
Dual equivalence graphs, ribbon tableaux and Macdonald polynomials

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FPSAC'07, Tianjin, P.R. China

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Macdonald polynomials

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The *transformed Macdonald polynomials* $\tilde{H}_\mu(x; q, t)$ are the unique functions satisfying the following conditions:

- (i) $\tilde{H}_\mu(x; q, t) \in \mathbb{Q}(q, t)\{s_\lambda[X/(1 - q)] : \lambda \geq \mu\}$,
- (ii) $\tilde{H}_\mu(x; q, t) \in \mathbb{Q}(q, t)\{s_\lambda[X/(1 - t)] : \lambda \geq \mu'\}$,
- (iii) $\tilde{H}_\mu[1; q, t] = 1$.

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- (iii) $\tilde{H}_\mu[1; q, t] = 1$.

The *Kostka-Macdonald polynomials* $\tilde{K}_{\lambda, \mu}(q, t)$ give the Schur expansion for Macdonald polynomials, i.e.

$$\tilde{H}_\mu(x; q, t) = \sum_{\lambda} \tilde{K}_{\lambda, \mu}(q, t) s_\lambda(x).$$

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Problem: Find a *combinatorial* proof of positivity.

Better yet, find a *combinatorial formula* for $\tilde{K}_{\lambda,\mu}(q, t)$.

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Theorem. (Haglund, Haiman, Loehr 2005)

$$\tilde{H}_\mu(x; q, t) = \sum_{S: \mu \rightarrow \mathbb{N}} q^{\text{inv}(S)} t^{\text{maj}(S)} x^S$$

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The Schur functions may be defined by

$$s_\lambda(x) = \sum_{T \in \text{SSYT}(\lambda)} x^T$$

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Proposition. (Gessel 1984)

$$\begin{aligned} s_\lambda(x) &= \sum_{T \in \text{SSYT}(\lambda)} x^T \\ &= \sum_{T \in \text{SYT}(\lambda)} Q_{\sigma(T)}(x) \end{aligned}$$

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Quasi-symmetric functions

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For $\sigma \in \{\pm 1\}^{n-1}$, define the *quasi-symmetric function*

$$Q_\sigma(x) = \sum_{\substack{i_1 \leq \dots \leq i_n \\ i_j = i_{j+1} \Rightarrow \sigma_j = +1}} x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_n}.$$

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Define the *descent signature* $\sigma : \text{SYT} \rightarrow \{\pm 1\}^{n-1}$ by

$$\sigma(T)_i = \begin{cases} +1 & i \text{ left of } i+1 \text{ in } w(T) \\ -1 & i+1 \text{ left of } i \text{ in } w(T) \end{cases}$$

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define a vertex-signed graph \mathcal{G} with vertex set V and signature function $\sigma : V \rightarrow \{\pm 1\}^{n-1}$.

Goal: Give sufficient conditions for a vertex-signed graph $\mathcal{G} = (V, \sigma, E)$ to have connected components which satisfy

$$\sum_{v \in \mathcal{C}} Q_{\sigma(v)}(x) = s_{\lambda}(x).$$

Dual equivalence and graphs

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An *elementary dual equivalence* for $i-1, i, i+1$ on a standard word is given by

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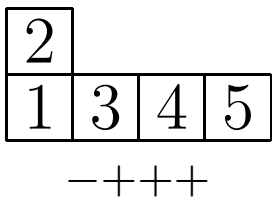
For $T, U \in \text{SYT}$, connect T and U with an i -colored edge whenever $w(T)$ and $w(U)$ differ by an elementary dual equivalence for $i-1, i, i+1$.

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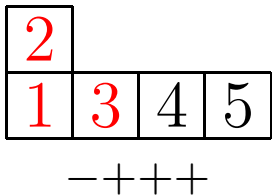


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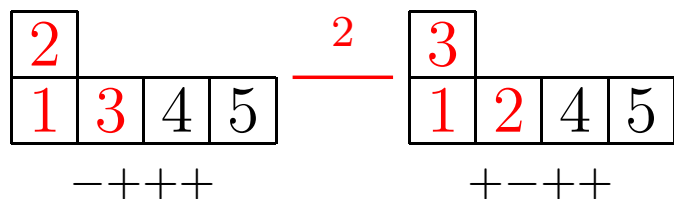


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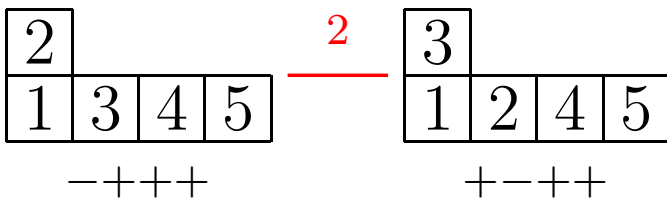


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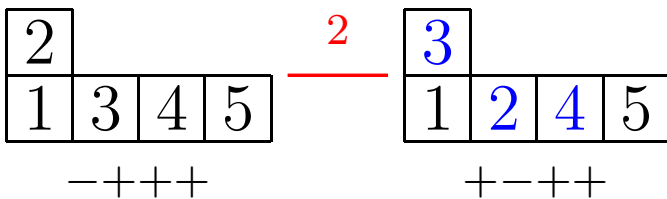


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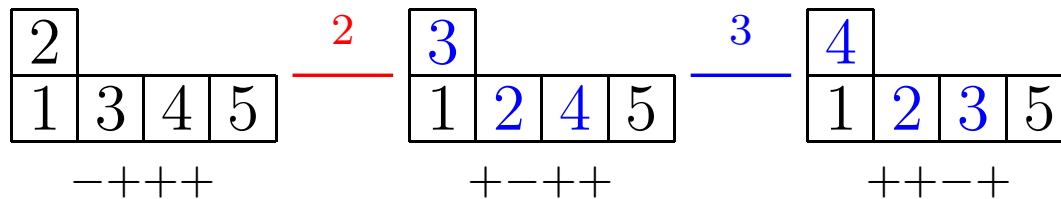


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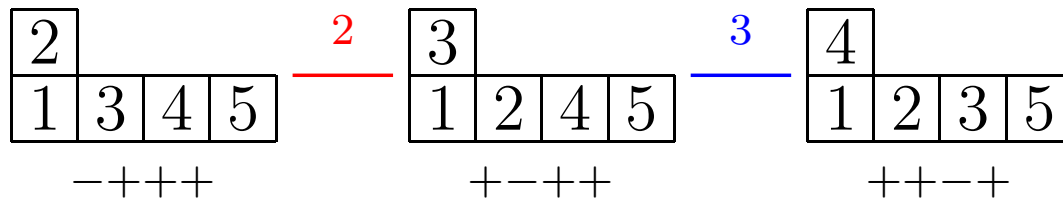


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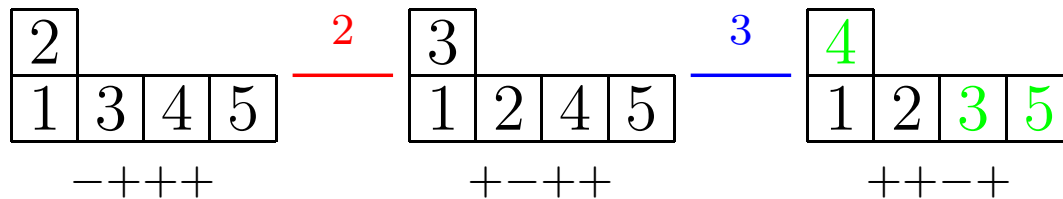


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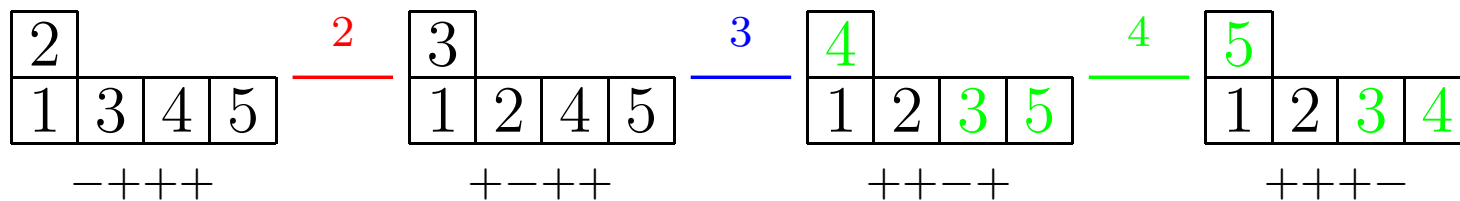


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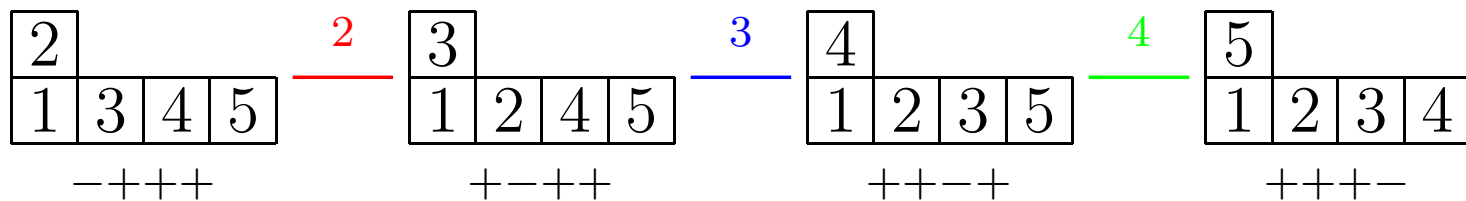


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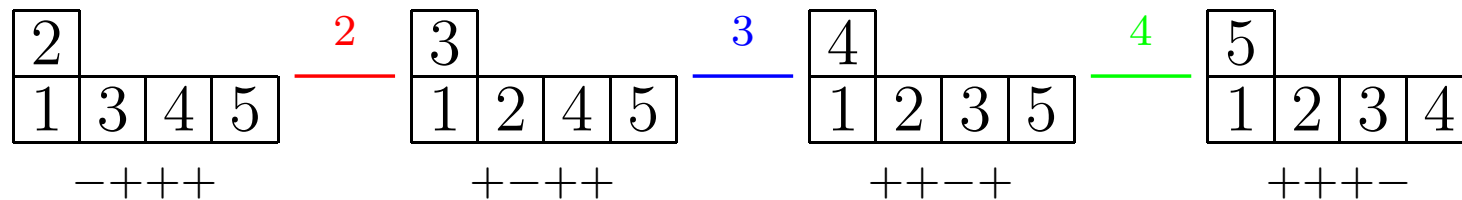
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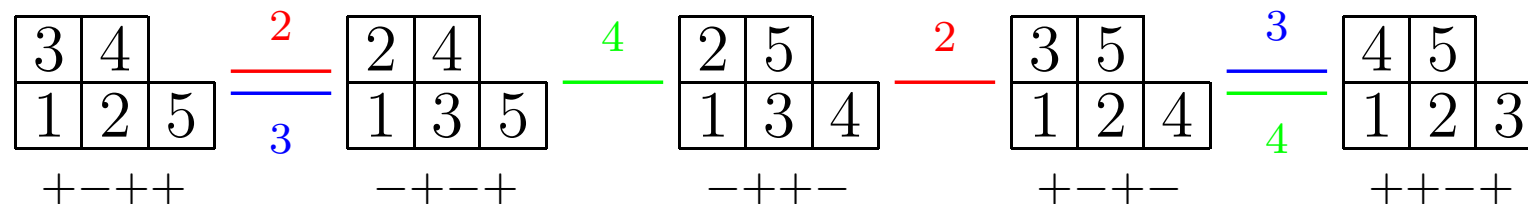
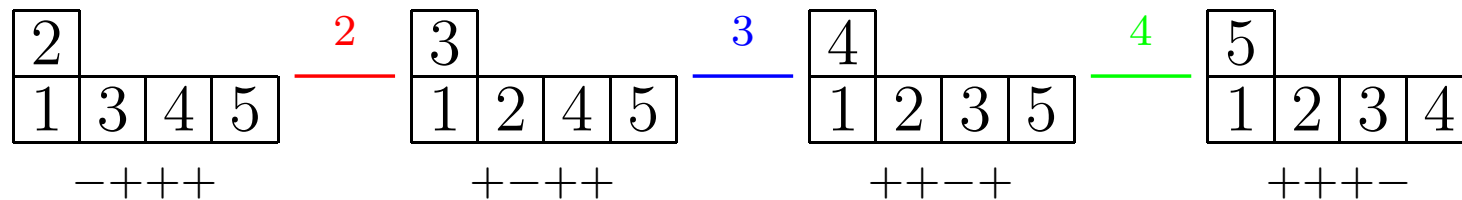
Goal: Give sufficient conditions for a vertex-signed, edge-colored graph $\mathcal{G} = (V, \sigma, E)$ to have connected components isomorphic to \mathcal{G}_λ .

Examples of \mathcal{G}_λ

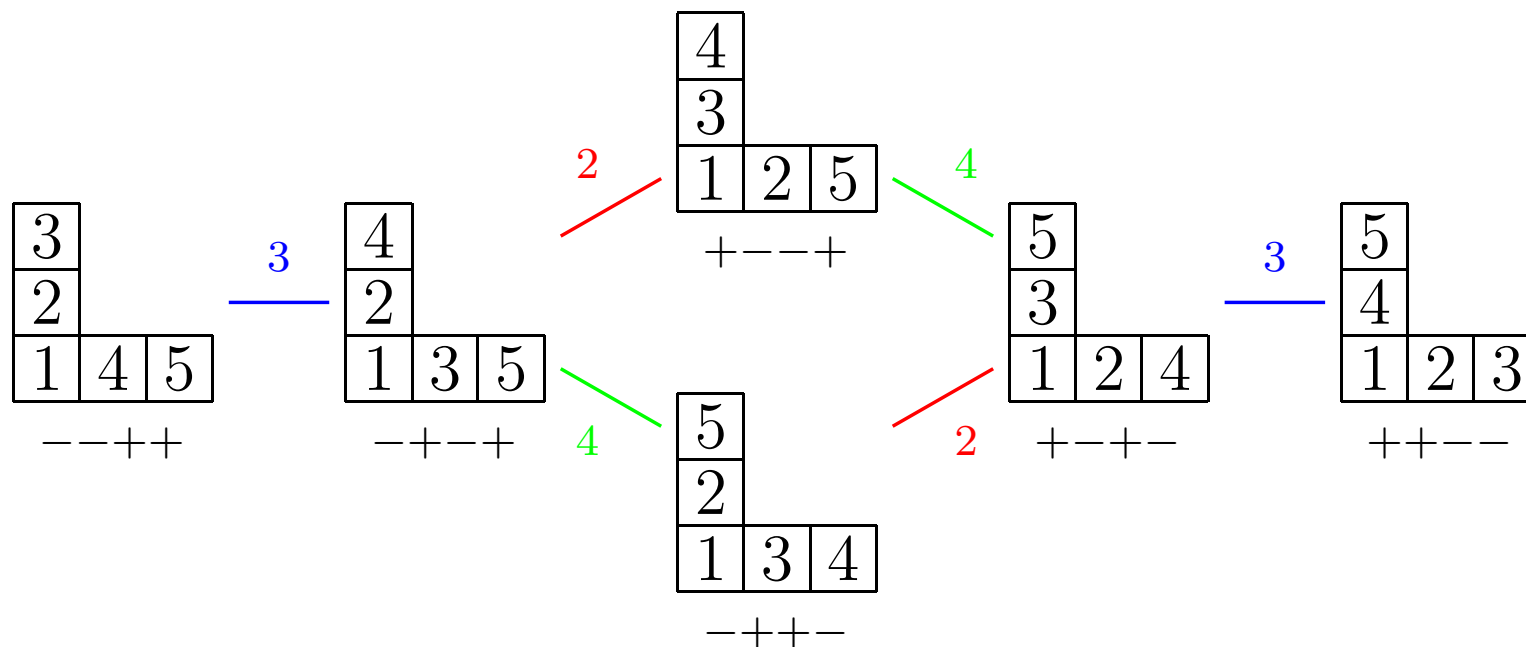
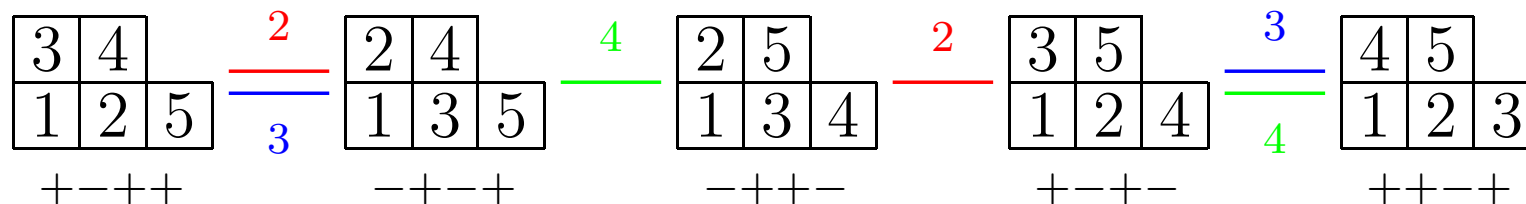
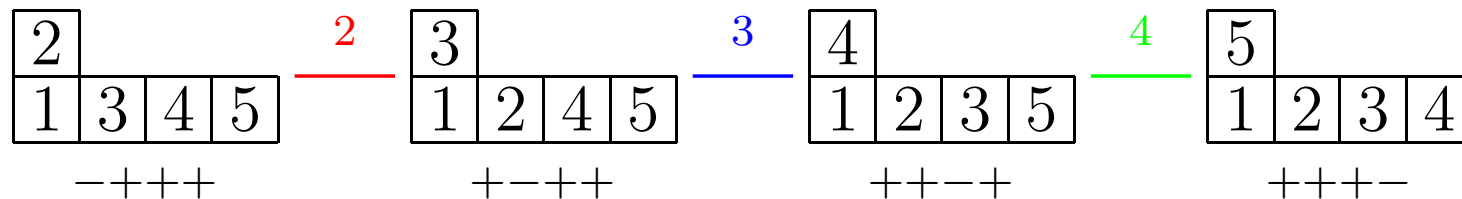
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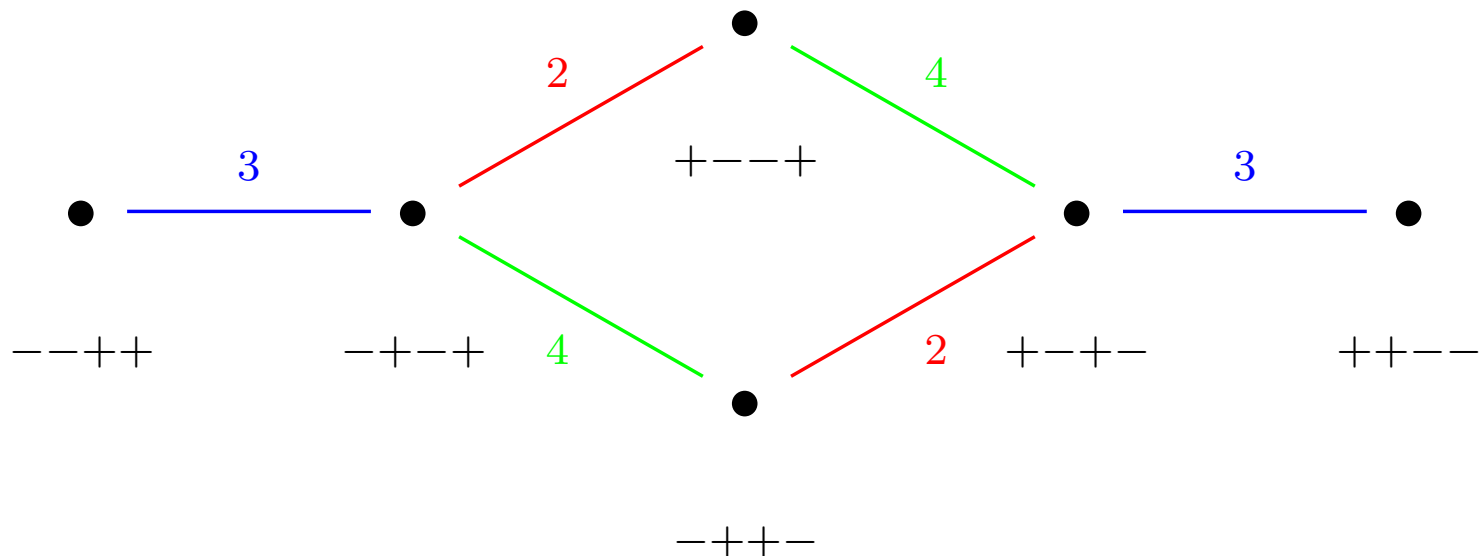
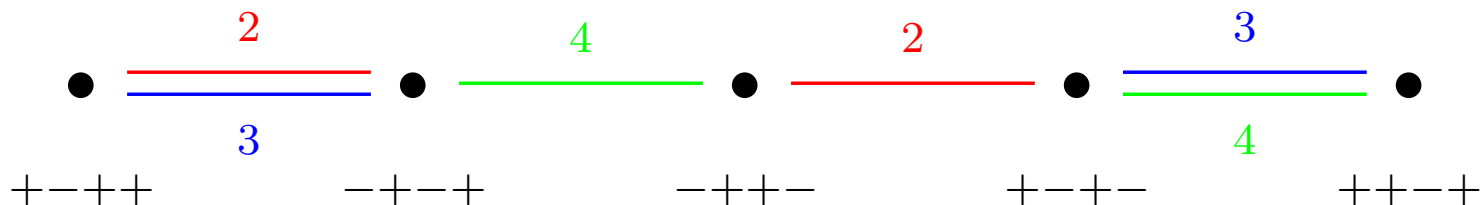
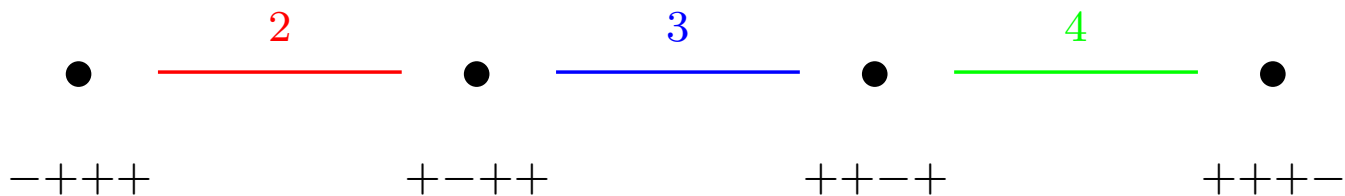
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Dual equivalence graphs

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Definition. A vertex-signed, edge-colored graph \mathcal{G} is a *dual equivalence graph* if it satisfies 5 local axioms about signatures and edge colors.

Theorem. (A.) Every connected component of a **DEG** is isomorphic to \mathcal{G}_λ for a unique partition λ .

Corollary. (A.) If \mathcal{G} is a **DEG** and α, β are statistics on $V(\mathcal{G})$ which are *constant on connected components*, then

$$\sum_{v \in V(\mathcal{G})} q^{\alpha(v)} t^{\beta(v)} Q_{\sigma(v)}(x) = \sum_{\lambda} \left(\sum_{\mathcal{C} \cong \mathcal{G}_\lambda} q^{\alpha(\mathcal{C})} t^{\beta(\mathcal{C})} \right) s_{\lambda}(x).$$

Back to Macdonald polynomials

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The involution $D_i^{(k)}$

Define involutions

$$i \quad i \pm 1 \quad i \mp 1 \quad \xleftrightarrow{d_i} \quad i \mp 1 \quad i \pm 1 \quad i$$

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$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} i & i \pm 1 & i \mp 1 & \xleftrightarrow{d_i} & i \mp 1 & i \pm 1 & i \\ i & i \pm 1 & i \mp 1 & \xleftrightarrow{\tilde{d}_i} & i \pm 1 & i \mp 1 & i \end{array}$$

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$$|\text{Inv}_k(r)| = \left| \text{Inv}_k \left(D_i^{(k)}(r) \right) \right|$$

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 \rightsquigarrow
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Making \mathcal{H}_μ into a DEG

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 \quad
 \begin{array}{ccc}
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 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{ccc}
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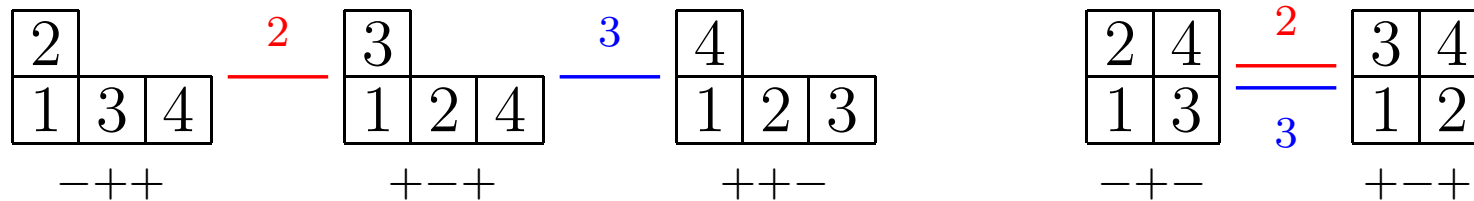
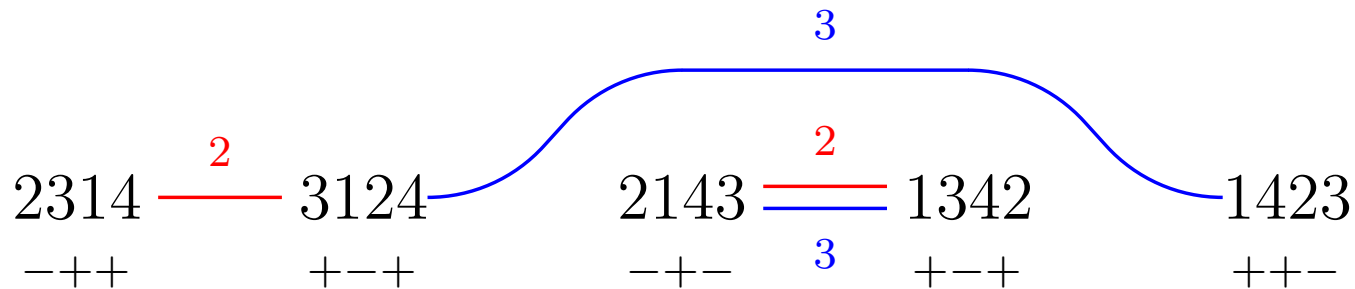
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Conjecture. The graph \mathcal{H}_μ is a DEG for which inv and maj are constant on connected components.

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Corollary. (A.) For $\mu_1 \leq 3$, we have

$$\tilde{K}_{\lambda,\mu}(q, t) = \sum_{\mathcal{C} \cong \mathcal{G}_\lambda} q^{\text{inv}(\mathcal{C})} t^{\text{maj}(\mathcal{C})}.$$