



Multiply-refined enumeration of alternating sign matrices

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Abstract

Four natural boundary statistics and two natural bulk statistics are considered for alternating sign matrices (ASMs). Specifically, these statistics are the positions of the 1's in the first and last rows and columns of an ASM, and the numbers of generalized inversions and -1 's in an ASM. Previously-known and related results for the exact enumeration of ASMs with prescribed values of some of these statistics are discussed in detail. A quadratic relation which recursively determines the generating function associated with all six statistics is then obtained. This relation also leads to various new identities satisfied by generating functions associated with fewer than six of the statistics. The derivation of the relation involves combining the Desnanot–Jacobi determinant identity with the Izergin–Korepin formula for the partition function of the six-vertex model with domain-wall boundary conditions.

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Contents

1. Introduction.....	440
2. Definitions and basic properties	442
2.1. Statistics	442
2.2. Generating functions	445
3. Previously-known and related results.....	448
3.1. Bulk parameter $y = 0$	448

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3.2.	Bulk parameters satisfying $y = x + 1$	449
3.3.	Bulk parameters $x = y = 1$	452
3.4.	Arbitrary bulk parameters x and y	458
3.5.	ASM enumeration involving statistics associated with several rows or several columns ...	460
3.6.	ASMs with several rows or columns closest to two opposite boundaries prescribed	463
3.7.	The cases $Z_n(1, 3)$ and $Z_n(1, 3; z)$	464
3.8.	The case $Z_n(1, 1; -1)$	465
3.9.	ASMs with a fixed number of generalized inversions	465
3.10.	ASMs with a fixed number of -1 's	465
3.11.	Objects in simple bijection with ASMs	465
3.12.	Descending plane partitions	466
3.13.	Totally symmetric self-complementary plane partitions	467
3.14.	Loop models	468
3.15.	ASMs invariant under symmetry operations	468
4.	Main results	469
4.1.	Main theorem	469
4.2.	Corollaries for arbitrary bulk parameters x and y	471
4.3.	Corollaries for bulk parameters $x = y = 1$	474
5.	Proofs	476
5.1.	A generalized ASM generating function	476
5.2.	The bijection between ASMs and configurations of the six-vertex model with DWBC	477
5.3.	The partition function of the six-vertex model with DWBC	480
5.4.	The Izergin–Korepin determinant formula	481
5.5.	The Desnanot–Jacobi identity	482
5.6.	Proof of Theorem 1	483
5.7.	Alternative statement of some results of Sections 4.1 and 4.2	485
5.8.	Derivations of (19) and (20)	488
5.9.	Derivation of (73)	488
5.10.	Derivations of (49) and (75)	491
	References	492

1. Introduction

A major focus of attention throughout the history of alternating sign matrices (ASMs) has simply been the derivation of results related to their exact enumeration. Such results typically state that the number of ASMs which satisfy specific conditions, such as having prescribed values of certain statistics or being invariant under certain symmetry operations, is given by an explicit formula or generating function, is equal to the number of combinatorial objects of some other variety satisfying specific conditions, or is equal to a number which arises from a particular physical model.

A few examples of such results, with references to conjectures and initial proofs, are as follows: a formula for the total number of ASMs of any fixed size but with no further conditions applied (Mills, Robbins and Rumsey [108,109], Zeilberger [152], and Kuperberg [97]); a formula for the number of ASMs with a prescribed boundary row or column (Mills, Robbins and Rumsey [108,109], and Zeilberger [153]); formulae for numbers of ASMs invariant under certain natural symmetry operations (Robbins [129,130], Kuperberg [98], Okada [117], and Razumov and Stroganov [125,126]); equalities between numbers of certain ASMs and numbers of certain totally symmetric self-complementary plane partitions (Mills, Robbins and Rumsey [110]), and

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