# Counting Ascents in Generalized Dyck Paths

### Benjamin Hackl

#### joint work with Clemens Heuberger and Helmut Prodinger



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# Łukasiewicz Paths

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- Sequences of  $\{-1,1\} \triangleq \{\searrow,\nearrow\}$ ,
- Never below axis.





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,  $N \subseteq \mathbb{N}_0$ ,

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Extracting Coefficients

The Number of *r*-Ascents 0000000

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**Notation.**  $S(u) \dots$  GF of S,  $S_+(u) = S(u) - u^{-1}$ .

$$\mathcal{S} = \{-1, 0, 2\} \iff \mathcal{S}(u) = u^{-1} + 1 + u^2, \ \mathcal{S}_+(u) = 1 + u^2$$



The Path to an OGF	Extracting Coefficients	The Number of <i>r</i> -Ascents
000000		

# Ascents





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Ascents in Lattice Paths

The Path to an OGF ⊙●○○○○○	Extracting Coefficients 000	The Number of <i>r</i> -Ascents

### Ascents



Ascent: maximal sequence of non-negative steps,



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### Ascents



Ascent: maximal sequence of non-negative steps,

▶ *r*-Ascent: ascent of length *r*.



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#### Background: Banderier-Flajolet, Basic AC of dir. lattice paths



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Background: Banderier-Flajolet, Basic AC of dir. lattice paths

- Excursions: end on axis
- ► Dispersed Excursions: additional step (→) only on axis (Kangro–Pourmoradnasseri–Theis '16)
- Meanders: unrestricted









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#### Proposition

### ▶ $V(z, t) \dots OGF$ of V: plane trees, # of children $\in S + 1$

#### Then:



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# V(z, t) ... OGF of V: plane trees, # of children ∈ S + 1 z ... size of tree

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*t* ... *r*-ascents in corresponding Łukasiewicz excursion **Then:** 



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1 V(z,t)/z ... Łukasiewicz excursions w.r.t. S



Proposition

► t ... r-ascents in corresponding Łukasiewicz excursion **Then:** 

- 1 V(z,t)/z ... Łukasiewicz excursions w.r.t. S
- 2 V(0,t) = 0 and V(z,t) = z L(z,t,V(z,t)) with

$$L(z, t, v) = \frac{1}{1 - zS_{+}(v)} + (t - 1)(zS_{+}(v))^{r},$$

which enumerates seq. of non-negative steps. v ... height



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Consequence of bijection.
 Decompose w.r.t. leftmost path:

$$\mathcal{V} = \circ \times \mathsf{SEQ}(\circ \times \sum_{s \in \mathcal{S}, s \ge 0} \mathcal{V}^s)$$



▶  $L(z, t, v)z/v \rightsquigarrow$  sequence of non-negative steps followed by  $\searrow$ 



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$$\frac{V(z,t)}{z}\frac{z}{v}\frac{1}{1-L(z,t,v)z/v}$$



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### Proposition

F(z, t, v) ... OGF counting Łukasiewicz paths w.r.t. S
 z... length, t...r-ascents, v... ending altitude

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### Proposition

Then:

$$F(z,t,v)=\frac{v-V(z,t)}{v-z\,L(z,t,v)}L(z,t,v).$$



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$$\blacktriangleright$$
  $v = 0 \rightsquigarrow$  excursions,  $v = 1 \rightsquigarrow$  meanders

### Proposition

•  $D(z, t) \dots OGF$  for dispersed excursions



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$$\Rightarrow D(z,t) = \frac{1}{1-z V(z,t)/z} \frac{V(z,t)}{z}.$$



### Expressing Partial Derivatives



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Ascents in Lattice Paths

## Expressing Partial Derivatives

#### Proposition

Partial derivatives of the form  $\partial_t^j V(z,t)|_{t=1}$  can be expressed in terms of V(z,1), e.g.,

$$\partial_t V(z,t)|_{t=1} = -z \frac{(V(z,1)-z)^r}{V(z,1)^{r+2}S'(V(z,1))}.$$



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Sketch of Proof. Implicit differentiation of defining equation

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#### Remark.

• V(z,1) satisfies V(z,1) = zV(z,1)S(V(z,1)),

• 
$$\rightsquigarrow$$
 i.e., it has type  $y = z\varphi(y)$ 

> analytic approach via singular inversion!

Dyck excursions (S = {−1,1}) only touch axis after even number of steps → S is 2-periodic



Dyck excursions (S = {−1, 1}) only touch axis after even number of steps → S is 2-periodic

#### Observation

$$p = \gcd_{s \in \mathcal{S}}(s+1) \implies \mathcal{S} \text{ is } p \text{-periodic}$$



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### **Proof.** $S(u)^n \dots$ GF of unrestricted paths of length *n*. *u* ... height.



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with  $Q(u^p) = uS(u)$ .



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 V(z,1) has p square root singularities on its radius of convergence



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(1) V(z,1) has radius of convergence  $\rho = 1/S(\tau)$ ,



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- 1 V(z,1) has radius of convergence  $\rho = 1/S(\tau)$ ,
- 2 dominant singularities: square-root singularities at  $\zeta \rho$



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- 1 V(z,1) has radius of convergence ho = 1/S( au),
- 2 dominant singularities: square-root singularities at  $\zeta \rho$ 
  - $\blacktriangleright \zeta \dots$  pth root of unity
- **3** Singular expansion  $z \to \zeta \rho$ :

$$V(z,1) = \zeta au - \zeta \sqrt{rac{2S( au)}{S''( au)}} \Big(1 - rac{z}{\zeta 
ho}\Big)^{1/2} + O\Big(1 - rac{z}{\zeta 
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### Theorem (H–Heuberger–Prodinger '18+)

▶ p ... period of S,  $\tau$  ... structural constant, c :=  $\tau S(\tau)$ ,



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- **1**  $E_{n,r} = 0$  if  $n \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ ,



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 and  $n \to \infty$ :



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$$\mathbb{E} E_{n,r} = \frac{(c-1)^r}{c^{r+2}}n + O(1),$$



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$$\mathbb{V}E_{n,r} = \left(\frac{(c-1)^r}{c^{r+2}} + \frac{(2c-2r-3)(c-1)^{2r}}{c^{2r+4}} - \frac{(c-1)^{2r-2}(2c-r-2)^2}{c^{2r+3}\tau^3 S''(\tau)}\right)n + O(n^{1/2}).$$

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Example (*r*-Ascents in Dyck paths)

• 
$$S = \{-1, 1\}, p = 2, \tau = 1.$$



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$$S = \{-1, 1\}, p = 2, \tau = 1$$

• Explicit 
$$V(z,1) = \frac{1-\sqrt{1-4z^2}}{2z} \Rightarrow$$
 higher precision!



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$$\mathbb{E}D_{2n,r} = \frac{n}{2^{r+1}} - \frac{(r+1)(r-4)}{2^{r+3}} + \frac{(r^2 - 11r + 22)(r+1)r}{2^{r+6}}n^{-1} + O(n^{-2})$$



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$$\mathbb{V}D_{2n,r} = \left(\frac{1}{2^{r+1}} - \frac{r^2 - 2r + 3}{2^{2r+3}}\right)n + O(1)$$



### Example (June 29, 2018)

► 
$$S = \{-1, 6, 29, 2018\}, S(u) = u^{-1} + u^6 + u^{29} + u^{2018}, p = 1,$$



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#### Then:

$$\mathbb{E}E_{n,r}\sim 0.73681\ldots\cdot(0.14162\ldots)^r n$$



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### Example (June 29, 2018)

$$\mathbb{E}E_{n,r} \sim 0.73681 \dots (0.14162 \dots)^r n$$

$$\mathbb{V}E_{n,r} \sim \left(0.73681 \dots (0.14162 \dots)^r - 0.54289 \dots (0.67002 \dots + 2r)(0.14162 \dots)^{2r} - 3.18625 \dots (0.32997 \dots - r)^2 (0.14162 \dots)^{2r}\right) n$$



# r-Ascents in Dispersed Excursions, $au \neq 1$

Theorem (H–Heuberger–Prodinger '18+)

▶  $p \dots period of S, \tau \dots structural constant, \tau \neq 1$ ,



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# r-Ascents in Dispersed Excursions, au eq 1

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- 1 For  $n \to \infty$  and  $n \equiv k \pmod{p}$ ,  $0 \le k < p$



# *r*-Ascents in Dispersed Excursions, $au \neq 1$

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- ▶ *d<sub>n</sub>* . . . number of dispersed excursions of length *n*,
- D<sub>n,r</sub>...RV counting r-ascents in dispersed excursions of length n

**1** For 
$$n \to \infty$$
 and  $n \equiv k \pmod{p}$ ,  $0 \le k < p$ 

$$d_n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \frac{p\tau^k (\tau^p (p-k-1)+k+1)}{(1-\tau^p)^2} \sqrt{\frac{S(\tau)^3}{S''(\tau)}} S(\tau)^n n^{-3/2} + O(S(\tau)^n n^{-5/2}).$$
**2**  $\mathbb{E} D_{n,r} = \frac{(\tau S(\tau) - 1)^r}{(\tau S(\tau))^{r+2}} n + O(1).$ 


#### Proposition

• 
$$S = \{-1, 1\}$$
,  $p = 2$ ,  $\tau = 1$ .



#### Proposition

► 
$$S = \{-1, 1\}, p = 2, \tau = 1.$$
  
 $d_n = {n \choose \lfloor n/2 \rfloor} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} 2^n n^{-1/2} - \frac{2 - (-1)^n}{2\sqrt{2\pi}} 2^n n^{-3/2} + O(2^n n^{-5/2}),$ 



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$$d_{n} = \binom{n}{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} 2^{n} n^{-1/2} - \frac{2 - (-1)^{n}}{2\sqrt{2\pi}} 2^{n} n^{-3/2} + O(2^{n} n^{-5/2}),$$
$$\mathbb{E}D_{n,r} = \frac{n}{2^{r+2}} - \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{r-2}{2^{r+2}} n^{1/2} + \frac{(r-1)(r-4)}{2^{r+3}} + O(n^{-1/2}).$$

 $2^{r+3}$ 



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► 
$$S = \{-1, 1\}, p = 2, \tau = 1.$$

$$d_{n} = \binom{n}{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} 2^{n} n^{-1/2} - \frac{2 - (-1)^{n}}{2\sqrt{2\pi}} 2^{n} n^{-3/2} + O(2^{n} n^{-5/2}),$$
$$\mathbb{E}D_{n,r} = \frac{n}{2^{r+2}} - \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{r-2}{2^{r+2}} n^{1/2} + \frac{(r-1)(r-4)}{2^{r+3}} + O(n^{-1/2}).$$

▶  $r = 1 \rightsquigarrow$  known result recovered



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Also,  $M_{n,r}$  is asymptotically normally distributed for  $n \to \infty$ .



### Meanders – Special Cases

Proposition (Dyck Meanders)

• 
$$S = \{-1, 1\}, p = 2, \tau = 1.$$

$$\mathbb{E}M_{n,r} = \frac{n}{2^{r+2}} + \frac{\sqrt{2\pi}(r-2)}{2^{r+3}}n^{1/2} - \frac{r^2 - r - 8}{2^{r+3}} + O(n^{-1/2}),$$
$$\mathbb{V}M_{n,r} = \frac{2^{r+3} - r^2(\pi - 2) + 4r(\pi - 3) - 4\pi + 10}{2^{2r+5}}n + O(n^{1/2}).$$



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#### Proposition (Motzkin Meanders)

$$S = \{-1, 0, 1\}, \ p = 1, \ \tau = 1.$$

$$\mathbb{E}M_{n,r} = \frac{2^{r}}{3^{r+2}}n + \frac{\sqrt{3\pi}(r-4)2^{r-2}}{3^{r+2}}n^{1/2} + O(1),$$

$$\mathbb{V}M_{n,r} = \frac{3^{r+2}2^{r+4} - 2^{2r}(3r^{2}(\pi-2) - 8r(3\pi - 10) + 48\pi - 144)}{16 \cdot 3^{2r+4}}n + O(n^{1/2}).$$









