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ON THE NUMBER OF LATTICE CONVEX CHAINS

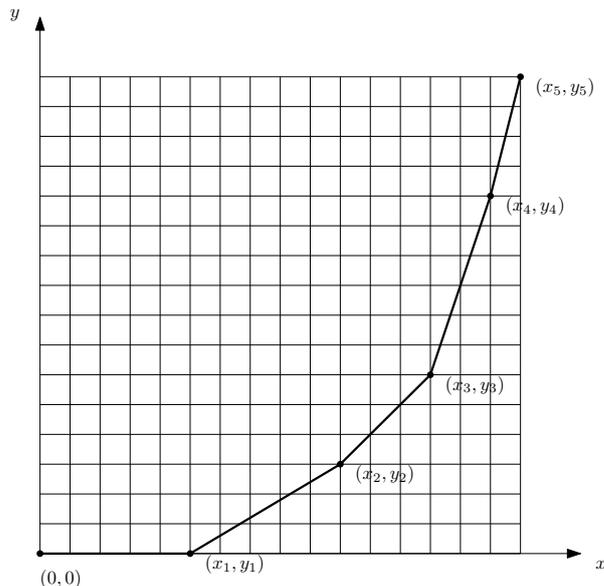
JULIEN BUREAUX AND NATHANAËL ENRIQUEZ

ABSTRACT. An asymptotic formula is presented for the number of planar lattice convex polygonal lines joining the origin to a distant point of the diagonal. The formula involves the non-trivial zeroes of the zeta function and leads to a necessary and sufficient condition for the Riemann Hypothesis to hold.

The paper deals with the enumeration of lattice increasing convex chains starting from the origin and ending at a point (n, n) of the diagonal. Convex chains are defined as finite sequences of points $(x_i, y_i)_{0 \leq i \leq k}$ of \mathbb{Z}^2 satisfying:

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= x_0 < x_1 < x_2 < \dots < x_{k-1} \leq x_k, \\ 0 &= y_0 \leq y_1 < y_2 < \dots < y_{k-1} < y_k, \\ 0 &\leq \frac{y_1 - y_0}{x_1 - x_0} < \dots < \frac{y_k - y_{k-1}}{x_k - x_{k-1}} \leq +\infty. \end{aligned}$$

The point (x_k, y_k) will be called the endpoint of the chain.



In 1979, Arnol'd [1] considered the question of the number of equivalence classes of convex lattice polygons having a prescribed area (we say that two

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polygons having their vertices on \mathbb{Z}^2 are equivalent if one is the image of the other by an affine automorphism of \mathbb{Z}^2). Later, Vershik changed the constraint in this problem and raised the question of the number, and typical shape, of convex lattice polygons included in a large box $[-n, n]^2$. The cornerstone in this problem is the estimation of the number $p(n)$ of convex polygonal chains with vertices in $(\mathbb{Z} \cap [0, n])^2$ and joining $(0, 0)$ to (n, n) (or more generally (n, cn) for some $c > 0$). In 1994, a solution to this problem was found independently by Bárány [2], Vershik [8] and Sinaï [6]. Namely, they showed by different methods that

$$p(n) = \exp\left[3\kappa^{1/3}n^{2/3}(1 + o(1))\right], \quad \text{where } \kappa = \frac{\zeta(3)}{\zeta(2)},$$

and that the limit shape of a typical convex polygonal chain is the arc of parabola tangent to the sides of the square, which maximizes the affine perimeter.

Note that the approach of Sinaï was recently made rigorous and extended by Bogachev and Zarbaliev [4]. This is also this approach that we choose in this paper and we make use of a proposition of this latter paper. Here, we go further and fully exploit Sinaï's probabilistic model by giving an exact integral representation of the partition function and by making a precise asymptotic analysis of it.

The appearance of the values of the Riemann zeta function in the above formula suggests the arithmetic aspects of the problem. In this paper, we establish a connection between the combinatorial analysis of the number of convex chains and the zeroes of Riemann's zeta function.

Theorem. *The number $p(n)$ of lattice convex chains with endpoint (n, n) satisfies*

$$(1) \quad p(n) \sim \frac{e^{-2\zeta'(-1)}}{(2\pi)^{7/6}\sqrt{3}\kappa^{1/18}n^{17/18}} \exp\left[3\kappa^{1/3}n^{2/3} + I_{\text{crit}}\left(\left(\frac{\kappa}{n}\right)^{1/3}\right)\right],$$

where $\kappa = \zeta(3)/\zeta(2)$ and where the function I_{crit} will be defined later by equation (8).

Moreover, under the assumption that the zeroes ρ of the Riemann zeta function inside the critical strip $0 < \Re(\rho) < 1$ are simple, this function can be expressed as

$$(2) \quad I_{\text{crit}}(\beta) = \sum_{\rho} \frac{\Gamma(\rho)\zeta(\rho+1)\zeta(\rho-1)}{\zeta'(\rho)\beta^{\rho}},$$

where the precise meaning of the series will be given by (10).

A straightforward corollary of this theorem is that, if Riemann's Hypothesis was to hold, the oscillatory term $I_{\text{crit}}((\kappa/n)^{1/3})$ inside the exponential would be roughly of order $n^{1/6}$. Both statements are actually equivalent, as we will show in the comments section: the condition

$$(H) \quad \forall \epsilon > 0, \quad \log p(n) = 3\kappa^{1/3}n^{2/3} + O(n^{1/6+\epsilon})$$

holds if and only if Riemann's Hypothesis does.

In [3], Bodini, Duchon, Jacquot and Mutafchiev presented a precise asymptotic analysis of digitally convex polyominoes, based on generating functions and on some version of the circle method. This problem turns out to be strongly related to the enumeration of convex chains. In the last section, we show how a slight modification of Sinai's model makes its treatment possible.

1. A STATISTICAL MECHANICAL MODEL

We start this paper by reminding the correspondence between lattice convex chains and non-negative integer-valued functions on the set of pairs of coprime positive integers.

Let \mathcal{P} be the set of primitive vectors, that is to say the set of all vectors (x, y) whose coordinates are coprime positive integers, including the pairs $(0, 1)$ and $(1, 0)$. As already used in Jarník [5], the space of lattice increasing convex chains starting from the origin is in one-to-one correspondence with the space Ω of nonnegative integer-valued functions $\omega : \mathcal{P} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_+$ with finite support (that is to say, $\omega(\mathbf{v}) \neq 0$ only for finitely many $\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{P}$):

- The function ω associated to the convex chain $(x_i, y_i)_{0 \leq i \leq k}$ is defined for all $\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{P}$ by $\omega(\mathbf{v}) = \gcd(x_{i+1} - x_i, y_{i+1} - y_i)$ if there exists $i \in \{0, \dots, k\}$ such that $(x_{i+1} - x_i, y_{i+1} - y_i)$ is proportional to \mathbf{v} , and $\omega(\mathbf{v}) = 0$ otherwise.
- The inverse map is obtained by adding up the vectors $\omega(\mathbf{v})\mathbf{v}$ by increasing slope order. In particular, the endpoint of the chain is equal to

$$\sum_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{P}} \omega(\mathbf{v})\mathbf{v}.$$

1.1. Description of Sinai's model and overall strategy. We endow the space Ω with Boltzmann-like probability measures depending on two parameters $\beta = (\beta_1, \beta_2) \in (0, +\infty)^2$ and characterized by the fact that the random variables $(\omega(\mathbf{v}))_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{P}}$ are independent and geometrically distributed with parameter $e^{-\beta \cdot \mathbf{v}}$. In this setting,

$$\sum_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{P}} \mathbb{P}_\beta[\omega(\mathbf{v}) \neq 0] < \infty$$

hence the function ω has almost surely finite support and we can write

$$\mathbb{P}_\beta(\omega) = \prod_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{P}} (1 - e^{-\beta \cdot \mathbf{v}}) e^{-\omega(\mathbf{v})\beta \cdot \mathbf{v}} = \frac{1}{Z(\beta)} \exp\left(-\beta \cdot \sum_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{P}} \omega(\mathbf{v})\mathbf{v}\right)$$

where the *partition function* $Z(\beta)$ is equal to

$$(3) \quad Z(\beta) = \prod_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{P}} (1 - e^{-\beta \cdot \mathbf{v}})^{-1}.$$

Since, as noticed above, $\mathbf{X}(\omega) = \sum_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{P}} \omega(\mathbf{v})\mathbf{v}$ is the endpoint of the chain corresponding to ω , we deduce that the conditional distribution induced by \mathbb{P}_β on

the set of convex chains ending at $\mathbf{n} = (n_1, n_2)$ is the uniform distribution. In particular, we obtain the following formula which will be instrumental in the proof:

$$(4) \quad \mathbb{P}_\beta[\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{n}] = p(\mathbf{n}) \frac{e^{-\beta \cdot \mathbf{n}}}{Z(\beta)}$$

In order to get a formula for $p(\mathbf{n})$, our strategy is to choose the two parameters so that $\mathbb{E}_\beta[\mathbf{X}] = \mathbf{n}$. This will indeed lead to an asymptotic equality of $\mathbb{P}_\beta[\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{n}]$ due to a local limit result. Together with the analysis of the partition function, this local limit result will constitute the key of the proof.

1.2. Integral representation of the partition function. It turns out that the Mellin inversion formula leads to an exact integral representation of the logarithmic partition function $\log Z$ of Sinai's model in terms of the Euler Γ function, the Riemann ζ function, and the modified Barnes zeta function

$$\chi(s; \beta) := \sum_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2 \setminus \{0\}} \frac{1}{(\beta \cdot \mathbf{v})^s}, \quad \Re(s) > 2.$$

Lemma 1.1. *For all $\beta = (\beta_1, \beta_2) \in (0, +\infty)^2$,*

$$(5) \quad \log Z(\beta) = \frac{1}{2i\pi} \int_{3-i\infty}^{3+i\infty} \frac{\Gamma(s)\zeta(s+1)}{\zeta(s)} \chi(s; \beta) ds.$$

Proof. We first take logarithms in (3) and then expand in Taylor series,

$$\log Z(\beta) = - \sum_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{P}} \log(1 - e^{-\beta \cdot \mathbf{v}}) = \sum_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{P}} \sum_{m \geq 1} \frac{1}{m} e^{-m\beta \cdot \mathbf{v}}.$$

Now, we make use of the Mellin inversion formula

$$e^{-z} = \frac{1}{2i\pi} \int_{c-i\infty}^{c+i\infty} \Gamma(s) z^{-s} ds,$$

which holds for every real numbers $z > 0$ and $c > 0$. For all $c > 0$, we know, from the exponential decrease of Γ , that its integral on $c + i\mathbb{R}$ is absolutely convergent. Taking $c > 2$ in order to ensure that $\sup_{s \in c+i\mathbb{R}} \sum_{m \geq 1} \left| \frac{1}{m^{s+1}} \right| < \infty$ and $\sup_{s \in c+i\mathbb{R}} \sum_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{P}} \left| \frac{1}{(\beta \cdot \mathbf{v})^s} \right| < \infty$, we can apply Fubini's theorem and write

$$\begin{aligned} \log Z(\beta) &= \frac{1}{2i\pi} \int_{c-i\infty}^{c+i\infty} \sum_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{P}} \sum_{m \geq 1} \frac{1}{m} \frac{\Gamma(s)}{(m\beta \cdot \mathbf{v})^s} ds \\ &= \frac{1}{2i\pi} \int_{c-i\infty}^{c+i\infty} \zeta(s+1) \Gamma(s) \sum_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{P}} \frac{1}{(\beta \cdot \mathbf{v})^s} ds. \end{aligned}$$

To conclude the proof of (5), notice that the partition $\mathbb{Z}_+^2 \setminus \{0\} = \bigsqcup_{d \geq 1} (d\mathcal{P})$ translates into the identity of Dirichlet series

$$\sum_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2 \setminus \{0\}} \frac{1}{(\boldsymbol{\beta} \cdot \mathbf{v})^s} = \sum_{d \geq 1} \frac{1}{d^s} \sum_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{P}} \frac{1}{(\boldsymbol{\beta} \cdot \mathbf{v})^s}. \quad \square$$

Our main contribution is to exploit this integral representation in order to push further the estimates of $\log Z$, leading to a precise estimate of $p(n, n)$. As Sinaï does in his paper, we could also get precise asymptotics for $p(n, cn)$, but for the sake of readability of the paper, we limit our scope to $p(n, n)$ which leads to a choice of equal parameters $\beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta$. In this case, we observe by elementary manipulations, that for $\Re(s) > 2$,

$$(6) \quad \chi(s; (\beta, \beta)) = \sum_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2 \setminus \{0\}} \frac{1}{(\beta v_1 + \beta v_2)^s} = \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{n+1}{\beta^s n^s} = \frac{\zeta(s-1) + \zeta(s)}{\beta^s}.$$

Therefore, equation (5) becomes

$$(7) \quad \log Z(\beta, \beta) = \frac{1}{2i\pi} \int_{3-i\infty}^{3+i\infty} \frac{\Gamma(s)\zeta(s+1)(\zeta(s-1) + \zeta(s))}{\zeta(s)\beta^s} ds.$$

2. ANALYSIS OF THE PARTITION FUNCTION

We start by giving the first order estimates of $\log Z(\boldsymbol{\beta})$ and of its partial derivatives. For this purpose, we make use of the meromorphic continuation of the modified Barnes zeta function χ which is detailed in the appendix.

Lemma 2.1. *For all nonnegative integers k_1, k_2 , for all $\epsilon > 0$, and all $\boldsymbol{\beta} = (\beta_1, \beta_2) \in (0, +\infty)^2$, such that $\epsilon < \frac{\beta_1}{\beta_2} < \frac{1}{\epsilon}$,*

$$\frac{\partial^{k_1+k_2}}{\partial \beta_1^{k_1} \partial \beta_2^{k_2}} \log Z(\beta_1, \beta_2) \underset{\boldsymbol{\beta} \rightarrow 0}{\sim} (-1)^{k_1+k_2} \frac{\zeta(3)}{\zeta(2)} \frac{k_1! k_2!}{\beta_1^{k_1+1} \beta_2^{k_2+1}}.$$

Proof. We apply formula (5), and shift the line of integration to the left by using the residue theorem. We remind here that, by Corollary A.2 of the Appendix, all the integrated functions can be meromorphically continued, that the only pole in the region $\Re(s) \geq 1$ lies at $s = 2$, and that for all $\delta \in (0, 1)$,

$$\log Z(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = \frac{\zeta(3)}{\zeta(2)} \frac{1}{\beta_1 \beta_2} + \frac{1}{2i\pi} \int_{1+\delta-i\infty}^{1+\delta+i\infty} \frac{\Gamma(s)\zeta(s+1)}{\zeta(s)} \chi(s; \boldsymbol{\beta}) ds.$$

We can take the iterated derivatives formally in the previous equality, since we control the derivatives of $\chi(s; \boldsymbol{\beta})$ by Corollary A.2, and since both functions $\zeta(s+1)$ and $1/\zeta(s)$ are bounded on the line $1 + \delta + i\mathbb{R}$. \square

In the special case $\beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta$, we derive a much more precise asymptotic series expansion of $\log Z(\beta, \beta)$ and of its derivatives in β . The proof is based on formula (7) and on the residue theorem again.

Lemma 2.2. *Let A be a positive number such that the contour γ defined below surrounds all the zeroes of ζ inside the critical strip.*

The contour γ is defined as the union of the following oriented paths: on the right side the curve $\gamma_{\text{right}}(t) = 1 - \frac{A}{\log(2+|t|)} + it$ for t going from $-\infty$ to $+\infty$ and on the left side the curve $\gamma_{\text{left}}(t) = \frac{A}{\log(2+|t|)} + it$ for t going from $+\infty$ to $-\infty$ (see Figure 1).

We define the functions I_{crit} and I_{err} respectively by

$$(8) \quad I_{\text{crit}}(\beta) = \frac{1}{2i\pi} \int_{\gamma} \frac{\Gamma(s)\zeta(s+1)(\zeta(s-1) + \zeta(s))}{\zeta(s)\beta^s} ds.$$

and

$$I_{\text{err}}(\beta) = \frac{1}{2i\pi} \int_{-\frac{1}{2}-i\infty}^{-\frac{1}{2}+i\infty} \frac{\Gamma(s)\zeta(s+1)(\zeta(s-1) + \zeta(s))}{\zeta(s)\beta^s} ds.$$

- (i) For all $k \geq 0$, when β goes to 0, the k -th derivative of $I_{\text{crit}}(\beta)$ is $o(\beta^{-k-1})$.
- (ii) When β goes to 0, the function $I_{\text{err}}(\beta)$ is of order $O(\beta^{1/2})$ and $I'_{\text{err}}(\beta) = o(1/\beta)$.
- (iii) For all $\beta > 0$,

$$(9) \quad \log Z(\beta, \beta) = \frac{\zeta(3)}{\zeta(2)} \frac{1}{\beta^2} + I_{\text{crit}}(\beta) + \frac{7}{6} \log \frac{1}{\beta} + C + I_{\text{err}}(\beta)$$

with $C = -2\zeta'(-1) - \frac{1}{6} \log(2\pi)$.

Proof. The existence of a suitable number A is a consequence of [7, Theorem 3.8], and the fact that the set of nontrivial zeroes of ζ is symmetric with respect to the vertical line $\Re(s) = \frac{1}{2}$. In addition, the integrals defining $I_{\text{crit}}(\beta)$ and $I_{\text{err}}(\beta)$ are convergent. Indeed, along the path γ , the function $1/\zeta(s)$ is $O(\log(|\Im(s)|))$ by formula (3.11.8) in [7]. Moreover, this domination makes it possible to apply Lebesgue's dominated convergence theorem to show that the function $I_{\text{crit}}(\beta)$ is a $o(\beta^{-1})$ as $\beta \rightarrow 0$. The same domination allows us to differentiate I_{crit} under the integral sign as many times as needed. The dominated convergence theorem implies that the k -th derivative of $I_{\text{crit}}(\beta)$ is $o(\beta^{-k-1})$.

Assertion (ii) is easier since the function $1/\zeta(s)$ is bounded on the vertical line $\Re(s) = -\frac{1}{2}$.

We turn now to the proof of (iii). As in previous lemma, the strategy is to start from the integral representation (7) of $\log Z$. Here, in order to get a sharper asymptotic expansion, we introduce a contour whose left side is the line $\Re(s) = -\frac{1}{2}$. Since such a contour crosses the critical strip where the denominator $\zeta(s)$ has zeroes, we will use the following result of Valiron [7, Theorem 9.7]: there exists $\alpha > 0$ and a sequence (T_k) such that for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$, $k < T_k < k + 1$ and

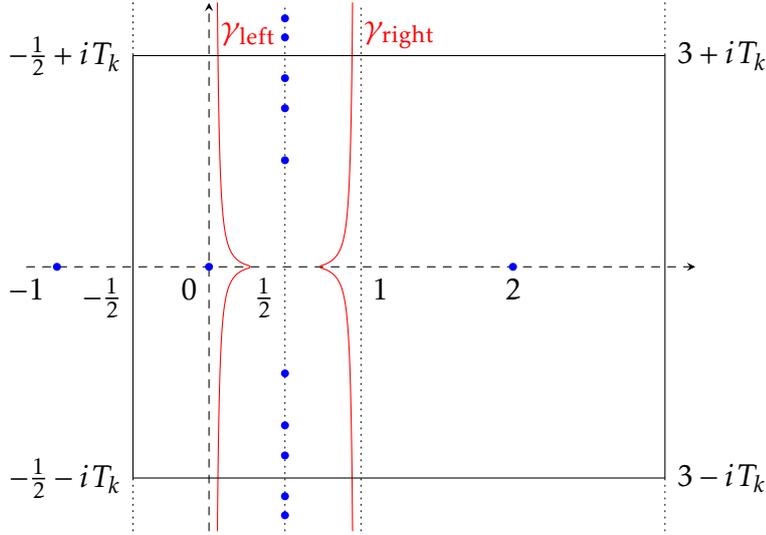


FIGURE 1. Localization of poles (in blue) and contours of integration with which the residue theorem is applied to get the asymptotic expansion of $\log Z(\beta, \beta)$ as β tends to 0.

$|\zeta(s)| > |\text{Im}(s)|^{-\alpha}$ uniformly for all s such that $|\text{Im}(s)| = T_k$ and $-1 \leq \Re(s) \leq 2$. Therefore, if one applies the residue theorem with the rectangle $[3 \mp iT_k, -\frac{1}{2} \pm iT_k]$ and let k tends to $+\infty$, the contributions of the horizontal segments tend to 0 and one gets that $\log Z(\beta, \beta)$ is the sum of $I_{\text{crit}}(\beta)$, $I_{\text{err}}(\beta)$ and of the residues of the integrated function between the lines $\Re(s) = -\frac{1}{2}$ and $\Re(s) = 3$ which are outside of the contour γ . See Figure 1 for a landscape of the proof.

Since the singularity at $s = 1$ is cancelled by the presence of $\zeta(s)$ in the denominator, these residues come only from the simple pole at $s = 2$ and from the double pole at $s = 0$. It is straightforward to observe that the residue at $s = 2$ equals $(\zeta(3)/\zeta(2))\beta^{-2}$. A more involved but yet elementary computation yields

$$\text{Res}_{s=0} \left(\frac{\Gamma(s)\zeta(s+1)(\zeta(s-1) + \zeta(s))}{\zeta(s)\beta^s} \right) = \frac{7}{6} \log \frac{1}{\beta} - 2\zeta'(-1) - \frac{1}{6} \log(2\pi).$$

The announced formula (9) is thus proven. \square

The residue theorem applied to the above growing contours also leads to the following alternative expression:

$$(10) \quad I_{\text{crit}}(\beta) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{|\text{Im}(\rho)| < T_k} \frac{\Gamma(\rho)\zeta(\rho+1)\zeta(\rho-1)}{\zeta'(\rho)\beta^\rho},$$

where ρ runs through the zeroes of ζ with $0 < \Re(\rho) < 1$. Here we have assumed for notational simplicity that these zeroes have multiplicity 1 but this is actually not restrictive.

Remark that in the previous arguments, one could push the left-side of the rectangular contour of integration as far as needed to the left in order to obtain complete asymptotic series expansions.

3. PROOF OF THE THEOREM

Let us recall that the endpoint is defined by

$$\mathbf{X}(\omega) = (X_1(\omega), X_2(\omega)) = \sum_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{P}} \omega(\mathbf{v}) \mathbf{v}.$$

We look for a parameter (β_1, β_2) such that $\mathbb{E}_\beta(X_1) = \mathbb{E}_\beta(X_2) = n$. If one chooses $\beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta$, then $\mathbb{E}_\beta(X_1) = \mathbb{E}_\beta(X_2) = \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_\beta(X_1 + X_2)$. It now remains to find $\beta > 0$ satisfying $\mathbb{E}_\beta(X_1 + X_2) = 2n$. A direct computation shows that $\mathbb{E}_\beta(X_1 + X_2) = -\frac{d}{d\beta} \log Z(\beta, \beta)$. By monotonicity of the function $\beta \mapsto \frac{d}{d\beta} \log Z(\beta, \beta)$, we can find $\beta > 0$ depending on n such that

$$\frac{d}{d\beta} \log Z(\beta, \beta) = -2n.$$

From now on, β_1 and β_2 are going to be chosen equal to the unique solution β of this equation, depending on n . Note that β tends to 0 as n tends to ∞ .

As a consequence of statements (ii) and (iii) of Lemma 2.2, the following asymptotic expansion holds:

$$2n = -\frac{d}{d\beta} \log Z(\beta, \beta) = \frac{2\kappa}{\beta^3} - I'_{\text{crit}}(\beta) + \frac{7}{6\beta} + o\left(\frac{1}{\beta}\right),$$

where $\kappa = \zeta(3)/\zeta(2)$. In order to estimate the error made when replacing the argument β of I'_{crit} by its first order approximation $(\kappa/n)^{1/3}$, we use the estimates of Lemma 2.2, statement (i), for I'_{crit} and I''_{crit} . We obtain therefore

$$(11) \quad \frac{1}{\beta^3} = \frac{n}{\kappa} + \frac{1}{2\kappa} I'_{\text{crit}}\left(\left(\frac{\kappa}{n}\right)^{1/3}\right) - \frac{7}{12\kappa} \left(\frac{n}{\kappa}\right)^{1/3} + o(n^{1/3}).$$

The covariance matrix of the random vector $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, X_2)$ is equal to the Hessian matrix of $\log Z(\beta_1, \beta_1)$ at (β, β) , as seen by a straightforward computation. For the calibrated parameter β , Lemma 2.1 implies that its determinant is asymptotically equal to

$$\begin{vmatrix} \frac{2\kappa}{\beta^4} & \frac{\kappa}{\beta^4} \\ \frac{\kappa}{\beta^4} & \frac{2\kappa}{\beta^4} \end{vmatrix} = \frac{3\kappa^2}{\beta^8} \sim \frac{3n^{8/3}}{\kappa^{2/3}}.$$

Therefore, a local limit theorem, which is a simplified version of Theorem 1.3 in [4] (in the case $r = 1$, with the notations of the paper), gives

$$(12) \quad \mathbb{P}_\beta[X_1 = n, X_2 = n] \sim \frac{\kappa^{1/3}}{2\pi\sqrt{3}n^{4/3}}.$$

From formula (4), $\log p(n) = 2n\beta + \log Z(\beta, \beta) + \log \mathbb{P}_\beta[X_1 = n, X_2 = n]$. Hence, gathering (9), (11), (12), we are able to state

$$\begin{aligned} \log p(n) &= 2n\beta + \log Z(\beta, \beta) + \log \frac{\kappa^{1/3}}{2\pi\sqrt{3}} - \frac{4}{3} \log n + o(1) \\ &= 3\kappa^{1/3} n^{2/3} + I_{\text{crit}}\left(\left(\frac{\kappa}{n}\right)^{1/3}\right) - \frac{17}{18} \log n + \log\left(\frac{e^{-2\zeta'(-1)}}{(2\pi)^{7/6}\sqrt{3}\kappa^{1/18}}\right) + o(1). \end{aligned}$$

This concludes the proof of the theorem.

4. COMMENTS

4.1. Link with Riemann's Hypothesis. As we observed in the proof of statement (i) of Lemma 2.2, the fact that the additional term $I_{\text{crit}}((\kappa/n)^{1/3})$ is at most of order $o(n^{1/3})$ follows from the existence of large zero-free regions of the Riemann zeta function in the critical strip. This estimation can be considerably improved if one assumes Riemann's Hypothesis, namely that all zeroes of the zeta function in the critical strip lie actually on the line $\Re(s) = \frac{1}{2}$. Under this assumption, the oscillating term $I_{\text{crit}}((\kappa/n)^{1/3})$ is at most of order $O(n^{\frac{1}{6}+\epsilon})$ for all $\epsilon > 0$.

Actually, Riemann's Hypothesis turns out to be equivalent to the statement

$$(H) \quad \forall \epsilon > 0, \quad \log p(n) = 3\kappa^{\frac{1}{3}} n^{\frac{2}{3}} + O(n^{\frac{1}{6}+\epsilon}).$$

Indeed, hypothesis (H) implies, by our theorem, that for all $\epsilon > 0$, $I_{\text{crit}}((\kappa/n)^{\frac{1}{3}}) = O(n^{\frac{1}{6}+\epsilon})$. Since $I'_{\text{crit}}(\beta) = o(\beta^{-2})$ by statement (i) of Lemma 2.2, this implies that for all $\epsilon > 0$, $I_{\text{crit}}(\beta) = O(\beta^{-\frac{1}{2}-\epsilon})$. Statement (iii) of Lemma 2.2 then yields

$$(H') \quad \forall \epsilon > 0, \quad \log Z(\beta, \beta) - \frac{\kappa}{\beta^2} = O\left(\frac{1}{\beta^{\frac{1}{2}+\epsilon}}\right).$$

Now, we compute the Mellin transform of $\log Z(\beta, \beta) = \sum_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{P}} \sum_{m \geq 1} \frac{1}{m} e^{-m\beta(v_1+v_2)}$ for $\Re(s) > 2$ by manipulations similar to the proof of Lemma 1.1:

$$\int_0^{+\infty} \log Z(\beta, \beta) \beta^{s-1} d\beta = \frac{\Gamma(s)\zeta(s+1)(\zeta(s-1) + \zeta(s))}{\zeta(s)}.$$

We obtain therefore the following identity for $\Re(s) > 2$:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\Gamma(s)\zeta(s+1)(\zeta(s-1) + \zeta(s))}{\zeta(s)} - \frac{\kappa}{s-2} = \\ \int_0^1 \left(\log Z(\beta, \beta) - \frac{\kappa}{\beta^2} \right) \beta^{s-1} d\beta + \int_1^{+\infty} \log Z(\beta, \beta) \beta^{s-1} d\beta. \end{aligned}$$

The condition (H') implies that the right-hand side function is holomorphic in the region $\Re(s) > 1/2$, hence defining a holomorphic continuation of the

left-hand side function in the same region. Since $\Gamma(s)$, $\zeta(s+1)$ and $\zeta(s-1)$ do not vanish in the region $0 < \Re(s) < 1$, this prevents $\zeta(s)$ from having zeroes in the region $1/2 < \Re(s) < 1$.

4.2. Numerical considerations. In view of numerical computations, one can truncate the series defining I_{crit} in (10) at the two conjugate zeroes of the zeta function with smallest imaginary part, which is approximately $\frac{1}{2} \pm i14.1347$. Indeed, the next zeroes have an imaginary part around 21.0220 and the exponential decrease of the Γ function makes this next term around 10^4 times smaller than the first one. Therefore, with a relative precision of 10^{-4} ,

$$I_{\text{crit}}(\beta) \approx \frac{6.0240 \cdot 10^{-11} \cos(14.1347 \log \beta) + 9.5848 \cdot 10^{-10} \sin(14.1347 \log \beta)}{\sqrt{\beta}}$$

for usual values of $\beta = (\kappa/n)^{1/3}$. In addition, one can see from this approximation that for a large range of values of n , the importance of the oscillatory term in the exponential part of (1) is actually extremely small in comparison with the polynomial prefactor.

4.3. Digitally convex polyominoes. We present here a modification of our model which leads to an asymptotic analysis of digitally convex polyominoes as in [3]. Our probabilistic approach notably differs from the circle method used in this paper. We were not able to follow all the steps of the computations in [3], and we obtain eventually a slightly different result.

Let us first recall that a digitally convex polyomino is the set of all cells of \mathbb{Z}^2 included in a bounded convex region of the plane. The contour of a digitally convex polyomino can be decomposed into four specifiable sub-paths through the standard decomposition of polyominoes. In [3], the authors focus on one of these paths, namely the one joining the rightmost lowest point to the highest rightmost one. More precisely, they want to find the asymptotics of the number $\tilde{p}(n)$ of such paths with total length n .

Taking the convex hull of such a path defines a one-to-one correspondence with (increasing) convex chains having no horizontal segment. For this reason, we slightly modify the model by changing the set \mathcal{P} into $\tilde{\mathcal{P}} = \mathcal{P} \setminus \{(1, 0)\}$ and the probability measure on configurations which are now integer-valued functions on $\tilde{\mathcal{P}}$:

$$\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\beta}(\omega) = \prod_{\mathbf{v} \in \tilde{\mathcal{P}}} (1 - e^{-\beta \cdot \mathbf{v}}) e^{-\omega(\mathbf{v}) \beta \cdot \mathbf{v}} = \frac{1}{\tilde{Z}(\beta)} \exp \left(-\beta \cdot \sum_{\mathbf{v} \in \tilde{\mathcal{P}}} \omega(\mathbf{v}) \mathbf{v} \right)$$

where $\beta = (\beta, \beta)$ and where

$$\tilde{Z}(\beta) = \prod_{\mathbf{v} \in \tilde{\mathcal{P}}} (1 - e^{-\beta \cdot \mathbf{v}})^{-1}.$$

Again, the ending point is equal to

$$\mathbf{X}(\omega) = (X_1(\omega), X_2(\omega)) = \sum_{\mathbf{v} \in \tilde{\mathcal{P}}} \omega(\mathbf{v}) \mathbf{v}.$$

Moreover the connection between combinatorics and the probabilistic model is encompassed in the formula

$$\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\beta}[X_1 + X_2 = n] = \frac{\tilde{p}(n)}{\tilde{Z}(\beta, \beta)} e^{-\beta n}.$$

A computation similar to (6) shows that the integral representation (7) of the logarithmic partition function is changed into

$$\log \tilde{Z}(\beta, \beta) = \frac{1}{2i\pi} \int_{c-i\infty}^{c+i\infty} \frac{\Gamma(s)\zeta(s+1)\zeta(s-1)}{\zeta(s)\beta^s} ds,$$

which leads to the following asymptotic expansion as β tends to 0:

$$\log \tilde{Z}(\beta, \beta) = \frac{\kappa}{\beta^2} + I_{\text{crit}}(\beta) + \frac{1}{6} \log \frac{1}{\beta} + C + o(1),$$

where the constants κ and C are still $\zeta(3)/\zeta(2)$ and $-2\zeta'(-1) - \frac{1}{6} \log(2\pi)$. In order to have the correct calibration $\mathbb{E}_{\beta}[X_1 + X_2] = n$ for the length of the path, we choose $\beta > 0$ depending on n such that $-\frac{d}{d\beta} \log \tilde{Z}(\beta, \beta) = n$. This leads to the following analogue to (11):

$$\frac{1}{\beta^3} = \frac{n}{2\kappa} + \frac{1}{2\kappa} I'_{\text{crit}} \left(\left(\frac{2\kappa}{n} \right)^{1/3} \right) - \frac{1}{12\kappa} \left(\frac{n}{2\kappa} \right)^{1/3} + o(n^{1/3}).$$

An statement analogous to (12) asserts the one-dimensional local limit result:

$$\mathbb{P}_{\beta}[X_1 + X_2 = n] \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{3\pi}} \left(\frac{\kappa}{4} \right)^{\frac{1}{6}} \frac{1}{n^{\frac{2}{3}}}.$$

We have finally obtained

$$\tilde{p}(n) \sim \left(\frac{\kappa}{4} \right)^{\frac{5}{18}} \frac{e^{-2\zeta'(-1)}}{\sqrt{3\pi}^{\frac{2}{3}} n^{\frac{11}{18}}} \exp \left[3 \left(\frac{\kappa}{4} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}} n^{\frac{2}{3}} + I_{\text{crit}} \left(\left(\frac{2\kappa}{n} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}} \right) \right].$$

This amends the constant in the prefactor term of [3], Proposition 2.5.

APPENDIX A. ANALYTIC CONTINUATION OF THE BARNES FUNCTION

We introduce here the Barnes zeta function defined for all $\beta = (\beta_1, \beta_2) \in [0, +\infty)$, $w > 0$ and $s \in \mathbb{C}$ in the region $\Re(s) > 2$ by

$$\zeta_2(s, w, \beta) := \sum_{v_1, v_2 \geq 0} \frac{1}{(w + \beta_1 v_1 + \beta_2 v_2)^s}.$$

Lemma A.1. *The meromorphic continuation of $\zeta_2(s, w; \beta)$ to the half-plane $\Re(s) > 1$ is given by*

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta_2(s, w; \beta) = & \frac{1}{\beta_1 \beta_2} \frac{w^{-s+2}}{(s-1)(s-2)} + \frac{(\beta_1 + \beta_2)w^{-s+1}}{2\beta_1 \beta_2 (s-1)} + \frac{w^{-s}}{4} \\ & - \frac{\beta_2}{\beta_1} \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{\{y\} - \frac{1}{2}}{(w + \beta_2 y)^s} dy - \frac{\beta_1}{\beta_2} \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{\{x\} - \frac{1}{2}}{(w + \beta_1 x)^s} dx \\ & - s \frac{\beta_2}{2} \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{\{y\} - \frac{1}{2}}{(w + \beta_2 y)^{s+1}} dy - s \frac{\beta_1}{2} \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{\{x\} - \frac{1}{2}}{(w + \beta_1 x)^{s+1}} dx \\ & + s(s+1)\beta_1 \beta_2 \int_0^{+\infty} \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{(\{x\} - \frac{1}{2})(\{y\} - \frac{1}{2})}{(w + \beta_1 x + \beta_2 y)^{s+2}} dx dy. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. We need only prove that the equality holds for $\Re(s) > 2$ since the right-hand side of the equation is meromorphic in $\Re(s) > 1$ with a single pole at $s = 2$. Let $\{x\} = x - \lfloor x \rfloor$ denote the fractional part of x . We apply a first time the Euler-Maclaurin formula to the partial summation defined by $F(x) = \sum_{n_2 \geq 0} (w + \beta_1 x + \beta_2 n_2)^{-s}$, leading to

$$\sum_{n_1 \geq 1} F(n_1) = \int_0^\infty F(x) dx - \frac{F(0)}{2} + \int_0^\infty (\{x\} - \frac{1}{2}) F'(x) dx.$$

We use again the Euler-Maclaurin formula for each of the summations in n_2 . \square

We state here the results we need on the modified Barnes zeta function χ , which is nothing but a byproduct of the above Barnes function.

Corollary A.2. *For all $\beta = (\beta_1, \beta_2) \in [0, +\infty)$, the function $\chi(s; \beta) = \sum_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{Z}_+^2 \setminus \{0\}} \frac{1}{(\beta \cdot \mathbf{v})^s}$ can be meromorphically continued to the region $\Re(s) > 1$.*

- (i) *The function $\chi(s; \beta)$ has a unique pole at $s = 2$ which is simple and the residue is equal to $\frac{1}{\beta_1 \beta_2}$.*
- (ii) *For all nonnegative integers k_1, k_2 , for all $\delta \in (0, 1)$, for all $\epsilon > 0$, there exists a constant $C > 0$ such that for all $\beta = (\beta_1, \beta_2) \in (0, +\infty)^2$ satisfying $\epsilon < \frac{\beta_1}{\beta_2} < \frac{1}{\epsilon}$, for all s such that $1 + \delta \leq \Re(s) \leq 3$,*

$$\left| \frac{\partial^{k_1+k_2}}{\partial \beta_1^{k_1} \partial \beta_2^{k_2}} \chi(s; \beta) \right| \leq \frac{C|s|^C}{|\beta|^{k_1+k_2+\Re(s)} |s-2|}.$$

Proof. Elementary manipulations on sums yield

$$\chi(s; \beta) = \frac{\zeta(s)}{\beta_1^s} + \frac{\zeta(s)}{\beta_2^s} + \zeta_2(s, \beta_1 + \beta_2; \beta).$$

We then apply Lemma A.1 and observe that the integral terms in the right-hand side of the equation can be differentiated formally. \square

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