

Eulerian quasisymmetric functions for the type B Coxeter group and other wreath product groups

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Eulerian polynomials

Let S_n denote the symmetric group. Given $\sigma \in S_n$, let

$$\text{exc}(\sigma) := |\{i \in [n-1] : \sigma(i) > i\}|$$

and

$$\text{des}(\sigma) := |\{i \in [n-1] : \sigma(i) > \sigma(i+1)\}|$$

Let $A_n(t)$ denote the Eulerian polynomial

$$A_n(t) = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} t^{\text{des}(\sigma)} = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} t^{\text{exc}(\sigma)}$$

where the second equality is due to MacMahon. Prior to this combinatorial interpretation of the Eulerian polynomials, Euler had proved the following formula

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} A_n(t) \frac{z^n}{n!} = \frac{e^z(1-t)}{e^{tz} - te^z}$$

The group of colored permutations, $C_N \wr S_n$

Let C_N be the cyclic group of order N , and let S_n be the symmetric group on $[n]$. The wreath product $C_N \wr S_n$ is the group of colored permutations. Its elements are words in S_n where each letter has a color in $\{0, 1, 2, \dots, N-1\}$ assigned to it. We denote this color with a superscript of the letter. For example

$$[5^2 \ 3^0 \ 1^1 \ 4^0 \ 2^1 \ 6^2] \in C_3 \wr S_6$$

and

$$[1^0 \ 2^0 \ 3^0 \ 4^0 \ 5^0 \ 6^0] = \text{Id} \in C_3 \wr S_6$$

Note that $C_1 \wr S_n = S_n$, and $C_2 \wr S_n = B_n$ the type B Coxeter group.

Statistics on $C_N \wr S_n$

Totally order the letters that may appear in elements of $C_N \wr S_n$

$$\mathcal{E} := \left\{ 1^{N-1} < \dots < n^{N-1} < 1^{N-2} < \dots < n^{N-2} < \dots < 1^0 < \dots < n^0 \right\}$$

Let $\pi = [\pi_1^{\epsilon_1} \ \pi_2^{\epsilon_2} \ \dots \ \pi_n^{\epsilon_n}]$ and define the following statistics

$$\text{des}^*(\pi) := |\text{DES}(\pi)| + \chi(\epsilon_1 > 0)$$

$$\text{maj}(\pi) := \sum_{i \in \text{DES}(\pi)} i$$

$$\text{exc}(\pi) := |\{i \in [n-1] : \pi_i > i \text{ and } \epsilon_i = 0\}|$$

$$\text{fix}_m(\pi) := |\{i \in [n] : \pi_i = i \text{ and } \epsilon_i = m\}|$$

$$\text{col}_m(\pi) := |\{i \in [n] : \epsilon_i = m\}|$$

where m is an integer in $[0, N-1]$.

Example

$$\pi = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 \\ 2^2 & 3^2 & 6^0 & 4^1 & 8^0 & 1^1 & 7^0 & 9^2 & 5^2 \end{bmatrix} \in C_3 \wr S_9$$

$$\text{des}^*(\pi) = 5$$

$$\text{maj}(\pi) = 3 + 5 + 7 + 8 = 23$$

$$\text{exc}(\pi) = 2$$

$$\text{fix}_0(\pi) = 1, \quad \text{fix}_1(\pi) = 1, \quad \text{fix}_2(\pi) = 0, \quad \vec{\text{fix}}(\pi) = (1, 1, 0)$$

$$\text{col}_1(\pi) = 2, \quad \text{col}_2(\pi) = 4, \quad \vec{\text{col}}(\pi) = (2, 4)$$

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Connections to the type B Coxeter group ($N = 2$)

The type B descent number is equidistributed with des^* .

The flag major index, denoted fmaj , is equidistributed with Coxeter length [Adin, Roichman], and is defined by

$$\text{fmaj}(\pi) := 2\text{maj}(\pi) + \text{col}_1(\pi)$$

Remark: The word flag is used because of the connection between fmaj and a flag of parabolic subgroups $1 < G_1 < G_2 < \dots < G_n$, where $G_i \simeq C_N \wr S_i$.

The flag descent number is a weighted count of Coxeter descents. It is equidistributed with the flag excedance number [Foata, Han], denoted fexc , and defined by

$$\text{fexc}(\pi) := 2\text{exc}(\pi) + \text{col}_1(\pi)$$

Quasisymmetric functions and two specializations

Given a subset $T \subseteq [n - 1]$, the fundamental quasisymmetric function of degree n , denoted $F_{T,n}$, is defined by

$$F_{T,n}(\mathbf{x}) := \sum_{\substack{i_1 \geq i_2 \geq \dots \geq i_n \geq 1 \\ i_j > i_{j+1} \text{ if } j \in T}} x_{i_1} x_{i_2} \dots x_{i_n}$$

The stable principal specialization $\mathbf{ps} : \text{QSym} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}[q]$ is a homomorphism defined by $x_i \mapsto q^{i-1}$ for all i .

The nonstable principal specialization $\mathbf{ps}_k : \text{QSym} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}[q]$ is a homomorphism defined by $x_i \mapsto q^{i-1}$ for $1 \leq i \leq k$ and $x_i \mapsto 0$ otherwise.

A useful lemma

Lemma (Gessel, Reutenauer)

$$\mathbf{ps}(F_{T,n}) = \frac{q^{\sum_{i \in T} i}}{(q; q)_n}$$

$$\sum_{k \geq 0} p^k \mathbf{ps}_k(F_{T,n}) = \frac{p^{|T|+1} q^{\sum_{i \in T} i}}{(p; q)_{n+1}}$$

where

$$(p; q)_n := (1 - p)(1 - pq) \dots (1 - pq^{n-1}) \quad \text{if } n \geq 1$$

and $(p; q)_0 := 1$.



No, not this guy.

Extend the definition of $\text{DEX}(\pi)$

For $\pi \in C_N \wr S_n$, we want to define $\text{DEX}(\pi) \subseteq [n-1]$, such that this definition coincides with the definition given by Shareshian and Wachs when $N = 1$.

Extend the totally ordered alphabet \mathcal{E} to

$$\mathcal{A} := \{ \tilde{1}^0 < \tilde{2}^0 < \dots < \tilde{n}^0 \} < \mathcal{E}$$

Given π , obtain a word $\tilde{\pi}$ over \mathcal{A} by replacing $\pi_i^{\epsilon_i}$ by $\tilde{\pi}_i^{\epsilon_i}$ if $\epsilon_i = 0$ and $\pi_i > i$ (i.e. i is an excedance position). Then define $\text{DEX}(\pi) := \text{DES}(\tilde{\pi})$.

For example,

$$\pi = [5^0 \quad 3^0 \quad 4^1 \quad 6^0 \quad 2^1 \quad 1^2]$$

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$$\text{DEX}(\pi) = \{1, 3, 5\}$$

Properties of $\text{DEX}(\pi)$

Lemma (H)

For every $\pi \in C_N \setminus S_n$ we have

$$|\text{DEX}(\pi)| = \begin{cases} \text{des}^*(\pi) - 1 & \text{if } \pi_1^{\epsilon_1} \neq 1^0 \\ \text{des}^*(\pi) & \text{if } \pi_1^{\epsilon_1} = 1^0 \end{cases}$$

and

$$\sum_{i \in \text{DEX}(\pi)} i = \text{maj}(\pi) - \text{exc}(\pi)$$

A family of quasisymmetric functions

Given $\pi \in C_N \wr S_n$, let $F_\pi := F_{\text{DEX}(\pi), n}(\mathbf{x})$.

For each $n, j \in \mathbb{N}$, $\vec{\alpha} \in \mathbb{N}^N$, $\vec{\beta} \in \mathbb{N}^{N-1}$, define the fixed point colored Eulerian quasisymmetric functions by

$$\bar{Q}(n, j, \vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta}) := \sum_{\substack{\pi \in C_N \wr S_n \\ \text{exc}(\pi) = j \\ \vec{\text{fix}}(\pi) = \vec{\alpha} \\ \vec{\text{col}}(\pi) = \vec{\beta}}} F_\pi$$

Some examples with $N = 2$

$$\bar{Q}(3, 1, \vec{0}, 1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= F_{[2^0 \ 3^1 \ 1^0]} + F_{[3^0 \ 1^1 \ 2^0]} + F_{[3^0 \ 1^0 \ 2^1]} + F_{[2^1 \ 3^0 \ 1^0]} \\ &= F_{\phi, 3} + F_{\phi, 3} + F_{\{2\}, 3} + F_{\{1\}, 3} = h_3 + h_3 + (m_{2,1} + e_3) = h_3 + h_{2,1} \end{aligned}$$

$$\bar{Q}(3, 0, \vec{0}, 3) = h_{2,1} - h_3 = s_{2,1}$$

A generating function formula

Theorem (H)

$$\sum_{\substack{n, j \geq 0 \\ \vec{\alpha} \in \mathbb{N}^N \\ \vec{\beta} \in \mathbb{N}^{N-1}}} \bar{Q}(n, j, \vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta}) z^n t^j r_0^{\alpha_0} \left(\prod_{m=1}^{N-1} (r_m)^{\alpha_m} (s_m)^{\beta_m} \right) \\ = \frac{H(r_0 z)(1-t) \left(\prod_{m=1}^{N-1} E(-s_m z) H(r_m s_m z) \right)}{\left(1 + \sum_{m=1}^{N-1} s_m \right) H(tz) - \left(t + \sum_{m=1}^{N-1} s_m \right) H(z)}$$

where $E(z) := \sum_{i \geq 0} e_i z^i$, and $H(z) := \sum_{i \geq 0} h_i z^i$. If $N = 1$ this reduces to a formula of Shareshian and Wachs.

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Another family of quasisymmetric functions

Let $\check{\lambda}(\pi) = ((\lambda_1, \vec{\beta}^{(1)}), (\lambda_2, \vec{\beta}^{(2)}), \dots, (\lambda_k, \vec{\beta}^{(k)}))$ denote the cycle type of a colored permutation. For example if

$$\begin{aligned}\pi &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 \\ 3^2 & 4^1 & 1^1 & 2^2 & 8^0 & 9^2 & 5^1 & 7^1 & 6^0 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= (1^1, 3^2)(2^2, 4^1)(6^0, 9^2)(5^1, 8^0, 7^1)\end{aligned}$$

then

$$\check{\lambda}(\pi) = \{(3, (2, 0)), (2, (1, 1)), (2, (1, 1)), (2, (0, 1))\}$$

The cycle type colored Eulerian quasisymmetric functions are

$$\bar{Q}(\check{\lambda}, j) := \sum_{\substack{\pi \in C_N \wr S_n \\ \text{exc}(\pi) = j \\ \check{\lambda}(\pi) = \check{\lambda}}} F_\pi$$

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Outline of the proof

View $\bar{Q}(\check{\lambda}, j)$ as a multiset of monomials.

Construct a bijection from $\bar{Q}(\check{\lambda}, j)$ to a certain set of colored ornaments. A colored ornament is (roughly) a multiset of primitive circular words over a certain alphabet. This bijection is a nontrivial extension of a bijection due to Shareshian and Wachs, which is in turn a nontrivial extension of a bijection due to Gessel and Reutenauer.

Use the ornament description of the monomials appearing in $\bar{Q}(n, j, \vec{\alpha}, \vec{\beta})$ to obtain a recurrence relation, which is equivalent to the theorem. The proof of this recurrence uses the increasing factorization of Désarménien and Wachs, which is a refinement of Lyndon factorization.

A little bit on colored ornaments

Map a pair (π, s) into a multiset R of necklaces on the ordered alphabet $1^0 < 1^1 < 1^2 < \bar{1}^0 < 2^0 < 2^1 < 2^2 < \bar{2}^0 < \dots$

Id	=	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
π	=	3^0	4^0	8^1	1^0	7^0	6^1	5^2	2^1
s	=	x_7	x_7	x_7	x_7	x_5	x_5	x_3	x_3

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Id	=	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
$\tilde{\pi}$	=	$\tilde{3}^0$	$\tilde{4}^0$	8^1	1^0	$\tilde{7}^0$	6^1	5^2	2^1
s	=	x_7	x_7	x_7	x_7	x_5	x_5	x_3	x_3

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s	=	x_7	x_7	x_7	x_7	x_5	x_5	x_3	x_3
α	=	$\bar{7}^0$	$\bar{7}^0$	7^1	7^0	$\bar{5}^0$	5^1	3^2	3^1

A little bit on colored ornaments

Map a pair (π, s) into a multiset R of necklaces on the ordered alphabet $1^0 < 1^1 < 1^2 < \bar{1}^0 < 2^0 < 2^1 < 2^2 < \bar{2}^0 < \dots$

Id	=	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
$\tilde{\pi}$	=	$\tilde{3}^0$	$\tilde{4}^0$	8^1	1^0	$\tilde{7}^0$	6^1	5^2	2^1
s	=	x_7	x_7	x_7	x_7	x_5	x_5	x_3	x_3
α	=	$\bar{7}^0$	$\bar{7}^0$	7^1	7^0	$\bar{5}^0$	5^1	3^2	3^1
σ	=	(1,	3,	8,	2,	4)	(6)	(5,	7)

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σ	=	(1,	3,	8,	2,	4)	(6)	(5,	7)
R	=	($\bar{7}^0$,	7^1 ,	3^1 ,	$\bar{7}^0$,	7^0)	(5^1)	(5^0 ,	3^2)

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$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Id} = 1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4 \quad 5 \quad 6 \quad 7 \quad 8 \\ \tilde{\pi} = \tilde{3}^0 \quad \tilde{4}^0 \quad 8^1 \quad 1^0 \quad \tilde{7}^0 \quad 6^1 \quad 5^2 \quad 2^1 \\ \\ s = x_7 \quad x_7 \quad x_7 \quad x_7 \quad x_5 \quad x_5 \quad x_3 \quad x_3 \\ \alpha = \bar{7}^0 \quad \bar{7}^0 \quad 7^1 \quad 7^0 \quad \bar{5}^0 \quad 5^1 \quad 3^2 \quad 3^1 \\ \\ \sigma = (1, 3, 8, 2, 4) \quad (6) \quad (5, 7) \\ R = (\bar{7}^0, 7^1, 3^1, \bar{7}^0, 7^0) \quad (5^1) \quad (5^0, 3^2) \end{array}$$

To recover σ we rank each position of R , and α is the weakly decreasing rearrangement of the letters in R .

A recurrence

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{Q}(n, j, \vec{0}, \vec{\beta}) &= \sum_{\substack{0 \leq i \leq n-2 \\ j-n+i < k < j}} \bar{Q}(i, k, \vec{0}, \vec{\beta}) h_{n-i} \\ &+ \sum_{m=1}^{N-1} \left(\sum_{\substack{0 \leq i \leq n-1 \\ j-n+i < k \leq j}} \bar{Q}(i, k, \vec{0}, \vec{\beta}(\hat{m})) h_{n-i} \right) \\ &+ \chi(j=0) \chi(|\vec{\beta}|=n) (-1)^n \prod_{m=1}^{N-1} e_{\beta_m}\end{aligned}$$

where if $\vec{\beta} = (\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_{N-1})$ then

$$\vec{\beta}(\hat{m}) := (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_{m-1}, \beta_m - 1, \beta_{m+1}, \dots, \beta_{N-1})$$

Apply the stable principal specialization

Theorem (H)

$$\sum_{\substack{n \geq 0 \\ \pi \in \overline{C}_N \wr S_n}} \frac{z^n}{[n]_q!} q^{\text{maj}(\pi)} t^{\text{exc}(\pi)} r_0^{\text{fix}_0(\pi)} \left(\prod_{m=1}^{N-1} (r_m)^{\text{fix}_m(\pi)} (s_m)^{\text{col}_m(\pi)} \right)$$
$$= \frac{\exp_q(r_0 z) (1 - tq) \left(\prod_{m=1}^{N-1} \text{Exp}_q(-s_m z) \exp_q(r_m s_m z) \right)}{\left(1 + \sum_{m=1}^{N-1} s_m \right) \exp_q(tqz) - \left(tq + \sum_{m=1}^{N-1} s_m \right) \exp_q(z)}$$

If $N = 1$ this reduces to the q -analog of Euler's formula due to Shareshian and Wachs.

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Theorem (H)

$$\sum_{\substack{n \geq 0 \\ \pi \in \overline{C}_N \wr S_n}} \frac{z^n}{[n]_q!} q^{\text{maj}(\pi)} t^{\text{exc}(\pi)} r_0^{\text{fix}_0(\pi)}$$
$$= \frac{\exp_q(r_0 z)(1 - tq)}{N \exp_q(tqz) - (tq + N - 1) \exp_q(z)}$$

If $N = 1$ this reduces to the q -analog of Euler's formula due to Shareshian and Wachs.

Apply the nonstable principal specialization (and then do some more work)

Theorem (H)

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \sum_{\substack{n \geq 0 \\ \pi \in \bar{C}_N \wr S_n}} \frac{z^n}{(p; q)_{n+1}} q^{\text{maj}(\pi)} t^{\text{exc}(\pi)} p^{\text{des}^*(\pi)} \left(\prod_{m=0}^{N-1} (r_m)^{\text{fix}_m(\pi)} \right) \left(\prod_{m=1}^{N-1} (s_m)^{\text{col}_m(\pi)} \right) \\
 &= \sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{p^k (1 - tq)(z; q)_k (tqz; q)_k \left(\prod_{m=1}^{N-1} (s_m z; q)_k \right)}{\left(\prod_{m=1}^{N-1} (r_m s_m z; q)_k \right) (r_0 z; q)_{k+1}} \\
 & \quad \times \frac{1}{\left[\left(1 + \sum_{m=1}^{N-1} s_m \right) (z; q)_k - \left(tq + \sum_{m=1}^{N-1} s_m \right) (tqz; q)_k \right]}
 \end{aligned}$$

Recall that $(p; q)_n := \prod_{i=1}^n (1 - pq^{i-1})$.

If $N = 1$ this reduces to a formula of Foata and Han.

A special case: the type B Coxeter group

Corollary (H)

$$\sum_{\substack{n \geq 0 \\ \pi \in B_n}} \frac{z^n}{(p; q^2)_{n+1}} q^{\text{fmaj}(\pi)} t^{\text{fexc}(\pi)} p^{\text{des}_B(\pi)} r^{\text{fix}^+(\pi)} s^{\text{neg}(\pi)}$$
$$= \sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{p^k (1 - t^2 q^2) (z; q^2)_k (t^2 q^2 z; q^2)_k}{(rz; q^2)_{k+1} [(1 + sqt)(z; q^2)_k - (t^2 q^2 + sqt)(t^2 q^2 z; q^2)_k]}$$

With a little work, this reduces to

Corollary (Chow, Gessel)

$$\sum_{\pi \in B_n} q^{\text{fmaj}(\pi)} p^{\text{des}_B(\pi)} = (p; q^2)_{n+1} \sum_{k \geq 0} p^k [2k + 1]_q^n$$

A cool formula

Let $N \geq 2$, and let ω be a primitive N^{th} root of unity. Set $r_m = 1$, set $s_m = \omega^m$, and extract the coefficient of z^n to obtain

Corollary (H)

$$\sum_{\pi \in C_N \wr S_n} t^{\text{exc}(\pi)} q^{\text{maj}(\pi)} p^{\text{des}^*(\pi)} \left(\prod_{m=1}^{N-1} \omega^{m \cdot \text{col}_m(\pi)} \right) = (p; q)_n$$

An example, $C_3 \wr S_2$

π	monomial	π	monomial	π	monomial	π	monomial
$1^0 2^0$	1	$1^1 2^2$	$p^2 q$	$2^0 1^0$	tpq	$2^1 1^2$	$p^2 q$
$1^0 2^1$	ωpq	$1^2 2^0$	$\omega^2 p$	$2^0 1^1$	ωtpq	$2^2 1^0$	$\omega^2 p$
$1^0 2^2$	$\omega^2 pq$	$1^2 2^1$	p	$2^0 1^2$	$\omega^2 tpq$	$2^2 1^1$	p
$1^1 2^0$	ωp	$1^2 2^2$	ωp	$2^1 1^0$	ωp	$2^2 1^2$	$\omega p^2 q$
$1^1 2^1$	$\omega^2 p$			$2^1 1^1$	$\omega^2 p^2 q$		

$$\sum_{\pi \in C_3 \wr S_2} t^{\text{exc}(\pi)} q^{\text{maj}(\pi)} p^{\text{des}(\pi)} \left(\prod_{m=1}^2 \omega^{m \cdot \text{col}_m(\pi)} \right)$$

$$= 1 - p - pq + p^2 q = (1 - p)(1 - pq) = (p; q)_2$$

Thank you