avoiding parking functions:

- One dot per element
- Left paren at start of each interval.
- If corresponding right paren encloses one element, all numbers in blocks of size 1.
- If corresponding right paren encloses multiple elements, it gives location of corresponding empty block.

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Examples:

Permutation	Parking Function	Dots and Parentheses
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$f(n)$ is the number of n -dot dot-parentheses arrangements.

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Case 1: $(*)***(\dots)\dots$

Case 2: $\underbrace{(***(\dots)\dots)}_i ***(\dots)\dots$

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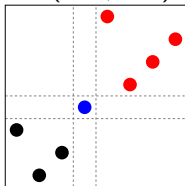
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Can confirm via CAS that $f(n) = C_{n+1} - C_n$ matches initial conditions and satisfies recurrence.

Theorem

$$\text{pf}_n(231, 321) = \frac{\binom{3n}{n}}{2n+1} \quad (\text{OEIS A001764})$$

 $\mathcal{S}_n(231, 321)$

 $\frac{\binom{3n}{n}}{2n+1}$ counts

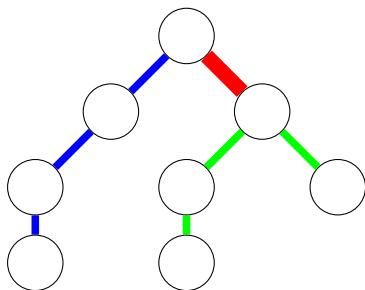
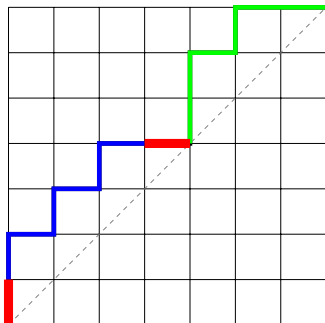
- ternary trees
- non-crossing trees

Strategy for $\text{pf}_n(231, 321)$

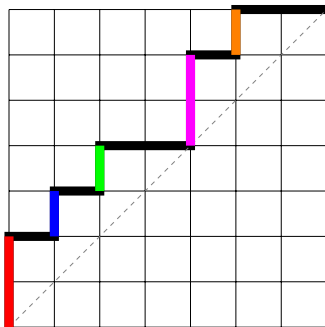
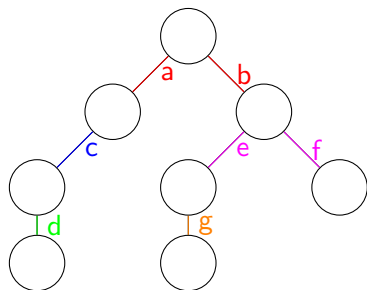
- ① bijection between Dyck paths and rooted ordered trees
- ② bijection between parking functions and non-crossing trees via...
 - ▶ labeling Dyck paths
 - ▶ arranging tree vertices on circle

Strategy for $pf_n(231, 321)$

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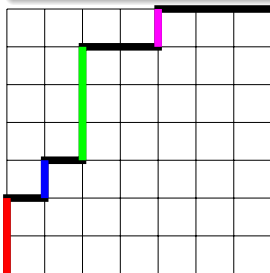
Reframing the Dyck path/tree bijection



Labelling the Dyck path to avoid $\{231, 321\}$

Characterization of $\{231, 321\}$ -avoiding permutations

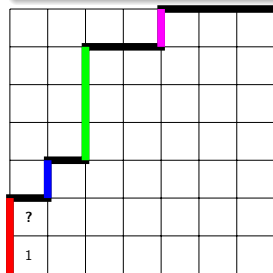
The digit d must be either first or second among the digits $\{d, d + 1, \dots, n\}$.



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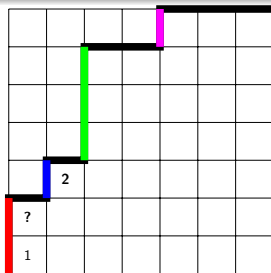
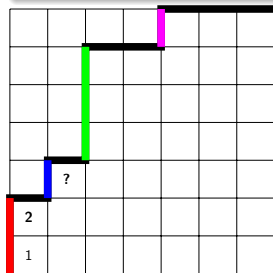
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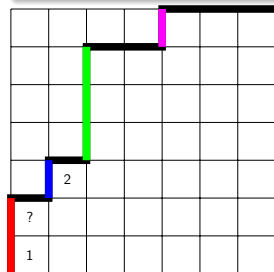
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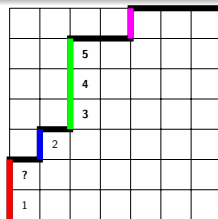
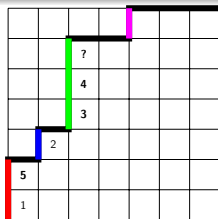
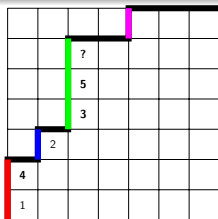
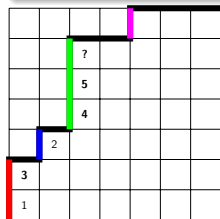
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Labelling the Dyck path to avoid $\{231, 321\}$

Characterization of $\{231, 321\}$ -avoiding permutations

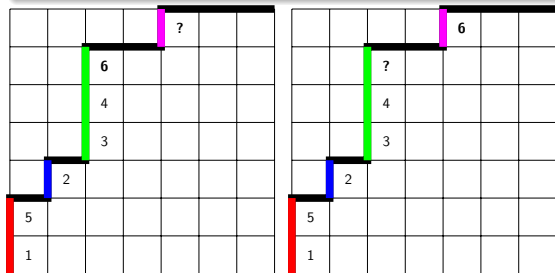
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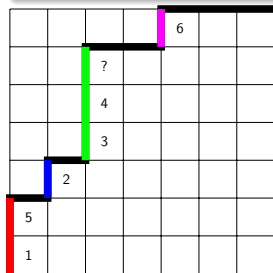
The digit d must be either first or second among the digits $\{d, d + 1, \dots, n\}$.



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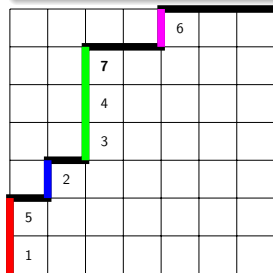
The digit d must be either first or second among the digits $\{d, d + 1, \dots, n\}$.



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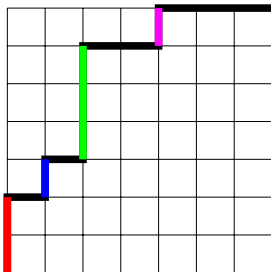
The digit d must be either first or second among the digits $\{d, d + 1, \dots, n\}$.



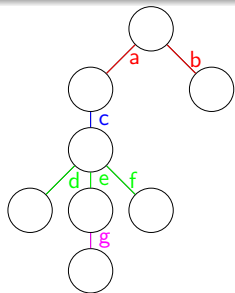
Labelling the Dyck path to avoid $\{231, 321\}$

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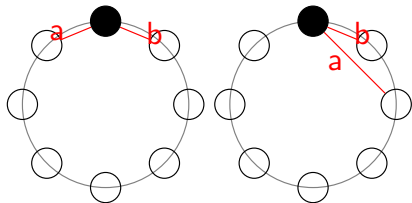
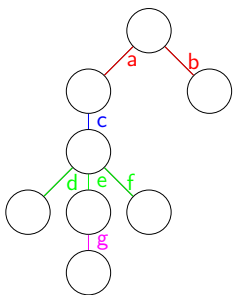
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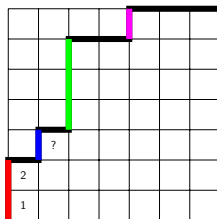
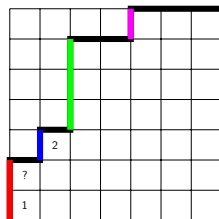
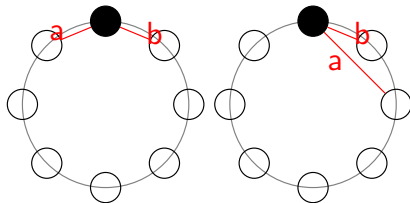
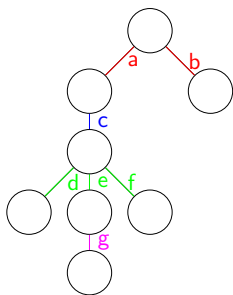
corresponds to
 $2 \cdot 4 \cdot 2 = 16$ different
 $\{231, 321\}$ -avoiding
 parking functions.



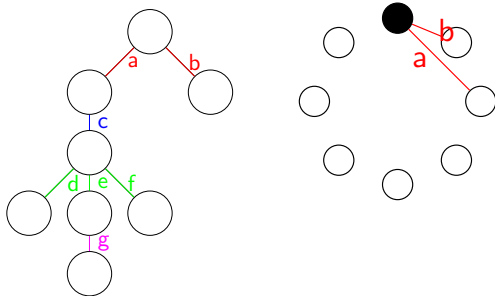
Non-Crossing Trees



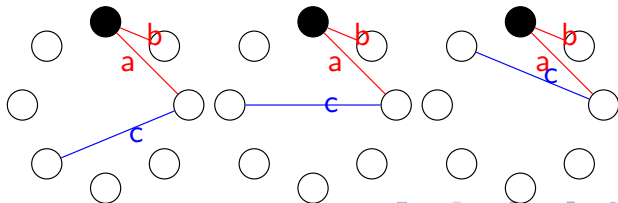
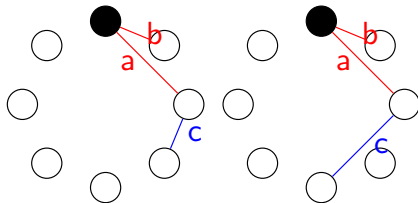
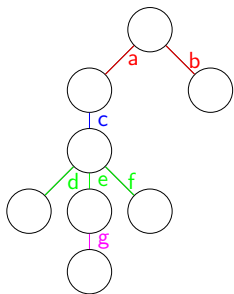
Non-Crossing Trees



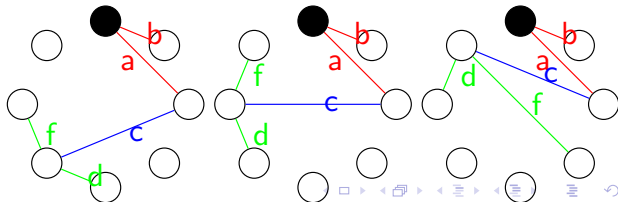
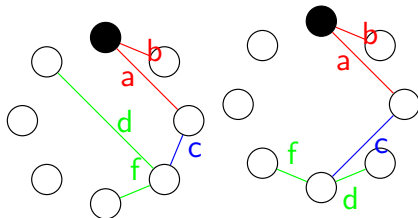
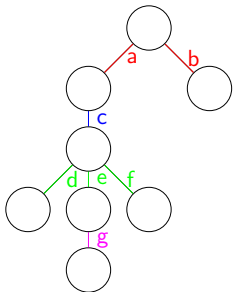
Non-Crossing Trees



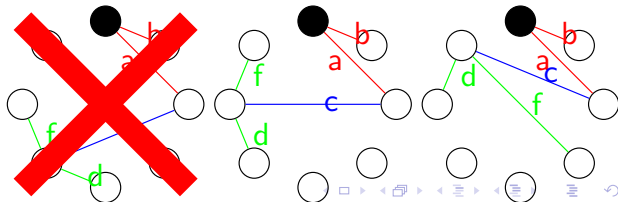
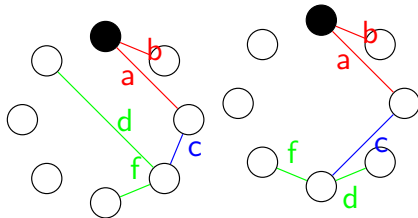
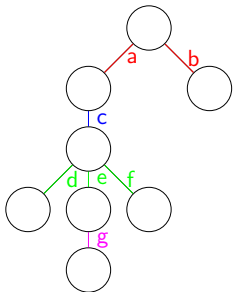
Non-Crossing Trees

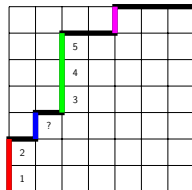
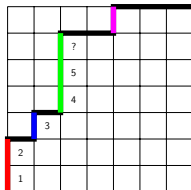
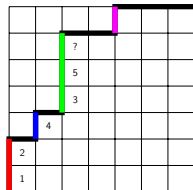
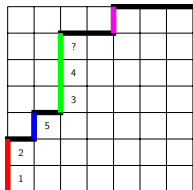
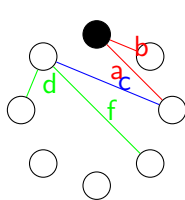
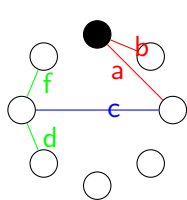
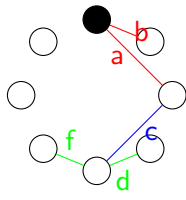
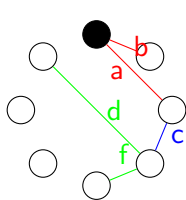


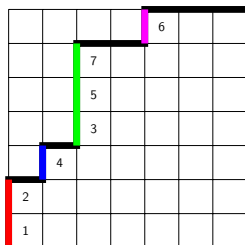
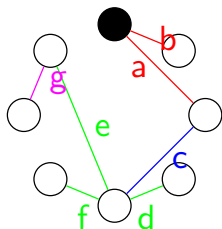
Non-Crossing Trees



Non-Crossing Trees







$\{1, ?\}$

$\{1, 2\}, \{?\}$

$\{1, 2\}, \{4\}, \{3, 5, ?\}$

$\{1, 2\}, \{4\}, \{3, 5, ?\}, \{6\}$

a is left of 1 subtree, so ? is replaced with smallest remaining number.

c is left of 2 subtrees, so ? is replaced with 2nd smallest remaining number.

e is left of 0 subtrees, so ? remains.

Summary

- $\text{pf}_n(132, 213, 312) = \text{pf}_n(213, 231, 312) = C_{n+1} - C_n$
- $\text{pf}_n(123, 213) = C_{n+1} - C_n$
- $\text{pf}_n(231, 321) = \frac{\binom{3n}{n}}{2n+1}$

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Forthcoming:

results for avoiding any set of 2 or more patterns in \mathcal{S}_3

Patterns P	$\text{pf}_n(P), 1 \leq n \leq 6$	OEIS
123, 132, 231	1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11	A005408
123, 132, 312	1, 3, 6, 10, 15, 21	A000217
123, 213, 231		
123, 231, 312		
123, 213, 312	1, 3, 7, 13, 21, 31	A002061
123, 132, 213	1, 3, 6, 17, 43, 123	A143363
132, 213, 231	1, 3, 8, 22, 64, 196	A014138
132, 231, 312		
132, 213, 312	1, 3, 9, 28, 90, 297	A000245
213, 231, 312		
132, 231, 321	1, 3, 9, 29, 98, 342	A077587
132, 213, 321	1, 3, 10, 35, 126, 462	A001700
132, 312, 321		
213, 231, 321		
213, 312, 321	1, 3, 11, 41, 154, 582	A076540
231, 312, 321	1, 3, 10, 38, 154, 654	A001002

Patterns P	$\text{pf}_n(P), 1 \leq n \leq 6$	OEIS
123, 231	1, 3, 8, 17, 31, 51	A105163
123, 312	1, 3, 9, 21, 41, 71	A064999
123, 132	1, 3, 8, 24, 75, 243	A000958
123, 213	1, 3, 9, 28, 90, 297	A000245
132, 231	1, 3, 10, 36, 137, 543	A002212
132, 213 132, 312 213, 231 231, 312	1, 3, 11, 45, 197, 903	A001003
132, 321	1, 3, 12, 52, 229, 1006	new
213, 321	1, 3, 13, 60, 275, 1238	new
213, 312	1, 3, 12, 54, 259, 1293	new
231, 321	1, 3, 12, 55, 273, 1428	A001764
312, 321	1, 3, 13, 63, 324, 1736	new

Pattern P	$\text{pf}_n(P), 1 \leq n \leq 6$	OEIS
123	1, 3, 11, 48, 232, 1207	new (Remmel & Qiu)
132 231	1, 3, 13, 69, 417, 2759	A243688*
213 312	1, 3, 14, 81, 533, 3822	new
321	1, 3, 15, 97, 728, 6024	new

*“Number of Sylvester classes of 1-multiparking functions of length n .”

For further reading...

- V. Jelínek and T. Mansour, Wilf-equivalence on k -ary words, compositions, and parking functions, *Electron. J. Combin.* **16** (2009), #R58, 9pp.
- J. Remmel and D. Qiu, Patterns in ordered set partitions and parking functions, *Permutation Patterns 2016* (slides), available electronically at <https://www.math.ucsd.edu/~duqiu/files/PP16.pdf>.
- Richard Stanley, *Enumerative Combinatorics, Vol. 2*, Cambridge University Press, 2001.
- The On-Line Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences at oeis.org.

Thanks for listening!

slides at faculty.valpo.edu/lpudwell

email: Lara.Pudwell@valpo.edu