Probabilistic Proofs of Hooklength Formulas

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A hooklength formula involving trees

A probabilistic proof

Generalizations and open questions

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Outline

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Theorem (Han, 2008) For any $n \ge 0$,

$$\sum_{T\in\mathcal{B}(n)}\prod_{\nu\in T}\frac{1}{h_{\nu}2^{h_{\nu}-1}}=\frac{1}{n!}.$$

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Notes.

- 1. The hooklengths appear as exponents.
- 2. Han's proof is algebraic. Our proof is probabilistic.

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Proof Multiplying the above equation by *n*! and using the Hooklength Formula, it suffices to show

$$\sum_{T\in\mathcal{B}(n)}f^T\prod_{\nu\in T}\frac{1}{2^{h_{\nu}-1}}=1.$$

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Algorithm. (a) Let *L* consist of a root labeled 1. (b) While |L| < n, pick a leaf *w* to be added to *L* with label |L| + 1 and prob $w = 1/2^{d_w}$. (c) Output *L*.

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The hooklengths in L and L' are related by

$$h_{v} = \begin{cases} h'_{v} + 1 & ext{if } v ext{ is on the unique root-to-} w ext{ path } P, \\ h'_{v} & ext{ else.} \end{cases}$$

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Theorem (Yang, 2008) *For any n*

$$\sum_{T\in\mathcal{O}(n)}\operatorname{wt}(T)\prod_{v\in T}\frac{1}{h_vm^{h_v-1}}=\frac{1}{n!}.$$

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Note that if m = 2 then

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So wt(T) becomes the number of ways to make T binary and Yang's result implies Han's.

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(d) Han also proved the following result.

Theorem (Han, 2008)

For any n,

$$\sum_{T \in \mathcal{B}(n)} \prod_{v \in T} \frac{1}{(2h_v + 1)2^{2h_v - 1}} = \frac{1}{(2n + 1)!}.$$

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(e) What is the analogue for tableaux of Han's formulas?