

# Trees, Tanglegrams, and Tangled Chains

Sara Billey  
University of Washington

Based on joint work with:  
Matjaž Konvalinka and Frederick (Erick) Matsen IV

BIRS, August 15, 2015

Positivity and symmetric functions  
go hand in hand with enumeration.

# Outline

Background

Formulas for Trees, Tanglegrams and Tangled Chains

Formulas for Trees, Tanglegrams and Tangled Chains

Algorithms for random generation

Open Problems

# Rooted Binary Trees

- ▶  $B_n =$  set of rooted inequivalent binary trees with  $n$  leaves
- ▶  $|B_n| \rightarrow 1, 1, 1, 2, 3, 6, 11, 23, 46, 98, \dots$
- ▶  $A(T)$  is the automorphism group of  $T$  given a canonical labeling of its leaves.

# Rooted Binary Trees

- ▶  $B_n$  = set of rooted inequivalent binary trees with  $n$  leaves
- ▶  $|B_n| \rightarrow 1, 1, 1, 2, 3, 6, 11, 23, 46, 98, \dots$
- ▶  $A(T)$  is the automorphism group of  $T$  given a canonical labeling of its leaves.

## Examples.

- ▶ (1), (2), (3) represent the unique rooted binary trees for  $n = 1, 2, 3$  respectively.

# Rooted Binary Trees

- ▶  $B_n$  = set of rooted inequivalent binary trees with  $n$  leaves
- ▶  $|B_n| \rightarrow 1, 1, 1, 2, 3, 6, 11, 23, 46, 98, \dots$
- ▶  $A(T)$  is the automorphism group of  $T$  given a canonical labeling of its leaves.

## Examples.

- ▶ (1), (2), (3) represent the unique rooted binary trees for  $n = 1, 2, 3$  respectively.
- ▶  $B_4 = \{((1)(3)), ((2)(2))\}$ ,
- ▶  $B_5 = \{(((1)((1)(3))), ((1)((2)(2))), ((2)(3)))\}$ ,
- ▶  $((1)(((1)((1)((1)(3))))((2)(2))(((1)(3))((2)(3))))))$  is in  $B_{20}$ .  
 $|B_{20} = 293, 547|$

# Catalan objects

- ▶  $C_n =$  set of plane rooted binary trees with  $n$  leaves
- ▶  $|C_n| \rightarrow 1, 1, 2, 5, 14, 42, \dots$

## Example.

- ▶  $((1)(2))$  and  $((2)(1))$  are distinct as plane trees.

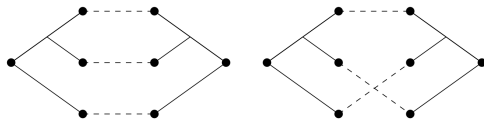
# Tanglegrams

**Defn.** An *(ordered binary rooted) tanglegram* of size  $n$  is a triple  $(T, w, S)$  where  $S, T \in B_n$  and  $w \in S_n$ .

Two tanglegrams  $(T, w, S)$  and  $(T', w', S')$  are equivalent provided  $T = T', S = S'$  and  $w' \in A(T)wA(S)$ .

- ▶  $T_n =$  set of inequivalent tanglegrams with  $n$  leaves
- ▶  $t_n = |T_n| \rightarrow 1, 1, 2, 13, 114, 1509, 25595, 535753, \dots$

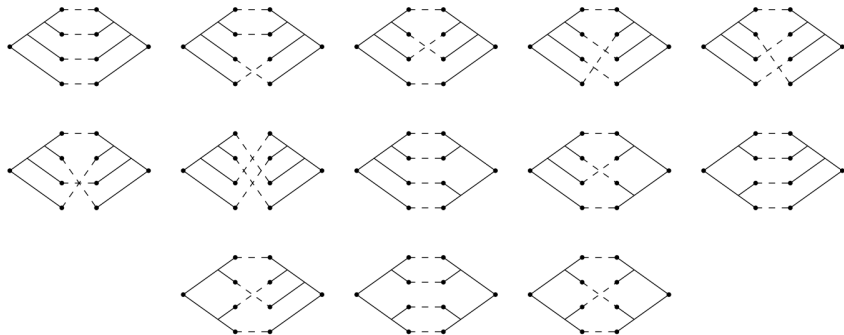
**Example.**  $n = 3, t_3 = 2$





# Tanglegrams

Case  $n = 4$ ,  $t_4 = 13$  :



# Enumeration of Tanglegrams

**Questions.** (Matsen) How many tanglegrams are in  $T_n$ ?  
How does  $t_n$  grow asymptotically?

**First formula.:**

$$t_n = \sum_{S \in B_n} \sum_{T \in B_n} \sum_{w \in S_n} \frac{1}{|A(T)wA(S)|}$$

This formula allowed us to get data up to  $n = 10$ . Sequence wasn't in OEIS.

# Motivation to study tanglegrams

**Cophylogeny Estimation Problem in Biology.**: Reconstruct the history of genetic changes in a host vs parasite or other linked groups of organisms.

**Tanglegram Layout Problem in CS.**: Find a drawing of a tanglegram in the plane with planar embeddings of the left and right trees and a minimal number of crossing (straight) edges in the matching. Eades-Wormald (1994) showed this is NP-hard.

Tanglegrams appear in analysis of software development in CS.

# Main Enumeration Theorem

**Thm.** The number of tanglegrams of size  $n$  is

$$t_n = \sum_{\lambda} \frac{\prod_{i=2}^{\ell(\lambda)} (2(\lambda_i + \dots + \lambda_{\ell(\lambda)}) - 1)^2}{z_{\lambda}},$$

summed over *binary partitions* of  $n$ .

**Defn.** A *binary partition*  $\lambda = (\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_1 \geq \dots)$  has each part  $\lambda_k = 2^j$  for some  $j \in \mathbb{N}$ .

**Defn.**  $z_{\lambda} = 1^{m_0} 2^{m_1} \dots (2^j)^{m_j} m_0! m_1! m_2! \dots m_j!$  for  $\lambda = 1^{m_0} 2^{m_1} 4^{m_2} 8^{m_3} \dots$ .

## The numbers $z_\lambda$

**Defn.** More generally,  $z_\lambda = 1^{m_1} 2^{m_2} 3^{m_3} \dots j^{m_j} m_1! m_2! m_2! \dots m_j!$   
for  $\lambda = 1^{m_1} 2^{m_2} 3^{m_3} \dots$ .

### Facts.:

1. The number of permutations in  $S_n$  of cycle type  $\lambda$  is  $\frac{n!}{z_\lambda}$ .
2. If  $v$  has cycle type  $\lambda$ , the  $z_\lambda$  is the size of the stabilizer of  $v$  under the conjugation of  $S_n$  on itself.
3. For fixed  $u, v \in S_n$  of cycle type  $\lambda$ ,

$$z_\lambda = \#\{w \in S_n \mid wvw^{-1} = u\}.$$

4. 
$$h_n(X) = \sum_{\lambda} \frac{p_\lambda(X)}{z_\lambda}$$

# Main Enumeration Theorem

**Thm.** The number of tanglegrams of size  $n$  is

$$t_n = \sum_{\lambda} \frac{\prod_{i=2}^{\ell(\lambda)} (2(\lambda_i + \cdots + \lambda_{\ell(\lambda)}) - 1)^2}{z_{\lambda}},$$

summed over *binary partitions* of  $n$  and  $z_{\lambda}$ .

**Example.** The 4 binary partitions of  $n = 4$  are

$$\begin{array}{cccc} \lambda : & (4) & (22) & (211) & (1111) \\ z_{\lambda} : & 4 & 2^2 2! & 1^2 2^1 2! & 1^4 4! \end{array},$$

$$t_4 = \frac{1}{4} + \frac{3^2}{8} + \frac{3^2 \cdot 1^2}{4} + \frac{5^2 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 1^2}{24} = 13$$

## Corollaries

**Cor 1.** 
$$t_n = \frac{c_{n-1}^2 n!}{4^{n-1}} \sum_{\mu} \frac{n(n-1)\cdots(n-|\mu|+1)}{z_{\mu} \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{\ell(\mu)} \prod_{j=1}^{\mu_i-1} (2n-2(\mu_1+\cdots+\mu_{i-1})-2j-1)^2},$$

summed is over binary partitions  $\mu$  with all parts equal to a positive power of 2 and  $|\mu| \leq n$ .

**Cor 2.:** As  $n$  gets large,  $\frac{t_n}{n!} \sim \frac{e^{\frac{1}{8}} 4^{n-1}}{\pi n^3}$ .

**Cor 3.:** There is an efficient recurrence relation for  $t_n$  based on stripping off all copies of the largest part of  $\lambda$ .

We can compute  $t_{4000}$ .

## Second Enumeration Theorem

**Thm 2.** The number of binary trees in  $B_n$  is

$$b_n = \sum_{\lambda} \frac{\prod_{i=2}^{\ell(\lambda)} (2(\lambda_i + \cdots + \lambda_{\ell(\lambda)}) - 1)}{z_{\lambda}},$$

summed over *binary partitions* of  $n$ .



## Second Enumeration Theorem

**Thm 2.** The number of binary trees in  $B_n$  is

$$b_n = \sum_{\lambda} \frac{\prod_{i=2}^{\ell(\lambda)} (2(\lambda_i + \cdots + \lambda_{\ell(\lambda)}) - 1)}{z_{\lambda}},$$

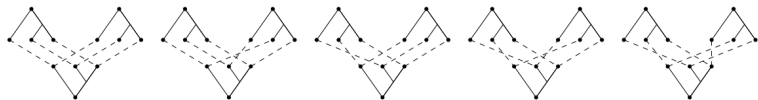
summed over *binary partitions* of  $n$ .

**Question.** What if the exponent  $k$  is bigger than 2?

$$t(k, n) = \sum_{\lambda} \frac{\prod_{i=2}^{\ell(\lambda)} (2(\lambda_i + \cdots + \lambda_{\ell(\lambda)}) - 1)^k}{z_{\lambda}}.$$

# Tangled Chains

**Defn.** A *tangled chain* of size  $n$  and length  $k$  is an ordered sequence of binary trees with complete matchings between the leaves of neighboring trees in the sequence.



**Thm 3.** The number of tangled chains of size  $n$  and length  $k$  is

$$t(k, n) = \sum_{\lambda} \frac{\prod_{i=2}^{\ell(\lambda)} (2(\lambda_i + \cdots + \lambda_{\ell(\lambda)}) - 1)^k}{z_{\lambda}}.$$

## Outline of Proof of Main Theorem

$$t_n = \sum_{S \in B_n} \sum_{T \in B_n} \sum_{w \in S_n} \frac{1}{|A(T)_w A(S)|}$$

## Outline of Proof of Main Theorem

$$t_n = \sum_{S \in B_n} \sum_{T \in B_n} \sum_{w \in S_n} \frac{1}{|A(T)wA(S)|}$$

For  $S, T$  fixed

$$|A(T)wA(S)| = \frac{|A(T)| \cdot |A(S)|}{|A(T) \cap wA(S)w^{-1}|}$$

## Outline of Proof of Main Theorem

$$t_n = \sum_{S \in B_n} \sum_{T \in B_n} \sum_{w \in S_n} \frac{1}{|A(T)wA(S)|}$$

For  $S, T$  fixed

$$|A(T)wA(S)| = \frac{|A(T)| \cdot |A(S)|}{|A(T) \cap wA(S)w^{-1}|}$$

$$\sum_{w \in S_n} |A(T) \cap wA(S)w^{-1}| = \sum_{w \in S_n} \sum_{u \in A(T)} \sum_{v \in A(S)} \chi[u = wvw^{-1}]$$

## Outline of Proof of Main Theorem

$$t_n = \sum_{S \in B_n} \sum_{T \in B_n} \sum_{w \in S_n} \frac{1}{|A(T)wA(S)|}$$

For  $S, T$  fixed

$$|A(T)wA(S)| = \frac{|A(T)| \cdot |A(S)|}{|A(T) \cap wA(S)w^{-1}|}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{w \in S_n} |A(T) \cap wA(S)w^{-1}| &= \sum_{w \in S_n} \sum_{u \in A(T)} \sum_{v \in A(S)} \chi[u = wv w^{-1}] \\ &= \sum_{u \in A(T)} \sum_{v \in A(S)} \sum_{w \in S_n} \chi[u = wv w^{-1}] \end{aligned}$$

## Outline of Proof of Main Theorem

$$t_n = \sum_{S \in B_n} \sum_{T \in B_n} \sum_{w \in S_n} \frac{1}{|A(T)wA(S)|}$$

For  $S, T$  fixed

$$|A(T)wA(S)| = \frac{|A(T)| \cdot |A(S)|}{|A(T) \cap wA(S)w^{-1}|}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{w \in S_n} |A(T) \cap wA(S)w^{-1}| &= \sum_{w \in S_n} \sum_{u \in A(T)} \sum_{v \in A(S)} \chi[u = wvw^{-1}] \\ &= \sum_{u \in A(T)} \sum_{v \in A(S)} \sum_{w \in S_n} \chi[u = wvw^{-1}] \\ &= \sum_{\lambda \vdash n} |A(T)_\lambda| \cdot |A(S)_\lambda| \cdot z_\lambda \end{aligned}$$

where  $A(T)_\lambda = \{w \in A(T) \mid \text{type}(w) = \lambda\}$ . Only binary partitions occur!

## Outline of Proof of Main Theorem

$$\begin{aligned}t_n &= \sum_{S \in B_n} \sum_{T \in B_n} \sum_{w \in S_n} \frac{1}{|A(T)_w A(S)|} \\ &= \sum_{S \in B_n} \sum_{T \in B_n} \sum_{\lambda} \frac{|A(T)_{\lambda}| \cdot |A(S)_{\lambda}| \cdot z_{\lambda}}{\|A(T)\| |A(S)|}\end{aligned}$$



## Outline of Proof of Main Theorem

$$\begin{aligned}t_n &= \sum_{S \in B_n} \sum_{T \in B_n} \sum_{w \in S_n} \frac{1}{|A(T)_w A(S)|} \\&= \sum_{S \in B_n} \sum_{T \in B_n} \sum_{\lambda} \frac{|A(T)_{\lambda}| \cdot |A(S)_{\lambda}| \cdot z_{\lambda}}{\|A(T)\| \|A(S)\|} \\&= \sum_{\lambda} z_{\lambda} \left( \sum_{T \in B_n} \frac{|A(T)_{\lambda}|}{\|A(T)\|} \right)^2\end{aligned}$$

## Outline of Proof of Main Theorem

$$\begin{aligned}t_n &= \sum_{S \in B_n} \sum_{T \in B_n} \sum_{w \in S_n} \frac{1}{|A(T)_w A(S)|} \\&= \sum_{S \in B_n} \sum_{T \in B_n} \sum_{\lambda} \frac{|A(T)_{\lambda}| \cdot |A(S)_{\lambda}| \cdot z_{\lambda}}{\|A(T)\| |A(S)|} \\&= \sum_{\lambda} z_{\lambda} \left( \sum_{T \in B_n} \frac{|A(T)_{\lambda}|}{|A(T)|} \right)^2\end{aligned}$$

To show:

$$\sum_{T \in B_n} \frac{|A(T)_{\lambda}|}{|A(T)|} = \frac{\prod_{i=2}^{\ell(\lambda)} (2(\lambda_i + \dots + \lambda_{\ell(\lambda)}) - 1)^2}{z_{\lambda}} = q_{\lambda}$$

via the recurrence

$$2q_{\lambda} = q_{\lambda/2} + \sum_{\lambda^1 \cup \lambda^2 = \lambda} q_{\lambda^1} q_{\lambda^2}$$

Conclusion:  $t_n = \sum z_{\lambda} q_{\lambda}^2$ .

# Random Generation of Tanglegrams

**Input:**  $n$

**Step 1:** Pick a binary partition  $\lambda \vdash n$  with prob  $z_\lambda q_\lambda^2 / t_n$ .

**Step 2:** Choose  $T$  and  $u \in A(T)_\lambda$  uniformly by subdividing  $\lambda = \lambda^1 \cup \lambda^2$  according to the recurrence for  $q_\lambda$ . Similarly, choose  $S$  and  $v \in A(T)_\lambda$  uniformly by subdividing.

**Step 3:** Among the  $z_\lambda$  permutations  $w$  such that  $u = wv w^{-1}$ , pick one uniformly.

**Output:**  $(T, w, S)$ .

# Open Problems

1. Is there a closed form or functional equation for  $T(x) = \sum t_n x^n$ ?
2. Is there an efficient for depth first search on tanglegrams?
3. Can one describe the lex minimal permutations in the double cosets  $A(T) \backslash S_n / A(S)$  for  $S, T \in B_n$ ?