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# Asymptotic determinism of Robinson-Schensted-Knuth algorithm

joint work with Dan Romik

Piotr Śniady

# Robinson-Schensted-Knuth algorithm — induction step

74	99		
23	53	69	
5	37	41	82

insertion tableau  $P(\mathbf{x})$

$$\mathbf{x} = (23, 53, 74, 5, 99, 69, 82, 37, 41)$$

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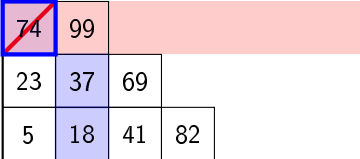
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# Robinson-Schensted-Knuth algorithm — induction step



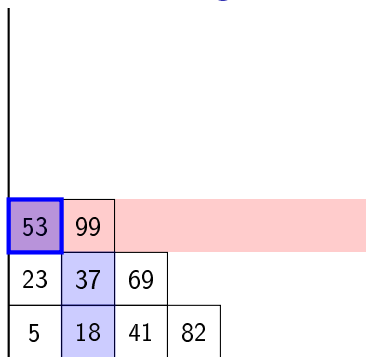
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23	37	69	
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# Robinson-Schensted-Knuth algorithm — induction step

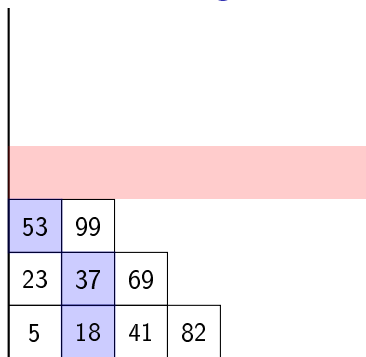


53	99		
23	37	69	
5	18	41	82

insertion tableau  $P(\mathbf{x})$

$$\mathbf{x} = (23, 53, 74, 5, 99, 69, 82, 37, 41, 18)$$

# Robinson-Schensted-Knuth algorithm — induction step



The diagram shows an insertion tableau  $P(\mathbf{x})$  with a red shaded area above it. The tableau is a lower triangular array of boxes. The first row has two boxes: 53 (blue) and 99 (white). The second row has three boxes: 23 (white), 37 (blue), and 69 (white). The third row has four boxes: 5 (white), 18 (blue), 41 (white), and 82 (white). The blue boxes represent the insertion path of the element 18.

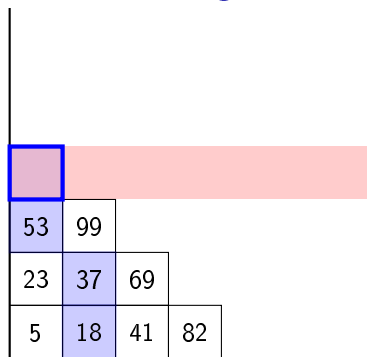
53	99		
23	37	69	
5	18	41	82

insertion tableau  $P(\mathbf{x})$

$$\mathbf{x} = (23, 53, 74, 5, 99, 69, 82, 37, 41, 18)$$



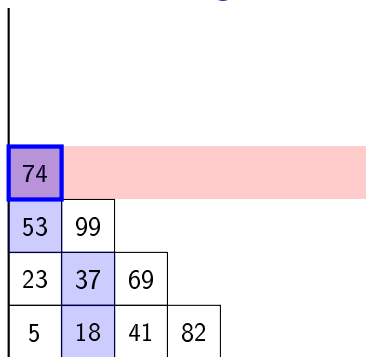
# Robinson-Schensted-Knuth algorithm — induction step



insertion tableau  $P(x)$

$$x = (23, 53, 74, 5, 99, 69, 82, 37, 41, 18)$$

# Robinson-Schensted-Knuth algorithm — induction step

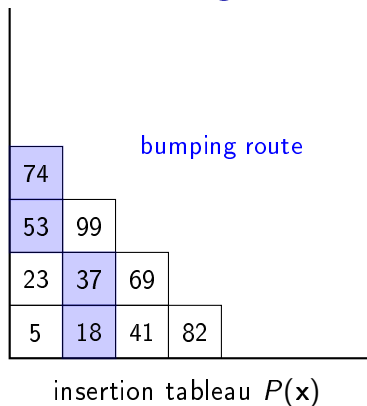


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23	37	69	
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insertion tableau  $P(\mathbf{x})$

$$\mathbf{x} = (23, 53, 74, 5, 99, 69, 82, 37, 41, 18)$$

# Robinson-Schensted-Knuth algorithm — induction step



$$\mathbf{x} = (23, 53, 74, 5, 99, 69, 82, 37, 41, 18)$$

# Robinson-Schensted-Knuth algorithm — induction step

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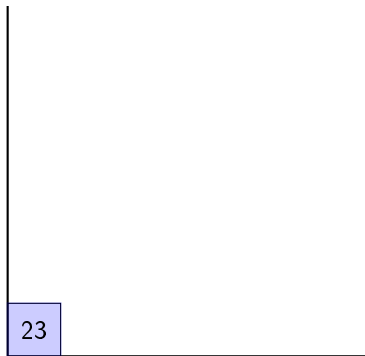
# Robinson-Schensted-Knuth algorithm



insertion tableau  $P(\mathbf{x})$

$$\mathbf{x} = \emptyset$$

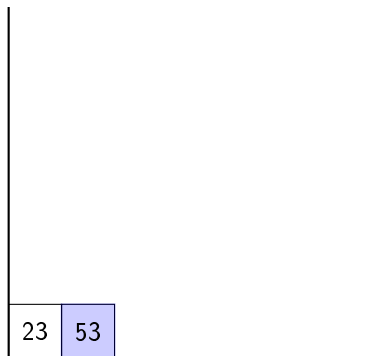
# Robinson-Schensted-Knuth algorithm



insertion tableau  $P(\mathbf{x})$

$$\mathbf{x} = (23)$$

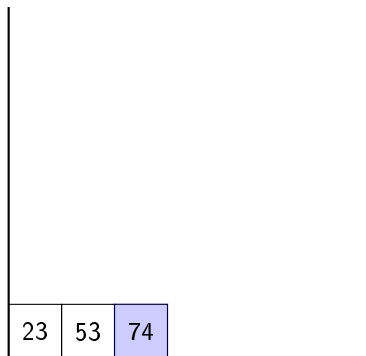
# Robinson-Schensted-Knuth algorithm



insertion tableau  $P(\mathbf{x})$

$$\mathbf{x} = (23, 53)$$

# Robinson-Schensted-Knuth algorithm

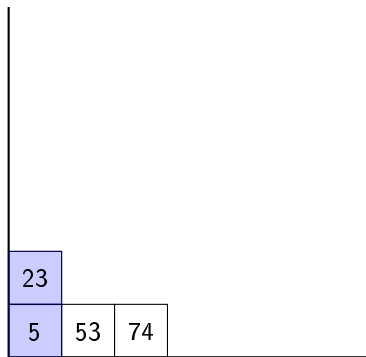


insertion tableau  $P(\mathbf{x})$

$$\mathbf{x} = (23, 53, 74)$$



# Robinson-Schensted-Knuth algorithm



insertion tableau  $P(\mathbf{x})$

$$\mathbf{x} = (23, 53, 74, 5)$$

# Robinson-Schensted-Knuth algorithm

23			
5	53	74	99

insertion tableau  $P(\mathbf{x})$

$$\mathbf{x} = (23, 53, 74, 5, 99)$$

# Robinson-Schensted-Knuth algorithm

23	74		
5	53	69	99

insertion tableau  $P(\mathbf{x})$

$$\mathbf{x} = (23, 53, 74, 5, 99, 69)$$

# Robinson-Schensted-Knuth algorithm

23	74	99	
5	53	69	82

insertion tableau  $P(\mathbf{x})$

$$\mathbf{x} = (23, 53, 74, 5, 99, 69, 82)$$

# Robinson-Schensted-Knuth algorithm

74			
23	53	99	
5	37	69	82

insertion tableau  $P(\mathbf{x})$

$$\mathbf{x} = (23, 53, 74, 5, 99, 69, 82, 37)$$

# Robinson-Schensted-Knuth algorithm

74	99		
23	53	69	
5	37	41	82

insertion tableau  $P(\mathbf{x})$

$\mathbf{x} = (23, 53, 74, 5, 99, 69, 82, 37, 41)$

# Robinson-Schensted-Knuth algorithm

74			
53	99		
23	37	69	
5	18	41	82

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$$\mathbf{x} = (23, 53, 74, 5, 99, 69, 82, 37, 41, 18)$$

# Robinson-Schensted-Knuth algorithm

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23	37	41	
5	18	39	82

insertion tableau  $P(\mathbf{x})$

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# Robinson-Schensted-Knuth algorithm

74	99		
53	69		
23	37	41	82
5	18	39	61

insertion tableau  $P(\mathbf{x})$

$$\mathbf{x} = (23, 53, 74, 5, 99, 69, 82, 37, 41, 18, 39, 61)$$

# Robinson-Schensted-Knuth algorithm

74	99				
53	69				
23	37	41	82		
5	18	39	61	73	

insertion tableau  $P(\mathbf{x})$

$$\mathbf{x} = (23, 53, 74, 5, 99, 69, 82, 37, 41, 18, 39, 61, 73)$$

# Robinson-Schensted-Knuth algorithm

74	99			
53	69	82		
23	37	41	73	
5	18	39	61	66

insertion tableau  $P(\mathbf{x})$

$$\mathbf{x} = (23, 53, 74, 5, 99, 69, 82, 37, 41, 18, 39, 61, 73, 66)$$

# Robinson-Schensted-Knuth algorithm

74				
53	99			
41	69	82		
23	37	39	73	
5	18	22	61	66

insertion tableau  $P(\mathbf{x})$

$$\mathbf{x} = (23, 53, 74, 5, 99, 69, 82, 37, 41, 18, 39, 61, 73, 66, 22)$$

## outlook

- $x_1, x_2, \dots$  independent random variables with uniform distribution on the interval  $[0, 1]$ ;
- insertion tableau  $P_m = P(x_1, \dots, x_m)$ ;

### General problem

*What can we say about (the time evolution of)  
the insertion tableau  $P_m$ ?*

*“with the right scaling of time and space,  
the answer is deterministic (asymptotically)”*

## diffusion of a box

- $\boxed{x_n}(P_m)$  denotes the location of the box containing  $x_n$  in the insertion tableau  $P_m$ , for  $m \geq n$ ;

### Concrete problem 1

*Suppose that  $n$  and  $x_n$  are known;  
what can we say about the time evolution of  $\boxed{x_n}(P_m)$   
for  $m = n, n + 1, \dots$ ?*

# diffusion of a box

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## diffusion of a box

- $\boxed{x_n}(P_m)$  denotes the location of the box containing  $x_n$  in insertion tableau  $P_m$ , for  $m \geq n$ ;

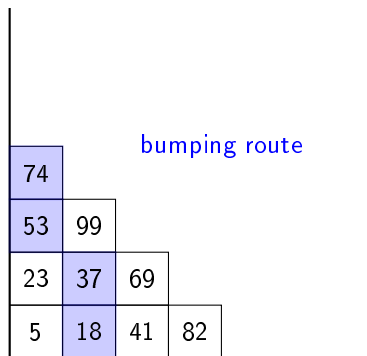
## Theorem

*There exists an explicit function  $G : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+^2$  such that*

$$\frac{\boxed{x_n}(P_{\lfloor ne^\tau \rfloor})}{\sqrt{n} x_n} \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{\text{in probability}} G_\tau \quad \text{for } \tau \geq 0.$$

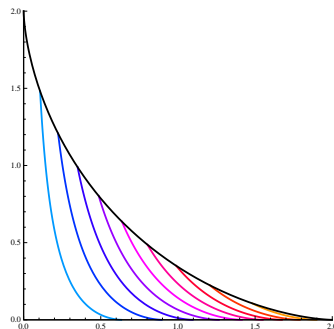
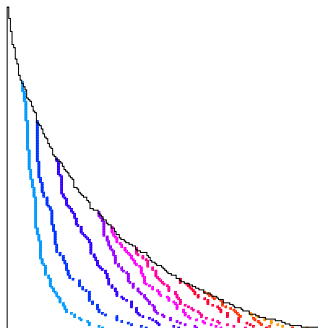
# hydrodynamic limit of RSK

## bumping routes

insertion tableau  $P(\mathbf{x})$ 

$$\mathbf{x} = (23, 53, 74, 5, 99, 69, 82, 37, 41, \underbrace{18}_{x_n})$$

## bumping routes

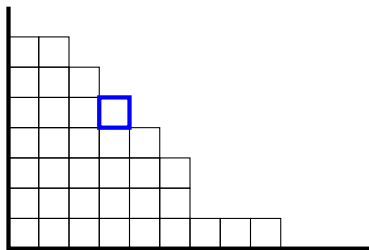


## Theorem

*Bumping route (scaled by factor  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{n} x_n}$ )  
obtained by adding entry  $x_n$  to the tableau  $P_{n-1}$   
converges in probability (as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ) to a deterministic curve  $G_T$ .*

the key result: new box

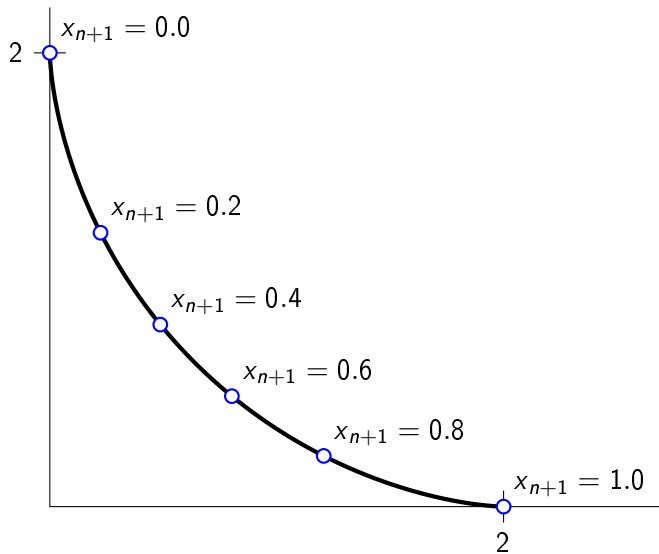
$$P(x_1, \dots, x_n, x_{n+1}) \setminus P(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \left\{ \boxed{\phantom{x}} \right\}$$



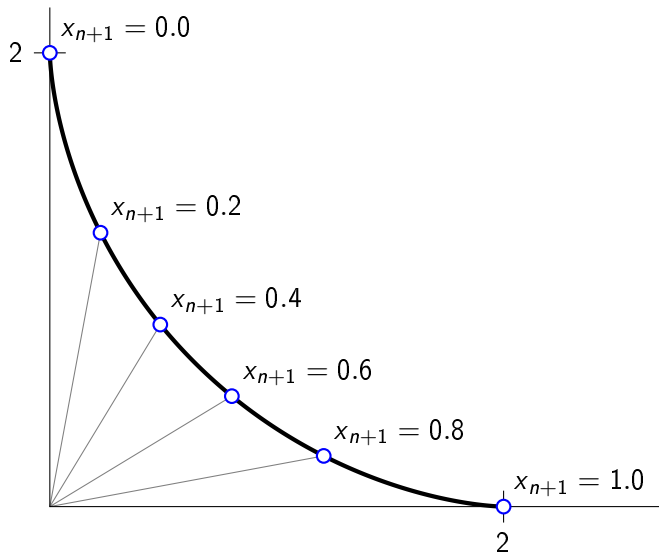
## Theorem

$$\left\| \frac{\boxed{\phantom{x}}}{\sqrt{n}} - (\text{RSKcos } x_{n+1}, \text{RSKsin } x_{n+1}) \right\| \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{\text{in probability}} 0$$

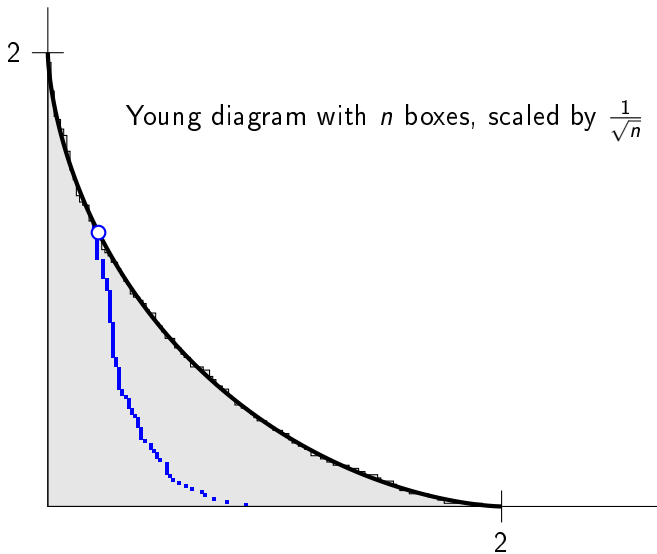
new box



## new box

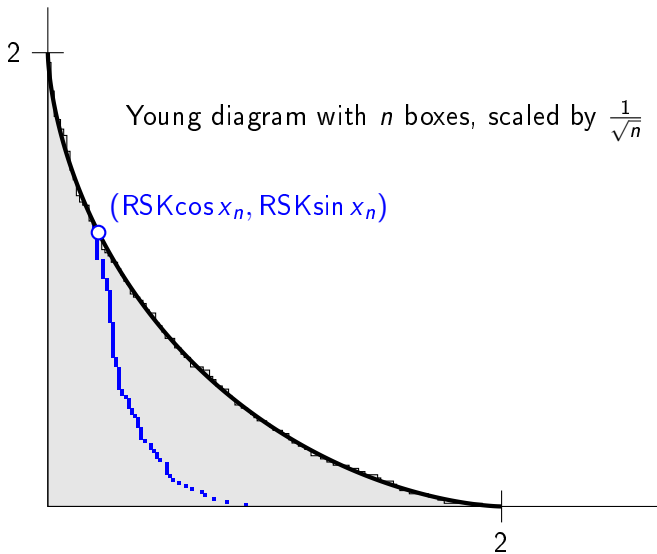


the key result explains the behavior of bumping routes

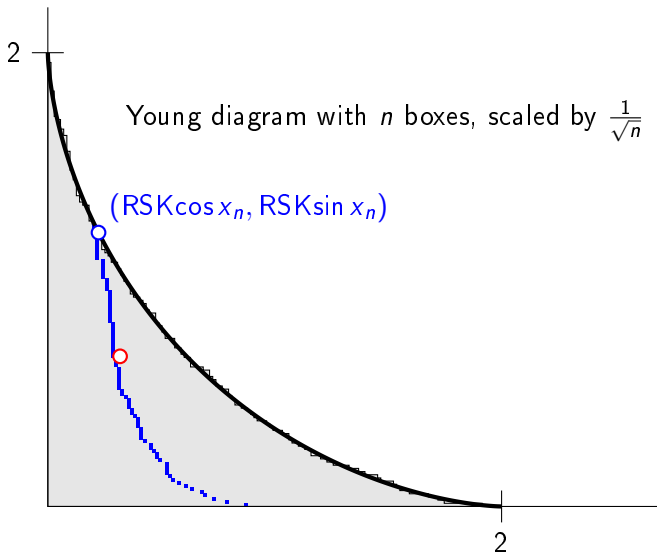




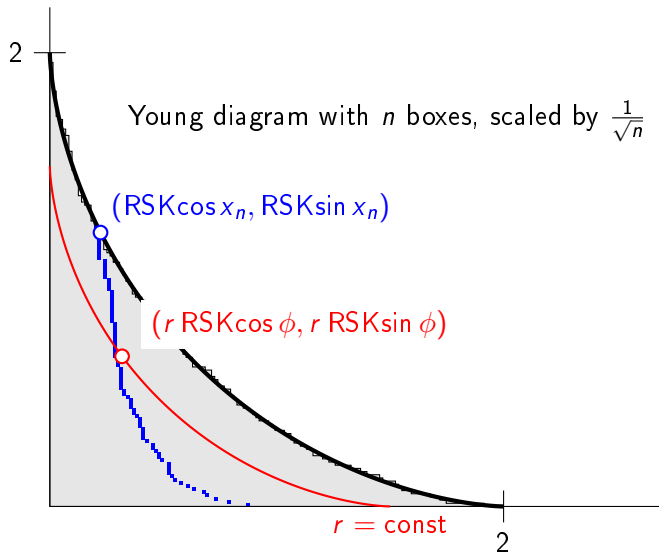
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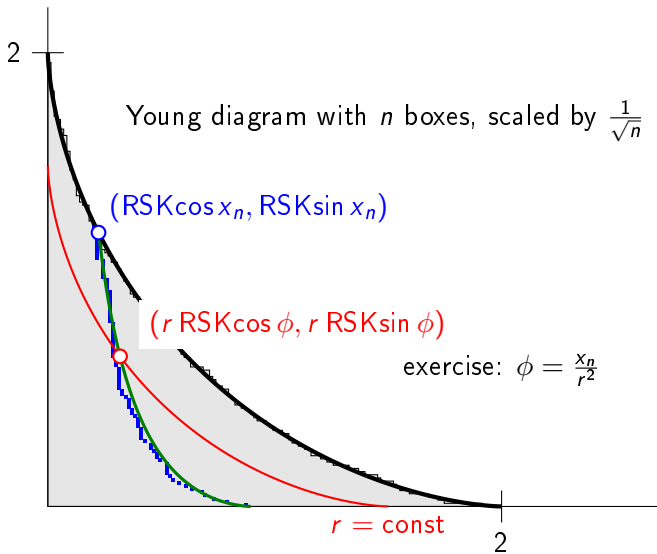
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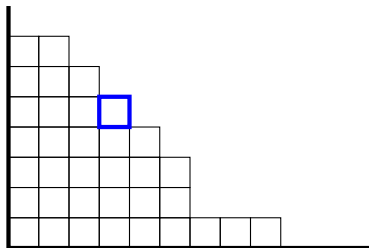
the key result explains the behavior of bumping routes



## proof, part 1 — reduction of problem

instead of (for deterministic  $x_{n+1}$ )

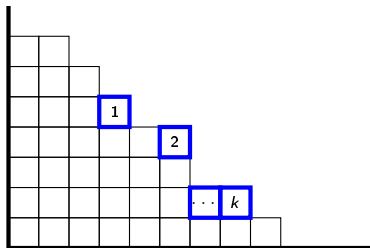
$$P(x_1, \dots, x_n, x_{n+1}) \setminus P(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \{ \square \}$$



## proof, part 1 — reduction of problem

we study (for random  $0 < t_1 < \dots < t_k < 1$ )

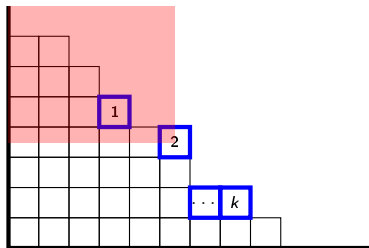
$$P(x_1, \dots, x_n, t_1, \dots, t_k) \setminus P(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \{ \boxed{1}, \dots, \boxed{k} \}$$



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$$P(x_1, \dots, x_n, t_1, \dots, t_k) \setminus P(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \{ \boxed{1}, \dots, \boxed{k} \}$$



if  $x_{n+1} < t_i$  then  $\boxed{\phantom{i}}$  is north-west from  $\boxed{i}$

for  $\frac{i}{k} \approx x_{n+1} + \epsilon$ , this happens with high probability, as  $k \rightarrow \infty$

# representations of the symmetric groups

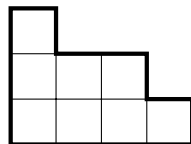
representation  $\rho$  of a group  $G$  is a **homomorphism** to matrices

$$\rho : G \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}_k$$

irreducible representation  $\rho^\lambda$   
of the symmetric group  $S_n$

$\longleftrightarrow$

Young diagram  $\lambda$   
with  $n$  boxes



Littlewood-Richardson coefficients

$$\left( \rho^\lambda \otimes \rho^\mu \right) \uparrow_{S_{|\lambda|} \times S_{|\mu|}}^{S_{|\lambda|+|\mu|}} = \bigoplus_{\nu} c_{\lambda, \mu}^{\nu} \rho^{\nu}$$



## RSK and Littlewood-Richardson coefficients

if  $0 \leq x_1, \dots, x_n \leq 1$  is a random sequence, such that

$$\text{shape of } P(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \lambda;$$

and  $0 \leq t_1, \dots, t_k \leq 1$  is a random sequence, such that

$$\text{shape of } P(t_1, \dots, t_k) = \mu$$

then the random Young diagram

$$\text{shape of } P(x_1, \dots, x_n, t_1, \dots, t_k)$$

has the same distribution as random irreducible component of

$$V^\lambda \otimes V^\mu \uparrow_{S_n \times S_k}^{S_{n+k}}$$

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then the random Young diagram

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$$\text{shape of } P(x_1, \dots, x_n, t_1, \dots, t_k)$$

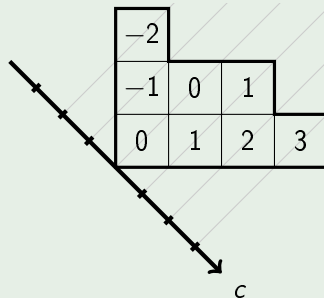
has the same distribution as random irreducible component of

$$V^\lambda \otimes V^{(k)} \uparrow_{S_n \times S_k}^{S_{n+k}}$$

## content of the box

$$\text{content}(\square) = (x\text{-coordinate}) - (y\text{-coordinate})$$

## Example



content of Young diagram =  $(-2, -1, 0, 0, 1, 1, 2, 3)$

## Jucys–Murphy elements

$$X_i = (1, i) + (2, i) + \cdots + (i-1, i) \quad \text{for } i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$$

$X_1, \dots, X_n$  are elements of the symmetric group algebra  $\mathbb{C}(S_n)$

for any Young diagram  $\lambda$  with contents  $(c_1, \dots, c_n)$   
and a symmetric polynomial  $P(x_1, \dots, x_n)$

$$\chi^\lambda(P(X_1, \dots, X_n)) = \frac{\text{Tr } \rho^\lambda(P(X_1, \dots, X_n))}{\text{Tr } \rho^\lambda(1)} = ?$$

## Jucys–Murphy elements

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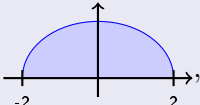
for any Young diagram  $\lambda$  with contents  $(c_1, \dots, c_n)$   
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$$\chi^\lambda(P(X_1, \dots, X_n)) = \frac{\text{Tr } \rho^\lambda(P(X_1, \dots, X_n))}{\text{Tr } \rho^\lambda(1)} = P(c_1, \dots, c_n)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( \chi^\lambda \otimes \chi^\mu \right) \left( P(X_{n+1}, \dots, X_{n+k}) \downarrow_{S_n \times S_k}^{S_{n+k}} \right) \\ & \quad = \mathbb{E} P(c_{n+1}, \dots, c_{n+k}) \end{aligned}$$

## proof, part 2

if  $k \approx \sqrt[4]{n}$ 

$$\frac{1}{k} \left( \delta_{\frac{c_1}{\sqrt{n}}} + \cdots + \delta_{\frac{c_k}{\sqrt{n}}} \right) \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{\text{in probability}} \mu_{SC} =$$


where  $c_i = c(\boxed{i})$ Hint:  $p$ -th moment of the left-hand-side

$$\frac{1}{k} \sum_j \left( \frac{c_j}{\sqrt{n}} \right)^p$$

is a random variable,

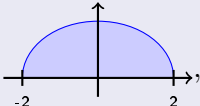
show that the mean converges to  $p$ -th moment of  $\mu_{SC}$ 

show that the variance converges to zero



## proof, part 2

if  $k \approx \sqrt[4]{n}$

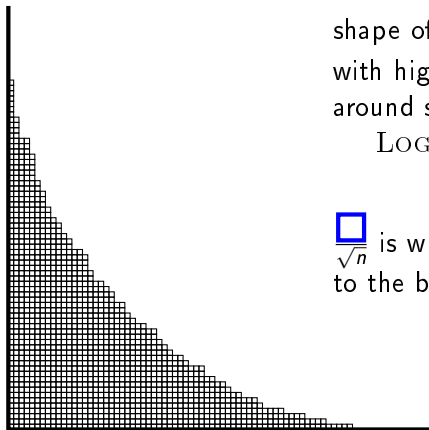
$$\frac{1}{k} \left( \delta_{\frac{c_1}{\sqrt{n}}} + \cdots + \delta_{\frac{c_k}{\sqrt{n}}} \right) \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{\text{in probability}} \mu_{SC} =$$


where  $c_i = c(\boxed{i})$

since  $c_1 < \cdots < c_k$ , this implies that if  $\frac{i}{k} \rightarrow x_{n+1}$  then


$$\frac{c(\boxed{i})}{\sqrt{n}} \xrightarrow{\text{in probability}} F_{\mu_{SC}}^{-1}(x_{n+1})$$

## proof, part 3



shape of  $P_n$  (scaled by factor  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$ )  
with high probability concentrates  
around some explicit shape

LOGAN, SHEPP, VERSHIK, KEROV

  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$  is with high probability close  
to the boundary of this limit shape

## further reading



Dan Romik, Piotr Śniady

Jeu de taquin dynamics on infinite Young tableaux and  
second class particles

Annals of Probability 43 (2015), no. 2, 682–737



Dan Romik, Piotr Śniady

Limit shapes of bumping routes in the Robinson-Schensted  
correspondence

Random Structures Algorithms 48 (2016), no. 1, 171–18