

Narayana polynomials and random walks in space

C. Vignat - L.S.S. Paris Sud

Joint work with J. Borwein, A. Straub, V.H. Moll, T.
Amdeberhan

Introduction

- ▶ some recent results by Lassalle
- ▶ their extension using a probabilistic approach
- ▶ about random walks

Narayana numbers and polynomials

Definitions:

- the **Narayana polynomials**

$$\mathcal{N}_r(z) = \sum_{k=1}^r N(r, k) z^{k-1}$$

or

$$\mathcal{N}_r(z) = \sum_{m \geq 0} \binom{r-1}{2m} C_m z^m (z+1)^{r-2m-1},$$

with

$$C_m = \frac{1}{m+1} \binom{2m}{m}, \text{ Catalan number}$$

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- the **Narayana numbers**

$$N(r, k) = \frac{1}{r} \binom{r}{k-1} \binom{r}{k}, \quad r \neq 0$$

The Narayana Triangle

				1				→	1	
			1		1			→	2	
		1		3		1		→	5	
	1		6		6		1	→	14	
1		10		20		10		1	→	42

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1		10		20		10		1	→	42

Each row sum is a **Catalan number**

$$\sum_{k=0}^n \frac{1}{n+1} \binom{n+1}{k} \binom{n+1}{k+1} = \frac{1}{n+2} \binom{2n+2}{n+1}.$$

Lassalle's results

M. Lassalle, "Two integer sequences related to Catalan numbers",
J. Comb. Theory Ser. A, 119:923–935, 2012.

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The numbers A_n defined by

$$(z+1)\mathcal{N}_r(z) - \mathcal{N}_{r+1}(z) = \sum_{n \geq 1} (-z)^n \binom{r-1}{2n-1} A_n \mathcal{N}_{r-2n+1}(z)$$

satisfy the recurrence

$$(-1)^{n-1} A_n = C_n + \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} (-1)^j \binom{2n-1}{2j-1} A_j C_{n-j}.$$

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The first values are

$$A_1 = 1, A_2 = 1, A_3 = 5, A_4 = 56, A_5 = 1092, A_6 = 32670$$

Lassalle's results

[Hints](#)

(Greetings from [The On-Line Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences!](#))

Search: **seq:1,1,5,56,1092**

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[A180874](#) Lassalle's sequence connected with Catalan numbers and Narayana polynomials.

+20

5

1, 1, 5, 56, 1092, 32670, 1387815, 79389310, 5882844968, 548129834616, 62720089624920, 8646340208462880, 1413380381699497200, 270316008395632253340, 59800308109377016336155, 15151722444639718679892150, 4359147487054262623576455600 ([list](#); [graph](#); [refs](#); [listen](#); [history](#); [text](#); [internal format](#))

OFFSET

1,3

COMMENTS

Defined by the recurrence formula in Theorem 1, page 2 of Lasalle.

LINKS

[Table of n, a\(n\) for n=1..17.](#)

Michel Lassalle, [Catalan numbers and a new integer sequence](#),

arXiv:1009.4225, Sep 21 2010.

FORMULA

$$a(n) = (-1)^{(n-1)} * (C(n) + \sum_{j=1..n-1} (-1)^j * \text{binomial}(2n-1, 2j-1) * a(j) * C(n-j)),$$
 where $C() = \text{A000108}()$. - [R. J. Mathar](#), Apr 17 2011, corrected by [Vaclav Kotesovec](#), Feb 28 2014

E.g.f.: $\sum_{k=0..infinity} a(k) * x^{(2*k+2)} / (2*k+2)! = \log(x / \text{BesselJ}(1, 2*x))$. - [Sergei N. Gladkovskii](#), Dec 28 2011

$a(n) \sim (n!)^2 / (\text{sqrt}(\text{Pi}) * n^{(3/2)} * r^n)$, where $r = \text{BesselJZero}[1, 1]^2/16 = 0.917623165132743328576236110539381686855099186384686\dots$ - [Vaclav Kotesovec](#), added Feb 28 2014, updated Mar 01 2014

MAPLE

```
A000108 := proc(n) binomial(2*n, n)/(1+n); end proc;
```

```
A180874 := proc(n) option remember; if n = 1 then 1; else
```

```
  A000108(n) + add((-1)^j * binomial(2*n-1, 2*j-1) * procname(j) * A000108(n-j),
```

```
  j=1..n-1); if (-1)^(n-1); end if; end proc: # R. J. Mathar, Apr 16 2011
```

MATHEMATICA

```
nmax=20; a = ConstantArray[0, nmax]; a[[1]]=1; Do[a[[n]] = (-1)^(n-1) *  
{Binomial[2*n, n]/(n+1) + Sum[(-1)^j * Binomial[2n-1, 2j-1] * a[[j]] *  
Binomial[2*(n-j), n-j]/(n-j+1)}, {j, 1, n-1}], {n, 2, nmax}; a (* Vaclav Kotesovec, Feb 28 2014 *)
```

CROSSREFS

Cf. [A000108](#), [A001263](#), [A188664](#), [A115369](#).

KEYWORD

nonn, easy

AUTHOR

[Jonathan Vos Post](#), Sep 22 2010

Lassalle's results

Lassalle shows that

$$\{A_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$$

is an **increasing** sequence of **positive integers**.

Lassalle's results

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is an **increasing** sequence of **positive integers**.

D. Zeilberger suggested to study the sequence

$$a_n = \frac{2A_n}{C_n}$$

with first values

$$a_1 = 2, a_2 = 1, a_3 = 2, a_4 = 8, a_5 = 52, a_6 = 495, a_7 = 6470$$

and that satisfies

$$(-1)^{n-1} a_n = 2 + \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} (-1)^j \binom{n-1}{j-1} \binom{n+1}{j+1} \frac{a_j}{n-j+1}$$

Lassalle's results

Equivalently,

$$(-1)^{n-1} a_n = 2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} (-1)^j \sigma_{n,j} a_j$$

with

$$\sigma_{n,r} = \frac{2}{n} \binom{n}{r-1} \binom{n+1}{r+1}$$

which appears as OEIS A108838.

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Remark that

$$\sigma_{n,r} = \binom{n-1}{r-1} \binom{n+1}{r} - \binom{n-1}{r-2} \binom{n+1}{r+1}.$$

Lassalle's paper

[Hints](#)(Greetings from [The On-Line Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences!](#))Search: **a108838**

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Triangle of Dyck paths counted by number of long interior inclines.

+30

3

2, 3, 2, 4, 8, 2, 5, 20, 15, 2, 6, 40, 60, 24, 2, 7, 70, 175, 140, 35, 2, 8, 112, 420, 560, 280, 48, 2, 9, 168, 882, 1764, 1470, 504, 63, 2, 10, 240, 1680, 4704, 5880, 3360, 840, 80, 2, 11, 330, 2970, 11088, 19404, 16632, 6930, 1320, 99, 2 ([list](#); [table](#); [graph](#); [refs](#); [listen](#); [history](#); [text](#); [internal format](#))

[format](#)

OFFSET

2,1

COMMENTS

T(n,k) is the number of Dyck n-paths ([A000108](#)) containing k long interior inclines. An incline is an ascent or a descent where an ascent (resp. descent) is a maximal sequence of contiguous upsteps (resp. downsteps). An incline is long if it consists of at least 2 steps and is interior if it does not start or end the path.

T(n,k) is the number of Dyck (n+1)-paths whose last descent has length 2 and which contain n-k peaks. For example T(3,0)=3 counts UUDUDUDD, UDUUDUDD, UUDUDUDD. - [David Callan](#), Jul 03 2006

T(n,k) is the number of parallelogram polyominoes of semiperimeter n+1 having k corners. [[Emeric Deutsch](#), Oct 09 2008]

T(n,k) is the number of rooted ordered trees with n non-root nodes and k leaves; see example. - [Joerg Arndt](#), Aug 18 2014

LINKS

[Table of n, a\(n\) for n=2..56.](#)

Tewodros Amdeberhan, Victor H. Moll and Christophe Vignat, [A probabilistic interpretation of a sequence related to Narayana Polynomials](#), 2012. - From [N. J. A. Sloane](#), Sep 19 2012

David Callan, [Some Identities for the Catalan and Fine Numbers](#)

M. Delest, J. P. Dubernard and I. Dutour, [Parallelogram polyominoes and corners](#), J. Symbolic Computation, 20(1995),503-515. [From [Emeric Deutsch](#), Oct 09 2008]

M. P. Delest, D. Gouyou-Beauchamps and B. Vauquelin, [Enumeration of parallelogram polyominoes with given bond and site parameter](#), Graphs and Combinatorics, 3 (1987), 325-339.

E. Deutsch, [Dyck path enumeration](#), Discrete Math., 204, 1999, 167-202.

FORMULA

G.f. $T(n, k) = 2 * \text{binom}[n+1, k+2] * \text{binom}[n-2, k] / (n+1)$. GF $G(z, t) := \text{Sum}(T(n, k) * z^n * t^k, [n >= 1, k >= 0])$ satisfies $z - ((1-z)^2 - (2*t-t^2)*z^2) * G + (t^2*z) * G^2 = 0$.

G.f. $f = 1 + z(1+r)^2$, where $r = r(t, z)$ is the Narayana function defined by $(1+r)(1+tr)z = r$, $r(t, 0) = 0$. - [Emeric Deutsch](#), Jul 23 2006

For $n >= 0$, the row polynomials $\text{sum}\{k = 0..n\} T(n+2, k) * x^k = 2 / (n+1) * (1-x)^n * P(n, 2, 1, (1+x) / (1-x))$, where $P(n, a, b, x)$ denotes the Jacobi polynomial.

Lassalle's results

Lassalle's main result:

Theorem

The numbers $\{A_n, n \geq 2\}$ are *positive, increasing integers* and given by

$$A_{n+1} = \sum_{r=1}^n \frac{n-r+1}{n+2} \binom{2n+1}{2r-1} A_r A_{n+1-r}.$$

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The numbers $\{a_n, n \geq 2\}$ are *positive, increasing integers* and given by

$$a_{n+1} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{r=1}^n \frac{1}{n+1} \binom{n+1}{r+1} \binom{n+1}{r-1} a_r a_{n+1-r}.$$

"Both sequences seem to be new"

A Bessel function approach

The Bessel function of the first kind

$$I_{\alpha}(z) = \sum_{j \geq 0} \frac{1}{j!(j+\alpha)!} \left(\frac{z}{2}\right)^{2j+\alpha}.$$

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From the recurrence

$$(-1)^{n-1} a_n = 2 + \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} (-1)^j \binom{n-1}{j-1} \binom{n+1}{j+1} \frac{a_j}{n-j+1},$$

we deduce

Theorem

[V.H.M, T.A. , C.V.] The numbers $\{a_n\}$ satisfy

$$\sum_{j=1}^{+\infty} \frac{(-1)^{j-1} a_j}{(j+1)!} \frac{x^{j-1}}{(j-1)!} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{x}} \frac{I_2(2\sqrt{x})}{I_1(2\sqrt{x})}.$$

A Bessel function approach

Using classical **contiguity** properties of Bessel I functions, we recover Lassale's

Theorem

The numbers $\{a_n\}$ satisfy the recurrence, with $a_1 = 1$,

$$2na_n = \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \binom{n}{k-1} \binom{n}{k+1} a_k a_{n-k}, \quad n \geq 2.$$

*As a corollary, the numbers $\{a_n\}$ are **positive**.*

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*As a corollary, the numbers $\{a_n\}$ are **positive**.*

Using the recurrence, we show moreover, by induction on n ,

Theorem

*The numbers $\{a_n\}$ are **integers**, and a_n is even if n is odd.*

A Bessel function approach

Theorem

For $n \geq 3$, the sequence $\{a_n\}$ is *increasing*.

Proof.

Start from

$$2na_n = \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \binom{n}{k-1} \binom{n}{k+1} a_k a_{n-k}, \quad n \geq 2$$

so that

$$a_n \geq \frac{1}{2n} \left[\binom{n}{0} \binom{n}{2} a_1 a_{n-1} + \binom{n}{n-2} \binom{n}{2} a_{n-1} a_1 \right] = (n-1) a_{n-1}$$

hence for $n \geq 3$,

$$a_n - a_{n-1} \geq (n-2) a_{n-1} > 0.$$

A probabilistic approach

The symmetric beta distribution

$$f_{\mu}(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{B(\mu+\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})} (1-x^2)^{\mu-\frac{1}{2}} & x \in [-1, 1] \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

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The odd moments equal zero and

$$\mathbb{E}X_{\mu}^{2m} = \frac{B(\mu + \frac{1}{2}, 2m + \frac{1}{2})}{B(\mu + \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})} = \frac{\Gamma(\mu + 1)}{\Gamma(\mu + m + 1)} \frac{(2m)!}{2^{2m} m!}.$$

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Remark: for $\mu = 1$,

$$\mathbb{E}(2X_1)^{2m} = C_m$$

and for $\mu = 0$,

$$\mathbb{E}(2X_0)^{2m} = \binom{2m}{m}.$$

A probabilistic approach

The moment generating function is

$$\varphi_{\mu}(z) = \mathbb{E}e^{zX_{\mu}} = \Gamma(\mu + 1) 2^{\mu} \frac{I_{\mu}(z)}{z^{\mu}}.$$

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It admits the **Weierstrass factorization**

$$\varphi_\mu(z) = \prod_{k \geq 1} \left(1 + \frac{z^2}{j_{\mu,k}^2} \right)$$

where $\{j_{\mu,k}\}$ are the zeros of the Bessel function J_μ .

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The **cumulants** $\kappa_\mu(n)$ are defined as

$$\log \varphi_\mu(z) = \sum_{n \geq 1} \kappa_\mu(n) \frac{z^n}{n!}.$$

A probabilistic approach

Define the **Bessel zeta function** - or Rayleigh function

$$\zeta_{\mu}(s) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{1}{j_{\mu,k}^s}.$$

A probabilistic approach

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The cumulants of the symmetric beta distribution are

$$\kappa_{\mu}(n) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \\ 2(-1)^{\frac{n}{2}+1} (n-1)! \zeta_{\mu}(n) & \text{if } n \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

A probabilistic approach

Define the random variable Y_μ as

$$Y_\mu = \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{L_k}{j_{\mu,k}}$$

where $\{L_k\}$ are i.i.d. Laplace random variables. Then

$$\mathbb{E} e^{izY_\mu} = \prod_{k \geq 1} \left(1 + \frac{z^2}{j_{\mu,k}^2} \right)^{-1} = \frac{1}{\mathbb{E} e^{zX_\mu}}$$

so that, with X_μ and Y_μ independent,

$$f(X_\mu + iY_\mu + z) = f(z).$$

A probabilistic approach

The case $\mu = 1$ gives Lassale's sequence with

$$f_1(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{2}{\pi} \sqrt{1-x^2}, & x \in [-1, 1] \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

and

$$\mathbb{E} (2X_1)^{2m} = C_m.$$

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The **Narayana polynomials** read

$$\mathcal{N}_r(z) = \mathbb{E} (1 + z + 2\sqrt{z}X_1)^{r-1}, \quad r \geq 1.$$

which we rewrite as

$$\mathcal{N}_r(z) = (2\sqrt{z})^{r-1} \mathbb{E} \left(\frac{1+z}{2\sqrt{z}} + X_1 \right)^{r-1}, \quad r \geq 1.$$

A probabilistic approach

We need the following result.

Theorem

If

$$P_n(z) = \mathbb{E}(z + X)^n,$$

then P_n satisfies the recurrence

$$P_{n+1}(z) - zP_n(z) = \sum_{m \geq 1} \binom{n}{2m-1} \kappa_1(2m) P_{n-2m+1}(z).$$

A probabilistic approach

Apply to Narayana polynomials

$$\mathcal{N}_{r+1}(z) - (1+z)\mathcal{N}_r(z) = \sum_{m \geq 1} \binom{r-1}{2m-1} \kappa_1(2m) 2^{2m} z^m \mathcal{N}_{r+1-2m}(z)$$

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$$\mathcal{N}_{r+1}(z) - (1+z)\mathcal{N}_r(z) = \sum_{m \geq 1} \binom{r-1}{2m-1} (-1)^m A_m z^m \mathcal{N}_{r+1-2m}(z)$$

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$$A_n = (-1)^{n+1} \kappa(2n) 2^{2n} = 2^{2n+1} (2n-1)! \zeta_1(2n)$$

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so that

$$A_n = (-1)^{n+1} \kappa_1(2n) 2^{2n} = 2^{2n+1} (2n-1)! \zeta_1(2n)$$

and

$$a_n = \frac{A_n}{C_n} = 2^{2n+1} (n+1)! (n-1)! \zeta_1(2n).$$

A generalization

The symmetric beta distribution

$$f_{\mu}(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{B(\mu+\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})} (1-x^2)^{\mu-\frac{1}{2}} & x \in [-1, 1] \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

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The cumulants are

$$\kappa_{\mu}(2n) = (-1)^{n+1} 2^{2n+1} (2n-1)! \zeta_{\mu}(2n)$$

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The recurrence

$$(n + \mu) \zeta_\mu(2n) = \sum_{r=1}^{n-1} \zeta_\mu(2r) \zeta_\mu(2n - 2r),$$

translates, for $\mu = 1$, into

$$2na_n = \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \binom{n}{k-1} \binom{n}{k+1} a_k a_{n-k}, \quad n \geq 2.$$

A generalization

$$a_n = \frac{2(-1)^{n+1} \kappa_1(2n)}{\mathbb{E}(2X_1)^{2n}}$$

Define

$$a_n^{(\mu)} = \frac{2(-1)^{n+1} \kappa_\mu(2n)}{\mathbb{E}(2X_\mu)^{2n}}.$$

The recurrence

$$(n + \mu) \zeta_\mu(2n) = \sum_{r=1}^{n-1} \zeta_\mu(2r) \zeta_\mu(2n - 2r),$$

translates, for $\mu = 1$, into

$$2na_n = \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \binom{n}{k-1} \binom{n}{k+1} a_k a_{n-k}, \quad n \geq 2.$$

$$a_n^{(\mu)} = \frac{1}{2 \binom{n+\mu-1}{n-1}} \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \binom{n+\mu-1}{n-k-1} \binom{n+\mu-1}{k-1} a_k^{(\mu)} a_{n-k}^{(\mu)}.$$

A generalization

We deduce

Theorem (T.A, V.H.M.,C.V.)

The coefficients $a_n^{(\mu)}$ are *positive* and *increasing* for $n \geq \left\lfloor \frac{\mu+3}{2} \right\rfloor$.

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Define the generalized Narayana polynomials as

$$\mathcal{N}_r^{(\mu)}(z) = \mathbb{E} (1 + z + 2\sqrt{z}X_\mu)^{r-1}, \quad r \geq 1.$$

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They satisfy the recurrence

$$\mathcal{N}_{r+1}^{(\mu)}(z) - (1+z)\mathcal{N}_r^{(\mu)}(z) = - \sum_{m \geq 1} \binom{r-1}{2m-1} \kappa_\mu(2m) 2^{2m} z^m \mathcal{N}_{r+1-2m}^{(\mu)}(z)$$

Link with classical polynomials

The **Gegenbauer polynomials** $C_n^{(\mu)}(z)$ are defined by the horizontal generating function

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} C_n^{(\mu)}(z) t^n = (1 - 2zt + t^2)^{-\mu}$$

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so that

$$\mathcal{N}_{n+1}^{(\mu)}(z) = \frac{n!}{(2\mu + 1)_n} (1 - z)^n C_n^{(\mu + \frac{1}{2})} \left(\frac{1 + z}{1 - z} \right).$$

Link with classical polynomials

The usual Narayana polynomials ($\mu = 1$) are given by

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{N}_{n+1}(z) &= \frac{2}{(n+1)(n+2)} (1-z)^n C_n^{(\frac{3}{2})} \left(\frac{1+z}{1-z} \right) \\ &= (1-z)^n {}_2F_1 \left(\begin{matrix} -n, & n+3 \\ 2 \end{matrix} ; \frac{z}{z-1} \right) \\ &= \frac{(2n+2)!}{(n+2)!(n+1)!} z^n {}_2F_1 \left(\begin{matrix} -n, & -n-1 \\ -2n-2 \end{matrix} ; \frac{z-1}{z} \right) \\ &= {}_2F_1 \left(\begin{matrix} -n, & -n-1 \\ 2 \end{matrix} ; z \right).\end{aligned}$$

The case $\mu = \frac{1}{2}$

The density $f_{\frac{1}{2}}$ is the uniform density on $[-1, 1]$ with

$$\mathbb{E}(2X_1)^{2n} = \frac{2^{2n}}{2n+1}$$

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Theorem

The sequence

$$a_n^{(\frac{1}{2})} = 2^{2n} \frac{2n+1}{n} |B_{2n}|$$

with first terms

$$a_1^{(\frac{1}{2})} = 2, \quad a_2^{(\frac{1}{2})} = \frac{4}{3}, \quad a_4^{(\frac{1}{2})} = \frac{32}{9}, \quad a_4^{(\frac{1}{2})} = \frac{96}{5}, \quad a_5^{(\frac{1}{2})} = \frac{512}{3}$$

is *positive and increasing*.

The case $\mu = \frac{1}{2}$

The convolution identity

$$(n + \mu) \zeta_{\mu}(2n) = \sum_{r=1}^{n-1} \zeta_{\mu}(2r) \zeta_{\mu}(2n - 2r)$$

with $\mu = \frac{1}{2}$ gives the well-known

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n-2} \binom{2n}{2k} B_{2k} B_{2n-2k} = -(2n + 1) B_{2n}, \quad n \geq 1$$

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The moments-cumulants identity

$$\kappa_{\frac{1}{2}}(n) = \mathbb{E}X_{\frac{1}{2}}^n - \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \binom{n-1}{j-1} \kappa_{\frac{1}{2}}(j) \mathbb{E}X_{\frac{1}{2}}^{n-j}$$

gives

$$\sum_{j=1}^n \binom{2n+1}{2j} 2^{2j} B_{2j} = 2n, \quad n \geq 1.$$

The limite case $\mu = -\frac{1}{2}$

The density $f_{-\frac{1}{2}}$ is the discrete uniform density on $\{-1, 1\}$ with

$$\mathbb{E} \left(2X_{-\frac{1}{2}} \right)^{2n} = 2^{2n}$$

and the cumulants are expressed in terms of **Euler numbers**

$$\kappa_{-\frac{1}{2}}(2n) = -2^{4n-1} E_{2n-1}$$

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$$a_n^{(-\frac{1}{2})} = (-1)^n 2^{2n} E_{2n-1}$$

with first terms

$$a_1^{(\frac{1}{2})} = 2, a_2^{(\frac{1}{2})} = 4, a_3^{(\frac{1}{2})} = 32, a_4^{(\frac{1}{2})} = 544, a_5^{(\frac{1}{2})} = 15872$$

is **positive** and **increasing**.

The limit case $\mu = -\frac{1}{2}$

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gives

$$\sum_{k=1}^n \binom{2n-1}{2k-1} 2^{2k-1} E_{2k-1} = 1, \quad n \geq 1.$$

Random Walks: densities

The probability density $p_n(\nu; x)$ of the distance to the origin in $d \geq 2$ dimensions after $n \geq 2$ steps is, for $x > 0$,

$$p_n(\nu; x) = \frac{1}{2^\nu \nu!} \int_0^\infty (tx)^{\nu+1} J_\nu(tx) j_\nu^n(t) dt$$

with

$$\nu = \frac{d}{2} - 1.$$

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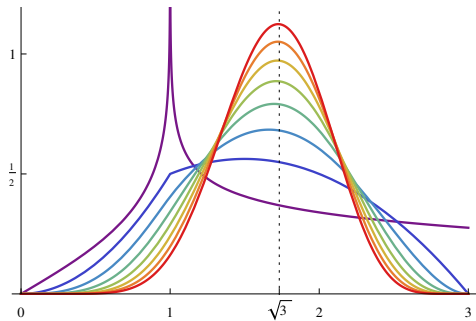
For $x > 0$ and $n = 1, 2, \dots$ the function

$$\psi_n(\nu; x) = \frac{\nu!}{2\pi^{\nu+1}} \frac{p_n(\nu; x)}{x^{2\nu+1}}$$

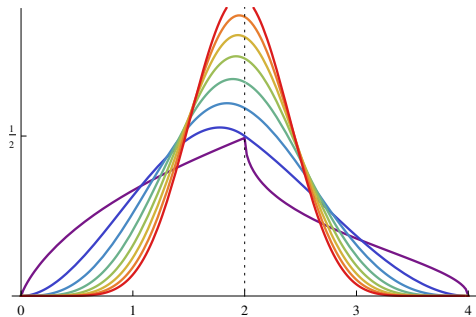
satisfies

$$\psi_n(\nu; x) = \frac{\nu! 2^{2\nu}}{(2\nu)! \pi} \int_{-1}^{+1} \psi_{n-1}\left(\nu; \sqrt{1 + 2\lambda x + x^2}\right) (1 - \lambda^2)^{\nu - \frac{1}{2}} d\lambda.$$

Random Walks: 3 steps



Random Walks: 4 steps



Random Walks: moments

The moments

$$W_n(\nu; s) = \int_0^\infty x^s f_n(\nu; x) dx$$

satisfy

$$W_n(\nu; 2k) = \frac{(k + \nu)! \nu!^{n-1}}{(k + \nu n)!} \sum_{k_1 + \dots + k_n = k} \binom{k}{k_1, \dots, k_n} \binom{k + n\nu}{k_1 + \nu, \dots, k_n + \nu}$$

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and the recursion

$$W_{n_1+n_2}(\nu; 2k) = \sum_{j=0}^k \binom{k}{j} \frac{(k + \nu)! \nu!}{(k - j + \nu)! (j + \nu)!} W_{n_1}(\nu; 2j) W_{n_2}(\nu; 2k - 2j)$$

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and in particular

$$W_n(\nu; 2k) = \sum_{j=0}^k \binom{k}{j} \frac{(k + \nu)! \nu!}{(k - j + \nu)! (j + \nu)!} W_{n-1}(\nu; 2j)$$

Random Walks: 2 dimensions

In two dimensions:

$W_2(0; 2k) : 1; 2; 6; 20; 70; 252; 924; 3432; 12870;$

$W_3(0; 2k) : 1; 3; 15; 93; 639; 4653; 35169; 272835; 2157759;$

$W_4(0; 2k) : 1; 4; 28; 256; 2716; 31504; 387136; 4951552;$

$W_5(0; 2k) : 1; 5; 45; 545; 7885; 127905; 2241225; 41467725;$

$W_6(0; 2k) : 1; 6; 66; 996; 18306; 384156; 8848236; 218040696;$

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In fact

$$W_n(0; 2k) = \sum_{k_1 + \dots + k_n = k} \binom{k}{k_1, \dots, k_n}^2$$

count abelian squares.

Random Walks: 4 dimensions

In four dimensions:

$W_2(1; 2k) : 1; 2; 5; 14; 42; 132; 429; 1430; 4862; \text{ (Catalan)}$

$W_3(1; 2k) : 1; 3; 12; 57; 303; 1743; 10629; 67791;$

$W_4(1; 2k) : 1; 4; 22; 148; 1144; 9784; 90346;$

$W_5(1; 2k) : 1; 5; 35; 305; 3105; 35505; 444225;$

$W_6(1; 2k) : 1; 6; 51; 546; 6906; 99156; 1573011$

Random Walks: Narayana polynomials again

The distance to the origin R_n verifies

$$R_{n+1} \sim \sqrt{1 + 2\Lambda R_n + R_n^2}$$

with

$$\Lambda = \cos \theta \sim \frac{\nu!}{\sqrt{\pi} (\nu - \frac{1}{2})!} (1 - \lambda^2)^{\nu - \frac{1}{2}}, \quad -1 \leq \lambda \leq +1$$

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As a consequence

$$\mathbb{E} R_{n+1}^{2k} = \mathbb{E} (1 + 2\Lambda R_n + R_n^2)^k$$

and since

$$\mathcal{N}_k^{(\nu)}(z) = \mathbb{E} (1 + 2\Lambda\sqrt{z} + z)^{k-1},$$

we deduce (μ is now ν)

$$\mathbb{E} (R_{n+1}^{2k}) = \mathbb{E} \mathcal{N}_{k+1}^{(\nu)}(R_n^2).$$

Random Walks: 4 steps

The recursion

$$W_n(\nu; 2k) = \sum_{j=0}^k \binom{k}{j} \frac{(k+\nu)!\nu!}{(k-j+\nu)!(j+\nu)!} W_{n-1}(\nu; 2j)$$

Random Walks: 4 steps

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$$W_n(\nu; 2k) = \sum_{j=0}^k \binom{k}{j} \frac{(k+\nu)! \nu!}{(k-j+\nu)! (j+\nu)!} W_{n-1}(\nu; 2j)$$

Denote

$$A_{k,j}(\nu) = \binom{k}{j} \frac{(k+\nu)! \nu!}{(k-j+\nu)! (j+\nu)!}$$

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and build the [Narayana triangle](#) (or Catalan triangle A001263)

$$A(1) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & \\ 1 & 3 & 1 & 0 & \\ 1 & 6 & 6 & 1 & \\ \vdots & & & & \ddots \end{bmatrix}, \quad A^3(1) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 & \\ 12 & 9 & 1 & 0 & \\ 57 & 72 & 18 & 1 & \\ \vdots & & & & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

Random Walks: 4 steps

The recursion

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For example,

$$W_3(1; 2k) : 1; 3; 12; 57;$$

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