Catalan words avoiding pairs of length three patterns

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Abstract

Catalan words are particular growth-restricted words counted by the eponymous integer sequence. In this article we consider Catalan words avoiding a pair of patterns of length 3, pursuing the recent initiating work of the first and last authors and of S. Kirgizov where (among other things) the enumeration of Catalan words avoiding a patterns of length 3 is completed. More precisely, we explore systematically the structural properties of the sets of words under consideration and give enumerating results by means of recursive decomposition, constructive bijections or bivariate generating functions with respect to the length and descent number. Some of the obtained enumerating sequences are known, and thus the corresponding results establish new combinatorial interpretations for them.

1 Introduction and notation

Catalan words are particular growth-restricted words and they represent still another combinatorial class counted by the Catalan numbers, see for instance [11, exercise 6.19.u, p. 222]. This paper contributes to a recent line of research on classical pattern avoidance on words subject to some growth restrictions (for instance, ascent sequences [2, 5], inversion sequences [4, 9, 13], restricted growth function [3, 8]) by investigating connections between sequences on the On-line Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences [10] and Catalan words avoiding two patterns of length 3.

Through this paper we consider words over the set of non-negative integers and we denote such words by sequences (for instance $w_1w_2...w_n$) or by italicized boldface letter (for instance w and u). The word $w = w_1w_2...w_n$ is called *Catalan word* if

$$w_1 = 0$$
 and $0 \le w_i \le w_{i-1} + 1$ for $i = 2, 3, \ldots, n$.

Catalan words are in bijection with maybe the most celebrated combinatorial class having the same enumerating sequence: Dyck paths¹. Indeed, in a length 2n Dyck path collecting for the up steps the ordinates of their starting points we obtain a length n Catalan word, and this construction is a bijection. See Figure 1 where this bijection is depicted for an example. We denote by C_n the set of length n Catalan words and $c_n = |C_n|$ is the *n*th Catalan number $\frac{1}{n+1} {2n \choose n}$.

A pattern is a word with the property that if *i* occurs in it, then so does *j*, for any *j* with $0 \le j < i$. A pattern $\pi = \pi_1 \pi_2 \dots \pi_k$ is said to be contained in the word $w = w_1 w_2 \dots w_n$, $k \le n$, if there is a sub-word of $w, w_{i_1} w_{i_2} \dots w_{i_k}$, order-isomorphic with $\pi_1 \pi_2 \dots \pi_k$. If w does not contain π , we say that w avoids π , see for instance Kitaev's seminal book [6] on this topic.

For a pattern π , we denote by $C_n(\pi)$ the set of length n Catalan words avoiding π , and $c_n(\pi) = |C_n(\pi)|$ is the cardinality of $C_n(\pi)$ and $C(\pi) = \bigcup_{n \ge 0} C_n(\pi)$. For example, $C_n(101)$ is the set of Catalan words avoiding 101, that is, the set of words w in C_n such that there are no i, j and $k, 1 \le i < j < k \le n$, with $w_i = w_k > 0$

¹A Dyck path is a path in the first quadrant of the plane which begins at the origin, ends at (2n, 0), and consists of up steps (1, 1) and down steps (1, -1).

 w_j . So, $C_4(101) = \{0000, 0001, 0010, 0011, 0012, 0100, 0110, 0111, 0112, 0120, 0121, 0122, 0123\}$. Likewise, if π is the set of patterns $\{\alpha, \beta, \ldots\}$, then $C_n(\pi)$ and $C_n(\alpha, \beta, \ldots)$ denote both the set of length n Catalan words avoiding each pattern in π ; and $c_n(\pi) = c_n(\alpha, \beta, \ldots)$ and $C(\pi) = C(\alpha, \beta, \ldots)$ have similar mining as above. A *descent* in a word $w = w_1w_2 \ldots w_n$ is a position $i, 1 \le i \le n-1$, with $w_i > w_{i+1}$. The (ordinary) generating function of a set of pattern avoiding Catalan words $C(\pi)$ is the formal power series

$$C_{\pi}(x) = \sum_{n \ge 0} c_n(\pi) x^n = \sum_{\boldsymbol{w} \in \mathcal{C}(\pi)} x^{|\boldsymbol{w}|},$$

where |w| is the length of the word w. In our case of generating function approach for counting classes of pattern avoiding Catalan words we consider the descent number as an additional statistic obtaining 'for free' the bivariate generating function

$$C_{\pi}(x,y) = \sum_{\boldsymbol{w} \in \mathcal{C}(\pi)} x^{|\boldsymbol{w}|} y^{\operatorname{des}(\boldsymbol{w})}$$

where des(w) is the number of descents of w. With these notations, the coefficient of $x^n y^k$ in $C_{\pi}(x, y)$ is the number of Catalan words of length n avoiding π and having k descents, and for a set S of Catalan words S(x) and S(x, y) have similar meaning.

For a word $w = w_1 w_2 \dots w_n$ and an integer a, we denote by (w + a) the word obtained from w by increasing by a each of its entries, that is, the word $(w_1 + a)(w_2 + a) \dots (w_n + a)$. In our constructions we will often make use of two particular families of Catalan words: those avoiding 10 (i.e., with no descents) and we call these words *weakly increasing* (or *w.i* for short) *Catalan words*; and those avoiding 00 (and thus necessarily avoiding 10) and we call these words *strictly increasing* (or *s.i* for short) *Catalan words*. It is easy to see that for each length $n \ge 1$ there are 2^{n-1} w.i. Catalan words and one s.i. Catalan word.

The remaining of this paper is structured as follows. In Section 2 we consider classes of Catalan words avoiding both a length two and a length three pattern. In the next sections we discuss Catalan words avoiding two patterns of length three, in increasing order of their complexity: obvious cases (Section 3), cases counted via recurrences (Section 4) and cases counted via generating functions (Section 5); these results are summarized in Table 2. We conclude with some remarks and further research directions.

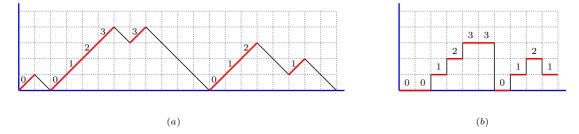


Figure 1: (a) A Dyck path where each up step is labeled by the ordinate of its starting point; and (b) its corresponding Catalan word 0012330121.

2 Avoiding a length two and a length three pattern

There are three patterns of length two, namely 00, 01 and 10, and we have:

Proposition 1. The number of Catalan words avoiding a pattern of length two and a pattern π of length three is given by:

$$c_n(00,\pi) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \pi = 012 \text{ and } n \ge 3, \\ 1 & \text{elsewhere;} \end{cases} \qquad c_n(01,\pi) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \pi = 000 \text{ and } n \ge 3, \\ 1 & \text{elsewhere;} \end{cases}$$
$$c_n(10,\pi) = \begin{cases} F_n & \text{if } \pi = 000, \\ n & \text{if } \pi \in \{001, 011, 012\}, \\ 2^{n-1} & \text{elsewhere,} \end{cases}$$

where F_n is the nth Fibonacci number defined by $F_0 = F_1 = 1$ and $F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}$, $n \ge 2$.

Proof. If $\boldsymbol{w} \in C_n(00)$, then $\boldsymbol{w} = 012\cdots(n-1)$. Thus, $C_n(00,\pi) = \{012\cdots(n-1)\}$ except when $\pi = 012$ and in this case $C_n(00,\pi) = \emptyset$ for $n \ge 3$, and the counting relation for $C_n(00,\pi)$ follows. Similarly, if $\boldsymbol{w} \in C_n(01)$, then $\boldsymbol{w} = 00\cdots 0$. Thus, $C_n(01,\pi) = \{000\cdots 0\}$ except when $\pi = 000$ and in this case $C_n(01,\pi) = \emptyset$ for $n \ge 3$.

Finally, a Catalan word avoids 10 if and only if it avoids 010. It follows that $c_n(10, \pi) = c_n(010, \pi)$, witch falls in the case of avoidance of two length 3 patterns and the corresponding proofs are given in the next section, see also Table 2.

3 Trivial cases

Superfluous patterns

If the pattern τ contains the pattern σ , then clearly $C_n(\sigma, \tau) = C_n(\sigma)$; but this phenomenon can occur even when σ and τ are not related by containment and in this case, following [2], we say that τ is a *superfluous pattern* for σ . For example, any word in $C_n(012)$ is a binary word, and thus any pattern with at least three different symbols is a superfluous pattern for 012. In Table 1 are listed all pairs of superfluous patterns of length three. It is worth to mention that superfluousness is a transitive relation, for instance 201 is superfluous for 021 which in turn is superfluous for 011. So, a pattern can be superfluous for several other ones, for instance $\tau = 201$ is superfluous for each of the patterns 001, 010, 011, 012, 021, 101, 120. Also it is easy to see that if τ is superfluous for σ , then τ is larger lexicographically than σ .

σ	000	001	010	011	012	021	101	110	120
	100	101	021	021	021	201	102	210	201
		102	100	101	102	210	201		210
		201	101	102	120				
au			102	110	201				
			110	201	210				
			120	210					
			201						
			210						

Table 1: In each column, each pattern τ is superfluous for the pattern σ .

Ultimately constant sequences

It can happen that the number of Catalan words avoiding a pair of length 3 patterns is constant for enough long words. The only two such cases are given below.

Proposition 2.
$$c_n(000, 011) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = 1, \\ 2 & \text{if } n = 2, \\ 3 & \text{if } n \ge 3; \end{cases}$$
 and $c_n(000, 012) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = 1, \\ 2 & \text{if } n = 2, \\ 3 & \text{if } n = 3 \text{ or } n = 4, \\ 0 & \text{if } n \ge 5. \end{cases}$

Proof. If $n \ge 3$, then $C_n(000, 011) = \{0x, x0, x(n-1)\}$ where x is the word $01 \cdots (n-2)$, and the first point follows.

If a Catalan word avoids 012, then it is a binary word. In addition if its length is larger than 4 it necessarily contains three identical entries, and so $C_n(000, 012) = \emptyset$ for $n \ge 5$. Considering the initial values of $c_n(000, 012)$ the second point follows.

Counting sequence n

Proposition 3. If π is one of the pairs of patterns {001, 010}, {001, 011}, {001, 012}, {010, 011}, {010, 012} or {011, 012}, then $c_n(\pi) = n$.

Proof. The proof is based on the easy to understand description given below for the corresponding sets of Catalan words:

π	$\mathcal{C}_n(\pi)$	π	${\cal C}_n(\pi)$
$\{001, 010\}$	$\{012\cdots jj\cdots j:0\leq j\leq n-1\}$	$\{010, 011\}$	$\{0^j 1 2 \cdots (n-j) : 1 \le j \le n\}$
$\{001, 011\}$	$\{012 \cdots j0 \cdots 0 : 0 \le j \le n-1\}$	$\{010, 012\}$	$\{0^{j+1}1^{n-j-1} : 0 \le j \le n-1\}$
$\{001, 012\}$	$\{01^{j}0^{n-j-1} : 0 \le j \le n-1\}$	$\{011, 012\}$	$\{0^n\} \cup \{0^j 10^{n-j-1} : 1 \le j \le n-1\}$

4 Counting via recurrence

Counting sequence 2(n-1)

Proposition 4. If $\pi = \{011, 100\}$ or $\pi = \{011, 120\}$, then $c_n(\pi) = 2(n-1)$ for $n \ge 2$ (Sequence A005843 in [10]).

Proof. If $\pi = \{011, 100\}$ and $\boldsymbol{w} \in \mathcal{C}_n(\pi), n \geq 2$, then either

 $- w = 0^k u, 0 \le k \le n - 1$, with u a s.i. Catalan word (of length at least one), or

 $- w = 0^k u_{0,0} \le k \le n - 3$, with u a s.i. Catalan word (of length at least two).

In the first case there are *n* possibilities for w and n-2 possibilities in the second case, and the result holds. If $\pi = \{011, 120\}$ and $w \in C_n(\pi)$, $n \ge 2$, then either

 $- \boldsymbol{w} = 0^k \boldsymbol{u}, 0 \le k \le n-1$, with \boldsymbol{u} a s.i. Catalan word, or

 $- \boldsymbol{w} = 0^k 10^{n-k-1}, 1 \le k \le n-2,$

and as previously the result holds.

Sequences involving 2^n

Proposition 5. If
$$\pi = \{000, 101\}$$
, then $c_n(\pi) = 2^{n-1}$ for $n \ge 1$ (A000079 in [10]).

Proof. If a Catalan word avoids 101, then it is unimodal (that is, it can be written not necessarily in a unique way as uv with u a weakly decreasing and v weakly decreasing word). In addition, if the word avoids 000, then its maximal value occurs at most twice, and when it occurs twice this happens in consecutive positions. We denote by \mathcal{D}_n the subset of words in $\mathcal{C}_n(\pi)$ where the maximal entry occurs once and by \mathcal{E}_n that where it occurs twice, $d_n = |\mathcal{D}_n|$, $e_n = |\mathcal{E}_n|$, and $c_n(\pi) = d_n + e_n$. Any word $w = w_1 \cdots mm \cdots w_{n-1} \in \mathcal{E}_{n-1}$ with its maximal value m occurring twice can be extended into a word in \mathcal{D}_n by one of the transformations:

$$\boldsymbol{w} \mapsto w_1 \cdots m(m+1)m \cdots w_{n-1}$$
, and

$$\boldsymbol{w} \mapsto w_1 \cdots mm(m+1) \cdots w_{n-1},$$

and any word $w = w_1 \cdots m \cdots w_{n-1} \in \mathcal{D}_{n-1}$ with its maximal value *m* occurring once can be extended into a word in \mathcal{D}_n by:

$$\boldsymbol{w} \mapsto w_1 \cdots m(m+1) \cdots w_{n-1}.$$

Conversely, any word in \mathcal{D}_n , $n \ge 2$, can uniquely be obtained from a word in \mathcal{D}_{n-1} or in \mathcal{E}_{n-1} by applying one of the transformations above, so

$$d_n = 2 \cdot e_{n-1} + d_{n-1}$$

for $n \ge 2$. Reasoning in a similar way we have

$$e_n = 2 \cdot e_{n-2} + d_{n-2}$$

Thus, for $n \ge 3$, $e_n = d_{n-1}$, and finally

$$c_n(\pi) = d_n + e_n = 2 \cdot (d_{n-1} + e_{n-1}) = 2 \cdot c_{n-1}(\pi),$$

and with the initial conditions $c_1(\pi) = 1$ and $c_2(\pi) = 2$, the result follows.

Proposition 6. If $\pi = \{101, 210\}$ or $\pi = \{102, 120\}$, then $c_n(\pi) = (n-1) \cdot 2^{n-2} + 1$ for $n \ge 2$ (A005183 in [10]).

Proof. If $\pi = \{101, 210\}$ and $w \in C_n(\pi)$, $n \ge 3$, then either

- $\boldsymbol{w} = 0\boldsymbol{u}$ with $\boldsymbol{u} \in \mathcal{C}_{n-1}(\pi)$, or
- $\boldsymbol{w} = 0(\boldsymbol{u}+1)$ with $\boldsymbol{u} \in \mathcal{C}_{n-1}(\pi)$, or
- $\boldsymbol{w} = 0(\boldsymbol{u}+1)0^{n-k-1}$ with \boldsymbol{u} a w.i. Catalan word of length $k, 1 \le k \le n-2$.

The number of words in each of the first two cases is $c_{n-1}(\pi)$. The number of length k w.i. Catalan words is 2^{k-1} , so the number of words in the last case is

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n-2} 2^{k-1} = \sum_{k=0}^{n-3} 2^k = 2^{n-2} - 1.$$

Thus, $c_n(\pi) = 2c_{n-1}(\pi) + 2^{n-2} - 1$, and after calculation the result holds.

- If $\pi = \{102, 120\}$ and $w \in \mathcal{C}_n(\pi), n \geq 3$, then either
 - $\boldsymbol{w} = 0\boldsymbol{u}$ with $\boldsymbol{u} \in \mathcal{C}_{n-1}(\pi)$, or
 - $\boldsymbol{w} = 0(\boldsymbol{u}+1)$ with $\boldsymbol{u} \in \mathcal{C}_{n-1}(\pi)$, or
 - $\boldsymbol{w} = 01\boldsymbol{u}$ with \boldsymbol{u} a length (n-2) binary word other than $11\cdots 1$.

The number of words in each of the first two cases is $c_{n-1}(\pi)$, and the number of words in the last case is $2^{n-2} - 1$. So $c_n(\pi) = 2c_{n-1}(\pi) + 2^{n-2} - 1$, and again the result holds.

Proposition 7. If π is one of the pairs of patterns {021, 100}, {021, 101}, {101, 110} or {101, 120}, then $c_n(\pi) = 2^n - n$ for $n \ge 0$ (A000325 in [10]).

Proof. If $\pi = \{021, 100\}$ and $\boldsymbol{w} \in \mathcal{C}_n(\pi), n \ge 4$, then either

- -w is a w.i. Catalan word, or
- w = u0 with u a w.i. Catalan word of length (n 1) other than $00 \cdots 0$, or
- w = 0v0(u+1) where v is w.i. binary word ending by 1 and u is a w.i. Catalan word of length k, $1 \le k \le n-3$.

In the first case the number of words w is 2^{n-1} and in the second case the number of words w is $2^{n-2} - 1$. In last case the number of words w is

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n-3} (n-k-2) \cdot 2^{k-1} = 2^{n-2} - (n-1).$$

Combining these cases and considering the initial values of $c_n(\pi)$ the result holds.

If $\pi = \{021, 101\}$ and $w \in C_n(\pi), n \ge 2$, then either

 $- \boldsymbol{w} = \boldsymbol{u}0$ with $\boldsymbol{u} \in \mathcal{C}_{n-1}(\pi)$, or

 $- w = 0^{n-k}(u+1)$ with u a w.i. Catalan word of length $k, 1 \le k \le n-1$.

The number of words in the first case is $c_{n-1}(\pi)$ and the number of words in the second case is $\sum_{k=1}^{n-1} 2^{k-1} = 2^{n-1} - 1$. So $c_n(\pi) = c_{n-1}(\pi) + 2^{n-1} - 1$ and after calculation the result follows.

If $\pi = \{101, 110\}$ and $\boldsymbol{w} \in \mathcal{C}_n(\pi), n \geq 3$, then either

- $\boldsymbol{w} = 0\boldsymbol{u}$ with $\boldsymbol{u} \in \mathcal{C}_{n-1}(\pi)$, or
- $\boldsymbol{w} = 0(\boldsymbol{u}+1)$ with $\boldsymbol{u} \in \mathcal{C}_{n-1}(\pi)$, or
- $w = u0^{n-k}$ with u a s.i. Catalan word of length $k, 2 \le k \le n-1$.

The number of words w in each of the first two cases is $c_{n-1}(\pi)$. For the last case, for each k there is exactly one word w, so their number is (n-2) in this case. So $c_n(\pi) = 2c_{n-1}(\pi) + n - 2$ and after calculation the result holds.

If $\pi = \{101, 120\}$ and $\boldsymbol{w} \in \mathcal{C}_n(\pi), n \geq 3$, then either

$$oldsymbol{w}=0oldsymbol{u}$$
 with $oldsymbol{u}\in\mathcal{C}_{n-1}(\pi),$ or

-
$$\boldsymbol{w} = 0(\boldsymbol{u}+1)$$
 with $\boldsymbol{u} \in \mathcal{C}_{n-1}(\pi)$, or

 $- \boldsymbol{w} = 01^k 0^{n-k-1}, 1 \le k \le n-2.$

So, again $c_n(\pi) = 2c_{n-1}(\pi) + n - 2$.

Proposition 8. If $\pi = \{021, 120\}$, then $c_n(\pi) = (n+2) \cdot 2^{n-3}$ for $n \ge 3$ (A045623 in [10]).

Proof. If $\boldsymbol{w} \in \mathcal{C}_n(\pi)$, $n \geq 4$, then either

- $\ {\boldsymbol w} = 0 {\boldsymbol u} 0$ with ${\boldsymbol u}$ a length (n-2) binary word, or
- $\boldsymbol{w} = 0(\boldsymbol{u}+1)$ with \boldsymbol{u} a length (n-1) w.i. Catalan word, or
- $\boldsymbol{w} = 0\boldsymbol{u}0(\boldsymbol{v}+1)$ with \boldsymbol{u} a binary word and \boldsymbol{v} w.i. Catalan word.

The number of words in each of the first two cases is 2^{n-2} and the number of words in the last case is

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n-2} 2^{n-k-2} 2^{k-1} = (n-2)2^{n-3},$$

and so $c_n(\pi) = 2^{n-1} + (n-2)2^{n-3}$, which gives the desired result.

If a Catalan word avoids both 102 and 110, then it has at most one descent. In the second part of the proof of the next proposition we need the following technical lemma which gives the number of Catalan words in $C_n(102, 110)$ with one descent and avoiding the pattern 00 before the descent (note that in this case avoiding 00 is equivalent to avoiding equal consecutive entries). The set of these words is empty for $n \leq 2$, it is the single word set $\{010\}$ for n = 3, and $\{0100, 0101, 0120, 0121\}$ for n = 4.

Lemma 1. Let \mathcal{D}_n be the set of words in $\mathcal{C}_n(102, 110)$ having one descent and avoiding 00 before the descent. Then $|\mathcal{D}_n| = \frac{n}{6}(n-1)(n-2)$.

Proof. A word belongs to \mathcal{D}_n , $n \geq 3$, if and only if it can be written as

$$012\ldots(k-1)a(\boldsymbol{u}+a),$$

with $2 \le k \le n-1$ (k is the position of the unique descent in the word), $a \in \{0, 1, \dots, k-2\}$, and u is a length (n-k-1) w.i. Catalan word over $\{0,1\}$. For each choice of k, there are k-1 choices for a, and for each choice for a there are n-k choices for u. It follows that

$$|\mathcal{D}_n| = \sum_{k=2}^{n-1} (k-1) \cdot (n-k),$$

and after calculation the statement holds.

Proposition 9. If $\pi = \{021, 102\}$ or $\pi = \{102, 110\}$, then $c_n(\pi) = 3 \cdot 2^{n-1} - \frac{1}{2}(n+1)(n+2) + n$ for $n \ge 1$ (A116702 in [10]).

Proof. If $\pi = \{021, 102\}$ and $\boldsymbol{w} \in \mathcal{C}_n(\pi), n \geq 3$, then either

- $\boldsymbol{w} = 0 \boldsymbol{u}$ with \boldsymbol{u} a length (n-1) binary word, or
- $w = 0 \cdots 0(u+1)0 \cdots 0$ with u a length $k, 2 \le k \le n-1$, w.i. Catalan word other than $00 \cdots 0$ and w beginning by at least one 0.

The number of words in the first case is 2^{n-1} and the number of those in the second case is

$$\sum_{k=2}^{n-1} (2^{k-1} - 1) \cdot (n-k) = 3 \cdot 2^{n-1} - \frac{1}{2}(n+1)(n+2) + n,$$

and combining the two cases the result holds.

If $\pi = \{102, 110\}$ and $\boldsymbol{w} \in \mathcal{C}_n(\pi)$, then either

- -w is a w.i. Catalan word, the number of such words is 2^{n-1} , or
- $\boldsymbol{w} \in \mathcal{D}_n$, with \mathcal{D}_n defined in Lemma 1, or
- -w = u(v + m), where u is a w.i. Catalan word of length $k, 1 \le k \le n 3$, m is the maximal (rightmost) entry of u, and v is a word belonging to \mathcal{D}_{n-k} .

Indeed, the first case corresponds to words with no descents, the second one to those with a descent and no occurrences of 00 before the descent, and the third one to those with both descent and occurrences of 00 before the descent (the rightmost such occurrence is in positions k and k + 1). By Lemma 1, the number of words in the third case is

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n-3} 2^{k-1} \cdot (n-k) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{6}(n-k)^2 - \frac{1}{2}(n-k) + \frac{1}{3}\right) = 2^n - \frac{1}{6}(n+1)(n^2 - n + 6).$$

Finally, combining the three previous cases the desired result holds.

Sequences involving binomial coefficient

In this part we use the notation

$$ab\cdots cde \cdots f {\begin{subarray}{c} \uparrow \\ \uparrow \\ i \end{subarray}}$$

to denote that the entry d is in position i in the word $ab \cdots cde \cdots f$.

Proposition 10. If $\pi = \{001, 210\}$, then $c_n(\pi) = \binom{n}{2} + n$ for $n \ge 3$ (A000125 in [10]).

Proof. If $w \in C_n(\pi)$, then it has at most one descent.

If w has no descents, then it has the form $w = 01 \cdots (m-1)m \cdots m$ and there are n such words. If w has one descent, then it has the form $w = 01 \cdots (m-1)m \cdots mk \cdots k$ with $0 \le k < m < n-1$. It follows that there is a bijection between the family of 3-element subsets of $\{0, 1, \ldots, n-1\}$ and the words in $C_n(\pi)$ with one descent:

$$\{k, m, \ell\} \mapsto 0123 \cdots (m-1)m \cdots mk \cdots k.$$

Combining the two cases we have $c_n(\pi) = \binom{n}{3} + n$.

Proposition 11. If π is one of the pairs of patterns {001, 021}, {001, 110}, {001, 120}, {012, 100}, {012, 101} or {012, 110}, then $c_n(\pi) = \binom{n}{2} + 1$ for $n \ge 2$ (A000124 in [10]).

Proof. In any of the six cases for π , the set $C_n(\pi)$ is in bijection with the family S of subsets of $\{2, \ldots, n\}$ with at most two elements. We give below explicit definitions for such bijections, where the empty set is mapped to $0 \cdots 0 \in C_n(\pi)$ by each of them.

If $\pi = \{001, 021\}$ and $\boldsymbol{w} \in \mathcal{C}_n(\pi)$, then either $\boldsymbol{w} = 00\cdots 0$ or for some $m \ge 1$, $\boldsymbol{w} = 0123\cdots(m-1)m^s$ with $s \ge 1$ or $\boldsymbol{w} = 0123\cdots(m-1)m^s0^t$ with $s \ge 1$, $t \ge 1$, and the desired bijection $S \to \mathcal{C}_n(001, 021)$ is

$$\{k\} \mapsto 0123 \cdots (m-1) \underset{\substack{k \\ k=m+1 \\ m}}{\uparrow} \cdots m;$$
$$\{k, j\} \mapsto 0123 \cdots (m-1) \underset{\substack{k=m+1 \\ m}}{\uparrow} \cdots m0 \cdots 0.$$

If $\pi = \{001, 110\}$ and $\boldsymbol{w} \in C_n(\pi)$, then either $\boldsymbol{w} = 00\cdots 0$ or $\boldsymbol{w} = 0123\cdots(m-1)m\cdots m$ with m the maximal entry of \boldsymbol{w} , or $\boldsymbol{w} = 0123\cdots(m-1)m\cdots m\ell\cdots\ell$ with $\ell < m$, and the desired bijection $S \to C_n(001, 110)$ is

$$\{k\} \mapsto 0123 \cdots (m-1) \underset{\substack{k=m+1\\k=m+1}}{m} \cdots m;$$

$$\{k,j\} \mapsto 0123 \cdots (m-1) \underset{\substack{k=m+1\\k=m+1}}{m} \cdots \underset{j}{m} \ell \cdots \ell$$

If $\pi = \{001, 120\}$ and $\boldsymbol{w} \in \mathcal{C}_n(\pi)$, then either $\boldsymbol{w} = 00 \cdots 0$, or for some $m \ge 1$, $\boldsymbol{w} = 0123 \cdots (m-1)m^s$ with $s \ge 1$ or $\boldsymbol{w} = 0123 \cdots (m-1)m^s(m-1)^t$ with $s, t \ge 1$, and the desired bijection $S \to \mathcal{C}_n(001, 120)$ is

$$\begin{cases} k \} \mapsto 0123 \cdots (m-1) \underset{\substack{k=m+1 \\ k=m+1}}{\uparrow} \cdots m; \\ \{k,j\} \mapsto 0123 \cdots (m-1) \underset{\substack{k=m+1 \\ k=m+1}}{\uparrow} \cdots m(m-1) \cdots (m-1).$$

For the next three cases we need the following observation: a Catalan word avoids 012 if and only if it is a binary word (over $\{0, 1\}$) beginning by a 0.

If $\pi = \{012, 100\}$ and $\boldsymbol{w} \in \mathcal{C}_n(\pi)$, then either $\boldsymbol{w} = 0^s 1^t$ with $s \ge 1, t \ge 0$ or $\boldsymbol{w} = 0^s 1^t 01^r$ with $s, t \ge 1$, $r \ge 0$, and the desired bijection $S \to \mathcal{C}_n(012, 100)$ is

$$\{k\} \mapsto 0 \cdots 0 1 \cdots 1; \{k, j\} \mapsto 0 \cdots 0 1 \cdots 1 0 1 \cdots 1. \downarrow k \qquad \uparrow_{k} \qquad \uparrow_{j}$$

If $\pi = \{012, 101\}$ and $\boldsymbol{w} \in \mathcal{C}_n(\pi)$, then either $\boldsymbol{w} = 0^s 1^t$ with $s \ge 1, t \ge 0$ or $\boldsymbol{w} = 0^s 1^t 0^r$ with $s, t \ge 1$, $r \ge 1$, and the desired bijection $S \to \mathcal{C}_n(012, 101)$ is

If $\pi = \{012, 110\}$ and $\boldsymbol{w} \in \mathcal{C}_n(\pi)$, then either $\boldsymbol{w} = 0^s 1^t$ with $s \ge 1, t \ge 0$ or $\boldsymbol{w} = 0^s 10^t 1^r$ with $s, t \ge 1$, $r \ge 0$, and the desired bijection $S \to \mathcal{C}_n(012, 110)$ is

$$\{k\}\mapsto 0\cdots 01\cdots 1;$$

 $\{k,j\}\mapsto 0\cdots 010\cdots 01\cdots 1.$
 $\stackrel{\uparrow}{k} \stackrel{\uparrow}{j}$

Sequences involving Fibonacci(-like) numbers

As in Proposition 1, we consider the sequence of Fibonacci numbers $(F_n)_{n\geq 0}$ defined as $F_0 = 1$, $F_1 = 1$ and $F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}$ for $n \geq 2$.

Proposition 12. If $\pi = \{000, 001\}$ or $\pi = \{000, 010\}$, then $c_n(\pi) = F_n$ for $n \ge 0$ (A00045 in [10]).

Proof. For $\pi = \{000, 001\}$ the proof is up to a certain point similar to that of Proposition 5. A word belonging to $C_n(\pi)$ is unimodal and its maximal entry occurs once or twice in consecutive positions. Let \mathcal{D}_n denote the subset of words in $C_n(\pi)$ where the maximal entry occurs once and \mathcal{E}_n denote that where it occurs twice. If $w \in C_n(\pi)$ has its maximal entry m, then the insertion of (m + 1) after the rightmost occurrence of m in w produces a word in \mathcal{D}_{n+1} , and the insertion of (m + 1)(m + 1) produces a word in \mathcal{E}_{n+2} . It is easy to see that these transformations induce a bijection between $C_n(\pi)$ and \mathcal{D}_{n+1} , and between $C_n(\pi)$ and \mathcal{E}_{n+2} , and thus between $\mathcal{C}_{n-2}(\pi) \cup \mathcal{C}_{n-1}(\pi)$ and $\mathcal{C}_n(\pi)$. It follows that $c_n(\pi)$ satisfies a Fibonacci-like recurrence, and by considering the initial values for $c_n(\pi)$ the result holds.

For $\pi = \{000, 010\}$, a word $w \in C_n(\pi)$ is characterized by: w is w.i. and w does not have three consecutive equal entries. So w can be represented by the binary word $b_1b_2...b_{n-1}$ where $b_i = 1$ iff $w_i = w_{i-1}$. And this representation is a bijection between $C_n(\pi)$ and the set of binary words of length (n-1) without two consecutive 1s, which cardinality is the Fibonacci number, see for instance [12].

Proposition 13. If $\pi = \{001, 100\}$, then $c_n(\pi) = F_{n+1} - 1$ for $n \ge 1$.

Proof. If $\boldsymbol{w} \in \mathcal{C}_n(\pi)$, $n \geq 3$, then either

$$- w = 0 \cdots 0$$
, or

- $\boldsymbol{w} = 0(\boldsymbol{u}+1)$ with $\boldsymbol{u} \in \mathcal{C}_{n-1}(\pi)$, or
- $\boldsymbol{w} = 0(\boldsymbol{u}+1)0$ with $\boldsymbol{u} \in \mathcal{C}_{n-2}(\pi)$.

So, $c_n(\pi)$ satisfies the recurrence $c_n(\pi) = c_{n-1}(\pi) + c_{n-2}(\pi) + 1$ for $n \ge 3$, and solving it we have the desired result.

In the next proposition we will make use of the following relation satisfied by the even index Fibonacci numbers: $F_{2n} = F_{2n-2} + \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} F_{2i}$ for $n \ge 1$.

Proposition 14. If $\pi = \{100, 201\}$, then $c_n(\pi) = F_{2n-2}$ for $n \ge 1$ (A001519 in [10]).

Proof. If $w \in C_n(\pi)$, $n \ge 3$, then either -w = 0u with $u \in C_{n-1}(\pi)$, or

- $\boldsymbol{w} = 0(\boldsymbol{u}+1)$ with $\boldsymbol{u} \in \mathcal{C}_{n-1}(\pi)$, or
- $\boldsymbol{w} = 0(\boldsymbol{u}+1)0$ with $\boldsymbol{u} \in \mathcal{C}_{n-2}(\pi)$, or
- $\boldsymbol{w} = 01^{n-k-2}0(\boldsymbol{u}+1)$ with $\boldsymbol{u} \in \mathcal{C}_k(\pi)$ for some $k, 1 \le k \le n-3$.

In both of the first two cases the number of words w is $c_{n-1}(\pi)$ and in the third case, this number is $c_{n-2}(\pi)$. In the last case, the number of words w is $\sum_{k=1}^{n-3} c_k(\pi)$. So, $c_n(\pi) = 2c_{n-1}(\pi) + c_{n-2}(\pi) + \sum_{k=1}^{n-3} c_k(\pi) = c_{n-1}(\pi) + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} c_k(\pi)$, and with the initial conditions we have $c_n(\pi) = F_{2n-2}$.

The sequence of Pell numbers $(p_n)_{n\geq 0}$ is defined as $p_0 = 0$, $p_1 = 1$ and $p_n = 2p_{n-1} + p_{n-2}$ for $n \geq 2$.

Proposition 15. If $\pi = \{100, 101\}$, then $c_n(\pi)$ is the *n*th Pell number for $n \ge 1$ (A000129 in [10]).

Proof. If $\boldsymbol{w} \in \mathcal{C}_n(\pi)$, $n \geq 2$, then either

- $\boldsymbol{w} = 0\boldsymbol{u}$ with $\boldsymbol{u} \in \mathcal{C}_{n-1}(\pi)$, or
- $\boldsymbol{w} = 0(\boldsymbol{u}+1)$ with $\boldsymbol{u} \in \mathcal{C}_{n-1}(\pi)$, or
- $\boldsymbol{w} = 0(\boldsymbol{u}+1)0$ with $\boldsymbol{u} \in \mathcal{C}_{n-2}(\pi)$.

In both of the first two cases the numbers of words w is $c_{n-1}(\pi)$ and it is $c_{n-2}(\pi)$ in the last case. So, $c_n(\pi)$ satisfies Pell numbers recurrence and considering its initial values the statement holds.

5 Counting via generating function

Here we give bivariate generating functions $C_{\pi}(x, y)$ where the coefficient of $x^n y^k$ is the number of Catalan words of length n having k descents and avoiding π , for each of the remaining pairs π of patterns of length 3. Plugging y = 1 in $C_{\pi}(x, y)$ we obtain $C_{\pi}(x) = C_{\pi}(x, 1)$ where the coefficient of x^n is the number of Catalan words of length n avoiding π . All the obtained enumerating sequences are not yet recorded in [10], except that for: $\pi = \{100, 120\}$ and for $\pi = \{110, 120\}$ (see Corollary 2) and presumably for $\pi = \{100, 210\}$ (see Corollary 14). In almost all the proofs of the next propositions the desired generating function is the solution of a functional equation satisfied by it.

Proposition 16. *If* $\pi = \{000, 021\}$ *, then*

$$C_{\pi}(x,y) = -\frac{x^4y + x^2y + 1}{x^2 + x - 1}.$$

Proof. Here we need the generating function for the Fibonacci numbers $C_{000,010}(x) = \frac{1}{1-x-x^2}$ for the set in Proposition 12. Note that words in C(000,010) have no descents.

Let w be a non-empty word in $C(\pi)$. Then w has one of the following forms:

- w = 0(u+1) where $u \in \mathcal{C}(000, 010)$; the generating function for these words is $x \cdot \frac{1}{1-x-x^2}$,
- -w = 00(u+1) where $u \in C(000, 010)$; the generating function for these words is $x^2 \cdot \frac{1}{1-x-x^2}$,
- -w = 0(u+1)0 where $u \in \mathcal{C}(000, 010)$; the generating function for these words is $y \cdot x^2 \cdot \frac{1}{1-x-x^2}$,

-w = 0.01(u+2) where $u \in C(000, 0.00)$; the generating function for these words is $y \cdot x^4 \cdot \frac{1}{1-x-x^2}$. Combining these cases and adding 1 corresponding to the empty word we have

$$C_{\pi}(x,y) = 1 + x(1+x) \cdot \frac{1}{1-x-x^2} + yx^2(1+x^2) \left(\frac{1}{1-x-x^2}\right),$$

which after calculation gives the desired result.

Corollary 1. *If* $\pi = \{000, 021\}$ *, then*

$$C_{\pi}(x) = -\frac{x^4 + x^2 + 1}{x^2 + x - 1} = 1 + x + 3x^2 + 4x^3 + 8x^4 + 12x^5 + 20x^6 + 32x^7 + O(x^6).$$

Proposition 17. *If* $\pi = \{100, 120\}$ *, then*

$$C_{\pi}(x,y) = -\frac{(x-1)^2}{x^3y - 2x^2 + 3x - 1}.$$

Proof. A word $w \in C(\pi)$ is in one of the following cases:

- -w is a w.i. Catalan word,
- w = u(m-1)(v+m) where u is a w.i. Catalan word other than $00 \cdots 0$, m is the largest (last) entry of u and $v \in C(\pi)$.

The generating function for the words of the first form is $\frac{1-x}{1-2x}$ and the generating function for the words of the second form is

$$\left(\frac{1-x}{1-2x}-\frac{1}{1-x}\right)\cdot x\cdot y\cdot C_{\pi}(x,y).$$

Combining these cases we deduce the functional equation below which solution gives the desired result:

$$C_{\pi}(x,y) = \left(\frac{1-x}{1-2x} - \frac{1}{1-x}\right) \cdot x \cdot y \cdot C_{\pi}(x,y) + \frac{1-x}{1-2x}.$$

Proposition 18. *If* $\pi = \{110, 120\}$ *, then*

$$C_{\pi}(x,y) = -\frac{(x-1)^2}{x^3y - 2x^2 + 3x - 1}.$$

Proof. A word $w \in C(\pi)$ is in one of the following cases:

- -w is a w.i. Catalan word,
- -w = u(m+1)v where u is a non-empty w.i. Catalan word, m is the largest (last) entry of u and v
- is a word of the form $mm \cdots m(x + m + 1)$ with at least one m in its prefix and $x \in C(\pi)$.

The generating function for the words of the first form is $\frac{1-x}{1-2x}$. For the second form, the generating function for the words u is $\frac{1-x}{1-2x} - 1 = \frac{x}{1-2x}$.

For the second form, the generating function for the words u is $\frac{1-x}{1-2x} - 1 = \frac{x}{1-2x}$, and the generating function for the words $mm \cdots m(x+m+1)$ is $\frac{x}{1-x} \cdot C_{\pi}(x,y)$. Thus, the generating function for the words of the second form is

$$\frac{x}{1-2x} \cdot x \cdot y \cdot \frac{x}{1-x} \cdot \mathcal{C}_{\pi}(x,y)$$

Combining these cases we deduce the functional equation

$$C_{\pi}(x,y) = \frac{x}{1-2x} \cdot x \cdot y \cdot \frac{x}{1-x} \cdot C_{\pi}(x,y) + \frac{1-x}{1-2x}.$$

The functional equations in the proofs of Propositions 17 and 18 are different but the resulting bivariate generating functions are the same. Instantiating y by 1 in $C_{\pi}(x, y)$ of these propositions we have the next corollary.

Corollary 2. If $\pi = \{100, 120\}$ or $\pi = \{110, 120\}$, then

$$C_{\pi}(x) = -\frac{(x-1)^2}{x^3 - 2x^2 + 3x - 1} = 1 + x + 2x^2 + 5x^3 + 12x^4 + 28x^5 + 65x^6 + 151x^7 + O(x^8),$$

and $c_n(\pi)$ is the sequence A034943 in [10].

Proposition 19. *If* $\pi = \{021, 110\}$ *, then*

$$C_{\pi}(x,y) = -\frac{x^5y + x^4y - x^4 - x^3y + 4x^3 - 6x^2 + 4x - 1}{(2x-1)(x-1)^3}.$$

Proof. A non-empty word in $C(\pi)$ has one of the following forms:

- -0u where $u \in \mathcal{C}(\pi)$; the generating function for these words is $x \cdot C_{\pi}(x, y)$,
- -0(u+1) where u is a non-empty w.i. Catalan word; the generating function for these words is $x \cdot \frac{x}{1-2x}$,
- -01u where u is a non-empty w.i. Catalan word; the generating function for these words is $x^2 \cdot y \cdot \frac{x}{1-2x}$,
- $-u_0\cdots 0$ where u is a s.i. Catalan word of length at least two and w ending by at least one 0; the generating function for these words is $y \cdot \frac{x^4}{(1-x)^2}$.

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Combining these cases and considering the empty word which contributes with 1 to $C_{\pi}(x, y)$, we deduce the functional equation

$$C_{\pi}(x,y) = 1 + x \cdot C_{\pi}(x,y) + x \cdot \frac{x}{1-2x} + x^2 \cdot y \cdot \frac{x}{1-2x} + y \cdot \frac{x^4}{(1-x)^2}.$$

Corollary 3. If $\pi = \{021, 110\}$, then

$$C_{\pi}(x) = -\frac{x^5 + 3x^3 - 6x^2 + 4x - 1}{(2x - 1)(x - 1)^3} = 1 + x + 2x^2 + 5x^3 + 12x^4 + 26x^5 + 53x^6 + 105x^7 + O(x^8).$$

Proposition 20. *If* $\pi = \{110, 201\}$ *, then*

$$C_{\pi}(x,y) = \frac{x^4y - x^3 + 3x^2 - 3x + 1}{(x-1)(x^3y - 2x^2 + 3x - 1)}$$

Proof. A non-empty word in $C(\pi)$ has one of the following forms:

- -0u where $u \in \mathcal{C}(\pi)$; the generating function for these words is $x \cdot C_{\pi}(x, y)$,
- -0(u+1) where u is a non-empty word in $\mathcal{C}(\pi)$; the generating function for these words is $x \cdot (C_{\pi}(x,y)-1)$,
- $-u_0 \cdots 0$ where u is a s.i. Catalan word of length at least 2 and w ending by at least one 0; the generating function for these words is $y \cdot \frac{x^3}{(1-x)^2}$,
- $-010\cdots 0(u+1)$ where u is a non-empty word in $\mathcal{C}(\pi)$ and w beginning by 010; the generating function for these words is $y \cdot x^3 \cdot \frac{1}{1-x} \cdot (C_{\pi}(x) 1)$.

Combining these cases and adding 1 corresponding to the empty word we deduce the functional equation

$$C_{\pi}(x,y) = 1 + x \cdot C_{\pi}(x,y) + x \cdot (C_{\pi}(x,y) - 1) + y \cdot \frac{x^3}{(1-x)^2} + y \cdot x^3 \cdot \frac{1}{1-x} \cdot (C_{\pi}(x,y) - 1).$$

Corollary 4. If $\pi = \{110, 201\}$, then

$$C_{\pi}(x) = \frac{x^4 - x^3 + 3x^2 - 3x + 1}{(x-1)(x^3 - 2x^2 + 3x - 1)} = 1 + x + 2x^2 + 5x^3 + 13x^4 + 32x^5 + 76x^6 + 178x^7 + O(x^8).$$

Proposition 21. *If* $\pi = \{102, 201\}$ *, then*

$$\mathcal{C}_{\pi}(x,y) = \frac{x^5y + x^4y^2 - x^5 - 5x^4y + 5x^4 + 6x^3y - 10x^3 - 2x^2y + 10x^2 - 5x + 1}{(-x+1)(x^2y - x^2 + 2x - 1)(x^2y - 2x^2 + 3x - 1)}.$$

Proof. A non-empty word in $C(\pi)$ has one of the following forms:

- 0u where $u \in C(\pi)$; the generating function for these words is $x \cdot C_{\pi}(x, y)$,
- -0(u+1) where u is a non-empty word in $C(\pi)$; the generating function for these words is $x \cdot (C_{\pi}(x,y)-1)$,
- $-0(v+1)0\cdots 0$ where u is a non-empty word in $\mathcal{C}(\pi)$ and w ending by at least one 0; the generating function for these words is $y \cdot x^2 \cdot \frac{1}{1-x} \cdot (C_{\pi}(x,y)-1)$,
- $01 \cdots 1u$ where u is a binary word beginning by a 0 and different from $0 \cdots 0$, or equivalently, u a word in C(012) other than $0 \cdots 0$; the generating function for these words is $\frac{x^2}{1-x} \cdot y \cdot \left(C_{012}(x,y) \frac{1}{1-x}\right) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot y \cdot \left(C_{012}(x,y) \frac{1}{1-x}\right)$

$$\frac{x^2 \cdot y}{1 - x} \cdot \left(\frac{1 - x + x^2 - x^2 y}{1 - 2x + x^2 - x^2 y} - \frac{1}{1 - x}\right), \text{ see Theorem 4 in [1]}$$

Combining these cases and adding 1 corresponding to the empty word we deduce the functional equation

$$C_{\pi}(x,y) = 1 + x \cdot C_{\pi}(x,y) + x \cdot (C_{\pi}(x,y) - 1) + \frac{x^2 \cdot y}{1 - x} \cdot (C_{\pi}(x,y) - 1) + \frac{x^2 \cdot y}{1 - x} \cdot \left(\frac{1 - x + x^2 - x^2y}{1 - 2x + x^2 - x^2y} - \frac{1}{1 - x}\right).$$

Corollary 5. If $\pi = \{102, 201\}$, then

$$C_{\pi}(x) = \frac{x^4 - 4x^3 + 8x^2 - 5x + 1}{(x-1)(2x-1)(x^2 - 3x + 1)} = 1 + x + 2x^2 + 5x^3 + 14x^4 + 40x^5 + 113x^6 + 314x^7 + O(x^8).$$

Proposition 22. *If* $\pi = \{100, 110\}$ *, then*

$$C_{\pi}(x,y) = \frac{x^4y - x^4 + 2x^3 - 2x + 1}{(x-1)(x^3y - 2x^3 + x^2 + 2x - 1)}.$$

Proof. A non-empty word in $C(\pi)$ has one of the following forms:

- 0*u* where $u \in C(\pi)$; the generating function for these words is $x \cdot C_{\pi}(x, y)$,
- -0(u+1) where u is a non-empty word in $C(\pi)$; the generating function for these words is $x \cdot (C_{\pi}(x,y)-1)$,
- u(m+1)(m+2)v where u and v are non-empty s.i. Catalan words, m is the largest entry of u and the length of v is less than or equal to that of u; the generating function for these words is $y \cdot x^4 \cdot (x+1) \cdot \frac{1}{(1-x^2)^2}$,
- u(m+1)u(v+m+1) where u is a non-empty s.i. Catalan word, m is the largest entry of u and $v \in C(\pi)$; the generating function for these words is $y \cdot x^3 \cdot \frac{1}{1-x^2} \cdot C_{\pi}(x,y)$.

Combining these cases and adding 1 corresponding to the empty word we deduce the functional equation

$$C_{\pi}(x,y) = 1 + x \cdot C_{\pi}(x,y) + x \cdot (C_{\pi}(x,y) - 1) + y \cdot x^{4} \cdot \frac{(x+1)}{(1-x^{2})^{2}} + y \cdot x^{3} \cdot \frac{1}{1-x^{2}} \cdot C_{\pi}(x,y).$$

Corollary 6. If $\pi = \{100, 110\}$, then

$$C_{\pi}(x) = \frac{-2x^3 + 2x - 1}{(x - 1)(x^3 - x^2 - 2x + 1)} = 1 + x + 2x^2 + 5x^3 + 12x^4 + 28x^5 + 64x^6 + 145x^7 + O(x^8).$$

Proposition 23. *If* $\pi = \{000, 110\}$ *, then*

$$C_{\pi}(x,y) = \frac{x^3y + x^3 - x^2 - x + 1}{(-x+1)(x^3 - x^2y - x^2 - x + 1)}$$

Proof. A non-empty word in $C(\pi)$ has one of the following forms:

- -0(u+1) where $u \in C(\pi)$; the generating function for these words is $x \cdot C_{\pi}(x, y)$,
- uu(v + m + 1) where u is a non-empty s.i. Catalan word, m is the largest (last) entry of u and $v \in C(\pi)$; the generating function for these words is $y \cdot \frac{x^2}{1-x^2} \cdot C_{\pi}(x, y)$,
- u(m+1)v where u and m are as above, and v is a non-empty s.i. Catalan word of length less than that of u; the generating function for these words is $y \cdot x^3 \cdot (1+x) \cdot \frac{1}{(1-x^2)^2}$.

Combining these cases and adding 1 corresponding to the empty word we deduce the functional equation

$$C_{\pi}(x,y) = 1 + x \cdot C_{\pi}(x,y) + y \cdot \frac{x^2}{1-x^2} \cdot C_{\pi}(x,y) + y \cdot x^3 \cdot (1+x) \cdot \frac{1}{(1-x^2)^2}.$$

Corollary 7. If $\pi = \{000, 110\}$, then

$$C_{\pi}(x) = \frac{2x^3 - x^2 - x + 1}{(-x+1)(x^3 - 2x^2 - x + 1)} = 1 + x + 2x^2 + 4x^3 + 8x^4 + 15x^5 + 28x^6 + 51x^7 + O(x^8).$$

Proposition 24. If $\pi = \{000, 102\}$ or $\pi = \{000, 201\}$, then

$$C_{\pi}(x,y) = \frac{yx^2 - 1}{yx^4 + yx^2 + x^2 + x - 1}$$

Proof. If $\pi = \{000, 102\}$, then a non-empty word in $\mathcal{C}(\pi)$ has one of the following forms:

- -0(u+1) where $u \in C(\pi)$; the generating function for these words is $x \cdot C_{\pi}(x, y)$,
- -00(u+1) where $u \in \mathcal{C}(\pi)$; the generating function for these words is $x^2 \cdot C_{\pi}(x, y)$,
- -0(u+1)0 where u is a non-empty word in $C(\pi)$; the generating function for these words is $y \cdot x^2 \cdot (C_{\pi}(x,y)-1)$,

-01(u+2)01 where $u \in \mathcal{C}(\pi)$; the generating function for these words is $y \cdot x^4 \cdot C_{\pi}(x, y)$.

Similarly, if $\pi = \{000, 201\}$ and w is a non-empty word in $C(\pi)$, then w has either one of the first three forms above, or

 $- \boldsymbol{w} = 0101(\boldsymbol{u}+2)$ where $\boldsymbol{u} \in \mathcal{C}(\pi)$; the generating function for these words is $y \cdot x^4 \cdot C_{\pi}(x,y)$. In both cases we obtain the functional equation

$$C_{\pi}(x,y) = 1 + x \cdot C_{\pi}(x,y) + x^{2} \cdot C_{\pi}(x,y) + y \cdot x^{2} \cdot (C_{\pi}(x,y) - 1) + y \cdot x^{4} \cdot C_{\pi}(x,y).$$

Corollary 8. If $\pi = \{000, 102\}$ or $\pi = \{000, 201\}$, then

$$C_{\pi}(x) = \frac{x^2 - 1}{x^4 + 2x^2 + x - 1} = 1 + x + 2x^2 + 4x^3 + 9x^4 + 18x^5 + +38x^6 + 78x^7 + O(x^8).$$

Proposition 25. *If* $\pi = \{000, 120\}$ *, then*

$$C_{\pi}(x,y) = -\frac{x^4y + x^3y + 1}{x^4y + x^2 + x - 1}.$$

Proof. A non-empty word in $C(\pi)$ has one of the following forms:

-0(u+1) where $u \in C(\pi)$; the generating function for these words is $x \cdot C_{\pi}(x, y)$,

-00(u+1) where $u \in C(\pi)$; the generating function for these words is $x^2 \cdot C_{\pi}(x, y)$,

- 0101(u+2) where $u \in C(\pi)$; the generating function for these words is $y \cdot x^4 \cdot C_{\pi}(x, y)$.

Apart from these general cases, there are two other fixed length ones:

- 010; the corresponding generating function is $y \cdot x^3$,

- 0110; the corresponding generating function is $y \cdot x^4$. Combining these cases and adding 1 corresponding to the empty word we deduce the functional equation

$$C_{\pi}(x,y) = 1 + x \cdot C_{\pi}(x,y) + x^{2} \cdot C_{\pi}(x,y) + y \cdot x^{4} \cdot C_{\pi}(x,y) + y \cdot x^{3} + y \cdot x^{4}.$$

Corollary 9. If $\pi = \{000, 120\}$, then

$$C_{\pi}(x) = -\frac{x^4 + x^3 + 1}{x^4 + x^2 + x - 1} = 1 + x + 2x^2 + 4x^3 + 8x^4 + 13x^5 + 23x^6 + 40x^7 + O(x^8).$$

Proposition 26. *If* $\pi = \{201, 210\}$ *, then*

$$C_{\pi}(x,y) = \frac{x^4y - 2x^4 - 3x^3y + 7x^3 + x^2y - 9x^2 + 5x - 1}{(2x-1)(x-1)(x^2y - 2x^2 + 3x - 1)}.$$

Proof. A non-empty word w in $C(\pi)$ has one of the following forms:

- -0u where $u \in \mathcal{C}(\pi)$; the generating function for these words is $x \cdot C_{\pi}(x, y)$,
- -0(u+1) where u is a non-empty word in $C(\pi)$; the generating function for these words is $x \cdot (C_{\pi}(x,y)-1)$,
- $-01\cdots 1u$ where u is a non-empty word in $C(\pi)$ and 01 is a prefix of w; the generating function for these words is $y \cdot \frac{x^2}{1-x} \cdot (C_{\pi}(x,y)-1)$,
- -0(u+1)0...0 where u is a w.i. Catalan word other than 0...0 and w ending by a 0; the generating function for these words is $y \cdot \frac{x^2}{1-x} \cdot (\frac{1-x}{1-2x} \frac{1}{1-x})$.

Combining these cases and adding 1 corresponding to the empty word we deduce the functional equation

$$C_{\pi}(x,y) = 1 + x \cdot C_{\pi}(x,y) + x \cdot (C_{\pi}(x,y)-1) + y \cdot \frac{x^2}{1-x} \cdot (C_{\pi}(x,y)-1) + y \cdot \frac{x^2}{1-x} \cdot \left(\frac{1-x}{1-2x} - \frac{1}{1-x}\right).$$

Corollary 10. If $\pi = \{201, 210\}$, then

$$C_{\pi}(x) = \frac{x^4 - 4x^3 + 8x^2 - 5x + 1}{(x - 1)(2x - 1)(x^2 - 3x + 1)} = 1 + x + 2x^2 + 5x^3 + 14x^4 + 40x^5 + 113x^6 + 314x^7 + O(x^8).$$

Proposition 27. If $\pi = \{102, 210\}$, then

$$C_{\pi}(x,y) =$$

$$\frac{2x^7y - 2x^7 + 13x^6 - 10x^6y - x^6y^2 - 36x^5 + 19x^5y + 55x^4 - 17x^4y - 50x^3 + 7x^3y + 27x^2 - yx^2 - 8x + 1}{(x-1)^3(2x-1)^2(x^2y - x^2 + 2x - 1)}$$

Proof. A non-empty word w in $C(\pi)$ has one of the following forms:

- -0u where $u \in \mathcal{C}(\pi)$; the generating function for these words is $x \cdot C_{\pi}(x, y)$,
- -0(u+1) where u is a non-empty word in $\mathcal{C}(\pi)$; the generating function for these words is x. $(C_{\pi}(x,y)-1),$
- $01 \cdots 1u$ where u is a non-empty word in $\mathcal{C}(012)$, and w begins by 01; the generating function for these words is $y \cdot \frac{x^2}{1-x} \cdot (C_{012}(x,y)-1) = y \cdot \frac{x^2}{1-x} \cdot (\frac{1-x+x^2-x^2y}{1-2x+x^2-x^2y}-1)$ (see Theorem 4 in [1] for the generating function of $C_{012}(x,y)$),
- -0(u+1)v where u is a w.i. Catalan word of length at least 2 different from $0\cdots 0$ and v is a nonempty word in $\mathcal{C}(010, 012)$ (see Proposition 3); the generating function for these words is $x \cdot (\frac{1-x}{1-2x})$ $\frac{1}{1-x}) \cdot y \cdot C_{010,012}(x,y) = y \cdot x \cdot \frac{x}{(1-x)^2} \cdot (\frac{1-x}{1-2x} - \frac{1}{1-x}).$ Combining these cases and adding 1 corresponding to the empty word we deduce the functional equation

$$C_{\pi}(x,y) = 1 + x \cdot C_{\pi}(x,y) + x \cdot (C_{\pi}(x,y)-1) + y \cdot \frac{x^2}{1-x} \cdot \left(\frac{1-x+x^2-x^2y}{1-2x+x^2-x^2y}-1\right) + y \cdot \frac{x^2}{(1-x)^2} \cdot \left(\frac{1-x}{1-2x}-\frac{1}{1-x}\right).$$

Corollary 11. If $\pi = \{102, 210\}$, then

$$C_{\pi}(x) = \frac{2x^6 - 17x^5 + 38x^4 - 43x^3 + 26x^2 - 8x + 1}{(x-1)^3(2x-1)^3}$$

= 1 + x + 2x^2 + 5x^3 + 14x^4 + 40x^5 + 111x^6 + 295x^7 + O(x^8)

Proposition 28. If $\pi = \{100, 102\}$, then

$$C_{\pi}(x,y) = \frac{x^5y - x^4y - x^3 + 2x^3y + 3x^2 - x^2y - 3x + 1}{(x-1)(x^4y - x^3y - 2x^2 + x^2y + 3x - 1)}.$$

Proof. A non-empty word in $\mathcal{C}(\pi)$ has one of the following forms:

- -0u where $u \in \mathcal{C}(\pi)$; the generating function for these words is $x \cdot C_{\pi}(x, y)$,
- -0(u+1) where u is a non-empty word in $\mathcal{C}(\pi)$; the generating function for these words is x. $(C_{\pi}(x, y) - 1),$
- -0(u+1)0 where u is as above; the generating function for these words is $y \cdot x^2 \cdot (C_{\pi}(x,y)-1)$,
- $011 \cdots 1(u+2)01$ where u is as above; the generating function for these words is $y \cdot \frac{x^4}{1-x}(C_{\pi}(x,y)-x)$ 1),

-uv where u and v are binary words of length at least 2 of the form $011 \cdots 1$; the generating function for these words is $y \cdot \frac{x^4}{(1-x)^2}$. Combining these cases and adding 1 corresponding to the empty word we deduce the functional equation

$$C_{\pi}(x,y) = 1 + x \cdot C_{\pi}(x,y) + x \cdot (C_{\pi}(x,y)-1) + y \cdot x^{2} \cdot (C_{\pi}(x,y)-1) + y \cdot \frac{x^{4}}{1-x} (C_{\pi}(x,y)-1) + y \cdot \frac{x^{4}}{(1-x)^{2}}.$$

Corollary 12. If $\pi = \{100, 102\}$, then

$$C_{\pi}(x) = \frac{x^5 - x^4 + x^3 + 2x^2 - 3x + 1}{(x-1)(x^4 - x^3 - x^2 + 3x - 1)} = 1 + x + 2x^2 + 5x^3 + 13x^4 + 34x^5 + 87x^6 + 220x^7 + O(x^8).$$

In the proof of the next proposition we need the following lemma where the generating functions for some particular subsets of $\mathcal{C}(000, 210)$ are given.

Lemma 2. The bivariate generating function corresponding to

- 1. the set \mathcal{A} of words uu with u a non-empty s.i. Catalan word is $A(x,y) = x^2 + yx^2 \cdot \frac{x^2}{1-x^2}$ and $A(x) = \frac{x^2}{1-x^2};$
- 2. the set \mathcal{B} of words uv with u and v non-empty s.i. Catalan words and the length of v is less than or equal to that of u is $B(x, y) = y \cdot \frac{x^2}{1-x^2} \cdot \frac{1}{1-x}$;
- 3. the set \mathcal{D} of words uv with u and v non-empty s.i. Catalan words and the length of v is less than that of \boldsymbol{u} is $D(x,y) = y \cdot \frac{x^2}{1-x^2} \cdot \frac{x}{1-x}$.

Proof. 1. For any even n there is exactly one word of this form, so the monovariate corresponding generating function is $\frac{x^2}{1-x^2}$; and only words of length larger than two have one descent. 2. The transformation $(uu, x) \mapsto uxu$ where $uu \in \mathcal{A}$ and x is a s.i. Catalan word defines a bijection

between pairs of such words and \mathcal{B} , and thus $B(x,y) = y \cdot A(x) \cdot \frac{1}{1-x}$.

3. Similarly as point 2.

Proposition 29. If $\pi = \{000, 210\}$, then

$$\mathcal{C}_{\pi}(x,y) = -\frac{(x+1)(x^3+x^3y-2x+1)}{(x^4-x^4y+x^3-2x^2-x+1)(x^2+x-1)}$$

Proof. A non-empty word in C(000, 210) has one of the following forms:

- u with $u \in \mathcal{D}$ and \mathcal{D} as in Lemma 2; the generating function for these words is $D(x, y) = y \cdot \frac{x^2}{1-x^2}$. $\frac{x}{1-x}$,
- u(m+1)(m+1)(x+m+2)v with u and v non-empty s.i. Catalan words and the length of v is less than or equal to that of \boldsymbol{u} , m is the largest entry of \boldsymbol{u} , and $\boldsymbol{x} \in \mathcal{C}(000, 010)$; the generating function for these words is $B(x, y) \cdot x^2 \cdot \frac{1}{1-x-x^2} = y \cdot \frac{x^2}{1-x^2} \cdot \frac{1}{1-x} \cdot x^2 \cdot \frac{1}{1-x-x^2}$ (see Lemma 2 and Proposition 12),
- 0(u+1) where $u \in C(\pi)$; the generating function for these words is $x \cdot C_{\pi}(x, y)$,
- uu(v + m + 1) where u is a non-empty s.i. Catalan word, m the largest entry of u and $v \in C(\pi)$; the generating function for these words is $A(x, y) \cdot C_{\pi}(x, y)$.

Combining these cases and adding 1 corresponding to the empty word we deduce the functional equation

$$C_{\pi}(x,y) = 1 + y \cdot \frac{x^2}{1-x^2} \cdot \frac{x}{1-x} + y \cdot \frac{x^4}{1-x^2} \cdot \frac{1}{1-x} \cdot \frac{1}{1-x-x^2} + x \cdot C(x,y) + \left(x^2 + y \cdot \frac{x^4}{1-x^2}\right) \cdot C(x,y).$$

Corollary 13. If $\pi = \{000, 210\}$, then

$$C_{\pi}(x) = -\frac{(x+1)(2x^3 - 2x + 1)}{(x^3 - 2x^2 - x + 1)(x^2 + x - 1)} = 1 + x + 2x^2 + 4x^3 + 9x^4 + 18x^5 + 37x^6 + 72x^7 + O(x^8).$$

In the proof of the next proposition we need the following lemma where the generating functions for two subsets of C(100, 210) are given.

Lemma 3.

- 1. The generating function corresponding to the set \mathcal{E} of words uv with u a w.i. Catalan word, v a s.i. Catalan word and the largest entry of v is equal to that of u minus 1 is $\frac{x^3}{(x-1)(x^2+x-1)}$.
- 2. The generating function corresponding to the set \mathcal{F} of words uv with u a w.i. Catalan word, v a s.i. Catalan word and the largest entry of v is less than that of u minus 1 is $\frac{x^3}{(x-1)(x^2+x-1)} \cdot \frac{x}{1-2x}$.
- *Proof.* 1. If \mathcal{E}_n is the set of words of length n in \mathcal{E} , then $\mathcal{E}_n = \emptyset$ for $0 \le i \le 2$, $\mathcal{E}_3 = \{010\}$ and $\mathcal{E}_4 = \{0010, 0110\}$. With \boldsymbol{u} and \boldsymbol{v} as above, for any $n \geq 3$, the transformation

 $uv \mapsto uav$, with a the maximal entry of u, transforms a word in \mathcal{E}_n into one in \mathcal{E}_{n+1} where the maximal entry occurs at least twice,

 $uv \mapsto u(a+1)v(b+1)$, with a and b the maximal entries of u and of v respectively, transforms a word in \mathcal{E}_n into one in \mathcal{E}_{n+2} where the maximal entry occurs once.

Any word in \mathcal{E}_n , $n \ge 5$, except $0 \cdots 010$, can be obtained in a unique way from either a word in \mathcal{E}_{n-1} or in \mathcal{E}_{n-2} by one of these transformations. This yields the recurrence $|\mathcal{E}_n| = 1 + |\mathcal{E}_{n-1}| + |\mathcal{E}_{n-2}|$ for $n \ge 5$, and the desired generating function is precisely that of the sequence $(|\mathcal{E}_n|)_{n>0}$.

2. Any pair of words (w, x) with $w = uv \in \mathcal{E}$ (with u and v as above) and x a non-empty w.i. Catalan word can be transformed into the word $uxv \in \mathcal{F}$, and $(w, x) \mapsto uxv$ is a bijection, so the generating function for \mathcal{F} is that for \mathcal{E} multiplied by $\frac{x}{1-2x}$.

Proposition 30. *If* $\pi = \{100, 210\}$ *, then*

$$C_{\pi}(x,y) = \frac{1-x}{1-2x} - \frac{x^3y}{(2x-1)(2x^3 - x^3y + x^2 - 3x + 1)}.$$

Proof. First we consider only words in $\mathcal{C}(\pi)$ having at least one descent, and we denote by G(x, y) the corresponding generating function, and clearly $C_{\pi}(x,y) = \frac{1-x}{1-2x} + G(x,y)$.

- A word in $\mathcal{C}(\pi)$ with at least one descent has one of the following forms:
- $u\alpha v$ where u and v are both w.i. Catalan words and α belongs to the set \mathcal{E} defined in Lemma 3; the
- generating function for these words is $y \cdot \frac{x^3}{(x-1)(x^2+x-1)} \cdot \left(\frac{1-x}{1-2x}\right)^2$, $u\alpha$ where u is a w.i. Catalan words and α belongs to the set \mathcal{F} defined in Lemma 3; the generating function for these words is $y \cdot \frac{1-x}{1-2x} \cdot \frac{x^3}{(x-1)(x^2+x-1)} \cdot \frac{x}{1-2x}$,
- $u\alpha v$ where u is as above, α belongs to \mathcal{E} and v is a word in $\mathcal{C}(\pi)$ with at least one descent; the generating function for these words is $y \cdot \frac{1-x}{1-2x} \cdot \frac{x^3}{(x-1)(x^2+x-1)} \cdot G(x,y)$.

It follows that G(x, y) satisfies the functional equation

$$G(x,y) = y \cdot \frac{x^3}{(x-1)(x^2+x-1)} \cdot \left(\frac{1-x}{1-2x}\right)^2 + y \cdot \frac{1-x}{1-2x} \cdot \frac{x^3}{(x-1)(x^2+x-1)} \cdot \frac{x}{1-2x} + y \cdot \frac{1-x}{1-2x} \cdot \frac{x^3}{(x-1)(x^2+x-1)} \cdot G(x,y).$$

Finally, solving it and adding the generating function for the Catalan words with no descents (that is, w.i. Catalan words) the statement holds.

Corollary 14. If $\pi = \{100, 210\}$, then

$$C_{\pi}(x) = \frac{x-1}{2x-1} - \frac{x^3}{(2x-1)(x-1)(x^2+2x-1)} = 1 + x + 2x^2 + 5x^3 + 13x^4 + 34x^5 + 88x^6 + 225x^7 + O(x^8)$$

Numerical evidences let us believe that $c_n(100, 210)$ is the sequence A267905 in [10], however we failed to prove this formally.

$\sigma \backslash \tau$	000	001	010	011	012	021	100	101	102	110	120	201	210
000	-	P. 12	P. 12	u.c.	u.c.	<i>C. 1</i>	s	P. 5	<i>C</i> . 8	<i>C</i> . 7	<i>C</i> . 9	<i>C</i> . 8	<i>C. 13</i>
001	-	-	P. 3	P. 3	P. 3	P. 11	P. 13	s	s	P. 11	P. 11	s	P. 10
010	-	-	-	P. 3	P. 3	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s
011	-	-	-	-	P. 3	s	P. 4	s	s	s	P. 4	s	s
012	-	-	-	-	-	s	P. 11	P. 11	s	P. 11	s	s	s
021	-	-	-	-	-	-	P. 7	P. 7	P. 9	<i>C. 3</i>	P. 8	s	s
100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P. 15	<i>C. 12</i>	<i>C</i> . 6	C. 2	P. 14	C. 14
101	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	s	P. 7	P. 7	s	P. 6
102	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P. 9	P. 6	<i>C</i> . 5	<i>C. 11</i>
110	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C. 2	<i>C</i> . 4	s
120	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	s	s
201	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<i>C. 10</i>
210	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 2: Pairs $\{\sigma, \tau\}$ where τ is superfluous for σ are marked by *s* and those yielding ultimately constant enumerating sequences (see Proposition 2) by *u.c.*. The references are to the propositions or the corollaries where the enumerating sequences or generating functions are given. Pairs referred by the same proposition or corollary form a Wilf-equivalence class and enumerating results that are not yet recorded in [10] are italicized.

6 Final remarks

Catalan words are in bijection with Dyck paths (see Figure 1) and thus pattern avoiding Catalan words correspond to restricted Dyck paths. For instance, a Catalan word avoiding 012 corresponds to a Dyck path of height at most two. In this context, it can be of interest to investigate how our results on pattern avoiding Catalan words translate to corresponding restricted Dyck paths.

Even if in this article we restrict ourselves to the avoidance of two patterns of length 3, some classes considered here can be trivially extended to larger length patterns, for instance C(102, 201) = C(01012, 01201). In this light, it can be of interest to explore Catalan words avoiding patterns of length 4 or more, triples of patterns or generalized patterns.

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