CONJUGACY GROWTH SERIES FOR FINITARY WREATH PRODUCTS

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Abstract. We examine the conjugacy growth series of all wreath products of the finitary permutation groups Sym(\(X\)) and Alt(\(X\)) for an infinite set \(X\). We determine their asymptotics, and we characterize the limiting behavior between the Alt(\(X\)) and Sym(\(X\)) wreath products. In particular, their ratios form a limit if and only if the dimension of the symmetric wreath product is twice the dimension of the alternating wreath product.

1. Introduction and Statement of Results

We begin by defining the infinite finitary symmetric and alternating groups and their corresponding wreath products, and then we state our results regarding growth series identities.

For an infinite set \(X\), the finitary symmetric group Sym(\(X\)) is the group of permutations of \(X\) with finite support. We define the permutational wreath product of a group \(H\) with Sym(\(X\)) as the group \(H \wr \text{Sym}(X) := H^X \rtimes \text{Sym}(X)\) with the following properties:

(i) The group \(H^X\) is the group of functions from \(X\) to \(H\) with finite support.
(ii) The action of permutations \(f \in \text{Sym}(X)\) on functions \(\psi \in H^X\) is defined by \(\psi \mapsto f(\psi) := \psi \circ f^{-1}\).
(iii) Multiplication in the semi-direct product is defined for \(\varphi, \psi \in H^X\) and \(f, g \in \text{Sym}(X)\) by \((\varphi, f)(\psi, g) = (\varphi f(\psi), fg)\).

The finitary alternating group Alt(\(X\)) is the subgroup of Sym(\(X\)) of permutations with even signature, and the permutational wreath product \(H \wr \text{Alt}(X)\) is defined as above. We now define some general terminology. For any group \(G\) generated by a set \(S\), the word length \(\ell_{G,S}(g)\) of any element \(g \in G\) is the smallest nonnegative integer \(n\) such that there exist \(s_1, \ldots, s_n \in S \cup S^{-1}\) with \(g = s_1 \cdots s_n\). The conjugacy length \(\kappa_{G,S}(g)\) is the smallest word length appearing in the conjugacy class of \(g\).

The conjugacy growth series of a group \(G\) with generating set \(S\) is the following \(q\)-series:

\[
C_{G,S}(q) := \sum_{[g] \in \text{Conj}(G)} q^{\kappa_{G,S}(g)} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \gamma_{G,S}(n) q^n,
\]

where the first sum is over representatives of conjugacy classes of \(G\). Bacher and de la Harpe [1] prove conjugacy growth series identities for sufficiently large\(^1\) generating sets \(S\) of Sym(\(X\)), \(S'\) of Alt(\(X\)), and \(S(W_S)\) of \(W_S = H \wr X \text{Sym}(X)\) relating the finitary permutation groups and their wreath products to the partition function. Explicitly, we have the fascinating identities

\[
C_{\text{Sym}(X),S}(q) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p(n) q^n = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1 - q^n}
\]

\(^{1}\)The condition that the generating sets are sufficiently large refers to the properties defined in Section 2.
for the finitary symmetric group,

\[ C_{\text{Alt}(X),S'}(q) = \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p(n)q^n \right) \left( \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} p_e(m)q^m \right) = \frac{1}{2} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1-q^n)^2} + \frac{1}{2} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1-q^{2n}} \]

for the finitary alternating group\(^2\), and

\[ C_{W_S,S'(w_S)}(q) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \gamma_{W,S'(w_S)}(n)q^n = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1-q^n)^{M_S}} \]

for wreath products \(W_S = H_S \wr X \text{ Sym}(X)\), where \(M_S\) is the number of conjugacy classes of \(H_S\).

**Remark.** Recall Dedekind’s eta function \(\eta(\tau) = q^{1/24} \prod_{n \geq 1} (1 - q^n)\) for \(\tau \in \mathcal{H}\), where \(\mathcal{H}\) denotes the upper half complex plane and \(q := e^{2\pi i \tau}\). Equation (1.2) can be written as the linear combination of eta-quotients

\[ C_{\text{Alt}(X),S'}(q) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \eta(\tau)^{1/2} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \eta(2\tau)^{1/2}, \]

which is essentially the sum of a modular form of weight \(-1\) and a modular form of weight \(-\frac{1}{2}\), up to multiplication by \(q^{1/12}\). Studying such linear combinations may shed light on properties of sums of mixed weight modular forms.

It is natural to consider the number \(\gamma_{W_S}(n)\) as a function of the number of conjugacy classes \(M_S\) in order to study properties of the coefficients of the above \(q\)-series. Here we obtain a universal recurrence for these numbers. This result requires the ordinary divisor function \(\sigma_k(n) = \sum_{d|n} d^k\).

**Theorem 1.** For \(n \geq 2\), define the polynomial

\[ \widehat{F}_n(x_1, \ldots, x_{n-1}) := \sum_{m_1, \ldots, m_{n-1} \geq 0, m_1 + \cdots + m_{n-1} = n} \frac{(-1)^{m_1 + \cdots + m_{n-1}} \cdot (m_1 + \cdots + m_{n-1} - 1)! \cdot m_1! \cdots m_{n-1}!}{m_1 ! \cdots m_{n-1} !} \cdot x_1^{m_1} \cdots x_{n-1}^{m_{n-1}}. \]

Let \(H_S\) be a finite group with \(M_S\) conjugacy classes, \(X\) an infinite set, and \(W_S = H_S \wr X \text{ Sym}(X)\) a wreath product generated by a sufficiently large set \(S'(W_S)\). Then we have

\[ C_{W_S,S'(w_S)}(q) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \gamma_{W_S}(n)q^n = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - q^n)^{-M_S}, \]

where \(\gamma_{W_S}(n)\) satisfies the recurrence relation

\[ \gamma_{W_S}(n) = \widehat{F}_n(\gamma_{W_S}(1), \ldots, \gamma_{W_S}(n-1)) + \frac{M_S}{n} \cdot \sigma_1(n). \]

**Remark.** The polynomials \(\widehat{F}_n\) are fairly straightforward to compute using only the partitions of \(n\); the first few are listed below.

\[ \widehat{F}_2(x_1) = \frac{1}{2} x_1^2 \]

\(^2\)Recall that \(p_e(m)\) denotes the number of partitions of \(m\) into an even number of parts.

\(^3\)See also Ian Wagner’s work on properties of \(\text{Alt}(X)\).
We have that
\[ \hat{F}_3(x_1, x_2) = -\frac{1}{3}x_1^3 + x_1x_2 \]
\[ \hat{F}_4(x_1, x_2, x_3) = \frac{1}{4}x_1^4 - x_1^2x_2 + \frac{1}{2}x_2^2 + x_1x_3 \]
\[ \hat{F}_5(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = -\frac{1}{5}x_1^5 + x_1^3x_2 - x_1^2x_3 - x_1x_2^2 + x_1x_4 + x_2x_3 \]
\[ \hat{F}_6(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5) = \frac{1}{6}x_1^6 - x_1^4x_2 + x_1^3x_3 + \frac{3}{2}x_1^2x_2^2 - x_1x_4 - 2x_1x_2x_3 + x_1x_5 - \frac{1}{3}x_2^3 + x_2x_4 + \frac{1}{2}x_2^2. \]

**Remark.** These polynomials have been used in earlier work [2, 4] on divisors of modular forms and the Rogers-Ramanujan identities.

In recent work, Nekrasov and Okounkov obtained a different formula for the infinite products in Theorem 1 in terms of hook lengths of partitions. Let \( \lambda \vdash L \) denote that \( \lambda \) is a partition of the number \( L \). The hook length of a partition \( \lambda = (\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_n) \vdash L \) is defined using the Ferrers diagram of \( \lambda \). For example, Figure 1 below is a Ferrers diagram of the partition \( \lambda = (6, 4, 3, 1, 1) \vdash 15 \), Figure 2 represents a hook length of 4, and Figure 3 shows all hook lengths associated to \( \lambda \).

![Figure 1. Partition](image1)

![Figure 2. Hook Length](image2)

![Figure 3. Hook Lengths](image3)

More generally, for each box \( v \) in the Ferrers diagram of a partition \( \lambda \), its hook length \( h_v(\lambda) \) is defined as the number of boxes \( u \) such that

(i) \( u = v \),
(ii) \( u \) is in the same column as \( v \) and below \( v \), or
(iii) \( u \) is in the same row as \( v \) and to the right of \( v \).

The hook length multi-set \( H(\lambda) \) is the set of all hook lengths of \( \lambda \). Theorem 1 implies the following formula for \( \gamma_{W_S}(n) \) in terms of hook lengths.

**Corollary 2.** We have that
\[
\gamma_{W_S}(n) = \hat{F}_n(\gamma_{W_S}(1), \ldots, \gamma_{W_S}(n - 1)) + \frac{M_S}{n} \cdot \sigma_1(n)
\]
\[
= \sum_{\lambda\vdash n, h\in H(\lambda)} \prod_{h\in H(\lambda)} \left( 1 + \frac{M_S - 1}{h^2} \right).
\]

**Remark.** Kostant observed [6] that the coefficients of the Nekrasov-Okounkov hook length identity are polynomials in the variable \( z = 1 - M_S \), but he did not give an explicit formula for computing them.

In analogy with the previous theorem, one may ask if the coefficients \( \gamma_{W_A}(n) \) in the alternating case can be seen as a function of the number of conjugacy classes \( M_A \). We obtain a similar recurrence relation in this case.

**Theorem 3.** Let \( \hat{F}_n(x_1, \ldots, x_{n-1}) \) be defined as above. Let \( H_A \) be a finite group with \( M_A \) conjugacy classes, \( X \) an infinite set, and \( W_A = H_A \wr \text{Alt}(X) \) a wreath product generated by a sufficiently large set \( S(W_A) \). Then we have
\[
C_{W_A, S(W_A)}(q) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \gamma_{W_A}(n)q^n = \left( \frac{1}{2} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1-q^n)^2} + \frac{1}{2} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1-q^{2n}} \right)^{M_A},
\]
where $\gamma_{W_A}(n)$ satisfies the recurrence relation

$$
\gamma_{W_A}(n) = \frac{1}{2^{M_A}} \sum_{k=0}^{M_A} \binom{M_A}{k} \left( \hat{F}_n(a_k(1), \ldots, a_k(n-1)) - \sum_{\delta|n} \delta \cdot \left( (-1)^{\delta} (k - M_A) - (k + M_A) \right) \right),
$$

and the $a_k$ are defined by their generating function

$$
\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_k(n) q^n := \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1 - q^n)^{2k} (1 - q^{2n})^{M_A - k}}.
$$

**Remark.** It may be possible to interpret the coefficients $\gamma_{W_A}(n)$ in terms of hook lengths from formulas of Han [5] or others, as in the symmetric case. The author does not make this connection here.

It is also natural to study the exponential rate of conjugacy growth\(^4\) of a group $G$ generated by a set $S$, namely

$$
\tilde{H}_{G,S}^{\text{conj}} = \limsup_{n \to \infty} \frac{\log \gamma_{G,S}(n)}{\sqrt{n}}.
$$

It is useful to notice that $\exp(\tilde{H}_{G,S}^{\text{conj}})$ is the radius of convergence of the conjugacy growth series $C_{G,S}(q)$. For permutational wreath products, we apply a theorem of Cotron, Dicks and Fleming [3] on the asymptotic behavior of the generalized partition function (see equations (2.1) and (2.2)). Let $W_S = H_S \wr X \text{Sym}(X)$ be a wreath product where $H_S$ is a finite group, $M_S$ is the number of conjugacy classes of $H_S$, and $X$ is an infinite set. It is easy to see from equation (1.3) that the conjugacy growth series of such a wreath product is the generating function of the generalized partition function $p(n)e$ for the vector $e = (M_S)$. This implies the following corollary.

**Corollary 4.** Let $W_S = H_S \wr X \text{Sym}(X)$ be a wreath product where $H_S$ is a finite group, $M_S$ is the number of conjugacy classes of $H_S$, and $X$ is an infinite set. If $S(W_S)$ is a sufficiently large generating set of $W_S$, then we have

$$
\gamma_{W_S}(n) \sim \left( \frac{M_S^{1+M_S}}{2^{5+3M_S} 3^{1+M_S} n^{3+M_S}} \right) e^{\sqrt{2n M_S}}.
$$

We now give the exponential rate of conjugacy growth for wreath products in the symmetric case using this asymptotic formula.

**Corollary 5.** The exponential rate of conjugacy growth for the group $W_S = H_S \wr X \text{Sym}(X)$ defined above is

$$
\tilde{H}_{W_S}^{\text{conj}} = \pi \sqrt{\frac{2 M_S}{3}}.
$$

We can also apply the theorem to wreath products in the alternating case using equation (1.4).

**Corollary 6.** Let $W_A = H_A \wr X \text{Alt}(X)$ be a wreath product where $H_A$ is a finite group, $M_A$ is the number of conjugacy classes of $H_A$, and $X$ is an infinite set. If $S(W_A)$ is a sufficiently large generating set of $W_A$, then we have

$$
\gamma_{W_A}(n) \sim \left( \frac{M_A^{1+2M_A}}{2^{1+2M_A} 3^{1+2M_A} n^{3+2M_A}} \right) e^{2\sqrt{2 M_A}}.
$$

We also give the exponential rate of conjugacy growth in the alternating case using the above asymptotic formula.

\(^4\)Cotron, Dicks, and Fleming [3] modify Bacher’s and de la Harpe’s definition [1] by changing the denominator from $n$ to $\sqrt{n}$. With denominator $n$, most of the growth series that we study have exponential rate of conjugacy growth zero.
Corollary 7. The exponential rate of conjugacy growth for the group \( W_A = H_A \wr X \text{Alt}(X) \) defined above is

\[
\hat{H}^\text{conj}_{W_A} = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{M_A}{3}}.
\]

We are interested in finding relationships between wreath products of Sym(\(X\)) and wreath products of Alt(\(X\)). Let \( W_S = H_S \wr X \text{Sym}(X) \) and \( W'_S = H'_S \wr X \text{Sym}(X) \) be two wreath products of Sym(\(X\)), where \( H_S, H'_S \) are finite groups and \( M_S, M'_S \) are the number of conjugacy classes of \( H_S, H'_S \) respectively. Let \( W_A = H_A \wr X \text{Alt}(X) \) and \( W'_A = H'_A \wr X \text{Alt}(X) \) be two wreath products of Alt(\(X\)), where \( H_A, H'_A \) are finite groups and \( M_A, M'_A \) are the number of conjugacy classes of \( H_A, H'_A \) respectively.

**Question 1.** What is the asymptotic behavior of the following ratios?

1. \( \frac{\gamma_{W_S}(n)}{\gamma_{W'_S}(n)} \)
2. \( \frac{\gamma_{W_A}(n)}{\gamma_{W'_A}(n)} \)
3. \( \frac{\gamma_{W_A}(n)}{\gamma_{W_S}(n)} \)
4. \( \frac{\gamma_{W'_A}(n)}{\gamma_{W'_S}(n)} \)

In particular, when do the ratios approach some nonzero finite number?

The asymptotic behavior of the ratios follows from Corollaries 4 and 6.

**Corollary 8.** Let \( W_S, W'_S, W_A, \) and \( W'_A \) be groups as above. Then as \( n \to \infty \), we have

1. \( \frac{\gamma_{W_S}(n)}{\gamma_{W'_S}(n)} \sim \left( \frac{M_S^{4+M'_S}}{M'_S^{4+M_S}} \right) \left[ 2 \pi \left( \frac{M'_S-M_S}{3n} \right) \right] \left( \frac{M'_S-M_S}{M_S-M'_S} \right) e^{\sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{3}} \left( \sqrt{M_S-M'_S} \right)} \).

2. \( \frac{\gamma_{W_A}(n)}{\gamma_{W'_A}(n)} \sim \left( \frac{M_A^{4+M'_A}}{M'_A^{4+M_A}} \right) \left[ \frac{2^{3M'_A-3M_A-4}}{(3n)^{M_A-M'_A}} \right] e^{\sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{3}} \left( \sqrt{M_A-M'_A} \right)} \).

3. \( \frac{\gamma_{W_A}(n)}{\gamma_{W_S}(n)} \sim \left( \frac{M_A^{4+M'_A}}{M'_A^{4+M_A}} \right) \left[ 2^{3M'_A-3M_a-4} \left( \frac{M'_S-M_A}{M_A-M'_S} \right) \right] e^{\sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{3}} \left( \sqrt{M_A-M'_S} \right)} \).

4. \( \frac{\gamma_{W'_A}(n)}{\gamma_{W'_S}(n)} \sim \left( \frac{M_A^{4+M'_A}}{M'_A^{4+M_A}} \right) \left[ 2^{3M'_A-3M_a-4} \left( \frac{M'_S-M_A}{M_A-M'_S} \right) \right] e^{2\pi \sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{3}} \left( \sqrt{M_A-M'_S} \right)} \).

We now observe for which pairs \( (M_S, M'_S), (M_S, M_A), (M_A, M_S), \) and \( (M_A, M'_A) \) these ratios asymptotically approach zero, infinity, or some nonzero finite number. Corollary 9 follows from the asymptotic behavior of the exponential functions in the above proposition.

**Corollary 9.** Let \( W_S, W'_S, W_A, \) and \( W'_A \) be groups as above. Then as \( n \to \infty \), we have the following asymptotic behavior:

1. If \( M_S < M'_S \), then \( \frac{\gamma_{W_S}(n)}{\gamma_{W'_S}(n)} \sim 0 \). If \( M_S > M'_S \), then \( \frac{\gamma_{W_S}(n)}{\gamma_{W'_S}(n)} \sim \infty \).
   
   If \( M_S = M'_S \), then \( \frac{\gamma_{W_S}(n)}{\gamma_{W'_S}(n)} \sim 1 \).

2. If \( M_S < 2M_A \), then \( \frac{\gamma_{W_S}(n)}{\gamma_{W'_S}(n)} \sim 0 \). If \( M_S > 2M_A \), then \( \frac{\gamma_{W_S}(n)}{\gamma_{W'_S}(n)} \sim \infty \).
   
   If \( M_S = 2M_A \), then \( \frac{\gamma_{W_S}(n)}{\gamma_{W'_S}(n)} \sim 2M_A \).
(3) If $2M_A < M_S$, then $\frac{\gamma_{W_A}(n)}{\gamma_{W_S}(n)} \sim 0$. If $2M_A > M_S$, then $\frac{\gamma_{W_A}(n)}{\gamma_{W_S}(n)} \sim \infty$.

If $2M_A = M_S$, then $\frac{\gamma_{W_A}(n)}{\gamma_{W_S}(n)} \sim \frac{1}{2^{M_A}}$.

(4) If $M_A < M'_A$, then $\frac{\gamma_{W_A}(n)}{\gamma_{W'_A}(n)} \sim 0$. If $M_A > M'_A$, then $\frac{\gamma_{W_A}(n)}{\gamma_{W'_A}(n)} \sim \infty$.

If $M_A = M'_A$, then $\frac{\gamma_{W_A}(n)}{\gamma_{W'_A}(n)} \sim 1$.

Moreover, the converses of all of the above statements hold as well.

Given any two wreath products of Sym($X$) or Alt($X$), the above theorem guarantees the asymptotic behavior of the ratios between the coefficients of their conjugacy growth series. In other words, for any two wreath products $W$ and $W'$, we know the expected relationship between the number of conjugacy classes of $H$ in $W$ and the number of conjugacy classes of $H'$ in $W'$ with minimal word length $n$ for any $n$.

*Remark.* Although we know the asymptotic behavior of the above ratios, this does not mean that the ratios of the coefficients are always exactly equal to the above values.

For example, consider the wreath products $W_S = H_S \wr X$ Sym($X$) and $W_A = H_A \wr X$ Alt($X$), where $H_S, H_A$ are finite groups with $M_S = 10, M_A = 5$ conjugacy classes respectively. We expect the ratio of the coefficients of $W_S$ to the coefficients of $W_A$ to be asymptotic to $2^5 = 32$. We compute the following coefficients with Maple.

| $n$  | $\gamma_{W_S}(n)$          | $\gamma_{W_A}(n)$          | $\frac{\gamma_{W_S}(n)}{\gamma_{W_A}(n)}$ |
|------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1    | 10                       | 5                        | 2                                        |
| 10   | 1605340                  | 176963                   | 9.071613840                              |
| 100  | $0.2333013623 \times 10^{28}$ | $0.7541087996 \times 10^{26}$ | $30.93736108$ |
| 200  | $0.1067904403 \times 10^{42}$ | $0.3346942881 \times 10^{40}$ | $31.90686071$ |
| 300  | $0.4721905614 \times 10^{52}$ | $0.1476229954 \times 10^{51}$ | $31.98624714$ |
| 400  | $0.5248644122 \times 10^{61}$ | $0.1640339890 \times 10^{60}$ | $31.99729613$ |
| 500  | $0.5369981415 \times 10^{69}$ | $0.1678152777 \times 10^{68}$ | $31.99935959$ |

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2. Proofs

We give the proofs of equation (1.4) and Theorems 1 and 3 here. We also explain what it means for a generating set to be sufficiently large and give remarks on Corollaries 2 and 6.

A set $S$ of transpositions of a set $X$ is called partition-complete (PC) [1] if

(i) the transposition graph $\Gamma(S)$ is connected, and
(ii) for every partition $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_k) \vdash L$, $\Gamma(S)$ contains a forest of $k$ trees with $\lambda_1 + 1, \ldots, \lambda_k + 1$ vertices respectively.

For the corresponding property of partition-complete for wreath products (PCwr) [1], we must first establish more notation. Let $X$ be an infinite set, $H$ a group, and $W = H \wr X \text{ Sym}(X)$. The group $W$ acts naturally on the set $H \times X$; namely, for $(\varphi, f) \in W$, the action is defined by $$(h, x) \mapsto (\varphi(f(x))h, f(x)).$$

For $a \in H \setminus \{1\}$ and $u \in X$, we let $\varphi_a^u \in W$ denote the permutation that maps $(h, x) \in H \times X$ to $(ah, u)$ if $x = u$, and to $(h, x)$ otherwise. Then $(\varphi_a^u)_{a \in H \setminus \{1\}, u \in X}$ generates the group $H^{(X)}$. Now, let $H_u := \{\varphi_a^u \mid a \in H \setminus \{1\}\}$, and define the subsets

$$T_H := \bigcup_{u \in X} H_u \subseteq H^{(X)},$$

$$T_X := \{(x, y) \in \text{Sym}(X) : x, y \in X \text{ are distinct}\} \subseteq \text{Sym}(X).$$

Let $S_H \subset T_H$ and $S_X \subset T_X$ be subsets, and let $S = S_H \cup S_X \subseteq W$. Such a set $S$ is said to be PCwr if

(i) the transposition graph $\Gamma(S_X)$ is connected, and
(ii) for all $L \geq 0$ and partitions $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_k) \vdash L$, $\Gamma(S_X)$ contains a forest of $k$ trees $T_1, \ldots, T_k$, with $T_i$ having $\lambda_i$ vertices, including one vertex $x^{(i)}$ such that $\varphi_a^x \in S_H$ for all $a \in H \setminus \{1\}$.

Remark. The conditions PC and PCwr essentially require the generating set $S$ to contain “enough” transpositions to represent all possible partitions in its transposition graph.

Proof of equation (1.4). This proof follows from the proofs of equations (1.2) and (1.3) in [1]. For each $w = (\phi, \sigma) \in W_A = H_A \wr X \text{ Alt}(X)$, we can split $\sigma$ into a product of an even number of cycles of even length, denoted $\sigma_e$, and a product of cycles of odd length, denoted $\sigma_o$, so that $w = (\phi, \sigma_e \sigma_o)$. Let $(H_A)_\ast$ denote the set of conjugacy classes of $H_A$; we write $1 \in (H_A)_\ast$ for the class $\{1\} \in H_A$.

To each conjugacy class in $W_A$ we associate an $(H_A)_\ast$-indexed family of partitions. Using the same notation as in [1], we associate the conjugacy classes in $H_A$ to the family of partitions

$$\left(\chi^{(1)}, \nu^{(1)}; \left(\mu^{(\eta)}, \gamma^{(\eta)}\right)_{\eta \in (H_A)_\ast}\setminus \{1\}\right),$$

where $\nu^{(1)}$ and $\gamma^{(\eta)}$ each have an even number of positive parts, in the following way.

Let $X^{(w)}$ be the finite subset of $X$ that is the union of the supports of $\phi$ and $\sigma$. Let $\sigma$ be the product of the disjoint cycles $c_1, \ldots, c_k$, where $c_i = x_1^{(i)}(1) x_2^{(i)}(2) \cdots x_{v_i}^{(i)}(v_i)$ with $x_j^{(i)} \in X^{(w)}$ and $v_i = \text{ length}(c_i)$. We include cycles of length 1 for each $x \in X$ such that $x \in \text{ sup}(\phi)$ and $x \notin \text{ sup}(\sigma)$, so that

$$X^{(w)} = \bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq k} \text{ sup}(c_i).$$
Define \( \eta^w(c_i) \in (H_A)_* \) to be the conjugacy class of the product \( \phi \left( x_{v_i}^{(i)} \right) \phi \left( x_{v_{i-1}}^{(i)} \right) \cdots \phi \left( x_1^{(i)} \right) \in H_A \). For \( \eta \in (H_A)_* \) and \( \ell \geq 1 \), let \( m_{\ell}^w \eta \) denote the number of cycles \( c \in \{ c_1, ..., c_k \} \) such that length(\( c \)) = \( \ell \) and \( \eta^w(c) = \eta \). Let \( \mu^w, n^w, \eta \) be the partition with \( m_{\ell}^w \eta \) parts equal to \( \ell \), for all \( \ell \geq 1 \). Note that

\[
\sum_{\eta \in (H_A)_*} n_{\ell}^w, \eta = \sum_{\eta \in (H_A)_*} \ell m_{\ell}^w, \eta = \left| X^w \right|.
\]

Also observe that the partition \( \mu^w, 1 \) does not contain parts of size 1, because if \( v_i = 1 \), then \( \eta^w(c_i) \neq 1 \). Using the same notation as above, let \( \lambda^w, 1 \) be the partition with \( m_{\ell}^w, 1 \) parts equal to \( \ell - 1 \). We can write \( \sigma = \sigma_C, \sigma_o \) as above, so \( \lambda^w, 1 \) splits into two partitions, one of which has an even number of parts. Define the type of \( w \) to be the family \( \left( \lambda^{(1)}, \nu^{(1)}; (\mu^{(n)}, \gamma^{(n)}))_{\eta \in (H_A)_- \setminus \{1\}} \right) \). Then two elements in \( W_A \) conjugate if and only if they have the same type. Thus, each \( (H_A)_* \)-indexed family of partitions \( \left( \lambda^{(1)}, \nu^{(1)}; (\mu^{(n)}, \gamma^{(n)}))_{\eta \in (H_A)_- \setminus \{1\}} \right) \) is the type of one conjugacy class in \( W_A \).

Consider an \( (H_A)_* \)-indexed family of partitions \( \left( \lambda^{(1)}, \nu^{(1)}; (\mu^{(n)}, \gamma^{(n)}))_{\eta \in (H_A)_- \setminus \{1\}} \right) \) and the corresponding conjugacy class in \( W_A \). Let \( u^{(1)}, v^{(1)}, u^{(n)}, v^{(n)} \) be the sums of the parts of \( \lambda^{(1)}, \nu^{(1)}, \mu^{(n)}, \gamma^{(n)} \) respectively, and let \( k^{(1)}, k^{(n)}, t^{(n)} \) be the number of parts of \( \lambda^{(1)}, \nu^{(1)}, \mu^{(n)}, \gamma^{(n)} \) respectively.

Choose a representative \( w = (\phi, \sigma) \) of this conjugacy class such that

\[
\sigma = \prod_{i=1}^{k} c_i = \prod_{i=1}^{k} \left( x_1^{(i)}, x_2^{(i)}, ..., x_{\mu_i}^{(i)} \right)
\]

and

\[
\phi \left( x_j^{(i)} \right) = 1 \in H_A \text{ for all } j \in \{ 1, ..., \mu_i \} \quad \text{when } \eta^w(c_i) = 1,
\]

\[
\phi \left( x_j^{(i)} \right) = \begin{cases} 
1 \text{ for all } j \in \{ 1, ..., \mu_i - 1 \} & \text{when } \eta^w(c_i) \neq 1.
\end{cases}
\]

Observe that

\[
k = k^{(1)} + t^{(1)} + \sum_{\eta \in (H_A)_- \setminus \{1\}, \eta \neq 1} \left( k^{(n)} + t^{(n)} \right),
\]

\[
\left| X^w \right| = u^{(1)} + k^{(1)} + v^{(1)} + t^{(1)} + \sum_{\eta \in (H_A)_- \setminus \{1\}, \eta \neq 1} \left( u^{(n)} + v^{(n)} \right).
\]

Hence, the contribution to \( C_{W_A, S(W_A)}(q) \) from \( \left( \lambda^{(1)}, \nu^{(1)}; (\mu^{(n)}, \gamma^{(n)}))_{\eta \in (H_A)_- \setminus \{1\}, \eta \neq 1} \right) \) is

\[
\left( q^{u^{(1)}}\bar{q}^{v^{(1)}} \prod_{\eta \in (H_A)_- \setminus \{1\}, \eta \neq 1} q^{u^{(n)}}\bar{q}^{v^{(n)}} \right).
\]

It follows that

\[
C_{W_A, S(W_A)}(q) = \left[ \left( \prod_{v_1=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1 - q^{v_1}} \right) \left( \frac{1}{2} \prod_{v_1=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1 - q^{v_1}} + \frac{1}{2} \prod_{v_1=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1 + q^{v_1}} \right) \right]
\]

\[
\times \prod_{\eta \in (H_A)_- \setminus \{1\}, \eta \neq 1} \left[ \left( \prod_{u_1=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1 - q^{u_1}} \right) \left( \frac{1}{2} \prod_{u_1=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1 - q^{u_1}} + \frac{1}{2} \prod_{u_1=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1 + q^{u_1}} \right) \right].
\]
\[
\left( \frac{1}{2} \prod_{n_1=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1 - q^{2n_1}} + \frac{1}{2} \prod_{n_1=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1 - q^{n_1})^2} \right) \\
\times \prod_{\eta \in (H_\Lambda)^* \setminus \{1\}, \eta \neq 1} \left[ \left( \frac{1}{2} \prod_{n_\eta=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1 - q^{2n_\eta}} + \frac{1}{2} \prod_{n_\eta=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1 - q^{n_\eta})^2} \right) \right] \\
= \left( \frac{1}{2} \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1 - q^{2k}} + \frac{1}{2} \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1 - q^k)^2} \right)^{|(H_\Lambda)^*|}.
\]

The equality between the first and second line is given in the appendix of [1].

The generalized partition function \( p(n) e \) is defined for the vector \( e = (e_1, \ldots, e_k) \in \mathbb{Z}^k \) by its generating function

\[
\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p(n) e^n = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1 - q^n)^{e_1} \cdots (1 - q^{kn})^{e_k}}.
\]

The following theorem gives an asymptotic formula for the generalized partition function, which was obtained by using properties of modular forms\(^5\).

**Theorem** (Cotron-Dicks-Fleming [3]). Let \( e = (e_1, \ldots, e_k) \) be any nonzero vector with nonnegative integer entries, and let \( d := \gcd\{m : e_m \neq 0\} \). Define the quantities

\[
\gamma := \gamma(e) = \sum_{m=1}^{k} e_{dm} \quad \text{and} \quad \delta := \delta(e) = \sum_{m=1}^{k} \frac{e_{dm}}{m}.
\]

Then as \( n \to \infty \), we have that

\[
p(dn)_e \sim \frac{M_{e}^{\frac{k+1}{2}}}{2\sqrt{\pi n}} e^{2\sqrt{An}},
\]

where

\[
\lambda := \prod_{m=1}^{k} \left( \frac{m}{2\pi} \right)^{\frac{e_{dm}}{2}} \quad \text{and} \quad A := \frac{\pi^2 \delta}{6}.
\]

Corollaries 4, 6, 8, and 9 all follow from the above theorem.

**A Remark on Corollary 6.** By the binomial theorem applied to the conjugacy growth series in equation (1.4), we find that

\[
\gamma_{W_A}(n) \sim \frac{1}{2M_A} \sum_{k=0}^{M_A} \left( \frac{4M_A - 3k}{2(4M_A - 3k)} \frac{1^{1+2M_A-k}}{4} \frac{3+2M_A-k}{4} n^{3+2M_A-k} \cdot 2^{2\pi \sqrt{\frac{(4M_A-3k)^2}{4}}} \right).
\]

But, intuitively, the summands corresponding to \( k > 0 \) grow much more slowly than the summand corresponding to \( k = 0 \), since the instance of \( k \) in the exponential function is negative. Therefore, the above sum is asymptotic to the \( k = 0 \) term, so we have

\[
\gamma_{W_A}(n) \sim \frac{M_{A}^{1+2M_A}}{2^{1+2M_A}3^{1+2M_A} n^{4+2M_A}} e^{2\pi \sqrt{\frac{nM_A}{3}}}.
\]

\(^5\)For background on modular forms, see [8].
We now introduce the proof of Theorems 1 and 3. In a paper by Bruinier, Kohnen, and Ono [2], the universal polynomial \( F_n \) is defined as

\[
F_n(x_1, \ldots, x_{n-1}) := -\frac{2x_1\sigma_1(n-1)}{n-1} + \sum_{m_1 + \cdots + m_{n-2} \geq 0, m_1 + \cdots + (n-2) m_{n-2} = n-1} (-1)^{m_1 + \cdots + m_{n-2}} \frac{(m_1 + \cdots + m_{n-2} - 1)!}{m_1! \cdots m_{n-2}!} x_1^{m_1} \cdots x_{n-1}^{m_{n-2}},
\]

and it is used to define a recursion relation for coefficients of meromorphic modular forms on \( SL_2(\mathbb{Z}) \). Frechette and the author [4] modify this polynomial to the above \( \hat{F}_n \) and use it to define a recursion relation for coefficients of quotients of Rogers-Ramanujan-type \( q \)-series. Their proof surprisingly only requires properties of logarithmic derivatives applied to a \( q \)-series infinite product identity. The proof below is adapted from the proof in [4] and can be applied to any \( q \)-series infinite product identity, including the famous identity of Nekrasov and Okounkov [7].

**Proof of Theorem 1.** Define the \( q \)-series identity

\[
F_r(q) := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p_n(r)q^n := \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - q^n)^r
\]

so that \( p_n(r) = \gamma_{W_\sigma}(n) \) and \( r = -M_S \). We take logarithms of both sides to obtain

\[
\log \left( 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} p_n(r)q^n \right) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} r \log(1 - q^n)
\]

by the Taylor expansion for \( \log(1 - x) \). Then we take the derivatives of both sides to obtain

\[
\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} np_n(r)q^{n-1} = -\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{d|n} r dq^{n-1}
\]

so we have

\[
\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} np_n(r)q^n = \left( -\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} r \sigma_1(n)q^n \right) \left( 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} p_n(r)q^n \right).
\]

For convenience, define \( b(n) := r \sigma_1(n) \). Expanding the right hand side and equating coefficients, we now have

\[
0 = b(n) + b(n-1)p_1(r) + b(n-2)p_2(r) + \cdots + b(1)p_{n-1}(r) + np_n(r).
\]

The symmetric power functions

\[
s_i := X_1^i + \cdots + X_n^i
\]

and the elementary symmetric functions

\[
\sigma_i = \sum_{1 \leq j_1 \leq \cdots \leq j_i \leq n} X_{j_1} \cdots X_{j_i}
\]

exhibit a similar relationship; namely, we have the identity

\[
0 = s_n - s_{n-1}\sigma_1 + s_{n-2}\sigma_2 - \cdots + (-1)^{n-1}s_1\sigma_{n-1} + (-1)^n\sigma_n.
\]
Evaluating equation (2.1) at \((X_1,\ldots,X_n) = (\lambda(1,n),\ldots,\lambda(n,n))\), where \(\lambda(j,n)\) are the roots of the polynomial
\[
X^n + p_1(r)X^{n-1} + \cdots + p_{n-1}(r)X + p_n(r),
\]
we have that \(p_n(r) = \sigma_n\) for \(n \geq 1\). Then we have \(b(n) = (-1)^n s_n\). Using the fact that
\[
s_n = n \sum_{m_1,\ldots,m_n \geq 0 \atop m_1 + \cdots + m_n = i} (-1)^{m_1+m_2+\cdots} \frac{(m_1 + \cdots + m_n - 1)!}{m_1! \cdots m_n!} \cdot \sigma_1^{m_1} \cdots \sigma_n^{m_n},
\]
we arrive at the recursion
\[
p_n(r) = \hat{F}_n(p_1(r),\ldots,p_{n-1}(r)) - \frac{r}{n} \sigma_1(n).
\]
Thus, we have
\[
\gamma_{W_S}(n) = \hat{F}_n(\gamma_{W_S}(1),\ldots,\gamma_{W_S}(n-1)) + \frac{M_S}{n} \sigma_1(n).
\]

Theorem 1 gives a recurrence formula for the coefficients \(\gamma_{W_S}(n)\) of the conjugacy growth series of a permutational wreath product in which the group \(H_S\) has \(M_S\) conjugacy classes. Now, we consider the more general infinite product \(\prod_{n \geq 1} (1 - q^n)^r\) for any complex number \(r\), and we ignore its implications for finite groups. Then the above proof also applies to the coefficients of the Nekrasov-Okounkov hook length formula [7]
\[
\sum_{\lambda \in \mathcal{P}} x^{\lambda} \prod_{h \in \mathcal{H}(\lambda)} \left(1 - \frac{z}{h^2}\right) = \prod_{k \geq 1} \left(1 - x^k\right)^{z-1}
\]
if we change variables \(z \mapsto 1 + r\) and \(x \mapsto q = e^{2\pi i r}\) for \(r \in \mathcal{H}\). The coefficients
\[
\prod_{h \in \mathcal{H}(\lambda)} \left(1 - \frac{z}{h^2}\right) = \prod_{h \in \mathcal{H}(\lambda)} \left(1 - \frac{1+r}{h^2}\right)
\]
of the infinite product
\[
\prod_{k \geq 1} \left(1 - x^k\right)^{z-1} = \prod_{n \geq 1} (1 - q^n)^r
\]
therefore satisfy the recurrence relation
\[
\prod_{h \in \mathcal{H}(\lambda)} \left(1 - \frac{1+r}{h^2}\right) = \gamma_{W_S}(n) = \hat{F}_n(\gamma_{W_S}(1),\ldots,\gamma_{W_S}(n-1)) - \frac{r}{n} \sigma_1(n).
\]
Although for \(r \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{Z}^+\) we can no longer observe the relationship between the number of conjugacy classes of \(H_S\) and the coefficients of the conjugacy growth series of \(H_S \ltimes \text{Sym}(X)\), we do obtain a simple recursion for the Nekrasov-Okounkov hook length formula which is independent of complex analysis and hook lengths.

**Proof of Theorem 3.** This proof closely follows the proof of Theorem 1. Define the \(q\)-series identity
\[
F_M(q) := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} P_n(M_A)q^n := \left(\frac{1}{2} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1-q^n)^2} + \frac{1}{2} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1-q^{2n}}\right)^{M_A}
\]
so that \(P_n(M_A) = \gamma_{W_A}(n)\). Then, by the binomial theorem, we have
\[
\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} P_n(M_A)q^n = \frac{1}{2M_A} \sum_{k=1}^{M_A} \binom{M_A}{k} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1-q^n)^{2k}} \frac{1}{(1-q^{2n})^{M_A-k}}.
\]
It suffices to find recurrence relations for each summand. Define
\[ F_{M,k}(q) := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_k(n) q^n := \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1-q^n)^{2k}(1-q^{2n})^{M-k}}. \]
We take the logarithmic derivative of both sides as in the proof of Theorem 1. First, we take logarithms of both sides to obtain
\[
\log \left(1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_k(n) q^n\right) = -2k \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \log (1 - q^n) + (k - M_A) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \log (1 - q^{2n})
\]
so we have
\[
-(k + M_A) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \log (1 - q^n) + (k - M_A) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \log (1 + q^n)
\]
by the Taylor expansions for $\log(1 - x)$ and $\log(1 + x)$. Then we take the derivatives of both sides to obtain
\[
\frac{\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} na_k(n) q^{n-1}}{1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_k(n) q^n} = - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} d \cdot \left[ (-1)^{\frac{n}{2}} (k - M_A) - (k + M_A) \right] q^{n-1},
\]
so we have
\[
\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} na_k(n) q^n = \left( - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} d \cdot \left[ (-1)^{\frac{n}{2}} (k - M_A) - (k + M_A) \right] q^n \right) \left( 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_k(n) q^n \right).
\]
For convenience, define $b_k(n) := \sum_{d|n} d \cdot \left[ (-1)^{\frac{n}{2}} (k - M_A) - (k + M_A) \right]$. Expanding the right hand side and equating coefficients, we now have
\[
0 = b_k(n) + b_k(n-1) a_k(1) + b_k(n-2) a_k(2) + \cdots + b_k(1) a_k(n-1) + na_k(n).
\]
Using the same identity between the symmetric power functions and the elementary symmetric functions as in the proof of Theorem 1, we arrive at the recursion
\[
a_k(n) = \hat{F}_n(a_k(1), \ldots, a_k(n-1)) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{d|n} d \cdot \left[ (-1)^{\frac{n}{2}} (k - M_A) - (k + M_A) \right]
\]
\[
= \hat{F}_n(a_k(1), \ldots, a_k(n-1)) - \sum_{\delta|n} \delta \cdot \left[ (-1)^{\delta} (k - M_A) - (k + M_A) \right].
\]
Thus, we have
\[
\gamma_{W_A}(n) = \frac{1}{2M_A} \sum_{k=0}^{M_A} \binom{M_A}{k} \left( \hat{F}_n(a_k(1), \ldots, a_k(n-1)) - \sum_{\delta|n} \delta \cdot \left[ (-1)^{\delta} (k - M_A) - (k + M_A) \right] \right).
\]

Remark. This recurrence relation gives the coefficients $\gamma_{W_A}(n)$ in terms of the coefficients $a_k(1), \ldots, a_k(n-1)$ of each summand. Since the linear combination of infinite products is raised to the $(M_A)$th power in the conjugacy growth series, presumably there is no simple way to obtain a recurrence relation for $\gamma_{W_A}(n)$ in terms of $\gamma_{W_A}(1), \ldots, \gamma_{W_A}(n-1)$ as in the symmetric case.
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