

# Limits of constrained permutations and graphs *via* decomposition trees

Mathilde Bouvel

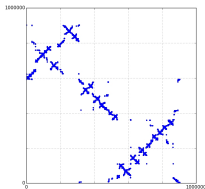
*Loria, CNRS and Univ. Lorraine (Nancy, France).*

talk based on joint works with  
Frédérique Bassino, Jacopo Borga, Valentin Féray,  
Lucas Gerin, Michael Drmota, Mickaël Maazoun,  
Adeline Pierrot and Benedikt Stufler

Permutation Patterns, June 2022, Valparaiso University.

**The problem:**

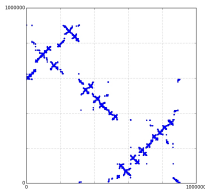
- Consider a class  $\mathcal{C}$  of **permutations of substructures** (patterns) defined by the **avoidance** ( ).
- For any  $n$ , let  $\sigma_n$  be an object of size  $n$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ , taken **uniformly at random** among objects of size  $n$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ .
- We would like to describe the **typical global behavior** of  $\sigma_n$  as  $n$  tends to  $\infty$ , through its **permuton** limit.



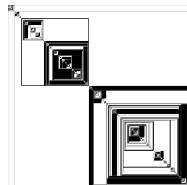
Permutation diagram of a typical large permutation avoiding 2413 and 3142

**The problem:**

- Consider a class  $\mathcal{C}$  of **permutations or graphs** defined by the **avoidance of substructures** (patterns or induced subgraphs).
- For any  $n$ , let  $\sigma_n$  or  $G_n$  be an object of size  $n$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ , taken **uniformly at random** among objects of size  $n$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ .
- We would like to describe the **typical global behavior** of  $\sigma_n$  or  $G_n$  as  $n$  tends to  $\infty$ , through its **permuton or graphon limit**.



Permutation diagram of a typical large permutation avoiding 2413 and 3142



Adjacency matrix of typical large graph with no induced  $P_4$

**The proof strategy:**

- Permutons and graphons describe **global limits** of permutations and graphs. But **permuton and graphon** convergence are characterized by convergence of the **densities of substructures**.
- Using the **substitution or modular decomposition**, we can represent permutations or graphs by **trees** (decorated on their internal nodes).
- **Substructures** in permutations or graphs correspond to **induced subtrees** in these trees (subtrees induced by a set of leaves).
- We write functional equations for the **generating functions** counting decomposition trees, possibly with specified induced subtrees.
- Using **analytic combinatorics**, we derive the **limiting densities** of substructures in our permutations or graphs, proving permuton or graphon convergence.

# A caveat

- Only **some** classes of permutations or graphs are amenable to the presented strategy:  
when the **substitution/modular decomposition** is “nice”.
- These represent very **few cases** in the whole landscape of permutation classes/hereditary families of graphs.
- But it still covers **quite many classes** compared to what was previously known (especially in the permutation case).

The talk will mainly discuss the simplest case in the graph setting: the family of **cographs**, avoiding an induced  $P_4$  (the path on 4 vertices).

We will also discuss its permutation analogue: the family of **separable permutations**<sup>1</sup>, avoiding the patterns 2413 and 3142, as well as hint at some **generalizations**.

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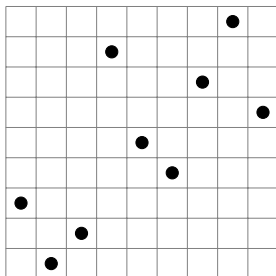
<sup>1</sup>see also the invited talk of Lucas Gerin at PP 2021 on-line.

**Patterns in permutations,  
and a biased view of permutons;**

**and their graph analogues:  
induced subgraphs,  
and a more biased view of graphons**

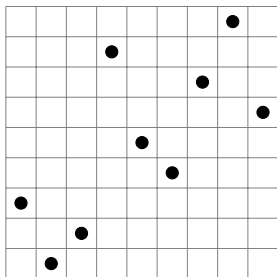
# You all know... but just to be on the same page

A **permutation**  $\sigma = \sigma(1) \dots \sigma(n)$  of size  $n$  is a bijection from  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  to itself, which we represent by its permutation matrix, or **diagram**.



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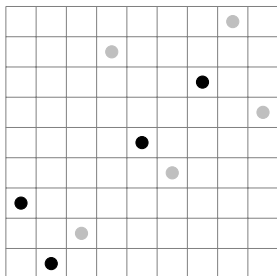
A permutation  $\pi$  of size  $k$  is a **pattern** of a permutation  $\sigma$  of size  $n$  if there exist  $1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_k \leq n$  such that  $\sigma(i_1) \dots \sigma(i_k)$  is in the **same relative order** ( $\equiv$ ) as  $\pi$ .

**Example:** 2134 is a pattern of **312854796** since  $3157 \equiv 2134$ .



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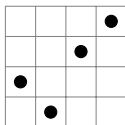


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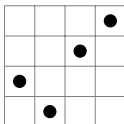


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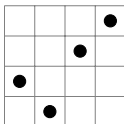


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**Permutation classes** are sets of permutations closed downwards for the pattern partial order relation.

They are equivalently characterized by the **avoidance** of patterns.

# Permutons

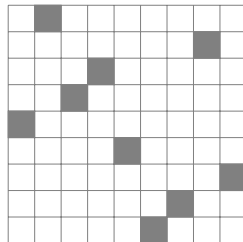
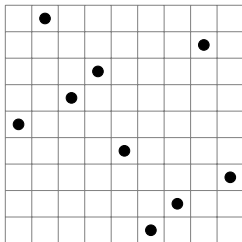
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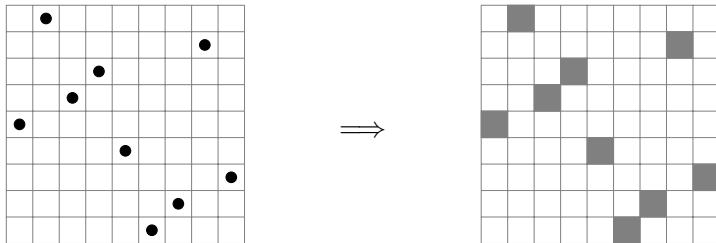


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Informally, permuton can represent permutations of finite size, but also “permutations of infinite size”.

# Defining permuton convergence

- Consider  $(\sigma_n)$  a sequence of permutations of size growing with  $n$  (typically  $|\sigma_n| = n$ ).

How can we describe the **limit of  $\sigma_n$**  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  (if it exists)?

- Consider the permutons  $(\mu_{\sigma_n})$  associated with this sequence.

These are measures on the unit square.

So, using the **weak convergence of measures**, it makes sense to speak about the limit of  $(\mu_{\sigma_n})$ .

- We define that  $(\sigma_n)$  **converges to the permuton  $\mu$**  when  $(\mu_{\sigma_n})$  converges to  $\mu$ .

This extends to sequences of **random** permutations  $(\sigma_n)$ , converging (in distribution) to a (*a priori* **random**) permuton  $\mu$ .



# Characterizing permuton convergence

**Theorem:** Permuton convergence is characterized by the convergence of frequencies of all patterns  $\pi$  (of all sizes).

- $\widetilde{\text{occ}}(\pi, \sigma_n)$  = frequency of occurrence of the pattern  $\pi$  in  $\sigma_n$
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- These are defined as follows, with  $|\pi| = k$ :
  - $\widetilde{\text{occ}}(\pi, \sigma_n) =$  probability that  $k$  points picked uniformly at random in  $\sigma_n$  form an occurrence of the pattern  $\pi = \frac{\text{number of occurrences of } \pi \text{ in } \sigma_n}{\binom{|\sigma_n|}{k}}$ .
  - $\widetilde{\text{occ}}(\pi, \mu) =$  the probability that  $k$  points of the unit square picked at random according to  $\mu$  induce the pattern  $\pi$ .

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## Extension to the random setting:

- $(\sigma_n)$  converges in distribution to some permuton  $\mu \Leftrightarrow$  for every pattern  $\pi$ ,  $\mathbb{E}[\widetilde{\text{occ}}(\pi, \sigma_n)]$  converges to some value  $\Delta_\pi \in [0, 1]$ .
- If this holds,  $\mathbb{E}[\widetilde{\text{occ}}(\pi, \mu)] = \Delta_\pi$  for all  $\pi$  and  $(\Delta_\pi)_\pi$  characterizes  $\mu$ .

## Notions about permutations which we have seen:

- Definition of **patterns** and of **permutation classes**
- Notion of **permuton** as a “rescaled diagram”
- Combinatorial characterization of permuton convergence:  
by the convergence of the **frequencies of patterns**  
(in expectation in the random case)

## Graph analogues which we now discuss:

- Definition of **induced subgraphs** and of **hereditary classes of graphs**
- Notion of **graphon** as a “rescaled adjacency matrix”
- Combinatorial characterization of graphon convergence:  
by the convergence of the **densities of induced subgraphs**  
(in expectation in the random case)

# Induced subgraphs and hereditary families of graphs

- $g$  is an **induced subgraph** of  $G$  when



In words, the **subgraph** of  $G = (V, E)$  **induced by**  $V' \subset V$  is the graph with vertex set  $V'$  and edge set  $E \cap (V' \times V')$ .

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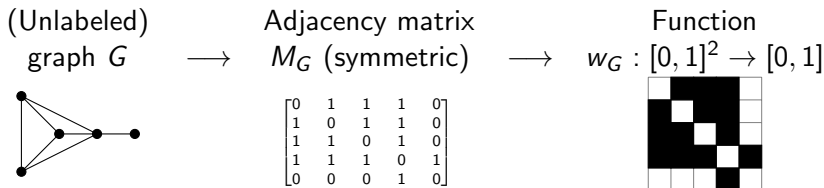


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- A **hereditary family of graphs** is a set of graphs  $\mathcal{C}$  such that for every  $G \in \mathcal{C}$ , if  $g$  is an induced subgraph of  $G$ , then  $g \in \mathcal{C}$ .
- Equivalently, hereditary families of graphs are characterized as sets of graphs whose **induced subgraphs avoid** a prescribed set (which may be finite or infinite).
- Examples include the families of **cographs**, comparability graphs, permutation graphs, circle graphs, parity graphs, ...

# What is (informally) a graphon?

**In the discrete setting:**

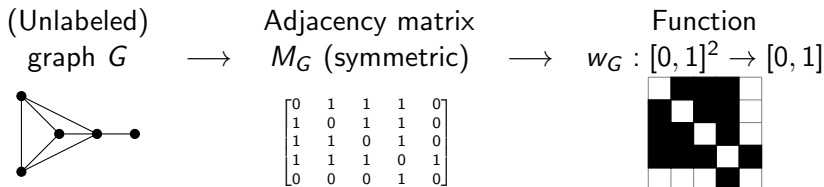


The **graphon**  $W_G$  associated with  $G$  is the equivalence class of  $w_G$  under the action of permuting rows and columns of  $M_G$ .



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## Continuous extension:

In general, a graphon is obtained **as above**, from a symmetric matrix  $M$ , possibly with **a continuum of rows and columns**, and with values in  $[0, 1]$ .

It is an equivalence class of symmetric functions from  $[0, 1]^2 \rightarrow [0, 1]$  under the action of permuting rows and columns of  $M$ .

# Subgraph densities in graphs and graphons

Fix  $g$  a graph with  $k$  vertices, unlabeled.

- **Definition in the discrete case:**

For a graph  $G$ ,  $\text{Dens}(g, G) = \mathbb{P}(\text{SubGraph}_k(G) = g)$ , where  $\text{SubGraph}_k(G)$  is the (random) subgraph of  $G$  induced by a  $k$ -tuple of i.i.d. uniform random vertices of  $G$  (or a uniform random  $k$ -tuple of distinct vertices).

- **Continuous generalization:**

For a graphon  $W$ ,  $\text{Dens}(g, W) = \mathbb{P}(\text{Sample}_k(W) = g)$ , where  $\text{Sample}_k(W)$  is the (random) graph with  $k$  vertices  $v_1, \dots, v_k$  such that  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  are connected with probability  $w(x_i, x_j)$ , for  $x_1, \dots, x_k$  i.i.d. uniform random variables in  $[0, 1]$  and  $w : [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow [0, 1]$  a representative of  $W$ .

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**Remark:** For any graph  $G$ ,  $\text{Dens}(g, W_G) = \text{Dens}(g, G)$ .

# Characterization of graphon convergence

- The space of graphons is (up to technicalities) **metric**, for the **cut-distance** (and in addition is compact).
- So, we can define **convergence** of a sequence of graphons  $(W_n)_{n \geq 0}$  to a graphon  $W$ , written  $W_n \rightarrow W$ .
- Typically,  $W_n = W_{G_n}$  for a sequence of graphs  $(G_n)$  with  $|G_n| \rightarrow \infty$  with  $n$  and we write  $G_n \rightarrow W$ .

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## Combinatorial characterization of convergence:

$G_n \rightarrow W$  iff for any (finite) graph  $g$ ,  $\text{Dens}(g, G_n) \rightarrow \text{Dens}(g, W)$ .

**In the random setting**, with  $(G_n)$  a sequence of random graphs:

- $G_n$  tends **in distribution** to some random graphon  $W$  iff for all  $g$ ,  $\mathbb{E}[\text{Dens}(g, G_n)]$  converges to some value  $\Delta_g \in [0, 1]$ .
- If this holds, in addition we have:  
for all  $g$ ,  $\mathbb{E}[\text{Dens}(g, W)] = \Delta_g$ , so that  $(\Delta_g)_g$  characterizes  $W$ .

## Notions about permutations which we have seen:

- Definition of **patterns** and of **permutation classes**
- Notion of **permuton** as a “rescaled diagram”
- Combinatorial characterization of permuton convergence:  
by the convergence of the **frequencies of patterns**  
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## Graph analogues which we have seen next:

- Definition of **induced subgraphs** and of **hereditary classes of graphs**
- Notion of **graphon** as a “rescaled adjacency matrix”
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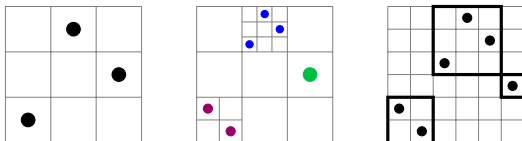
# Decomposition trees

# Substitution for permutations

Substitution is an operation building a permutation from smaller ones.

Notation for **substitution** (or **inflation**):  $\sigma = \pi[\alpha^{(1)}, \alpha^{(2)}, \dots, \alpha^{(k)}]$   
with  $k = \text{size of } \pi$ .

**Example:** Here,  $\pi = 132$ , and

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha^{(1)} = 21 = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \bullet & \\ \hline & \bullet \\ \hline \end{array} \\ \alpha^{(2)} = 132 = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline & \bullet & \\ \hline & & \bullet \\ \hline \bullet & & \\ \hline \end{array} \\ \alpha^{(3)} = 1 = \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \bullet \\ \hline \end{array} \end{array} \right. .$$


Hence  $\sigma = 132[21, 132, 1] = 214653$ .

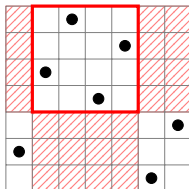
Many substitutions give  $\sigma$ , but there is a **canonical** one.



# Substitution decomposition

## Definitions:

- An **interval** of  $\sigma$  is a factor  $\sigma_i \dots \sigma_j$  whose value form an interval of integers.
- A **simple** permutation is a permutation containing only trivial intervals (which are  $\emptyset, \sigma_i, \sigma_1 \dots \sigma_n$ ).
- $\pi$ -indecomposable = which cannot be written as  $\pi[\dots]$ .
- $\oplus$  (resp.  $\ominus$ ) represents  $12 \dots k$  (resp.  $k \dots 21$ ) for some/all  $k$ .



**Theorem:** Every  $\sigma (\neq 1)$  is **uniquely** decomposed as

- $\oplus[\alpha^{(1)}, \dots, \alpha^{(k)}]$ , where the  $\alpha^{(i)}$  are  $\oplus$ -indecomposable, or
- $\ominus[\alpha^{(1)}, \dots, \alpha^{(k)}]$ , where the  $\alpha^{(i)}$  are  $\ominus$ -indecomposable, or
- $\pi[\alpha^{(1)}, \dots, \alpha^{(k)}]$ , where  $\pi$  is simple of size  $k \geq 4$

**Proof idea:** The  $\alpha^{(i)}$  represent the maximal proper intervals of  $\sigma$ .

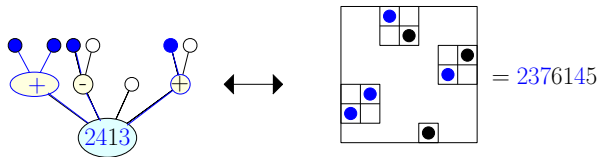
# Substitution decomposition trees, and patterns

Decomposing recursively inside the  $\alpha_j$ , we obtain:

**Consequence:** Every permutation admits a **unique (substitution) decomposition tree** whose internal vertices are labeled by  $\oplus$ ,  $\ominus$  and simple permutations, with no  $\oplus - \oplus$  nor  $\ominus - \ominus$  edges. We call it **canonical** and denote it  $T(\sigma)$ .

**Remarks:**

- The leaves of  $T(\sigma)$  correspond to the elements of  $\sigma$ .
- **Patterns** in  $\sigma$  correspond to **subtrees** of  $T(\sigma)$  **induced by leaves** (although not giving canonical trees in general).

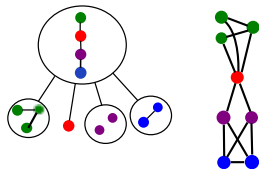


# Modular decomposition of graphs

- A **module** in a graph  $G = (V, E)$  is a set  $S \subseteq V$  of vertices which cannot be distinguished by vertices outside of  $S$ :

*for every  $v \in V \setminus S$ , either  $\{v, s\} \in E$  for all  $s \in S$   
or  $\{v, s\} \notin E$  for all  $s \in S$*

- Given a partition of  $V$  into modules,  $G$  can be described
  - the subgraph induced keeping exactly one vertex in each module (sometimes called **quotient**)
  - the subgraph induced by each module (sometimes called **factors**)



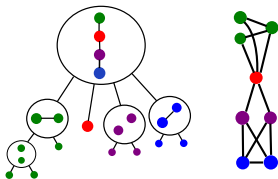
- Repeating this construction inside the modules, we obtain a **modular decomposition tree** of  $G$  (which is rooted, non planar, with internal vertices labeled by quotient graphs, and leaves corresponding to  $V$ ).

# Modular decomposition trees

- The **trivial** modules of  $G$  are  $\emptyset$ ,  $V$ , and  $\{v\}$  for any  $v \in V$ .
- A graph  $G$  is **prime** if it contains no non-trivial module.

**Theorem:** Every graph has a **unique modular decomposition tree** whose vertices are either cliques (denoted 1), or independent sets (denoted 0), or prime graphs (denoted  $P$ ), and with no  $0 - 0$  nor  $1 - 1$  edges.

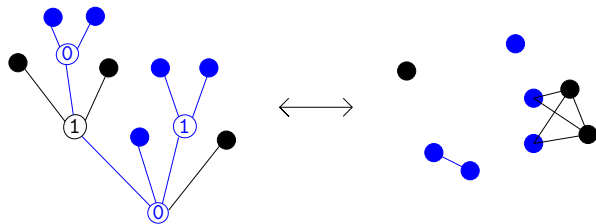
We call it **canonical** and denote it  $T(G)$ .



**Proof idea:**  $T(G)$  is obtained considering recursively the quotients resulting from the partition of  $V$  into maximal modules different from  $V$  (in the prime case, with special cases for cliques and independent sets).

# Induced subgraphs in decomposition trees

- Let  $G$  be a graph. Let  $S$  be a subset of its vertices.
- Consider the subgraph of  $G$  induced by  $S$ .
- Let  $T(G)$  be its canonical modular decomposition tree.



**Fact:** A decomposition tree for the induced subgraph of  $G$  corresponding to  $S$  is obtained considering the subtree of  $T(G)$  induced by the set of leaves corresponding to  $S$ .

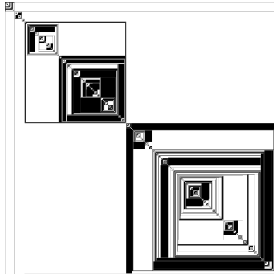
**Remark:** The induced tree is not necessarily the canonical tree of the induced subgraph (e.g. it may contain 0 – 0 edges).

# A summary highlighting similarities and differences

- Using substitution/modular decomposition, permutations and graphs can be encoded by “decorated” trees.
- However, the trees associated with permutations are planar, while those associated with graphs are non-planar.
- Patterns/induced subgraphs correspond to subtrees induced by leaves.
- A permutation/graph is encoded by possibly many decomposition trees, but exactly one canonical decomposition tree.

**Next:** How to use these trees to prove permutation/graphon convergence for uniform permutations/graphs avoiding substructures.

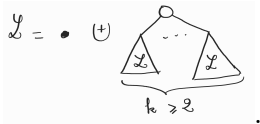
# Graphon limit of (labeled) cographs



# Cographs and their modular decomposition trees

- Cographs are defined by the **avoidance of  $P_4$**  (induced path on 4 vertices, which is the smallest prime graph).
- Equivalently, cographs are all graphs whose modular decomposition trees involve **only 0 (indep. set) and 1 (clique) nodes** (no prime node). We call **cotrees** their modular decomposition trees.
- Therefore, labeled<sup>2</sup> cographs can be described from the **combinatorial specification**:

$$\mathcal{L} = \bullet \uplus \text{Set}_{\geq 2}(\mathcal{L}) \quad \text{i.e.,}$$



Indeed, *via* its **canonical modular decomposition tree**, a cograph correspond to a tree of  $\mathcal{L}$  with a label 0 or 1 on the root (propagating labels alternating between 0 and 1 along each edge).

<sup>2</sup>meaning vertices are labeled by the integers from 1 to  $n$ ; in the unlabeled case, we need to consider Multiset, and hence later Polya operators for the GF



# Expressing $\mathbb{E}[\text{Dens}(g, \mathbf{G}_n)]$

## Notation:

Let  $\mathbf{G}_n$  be a uniform random labeled cograph with  $n$  vertices.

## Reminder:

Knowing  $\mathbb{E}[\text{Dens}(g, \mathbf{G}_n)]$  for all  $g$  characterizes the graphon limit of  $\mathbf{G}_n$ .

## Notation:

for all  $n$ , and all  $k \leq n$ ,

$\mathbf{t}^{(n)}$  is a uniform random labeled canonical cotree of size  $n$ , and  
 $\mathbf{t}_k^{(n)}$  is the subtree of  $\mathbf{t}^{(n)}$  induced by a uniform  $k$ -tuple of distinct leaves.

## Observation:

For any cograph  $g$ , we have:

$$\mathbb{E}[\text{Dens}(g, \mathbf{G}_n)] = \mathbb{P}(\text{SubGraph}_k(\mathbf{G}_n) = g) = \sum \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{t}_k^{(n)} = t_0),$$
 where the sum runs over all cotrees  $t_0$  corresponding to  $g$ .

# Expressing $\mathbb{P}(\mathbf{t}_k^{(n)} = t_0)$

**Observation:**  $\mathbb{P}(\mathbf{t}_k^{(n)} = t_0) = \frac{n![z^n]M_{t_0}(z)}{n![z^n]M(z) \times n(n-1)\dots(n-k+1)}$ , where

- $\mathcal{M}$  is the set of labeled **canonical cotrees**
- for any cotree  $t_0$  with  $k$  leaves,  $\mathcal{M}_{t_0}$  is the set of labeled canonical cotrees with a **marked  $k$ -tuple of distinct leaves**, which **induce**  $t_0$ ,
- $M(z)$  and  $M_{t_0}(z)$  are the corresponding **exponential generating functions**
- as usual,  $[z^n]F(z)$  denotes the coefficient of  $z^n$  in the generating function  $F(z)$

**Next:** Use **symbolic and analytic combinatorics** to compute the asymptotic behavior of the numerator and the denominator in

$$\frac{n![z^n]M_{t_0}(z)}{n![z^n]M(z) \times n(n-1)\dots(n-k+1)}.$$

# Estimating the denominator

- Recall that  $\mathcal{L} = \bullet \uplus \text{Set}_{\geq 2}(\mathcal{L})$ .
- Let  $L(z)$  be the exponential generating function of  $\mathcal{L}$ .
- From [Flajolet-Sedgewick] (rather a variant on trees counted by leaves),  $L(z)$  satisfies  $L(z) = z + \exp(L(z)) - 1 - L(z)$ .
- The generating function of cographs is  $M(z) = 2L(z) - z$ .
- $L(z)$  and  $M(z)$  have the same radius of convergence  $\rho = 2 \log(2) - 1$  and are  $\Delta$ -analytic.
- Near  $z = \rho$ ,  $L(z) = \log(2) - \sqrt{\rho} \sqrt{1 - z/\rho} + \mathcal{O}(1 - z/\rho)$  and  $M(z) = 1 - 2\sqrt{\rho} \sqrt{1 - z/\rho} + \mathcal{O}(1 - z/\rho)$ .
- From the [transfer theorem](#),

$$n(n-1)\dots(n-k+1)[z^n]M(z) \underset{n \rightarrow +\infty}{\sim} \frac{n^{k-3/2}}{\rho^{n-1/2} \sqrt{\pi}}.$$



# Estimating the numerator

**Prop.:** If  $t_0$  with  $k$  leaves has  $n_v$  internal vertices,  $n_=\$  edges of the form  $0 - 0$  or  $1 - 1$ , and  $n_{\neq}$  edges of the form  $0 - 1$  or  $1 - 0$ , then

$$M_{t_0} = (L')(exp(L))^{n_v} (L^\bullet)^k (L^{\text{odd}})^{n_=} (L^{\text{even}})^{n_{\neq}},$$

these series being variations on  $L(z)$  whose singular behavior results from that of  $L(z)$ .

**Proof:**



**Corollary:** Like before, we obtain

- the behavior at  $\rho$  of  $M_{t_0}(z)$ ,
- and the asymptotic estimate of  $[z^n]M_{t_0}(z)$ .

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**Corollary:** Like before, we obtain

- the behavior at  $\rho$  of  $M_{t_0}(z)$ ,
- and the asymptotic estimate of  $[z^n]M_{t_0}(z)$ .

More precisely, we have

$$[z^n]M_{t_0}(z) \underset{n \rightarrow +\infty}{\sim} \frac{(k-1)!}{(2k-2)!} \frac{n^{k-3/2}}{\rho^{n-1/2} \sqrt{\pi}},$$

if  $t_0$  is binary (which implies  $n_v = k - 1$  and  $n_ + n_{\neq} = k - 2$ ).

# Conclusion of the proof

## Notation (reminder):

- $\mathbf{t}^{(n)}$ : uniform random labeled canonical cotree of size  $n$
- $\mathbf{t}_k^{(n)}$ : subtree of  $\mathbf{t}^{(n)}$  induced by a uniform  $k$ -tuple of distinct leaves
- $t_0$ : cotree with  $k$  leaves

**What we proved:** If  $t_0$  is **binary**, then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{t}_k^{(n)} = t_0) = \frac{(k-1)!}{(2k-2)!}$ .

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**Remark:**  $\frac{(k-1)!}{(2k-2)!} = \frac{1}{\text{number of binary cotrees with } k \text{ leaves}}$ .

**Consequence:** If  $t_0$  is **not binary**, then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{t}_k^{(n)} = t_0) = 0$ .



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## Remark/reminder:

Summing over all  $t_0$  encoding a cograph  $g$ , this gives  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}[\text{Dens}(g, \mathbf{G}_n)]$ .

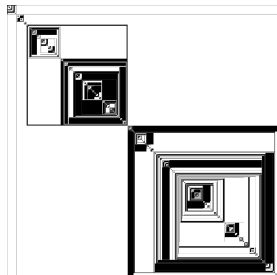
These quantities characterize the **graphon limit of cographs**.

# The Brownian cographon

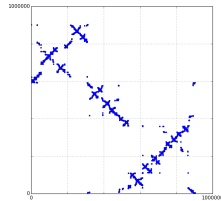
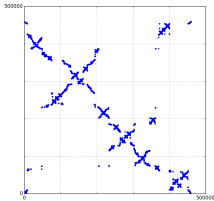
- Starting from a **Brownian excursion**, whose **local minima** receive unbiased decorations by 0 and 1, we can build the **Brownian cographon** of parameter  $1/2$ , denoted  $\mathbf{W}^{1/2}$ .
- We can compute  $\Delta_g = \mathbb{E}[\text{Dens}(g, \mathbf{W}^{1/2})]$  for all cographs  $g$ .

But this is a story for another time...

- We observe that 
$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}[\text{Dens}(g, \mathbf{G}_n)] = \Delta_g \text{ for all } g.$$
- Therefore, not only do we prove existence of a graphon limit for uniform random cographs, but we also provide a **construction of this limit**.
- The limiting graphon is a **genuinely random and fractal** object.



# Permuton limit of separable permutations



# Obtaining similarly the limit of separable permutations

- Separable permutations are those **avoiding the patterns 2413 and 3142** (the two smallest simple permutations).
- Equivalently, it is the family of all permutations whose decomposition trees involve **only  $\oplus$  and  $\ominus$  nodes** (no simple permutations).
- Separable permutations are therefore the **permutation analogue of cographs**.
- From a **combinatorial specification** for the **decomposition trees** of separable permutations, and using **analytic combinatorics** as before, we obtain the **limiting behavior of  $\mathbb{E}[\widetilde{\text{occ}}(\pi, \sigma_n)]$**  for  $\pi$  any pattern, and  $\sigma_n$  a uniform random separable permutation of size  $n$ . These quantities characterize the **permuton limit** of separable permutations.
- Again, we have an **explicit construction** of the limiting object  $\mu^{1/2}$  (called the **Brownian separable permuton** of parameter  $1/2$ ) from a Brownian excursion with decorations.

**More classes of permutations  
and universality of  
the Brownian separable permuton**

## Idea of the method:

- Assume that you know a **combinatorial specification for the decomposition trees** of permutations in some class  $\mathcal{C}$ .
- It translates into a **system of equations for the GF** of  $\mathcal{C}$ .
- We can in addition **“track patterns”** in these equations.
- **IF** the method of analytic combinatorics goes through, we obtain **convergence to a certain permuton**, as for separable permutations.

# Transposing the proof strategy to a more general setting

## Idea of the method:

- Assume that you know a **combinatorial specification for the decomposition trees** of permutations in some class  $\mathcal{C}$ .
- It translates into a **system of equations for the GF** of  $\mathcal{C}$ .
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## Some results, indicating a **universality** phenomenon:

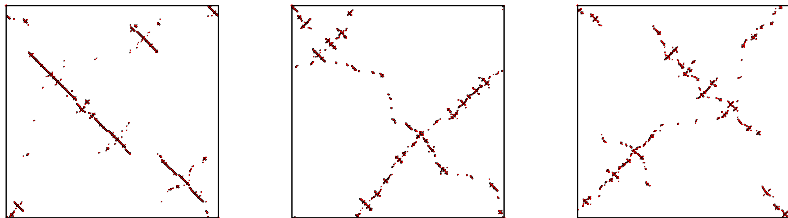
- Convergence to **Brownian separable permutons** of parameters  $p \in [0, 1]$  for **substitution-closed classes**, under some analytic condition on the GF of the simple permutations in the class.
- Dichotomy for classes for which **a specification is known** (in particular: whenever they contain **finitely many simple** permutations): (random) **Brownian permutons** VS (deterministic) **X-permutons**.





# Substitution-closed classes

- Their specification **adds some simple permutations** to that of separable permutations. We denote by  $\mathcal{S}$  the set of allowed simple permutations.
- Limit permutons are **(biased) Brownian separable permutons**.

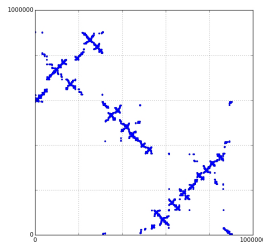
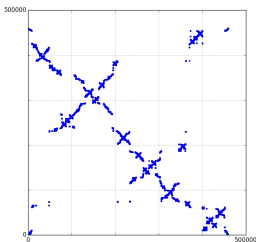


simulations of  $\mu_p$  for  $p = 0.2, 0.45, 0.5$ .

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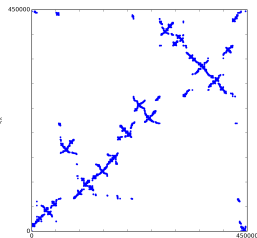
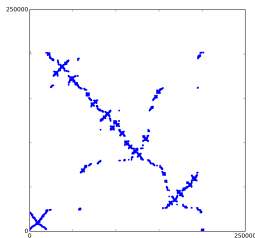
**Example 1:** Separable permutations, *i.e.*  $\mathcal{S} = \emptyset$ ,  $\Rightarrow p = 0.5$



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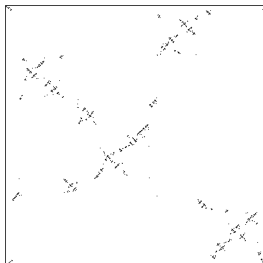
**Example 2:**  $\mathcal{S} = \{2413, 3142, 24153\}$ ,  $\Rightarrow p = 0.5$



# Substitution-closed classes

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- Limit permutons are **(biased) Brownian separable permutons**.

**Example 3:**  $\mathcal{S} = Av(321) \cap \{\text{Simples}\}$  (infinite),  $\Rightarrow p \in [0.577, 0.622]$



# Brownian case of the dichotomy

When the specification contains a **product** of **critical families**.

⇒ The limiting permuton of the class is a biased **Brownian separable permuton** (of parameter  $p$  possibly 0 or 1).

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**Example 1:**  $Av(132)$ , with critical families in **blue**.

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{T} = \{\bullet\} \uplus \mathcal{T}_{\text{not}\oplus}^{\oplus} \mathcal{T}_{\langle 21 \rangle} \uplus \mathcal{T}_{\text{not}\ominus}^{\ominus} \mathcal{T} \\ \mathcal{T}_{\text{not}\oplus}^{\oplus} = \{\bullet\} \uplus \mathcal{T}_{\text{not}\ominus}^{\ominus} \mathcal{T} \\ \mathcal{T}_{\text{not}\ominus}^{\ominus} = \{\bullet\} \uplus \mathcal{T}_{\text{not}\oplus}^{\oplus} \mathcal{T}_{\langle 21 \rangle} \\ \mathcal{T}_{\langle 21 \rangle} = \{\bullet\} \uplus \mathcal{T}_{\langle 21 \rangle}^{\oplus} \mathcal{T}_{\langle 21 \rangle} \\ \mathcal{T}_{\langle 21 \rangle}^{\oplus} = \{\bullet\}. \end{array} \right.$$

The limit is the Brownian separable permuton of parameter  $p = 0$ .

# Brownian case of the dichotomy

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**Example 2:**  $Av(2413, 31452, 41253, 41352, 531246)$ , with critical families in **blue**.

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{T}_0 = \{\bullet\} \uplus \oplus[\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_0] \uplus \ominus[\mathcal{T}_2, \mathcal{T}_0] \uplus 3142[\mathcal{T}_0, \mathcal{T}_3, \mathcal{T}_3, \mathcal{T}_0] \\ \mathcal{T}_1 = \{\bullet\} \uplus \ominus[\mathcal{T}_2, \mathcal{T}_0] \uplus 3142[\mathcal{T}_0, \mathcal{T}_3, \mathcal{T}_3, \mathcal{T}_0] \\ \mathcal{T}_2 = \{\bullet\} \uplus \oplus[\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_0] \uplus 3142[\mathcal{T}_0, \mathcal{T}_3, \mathcal{T}_3, \mathcal{T}_0] \\ \mathcal{T}_3 = \{\bullet\} \uplus \ominus[\mathcal{T}_4, \mathcal{T}_3] \\ \mathcal{T}_4 = \{\bullet\} \end{array} \right.$$

The limit is the Brownian separable permuton of parameter  $p \approx 0.4748692376\dots$  (only real root of a certain polynomial of degree 9).

## X case of the dichotomy

When the specification contains **no product** of **critical families**.

⇒ The limiting permuton of the class has a **deterministic X shape** (not necessarily centered, possibly missing some of the 4 branches).



# X case of the dichotomy

When the specification contains **no product** of **critical families**.

⇒ The limiting permutation of the class has a **deterministic X shape** (not necessarily centered, possibly missing some of the 4 branches).

**Example 1:**  $Av(2413, 3142, 2143, 3412)$ , a.k.a. the X-class, with critical families in **blue**.

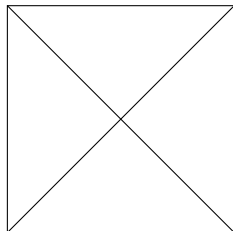
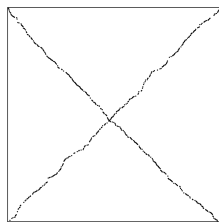
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# X case of the dichotomy

When the specification contains **no product** of **critical families**.

⇒ The limiting permuton of the class has a **deterministic X shape** (not necessarily centered, possibly missing some of the 4 branches).

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The limit is the centered X-permuton.

# X case of the dichotomy

When the specification contains **no product** of **critical families**.

⇒ The limiting permutation of the class has a **deterministic X shape** (not necessarily centered, possibly missing some of the 4 branches).

**Example 2:**  $Av(2413, 3142, 2143, 34512)$ , with critical families in **blue**.

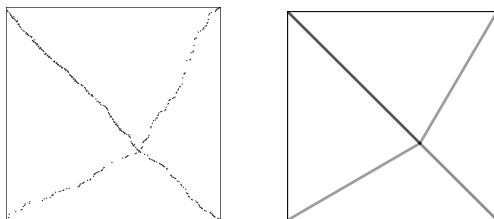
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{T}_0 = \{\bullet\} \uplus \oplus[\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_2] \uplus \oplus[\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_3] \uplus \oplus[\mathcal{T}_4, \mathcal{T}_2] \uplus \ominus[\mathcal{T}_5, \mathcal{T}_6] \uplus \ominus[\mathcal{T}_5, \mathcal{T}_7] \uplus \ominus[\mathcal{T}_8, \mathcal{T}_6] \\ \mathcal{T}_1 = \{\bullet\} \\ \mathcal{T}_2 = \{\bullet\} \uplus \oplus[\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_2] \\ \mathcal{T}_3 = \oplus[\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_3] \uplus \oplus[\mathcal{T}_4, \mathcal{T}_2] \uplus \ominus[\mathcal{T}_5, \mathcal{T}_6] \uplus \ominus[\mathcal{T}_5, \mathcal{T}_7] \uplus \ominus[\mathcal{T}_8, \mathcal{T}_6] \\ \mathcal{T}_4 = \ominus[\mathcal{T}_5, \mathcal{T}_6] \uplus \ominus[\mathcal{T}_5, \mathcal{T}_7] \uplus \ominus[\mathcal{T}_8, \mathcal{T}_6] \\ \mathcal{T}_5 = \{\bullet\} \uplus \oplus[\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_1] \uplus \oplus[\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_9] \uplus \oplus[\mathcal{T}_9, \mathcal{T}_1] \\ \mathcal{T}_6 = \{\bullet\} \uplus \ominus[\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_6] \\ \mathcal{T}_7 = \oplus[\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_2] \uplus \oplus[\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_3] \uplus \oplus[\mathcal{T}_4, \mathcal{T}_2] \uplus \ominus[\mathcal{T}_{10}, \mathcal{T}_6] \uplus \ominus[\mathcal{T}_{10}, \mathcal{T}_7] \uplus \ominus[\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_7] \uplus \ominus[\mathcal{T}_8, \mathcal{T}_6] \\ \mathcal{T}_8 = \oplus[\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_{11}] \uplus \oplus[\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_{12}] \uplus \oplus[\mathcal{T}_{13}, \mathcal{T}_{11}] \uplus \oplus[\mathcal{T}_9, \mathcal{T}_{11}] \uplus \oplus[\mathcal{T}_{13}, \mathcal{T}_1] \\ \mathcal{T}_9 = \ominus[\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_6] \\ \mathcal{T}_{10} = \oplus[\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_1] \uplus \oplus[\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_9] \uplus \oplus[\mathcal{T}_9, \mathcal{T}_1] \\ \mathcal{T}_{11} = \oplus[\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_2] \\ \mathcal{T}_{12} = \oplus[\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_3] \uplus \oplus[\mathcal{T}_4, \mathcal{T}_2] \uplus \ominus[\mathcal{T}_{10}, \mathcal{T}_6] \uplus \ominus[\mathcal{T}_{10}, \mathcal{T}_7] \uplus \ominus[\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_7] \uplus \ominus[\mathcal{T}_8, \mathcal{T}_6] \\ \mathcal{T}_{13} = \ominus[\mathcal{T}_{10}, \mathcal{T}_6] \uplus \ominus[\mathcal{T}_{10}, \mathcal{T}_7] \uplus \ominus[\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_7] \uplus \ominus[\mathcal{T}_8, \mathcal{T}_6]. \end{array} \right.$$

# X case of the dichotomy

When the specification contains **no product** of **critical families**.

⇒ The limiting permuton of the class has a **deterministic X shape** (not necessarily centered, possibly missing some of the 4 branches).

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The limit is a non-centered X-permuton.

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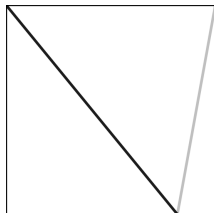
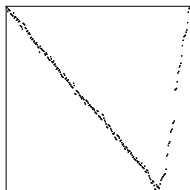
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The limit is a degenerate X-permuton.

## **Concluding remarks**

# Towards more classes of graphs

- As in the permutation case, we can extend the study of cographs to families of graphs whose **modular decomposition trees** are described by a **combinatorial specification**.
- Our **analytic approach** can only work with GF having **positive radius of convergence**. This was necessary in permutation classes, but is an additional requirement for hereditary graph classes.
- This is the PhD topic of **Théo Lenoir**, who started working in September 2021, supervised by Frédérique Bassino and Lucas Gerin.
- The classes that he studied are the  **$P_4$ -blah graphs**, where **blah**  $\in$  {reducible, sparse, lite, extensible, tidy}. All converge to the Brownian cographon.
- Recall that cographs are  $P_4$ -free graphs.



# A nice consequence of permuton/graphon limits

## Results:

- The size of the **largest independent set** of a uniform random cograph is **sublinear**.  
(hence  $P_4$  does not have the asymptotic linear Erdős-Hajnal property, answering a question of Kang, McDiarmid, Reed and Scott in 2014)
- The length of the **longest increasing subsequence** of a uniform random separable permutations is **sublinear**.

## Main proof ingredients:

- Convergence to the **Brownian cographon**
- The independence number of the Brownian cographon  $\mathbf{W}^{1/2}$  is 0

**Bonus:** The sublinearity result applies to **all classes** with graphon/permuton limit  $\mathbf{W}^p$  or a Brownian separable permuton.

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*Thank you for being there!*