

# Algebraic area enumeration for lattice closed paths

Stéphane Ouvry<sup>a</sup> Alexios P. Polychronakos<sup>b</sup> Shuang Wu<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Laboratoire de Physique Théorique et Modèles Statistiques, Université Paris Saclay, France

<sup>b</sup>Physics Department, City College of New York and the Graduate Center of CUNY, USA

<sup>c</sup>Physics Department, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China



## Closed paths on a square lattice

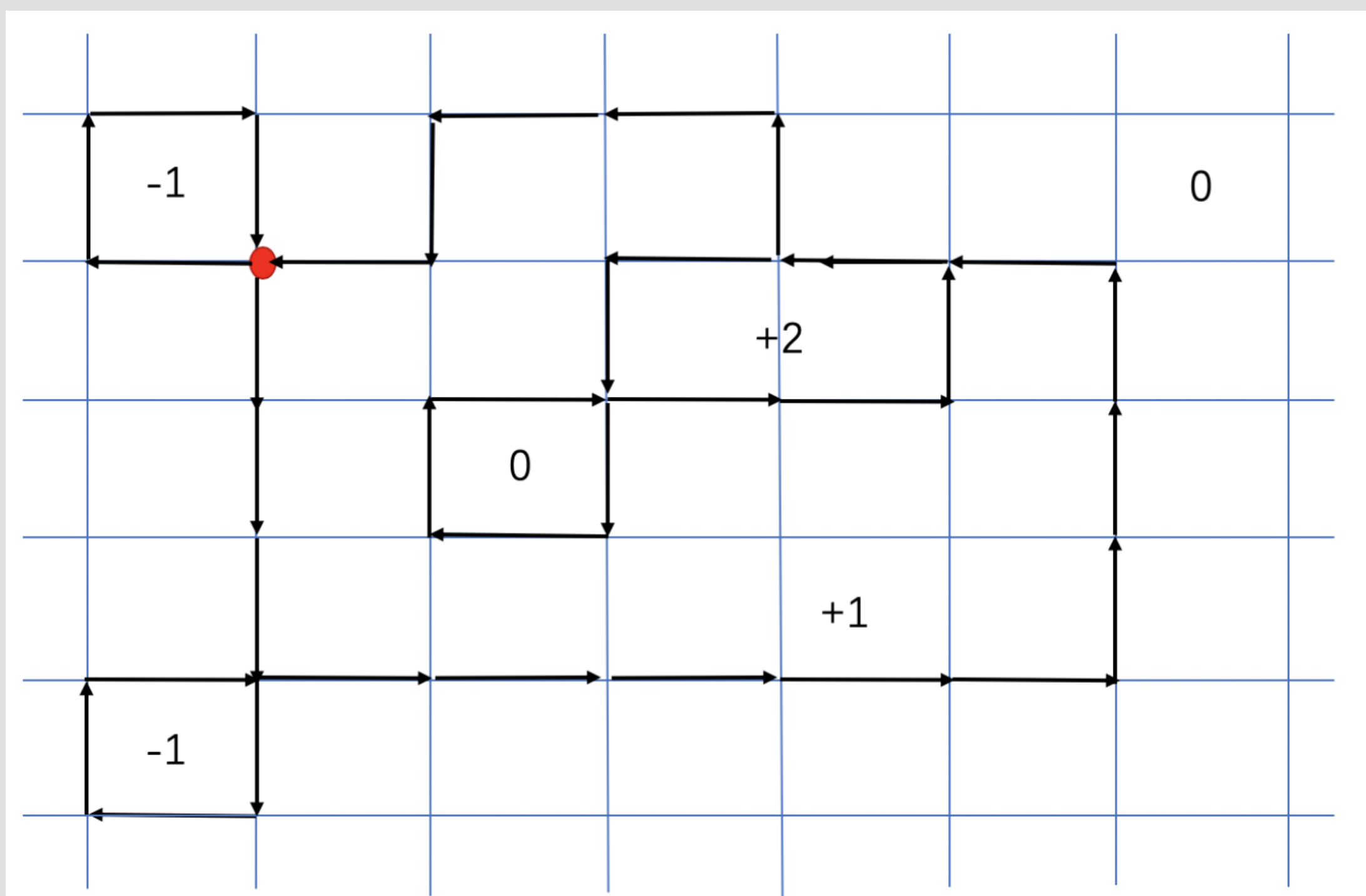
- $n$ -steps lattice path
- closed paths : start from and return to the origin  $\Rightarrow n$  even ( $= 2n$ )
- $\binom{n}{n/2}^2$  such paths

## Algebraic area

algebraic area = area enclosed by the path, weighted by the **winding number**: if the path moves around a region in counterclockwise (positive) direction, its area counts as positive, otherwise negative; if the path winds around more than once, the area is counted with multiplicity

## An example: $n = 36$

- **winding numbers**: +2,+1,0,-1,-1 (winding number 0 = +1 - 1 does not contribute)
- **number of lattice cells per winding sectors**: 2,14,1,1,1
- **algebraic area**  
 $A = 2 \times 2 + 14 \times 1 + 1 \times (-1) + 1 \times (-1) = 16$



## Counting the algebraic area $A$ : hopping operators $u$ and $v$

$u = \text{right}$     $v = \text{up}$   
 $v u = Q u v$  do not commute  
 $(u + u^{-1} + v + v^{-1})^n = \sum_A C_n(A) Q^A + \dots$   
 $\text{Tr} (u + u^{-1} + v + v^{-1})^n = \sum_A C_n(A) Q^A$

## In quantum mechanics: the Hofstadter model

$Q = e^{i2\pi\Phi/\Phi_0}$  where  $\Phi$  flux external magnetic field through unit lattice cell  $\Rightarrow$  quantum particle hopping on the square lattice coupled to external magnetic field

Hamiltonian  $H = u + u^{-1} + v + v^{-1}$  : this is the Hofstadter model

when flux is rational  $Q = e^{i2\pi p/q}$   $p, q$  coprimes  $\Rightarrow$  Harper equation

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} Qe^{iky} + Q^{-1}e^{-iky} & e^{ik_x} & 0 & \dots & 0 & e^{-ik_x} \\ e^{-ik_x} & Q^2e^{iky} + Q^{-2}e^{-iky} & e^{ik_x} & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-ik_x} & \dots & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & \dots & e^{ik_x} \\ e^{ik_x} & 0 & 0 & \dots & e^{-ik_x} & Qe^{iky} + Q^{-q}e^{-iky} \end{pmatrix}$$

secular determinant

$$\det(1 - zH) = \sum_{n=0}^{\lfloor q/2 \rfloor} (-1)^n Z(n) z^{2n} - 2(\cos(qk_x) + \cos(qk_y)) z^q$$

$$\text{Kreft (1993)} \rightarrow Z(n) = \sum_{k_1=1}^{q-2n+2} \sum_{k_2=1}^{k_1} \dots \sum_{k_{n-1}=1}^{k_{n-2}} s_{k_1+2n-2} s_{k_2+2n-4} \dots s_{k_{n-1}+2} s_{k_n}$$

$$s_k = (1 - Q^k)(1 - Q^{-k}) = 4 \sin^2(\pi kp/q)$$

## Algebraic area enumeration

Introduce  $b(n)$  via

$$\log \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} Z(n) z^n \right) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b(n) z^n$$

and coefficients  $c(h_1, h_2, \dots, h_j)$  labeled by **compositions**  $h_1, h_2, \dots, h_j$  of  $n$

$$c(h_1, h_2, \dots, h_j) = \frac{\binom{h_1+h_2}{h_1}}{h_1+h_2} \frac{\binom{h_2+h_3}{h_2}}{h_2+h_3} \dots \frac{\binom{h_{j-1}+h_j}{h_{j-1}}}{h_{j-1}+h_j}$$

$$\text{so that } b(n) = (-1)^{n+1} \sum_{h_1, h_2, \dots, h_j \text{ composition of } n} c(h_1, h_2, \dots, h_j) \sum_{k=1}^{q-j+1} s_{k+j-1}^{h_j} \dots s_{k+1}^{h_2} s_k^{h_1}$$

$$\text{use } \log \det(1 - zH) = \text{Tr} \log(1 - zH) \Rightarrow \text{Tr} H^{n=2n} = 2n(-1)^{n+1} b(n)$$

$$\text{so } \text{Tr} H^{n=2n} = 2n \sum_{h_1, h_2, \dots, h_j \text{ composition of } n} c(h_1, h_2, \dots, h_j) \sum_{k=1}^{q-j+1} s_{k+j-1}^{h_j} \dots s_{k+1}^{h_2} s_k^{h_1}$$

one can also compute the trigonometric sum  $\sum_{k=1}^{q-j+1} s_{k+j-1}^{h_j} \dots s_{k+1}^{h_2} s_k^{h_1}$

## The formula: $\text{Tr} H^n = \sum_A C_n(A) Q^A$

$$C_n(A) = 2n \sum_{h_1, h_2, \dots, h_j \text{ composition of } n} \frac{\binom{h_1+h_2}{h_1}}{h_1+h_2} \frac{\binom{h_2+h_3}{h_2}}{h_2+h_3} \dots \frac{\binom{h_{j-1}+h_j}{h_{j-1}}}{h_{j-1}+h_j} \sum_{k_3=0}^{2l_3} \sum_{k_4=0}^{2l_4} \dots \sum_{k_j=0}^{2l_j} \prod_{i=3}^j \binom{2l_i}{k_i} \binom{2l_1}{h_1 + A + \sum_{i=3}^j (i-2)(k_i - l_i)} \binom{2l_2}{h_2 - A - \sum_{i=3}^j (i-1)(k_i - l_i)}$$

## Why $Z_n$ and $b_n$ ? statistical mechanics and generalization

- $Z(n)$  = the  $n$ -body partition function with exclusion statistics  $g = 2$  and spectrum  $s_k = e^{-\epsilon(k)}$
- $b(n)$  = the  $n$ -th cluster coefficient

generalization to  $g$ -statistics

$$Z(n) = \sum_{k_1=1}^{q-gn+g} \sum_{k_2=1}^{k_1} \dots \sum_{k_{n-1}=1}^{k_{n-2}} s_{k_1+gn-g} s_{k_2+gn-2g} \dots s_{k_{n-1}+g} s_{k_n}$$

$$b(n) : \sum_{h_1, h_2, \dots, h_n \text{ composition of } n} c(h_1, h_2, \dots, h_j) \rightarrow \sum_{g\text{-composition of } n} c_g(h_1, h_2, \dots, h_j)$$

$$c_g(h_1, h_2, \dots, h_j) = \frac{(h_1 + \dots + h_{g-1} - 1)!}{h_1! \dots h_{g-1}!} \prod_{i=1}^{j-g+1} \binom{h_i + \dots + h_{i+g-1} - 1}{h_{i+g-1}}$$

$g$ -composition obtained by inserting at will inside a given composition no more than  $g - 2$  zeroes in succession

example  $g = 3$

$$n = 3 = 2 + 1 = 1 + 2 = 1 + 1 + 1 = 2 + 0 + 1 = 1 + 0 + 2 = 1 + 0 + 1 + 1 = 1 + 1 + 0 + 1 = 1 + 0 + 1 + 0 + 1$$

$\rightarrow$  algebraic area numeration chiral triangular walks on triangular lattice same  $s_k = 4 \sin^2(\pi kp/q)$

## References

- [1] S. O. and Shuang Wu, "The algebraic area of closed lattice random walks", J. Phys. A: Math. Theor. 52 (2019) 255201
- [2] S.O. and Alexios P. Polychronakos, "Exclusion statistics and lattice random walks", NPB 948 (2019) 114731; "Lattice walk area combinatorics, some remarkable trigonometric sums and Apéry-like numbers", NPB[FS] Volume 960 (2020) 115174