

# Positroid varieties and $q,t$ -Catalan numbers

Thomas Lam

University of Michigan

Based on joint work with Pavel Galashin

arXiv: 1111.3660 (w. Knutson, Speyer)

arXiv: 1604.06843 (w. Speyer)

arXiv: 1906.03501 (w. Galashin)

$$[n]_q := \frac{1-q^n}{1-q} = 1 + q + q^2 + \dots + q^{n-1}$$

$$[n]_q! := [n]_q [n-1]_q \dots [1]_q$$

Gaussian polynomial

$$\begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q := \frac{[n]_q!}{[k]_q! [n-k]_q!}$$

Theorem.  $\sum_i \dim H^{2i}(\text{Gr}(k,n)) q^i = \begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q$

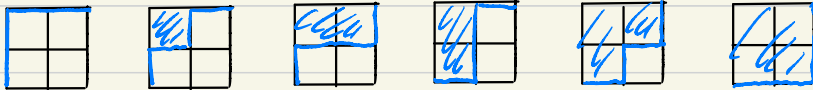
$\# \text{Gr}(k,n)(\mathbb{F}_q) =$

odd cohomology vanishes

$$= 1 + 1q + 2q^2 + 1q^3 + 1q^4$$

$q^{\text{area}}$

$k=2, n=4$



$$\binom{4}{2} = 6$$

$$1 + q + q^2 + q^2 + q^3 + q^4 = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}_q$$

• basis of Schubert classes  $[\bar{\Omega}_\lambda]$

• hard Lefschetz  $\Rightarrow$  symmetry  
for  $\text{Gr}(k,n)$  unimodality

Sylvester 1877 "waiting for a proof for the last quarter century or upwards"  
White, Macdonald, Proctor, Stanley, O'Hara, ...

Binomial  $\rightarrow$  Catalan

$$\gcd(a,b) = 1$$

Catalan number  $C_n = C_{n,n+1}$

Rational Catalan number  $C_{a,b} := \frac{1}{a+b} \binom{a+b}{a}$

Catalan (1814-1894)

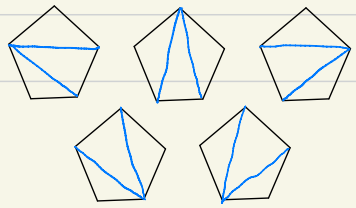
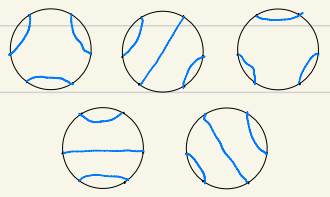
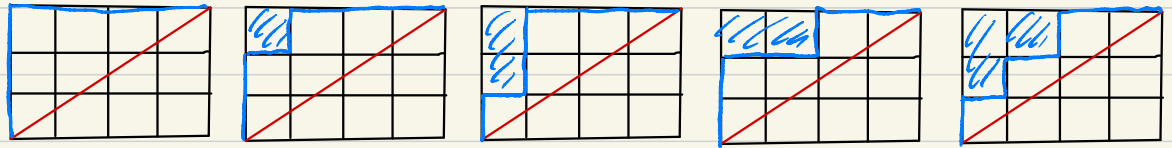
Fuss (1755-1826)  
 $(a,b) = (n, n+1)$

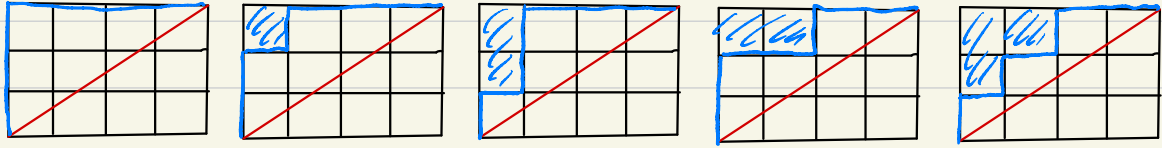
Grossman 1950

Bizley 1954

Theorem  $C_{a,b} = \#$  rational Dyck paths in  $a \times b$  rectangle

$$C_3 = C_{3,4} = 5$$





$$\sum q^{\text{area}} = 1 + q + q^2 + q^2 + q^3$$

$$\frac{1}{[7]_q [3]_q} = 1 + q^2 + q^3 + q^4 + q^6$$

*q, t-rational Catalan*

$$C_{a,b}(q, t) := \sum q^{\text{coarea}} t^{\text{div}}$$

Garsia-Haiman

Haglund

Loehr-Warrington

Gorokh - Mazin

Armstrong - Hanusa - Jones

$$C_3(q, t) = C_{3,4}(q, t) = q^3 + qt + q^2t + qt^2 + t^3$$

$$C_{a,b}(q, 1) = \sum q^{\text{coarea}}$$

$$q^{\binom{a+b}{2}} C_{a,b}(q, \frac{1}{q}) = \frac{1}{[a+b]_q [a]_q}$$

$Gr(k, n) \xleftrightarrow{\text{mirror}} (\overset{\circ}{\Pi}_{k, n}, f: \overset{\circ}{\Pi}_{k, n} \rightarrow \mathbb{C})$  Landau-Ginzburg mirror.

Positroid top cell  $\overset{\circ}{\Pi}_{k, n} = \{ \Delta_{12\dots k} \neq 0 \ \Delta_{23\dots k+1} \neq 0 \ \dots \ \Delta_{n12\dots(k-1)} \neq 0 \} \subset Gr(k, n)$   
 (not a cell) complement of an anticanonical divisor.

$$K_{Gr(k, n)} = -nH$$

$\overset{\circ}{\Pi}_{k, n}$  is a smooth affine variety of dimension  $d = k(n-k)$

Theorem The cohomology of  $\overset{\circ}{\Pi}_{k, n}$  is of Hodge-Tate type and mixed Hodge poly is

$$\gcd(k, n) = 1$$

$$P(\overset{\circ}{\Pi}_{k, n}; q, t) := \sum \dim H^{k, (p, q)}(\overset{\circ}{\Pi}_{k, n}, \mathbb{C}) q^{\frac{d-k}{2}} t^{p-\frac{k}{2}} = (q^{\frac{k}{2}} + t^{\frac{k}{2}})^{n-1} C_{k, n-k}(q, t)$$

Hodge-Tate:  $H^{k, (p, q)} = 0$  for  $p \neq q$  where  $H^k = \bigoplus_{p+q=k} H^{k, (p, q)}$  Deligne splitting  
 (mixed Tate)

$$\# \text{Gr}(k, n)(\mathbb{F}_q) = \begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q \quad \text{and} \quad \# \Pi_{k, n}^{\circ}(\mathbb{F}_q) = (q-1)^n \frac{1}{\begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q} \begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q$$

↓

Weird corollary Sample  $V \in \text{Gr}(k, n)(\mathbb{F}_q)$  uniformly

$$\text{Prob}(V \in \Pi_{k, n}^{\circ}) = \frac{(q-1)^n}{q^n - 1}$$

No dependence on  $k$ !?!

Thm mixed hodge poly  $(\overset{\circ}{X}_{k,n}) = C_{k,n-k}(q,t)$

$$\overset{\circ}{\Pi}_{k,n} \hookrightarrow T \cong (\mathbb{C}^*)^{n-1} \text{ free}$$

$$\overset{\circ}{X}_{k,n} := \overset{\circ}{\Pi}_{k,n} / T \stackrel{\text{birat.}}{\approx} \text{configuration space of } n \text{ points in } \mathbb{P}^{k-1}$$

$$\text{Poincare poly}(\overset{\circ}{X}_{k,n}) = \sum_{\square} q^{2 \text{ area}}$$

odd cohomology!  
vanishes

$$\# \overset{\circ}{X}_{k,n}(\mathbb{F}_q) = \frac{1}{[n]_q} \begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q$$

What about "Schubert" basis?  
no cell decomposition!

$$a=3 \quad b=4$$

$$\dim = 3 \times 4 - 6 = 6$$

Example

$$\overset{\circ}{X}_{3,7} \quad \text{Poincare: } 1 + q^2 + 2q^4 + q^6 \quad \#(\mathbb{F}_q) : 1 + q^2 + q^3 + q^4 + q^6$$

Discrepancy:  $H^4$  is not pure.

$$\dim H^{4, (4,4)} = 1$$

$$\dim H^{4, (3,3)} = 1$$

$$\text{Gr}(k, n) = \bigsqcup_{\lambda \in \square} \Omega_\lambda$$

Generalization to **positroid varieties** (Knutson-L.-Speyer)

$\Omega_\lambda \cong \mathbb{P}^{|\lambda|}$   
Schubert cell  
indexed by  $\lambda$

roughly  $\rightarrow \mathring{\Pi}_f := \Omega_{\lambda_1} \cap \chi(\Omega_{\lambda_2}) \cap \dots \cap \chi^{n-1}(\Omega_{\lambda_n})$

$f \in S_n$   $\chi: \text{Gr}(k, n) \rightarrow \text{Gr}(k, n)$  cyclic rotation automorphism

### Theorem

$P(\mathring{\Pi}_f; q, t) =$  Khovanov-Rozansky style link invariant.

$\# \mathring{\Pi}_f(\mathbb{F}_q) =$  coefficient of HOMFLY polynomial

Further generalizes to **open Richardson varieties** in  $G/B$

$\mathring{\Pi}_f$  important in

mirror symmetry	Frobenius splitting
Poisson geometry	total positivity
quiver algebras	Schubert calculus



Corollary  $C_{a,b}(q,t)$  is  $q,t$ -symmetric and unimodal

$$C_{a,b}(q,t) = C_{a,b}(t,q)$$

$$C_{3,5}(q,t) = q^4 + q^3t + q^2t^2 + qt^3 + t^4 + q^2t + qt^2$$

Haiman :  $C_n(q,t)$  symmetry + unimodality ~ Macdonald polynomials  
Carlsson-Mellit

Mellit, Gorsky-Negut :  $C_{a,b}(q,t)$  symmetry

Unimodality appears new

Theorem Curious Lefschetz holds for  $\overset{\circ}{X}_{k,n}$  and  $\overset{\circ}{\mathbb{A}}_f$ :

$$\exists \gamma \in H^{2,(2,2)}(X)$$

$$\gamma^{d-p}: H^{p+s, (p,p)}(X) \xrightarrow{\sim} H^{2d-p+s, (2d-p, 2d-p)}(X)$$

Symmetry around  $(d,d)$

$\Rightarrow$  unimodality and symmetry of  $P(X; q, t)$ .

Hausel Rodriguez-Vidlegas: defined curious Lefschetz.

L. - Speyer: holds for certain cluster varieties

Galishin - L:  $\overset{\circ}{\mathbb{A}}_f$  are cluster varieties

Koszul duality for  $D_{(B),m}^b(\text{Fl}_n; \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_e)$

$\swarrow$  constructible along Schubert stratification  
 $\nwarrow$  mixed  
 $\nwarrow$  flag variety

$$\text{Fl}_n = \coprod_{w \in S_n} X_w$$

Theorem  $\mathbb{F} : D_{(B),m}^b(\text{Fl}_n; \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_e) \rightarrow D_{(B),m}^b(\text{Fl}_n; \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_e)$  equivalence

$$\mathbb{F}(\Delta_w) = A_{w^{-1}} \quad \Delta_w := i_! \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_e X_w[l(w)](l(w)/2)$$

where  $i : X_w \hookrightarrow \text{Fl}_n$

$\swarrow$  cohom.  $\searrow$  weight

Induces  $\text{Ext}^{*,*}(\Delta_v, \Delta_w) \cong \text{Ext}^{*-*,*-*}(\Delta_{v^{-1}}, \Delta_{w^{-1}}) \cong \text{Ext}^{*-*,*-*}(\Delta_v, \Delta_w)$

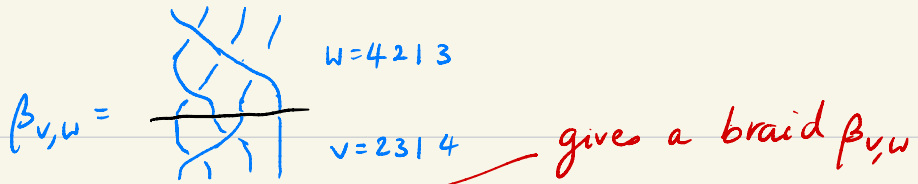
Beilinson-Ginzburg-Soergel: original Koszul duality

Bezrukavnikov-Yun: self-duality

can be related to  $H^*(\mathbb{T}f)$

What about Lefschetz operator?

Idea of proof:



$$H_T^*(\mathring{\Pi}_f)$$

$\mathbb{Z}\langle 1 \rangle$

$$\mathring{\Pi}_f \approx \mathring{R}_{v,w} \text{ Knutson-L-Speyer}$$

$$H_T^*(\text{open Richardson})$$

$\mathbb{Z}\langle 1 \rangle$

(equivariant) localization  $k[x]$  *Beilinson-Bernstein*, *Riche-Soergel*, *Williamson*, *Bylinski-Kashiwara*

Ext-group in  $D_B^b(\text{Fl}_n)$

$\mathbb{Z}\langle 1 \rangle$

take  $H_B^0$  *Soergel*, *Achar-Riche*, *Bezrukavnikov-Yun*, ...

Calculation with Soergel bimodules

$\mathbb{Z}\langle 1 \rangle$

Khovanov via Rouquier complexes

KR-homology of a link

$$\bullet \leftrightarrow \bigcirc_{\text{trivial}} \mathring{\Pi}_{2,4} \leftrightarrow \bigcirc_{\text{Hopf}} \mathring{\Pi}_{3,5} \leftrightarrow \bigcirc_{\text{trefoil}}$$

$\uparrow$

$$C_{a,b}(q,t)$$

Mellit recursion involves things that aren't links

Conjectural  $P=W$  theorem for  $\mathring{X}_{k,n}$  motivated by Shende-Treumann-Zaslow  
Shende-Treumann-Williams-Zaslow

There exists a classified rank one torsion-free sheaves on  
// complete curve.

$\mathring{X}_{a,a+b} \xrightarrow{\text{deformation retract}} J_{a,b}$  Compactified Jacobian of plane curve singularity  
 $x^a = y^b$

$W_{2k}(H^*(\mathring{X}_{a,a+b})) \xrightarrow{\sim} P_k(H^*(J_{a,b}))$  compact,  $\dim = \frac{(a-1)(b-1)}{2} = \frac{1}{2} \dim \mathring{X}_{k,n}$   
Weig lct Perverse singular

Maulik-Yun

Migliorini-Shende

Beauville:  $\chi(J_{a,b}) = C_{a,b} = \frac{1}{a+b} \binom{a+b}{a}$

Piontkowski: cell decomposition  $\longleftrightarrow C_{a,b}(q, 1)$   
 $\Rightarrow$  basis for  $H^*(J_{a,b})$  and point count

also Lusztig-Smelt

Oblomkov-Yun: generators for  $H^*(J_{a,b})$

Gorsky-Mazin: (conjectural) relation to  $C_{a,b}(q, t)$

Gorsky-Oblomkov-Rasmussen-Shende: (conjectural) relation to knot homology

Gorsky-Negut, ...