

# ON THE NUMBER OF PRINCIPAL IDEALS IN $d$ -TONAL PARTITION MONOIDS

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ABSTRACT. For a positive integer  $d$ , a non-negative integer  $n$  and a non-negative integer  $h \leq n$ , we study the number  $C_n^{(d)}$  of principal ideals; and the number  $C_{n,h}^{(d)}$  of principal ideals generated by an element of rank  $h$ , in the  $d$ -tonal partition monoid on  $n$  elements. We compute closed forms for the first family, as partial cumulative sums of known sequences. The second gives an infinite family of new integral sequences. We discuss their connections to certain integral lattices as well as to combinatorics of partitions.

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION OF THE RESULTS

Enumeration is often the starting point in understanding of a given mathematical structure. Twisted monoid algebras [GMS, GM] of  $d$ -tonal partition monoids appear in [Ta] as right Schur-Weyl duals for generalized symmetric groups. These algebras are subalgebras of the classical partition algebras from [Mar, Mar1] and [Jo]. The monoids underlying the latter algebras have relatively simple principal ideal structure and well studied representation theory, see [Mar1, Mar2]. The  $d$ -tonal subalgebras of partition algebras are more complicated. Some basics of their representation theory was developed in [Ko1, Ko2, Ko3] and [Or1]. However in the monoid case, for example, these studies cover only a trivial quotient.

The motivation for the present paper is to understand the combinatorics underlying the poset of the principal 2-sided ideals in  $d$ -tonal partition algebras. The problem is naturally translated to a similar problem for the finite  $d$ -tonal partition monoid. The main question we answer in the present paper is what is the number of different principal 2-sided ideals in such a monoid. This already depends on two parameters: the difference parameter  $d$  and the parameter  $n$  which controls the size of our partitions. We denote the number of such ideals by  $C_n^{(d)}$ . Algebraically, there is a natural third parameter which enters the picture: the rank  $h \in \{0, 1, \dots, n\}$  of the generating partition. Using this parameter we write

$$C_n^{(d)} = C_{n,0}^{(d)} + C_{n,1}^{(d)} + C_{n,2}^{(d)} + \dots + C_{n,n}^{(d)},$$

where  $C_{n,h}^{(d)}$  denotes the number of ideals generated by an element of rank  $h$ . We seek a closed formula for both  $C_{n,h}^{(d)}$  and for  $C_n^{(d)}$ . Cases  $d = 1$  and  $d = 2$  turn out to be easy.

In Section 2 we give an alternative, purely combinatorial, definition for the numbers  $C_n^{(d)}$  as enumerators of layers in certain graded posets. These are related to the original motivation in Section 6. The main part of the paper is devoted to the study of the case  $d = 3$  which occupies Section 3. Extra motivation for this case comes from its intrinsic geometric-physical interest. We give an explicit formula for  $C_{n,h}^{(3)}$  in case  $h$  is relatively big (i.e.  $h \geq \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$ ), see Proposition 4, and in case  $h$  is relatively small (i.e.  $h \leq \lceil \frac{n}{3} \rceil$ , see Proposition 5. The former gives a connection of our sequence to partitions with at most three parts while the latter shows a connection to triangular numbers (in fact, to a special counting of triangular numbers modulo 3). Our first main result is that the sequence  $C_n^{(3)}$  is given by the ‘‘Cyvin sequence’’ (A028289 in [OEIS]) which enumerates the number of isomorphism classes of hollow hexagons (representing polycyclic hydrocarbons), see [CBC, PR]. In Theorem 18 of Section 4 we even give an explicit bijection between hollow hexagons and the graded poset underlying the definition of  $C_n^{(3)}$  given in Section 2.

In Section 5 we relate our graded posets to combinatorics of partitions and in Section 6 we make precise the connection between the combinatorially defined data discussed in the paper and the algebraic structures which motivate our investigation. Combinatorics which underlines the algebraic structure allows us to determine  $C_n^{(d)}$  for all  $d$  and  $n$  in terms of partitions with at most  $d$  parts, see Theorem 28 in Section 7. As a corollary of this uniform description for all  $d$ , we obtain an alternative, simpler, description of A028289 using partitions with at most 3 parts.

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## 2. GRADED POSETS

**2.1. Notation and general construction.** We denote by  $\mathbb{R}$  the set of all real numbers, by  $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  the set of all non-negative real numbers, by  $\mathbb{Z}$  the set of all integers, by  $\mathbb{N}$  the set of all positive integers and by  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  the set of all non-negative integers.

Consider the set  $\mathbb{Z}^d$  for some fixed  $d \in \mathbb{N}$ . Elements of  $\mathbb{Z}^d$  are vectors  $\mathbf{v} = (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_d)$  such that  $v_i \in \mathbb{Z}$  for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, d$ . The number  $v_1 + v_2 + \dots + v_d \in \mathbb{Z}$  is called the *height* of  $\mathbf{v}$  and denoted  $\text{ht}(\mathbf{v})$ . The set  $\mathbb{Z}^d$  has the natural structure of an abelian group given by addition. The map  $\text{ht} : \mathbb{Z}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  is a surjective group homomorphism. For  $i = 1, 2, \dots, d$ ,

we denote by  $\mathbf{e}(i)$  the standard basis vector  $(0, 0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, 0, \dots, 0)^t$  in  $\mathbb{Z}^d$ , in which the only non-zero element 1 stands in position  $i$ . Note that each  $\mathbf{e}(i)$  has height 1.

Denote by  $\Lambda_d$  the subset  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^d$  in  $\mathbb{Z}^d$ . For  $h \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , we denote by  $\Lambda_d^{(h)}$  the set of all elements in  $\Lambda_d$  of height  $h$  and note that the set  $\Lambda_d^{(h)}$  is finite. Define  $\mathbb{Z}_{(h)}^d = \{\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{Z}^d : \text{ht}(\mathbf{v}) = h\}$ . For a fixed subset

$$X \subset \mathbb{Z}_{(-1)}^d$$

define on  $\Lambda_d$  the structure of a *poset* using the transitive closure  $\prec_X$  of the following manifestly antisymmetric relation:

$$(2.1) \quad \mathbf{v} \prec_X \mathbf{w} \quad \text{if and only if there is } \mathbf{x} \in X \quad \text{such that} \quad \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{x}.$$

Note from the construction that  $\prec_X$  is a covering relation. Directly from the definitions we have that  $\mathbf{v} \prec_X \mathbf{w}$  implies  $\text{ht}(\mathbf{v}) = \text{ht}(\mathbf{w}) - 1$  for all  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$ . In particular, the poset  $(\Lambda_d, \prec_X)$  is a graded poset with *rank function*  $\text{ht} : \Lambda_d \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ . Note that  $X \neq X'$  implies  $\prec_X \neq \prec_{X'}$ .

**2.2. The poset  $\mathcal{P}_d$ .** Consider the set

$$X_d := \{\mathbf{e}(k) - \mathbf{e}(i) - \mathbf{e}(j) : (i, j, k) \in \{1, 2, \dots, d\}^3 \text{ such that } d \text{ divides } k - i - j\}.$$

This is the set  $\{e_{ij} : \text{all } i, j\}$ , so it contains  $X'_d$  as an integrally spanning (but not generally positive integrally spanning) subset. For example,

$$\begin{aligned} X_1 &= \{(-1)\}; & X_2 &= \{(-2, 1), (0, -1)\}; \\ X_3 &= \{(1, -2, 0), (-2, 1, 0), (-1, -1, 1), (0, 0, -1)\}; \\ X_4 &= \{(0, 0, 0, -1), (-1, -1, 1, 0), (-1, 0, -1, 1), (1, -1, -1, 0), \\ &\quad (-2, 1, 0, 0), (0, -2, 0, 1), (0, 1, -2, 0)\}. \end{aligned}$$

Note that  $\prec_{X_d}$  is defined. Denote by  $\mathcal{P}_d$  the poset  $(\Lambda_d, \prec_{X_d})$ . Finite principal ideals of  $\mathcal{P}_d$  are the main objects of interest in this paper. For simplicity, we will denote the relation  $\prec_{X_d}$  by  $\prec$ . For the record we note the following.

**Lemma 1.** *We have  $|X_d| = \frac{d(d-1)}{2} + 1$ .*

*Proof.* The pair  $\{i, j\}$  from the definition of  $X_d$  can be chosen in  $\binom{d-1}{2}$  different ways for  $i \neq j$  and in  $d$  different ways for  $i = j$ . The  $d$  choices when  $\{i, j\} \cap \{d\} \neq \emptyset$  result in the same vector  $-\mathbf{e}(d)$ . The claim follows.  $\square$

For  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{P}_d$ , we denote by  $I(\mathbf{v})$  the principal ideal of  $\mathcal{P}_d$  generated by  $\mathbf{v}$ , that is

$$I(\mathbf{v}) := \{\mathbf{v}\} \cup \{\mathbf{w} \in \mathcal{P}_d : \mathbf{w} \prec \mathbf{v}\}.$$

For  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , we set  $C_n^{(d)} := |I(n\mathbf{e}(1))|$ . For  $h = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$ , we also define

$$C_{n,h}^{(d)} := |I(n\mathbf{e}(1)) \cap \Lambda_d^{(h)}|.$$

Then we have  $C_n^{(d)} = C_{n,0}^{(d)} + C_{n,1}^{(d)} + \cdots + C_{n,n}^{(d)}$ . Our interest in  $I(n\mathbf{e}(1))$  will be explained in Section 6 (see Theorem 27).

We observe the following structural property of  $\mathcal{P}_d$ : for  $k = 1, 2, \dots, d$  consider the set  $\Lambda_{d,k}$  which consists of all  $\mathbf{v} \in \Lambda_d$  such that  $d$  divides  $v_1 + 2v_2 + 3v_3 + \cdots + dv_d - k$ . Note that  $\Lambda_{d,k} \cap \Lambda_{d,k'} = \emptyset$  if  $k \neq k'$ . Denote by  $\mathcal{P}_{d,k}$  the poset with the underlying set  $\Lambda_{d,k}$  obtained by restricting the relation  $<_{X_d}$  to  $\Lambda_{d,k}$ . For  $h \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , set  $\Lambda_{d,k}^{(h)} := \Lambda_{d,k} \cap \Lambda_d^{(h)}$ .

**Proposition 2.**

- (i) The poset  $\mathcal{P}_d$  is a disjoint union of subposets  $\Lambda_{d,k}$  for  $k = 1, 2, \dots, d$ .
- (ii) Each  $\mathcal{P}_{d,k}$  is an indecomposable poset.

*Proof.* Claim (i) follows from the definitions since  $d$  divides  $v_1 + 2v_2 + \cdots + dv_d$  for each  $\mathbf{v} \in X_d$ .

Note that  $\mathbf{e}(k) \in \mathcal{P}_{d,k}$ . Therefore, to prove claim (ii) it is enough to show that any  $\mathbf{e}(k) \prec \mathbf{v}$  for any  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{P}_{d,k}$  of height at least 2. However, if  $\mathbf{v}$  has height at least 2, then either  $\mathbf{v}$  has a coefficient which is greater than or equal to 2, or  $\mathbf{v}$  has at least two non-zero coefficients. Therefore there is  $\mathbf{x} \in X_d$  such that  $\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{x} \in \Lambda_d$ . We have  $\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{x} \prec \mathbf{v}$  and from the observation in the previous paragraph we see that  $\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{x} \in \Lambda_{d,k}$ . Therefore  $\mathbf{e}(k) \prec \mathbf{v}$  follows by induction on the height of  $\mathbf{v}$ . This completes the proof.  $\square$

From the above proof it follows that for  $k \neq d$  the element  $\mathbf{e}(k)$  is the minimum element in  $\mathcal{P}_{d,k}$  and that the minimum element in  $\mathcal{P}_{d,d}$  is  $\mathbf{0} := (0, 0, \dots, 0)$ .

**2.3. The case  $d = 1$ .** In the case  $d = 1$ , the map

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{P}_1 & \rightarrow & (\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}, <), \\ (i) & \mapsto & i \end{array}$$

is an isomorphism of posets. For  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , we have

$$I(n\mathbf{e}(1)) = \{(0), (1), (2), \dots, (n)\}$$

and thus  $C_n^{(1)} = n + 1$ . Note that in this case the poset  $\mathcal{P}_1 = \mathcal{P}_{1,1}$  is indecomposable.

**2.4. The case  $d = 2$ .** Our first observation in this case is that the maps

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{P}_{2,1} & \rightarrow & \mathcal{P}_{2,2}, & \text{and} & \mathcal{P}_{2,2} & \rightarrow & \mathcal{P}_{2,1}, \\ \mathbf{v} & \mapsto & \mathbf{v} - (1, 0) & & \mathbf{v} & \mapsto & \mathbf{v} + (1, 0) \end{array}$$

are mutually inverse isomorphisms of posets. Consequently, we have  $C_n^{(2)} = C_{n+1}^{(2)}$  for all even  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ . The lower part of the Hasse diagram for  $\mathcal{P}_{2,2}$  is shown in Figure 1.

It follows immediately that, for  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , we have

$$C_{2k}^{(2)} = \frac{(k+1)(k+2)}{2}.$$

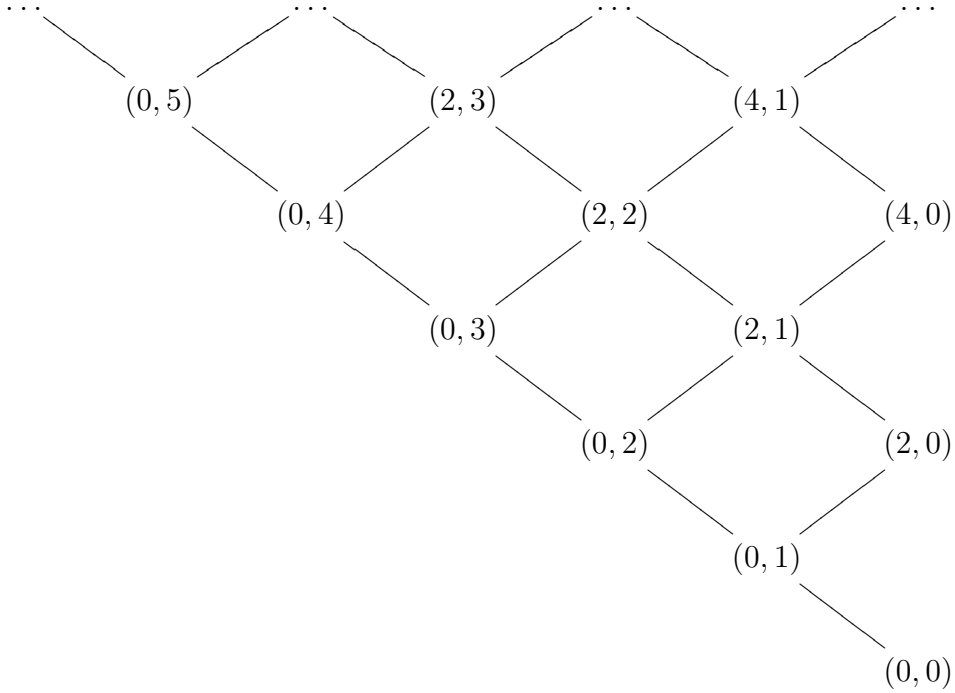


FIGURE 1. Hasse diagram for  $\mathcal{P}_{2,2}$

We also note that  $I(2k\mathbf{e}(1)) \subset I(2(k+1)\mathbf{e}(1))$  for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  and that

$$\bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}} I(2k\mathbf{e}(1)) = \mathcal{P}_{2,2}.$$

It is also worth pointing out that, for each  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , the poset  $I(2k\mathbf{e}(1))$  is isomorphic to the poset  $I(2k\mathbf{e}(1))^{\text{op}}$  (the latter is obtained from  $I(2k\mathbf{e}(1))$  by reversing the partial order).

### 3. THE CASE $d = 3$

The case  $d = 3$  seems to be the most interesting case from the combinatorial point of view and in relation to integral sequences. Our study of this case is the main part of the present paper.

**3.1. Isomorphism of  $\mathcal{P}_{3,1}$  and  $\mathcal{P}_{3,2}$ .** The symmetric group  $S_2$  acts on  $\Lambda_3$  as follows: for  $\mathbf{v} = (v_1, v_2, v_3)$  and  $\pi \in S_2$  we have  $\pi \cdot \mathbf{v} = (v_{\pi(1)}, v_{\pi(2)}, v_3)$ . Note that the set  $X_3$  (which can be found in Subsection 2.2) is invariant with respect to the action of  $S_2$ . Therefore this action induces an action on  $\mathcal{P}_3$  by automorphisms. Using this action, we can swap

$\mathbf{e}(1)$  and  $\mathbf{e}(2)$  and hence  $\mathcal{P}_{3,1}$  and  $\mathcal{P}_{3,2}$  (cf. proof of Proposition 2). Therefore the posets  $\mathcal{P}_{3,1}$  and  $\mathcal{P}_{3,2}$  are isomorphic.

**3.2. An alternative description.** In this subsection we observe that  $\mathcal{P}_3$  can be defined by restriction from  $\mathbb{Z}^3$ . This is a useful property for computations using computers.

We mimic the definition of  $\mathcal{P}_3$  starting from  $\mathbb{Z}^3$  instead of  $\Lambda_3$ . Consider the set  $X_3$  as defined in Subsection 2.2. Use (2.1) to define the covering relation on  $\mathbb{Z}^3$  and let  $\prec'$  denote the partial order on  $\mathbb{Z}^3$  induced by this covering relation. Our main observation here is the following:

**Proposition 3.** *The relation  $\prec$  coincides with the restriction of the relation  $\prec'$  to  $\Lambda_3$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\underline{\prec}'$  denote the restriction of the relation  $\prec'$  to  $\Lambda_3$ . Clearly,  $\prec \subset \underline{\prec}'$ , so we only need to show that  $\underline{\prec}' \subset \prec$ .

Let  $\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \in \Lambda_3$  be such that  $\mathbf{v} \prec' \mathbf{w}$ . We have to show that  $\mathbf{v} \prec \mathbf{w}$ . Assume that this is not the case and that the pair  $(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w})$  satisfying  $\mathbf{v} \prec' \mathbf{w}$  and  $\mathbf{v} \not\prec \mathbf{w}$  is chosen such that  $\text{ht}(\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{v}) = k \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$  is minimal possible. As  $\mathbf{v} \prec' \mathbf{w}$ , there is a sequence of elements  $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_k \in X_3$  such that

$$\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{x}_1 + \mathbf{x}_2 + \dots + \mathbf{x}_k.$$

Consider  $\mathbf{v}_i = \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{x}_i$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . We claim that all  $\mathbf{v}_i \notin \Lambda_3$ . Indeed, if  $\mathbf{v}_i \in \Lambda_3$ , then we would have  $\mathbf{v} \prec \mathbf{v}_i$  and  $\mathbf{v}_i \prec' \mathbf{w}$ . This would imply  $\mathbf{v}_i \not\prec \mathbf{w}$  which would contradict our minimal choice of  $k$ . In particular, none of the  $\mathbf{x}_i$ 's equals  $(0, 0, -1)$  since  $\mathbf{v} - (0, 0, -1) \in \Lambda_3$  because  $\mathbf{v} \in \Lambda_3$ .

The next step is to show that none of the  $\mathbf{x}_i$ 's equals  $(-1, -1, 1)$ . Otherwise, without loss of generality we may assume that  $\mathbf{x}_k = (-1, -1, 1)$ . Then we have  $\mathbf{v}_k \notin \Lambda_3$  and hence  $\mathbf{v} = (*, *, 0)$  and  $\mathbf{v}_k = (*, *, -1)$ . Furthermore, we have

$$\mathbf{v}_k = \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{x}_1 + \mathbf{x}_2 + \dots + \mathbf{x}_{k-1}$$

and thus

$$\mathbf{v}_k \prec' \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{x}_1 + \mathbf{x}_2 + \dots + \mathbf{x}_{k-2} \prec' \dots \prec' \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{x}_1 + \mathbf{x}_2 \prec' \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{x}_1 \prec' \mathbf{w}.$$

Since  $\mathbf{w} \in \Lambda_3$ , the third coefficient in  $\mathbf{w}$  is non-negative. This means that at least one of the  $\mathbf{x}_i$ 's must have negative third coefficient. The only element in  $X_3$  with negative third coefficient is  $(0, 0, -1)$ . However, in the previous paragraph we already established that none of the  $\mathbf{x}_i$ 's equals  $(0, 0, -1)$ , a contradiction.

Therefore each  $\mathbf{x}_i$  is equal to either  $(-2, 1, 0)$  or  $(1, -2, 0)$ . Assume that all  $\mathbf{x}_i$  are equal, say to  $(-2, 1, 0)$  (the case of  $(1, -2, 0)$  is similar). Then  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{w} + k(-2, 1, 0)$ . Since both  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  are in  $\Lambda_3$ , we have  $\mathbf{w} + i(-2, 1, 0) \in \Lambda_3$  for all  $i$  such that  $1 \leq i \leq k$ . Therefore  $\mathbf{v} \prec \mathbf{w}$ , a contradiction.

The last paragraph establishes that at least one of the  $\mathbf{x}_i$ 's equals  $(-2, 1, 0)$  and at least one equals  $(1, -2, 0)$ . This implies  $\mathbf{v} - (-2, 1, 0) - (1, -2, 0) = \mathbf{v} + (1, 1, 0) \prec' \mathbf{w}$ . At the same time, we have

$$\mathbf{v} + (0, 0, 1), \mathbf{v} + (1, 1, 0) \in \Lambda_3$$

as  $\mathbf{v} \in \Lambda_3$  and

$$\mathbf{v} \prec \mathbf{v} + (0, 0, 1) \prec \mathbf{v} + (0, 0, 1) + (1, 1, -1) = \mathbf{v} + (1, 1, 0).$$

This implies  $\mathbf{v} + (1, 1, 0) \not\prec \mathbf{w}$  which again contradicts our minimal choice of  $k$ . The claim follows.  $\square$

**3.3. Small values.** The table of  $C_{n,h}^{(3)}$  for small values of  $n$  is given in Figure 2 (computed first by hands, up to  $n = 15$ , and then checked and extended using Proposition 3 and MAPLE).

**3.4. Values of  $C_{n,h}^{(3)}$  for large  $h$ .** The sequence  $A001399(n)$  in [OEIS] lists the number of partitions of  $n$  into at most 3 parts. Here are the first 25 elements in this sequence:

$$1, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 19, 21, 24, \dots$$

Comparison with columns of Figure 2 suggests that the upper part of each column in Figure 2 is given by an initial segment of  $A001399$ . Indeed, we have the following claim:

**Proposition 4.** *For  $h \geq \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$  we have  $C_{n,h}^{(3)} = A001399(n - h)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $(a, b, c)$  be a partition of  $n - h$  in at most three parts, that is  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ ,  $a \geq b \geq c$  and  $a + b + c = n - h$ . Then we claim that

$$\mathbf{v}_{(a,b,c)} := (n, 0, 0) + a(-2, 1, 0) + b(-1, -1, 1) + c(0, 0, -1) \prec (n, 0, 0).$$

By Proposition 3, it is enough to show that  $\mathbf{v}_{(a,b,c)} \in \Lambda_3$ . The latter however follows from  $2a + b \leq n$  (thanks to  $h \geq \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$ ) and  $b \geq c$  (thanks to the fact that  $(a, b, c)$  is a partition).

The vectors  $(-2, 1, 0)$ ,  $(-1, -1, 1)$  and  $(0, 0, -1)$  are linearly independent, which implies that  $\mathbf{v}_{(a,b,c)} \neq \mathbf{v}_{(a',b',c')}$  provided that  $(a, b, c) \neq (a', b', c')$ . Therefore  $C_{n,h}^{(3)} \geq A001399(n - h)$ .

Assume now that for some  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  with  $a + b + c = n - h$  we have

$$(3.1) \quad \mathbf{v}_{(a,b,c)} := (n, 0, 0) + a(-2, 1, 0) + b(-1, -1, 1) + c(0, 0, -1) \prec (n, 0, 0).$$

Then from  $\mathbf{v}_{(a,b,c)} \in \Lambda_3$  it follows that  $b \geq c$  (as the last coefficient must be non-negative) and  $a \geq b$  (as the second coefficient must be non-negative). Therefore  $(a, b, c)$  is a partition of  $n - h$  with at most three parts.

It remains to show that each element  $\mathbf{v} \in I(\mathbf{ne}(1))$  of height  $h$  has the form (3.1) for some  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  with  $a + b + c = n - h$ . Assume that this is not the case and choose some  $\mathbf{v} \in I((n, 0, 0))$  not of that form for a maximal possible  $h$ . Obviously,  $h < n$ .

$C_n^3$	1	1	2	4	5	7	11	13	17	23	27	33	42	48	57	69	78	90	106	118	134	154	170	190	215	235	
25																											1
24																										1	1
23																									1	1	2
22																								1	1	2	3
21																							1	1	2	3	4
20																						1	1	2	3	4	5
19																					1	1	2	3	4	5	7
18																				1	1	2	3	4	5	7	8
17																			1	1	2	3	4	5	7	8	10
16																	1	1	2	3	4	5	7	8	10	12	
15																1	1	2	3	4	5	7	8	10	12	14	
14															1	1	2	3	4	5	7	8	10	12	14	16	
13														1	1	2	3	4	5	7	8	10	12	14	16	<u>19</u>	
12													1	1	2	3	4	5	7	8	10	12	14	<u>16</u>	<u>19</u>	20	
11												1	1	2	3	4	5	7	8	10	12	<u>14</u>	<u>16</u>	18	19	21	
10											1	1	2	3	4	5	7	8	10	<u>12</u>	<u>14</u>	15	17	18	19	20	
9										1	1	2	3	4	5	7	8	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	13	14	16	16	17	18	<u>18</u>	
8									1	1	2	3	4	5	7	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>	11	12	13	14	14	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	15	
7								1	1	2	3	4	5	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	9	10	11	11	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	12	12	12	12	
6							1	1	2	3	4	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	7	8	9	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	9	9	<u>10</u>	9	9	<u>10</u>	9	
5						1	1	2	3	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	6	6	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	
4					1	1	2	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	4	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
3				1	1	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	3	3	4	3	3	4	3	3	4	3	3	4	3	3	4	3	
2			1	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
1		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
0	<u>1</u>																										
$k/n$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	

FIGURE 2. Values of  $C_{n,h}^{(3)}$  for  $n \leq 25$ 

Then there are  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  such that  $a + b + c + d = n - h$  and

$$\mathbf{v} = (n, 0, 0) + a(-2, 1, 0) + b(-1, -1, 1) + c(0, 0, -1) + d(1, -2, 0).$$

We may assume  $d = 1$ . Indeed,  $d > 0$  and  $h \geq \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$  imply that the first coefficient of  $\mathbf{v}$  is positive. Therefore  $\mathbf{v} - (1, -2, 0) \in \Lambda_3$  and hence  $\mathbf{v} - (1, -2, 0) \prec (n, 0, 0)$  by Proposition 3. By the maximality of our choice of  $h$  it follows that  $\mathbf{v} - (1, -2, 0)$  can be written in the form (3.1). Therefore we may choose  $d = 1$ .

We obviously have  $a > 0$  for otherwise the second coefficient of  $\mathbf{v}$  would be negative. But then we may use

$$(-2, 1, 0) + (1, -2, 0) = (-1, -1, 1) + (0, 0, -1)$$



to write  $\mathbf{v}$  in the form (3.1), a contradiction. The claim of the proposition follows.  $\square$

Each column in Figure 2 contains a unique underlined element. This element corresponds to the lower bound  $\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$  for the value of  $h$  for which  $C_{n,h}^{(3)} = A001399(n-h)$ . In other words, this element and all elements above it in the same column are given by an initial segment of  $A001399$ .

**3.5. Values of  $C_{n,h}^{(3)}$  for small  $h$ .** We start this subsection with the following observation:

**Proposition 5.** *For  $h \leq \lceil \frac{n}{3} \rceil$  we have  $|\Lambda_3^{(h)} \cap I(n\mathbf{e}(1))| = |\Lambda_3^{(h)} \cap \Lambda_{3,k}|$ , where  $k \in \{1, 2, 3\}$  is such that  $n\mathbf{e}(1) \in \Lambda_{3,k}$ .*

*Proof.* As  $I(n\mathbf{e}(1)) \subset \Lambda_{3,k}$  for our choice of  $k$ , to prove the assertion of this proposition we only need to show that  $(\Lambda_3^{(h)} \cap \Lambda_{3,k}) \subset (\Lambda_3^{(h)} \cap I(n\mathbf{e}(1)))$ . It is enough to prove the proposition for  $h = \lceil \frac{n}{3} \rceil$  which we from now on assume. Set  $q := \lfloor \frac{n}{3} \rfloor$ . We will have to consider three different cases depending on  $k$ .

**Case 1:**  $k = 3$ . In this case  $q = \lfloor \frac{n}{3} \rfloor = \lceil \frac{n}{3} \rceil = h$ . Let  $(a, b, c) \in \Lambda_3^{(h)} \cap \Lambda_{3,k}$ , that is  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ ,  $a + b + c = q$  and 3 divides  $a + 2b$ . In this case we have

$$(3.2) \quad (n - 3c - 2b, b, c) = (n, 0, 0) + (b + c)(-2, 1, 0) + c(-1, -1, 1) \prec (n, 0, 0).$$

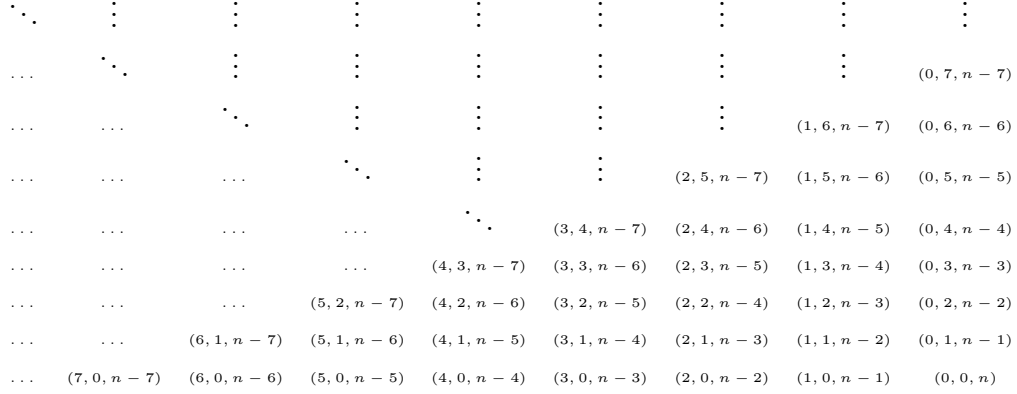
Now,  $n - 3c - 2b = 3a + b$ . Since 3 divides both  $a + 2b$  and  $3a + 3b$ , it also divides  $2a + b$ . Therefore there is  $p \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  such that  $2a + b = 3p$ . We have

$$(3.3) \quad (a, b, c) = (n - 3c - 2b - 3p, b, c) = \\ = (n - 3c - 2b, b, c) + p(-2, 1, 0) + p(-1, -1, 1) + p(0, 0, -1) \prec (n - 3c - 2b, b, c).$$

Combining (3.2) and (3.3) implies  $(a, b, c) \prec (n, 0, 0)$  and hence  $(a, b, c) \in I(n\mathbf{e}(1))$ .

**Case 2:**  $k = 2$ . In this case  $q = h - 1$  and  $n = 3h - 1$ . Let  $(a, b, c) \in \Lambda_3^{(h)} \cap \Lambda_{3,k}$ , that is  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ ,  $a + b + c = h$  and 3 divides  $a + 2b - 2$ . From Formula (3.2) we have  $(n - 3c - 2b, b, c) \prec (n, 0, 0)$ . Now,  $n - 3c - 2b = 3a + b - 1$ . Since 3 divides both  $a + 2b - 2$  and  $3a + 3b$ , it also divides  $2a + b - 1$ . Therefore there is  $p \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  such that  $2a + b - 1 = 3p$ . Applying (3.3), we obtain  $(a, b, c) \prec (n - 3c - 2b, b, c)$  and thus  $(a, b, c) \prec (n, 0, 0)$ , that is  $(a, b, c) \in I(n\mathbf{e}(1))$ .

**Case 3:**  $k = 1$ . In this case  $q = h - 1$  and  $n = 3h - 2$ . Let  $(a, b, c) \in \Lambda_3^{(h)} \cap \Lambda_{3,k}$ , that is  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ ,  $a + b + c = h$  and 3 divides  $a + 2b - 1$ . From Formula (3.2) we have  $(n - 3c - 2b, b, c) \prec (n, 0, 0)$ . Now,  $n - 3c - 2b = 3a + b - 2$ . Since 3 divides both  $a + 2b - 1$  and  $3a + 3b$ , it also divides  $2a + b - 2$ . Therefore there is  $p \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  such that  $2a + b - 2 = 3p$ . Applying (3.3), we obtain  $(a, b, c) \prec (n - 3c - 2b, b, c)$  and thus  $(a, b, c) \prec (n, 0, 0)$ , that is  $(a, b, c) \in I(n\mathbf{e}(1))$ .  $\square$

FIGURE 3. Triangular arrangement of  $\Lambda_3^{(h)}$ 

For all  $h \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , we have

$$(3.4) \quad |\Lambda_3^{(h)}| = \frac{(h+1)(h+2)}{2}.$$

**Lemma 6.**

(i) If 3 does not divide  $h$ , then  $|\Lambda_{3,1}^{(h)}| = |\Lambda_{3,2}^{(h)}| = |\Lambda_{3,3}^{(h)}|$ .

(ii) If 3 divides  $h$ , then  $|\Lambda_{3,1}^{(h)}| = |\Lambda_{3,2}^{(h)}| = |\Lambda_{3,3}^{(h)}| - 1$ .

*Proof.* We prove both statements at the same time by induction on  $h$ . Let us arrange elements of  $\Lambda_3^{(h)}$  in a triangular array as shown on Figure 3.

Writing down the residue modulo 3 of the expression  $a + 2b$  for each element  $(a, b, c)$  in Figure 3 we get

$$\begin{array}{cccccccc}
 \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\
 \dots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & 2 \\
 \dots & \dots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & 1 & 0 \\
 \dots & \dots & \dots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & 0 & 2 & 1 \\
 \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \ddots & 2 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\
 \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & 1 & 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\
 \dots & \dots & \dots & 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 1 \\
 \dots & \dots & 2 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\
 \dots & 1 & 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 1 & 0
 \end{array}$$

For a fixed  $h$  the set  $\Lambda_3^{(h)}$  corresponds to the first  $h+1$  “bottom-left-to-top-right” diagonals starting from the bottom right corner. The induction step  $h \rightarrow h+1$  corresponds to adding the next diagonal.

Note that the residues in each diagonal follow a cyclic order on  $0, 1, 2$  (as one step up along the diagonal decreases the first coordinate by 1 and increases the second coordinate by 1, thus changing  $a + 2b$  to  $(a - 1) + 2(b + 1)$ ). In particular, if the number of elements on a new diagonal is divisible by 3, it contains the same number of 0's, 1's and 2's. This proves the induction step in the case when 3 divides  $h - 1$ .

If 3 divides  $h - 2$ , then the new diagonal contains an extra zero compared to the common number of 1's and 2's. If 3 divides  $h$ , then the new diagonal contains one zero less than the common number of 1's and 2's. Put together this implies the induction step and completes the proof of the proposition.  $\square$

For a set  $X$ , we denote by  $\delta_X$  the indicator function of  $X$ , that is

$$\delta_X(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & x \in X; \\ 0, & x \notin X. \end{cases}$$

Combining Proposition 5, Lemma 6 and Formula (3.4), we obtain:

**Corollary 7.** *For  $h \leq \lceil \frac{n}{3} \rceil$  we have*

$$C_{n,h}^{(3)} = \frac{(h+1)(h+2) + (6\delta_{3\mathbb{Z}}(n) - 2)\delta_{3\mathbb{Z}}(h)}{6}.$$

In the case when 3 does not divide  $n$ , the sequence  $\frac{(h+1)(h+2) - 2\delta_{3\mathbb{Z}}(h)}{6}$  is A001840 from [OEIS]. In the case when 3 divides  $n$ , the sequence  $\frac{(h+1)(h+2) + 4\delta_{3\mathbb{Z}}(h)}{6}$  is A007997( $h + 2$ ) from [OEIS]. However, it seems that our interpretation of both these sequences does not appear on [OEIS] at the moment. We note that the sequence  $A001840(h + 1) - A001840(h)$  is the sequence

$$1, 1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 3, 4, 4, 4, 5, 5, 5, \dots,$$

while the sequence  $A007997(h + 3) - A007997(h + 2)$  is the sequence

$$1, 0, 1, 2, 1, 2, 3, 2, 3, 4, 3, 4, 5, 4, 5, 6, 5, 6, \dots$$

The latter sequence should be compared with the fourth sequence which will be constructed in Subsection 3.6 below.

Each column in Figure 2 contains a unique overlined element. This element corresponds to the upper bound  $\lceil \frac{n}{3} \rceil$  for the value of  $h$  for which  $C_{n,h}^{(3)}$  is given by Corollary 7. In other words, this element and all elements below it in the same column are given by an initial segment of  $A007997(h + 2)$  or  $A001840$ , if 3 does or does not divide  $n$ , respectively.

**Problem 8.** *Find a closed formula for  $C_{n,h}^{(3)}$ , where  $\lceil \frac{n}{3} \rceil < h < \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$ .*

**3.6. Sequence A028289.** The sequence A028289 in [OEIS] lists coefficients in the expansion of  $\frac{1+t^2+t^3+t^5}{(1-t)(1-t^3)(1-t^4)(1-t^6)}$ . Here are the first 25 elements in this sequence:

1, 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 23, 27, 33, 42, 48, 57, 69, 78, 90, 106, 118, 134, 154, 170, 190, 215, 235, ...

This sequence appears in [CBC]. Comparison with the first row of Figure 2 suggests that  $C_n^{(3)} = A028289(n)$  for all  $n$ . We will prove this in the next subsection. In this subsection we propose two construction of A028289, alternative to its definition on [OEIS]. The first construction consists of five combinatorial steps.

- Consider first the sequence 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 ... of all non-negative integers.
- Construct the second sequence 0, 1, 1, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4, 4, 5, 5, ... by repeating all non-zero terms in the previous sequence twice.
- Define the third sequence as the sequence of partial sums of the second sequence: 0, 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 12, 16, 20, 25, 30, ...
- Construction of the fourth sequence is the most complicated one. The sequence is:

1, 0, 1, 2, 1, 2, 4, 2, 4, 6, 4, 6, 9, 6, 9, 12, 9, 12, 16, 12, 16, 20, 16, 20, ...

and this is obtained by interlacing, in order, five-term frames of the form  $i, *, i, *, i$ , where  $i$  an element of the third sequence, for example:

- start with ... , 0, \*, 0;
- adding (1, \*, 1, \*, 1) we obtain ... , 0, 1, 0, 1, \*, 1;
- adding (2, \*, 2, \*, 2) we obtain ... , 0, 1, 0, 1, 2, 1, 2, \*, 2;
- adding (4, \*, 4, \*, 4) we obtain ... , 0, 1, 0, 1, 2, 1, 2, 4, 2, 4, \*, 4;
- continue inductively;
- erase all zeros at the beginning.
- The final, fifth, sequence is the sequence of partial sums of the fourth sequence:

1, 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 23, 27, 33, 42, 48, 57, 69, 78, 90, 106, 118, 134, 154, 170, 190, ...

**Proposition 9.** *The fifth sequence constructed above coincides with A028289.*

*Proof.* Let us compute the generating function of all sequences constructed above. For the first sequence the generating function is

$$f(t) := \frac{t}{(1-t)^2}.$$

For the second sequence we get

$$f(t^2) + \frac{1}{t}f(t^2) = \frac{t+t^2}{(1-t^2)^2}.$$

Convolution with  $1, 1, 1, \dots$ , that is the sequence with generating function  $\frac{1}{1-t}$ , implies that the generating function for the third sequence is

$$g(t) = \frac{t + t^2}{(1-t)(1-t^2)^2}.$$

The generating function for the fourth sequence is

$$\frac{g(t^3)}{t^3} + \frac{t^2 g(t^3)}{t^3} + \frac{t^4 g(t^3)}{t^3} = \frac{(1+t^3)(1+t^2+t^4)}{(1-t^6)^2(1-t^3)} = \frac{1+t^2+t^4}{(1-t^6)(1-t^3)^2}.$$

Finally, yet another convolution with  $1, 1, 1, \dots$  gives the generating function

$$\frac{1+t^2+t^4}{(1-t)(1-t^6)(1-t^3)^2}$$

for the fifth sequence. The latter generating function coincides with the generating function

$$\frac{1+t^2+t^3+t^5}{(1-t)(1-t^3)(1-t^4)(1-t^6)}$$

of A028289 since

$$(1+t^2+t^4)(1-t^4) = 1+t^2-t^6-t^8 = (1+t^2+t^3+t^5)(1-t^3).$$

The claim follows.  $\square$

Our second construction of A028289 (which is relevant for Theorem 11 in the following subsection) uses the following observation:

**Lemma 10.** *We have*

$$\frac{1+t^2+t^3+t^5}{(1-t)(1-t^3)(1-t^4)(1-t^6)} = \frac{1}{1-t} \cdot \frac{1}{1-t^3} \cdot (1+t^2+t^3+t^4+t^5+t^7) \cdot \frac{1}{(1-t^6)^2}.$$

*Proof.* We have to check that

$$\frac{1+t^2+t^3+t^5}{1-t^4} = \frac{1+t^2+t^3+t^4+t^5+t^7}{1-t^6}.$$

This is a straightforward computation.  $\square$

Lemma 10 implies that A028289 can be constructed in the following four combinatorial steps.

- Consider first the sequence  $1, 2, 3, 4, 5 \dots$  of all positive integers.
- Construct the second sequence  $1, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 2, 1, 2, 2, 2, 2, 3, 2, \dots$  by repeating the pattern  $i, *, i, i, i, *, i$  of the terms in the previous sequence using shift in six positions.
- Construct the third sequence  $1, 0, 1, 2, 1, 2, 4, 2, 4, \dots$  by convolution of the second sequence with  $1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 1, \dots$

- The final, fourth, sequence is the sequence of partial sums of the third sequence:

$$1, 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 23, 27, 33, 42, 48, 57, 69, 78, 90, 106, 118, 134, 154, 170, 190, \dots$$

3.7. **Computation of  $C_n^{(3)}$ .** Here we prove our first main result.

**Theorem 11.** *We have  $C_n^{(3)} = A028289(n)$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ .*

*Proof.* Taking Lemma 10 into account, to prove the assertion of our theorem, it is enough to show that

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} C_n^{(3)} t^n = \frac{1}{1-t} \cdot \frac{1}{1-t^3} \cdot (1+t^2+t^3+t^4+t^5+t^7) \cdot \frac{1}{(1-t^6)^2}.$$

For a variable  $n$ , consider the sets

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{D}_n &:= (n, 0, 0) + \mathbb{Z}(-2, 1, 0) + \mathbb{Z}(-1, -1, 1) + \mathbb{Z}(0, 0, -1), \\ D_n &:= (n, 0, 0) + \mathbb{Z}(-2, 1, 0) + \mathbb{Z}(-3, 0, 1) \end{aligned}$$

and let  $\Phi : \tilde{D}_n \rightarrow D_n$  denote the projection along the vector

$$(-3, 0, 0) = (-2, 1, 0) + (-1, -1, 1) + (0, 0, -1).$$

Note that this is well-defined as  $(-3, 0, 1) = (-3, 0, 0) - (0, 0, -1)$ .

Our first observation is the following:

**Lemma 12.** *For any  $\mathbf{v} \in I(ne(1))$  we have*

$$\Phi(\mathbf{v}) \in (n, 0, 0) + \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}(-2, 1, 0) + \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}(0, 0, -1).$$

*Proof.* We have

$$\mathbf{v} = (n, 0, 0) + a(-2, 1, 0) + b(1, -2, 0) + c(-1, -1, 1) + d(0, 0, -1),$$

for  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , by definition. Clearly,  $a \geq 2b + c$  and  $c \geq d$ . Since  $\Phi((-3, 0, 0)) = 0$ ,  $(-3, 0, 0) = 2(-2, 1, 0) + (1, -2, 0)$ , and  $(-3, 0, 0) = (-2, 1, 0) + (-1, -1, 1) + (0, 0, -1)$ , it follows that

$$\Phi(\mathbf{v}) = \Phi((n, 0, 0) + (a - 2b - c)(-2, 1, 0) + (c - d)(0, 0, -1)),$$

which implies the claim. □

For  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  set  $f_i := |T_i|$ , where

$$T_i := \{\mathbf{v} \in (n, 0, 0) + \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}(-2, 1, 0) + \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}(-3, 0, 1) : \mathbf{v} = (n - i, *, *)\}.$$

**Lemma 13.** *We have*

$$\sum_{i \geq 0} f_i t^i = \frac{1 + t^2 + t^3 + t^4 + t^5 + t^7}{(1 - t^6)^2}.$$

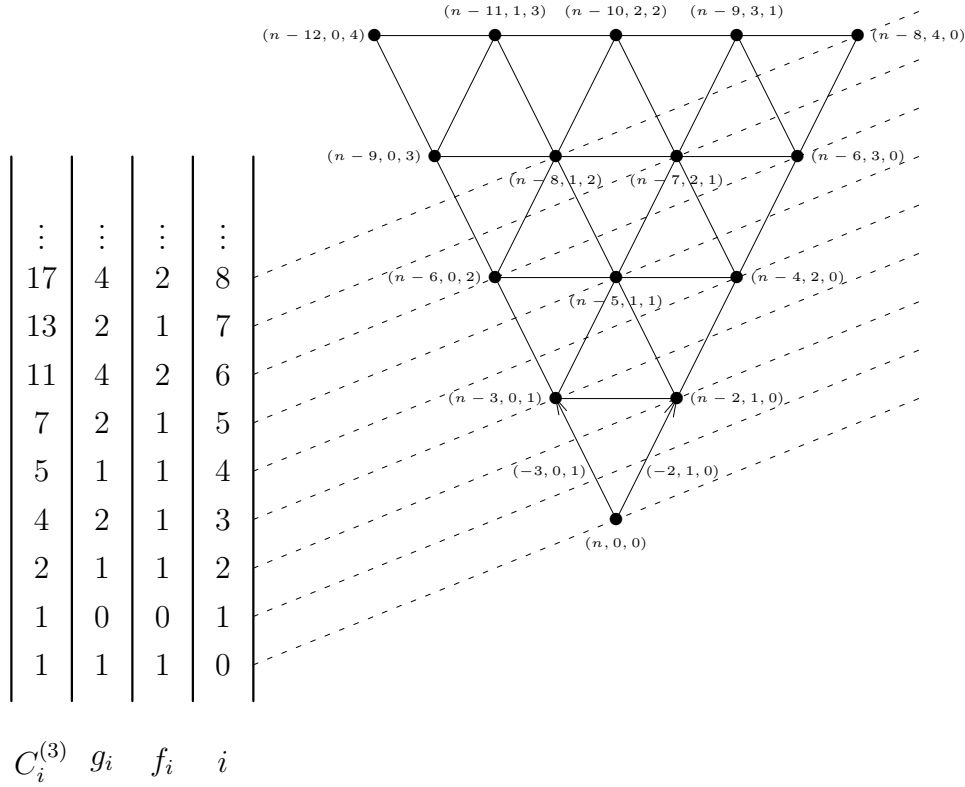


FIGURE 4. Geometric illustration of the proof of Theorem 11

*Proof.* A direct calculation give the following values for small  $i$ :

$i$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
$f_i$	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	1

For  $i = 6$  we for the first time have  $f_i = 2 > 1$ . From the linearity of the definition, we thus get  $f_{i+6} = f_i + 1$  for all  $i \geq 0$  (see the illustration in Figure 4). The claim follows.  $\square$

For each  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , mapping  $\mathbf{v} \mapsto \mathbf{v} + (1, 0, 0)$  defines an injection from  $I((i - 1)\mathbf{e}(1))$  to  $I(i\mathbf{e}(1))$ . Set  $g_i := C_i^{(3)} - C_{i-1}^{(3)} \geq 0$  (under the convention  $C_{-1}^{(3)} = 0$ ). Then we have

$$C_i^{(3)} = g_i + g_{i-1} + \cdots + g_0$$

by construction. This reduces the claim of the theorem to the following crucial observation:

**Lemma 14.** *We have  $g_i = f_i + f_{i-3} + f_{i-6} + \dots$  for all  $i$ , where we assume  $f_i = 0$  for  $i < 0$ .*

*Proof.* First of all, we claim that the map

$$\begin{aligned} I((i-1)\mathbf{e}(1)) &\rightarrow I(i\mathbf{e}(1)) \\ \mathbf{v} &\mapsto \mathbf{v} + (1, 0, 0) \end{aligned}$$

induces a bijection between  $I((i-1)\mathbf{e}(1))$  and the set

$$\{\mathbf{v} = (v_1, v_2, v_3) \in I(i\mathbf{e}(1)) : v_1 \neq 0\}.$$

Indeed, the inverse map is easily seen to be given by  $\mathbf{w} \mapsto \mathbf{w} - (1, 0, 0)$ .

Therefore we need to show that  $g_i$  enumerates the set

$$R := \{\mathbf{v} = (v_1, v_2, v_3) \in I(i\mathbf{e}(1)) : v_1 = 0\}.$$

Note that the restriction of  $\Phi$  to  $R$  is injective since the linear span of  $R$  does not contain the generator  $(-3, 0, 0)$  of the kernel of  $\Phi$ . Therefore it is enough to enumerate  $|\Phi(R)|$ . We claim that

$$\Phi(R) = T_i \cup T_{i-3} \cup T_{i-6} \cup \dots$$

(note that this union is automatically disjoint), which is a reformulation of the assertion of the lemma due to the rule of sum.

Consider the equation

$$(3.5) \quad (x, 0, 0) = a(-2, 1, 0) + b(1, -2, 0) + c(-1, -1, 1) + d(0, 0, -1)$$

where  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ . Comparing the last coordinate, gives  $c = d$ . Comparing the second coordinate, gives  $a = 2b - c$ . Plugging this information back into equation, gives  $(x, 0, 0) = (-3b, 0, 0)$ . This and our definition of  $\prec$  implies that

$$\Phi(R) \subset T_n \cup T_{n-3} \cup T_{n-6} \cup \dots$$

The inverse inclusion follows easily from the definition of  $\prec$  and construction of the  $T_j$ 's using induction on  $i$ . This completes the proof.  $\square$

The claim of the theorem follows by combining Lemmata 10, 12, 13 and 14. The intuitive picture behind this proof is given in Figure 4.  $\square$

As a direct consequence of Theorem 11 and [CBC], we get:

**Corollary 15.** *For  $i \in \mathbb{N}$  we have:*

$$\begin{aligned} C_{3(i-1)}^{(3)} &= \frac{1}{8}((i+1)(2i^2 + i + 1) - \frac{1}{2}(1 + (-1)^i)), \\ C_{3(i-1)+1}^{(3)} &= \frac{1}{8}((i+1)(2i^2 + 3i - 1) + \frac{1}{2}(1 + (-1)^i)), \\ C_{3(i-1)+2}^{(3)} &= \frac{1}{8}((i+1)(2i^2 + 5i + 1) - \frac{1}{2}(1 + (-1)^i)). \end{aligned}$$



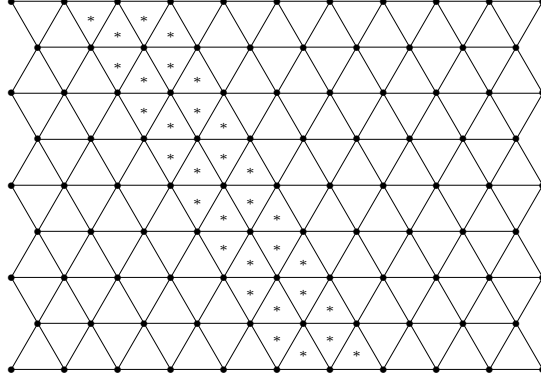


FIGURE 5. Triangular tiling, vertices, and tiling lines; triangles marked with \* form a tiling strip of type 2

#### 4. $C_n^{(3)}$ AND HOLLOW HEXAGONS

**4.1. Triangular tilings.** Consider a regular triangular tiling of an Euclidean plane as shown in Figure 5. We assume that the side of the basic equilateral triangle (the fundamental region) of this tiling has length 1. Each intersection point is called a *vertex* of the tiling. Each straight line of the tiling is called a *tiling line*. A horizontal tiling line will be called a line of *type 1*. A tiling line of *type 2* is a tiling line obtained from a tiling line of type 1 by a *clockwise* rotation by  $\frac{\pi}{3}$ . A tiling line of *type 3* is a tiling line obtained from a tiling line of type 1 by a *clockwise* rotation by  $\frac{2\pi}{3}$ .

**4.2. T-hexagons and their h-envelopes.** For  $i = 1, 2, 3$ , a *tiling strip of type  $i$*  is the area between two tiling lines of type  $i$  (see Figure 5 for an example of a tiling strip of type 2). In particular, if these two lines coincide, then the corresponding tiling strip coincides with each of these tiling lines. A *t-hexagon* is, by definition, the intersection of three tiling strips, one for each type. Note that a t-hexagon can be:

- empty;
- equal to a vertex of the tiling;
- equal to a bounded line segment of a tiling line;
- a polygon with three, four, five or six vertices.

By the *perimeter* of a t-hexagon we mean its perimeter as a polygon. Clearly, each t-hexagon has finite perimeter. The perimeter of a vertex is zero, while the perimeter of a bounded line segment is twice the length of this line segment.

The group of symmetries of the triangular tiling is the triangle group

$$\Delta(3, 3, 3) = \langle a, b, c : a^2 = b^2 = c^2 = (ab)^3 = (bc)^3 = (ca)^3 = 1 \rangle$$

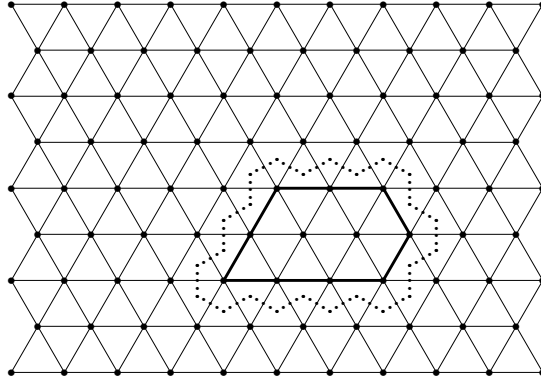


FIGURE 6. A t-hexagon and its hexagonal envelope

generated by reflections with respect to the sides of the the fundamental region of the tiling. Two t-hexagons which can be obtained from each other applying some element in  $\Delta(3, 3, 3)$  will be called *isomorphic*. For  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , we denote by  $T_n$  the number of isomorphism classes of t-hexagons with perimeter  $2n$ .

Centroids of tiling triangles form a dual *hexagonal tiling* of our plane. Given a t-hexagon  $H$ , its *hexagonal envelope*  $E(H)$  is the union of all hexagons in the hexagonal tiling which intersect  $H$ , see Figure 6 for an example of a t-hexagon (bold lines) and its hexagonal envelope (dotted lines).

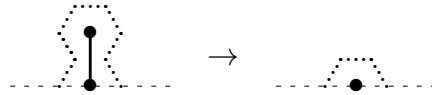
**Lemma 16.** *Let  $H$  be a t-hexagon of perimeter  $i$  for some  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ . Then the hexagonal envelope of  $H$  has  $6 + 2i$  vertices.*

*Proof.* For  $i = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$  the statement of the lemma follows by inspecting all t-hexagons of perimeter  $i$ . These t-hexagons are given in the following list:



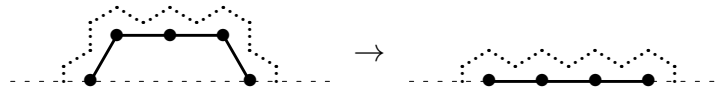
We claim that the rest follows by induction on  $i$ . Indeed, assume that  $H$  is the intersection of three tiling strips (one for each type). We can, in turn, pull the lines defining these strips closer to each other, one step at a time. Eventually by one such step we will get a smaller t-hexagon  $H'$ . There are four possible cases.

**Case 1.** The t-hexagon  $H'$  is obtained from  $H$  by collapsing a line segment to a vertex as illustrated here:



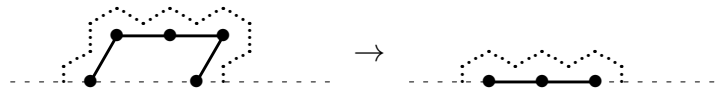
In this case we see that the perimeter of  $H$  decreases by 2 and the number of vertices of the hexagonal envelope decreases by 4.

**Case 2.** The t-hexagon  $H'$  is obtained from  $H$  by collapsing a trapezoid segment onto its basis as illustrated here (the length of the segment can be arbitrary):



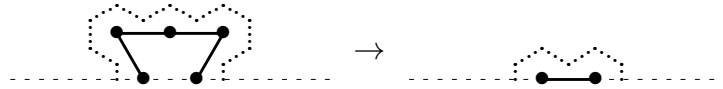
In this case we see that the perimeter of  $H$  decreases by 1 and the number of vertices of the hexagonal envelope by 2.

**Case 3.** The t-hexagon  $H'$  is obtained from  $H$  by collapsing a trapezoid segment onto its basis as illustrated here (the length of the segment can be arbitrary):



In this case we see that the perimeter of  $H$  decreases by 2 and the number of vertices of the hexagonal envelope by 4.

**Case 4.** The t-hexagon  $H'$  is obtained from  $H$  by collapsing a trapezoid segment to its basis as illustrated here:



In this case we see that the perimeter of  $H$  decreases by 3 and the number of vertices of the hexagonal envelope by 6.

Since all the above changes agree, by linearity, with the desired formula, the claim of the lemma follows by induction.  $\square$

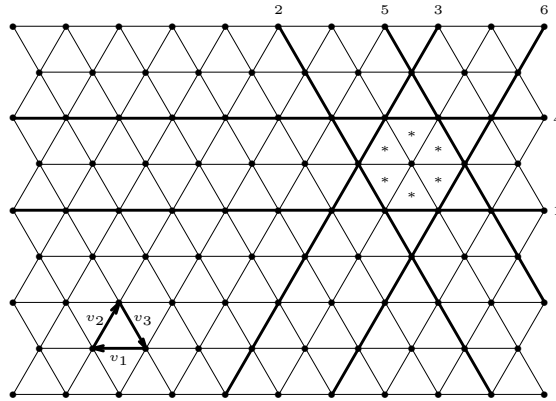


FIGURE 7. Basic vectors and lines

Hexagonal envelopes of t-hexagons seem to be exactly the *hollow hexagons* considered in [CBCBB, CBC] (the latter papers do not really have any mathematically precise definition of hollow hexagons).

**4.3. Characters of t-hexagons.** We would like to encode t-hexagons using vectors with non-negative integral coefficients. For this we will need some notation. Denote by  $v_1$ ,  $v_2$  and  $v_3$  the vectors in the Euclidean plane as shown in Figure 7. Note that all these vectors have length one and that  $v_1 + v_2 + v_3 = 0$ . In Figure 7 we also see a \*-marked t-hexagon which is the intersection of the tiling strips formed by thick lines. The tilting lines which bound the tiling strips are marked by numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 which correspond to going along the perimeter of the hexagon starting from the bottom side and going into the clockwise direction.

Let now  $H$  be a t-hexagon given as the intersection of three tiling strips, one for each type. Without loss of generality we may assume that each tiling line which bounds each of these tiling strips has a non-empty intersection with  $H$ . We number the tilting lines forming the boundaries of the tilting strips in the same way as in Figure 7. Note that, if two tiling lines coincide, we still count them as two different lines in our numbering. This corresponds to walking along the boundary of  $H$ , starting with the bottom side, first along  $v_1$ , then along  $-v_3$ , then along  $v_2$ , then along  $-v_1$ , then along  $v_3$  and, finally, along  $-v_2$ .

The intersection of the boundary tiling line of a tiling strip with  $H$  is then either a vertex or a side of  $H$ . We denote by  $\chi(H)$  the vector  $(a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, a_5, a_6)$  where for  $i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6$  the number  $a_i$  is the length of the intersection of the line  $i$  with  $H$ . For example, for the \*-marked t-hexagon in Figure 7 we have  $\chi(H) = (1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$ , while for the thick t-hexagon in Figure 6 we have  $\chi(H) = (3, 0, 2, 2, 1, 1)$ . The vector  $\chi(H)$  will be called the *character* of  $H$ .

An alternative description of  $\chi(H)$  is as follows: Start with the rightmost vertex on the bottom edge of  $H$ . Walk along  $v_1$  until the next vertex (which might coincide with the

starting one). The number  $a_1$  is the length of this walk. Continue along  $-v_3$  to record  $a_2$ , then along  $v_2$  to record  $a_3$  and so on in the order described above.

The action of  $\Delta(3, 3, 3)$  induced on the set of characters of t-hexagons the action which is generated by the cyclic permutations of components of the character and the flip

$$(a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, a_5, a_6) \mapsto (a_6, a_5, a_4, a_3, a_2, a_1).$$

Using this action, we can change  $H$  to an isomorphic t-hexagon  $H'$  such that we have  $\chi(H') = (a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, a_5, a_6)$  where the following conditions are satisfied:

$$(4.1) \quad a_1 + a_3 + a_5 \leq a_2 + a_4 + a_6 \quad \text{and} \quad a_1 \geq a_3 \geq a_5.$$

Such  $H'$  as well as its character will be called *distinguished*. Clearly, a distinguished representative in the isomorphism class of  $H$  is unique up to shift of tiling. As an example, the regular hexagon in Figure 7 is distinguished, while the t-hexagon in Figure 7 is not distinguished since the first inequality in (4.1) fails.

Note that our walk along the perimeter of  $H$  always returns to the original point. From this it follows that  $(a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, a_5, a_6) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  is the character of some t-hexagon if and only if

$$(4.2) \quad (a_1 - a_4)v_1 + (a_5 - a_2)v_3 + (a_3 - a_6)v_2 = 0.$$

Taking into account  $v_3 = -v_1 - v_2$  and linear independence of  $v_1$  and  $v_2$ , Equation (4.2) is equivalent to

$$(4.3) \quad a_1 + a_2 - a_4 - a_5 = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad a_2 + a_3 - a_5 - a_6 = 0.$$

**Lemma 17.** *Let  $H$  be a distinguished t-hexagon and  $\chi(H) = (a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, a_5, a_6)$ . Then we have*

$$a_1 \leq a_4, \quad a_2 \leq a_5 \quad \text{and} \quad a_3 \leq a_6.$$

*Proof.* From Equation (4.3) we have  $a_1 - a_4 = a_5 - a_2 = a_3 - a_6$ . Plugging this in into the first inequality in (4.1) in the three different obvious ways yields the statement.  $\square$

**4.4. Elementary operations on distinguished t-hexagons.** Let  $H$  be a distinguished t-hexagon and  $\chi(H) = (a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, a_5, a_6)$ . We consider four *elementary* operations on hexagons.

**Operation  $\Phi$ .** Assume  $a_1 - a_3 \geq 2$ . Then, using Lemma 17, it is easy to check that the vector

$$(a_1 - 1, a_2, a_3 + 1, a_4 - 1, a_5, a_6 + 1)$$

satisfies all conditions in (4.1) and (4.3) and hence is the character of a unique distinguished t-hexagon which we denote by  $\Phi(H)$ .

**Operation  $\Psi$ .** Assume  $a_1 > a_3 > a_5$ . Then, using Lemma 17, it is easy to check that the vector

$$(a_1 - 1, a_2 + 1, a_3, a_4 - 1, a_5 + 1, a_6)$$

satisfies all conditions in (4.1) and (4.3) and hence is the character of a unique distinguished t-hexagon which we denote by  $\Psi(H)$ .

**Operation  $\Theta$ .** Assume  $a_5 > 0$ . Then, using Lemma 17, it is easy to check that the vector

$$(a_1 - 1, a_2 + 1, a_3 - 1, a_4 + 1, a_5 - 1, a_6 + 1)$$

satisfies all conditions in (4.1) and (4.3) and hence is the character of a unique distinguished t-hexagon which we denote by  $\Theta(H)$ .

**Operation  $\Lambda$ .** Assume  $a_3 - a_5 \geq 2$ . Then, using Lemma 17, it is easy to check that the vector

$$(a_1 - 1, a_2 + 2, a_3 - 2, a_4 + 1, a_5, a_6)$$

satisfies all conditions in (4.1) and (4.3) and hence is the character of a unique distinguished t-hexagon which we denote by  $\Lambda(H)$ .

Directly from the definitions it is easy to see that all maps  $\Phi$ ,  $\Psi$ ,  $\Theta$  and  $\Lambda$  do not change the perimeter. All these maps have rather transparent geometric interpretation which could be obtained by moving the boundary tiling lines of the tiling strips which define the original t-hexagon.

**4.5. Signature and defect.** Let  $H$  be a distinguished t-hexagon. Assume that  $\chi(H) = (a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, a_5, a_6)$ . Then the vector  $\text{sign}(H) := (a_1 - a_3, a_3 - a_5, a_5) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^3$  will be called the *signature* of  $H$ . For example, the regular hexagon in Figure 7 has signature  $(0, 0, 1)$  while a distinguished t-hexagon isomorphic to the t-hexagon in Figure 6 has signature  $(1, 1, 0)$ . Directly from the definitions one computes that for any distinguished t-hexagon  $H$  we have:

$$(4.4) \quad \begin{aligned} \text{sign}(\Phi(H)) &= \text{sign}(H) + (-2, 1, 0), \\ \text{sign}(\Psi(H)) &= \text{sign}(H) + (-1, -1, 1), \\ \text{sign}(\Theta(H)) &= \text{sign}(H) + (0, 0, -1), \\ \text{sign}(\Lambda(H)) &= \text{sign}(H) + (1, -2, 0), \end{aligned}$$

provided that the t-hexagons  $\Phi(H)$ ,  $\Psi(H)$ ,  $\Theta(H)$  or, respectively,  $\Lambda(H)$ , are defined.

We define the *defect* of  $H$  as

$$\text{def}(H) := a_2 + a_4 + a_6 - a_1 - a_3 - a_5$$

and note that the defect of a distinguished t-hexagon is always non-negative.

**4.6. The number of t-hexagons.** Our main result in this section is the following statement which gives a direct connection between the present paper and [CBCBB, CBC].

**Theorem 18.** *For all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , mapping  $H$  to  $\text{sign}(H)$  induces a bijection between the set of isomorphism classes of distinguished t-hexagons of perimeter  $2n$  and the set  $I(\text{ne}(1))$ .*

*Proof.* Consider a distinguished t-hexagon  $Q$  having the character  $(n, 0, 0, n, 0, 0)$ . The signature of this t-hexagon is  $(n, 0, 0) = n\mathbf{e}(1)$ . Applying, whenever possible, a sequence of operations  $\Phi$ ,  $\Psi$ ,  $\Theta$  and  $\Lambda$  to  $Q$ , produces a set of t-hexagons of perimeter  $2n$ . From (4.4) it follows that the set of signatures for all t-hexagons which can be obtained in this way coincides with  $I(n\mathbf{e}(1))$ .

Our next step is to show that each distinguished t-hexagon of perimeter  $2n$  can be obtained from  $H$  using a sequence of operations of the form  $\Phi$ ,  $\Psi$ ,  $\Theta$  and  $\Lambda$  (in fact, the first three would suffice). Let  $K$  be a distinguished t-hexagon with character  $(a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, a_5, a_6)$ . Assume  $a_5 > 0$ . Then, using Lemma 17, it is easy to check that the vector

$$(a_1 + 1, a_2 - 1, a_3, a_4 + 1, a_5 - 1, a_6)$$

satisfies all conditions in (4.1) and (4.3) and hence is the character of a unique distinguished t-hexagon. Therefore  $K = \Psi(K')$  for some distinguished t-hexagon  $K'$  and the character of  $K'$  has a smaller fifth coordinate. In particular,  $K$  is obtained, using a sequence of  $\Psi$ 's, from some distinguished t-hexagon  $K'$  the character of which has zero fifth coordinate.

Let  $K$  be a distinguished t-hexagon with character  $(a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, a_5, a_6)$ . Assume  $a_3 > 0$ . Then, using Lemma 17, it is easy to check that the vector

$$(a_1 + 1, a_2, a_3 - 1, a_4 + 1, a_5, a_6 - 1)$$

satisfies all conditions in (4.1) and (4.3) and hence is the character of a unique distinguished t-hexagon. Therefore  $K = \Phi(K')$  for some distinguished t-hexagon  $K'$  and the character of  $K'$  has a smaller third coordinate. In particular,  $K$  is obtained, using a sequence of  $\Phi$ 's and  $\Psi$ 's, from some distinguished t-hexagon  $K'$  the character of which has zero third and fifth coordinates.

Let  $K$  be a distinguished t-hexagon with character  $(a_1, a_2, 0, a_4, 0, a_6)$ . Then  $a_4 \geq a_1$  by Lemma 17. If  $a_4 = a_1$ , then from Equation 4.3 it follows that  $a_2 = a_6 = 0$  and  $K = Q$ . If  $a_4 > a_1$ , then from Equation 4.3 it follows that  $a_2 = a_6 = a_4 - a_1 > 0$ . Now, using Lemma 17, it is easy to check that the vector

$$(b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4, b_5, b_6) := (a_1 + 1, a_2 - 1, a_3 + 1, a_4 - 1, a_5 + 1, a_6 - 1)$$

satisfies all conditions in (4.1) and (4.3) and hence is the character of a unique distinguished t-hexagon, say  $K'$ . Note that, by construction,  $\text{def}(K') < \text{def}(K)$  and that  $K = \Theta(K')$ .

Using induction on defect and the above steps it follows that any distinguished t-hexagon of perimeter  $2n$  is obtained using  $\Phi$ ,  $\Psi$  and  $\Theta$  from a distinguished t-hexagon of perimeter  $2n$  with character  $(a_1, 0, 0, a_4, 0, 0)$ . But from Equation 4.3 it thus follows that  $a_1 = a_4 = n$  and hence the latter t-hexagon must be isomorphic to  $Q$ .

As a consequence of the above argument, we have that the image of the signature map is contained in  $I(n\mathbf{e}(1))$ . So, it remains to show that the signature map is injective.

Let  $K$  be a distinguished t-hexagon with signature  $(x, y, z)$  and of perimeter  $2n$ . Then the character of  $K$  equals  $(x + y + z, a_2, y + z, a_4, z, a_6)$  for some  $a_2, a_4, a_6 \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ . From (4.3),

we have

$$x + y + z - a_4 = z - a_2 = y + z - a_6.$$

Since the perimeter of  $K$  is  $2n$ , we also have

$$x + y + z + a_2 + y + z + a_4 + z + a_6 = 2n$$

and hence  $a_2$ ,  $a_4$  and  $a_6$  are uniquely determined. This means that the character of  $K$  is uniquely determined and thus  $K$  is uniquely determined up to isomorphism. This completes the proof.  $\square$

As an immediate corollary from Theorem 18 we have:

**Corollary 19.** *For all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  we have  $C_n^{(3)} = T_n$ .*

Our proof of Theorem 18 provides another connection to the sequence  $A001399(n)$  giving the number of partitions of  $n$  in at most three parts which was already mentioned in Subsection 3.4. Let  $P_n$  denote the set of all partitions of  $n$  in at most three parts. If  $n < 0$ , we set  $P_n = \emptyset$ .

**Corollary 20.** *Let  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ . Mapping  $H$  with  $\chi(H) = (a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, a_5, a_6)$  to  $(a_1, a_3, a_5)$  induces a bijection between the set of isomorphism classes of distinguished  $t$ -hexagons of perimeter  $2n$  and the set  $P_n \cup P_{n-3} \cup P_{n-6} \cup \dots$ . In particular, we have*

$$C_n^{(3)} = A001399(n) + A001399(n-3) + A001399(n-6) + \dots$$

*Proof.* Restricting the bijection constructed in the proof of Theorem 18 to the set of distinguished  $t$ -hexagons of defect  $2i$  and thereafter mapping  $\text{sign}(H) = (x, y, z)$  to the partition  $(x + y + z, y + z, z)$  of  $x + 2y + 3z$ , provides a bijection from the set of distinguished  $t$ -hexagons of defect  $2i$  to  $P_{n-i}$ .  $\square$

## 5. PARTITIONS MODULO $d$

**5.1. Partitions and refinement.** For  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  denote by  $\Pi_n$  the set of all partitions of  $n$ , that is the set of all tuples  $\boldsymbol{\lambda} = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_k)$  such that  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_k \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ ,  $n = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \dots + \lambda_k$  and  $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_k$ . As usual, we write  $\boldsymbol{\lambda} \vdash n$  for  $\boldsymbol{\lambda} \in \Pi_n$ .

For  $\boldsymbol{\lambda} = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_k) \vdash n$  and  $\boldsymbol{\mu} = (\mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_l) \vdash n$  we say that  $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$  *refines*  $\boldsymbol{\mu}$  and write  $\boldsymbol{\mu} < \boldsymbol{\lambda}$  provided that  $l < k$  and there is a partition  $J_1 \cup J_2 \cup \dots \cup J_l$  of  $\{1, 2, \dots, k\}$  into a disjoint union of non-empty subsets such that

$$\mu_i = \sum_{j \in J_i} \lambda_j \quad \text{for all } i = 1, 2, \dots, l.$$

The partially ordered set  $(\Pi_n, <)$  was studied in [Bi, Bj, Zi]. In particular, in [Zi] it was shown that it has some nasty properties. We refer the reader to [Zi] for more details on this poset.

The poset  $(\Pi_n, <)$  is graded with respect to the rank function  $(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_k) \mapsto k$ .



5.2. **Partitions modulo  $d$ .** For  $d \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ , define an equivalence relation  $\sim_d$  on  $\Pi_n$  as follows: Given  $\boldsymbol{\lambda} = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_k) \vdash n$  and  $\boldsymbol{\mu} = (\mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_l) \vdash n$  set  $\boldsymbol{\lambda} \sim_d \boldsymbol{\mu}$  provided that  $k = l$  and there is  $\pi \in S_k$  such that  $d$  divides  $\lambda_i - \mu_{\pi(i)}$  for all  $i$ . In other words,  $\boldsymbol{\lambda} \sim_d \boldsymbol{\mu}$  if and only if the multisets of residues modulo  $d$  for parts of  $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$  and  $\boldsymbol{\mu}$  coincide. For  $\boldsymbol{\lambda} \vdash n$  we denote the  $\sim_d$ -class of  $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$  by  $\overline{\boldsymbol{\lambda}}^{(d)}$ .

Since  $\sim_d$ -equivalent partitions have the same number of parts, the refinement order  $<$  induces a partial order on the set  $\Pi_{n,d} := \Pi_n / \sim_d$  in the obvious way. We will denote this partial order by  $<_d$ . The poset  $\Pi_{n,d}$  inherits from  $\Pi_n$  the structure of a graded poset.

Define the poset  $\Pi_{n,d}^*$  as follows: if  $d$  does not divide  $n$ , set  $\Pi_{n,d}^* := \Pi_{n,d}$  with the order  $<_d$ ; if  $d$  divides  $n$ , define  $\Pi_{n,d}^*$  as a poset obtained from  $(\Pi_{n,d}, <_d)$  by adding a minimum element, denoted  $\emptyset$  (for simplicity, we will keep the notation  $<_d$  for the partial order on  $\Pi_{n,d}^*$ ). The structure of a graded poset on  $\Pi_n$  induces the structure of a graded poset on  $\Pi_{n,d}^*$  by defining the degree of  $\emptyset$  to be zero. The class  $\overline{(1, 1, \dots, 1)}^{(d)}$  of the partition  $(1, 1, \dots, 1)$  is the maximum element in  $\Pi_{n,d}^*$ .

5.3.  $\Pi_{n,d}^*$  versus  $\mathcal{P}_d$ . Our main result in this section is the following:

**Theorem 21.** *The (graded) posets  $(\Pi_{n,d}^*, <_d)$  and  $(I(n\mathbf{e}(1)), \prec)$  are isomorphic.*

*Proof.* To each  $\boldsymbol{\lambda} \vdash n$  we associate the vector  $(v_1^\lambda, v_2^\lambda, \dots, v_d^\lambda)$ , where, for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, d$ , we have

$$v_i^\lambda := |\{j : 3 \text{ divides } \lambda_j - i\}|.$$

This map is constant on the  $\sim_d$ -equivalence classes and hence induces a map from  $\Pi_{n,d}$  to  $\mathcal{P}_d$ . We extend this map to  $\Pi_{n,d}^*$  by sending the  $\emptyset$  element to the zero vector in case  $d$  divides  $n$ . Denote the resulting map by  $\Phi$ . Note that  $\Phi$  preserves the degree of an element, namely, it maps a partition with  $k$  parts to a vector of height  $k$ .

First of all, we claim that  $\Phi$  is a homomorphism of posets. Indeed, any refinement of partitions can be written as a composition of *elementary* refinements which simply refine one part of a smaller partition into two parts of a bigger partition. Such elementary refinement corresponds to the covering relation  $\boldsymbol{\mu} \prec \boldsymbol{\lambda}$  where  $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$  has  $k$  parts while  $\boldsymbol{\mu}$  has  $k - 1$  parts. Assume that this refines the part  $\mu_i$  into parts  $\lambda_s$  and  $\lambda_t$ . This means that  $\mu_i = \lambda_s + \lambda_t$  and hence

$$\mu_i \pmod{d} = (\lambda_s \pmod{d}) + (\lambda_t \pmod{d}).$$

Let  $a, b, c \in \{1, 2, \dots, d\}$  be such that  $d$  divides  $a - \mu_i$ ,  $b - \lambda_s$  and  $c - \lambda_t$ . Then the element  $\mathbf{e}(a) - \mathbf{e}(b) - \mathbf{e}(c)$  belong to  $X_d$ . This implies that  $\Phi(\boldsymbol{\mu}) \prec \Phi(\boldsymbol{\lambda})$ . It follows that  $\Phi$  is a homomorphism of posets.

Clearly,  $\Phi(\overline{(1, 1, \dots, 1)}^{(d)}) = n\mathbf{e}(1)$ . Since  $\overline{(1, 1, \dots, 1)}^{(d)}$  is the maximum element in  $\Pi_{n,d}^*$ , it follows that  $\Phi$  maps  $\Pi_{n,d}^*$  to  $I(n\mathbf{e}(1))$ .

That  $\Phi : \Pi_{n,d}^* \rightarrow I(n\mathbf{e}(1))$  is injective follows directly from the definition. It remains to show that this map is surjective. We prove this by downward induction on the degree  $h$ . If  $h = d$ , the claim is clear as  $n\mathbf{e}(1)$  is the only element of  $I(n\mathbf{e}(1))$  of height  $h$ .

For the induction step  $h \rightarrow h - 1$  let  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  be two elements in  $I(n\mathbf{e}(1))$  of heights  $h - 1$  and  $h$ , respectively, and assume  $\mathbf{v} \prec \mathbf{w}$ . Then  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{x}$  for some  $\mathbf{x} \in X_d$ . Let  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{e}(k) - \mathbf{e}(i) - \mathbf{e}(j)$  for some  $i, j, k \in \{1, 2, \dots, d\}$ . From the inductive assumption, there is  $\boldsymbol{\lambda} \vdash n$  such that  $\Phi(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) = \mathbf{w}$ . Let  $\lambda_s$  and  $\lambda_t$  be two different parts of  $\lambda$  with residues  $i$  and  $j$  modulo  $d$ , respectively. Define  $\mu$  as the partition obtained from  $\lambda$  by uniting  $\lambda_s$  and  $\lambda_t$ . Then  $\Phi(\boldsymbol{\mu}) = \mathbf{v}$ . Therefore  $\Phi$  is a bijection.

From the arguments above it follows that the covering relations in  $\Pi_{n,d}^*$  to  $I(n\mathbf{e}(1))$  match precisely under  $\Phi$ . This implies that  $\Phi$  is an isomorphism of posets, completing the proof of the theorem.  $\square$

As an immediate corollary, we have:

**Corollary 22.** *For  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  and  $d \in \mathbb{Z}_{> 0}$ , we have  $|\Pi_{n,d}^*| = C_n^{(d)}$ .*

## 6. CONNECTION TO $d$ -TONAL PARTITION MONOID

**6.1. Partition monoids.** For  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  consider the sets  $\underline{n} = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  and  $\underline{n}' = \{1', 2', \dots, n'\}$  (these two sets are automatically disjoint). Set  $\mathbf{n} := \underline{n} \cup \underline{n}'$  and consider the set  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{n})$  of all partitions of  $\mathbf{n}$  into a disjoint union of non-empty subsets. The cardinality of  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{n})$  is the  $2n$ -th Bell number, see A000110 in [OEIS].

The set  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{n})$  has the natural structure of a monoid, see [Jo, Mar1, Maz1, Maz2]. The composition  $\sigma \circ \pi$  of two partitions  $\sigma, \pi \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{n})$  is defined as follows (here  $\underline{n}'' = \{1'', 2'', \dots, n''\}$  is disjoint from  $\mathbf{n}$ ):

- First consider the partition  $\sigma'$  of  $\underline{n}' \cup \underline{n}''$  which is induced from  $\sigma$  via the bijection  $\underline{n} \cup \underline{n}' \rightarrow \underline{n}' \cup \underline{n}''$  which sends  $i \mapsto i'$  for  $i \in \underline{n}$  and  $j' \mapsto j''$  for  $j' \in \underline{n}'$ .
- Let  $\tilde{\pi}$  be the equivalence relation on  $\underline{n} \cup \underline{n}' \cup \underline{n}''$  whose parts are those of  $\pi$  combined with singletons of  $\underline{n}''$ .
- Let  $\tilde{\sigma}$  be the equivalence relation on  $\underline{n} \cup \underline{n}' \cup \underline{n}''$  whose parts are those of  $\sigma'$  combined with singletons of  $\underline{n}$ .
- Let  $\tilde{\tau}$  denote the minimal (with respect to inclusions) equivalence relation on the set  $\underline{n} \cup \underline{n}' \cup \underline{n}''$  which contains both  $\tilde{\pi}$  and  $\tilde{\sigma}$ .
- Let  $\tilde{\tau}'$  be the restriction of  $\tilde{\tau}$  to  $\underline{n} \cup \underline{n}'$ .
- Define  $\tau = \sigma \circ \pi$  as the partition of  $\underline{n} \cup \underline{n}'$  induced from the partition  $\tilde{\tau}'$  by the bijection  $\underline{n} \cup \underline{n}'' \rightarrow \underline{n} \cup \underline{n}'$  which sends  $i \mapsto i$  for  $i \in \underline{n}$  and  $j'' \mapsto j'$  for  $j'' \in \underline{n}''$ .

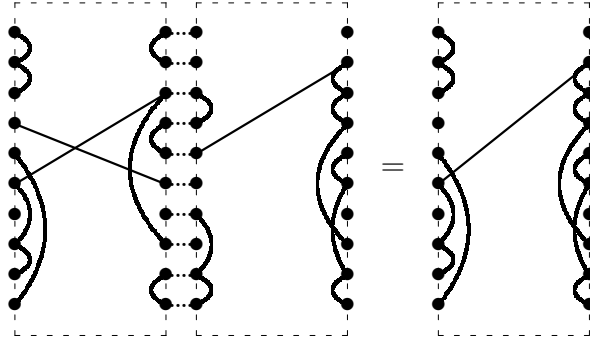


FIGURE 8. Partitions and their composition

The identity element in the monoid  $(\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{n}), \circ)$  is the *identity* partition

$$\{\{1, 1'\}, \{2, 2'\}, \dots, \{k, k'\}\} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{k}).$$

Both elements of  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{n})$  and the composition  $\circ$  admit a diagrammatic description as shown in Figure 8. We refer the reader to [Jo, Mar1, Maz2] for further details.

**6.2.  $d$ -tonal partition monoids.** For  $d \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$  the  $d$ -tonal partition monoid  $\mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})$ , as introduced in [Ta], is a submonoid of  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{n})$  which consists of all partitions  $\sigma$  of  $\mathbf{n}$  such that every part  $\sigma_i$  of  $\sigma$  satisfies the condition that

$$d \text{ divides } |\sigma_i \cap \underline{n}| - |\sigma_i \cap \underline{n}'|.$$

Thus, for  $d = 1$  we have  $\mathcal{P}_1(\mathbf{n}) = \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{n})$ . For  $d = 2$  the above condition is equivalent to the requirement that all parts of  $\sigma$  have even cardinality. Therefore  $|\mathcal{P}_2(\mathbf{n})|$  is given by the sequence A005046 in [OEIS] (see also [Or2]).

The twisted monoid algebra of the  $d$ -tonal partition monoid was studied (under various names) in [Ta, Or1, Ko1, Ko2, Ko3]. We record the following open problem:

**Problem 23.** Compute  $|\mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})|$  in a closed form as a function of  $d$  and  $n$ .

As the twisted semigroup algebra of  $\mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})$  is generically semi-simple, see [Ta], and forms, for all  $n$ , a sequence of embedded algebras with multiplicity-free restrictions, see [Ko1], there is a natural analogue of the Robinson-Schensted correspondence for  $\mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})$  and hence Problem 23 admits a combinatorial reformulation in terms of walks on a certain Bratelli diagram.

**6.3. Rank and  $d$ -signature.** For  $\sigma \in \mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})$  the *rank*  $\text{rank}(\sigma)$  is the number of parts  $\sigma_i$  in  $\sigma$  such that both  $|\sigma_i \cap \underline{n}| \neq 0$  and  $|\sigma_i \cap \underline{n}'| \neq 0$ . Such parts are called *propagating*.

Note that for  $\sigma \in \mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})$  the cardinality of any part of  $\sigma$  which is entirely contained in  $\underline{n}$  or in  $\underline{n}'$  is divisible by  $d$ .

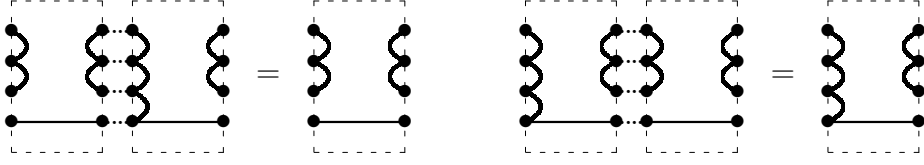


FIGURE 9. Illustration of the proof of Lemma 24

Define the function  $\Psi : \mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n}) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^d$ , called the  $d$ -signature function as follows: for  $\sigma \in \mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})$  define  $\Psi(\sigma) = (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_d)$ , where for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, d$  the number  $v_i$  is the number of parts  $\sigma_j$  in  $\sigma$  satisfying the conditions

$$|\sigma_j \cap \underline{n}| \neq 0, \quad |\sigma_j \cap \underline{n}'| \neq 0, \quad d \text{ divides } |\sigma_j \cap \underline{n}| - i.$$

Note that  $v_1 + v_2 + \dots + v_d = \text{rank}(\sigma)$ .

**6.4.  $\mathcal{J}$ -classes of  $d$ -tonal partition monoids.** Two elements  $\sigma, \pi \in \mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})$  are called  $\mathcal{J}$ -equivalent, written  $\sigma \mathcal{J} \pi$ , provided that  $\mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})\sigma\mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n}) = \mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})\pi\mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})$ , see [GM, Section 4.4]. For  $\sigma \in \mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})$  we denote by  $\bar{\sigma}^{\mathcal{J}}$  the  $\mathcal{J}$ -equivalence class containing  $\sigma$ .

There is a natural partial order on the set  $\mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})/\mathcal{J}$  given by inclusions: we write  $\bar{\sigma}^{\mathcal{J}} \rightsquigarrow \bar{\pi}^{\mathcal{J}}$  if and only if  $\mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})\sigma\mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n}) \subset \mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})\pi\mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})$ .

**6.5. Canonical elements.** An element  $\sigma \in \mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})$  will be called *canonical* provided that the following conditions are satisfied:

- Each part  $\sigma_i$  of  $\sigma$  satisfies  $|\sigma_i \cap \underline{n}| \leq d$  and  $|\sigma_i \cap \underline{n}'| \leq d$ .
- The intersections  $\sigma_i \cap \underline{n}$  and  $\sigma_i \cap \underline{n}'$  are connected segments of  $\underline{n}$  and  $\underline{n}'$  respectively ordered by cardinalities of the intersections for those parts  $\sigma_i$  which intersects both  $\underline{n}$  and  $\underline{n}'$  and then followed by those parts of  $\sigma$  which intersect only  $\underline{n}$  or  $\underline{n}'$ .

For example, the identity element in  $\mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})$  is canonical.

**Lemma 24.** *For each  $\sigma \in \mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})$  there is a canonical  $\pi \in \mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})$  such that  $\sigma \mathcal{J} \pi$ .*

*Proof.* If some part  $\sigma_i$  of  $\sigma$  satisfies  $|\sigma_i \cap \underline{n}| > d$  or  $|\sigma_i \cap \underline{n}'| > d$ , then there is  $\sigma' \in \mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})$  which has exactly the same parts as  $\sigma$  except for  $\sigma_i$  which is split into two parts: a part with  $d$  elements which is a subset of  $\underline{n}$  (respectively  $\underline{n}'$ ) and its complement. Existence of  $\sigma'$  follows using the construction shown in Figure 9 (in case  $d = 3$ ). Proceeding inductively, we find element  $\tau \in \mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})$  which is in the same  $\mathcal{J}$ -class as  $\sigma$  and which satisfies the condition that  $|\tau_i \cap \underline{n}| \leq d$  and  $|\tau_i \cap \underline{n}'| \leq d$  for each part  $\tau_i$  of  $\tau$ . Permuting, if necessary, the elements of  $\underline{n}$  and, independently, of  $\underline{n}'$  one rearranges,  $\tau$  into a canonical element  $\pi$  in the same  $\mathcal{J}$ -class as  $\sigma$ . The claim follows.  $\square$

**Proposition 25.** *We have  $\Psi(\mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})) = I(n\mathbf{e}(1))$ .*

*Proof.* We prove, by downward induction, that for each  $k = n, n-1, n-2, \dots, 0$  the map  $\Psi$  induces a bijection between the set of all canonical elements of rank  $k$  in  $\mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})$  and the set of all elements of height  $k$  in  $I(n\mathbf{e}(1))$ . The statement of the corollary then will follow from Lemma 24.

The basis of the induction is  $k = n$ . In this case on the left hand side we have only one canonical element, the identity element, while on the right hand side we have  $n\mathbf{e}(1)$  which is the image of the identity element under  $\Psi$ .

Let  $\mathbf{v} \in I(n\mathbf{e}(1))$  be an element of height  $k$  and let  $\sigma$  be a canonical element such that  $\Psi(\sigma) = \mathbf{v}$ . Let  $\mathbf{e}(k) - \mathbf{e}(i) - \mathbf{e}(j) \in X_d$ . Then  $\sigma$  has a part  $\sigma_s$  such that  $d$  divides  $|\sigma_s \cap \underline{n}| - i$  and a different part  $\sigma_t$  such that  $d$  divides  $|\sigma_t \cap \underline{n}| - j$ . Consider the element  $\sigma'$  obtained from  $\sigma$  by uniting  $\sigma_s$  with  $\sigma_t$  and keeping all other parts. Then  $\sigma'\sigma = \sigma'$  and hence  $\mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})\sigma'\mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n}) \subset \mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})\sigma\mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})$ . Moreover,  $\Psi(\sigma') = \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{e}(k) - \mathbf{e}(i) - \mathbf{e}(j)$ . This implies surjectivity of the induction step.

At the same time, the form of the canonical element immediately implies that it is obtained from the identity element using the unification procedure described in the previous paragraph, followed by splitting of  $d$ -element parts contained in  $\underline{n}$  or  $\underline{n}'$ . This implies that  $\Psi$  takes values inside  $I(n\mathbf{e}(1))$  and completes the proof.  $\square$

**Corollary 26.** *For each  $\sigma \in \mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})$  there is a unique canonical  $\pi \in \mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})$  such that  $\sigma\mathcal{J}\pi$ .*

*Proof.* Taking into account Proposition 25, the claim follows from the observation that different canonical elements are sent by  $\Psi$  to different elements in  $I(n\mathbf{e}(1))$ .  $\square$

**6.6. A combinatorial description of the  $\mathcal{J}$ -order.** Our second main result, which explains our interest in  $C_n^{(d)}$ , is the following:

**Theorem 27.** *The map  $\Psi : (\mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})/\mathcal{J}, \rightsquigarrow) \rightarrow (I(n\mathbf{e}(1)), \prec)$  is an isomorphism of posets.*

*Proof.* From Proposition 25, we have a map  $\Psi : \mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})/\mathcal{J} \rightarrow I(n\mathbf{e}(1))$ . This map is bijective by the combination of Proposition 25 and Corollary 26. From the third paragraph of the proof of Proposition 25 it follows that for each pair of elements  $\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \in I(n\mathbf{e}(1))$  such that  $\mathbf{v} \prec \mathbf{w}$  there are  $\sigma, \pi \in \mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})$  such that  $\mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})\sigma\mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n}) \subset \mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})\pi\mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})$ ,  $\Psi(\sigma) = \mathbf{v}$  and  $\Psi(\pi) = \mathbf{w}$ .

On the other hand, from the last paragraph of the proof of Proposition 25 it follows that the poset  $(\mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})/\mathcal{J}, \rightsquigarrow)$  is a graded poset. Now, applying the argument from the third paragraph of the proof of Proposition 25 once more and counting modulo  $d$ , one checks that the covering relation in  $(\mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})/\mathcal{J}, \rightsquigarrow)$  and  $(I(n\mathbf{e}(1)), \prec)$  match precisely via  $\Psi$ . The claim follows.  $\square$

7. ENUMERATION OF  $\mathcal{J}$ -CLASSES FOR ARBITRARY  $d$ 

**7.1. Enumeration via  $d$ -part partitions.** The proof of Proposition 25 gives a way to write a formula for  $C_n^{(d)}$  in the general case. Recall that a *partition* of  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  is a vector  $\boldsymbol{\lambda} := (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_k)$ , where  $k, \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_k$  and  $\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \dots + \lambda_k = n$ . Each  $\lambda_i$  is called a *part* of  $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$ .

Let  $d \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ . Denote by  $P_n^{(d)}$  the number of partitions of  $n$  with at most  $d$  parts. By taking the dual partition, we get the usual fact that  $P_n^{(d)}$  also equals the number of partitions of  $n$  in which each part does not exceed  $d$ . For simplicity, we set  $P_n^{(d)} = 0$  when  $n < 0$ .

**Theorem 28.** *We have  $C_n^{(d)} = P_n^{(d)} + P_{n-d}^{(d)} + P_{n-2d}^{(d)} + P_{n-3d}^{(d)} + \dots$*

*Proof.* To prove this claim we analyze the proof of Proposition 25. According to the latter proof,  $C_n^{(d)}$  enumerates canonical elements in  $\mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})$ . Let  $\sigma$  be a canonical element. Let  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_k$  be the list of all parts of  $\sigma$  contained in  $\underline{n}$  (note that  $k$  might be zero). Then each of these parts has cardinality  $d$  and we may consider the set

$$\underline{n}^\sigma := \underline{n} \setminus (\sigma_1 \cup \sigma_2 \cup \dots \cup \sigma_k)$$

which thus has cardinality  $n - kd$ .

Cardinalities of intersections of all propagating parts of  $\sigma$  with  $\underline{n}^\sigma$  determine a partition of  $n - kd$  in which each part does not exceed  $d$ . It is straightforward that this gives a bijection between the set of all canonical elements in  $\mathcal{P}_d(\mathbf{n})$  with  $2k$  non-propagating parts and all partitions of  $n - kd$  for which each part does not exceed  $d$ . The claim follows.  $\square$

**Corollary 29.** *For  $d \geq 1$ , we have*

$$\sum_{n \geq 1} C_n^{(d)} t^n = \frac{1}{(1-t^d) \cdot (1-t)(1-t^2)(1-t^3) \dots (1-t^d)}.$$

*Proof.* This follows by combining the usual equality

$$\sum_{n \geq 1} P_n^{(d)} t^n = \frac{1}{(1-t)(1-t^2)(1-t^3) \dots (1-t^d)}$$

with the statement of Theorem 28.  $\square$

**Remark 30.** It is easy to check that for  $d = 3$  we indeed have the equality

$$\frac{1 + t^2 + t^3 + t^5}{(1-t)(1-t^2)(1-t^4)(1-t^6)} = \frac{1}{(1-t)(1-t^2)(1-t^3)^2}.$$

Here the left hand side is the original generating function for A028289.

**Remark 31.** The poset  $\Pi^{(d)}$  of partitions with at most  $d$  parts can be defined using the same approach as we used to define  $\Lambda_d$ . The assertion of Theorem 28 can then be interpreted as a bijection between certain (co)ideals in  $\Pi^{(d)}$  and  $\Lambda_d$ . Such a bijection admits a direct combinatorial construction.

**7.2. Examples for  $d = 4$  and  $d = 5$ .** The sequence  $C_n^{(4)}$  starts as follows:

$$1, 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 11, 14, 21, 25, \dots$$

The sequence  $C_n^{(5)}$  starts as follows:

$$1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 11, 15, 21, \dots$$

We note that none of the sequences  $C_n^{(d)}$  for  $d \geq 4$  appeared on [OEIS] before. However, as noted, they are simple cumulative sums of classical sequences.

**7.3. Relation to partition function.** Recall the classical *partition function*  $P(n)$  which gives, for  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , the number of partitions of  $n$ , see the sequence A000041 in [OEIS]. One general observation for the numbers  $C_{n,h}^{(d)}$  is the following:

**Proposition 32.** *If  $n - h < d$  and  $2(n - h) < n$ , then  $C_{n,h}^{(d)} = P(n - h)$ .*

*Proof.* To prove the assertion we construct a bijective map between  $I(\mathbf{ne}(1)) \cap \Lambda_d^{(h)}$  and the set of all partitions of  $n - h$ .

For  $\mathbf{v} \in \Lambda_d$ , set  $\alpha(v) = v_2 + 2v_3 + 3v_4 + \dots$ . For  $i, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, d\}$  such that  $i + j < d$ , we have  $(i + j - 1) - (i - 1) - (j - 1) = 1$ . Therefore for such values of  $i$  and  $j$  and for any  $\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \in \Lambda_d$  we have  $\alpha(\mathbf{v}) = \alpha(\mathbf{w}) + 1$  provided that

$$\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{e}(i + j) - \mathbf{e}(i) - \mathbf{e}(j).$$

Note that  $\mathbf{e}(i + j) - \mathbf{e}(i) - \mathbf{e}(j) \in X_d$ .

Assume now that  $n - h < d$  and  $\mathbf{v} \in I(\mathbf{ne}(1))$  is of height  $h$ . Then  $\mathbf{v}$  is obtained from  $\mathbf{ne}(1)$  by adding  $h$  vectors from  $X_d$  of the form  $\mathbf{e}(i + j) - \mathbf{e}(i) - \mathbf{e}(j)$  for some  $i$  and  $j$  as above. Therefore  $(v_2, v_3, \dots)$  is a partition of  $n - h$ . Since  $n - h$  is fixed, the map  $\mathbf{v} \mapsto (v_2, v_3, \dots)$  from  $I(\mathbf{ne}(1)) \cap \Lambda_d^{(h)}$  to the set of all partitions of  $n - h$  is injective.

To prove surjectivity of the map assume that  $n - h = x_2 + 2x_3 + 3x_4 + \dots$  for some non-negative  $x_2, x_3, \dots$ . We proceed by induction on  $n - h$ . If  $n - h = 0$ , surjectivity of our map is obvious. To prove the induction step, we write  $k = i + j$  for some  $1 \leq i, j \leq k - 1$  and consider the partition of  $n - h - 1$  given by decreasing  $x_k$  by 1, increasing  $x_i$  by 1 and increasing  $x_j$  by 1 (if  $i = j$ , the outcome is that  $x_i$  is increased by 2). From the combination of the inductive assumption and the condition  $2(n - h) < n$ , it follows that the resulting partition of  $n - h - 1$  is in the image of our map. Applying the definition of  $\prec$  it follows that the original partition of  $n - h$  is also in the image of our map. This completes the proof.  $\square$

**Problem 33.** Find a closed formula for  $C_{n,h}^{(d)}$  for all  $d, n, h$ .

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