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Non-commutative extensions of classical determinantal identities

Matjaž Konvalinka and Igor Pak
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Theorem

For a complex invertible matrix $A = (a_{ij})_{m \times m}$, we have

$$(A^{-1})_{ij} = (-1)^{i+j} \frac{\det A^{ji}}{\det A}.$$

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We know that

$$(I - A)^{-1} = I + A + A^2 + \dots,$$

so

$$\left((I - A)^{-1} \right)_{ij} = \delta_{ij} + a_{ij} + \sum_k a_{ik} a_{kj} + \dots$$

We can rephrase the matrix inverse formula as follows:

$$\det(I - A) \cdot \left(\delta_{ij} + a_{ij} + \sum_k a_{ik} a_{kj} + \dots \right) = (-1)^{i+j} \det(I - A)^{ji}.$$

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Matrix inverse formula says that two power series in a_{ij} are the same, provided that the variables commute.

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Theorem (MacMahon 1916)

Let $A = (a_{ij})_{m \times m}$ be a complex matrix, and let x_1, \dots, x_m be a set of variables. Denote by $G(\mathbf{r})$ the coefficient of $x_1^{r_1} \dots x_m^{r_m}$ in

$$\prod_{i=1}^m (a_{i1}x_1 + \dots + a_{im}x_m)^{r_i}.$$

Let t_1, \dots, t_m be another set of variables, and $T = (\delta_{ij}t_i)_{m \times m}$. Then

$$\sum_{\mathbf{r} \geq \mathbf{0}} G(\mathbf{r}) \mathbf{t}^{\mathbf{r}} = \frac{1}{\det(I - TA)}.$$

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The coefficient of $x^2y^0z^2$ in $(y+z)^2(x+z)^0(x+y)^2$ is 1, and the coefficient of $x^2y^3z^1$ in $(y+z)^2(x+z)^3(x+y)^1$ is 3. On the other hand, for

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad T = \begin{pmatrix} t & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & u & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & v \end{pmatrix},$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\det(I - TA)} &= \frac{1}{1 - tu - tv - uv - 2tuv} = \\ &= 1 + \dots + t^2u^0v^2 + \dots + 3t^2u^3v^1 + \dots \end{aligned}$$

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We can take a_{ij} to be variables; each $G(\mathbf{r})$ is then a finite sum of monomials in a_{ij} . By taking $t_1 = \dots = t_m = 1$, MacMahon master theorem gives

$$\sum_{\mathbf{r} \geq \mathbf{0}} G(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{\det(I - A)}.$$

Since $\det(I - A) = 1 - a_{11} - \dots - a_{mm} + a_{11}a_{22} + \dots$, the right-hand side is also a power series in a_{ij} 's.

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Theorem (Sylvester's identity)

Let $A = (a_{ij})_{m \times m}$ be a complex matrix; take $n < i, j \leq m$ and define

$$A_0 = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & \cdots & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{a}_{i*} = (a_{i1} \ \cdots \ a_{in}), \mathbf{a}_{*j} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{1j} \\ \vdots \\ a_{nj} \end{pmatrix},$$

$$b_{ij} = \det \begin{pmatrix} A_0 & \mathbf{a}_{*j} \\ \mathbf{a}_{i*} & a_{ij} \end{pmatrix}, \quad B = (b_{ij})_{n+1 \leq i, j \leq m}$$

Then

$$\det A \cdot (\det A_0)^{m-n-1} = \det B.$$

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If we take $n = 1$ and $m = 3$, the Sylvester's identity says that

$$\begin{vmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{vmatrix} \cdot a_{11} = \begin{vmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \end{vmatrix} + \begin{vmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{vmatrix}.$$

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- Do these (or similar) identities hold when the variables are not commutative?
- Can we find combinatorial proofs of these identities?
- Can we add parameters and find natural q -analogues?

Yes!

(otherwise I would be talking about something else)

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Yes!

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Previous work

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Commutative variables:

$$a_{ik}a_{jl} = a_{jl}a_{ik} \text{ for all } i, j, k, l$$

Cartier-Foata and right-quantum matrices

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Cartier-Foata:

$$a_{jl}a_{ik} = a_{ik}a_{jl} \quad \text{for all } i < j, k < l$$

$$a_{jl}a_{ik} = a_{ik}a_{jl} \quad \text{for all } i < j, k > l$$

$$a_{jk}a_{ik} = a_{ik}a_{jk} \quad \text{for all } i < j$$

Right-quantum:

$$a_{jk}a_{ik} = a_{ik}a_{jk} \quad \text{for all } i < j$$

$$a_{ik}a_{jl} - a_{jk}a_{il} = a_{jl}a_{ik} - a_{il}a_{jk} \quad \text{for all } i < j, k < l$$

Cartier-Foata \Rightarrow right-quantum

q -Cartier-Foata and q -right-quantum matrices

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q -Cartier-Foata:

$$a_{jl}a_{ik} = a_{ik}a_{jl} \quad \text{for all } i < j, k < l$$

$$a_{jl}a_{ik} = q^2 a_{ik}a_{jl} \quad \text{for all } i < j, k > l$$

$$a_{jk}a_{ik} = q a_{ik}a_{jk} \quad \text{for all } i < j$$

q -right-quantum:

$$a_{jk}a_{ik} = q a_{ik}a_{jk} \quad \text{for all } i < j$$

$$a_{ik}a_{jl} - q^{-1} a_{jk}a_{il} = a_{jl}a_{ik} - q a_{il}a_{jk} \quad \text{for all } i < j, k < l$$

q -Cartier-Foata \Rightarrow q -right-quantum

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q -Cartier-Foata:

$$a_{jl}a_{ik} = q_{kl}^{-1}q_{ij} a_{ik}a_{jl} \quad \text{for all } i < j, k < l$$

$$a_{jl}a_{ik} = q_{ij}q_{lk} a_{ik}a_{jl} \quad \text{for all } i < j, k > l$$

$$a_{jk}a_{ik} = q_{ij} a_{ik}a_{jk} \quad \text{for all } i < j$$

q -right-quantum:

$$a_{jk}a_{ik} = q_{ij} a_{ik}a_{jk} \quad \text{for all } i < j$$

$$a_{ik}a_{jl} - q_{ij}^{-1}a_{jk}a_{il} = q_{kl}q_{ij}^{-1}a_{jl}a_{ik} - q_{kl}a_{il}a_{jk} \quad \text{for all } i < j, k < l$$

q -Cartier-Foata \Rightarrow q -right-quantum

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Given a matrix $A = (a_{ij})_{m \times m}$ with not necessarily commuting entries, we can define its:

- determinant by

$$\det A = \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_m} (-1)^{\text{inv}(\sigma)} a_{\sigma_1 1} \cdots a_{\sigma_m m}$$

- q -determinant by

$$\det_q A = \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_m} (-q)^{-\text{inv} \sigma} a_{\sigma_1 1} \cdots a_{\sigma_m m}$$

- q -determinant by

$$\det_q A = \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_m} \left(\prod_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{I}(\sigma)} (-q_{\sigma_j \sigma_i})^{-1} \right) a_{\sigma_1 1} \cdots a_{\sigma_m m}$$

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$$\det_q A = \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_m} (-q)^{-\text{inv} \sigma} a_{\sigma_1 1} \cdots a_{\sigma_m m}$$

- \mathbf{q} -determinant by

$$\det_{\mathbf{q}} A = \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_m} \left(\prod_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{I}(\sigma)} (-q_{\sigma_j \sigma_i})^{-1} \right) a_{\sigma_1 1} \cdots a_{\sigma_m m}$$

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- $\det(I - A) = \sum_{J \subseteq [m]} (-1)^{|J|} \det A_J$
- $\det_q(I - A) = \sum_{J \subseteq [m]} (-1)^{|J|} \det_q A_J$
- $\det_{\mathbf{q}}(I - A) = \sum_{J \subseteq [m]} (-1)^{|J|} \det_{\mathbf{q}} A_J$

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Theorem

If $A = (a_{ij})_{m \times m}$ is a Cartier-Foata or right-quantum matrix, we have

$$\left(\frac{1}{I - A} \right)_{ij} = (-1)^{i+j} \cdot \frac{1}{\det(I - A)} \cdot \det(I - A)^{ji}$$

for all i, j .

Matrix inverse formula - q -cases

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Theorem

If $A = (a_{ij})_{m \times m}$ is a q -Cartier-Foata or a q -right-quantum matrix, we have

$$\left(\frac{1}{I - A_{[ij]}} \right)_{ij} = (-1)^{i+j} \frac{1}{\det_q(I - A)} \cdot \det_q(I - A)^{ji}$$

for all i, j , where

$$A_{[ij]} = \begin{pmatrix} q^{-1}a_{11} & \cdots & q^{-1}a_{1j} & a_{1,j+1} & \cdots & a_{1m} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ q^{-1}a_{i-1,1} & \cdots & q^{-1}a_{i-1,j} & a_{i-1,j+1} & \cdots & a_{i-1,m} \\ a_{i1} & \cdots & a_{ij} & qa_{i,j+1} & \cdots & qa_{i,m} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & \cdots & a_{mj} & qa_{m,j+1} & \cdots & qa_{mm} \end{pmatrix}.$$

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If $A = (a_{ij})_{m \times m}$ is a q -Cartier-Foata matrix or a q -right-quantum matrix, we have

$$\left(\frac{1}{I - A_{[ij]}} \right)_{ij} = (-1)^{i+j} \frac{1}{\det_q(I - A)} \cdot \det_q(I - A)^{jj}$$

for all i, j , where $A_{[ij]}$ is given by a similar formula (involving a_{ij}, q_{ij}).

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What is the coefficient of $x_1^{r_1} \cdots x_m^{r_m}$ in

$$(a_{11}x_1 + \cdots + a_{1m}x_m)^{r_1} \cdots (a_{m1}x_1 + \cdots + a_{mm}x_m)^{r_m},$$

where a_{ij} are (not necessarily commuting) variables and x_i commute with a_{ij} 's and each other?

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It is the sum of all monomials

$$\underbrace{a_{1*} \cdots a_{1*}}_{r_1} \underbrace{a_{2*} \cdots a_{2*}}_{r_2} \cdots \underbrace{a_{m*} \cdots a_{m*}}_{r_m},$$

so that $*$ represents 1 r_1 times, 2 r_2 times, etc.

We call such a monomial an *ordered sequence* or *o-sequence* of type (r_1, \dots, r_m) .

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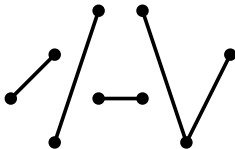
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Represent the variable a_{ij} as a step from height i to height j , and a monomial $a_{i_1j_1} \cdots a_{i_nj_n}$ as a concatenation of steps.

For example, $a_{23}a_{14}a_{22}a_{41}a_{13}$ becomes



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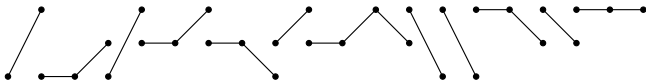
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An o-sequence of type (r_1, \dots, r_m) is represented by a concatenation of steps so that starting heights are non-decreasing and so that each i appears r_i times as a starting height and r_i times as an ending height.



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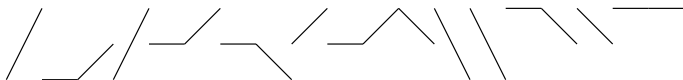
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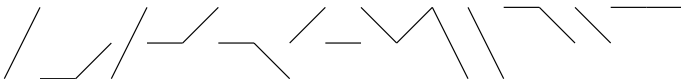
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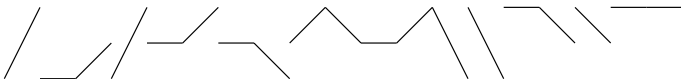
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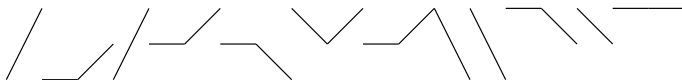
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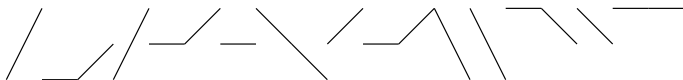
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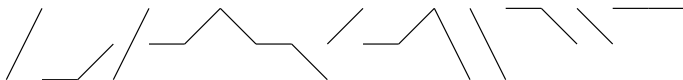
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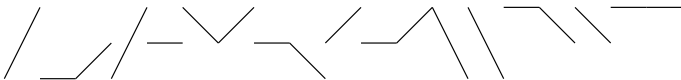
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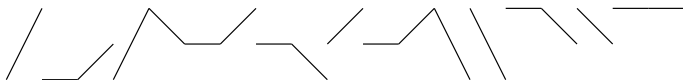
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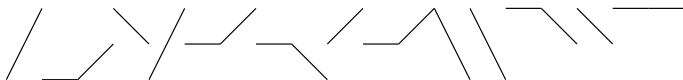
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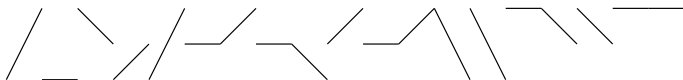
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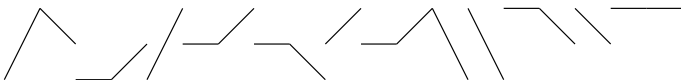
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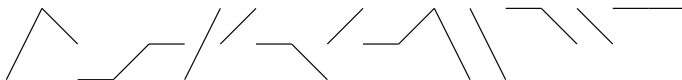
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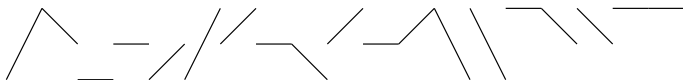
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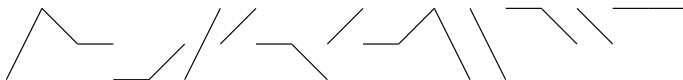
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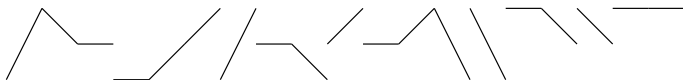
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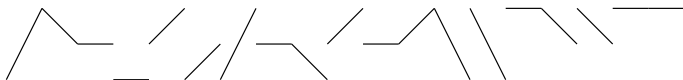
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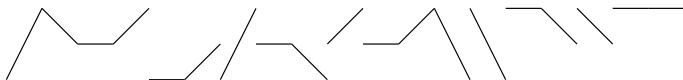
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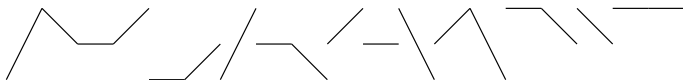
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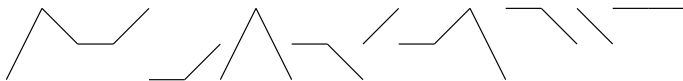
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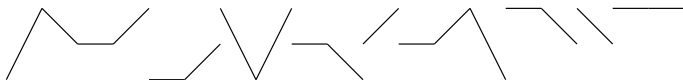
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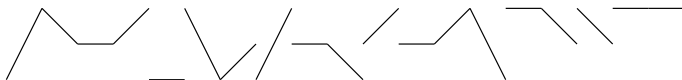
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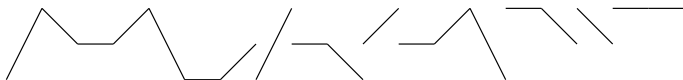
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A *path sequence* or *p-sequence* is a concatenation of a lattice path from $(0, 1)$ to $(x_1, 1)$ that never goes below $y = 1$ or above $y = m$, a lattice path from $(x_1, 2)$ to $(x_2, 2)$ that never goes below $y = 2$ or above $y = m$, a lattice path from $(x_2, 3)$ to $(x_3, 3)$ that never goes below $y = 3$ or above $y = m$, etc.

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We have established a bijection φ from the set of o-sequences to the set of p-sequences so that $\varphi(\alpha)$ is a rearrangement of α .

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The sum of all paths from 1 to 1 is given by

$$(I + A + A^2 + \dots)_{11} = \left(\frac{1}{I - A} \right)_{11},$$

the sum of all paths from 2 to 2 that avoid 1 is given by

$$\left(\frac{1}{I - A^{11}} \right)_{22},$$

etc.

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Therefore the sum of all p-sequences is given by

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(\frac{1}{I-A} \right)_{11} \left(\frac{1}{I-A^{11}} \right)_{22} \left(\frac{1}{I-A^{12,12}} \right)_{33} \cdots \frac{1}{1-a_{mm}} \\ &= \frac{\det(I-A)^{11}}{\det(I-A)} \cdot \frac{\det(I-A)^{12,12}}{\det(I-A)^{11}} \cdots \frac{1}{1-a_{mm}} \\ &= \frac{1}{\det(I-A)} \end{aligned}$$

This finishes the proof of MacMahon master theorem.

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Since:

- the bijection φ never switches steps that begin at the same height, and
- the matrix inverse formula holds for Cartier-Foata matrices,

the same proof gives the following theorem.

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Theorem (Cartier-Foata master theorem)

Let $A = (a_{ij})_{m \times m}$ be a Cartier-Foata matrix. Denote by $G(\mathbf{r})$ the coefficient of $x_1^{r_1} \cdots x_m^{r_m}$ in

$$\prod_{i=1}^m (a_{i1}x_1 + \cdots + a_{im}x_m)^{r_i}.$$

Then

$$\sum_{\mathbf{r} \geq \mathbf{0}} G(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{\det(I - A)}.$$

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Can we extend the theorem to the case when A is right-quantum?

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Yes, but we need something extra for the proof.

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Since

$$a_{jk}a_{ik} = a_{ik}a_{jk},$$

we can switch steps that end on the same height:



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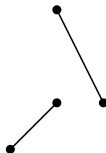
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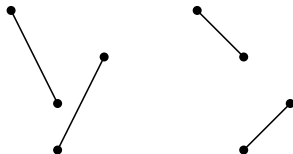
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But since

$$a_{ik}a_{jl} + a_{il}a_{jk} = a_{jl}a_{ik} + a_{jk}a_{il},$$

we have to make other switches *simultaneously*, in pairs:



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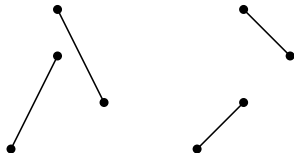
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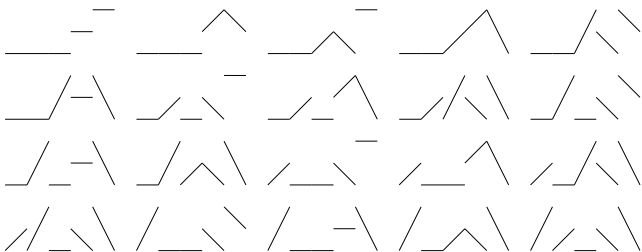
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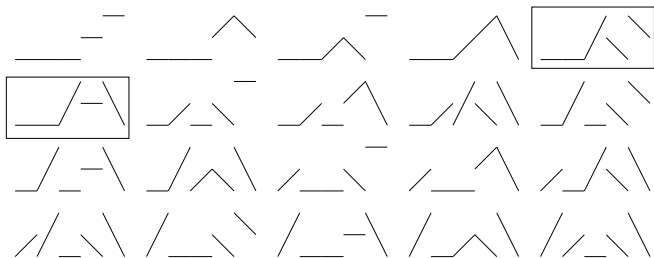
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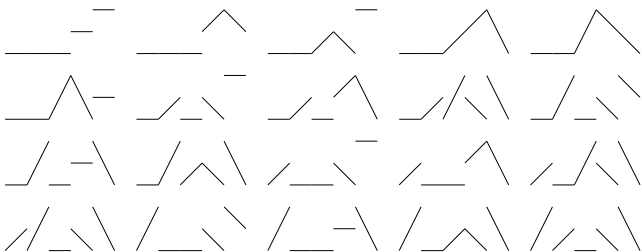
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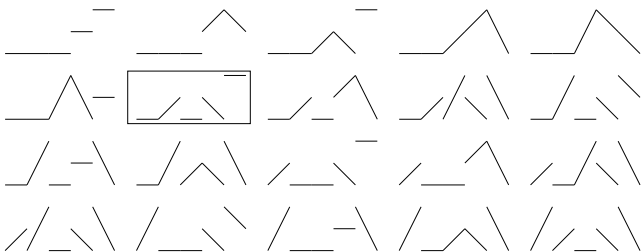
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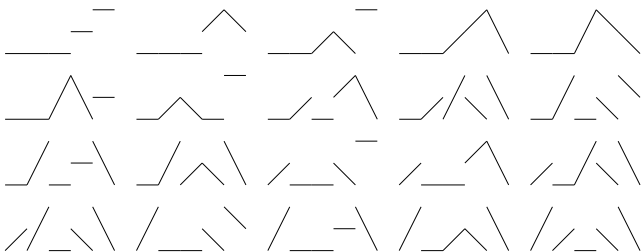
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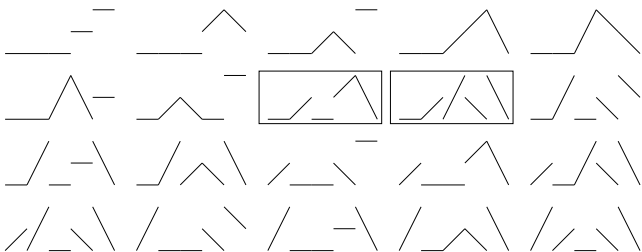
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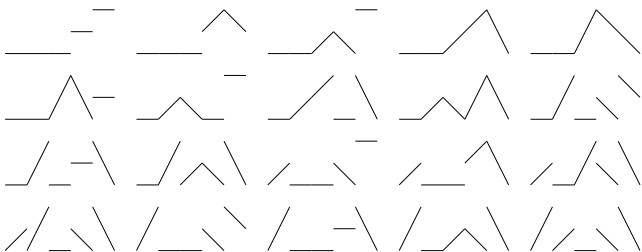
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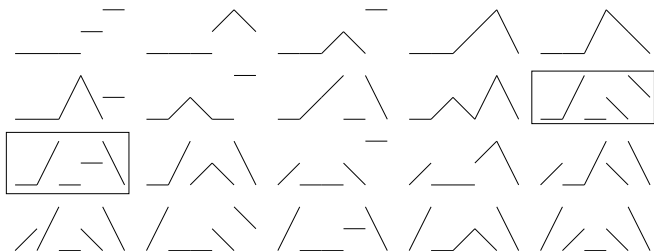
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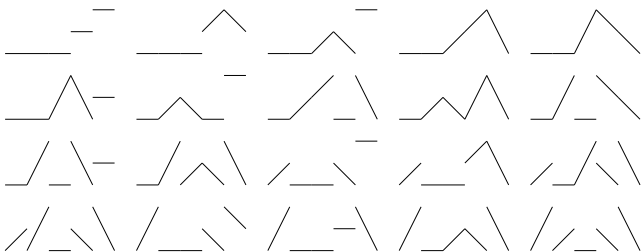
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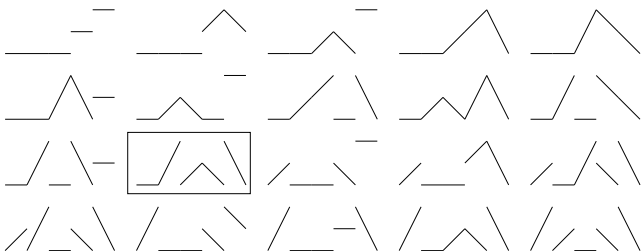
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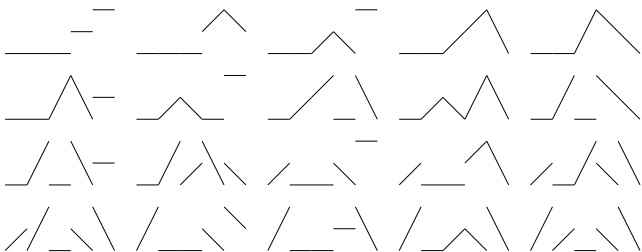
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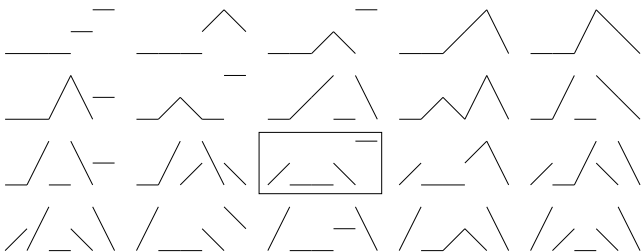
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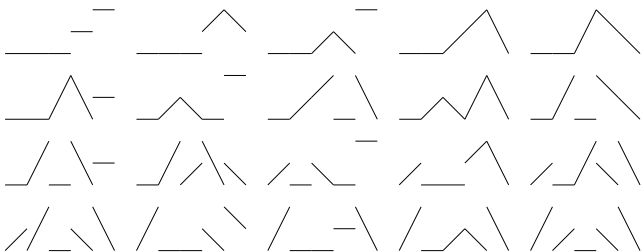
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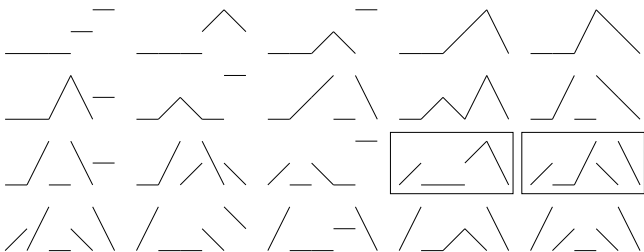
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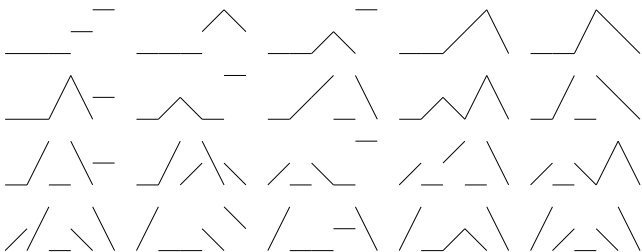
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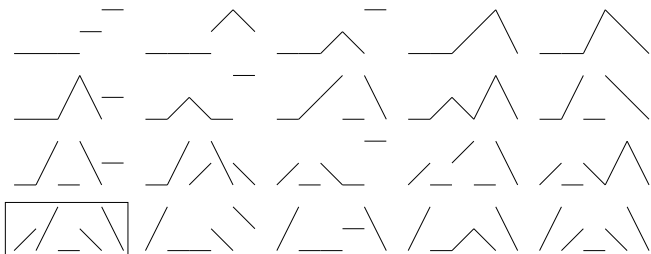
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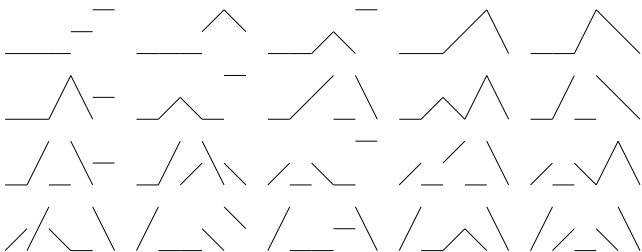
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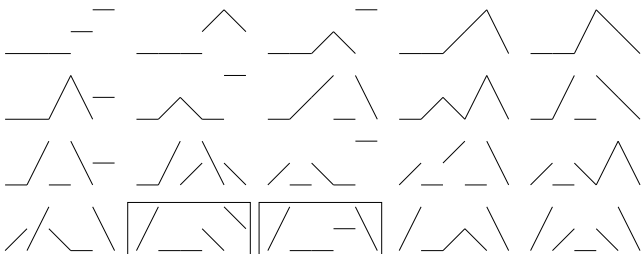
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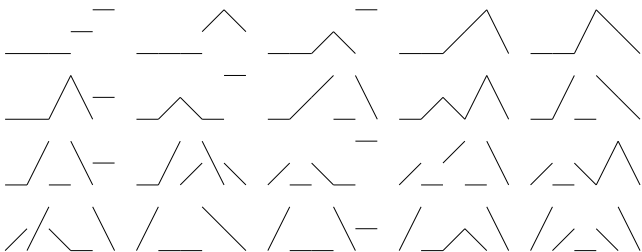
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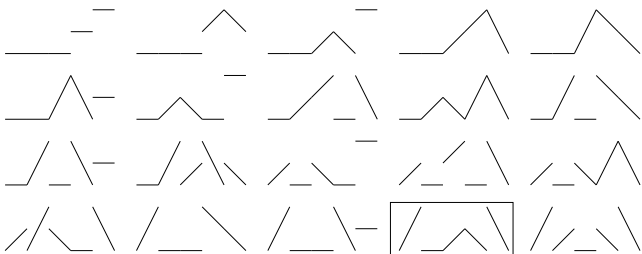
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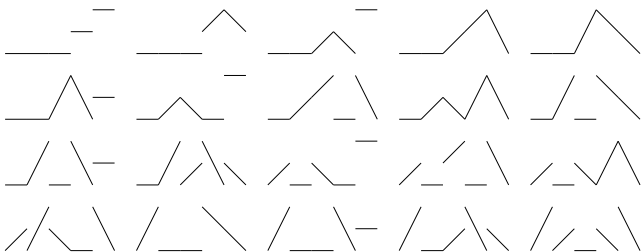
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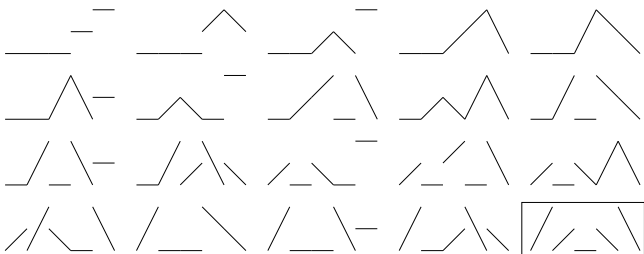
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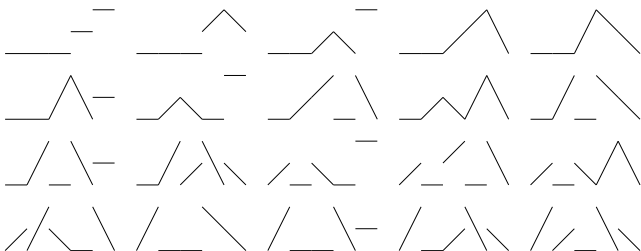
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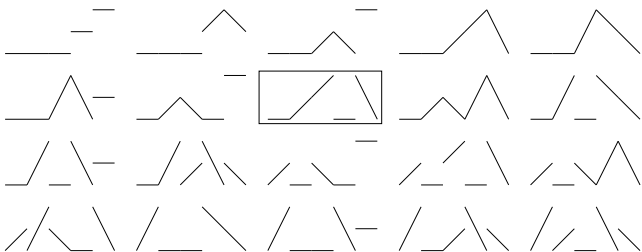
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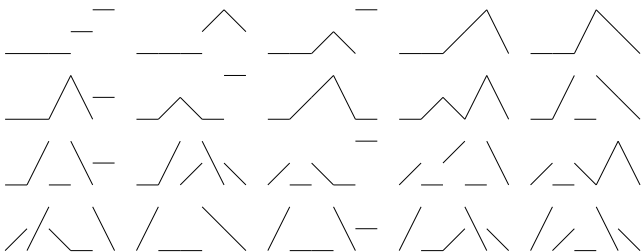
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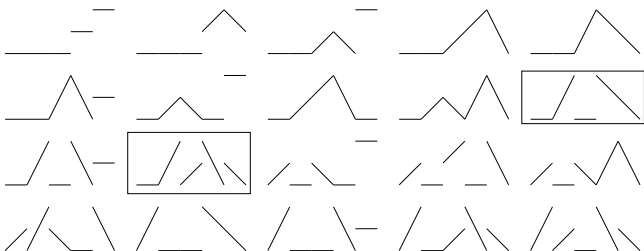
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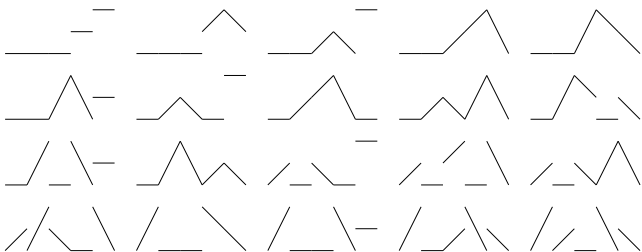
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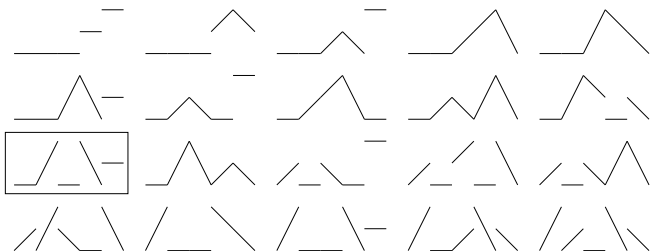
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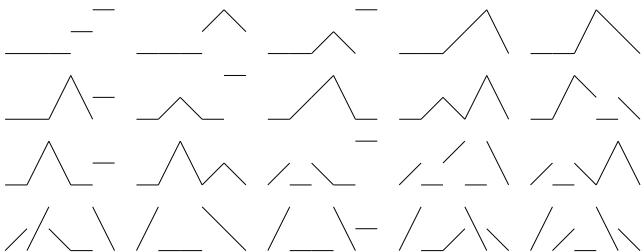
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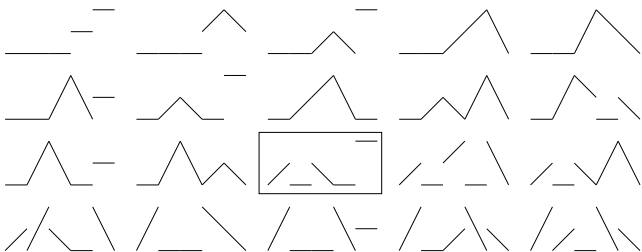
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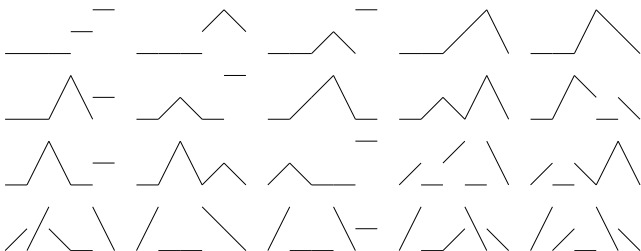
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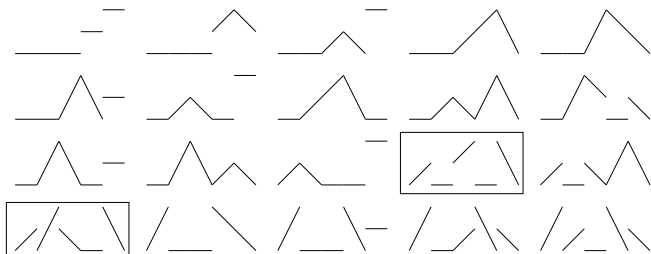
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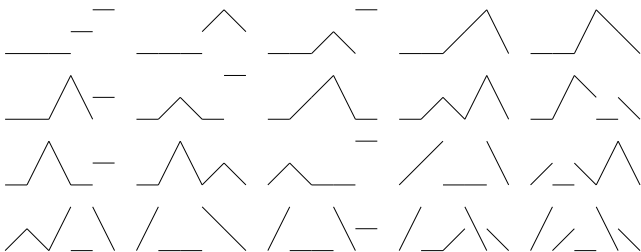
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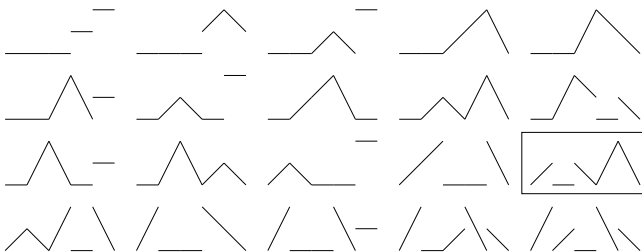
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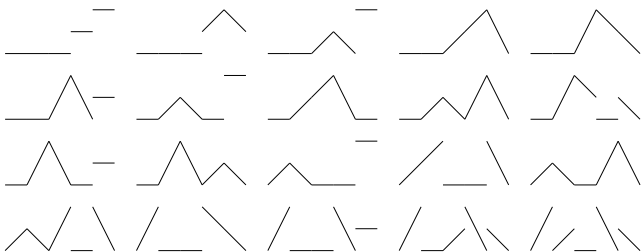
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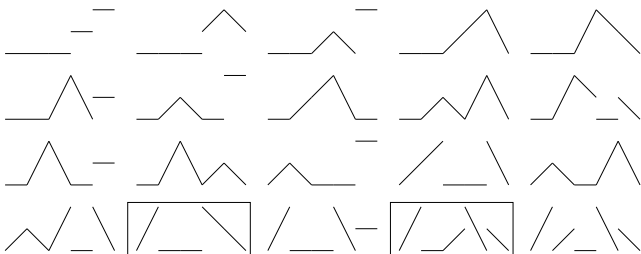
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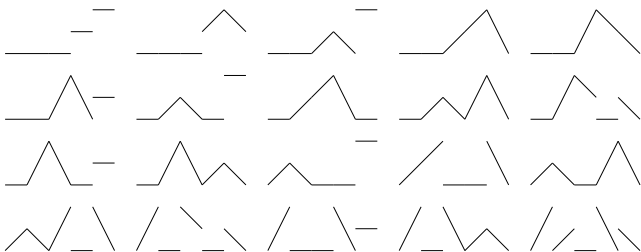
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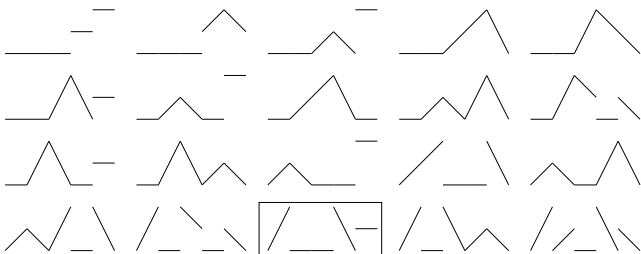
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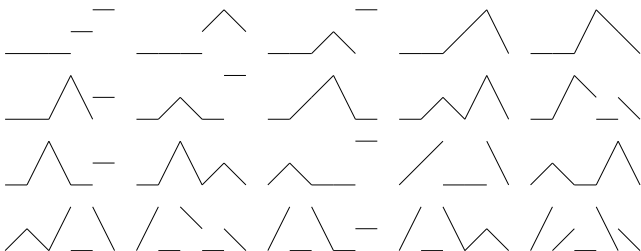
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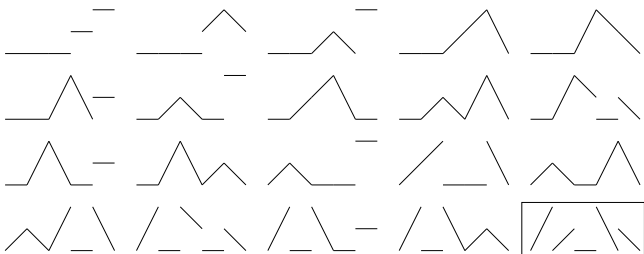
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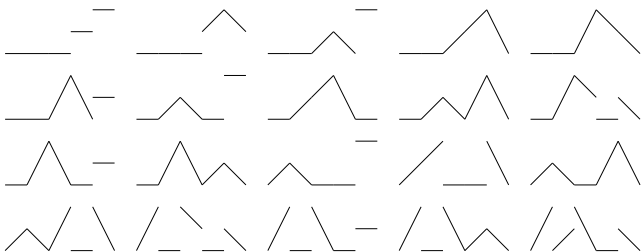
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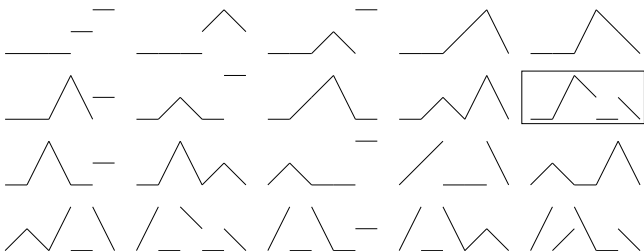
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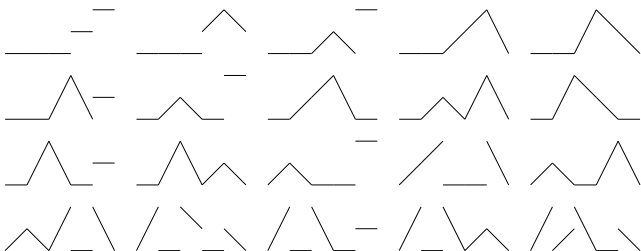
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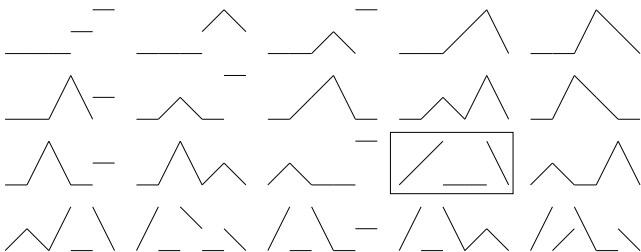
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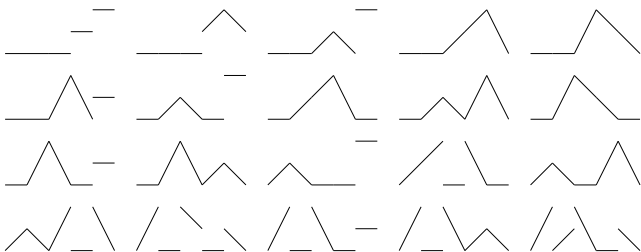
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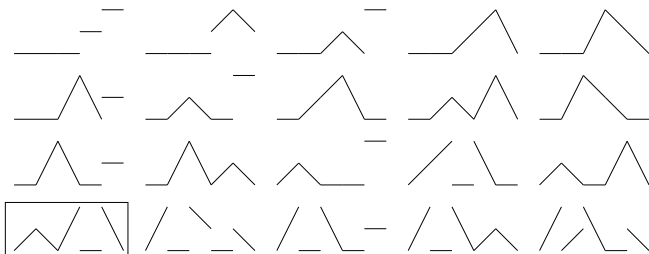
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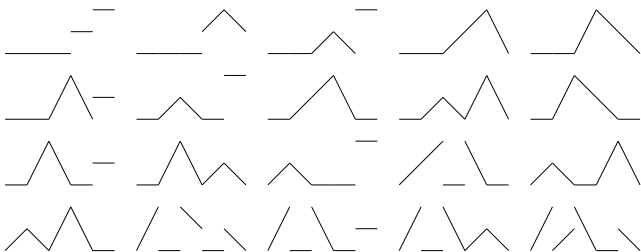
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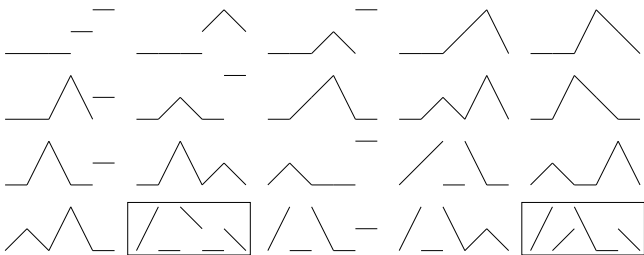
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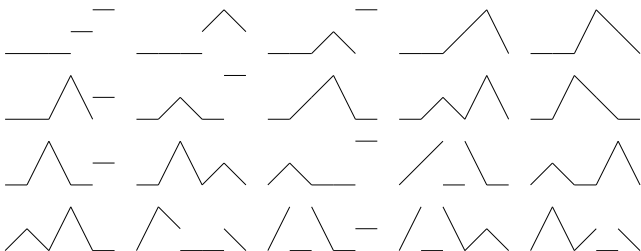
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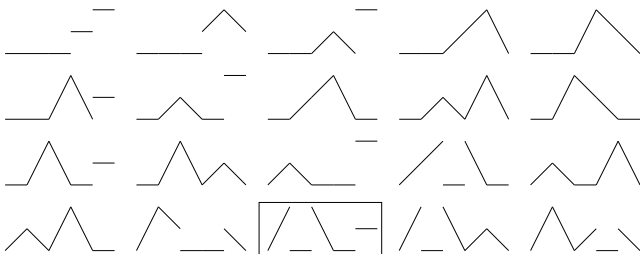
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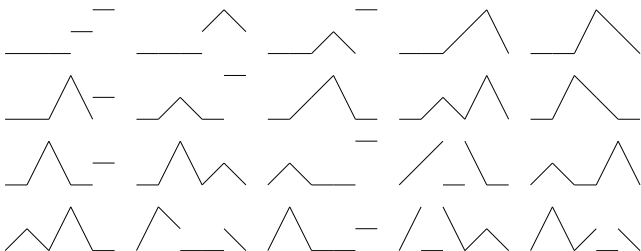
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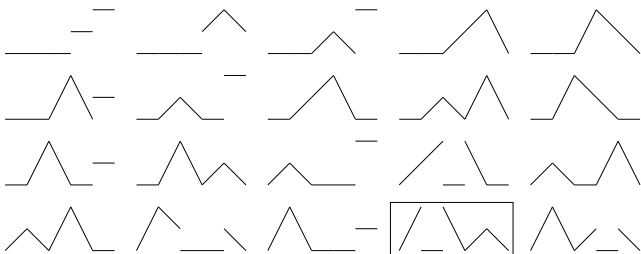
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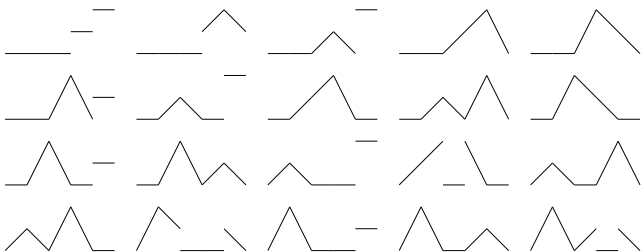
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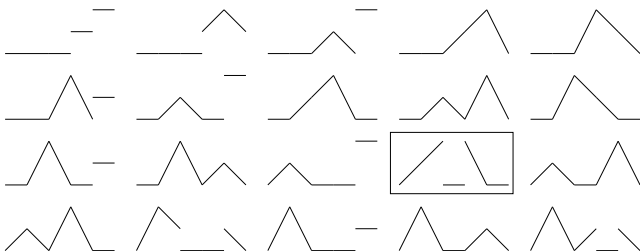
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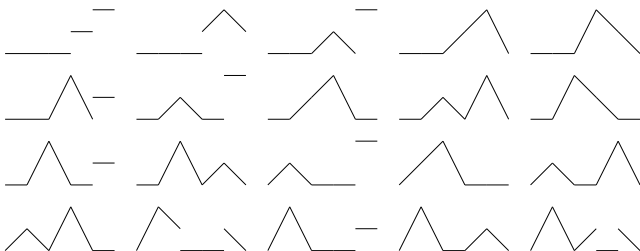
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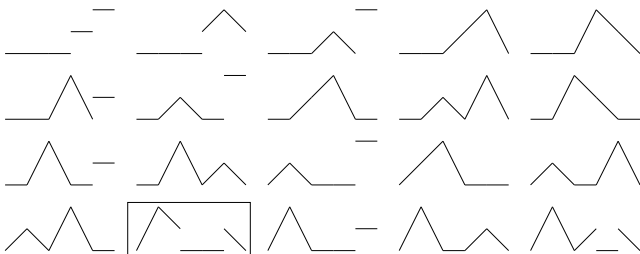
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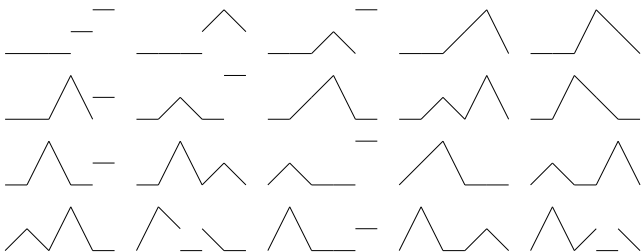
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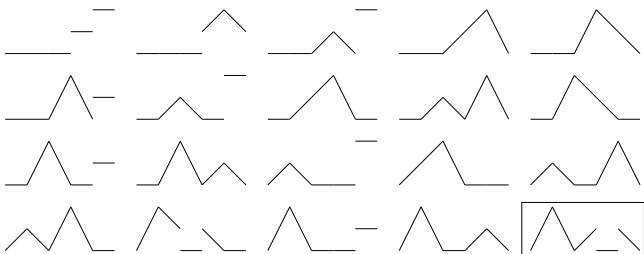
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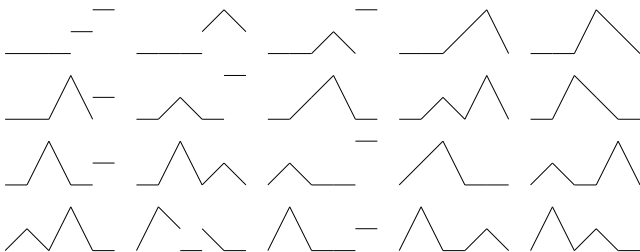
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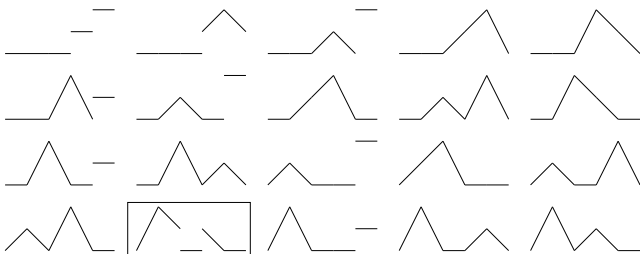
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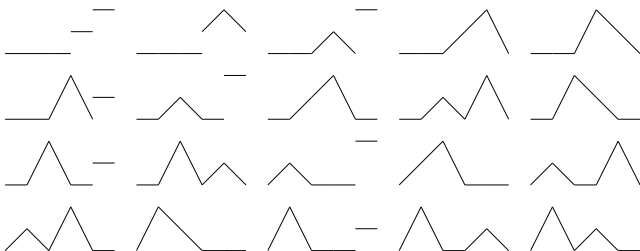
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Theorem (right-quantum master theorem)

Let $A = (a_{ij})_{m \times m}$ be a right-quantum matrix. Denote by $G(\mathbf{r})$ the coefficient of $x_1^{r_1} \cdots x_m^{r_m}$ in

$$\prod_{i=1}^m (a_{i1}x_1 + \cdots + a_{im}x_m)^{r_i}.$$

Then

$$\sum_{\mathbf{r} \geq \mathbf{0}} G(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{\det(I - A)}.$$

Weighted analogue

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If we assume that

$$x_j x_i = q x_i x_j \text{ for all } i < j,$$

that A is q -right-quantum and that x_i 's commute with a_{ij} 's, then careful bookkeeping of the weights shows the following.

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Theorem (q -right-quantum master theorem)

Denote the coefficient of $x_1^{r_1} \cdots x_m^{r_m}$ in

$$\prod_{i=1}^m (a_{i1}x_1 + \cdots + a_{im}x_m)^{r_i}$$

by $G(\mathbf{r})$. Then

$$\sum_{\mathbf{r} \geq \mathbf{0}} G(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{\det_q(I - A)}.$$

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If we assume that

$$x_j x_i = q_{ij} x_i x_j \text{ for all } i < j,$$

that A is \mathbf{q} -right-quantum and that x_i 's commute with a_{ij} 's, then we have the following.

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Theorem (q-right-quantum master theorem)

Denote the coefficient of $x_1^{r_1} \cdots x_m^{r_m}$ in

$$\prod_{i=1}^m (a_{i1}x_1 + \cdots + a_{im}x_m)^{r_i}$$

by $G(\mathbf{r})$. Then

$$\sum_{\mathbf{r} \geq \mathbf{0}} G(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{\det_{\mathbf{q}}(I - A)}.$$

Non-commutative Sylvester's identity

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Similar techniques prove the following theorem.

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Theorem (q -right-quantum Sylvester's theorem)

Let $A = (a_{ij})_{m \times m}$ be a q -right-quantum matrix, and choose $n < m$. Let A_0, a_{i*}, a_{*j} be defined as above, and let

$$c_{ij}^q = -\det_q^{-1}(I - A_0) \cdot \det_q \begin{pmatrix} I - A_0 & -a_{*j} \\ -a_{i*} & -a_{ij} \end{pmatrix},$$

$$C^q = (c_{ij}^q)_{n+1 \leq i, j \leq m}.$$

Suppose $q_{ij} = q_{i'j'}$ for all $i, i' \leq n$ and $j, j' > n$. Then

$$\det_q^{-1}(I - A_0) \cdot \det_q(I - A) = \det_q(I - C^q).$$

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References

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