

# COUNTING WITH $AB-BA=1$

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*“COMBINATORIAL MODELS OF ANNIHILATION-CREATION”*; IN PREP. (2010)

From Quantum Physics (QED):

— **A** = **Annihilate** a “random” particle

— **B** = give **Birth** to a new particle

**A** .



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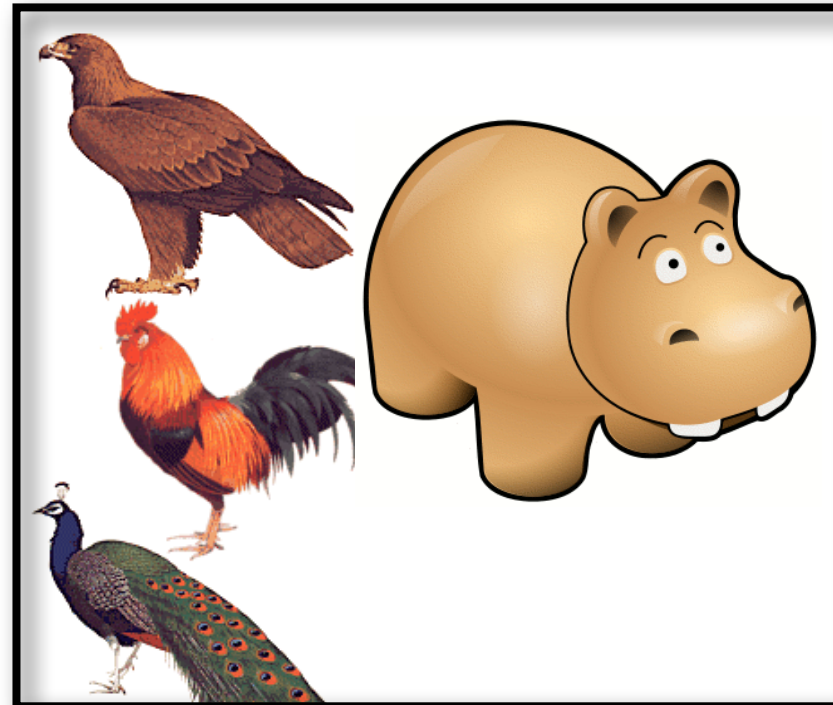
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**B** .




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# Annihilation and Creation

- **A** = **Annihilate** a “random” particle
- **B** = give **Birth** to a new particle  $\longrightarrow \square$


$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{AB}\mathcal{F} &= \mathbf{A}(\square\mathcal{F}) = (\mathbf{A}\square) \cdot \mathcal{F} + \square \cdot (\mathbf{A}\mathcal{F}) \\ \mathbf{BA}\mathcal{F} &= \square \cdot (\mathbf{A}\mathcal{F}) \end{aligned}$$

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$$(\mathbf{AB} - \mathbf{BA})\mathcal{F} \cong \mathcal{F}$$

## Theorem (Partial commutation)

**A** and **B** must satisfy:

$$\mathbf{AB} - \mathbf{BA} = 1$$

# Annihilation and Creation: $AB - BA = 1$

- Can be viewed as a **rewrite rule**:  $AB \mapsto 1 + BA$ :



[Algebra: Polynomials/Ideal  $\mathbb{C}\langle A, B \rangle / (AB - BA - 1).$ ]

- Leads to **Normal form**:  $\mathfrak{N}(f)$ , with all **B's** before all **As**.

## Lemma

The differential interpretation  $A \mapsto D$ ,  $B \mapsto X$  is faithful.

$$X \cdot f(x) := xf(x), \quad D \cdot f(x) := \frac{d}{dx}f(x).$$

$$DXf - XDf = f$$

- Agrees with classical combinatorial analysis of  $X$ ,  $D$ .

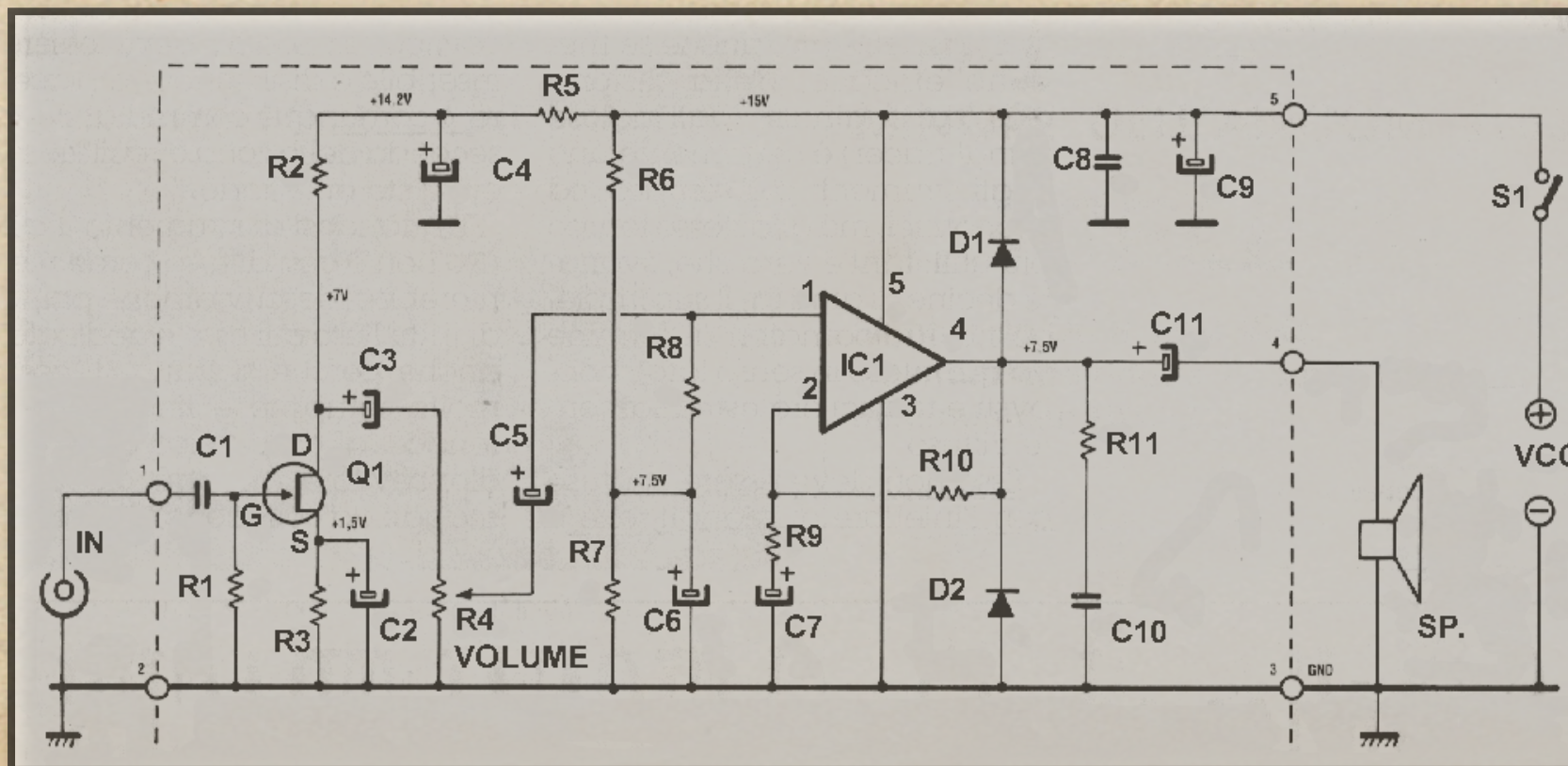
$D \equiv$  “choose and delete”;

$X \equiv$  “append atom”.



# 1. Gates and Diagrams

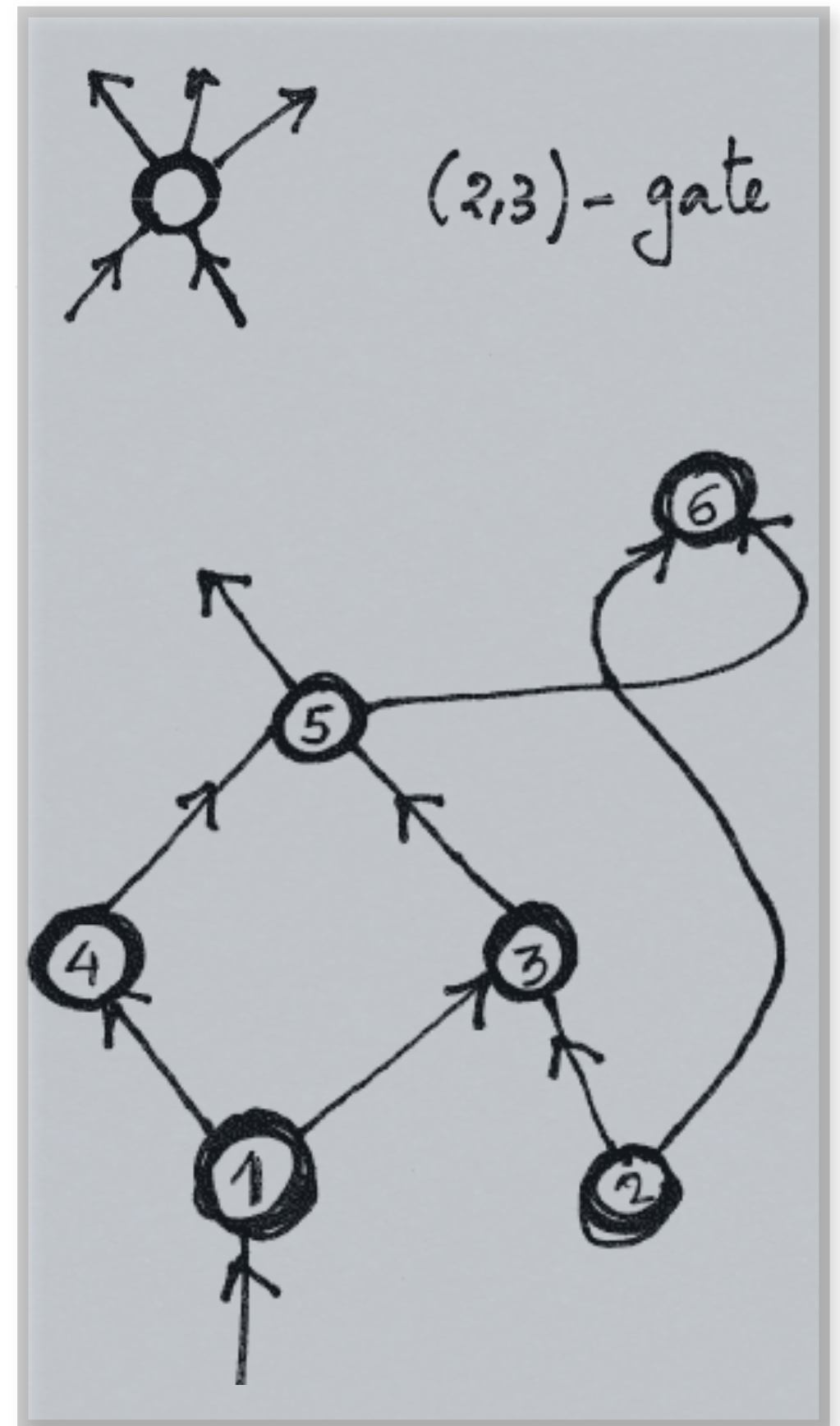
~~A first combinatorial model~~





# Gates and Diagrams (def.)

- A **gate** of type  $(r, s)$  is a one-vertex digraph with  $r$  incoming legs (edges) and  $s$  outgoing legs. Legs are *ordered*.
- A **diagram** is an **acyclic** assembly of gates with interconnections. A **labelled diagram** has vertices that bear integer labels.
- An **increasing diagram** is labelled and such that labels are increasing along directed paths.



- A diagram has **basis**  $\mathcal{H} \subset \mathbb{Z}_{>0} \times \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$  iff all the gates that it comprises have type in  $\mathcal{H}$ .
- Let  $\mathcal{C}[\mathcal{H}]$  be the class of (increasing) **diagrams with basis  $\mathcal{H}$** ; size is number of vertices.

Theorem (Błasiak, Penson, *et al.*, 2000++)

Consider the (normalized) **operator**  $\mathfrak{h} = \sum_{(r,s) \in \mathcal{H}} w_{r,s} X^r D^s$ . Then the **normal form of  $\mathfrak{h}^n$**  is given by

$$\mathfrak{N}(\mathfrak{h}^n) = \sum_{a,b} c_{n,a,b} X^a D^b,$$

where  $c_{n,a,b} :=$

$\# \{ \text{diagrams in } \mathcal{C}[\mathcal{H}] \text{ of size } \underline{n}, \text{ with } \underline{a} \text{ inputs and } \underline{b} \text{ outputs} \}.$

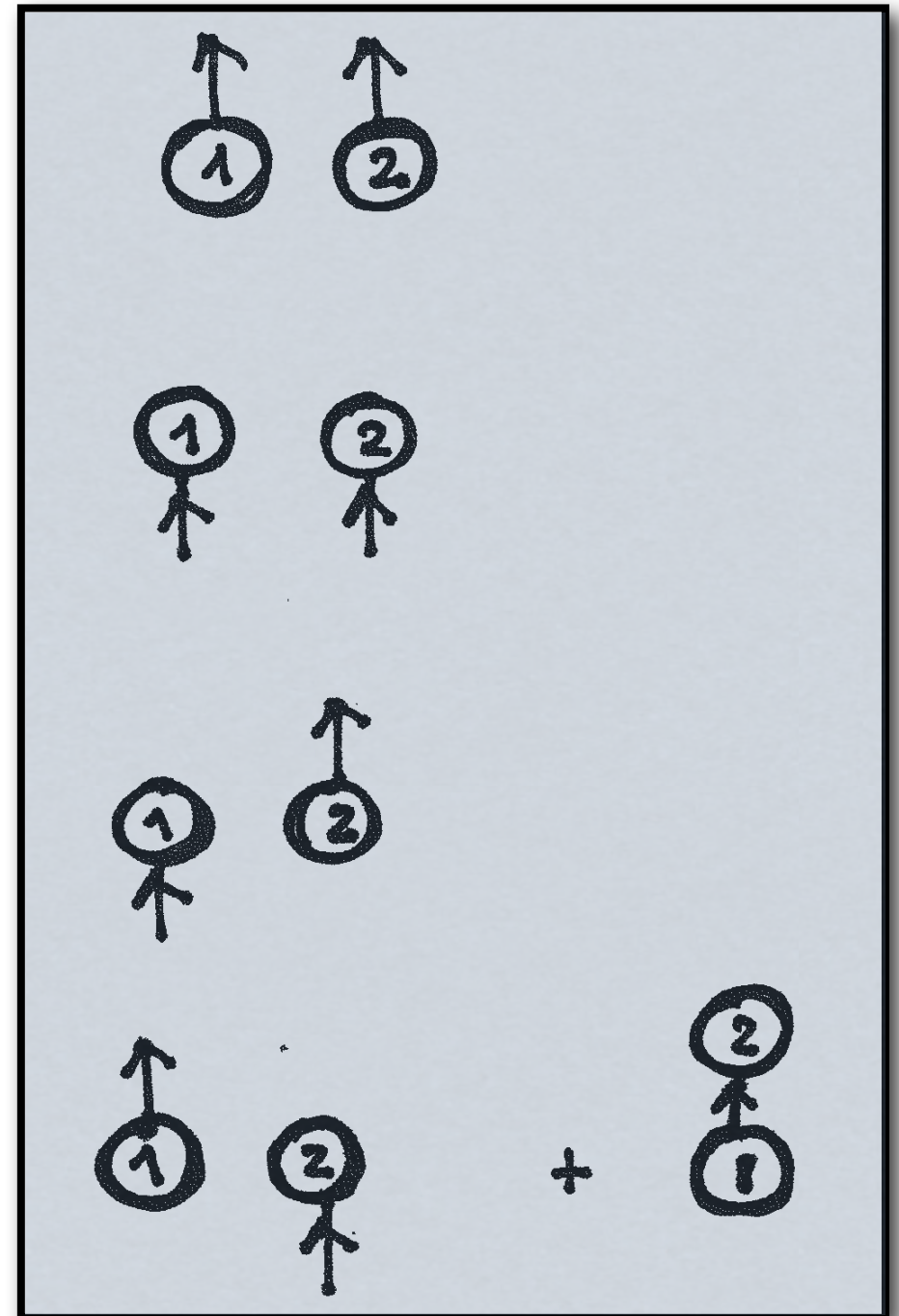
Example:  $(X + D)^2$

$$(X + D)^2 = XX$$

$$+ DD$$

$$+ XD$$

$$+ DX$$



$$\mathfrak{N} [(X + D)^2] = X^2 + D^2 + 2XD + 1.$$

1, 2, 5, 14, ... ??????



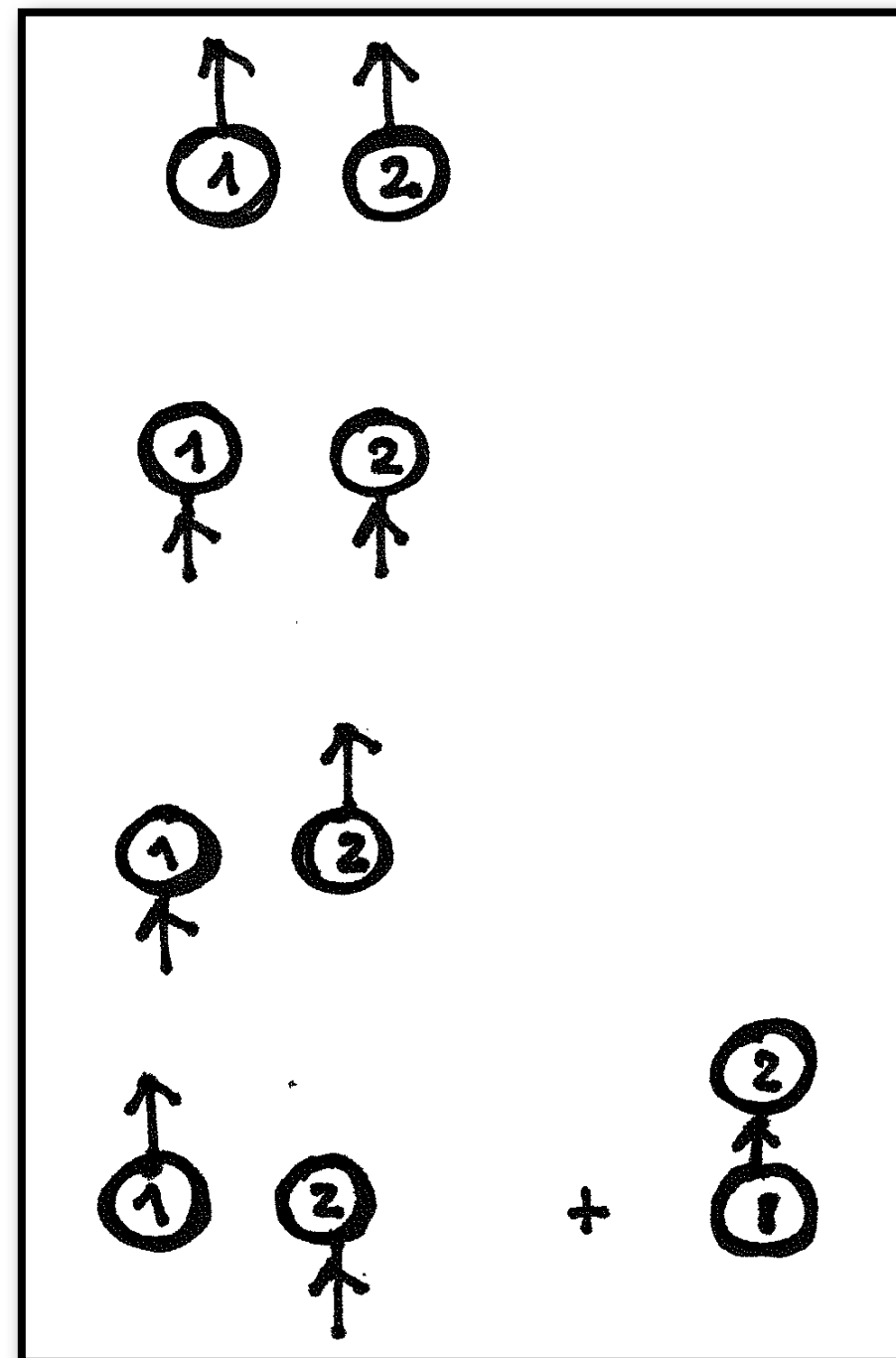
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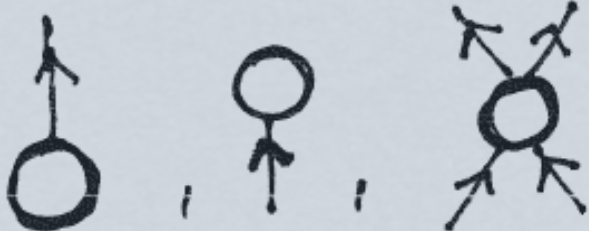
$$+ DX$$



$$\mathfrak{N} [(X + D)^2] = X^2 + D^2 + 2XD + 1.$$

OEIS #5425: 1, 2, 5, 14, 43, 142, 499, 1850, ...

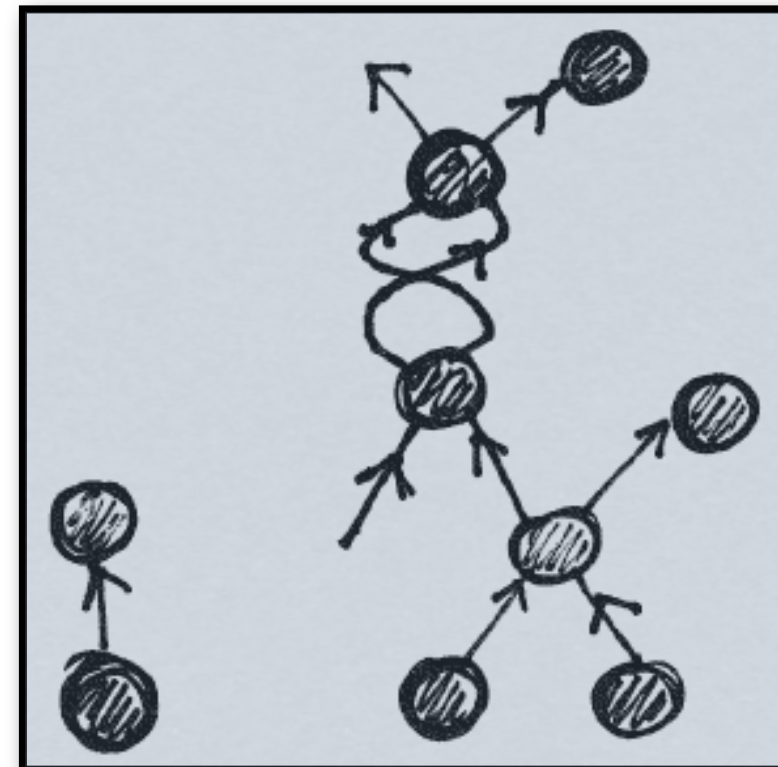
# From algebra to combinatorics: a dictionary

$$X + D + X^2 D^2$$


monomial $X^r D^s$	$\longleftrightarrow$	gate
polynomial $\mathfrak{h}$ in $X, D$	$\longleftrightarrow$	weighted basis $\mathcal{H}$ of gates
$\mathfrak{h}^n$	$\longleftrightarrow$	labelled diagrams of size $n$ on $\mathcal{H}$
$e^{z\mathfrak{h}}$	$\longleftrightarrow$	generating function of all diagrams
$(z, X, D)$	$\longleftrightarrow$	(size, #outputs, #inputs).

- The exponential generating function (EGF) of all diagrams

with basis  $\mathcal{H}$  is  $e^{z\mathfrak{h}}$ , with  $e^{z\Gamma} := \sum \Gamma^n \frac{z^n}{n!}$ .





- **Conceptually(!)** for combinatorialists:  
symbolic methods, theory of species, ...

**D**  $\equiv$  “choose and delete”;      **X**  $\equiv$  “append atom”.

- Otherwise, **by recurrence** on number of gates, based on

$$(X^r D^s)(X^a D^b) = \sum_{t=0}^s \binom{s}{t} \binom{a}{t} t! X^{r+a-t} D^{s+b-t}.$$

The coefficient is also  $\#$  ways of attaching a new gate to an already reduced diagram.

*Cf also: Viennot-Leroux, ...*

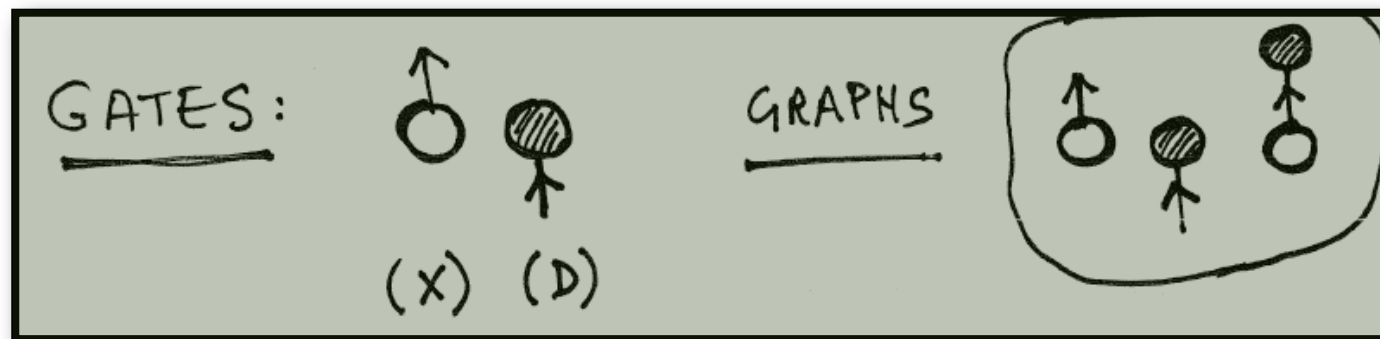


2. The  $(X+D)$  forms  
Involutions & such...



# The form $(X + D)$ and involutions

$$\begin{array}{lcl}
 \mathfrak{N}[(X + D)^1] & = & X + D \quad \left| \quad \text{2 terms (instead of 2)} \right. \\
 \mathfrak{N}[(X + D)^2] & = & X^2 + 2XD + D^2 + 1 \quad \left| \quad \text{5 terms (instead of 4)} \right. \\
 \mathfrak{N}[(X + D)^3] & = & \dots 14 \text{ terms } \dots \quad \left| \quad \text{14 terms (instead of 8)} \right.
 \end{array}$$



- **Involutions** ( $\sigma^2 = \text{Id}$ ) with bicoloured singetons:

$$\exp(2z + z^2/2) = 1 + 2\frac{z}{1!} + 5\frac{z^2}{2} + 14\frac{z^3}{3!} + 43\frac{z^4}{4!} + \dots$$

- **Normal forms of  $(\alpha X + \beta D)$ :**

## Proposition (Linear forms and involutions)

$$\mathfrak{N}((\alpha X + \beta D)^n) = \sum_{\ell, m} \frac{n!}{2^{(n-\ell-m)/2} ((n-\ell-m)/2)! \ell! m!} \alpha^{n-m} \beta^{n-\ell} \mathbf{X}^\ell \mathbf{D}^m.$$

# Evolution equations

## Definition

An equation for  $F \equiv F(x, t)$ , such as

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} F = \Gamma \cdot F, \quad F(x, 0) = f(x),$$

is known as an **evolution equation** (with initial value, or Cauchy, conditions), based on the “spatial” operator  $\Gamma \in \mathbb{C} \left[ x, \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right]$ .

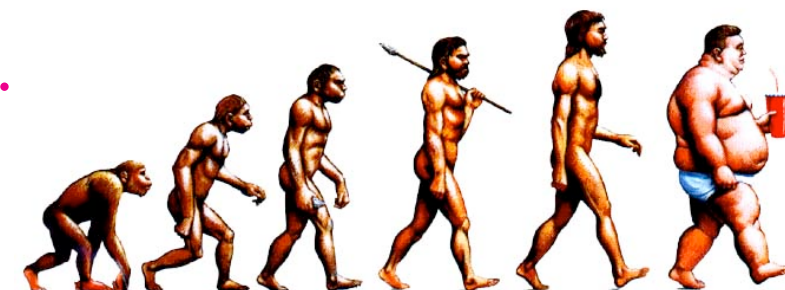
## Proposition

*Evolution equation is formally solved by  $F(x, t) = e^{t\Gamma} \cdot f$*

Solving  $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} F = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} F + xF$

- Use **normal form**  $F = e^{t(X+D)} = e^{t^2/2} \cdot e^{tx} \cdot e^{tD} \cdot f$ .
- **Taylor** “means”  $e^{tD} \cdot f(x) = f(x + t)$ .
- Conclude:

$$F(x, t) = e^{t^2/2 + xt} f(x + t).$$

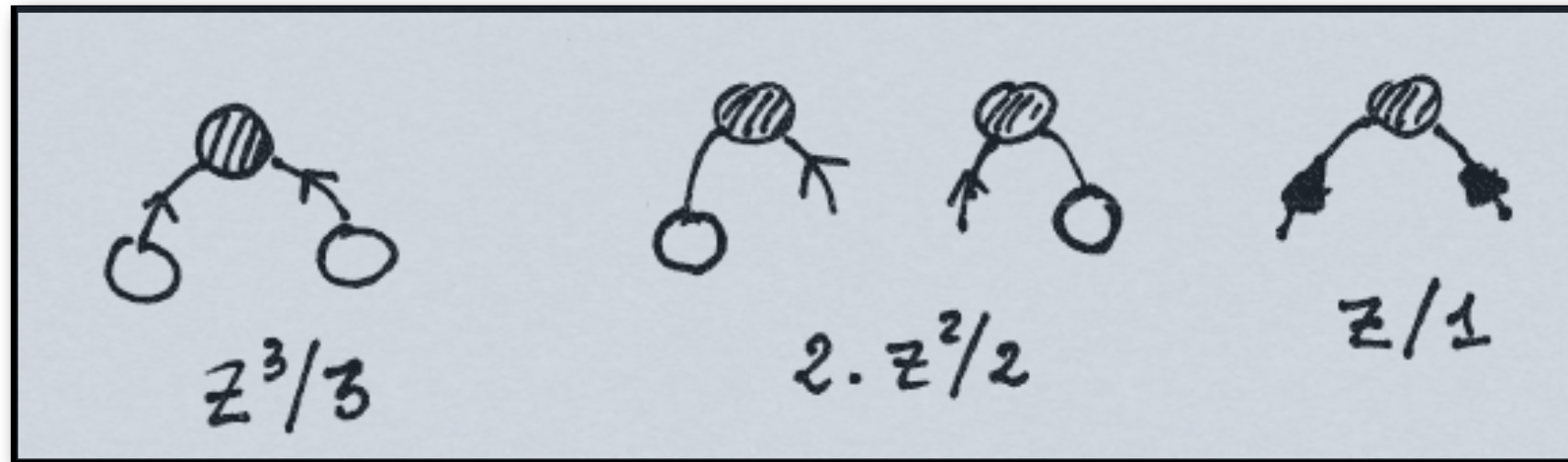




# Extensions to $(X^2 + D)$ , $(X + D^2)$ , $\dots$



The model is that of a **COMB**.



$$e^{z^3/3 + z^2 + z}$$

$$\mathfrak{N} \left[ e^{z(D^2 + X)} \right] = e^{z^3/3 + zX} \cdot e^{zD^2 + z^2D}.$$

- Generalization to  $(a(X) + D)$  or  $(a(D) + X)$ ;
- **PDE: solve**  $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} F = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} F + a(x)F$ .  
[cf *method of characteristics*; *heat kernel*...]



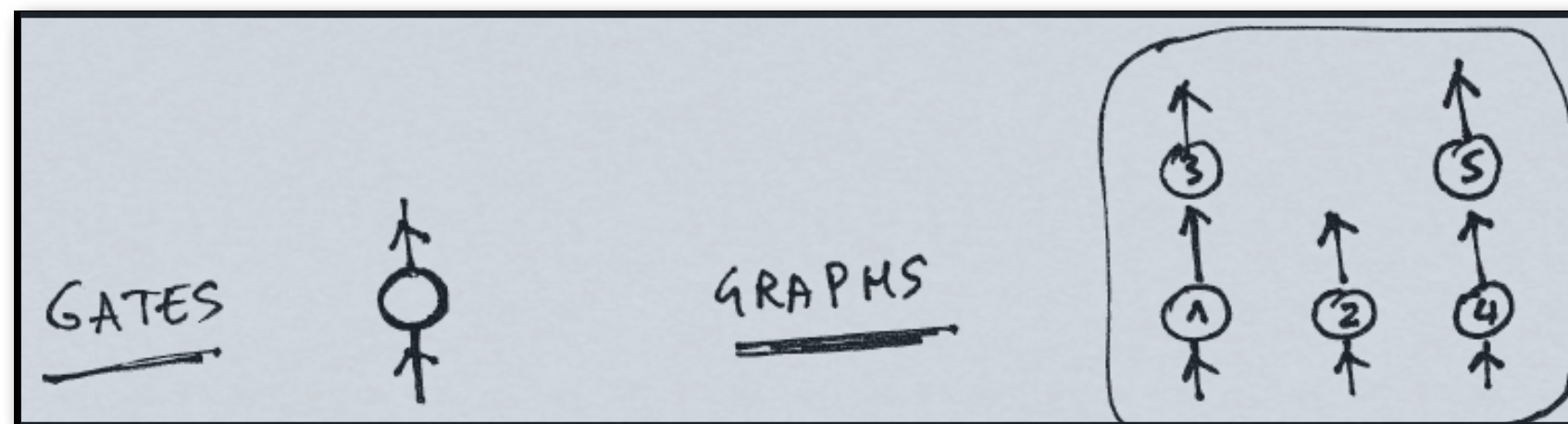
### 3. The (XD) - forms

Set partitions & such...



# The form $(XD)$ and set partitions

- Well-known connections in analysis, difference calculus, and combinatorics(!)



$$\mathcal{G} = \text{SET} (u \text{ SET}_{\geq 1}(\mathcal{Z})) \implies G(z, u) = e^{u(e^z - 1)}.$$

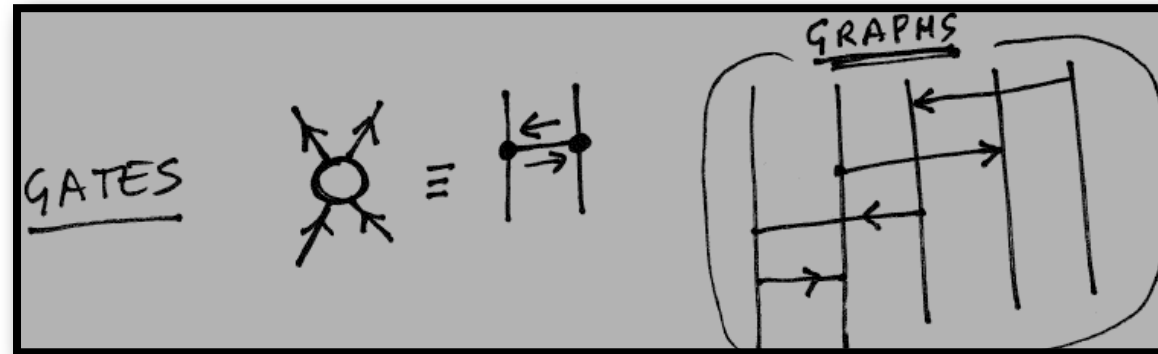
$$\mathfrak{N} \left[ e^{z(XD)} \right] = \sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{1}{k!} (e^z - 1)^k X^k D^k.$$

$$\rightsquigarrow \text{PDE } \frac{\partial}{\partial t} F = x \frac{\partial}{\partial x} F \text{ is solved by } F(x, t) = f(xe^t).$$



# The forms $(X^2D^2)$ and such, after Blasiak, Penson *et al.*

$$\begin{aligned} (X^2D^2) &= X^2D^2 && \mathbf{1} \\ (X^2D^2)^2 &= 2X^2D^2 + 4X^3D^3 + X^4D^4 && \mathbf{7} \\ (X^2D^2)^3 &= \dots 87 \text{ terms } \dots && \mathbf{87} \end{aligned} \quad [\text{OEIS A20556}]$$



bi-labelled structures : 
$$e^u G(z, x) = \sum_k (k(k-1))^n \frac{x^k}{k!} \frac{z^n}{n!}$$

$$\left\{ \begin{matrix} n \\ k \end{matrix} \right\}_{2,2} = \frac{1}{k!} \sum_j (-1)^{k-j} \binom{k}{j} (k(k-1))^n; \quad \omega_n^{(2,2)} = e^{-1} \sum_\ell \frac{(l(l-1))^n}{\ell!}.$$

- Count **matrices** with two ones per line, no null column.
- **Coupon collector** with group drawings [DuFIRoTa]:

$$\mathbb{E}_m(T) = \frac{m(m-1)}{2m-1} \left[ H_m + 12m - 1 - \frac{(-1)^m}{(m+1) \binom{2m-1}{m+1}} \right] \sim \frac{1}{2} \log m.$$

- Also **set partitions** with constrained contiguities.



# 4. The $(X^2 + D^2)$ -form

Permutations & such



# The “circle” form $(X^2 + D^2)$

- Get two types of gates: CUPS ( $X^2$ ) and CAPS ( $D^2$ )



- These assemble into **chains** that are either **open** or **closed**.
- As we go along a chain, **label values alternate**.
- There are **symmetry factors** since we enter from left or right.

Alternating (zigzag) perms have EGF  $\tan(z)$ ,  $\sec(z)$  [André 1881]

Alternating cycles have EGF  $\log \cos(z)$ .

We must take **SETS** of these.

$$G(x, y, z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\cos(2z)}} \exp \left( \left( \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{y^2}{2} \right) \tan(2z) + xy(\sec(2z) - 1) \right).$$

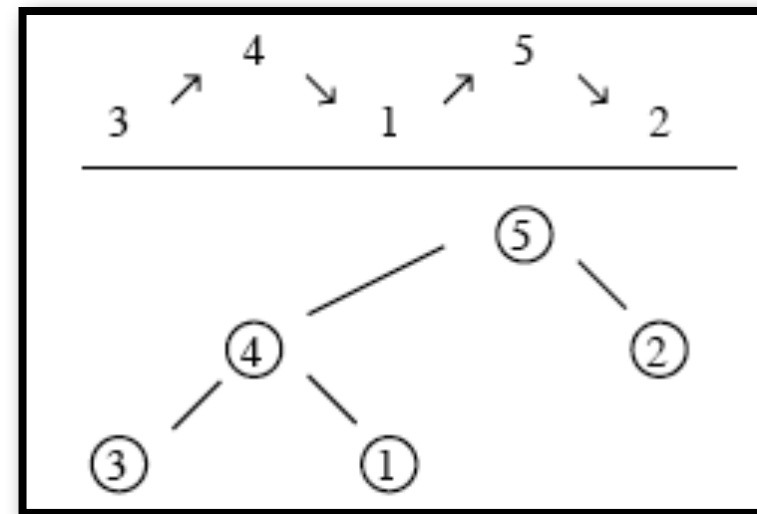


# The general quadratic form $(\alpha X^2 + \beta D^2 + \gamma XD + \delta DX)$

*Principle: similarly follow the spaghetti!*

- Get the famous **peaks, troughs, double rises, double falls**.
- Cf: Carlitz; Françon–Viennot, ...

- Use **tree decomposition** of perms:



- Make use of “max-rooting  $\rightsquigarrow \int$ ”.

$$\mathcal{A} = (B^{\square} \star C) \implies A(z) = \int_0^z (\partial_t B(t)) \cdot C(t) dt$$

Contrast with Lie algebra or *ad hoc* computations.



**Ordering of the exponential of a quadratic in boson operators. I. Single mode case**

C. L. Mehta



# 5. The tree form ( $X^{2D}$ )

... and trees



# The special form $(X^2D)$

- The unique **gate is a 'Y'**.



- Get **all permutations** as **connected components**.
- Take **SETS** of these.
- GFs are variants of  $\exp\left(\frac{z}{1-z}\right)$ .

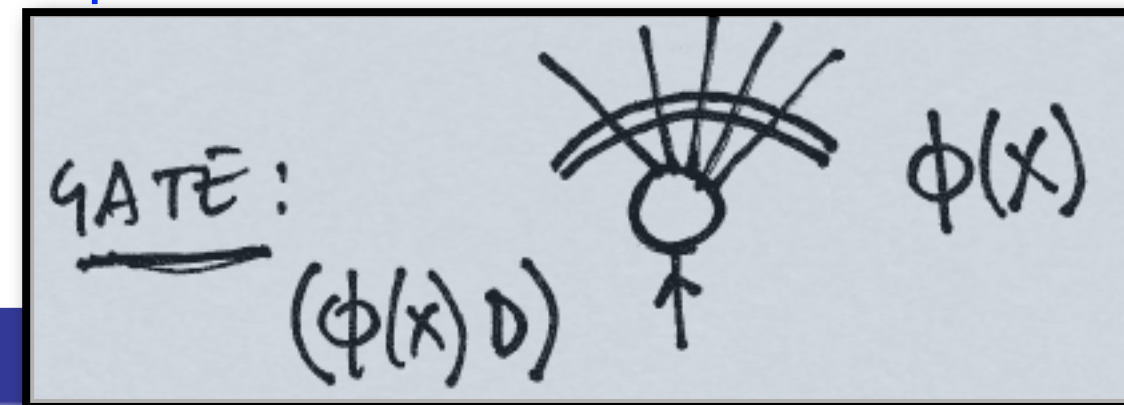
$$\mathfrak{N}\left[e^{zXD^2}\right] = \exp\left(z\frac{X^2}{1-zX}D\right).$$



# The semilinear form $\phi(X)D$

Gives rise to **increasing trees**, with  $\phi(X)$  the **basic constructor**.

- Case  $(XD)$ : threads (unary trees)  $\rightsquigarrow$  set partitions.
- Case  $(X^2D)$ : binary trees.
- Case  $(X^rD)$ :  $r$ -ary trees, ...



## Proposition

The EGF of increasing trees with “rule”  $\phi$  is

$$T(z) = \text{Inv} \int_0^t \frac{dw}{\phi(w)}.$$

Some exactly solvable models

[Bergeron-Fi-Salvy, 1992]



Plane $d$ -ary	$y' = (1+y)^d$	$y(z) = -1 + [1 - (d-1)z]^{-1/(d-1)}$
Plane Strict $d$ -ary	$y' = 1 + y^d$	$d = 2 \quad y(z) = \tan z$ $d > 2 \quad \text{—}$
Non plane Strict $d$ -ary	$y' = 1 + \frac{y^d}{d!}$	$d = 2 \quad y(z) = \sqrt{2} \tan \frac{z}{\sqrt{2}}$ $d > 2 \quad \text{—}$
Plane unary-binary	$y' = 1 + y + y^2$	$y(z) = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \tan \left( \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} z + \frac{\pi}{6} \right) - \frac{1}{2}$
Non plane unary-binary	$y' = 1 + y + y^2/2$	$y(z) = \tan \left( \frac{z}{2} + \frac{\pi}{4} \right) - 1$
Plane “Recursive”	$y' = \frac{1}{1-y}$	$y(z) = 1 - \sqrt{1-2z}$
(Non plane) “Recursive”	$y' = \exp(y)$	$y = \log \frac{1}{1-z}$

# Example: $XD^r$ , after Blasiak, Penson, Solomon

$$G(x, y, z) = \exp \left( \frac{xy}{(1 - \rho x^\rho z)^{1/\rho}} - xy \right), \quad \rho := r - 1.$$

- For  $r = 3$ , get  $\exp \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - 2z}} - 1 \right)$ , which is evocative of binary trees(?).
- Explicit binomial sums are available for  $\mathfrak{N}$  of powers of  $XD^r$ .





6. The  $(X^a + D^a)$  forms

Dyck path, histories, & such

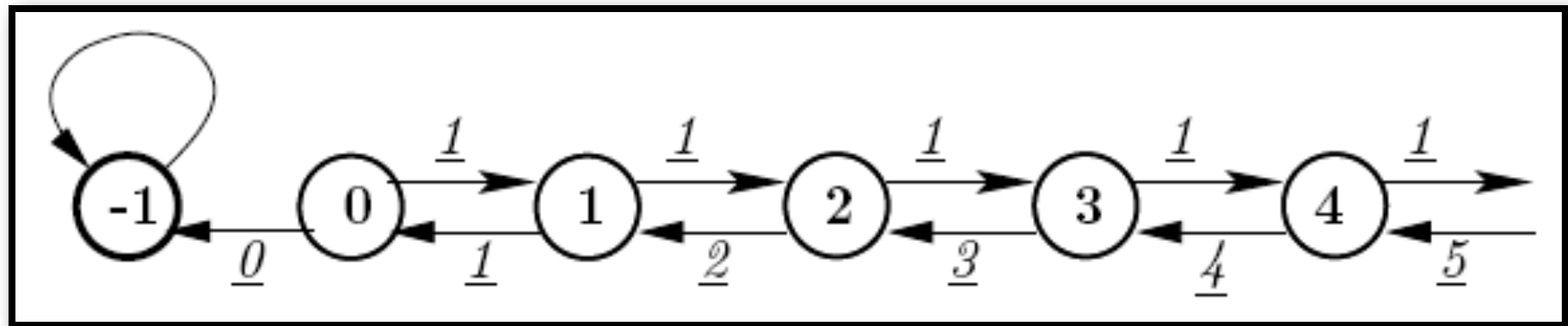


# Paths and operators

In the **canonical basis**  $(x^k)$ ,  $X$  and  $D$  become matrices:

$$\mathbf{D} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdots \\ \cdot & 0 & 2 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdots \\ \cdot & \cdot & 0 & 3 & \cdot & \cdots \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 0 & 4 & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdots \\ 1 & 0 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdots \\ \cdot & 1 & 0 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdots \\ \cdot & \cdot & 1 & 0 & \cdot & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}.$$

Schematically, effect on basis  $(x^k)$  is described by the “Weyl graph”:



## Proposition

*Consider a monomial  $f$  in  $X, D$ . The constant term (of its normal form) is nonzero if and only if the associated path  $\pi(f)$  in the Weyl graph, starting from vertex 0, returns to vertex 0. In that case, this constant term is equal to the multiplicative weight of the path  $\pi(f)$ .*



Constant Terms (C.T.) = weighted Dyck paths

**Theorem F-1980]:**

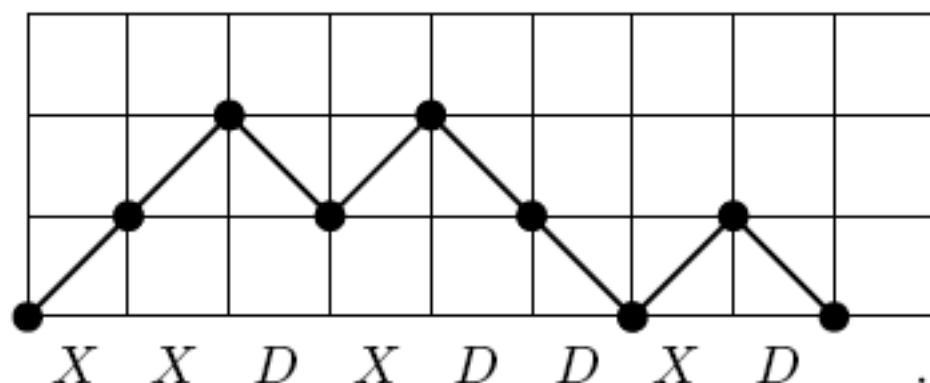
$$F(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{d}, \boldsymbol{\ell}) = \frac{1}{1 - \ell_0 - \frac{a_0 d_1}{1 - \ell_1 - \frac{a_1 d_2}{1 - \ell_2 - \frac{a_2 d_3}{\ddots}}}}.$$

Dyck paths

*level steps*

*ascents*

*descents*



$$h = DXDDXDXX$$

$$\text{C.T.}(h) = 1 \times 1 \times 2 \times 1 \times 2 \times 1 \times 1 \times 1 = 4.$$

**Proposition 2.** *The normal ordering of  $(X + D)$  corresponds to the continued fraction expansion*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{C.T.} \left( \frac{1}{1 - z(X + D)} \right) &\equiv \text{C.T.} \left( \mathcal{L} \left[ e^{z(X+D)} \right] \right) \equiv \\ \sum_{n \geq 0} [1 \cdot 3 \cdots (2n - 1)] z^{2n} &= \frac{1}{1 - \frac{1 \cdot z^2}{1 - \frac{2 \cdot z^2}{1 - \frac{3 \cdot z^2}{\ddots}}}} \end{aligned}$$

**(X+D)**







Laplace transform ( $L$ )

$$(X^2 + D^2)$$

$$\mathcal{L} \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{\cos(2z)}} \right] = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{1 \cdot 2 \cdot z^2}{1 - \frac{3 \cdot 4 \cdot z^2}{1 - \frac{5 \cdot 6 \cdot z^2}{\ddots}}}}.$$

$$(X^3 + D^3)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_3(z) &= \frac{1}{1 - \frac{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot z^2}{1 - \frac{4 \cdot 5 \cdot 6 \cdot z^2}{1 - \frac{7 \cdot 8 \cdot 9 \cdot z^2}{\ddots}}}} \\ &= 1 + 6z^2 + 756z^4 + 458136z^6 + 76534113z^8 + \dots \end{aligned} \quad ??$$

**Identify?** Cf Dixonian elliptic functions; Apéry's  $z(3)$



# Openings

Partial difference equations,  $q$ -analogues,...





- Relation with PDEs?  
Eg. *Duchon's Clubs* and the *cubic oscillator*.
- *Difference equations* and q-analogues
- Relation with *Rook Polynomials* [Varvak]...
- Relation with various *tableaux*? exclusion...?  
Cf Viennot, Corteel, Josuat-Verges, ...