

132-avoiding Two-stack Sortable Permutations, Fibonacci Numbers, and Pell Numbers*

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Abstract

We describe the recursive structures of the set of two-stack sortable permutations which avoid 132 and the set of two-stack sortable permutations which contain 132 exactly once. Using these results and standard generating function techniques, we enumerate two-stack sortable permutations which avoid (or contain exactly once) 132 and which avoid (or contain exactly once) an arbitrary permutation τ . In most cases the number of such permutations is given by a simple formula involving Fibonacci or Pell numbers.

Keywords: Two-stack sortable permutation; restricted permutation; pattern-avoiding permutation; forbidden subsequence; Fibonacci number; Pell number

1 Introduction and Notation

In [21] West introduced a stack-sorting function s on the set of finite sequences of distinct positive integers. This function may be defined recursively by $s(\emptyset) = \emptyset$ and $s(\alpha n \beta) = s(\alpha) s(\beta) n$, where α and β are sequences and n is the largest element of the sequence $\alpha n \beta$. Let S_n denote the set of permutations of $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$, written in one-line notation. West studied permutations which satisfy $s^t(\pi) = 12 \dots n$, which he called t -stack sortable permutations.

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He showed that the one-stack sortable permutations are counted by the well-known Catalan numbers and conjectured that the number of two-stack sortable permutations in S_n is $\frac{2}{(n+1)(2n+1)} \binom{3n}{n}$. This conjecture was proved analytically by Zeilberger [23] and combinatorially by Dulucq, Gire, and Guibert [13]. More recently, Bóna proved [9] the surprising fact that if $W_t(n, k)$ is the number of t -stack sortable permutations in S_n with k descents then $W_t(n, k) = W_t(n, n - 1 - k)$.

In this paper we study two-stack sortable permutations from the perspective of pattern-avoidance. To define pattern-avoiding permutations, suppose $\pi \in S_n$ and $\sigma \in S_k$. We say π *avoids* σ whenever π contains no subsequence with all of the same pairwise comparisons as σ . For example, the permutation 214538769 avoids 312 and 2413, but it has 2586 as a subsequence so it does not avoid 1243. In this setting σ is called a *pattern* or a *forbidden subsequence* and π is called a *restricted permutation* or a *pattern-avoiding permutation*.

Pattern-avoidance has already been found to be closely connected with stack-sortability. For instance, West has shown [21, 22] that a permutation is one-stack sortable if and only if it avoids 231, and that a permutation is 2-stack sortable if and only if it avoids 2341 and 3241, except that the latter pattern is allowed when it is contained in a subsequence of type 35241. Pattern avoidance has also turned out to be connected with a variety of other seemingly unrelated areas, including the theory of Kazhdan-Lusztig polynomials [2], singularities of Schubert varieties [4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 17], Chebyshev polynomials of the second kind [12, 16, 19], rook polynomials for a rectangular board [18], and various other sorting algorithms [10, 20, 22, 23].

In this paper we add to the list of topics connected with pattern-avoiding permutations by describing connections between two-stack sortable permutations and the Fibonacci and Pell numbers. We begin by describing the recursive structures of the set of two-stack sortable permutations which avoid 132 and the set of two-stack sortable permutations which contain 132 exactly once. We then combine these results with standard generating function techniques to enumerate, for various $\tau \in S_k$, two-stack sortable permutations which avoid 132 and τ , two-stack sortable permutations which avoid 132 and contain τ exactly once, two-stack sortable permutations which contain 132 exactly once and avoid τ , and two-stack sortable permutations which contain 132 and τ exactly once. In most of these cases the number of such permutations is given by a simple formula involving the Fibonacci or Pell numbers. For example, we show that the number of two-stack sortable permutations which avoid 132 is the Pell number p_n , the number of two-stack sortable permutations which avoid 132 and 4123 is $F_{n+4} - 2n - 2$, and the number of two-stack sortable permutations which avoid 132 and contain 51234 exactly once is $F_{n+2} - \binom{n+1}{2}$.

We conclude this section by setting some notation. We write \mathcal{P}_n to denote the set of two-stack sortable permutations in S_n . For any set R of permutations, we write $S_n(R)$ to denote the set of permutations in S_n which avoid every pattern in R , we write $\mathcal{P}_n(R)$ to denote the set of permutations in \mathcal{P}_n which avoid every pattern in R , and we write $P_R(x)$ to denote the generating function given by

$$P_R(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} |\mathcal{P}_n(R)| x^n.$$

We write F_0, F_1, \dots to denote the sequence of Fibonacci numbers, which are given by $F_0 = 0$,

$F_1 = 1$, and $F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}$ for $n \geq 2$. We observe that the generating function for the Fibonacci numbers is given by

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} F_n x^n = \frac{x}{1-x-x^2}. \quad (1)$$

We also observe that F_n may be interpreted combinatorially as the number of tilings of a $1 \times (n-1)$ rectangle with tiles of size 1×1 and 1×2 . We write p_0, p_1, \dots to denote the sequence of Pell numbers, which are given by $p_0 = 0$, $p_1 = 1$, and $p_n = 2p_{n-1} + p_{n-2}$ for $n \geq 2$. We observe that the generating function for the Pell numbers is given by

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p_n x^n = \frac{x}{1-2x-x^2}. \quad (2)$$

We also observe that p_n may be interpreted combinatorially as the number of tilings of a $1 \times (n-1)$ rectangle with tiles of size 1×1 and 1×2 , where each 1×1 tile can be red or blue. For more information on the Pell numbers, see [1], [3, pp. 122–125], [14], and [15].

2 Two-stack Sortable Permutations Which Avoid 132 and Another Pattern

In this section we describe the recursive structure of the set of two-stack sortable permutations which avoid 132. We then use this description to enumerate $\mathcal{P}_n(132, \tau)$ for various $\tau \in \mathcal{P}_k(132)$. Throughout we use the fact that since 35241 contains a subsequence of type 132 (namely, 354), for any set R of permutations we have $\mathcal{P}_n(132, R) = S_n(132, 2341, 3241, R)$. We begin with an observation concerning the structure of the permutations in $\mathcal{P}_n(132)$.

Proposition 2.1 *Fix $n \geq 3$ and suppose $\pi \in \mathcal{P}_n(132)$. Then the following hold.*

(i) $\pi^{-1}(n) = 1$, $\pi^{-1}(n) = 2$, or $\pi^{-1}(n) = n$.

(ii) *The map from $\mathcal{P}_{n-1}(132)$ to $\mathcal{P}_n(132)$ given by*

$$\pi \mapsto n, \pi$$

is a bijection between $\mathcal{P}_{n-1}(132)$ and the set of permutations in $\mathcal{P}_n(132)$ which begin with n .

(iii) *The map from $\mathcal{P}_{n-2}(132)$ to $\mathcal{P}_n(132)$ given by*

$$\pi \mapsto n-1, n, \pi$$

is a bijection between $\mathcal{P}_{n-2}(132)$ and the set of permutations in $\mathcal{P}_n(132)$ whose second entry is n .

(iv) *The map from $\mathcal{P}_{n-1}(132)$ to $\mathcal{P}_n(132)$ given by*

$$\pi \mapsto \pi, n$$

is a bijection between $\mathcal{P}_{n-1}(132)$ and the set of permutations in $\mathcal{P}_n(132)$ which end with n .

Proof. (i) Suppose by way of contradiction that $2 < \pi^{-1}(n) < n$. Since π avoids 132, the elements to the left of n in π are all greater than every element to the right of n . Since there are at least two elements to the left of n and at least one element to the right of n , there must be a pattern of type 3241 or 2341 in π in which n plays the role of the 4. This contradicts our assumption that $\pi \in \mathcal{P}_n(132)$.

(ii) Since the given map is clearly injective, it is sufficient to show that $\pi \in \mathcal{P}_{n-1}(132)$ if and only if $n, \pi \in \mathcal{P}_n(132)$. Since $\mathcal{P}_n(132) = S_n(132, 2341, 3241)$, it is clear that if $n, \pi \in \mathcal{P}_n(132)$ then $\pi \in \mathcal{P}_{n-1}(132)$. To show the converse, suppose $\pi \in \mathcal{P}_{n-1}(132)$. If n, π contains a pattern of type 132 then the n cannot be involved in the pattern, since it is the largest element of n, π . Then π contains a pattern of type 132, a contradiction. By similar arguments for 2341 and 3241 we find that $n, \pi \in \mathcal{P}_n(132)$, as desired.

(iii),(iv) These are similar to the proof of (ii). \square

Theorem 2.2 For all $n \geq 1$,

$$|\mathcal{P}_n(132)| = p_n. \quad (3)$$

Proof. For notational convenience, we abbreviate $P(x) = P_{132}(x)$. By Proposition 2.1(i), when $n \geq 3$ the elements of $\mathcal{P}_n(132)$ may be partitioned into three sets: those which begin with n , those whose second entry is n , and those whose last entry is n . By Proposition 2.1(ii), the generating function for those elements which begin with n is $x(P(x) - 1 - x)$. By Proposition 2.1(iii), the generating function for those elements whose second entry is n is $x^2(P(x) - 1)$. By Proposition 2.1(iv), the generating function for those elements which end with n is $x(P(x) - 1 - x)$. Combine these observations to obtain

$$P(x) = 1 + x + 2x^2 + x(P(x) - 1 - x) + x^2(P(x) - 1) + x(P(x) - 1 - x).$$

Solve this equation for $P(x)$ and compare the result with (2) to complete the proof. \square

We also give a combinatorial proof of (3).

Theorem 2.3 For all $n \geq 1$, there exists a constructive bijection between $\mathcal{P}_n(132)$ and the set of tilings of a $1 \times (n - 1)$ rectangle with tiles of size 1×1 and 1×2 , where each 1×1 tile can be red or blue.

Proof. Suppose we are given such a tiling; we construct the corresponding permutation as follows. Proceed from right to left, placing one number in each box of a tile. If the rightmost empty tile is a 1×2 tile then fill it with the two smallest remaining numbers, in increasing order. If the rightmost empty tile is a red 1×1 tile then fill it with the largest remaining number. If the rightmost empty tile is a blue 1×1 tile then fill it with the smallest remaining number. When all tiles have been filled, one number will remain. Place this number in the leftmost position in the permutation. To obtain a permutation in $\mathcal{P}_n(132)$, take the (group theoretic) inverse of the permutation constructed by the process above. It is routine to construct the inverse of the map described above, and thus to verify it is a bijection. \square

Though elementary, Proposition 2.1 enables us to easily find $P_{132,\tau}(x)$ for various τ . For instance, we have the following result involving $\tau = 12 \dots d$.

Theorem 2.4 (i) $P_{132,1}(x) = 1$.

(ii) $P_{132,12}(x) = \frac{1}{1-x}$.

(iii) For all $d \geq 3$,

$$P_{132,12\dots d}(x) = \frac{(1-x) \sum_{r=0}^{d-3} (1-x-x^2)^{r+1} x^{d-3-r} + x^{d-2}}{(1-x)(1-x-x^2)^{d-2}}. \quad (4)$$

Proof. (i) Observe that only the empty permutation avoids 1.

(ii) Observe that for all $n \geq 0$, the only permutation in S_n which avoids 12 is $n, n-1, \dots, 2, 1$.

(iii) We argue by induction on d . By Proposition 2.1(i), for $n \geq 3$ the elements of $\mathcal{P}_n(132, 12\dots d)$ may be partitioned into three sets: those which begin with n , those whose second entry is n , and those whose last entry is n . Since π avoids $12\dots d$ if and only if n, π does, and if and only if $n-1, n, \pi$ does, it follows from Proposition 2.1(ii),(iii) that the generating functions for the first two sets are $x(P_{132,12\dots d}(x) - 1 - x)$ and $x^2(P_{132,12\dots d}(x) - 1)$ respectively. Now observe that a permutation π, n avoids $12\dots d$ if and only if π avoids $12\dots (d-1)$. Therefore, in view of Proposition 2.1(iii), the generating function for the last set is $x^2(P_{132,12\dots (d-1)}(x) - 1 - x)$, and we have

$$P_{132,12\dots d}(x) = 1 + x + 2x^2 + x(P_{132,12\dots d}(x) - 1 - x) + x^2(P_{132,12\dots d}(x) - 1) + x(P_{132,12\dots (d-1)}(x) - 1 - x).$$

Solve this equation for $P_{132,12\dots d}(x)$ to find that for all $d \geq 3$,

$$P_{132,12\dots d}(x) = 1 + \frac{x}{1-x-x^2} P_{132,12\dots (d-1)}(x). \quad (5)$$

Set $d = 3$ in (5), use (ii) to eliminate $P_{132,12}(x)$, and simplify the result to obtain

$$P_{132,123}(x) = \frac{(1-x)(1-x-x^2) + x}{(1-x)(1-x-x^2)}.$$

Therefore (4) holds for $d = 3$. Moreover, if (4) holds for d then it is routine using (5) to verify that (4) holds for $d + 1$. \square

Corollary 2.5 For all $n \geq 1$,

$$|\mathcal{P}_n(132, 123)| = F_{n+2} - 1 \quad (6)$$

and

$$|\mathcal{P}_n(132, 1234)| = 1 - \frac{8}{5}F_{n+1} + \frac{n+1}{5}(F_{n+3} + F_{n+1}). \quad (7)$$

Proof. To prove (6), first set $d = 3$ in (4) and simplify the result to obtain

$$P_{132,123}(x) = 1 - \frac{1}{1-x} + \frac{x+1}{1-x-x^2}.$$

Compare this last line with (1) to obtain (6). To prove (7), first set $d = 4$ in (4) and simplify the result to obtain

$$P_{132,1234}(x) = 1 + \frac{1}{1-x} - \frac{2}{1-x-x^2} + \frac{1}{(1-x-x^2)^2}.$$

It is routine to verify that

$$\frac{1}{(1-x-x^2)^2} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\left(\frac{1}{5}n + \frac{1}{5} \right) F_n + \left(\frac{3}{5}n + 1 \right) F_{n+1} \right) x^n,$$

and (7) follows. \square

Next we consider $P_{132,d12\dots(d-1)}(x)$.

Theorem 2.6 (i) $P_{132,21}(x) = \frac{1}{1-x}$.

(ii) $P_{132,312}(x) = \frac{(1-x-x^2)(1-x) + x(1+x)}{(1-x)^2}.$

(iii) For all $d \geq 4$,

$$P_{132,d12\dots(d-1)}(x) = \frac{(1-x)(1-x-x^2)^{d-2} + (1-x^2) \sum_{r=0}^{d-4} (1-x-x^2)^{r+1} x^{d-3-r} + x^{d-2}(1+x)}{(1-x)^2(1-x-x^2)^{d-3}}. \quad (8)$$

Proof. (i) Observe that for all $n \geq 0$, the only permutation in S_n which avoids 12 is $1, 2, \dots, n-1, n$.

(ii),(iii) Using Proposition 2.1, we find that for all $d \geq 3$,

$$\begin{aligned} P_{132,d12\dots(d-1)}(x) &= \\ &= 1 + x + 2x^2 + x(P_{132,12\dots(d-1)}(x) - 1 - x) + x^2(P_{132,12\dots(d-1)}(x) - 1) \\ &\quad + x(P_{132,d12\dots(d-1)}(x) - 1 - x). \end{aligned}$$

Solve this equation for $P_{132,d12\dots(d-1)}(x)$ and use Theorem 2.4(ii),(iii) to eliminate the factor $P_{132,12\dots(d-1)}(x)$, obtaining (8). \square

Corollary 2.7 We have

$$|\mathcal{P}_n(132, 312)| = 2n - 2 \quad (n \geq 2) \quad (9)$$

and

$$|\mathcal{P}_n(132, 4123)| = F_{n+4} - 2n - 2 \quad (n \geq 0). \quad (10)$$

Proof. To prove (9), first observe from Theorem 2.6(ii) that

$$P_{132,312}(x) = 3 + x + \frac{2}{(1-x)^2} - \frac{4}{1-x}.$$

Now (9) follows from the binomial theorem.

The proof of (10) is similar to the proof of (9). \square

We conclude this section by describing a recursive method for computing $P_{132,\tau}(x)$ for any permutation $\tau \in \mathcal{P}_k(132)$. Observe that this allows us to compute $P_{132,\tau}(x)$ for any permutation $\tau \in S_k$, since $P_{132,\tau}(x) = P_{132}(x)$ if $\tau \in S_k$ and $\tau \notin \mathcal{P}_k(132)$.

Theorem 2.8 *Fix $k \geq 3$ and $\tau \in \mathcal{P}_k(132)$. Observe by Proposition 2.1 that exactly one of the following holds.*

- (a) *There exists $\tau' \in \mathcal{P}_{k-1}(132)$ such that $\tau = k, \tau'$.*
- (b) *There exists $\tau' \in \mathcal{P}_{k-2}(132)$ such that $\tau = k-1, k, \tau'$.*
- (c) *There exists $\tau' \in \mathcal{P}_{k-1}(132)$ such that $\tau = \tau', k$.*

Then the following also hold.

- (i) *If (a) holds then*

$$P_{132,\tau}(x) = \frac{1-x-x^2+x(1+x)P_{132,\tau'}(x)}{1-x}. \quad (11)$$

- (ii) *If (b) holds then*

$$P_{132,\tau}(x) = \frac{1-x-x^2+x^2P_{132,\tau'}(x)}{1-2x}. \quad (12)$$

- (iii) *If (c) holds then*

$$P_{132,\tau}(x) = 1 + \frac{xP_{132,\tau'}(x)}{1-x-x^2}. \quad (13)$$

Proof. The proofs of (i)–(iii) are similar to the proofs of Theorem 2.4(iii) and 2.6(iii). \square

Corollary 2.9 *We have*

$$|\mathcal{P}_n(132, 3412)| = 3 \cdot 2^{n-2} - 1 \quad (n \geq 2), \quad (14)$$

$$|\mathcal{P}_n(132, 45123)| = 3 \cdot 2^{n-1} - F_{n+3} + 1 \quad (n \geq 1), \quad (15)$$

and

$$|\mathcal{P}_n(132, 561234)| = 3 \cdot 2^n - 1 - \frac{6}{5}F_{n+1} - \frac{n+1}{5}(F_{n+4} + F_{n+2}) \quad (n \geq 1). \quad (16)$$

Proof. To prove (14), first use Theorems 2.8(ii) and 2.4(ii) to find that

$$P_{132,3412}(x) = \frac{5}{4} + \frac{1}{2}x - \frac{1}{1-x} + \frac{3}{4} \frac{1}{1-2x}.$$

Now (14) is immediate.

The proofs of (15) and (16) are similar to the proof of (14). \square

Proposition 2.10 For all $d \geq 2$,

$$P_{132,d\dots 21}(x) = \frac{(1-x-x^2) \sum_{i=0}^{d-3} x^i (1+x)^i (1-x)^{d-i-2} + x^{d-2} (1+x)^{d-2}}{(1-x)^{d-1}}. \quad (17)$$

Proof. We argue by induction on d . When $d = 2$, line (17) reduces to Theorem 2.6(ii). If (17) holds for a given $d \geq 2$ then it is routine using Theorem 2.8(i) to show that (17) holds for $d + 1$. \square

Corollary 2.11 We have

$$|\mathcal{P}_n(132, 321)| = 2n - 2 \quad (n \geq 2), \quad (18)$$

$$|\mathcal{P}_n(132, 4321)| = 2n^2 - 8n + 11 \quad (n \geq 3), \quad (19)$$

and

$$|\mathcal{P}_n(132, 54321)| = \frac{4}{3}n^3 - 12n^2 + \frac{128}{3}n - 52 \quad (n \geq 4). \quad (20)$$

Proof. To prove (18), first set $d = 3$ in (17) and simplify the result to find

$$P_{132,321}(x) = 3 + x - \frac{4}{1-x} + \frac{2}{(1-x)^2}.$$

Now (18) follows from the binomial theorem.

The proofs of (19) and (20) are similar to the proof of (18). \square

3 Two-stack Sortable Permutations Which Avoid 132 and Contain Another Pattern

Fix $d \geq 1$ and set

$$\mathcal{P}(132) = \bigcup_{n \geq 0} \mathcal{P}_n(132).$$

Inspired by results such as those found in [11], in this section we study the generating function for permutations in $\mathcal{P}(132)$ according to the number of patterns of type $12\dots d$, $d12\dots d-1$, or $dd-1\dots 21$ they contain. We begin by setting some notation.

Definition 3.1 For any permutation $\tau \in \mathcal{P}_k(132)$ and any $r \geq 1$, let $b_{n,r}$ denote the number of permutations in $\mathcal{P}_n(132)$ which contain exactly r subsequences of type τ . Then we write

$$B_\tau^r(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_{n,r} x^n. \quad (21)$$

We now consider the case in which $\tau = 12\dots d$.

Definition 3.2 For any permutation π and any $d \geq 1$, we write $12\dots d(\pi)$ to denote the number of subsequences of type $12\dots d$ in π and we write $|\pi|$ to denote the length of π .

Theorem 3.3 *Let x_1, x_2, \dots denote indeterminates. Then we have*

$$\sum_{\pi \in \mathcal{P}(132)} \prod_{d \geq 1} x_d^{12\dots d(\pi)} = 1 + \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{\prod_{j \geq 1} x_j^{(n)}}{\prod_{m=1}^n \left(1 - \prod_{j \geq 1} x_j^{\binom{m-1}{j-1}} - \prod_{j \geq 1} x_j^{2\binom{m-1}{j-1}} x_{j+1}^{\binom{m-1}{j-1}} \right)}. \quad (22)$$

Proof. For notational convenience, set

$$A(x_1, x_2, \dots) = \sum_{\pi \in \mathcal{P}(132)} \prod_{d \geq 1} x_d^{12\dots d(\pi)}.$$

Using Proposition 2.1 we find that

$$\begin{aligned} A(x_1, x_2, \dots) &= 1 + x_1 + x_1^2 x_2 + x_1^2 + x_1 (A(x_1, x_2, \dots) - 1 - x_1) \\ &\quad + x_1^2 x_2 (A(x_1, x_2, \dots) - 1) + x_1 (A(x_1 x_2, x_2 x_3, \dots) - 1 - x_1 x_2) \end{aligned}$$

Solve this equation for $A(x_1, x_2, \dots)$ to obtain

$$A(x_1, x_2, \dots) = 1 + \frac{x_1 A(x_1 x_2, x_2 x_3, \dots)}{1 - x_1 - x_1^2 x_2}.$$

Iterate this recurrence relation to obtain (22). \square

For a given $d \geq 1$, we can use (22) to obtain the generating function for $\mathcal{P}(132)$ according to length and number of subsequences of type $12\dots d$.

Proposition 3.4 *For all $d \geq 3$,*

$$B_{12\dots d}^1(x) = \frac{x^d}{(1-x)^2(1-x-x^2)^{d-2}}. \quad (23)$$

Proof. In (22), set $x_1 = x$, $x_d = y$, and $x_i = 1$ for $i \neq 1, d$. Expand the resulting expression in powers of y ; we wish to find the coefficient of y . Observe that only the terms in the sum for which $n = d - 1$ or $n = d$ contribute to this coefficient. These terms are

$$\frac{x^{d-1}}{(1-x-x^2)^{d-2}(1-x-x^2y)}$$

and

$$\frac{x^d y}{(1-x-x^2)^{d-2}(1-x-x^2y)(1-xy-x^2y^2)}$$

respectively, and (23) follows. \square

Corollary 3.5 *For all $n \geq 0$, the number of permutations in $\mathcal{P}_n(132)$ which contain exactly one subsequence of type 123 is $F_{n+2} - n - 1$.*

Proof. Set $d = 3$ in (23) and simplify the result to find

$$B_{123}^1(x) = \frac{x+1}{1-x-x^2} - \frac{1}{(1-x)^2}.$$

Now the result follows from (1) and the binomial theorem. \square

As another application of (22), we now find the generating function for $\mathcal{P}(132)$ according to length and number of right to left maxima. To do this, we first find the number of right to left maxima in a given permutation π in terms of $12\dots d(\pi)$.

Definition 3.6 For any $\pi \in S_n$, we write $rmax(\pi)$ to denote the number of right to left maxima in π .

Proposition 3.7 For all $\pi \in S_n(132)$, we have

$$rmax(\pi) = \sum_{d=1}^n (-1)^{d+1} 12\dots d(\pi). \quad (24)$$

Proof. Fix $\pi \in S_n(132)$ and fix i , $1 \leq i \leq n$. We consider the contribution of those increasing subsequences of π which begin at $\pi(i)$ to the sum on the right side of (24). If $\pi(i)$ is a right to left maxima, then the only increasing subsequence which begins at $\pi(i)$ has length one. Therefore each right to left maxima contributes one to the sum. If $\pi(i)$ is not a right to left maxima then we observe that because π avoids 132, the elements to the right of $\pi(i)$ which are larger than $\pi(i)$ are in increasing order. Therefore the contribution of $\pi(i)$ to the sum is

$$\sum_{i=0}^k (-1)^i \binom{k}{i} = 0,$$

where k is the number of elements in π larger than $\pi(i)$ to the right of $\pi(i)$. Combine these observations to obtain (24). \square

Proposition 3.8 We have

$$\sum_{\pi \in \mathcal{P}(132)} x^{|\pi|} y^{rmax(\pi)} = 1 + \frac{xy(1-x-x^2)}{(1-xy-x^2y)(1-2x-x^2)}. \quad (25)$$

Proof. In (22), set $x_1 = xy$ and $x_i = y^{(-1)^{i+1}}$ for $i \geq 2$. Use the facts

$$\sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i \binom{n}{i} = \delta_{n1}$$

and

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{(1-x-x^2)^{n-1}} = \frac{x(1-x-x^2)}{1-2x-x^2}$$

to simplify the result. \square

Corollary 3.9 For all $r \geq 1$, let $a_{r,n}$ denote the number of permutations in $\mathcal{P}_n(132)$ with exactly r right to left maxima. Then

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_{r,n} x^n = \frac{x^r (1+x)^{r-1} (1-x-x^2)}{1-2x-x^2}. \quad (26)$$

In particular,

$$a_{1,n} = p_{n-1} \quad (n \geq 2), \quad (27)$$

$$a_{2,n} = p_{n-2} + p_{n-3} \quad (n \geq 4), \quad (28)$$

and

$$a_{3,n} = 2p_{n-3} \quad (n \geq 6). \quad (29)$$

Proof. To obtain (26), first observe that

$$\frac{1}{1-xy-x^2y} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n (x+1)^n y^n.$$

Combine this with (25) to find that

$$\sum_{\pi \in \mathcal{P}(132)} x^{|\pi|} y^{r \max(\pi)} = \frac{x(1-x-x^2)}{1-2x-x^2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n y^{n+1} (1+x)^n.$$

Take the coefficient of y^r in this last line to obtain (26).

To obtain (27), set $r = 1$ in (26) and compare the result with (2).

The proofs of (28) and (29) are similar to the proof of (27). \square

We remark that (27) and (28) can also be obtained directly from Proposition 2.1 and Theorem 2.2. For instance, if $\pi \in \mathcal{P}_n(132)$ has exactly one right to left maxima then it must end in n . By Proposition 2.1(iii) and Theorem 2.2, there are exactly p_{n-1} such permutations in $\mathcal{P}_n(132)$, and (27) follows. A similar but slightly more involved argument proves (28).

Next we find $B_{d12\dots d-1}^1(x)$.

Theorem 3.10 (i)

$$B_{312}^1(x) = \frac{x^3}{(1-x)^2} \quad (30)$$

(ii) For all $d \geq 4$,

$$B_{d12\dots d-1}^1(x) = \frac{x^d}{(1-x)^3(1-x-x^2)^{d-4}}. \quad (31)$$

Proof. (i) Fix $\pi \in \mathcal{P}_n(132)$ such that π contains exactly one subsequence of type 312. We consider the three cases of Proposition 2.1. If $\pi(1) = n$ then $n \geq 3$ and $\pi = n, n-2, n-1, n-3, n-4, \dots, 2, 1$. If $\pi(2) = n$ and $\pi(1) = n-1$ then π does not contain exactly one subsequence of type 312. If $\pi = \pi', n$ then $\pi' \in \mathcal{P}_{n-1}(132)$ and π' contains exactly one subsequence of type 312. Combine these observations to find

$$B_{312}^1(x) = \frac{x^3}{(1-x)} + x B_{312}^1(x).$$

Solve this equation for $B_{312}^1(x)$ to obtain (30).

(ii) Fix $\pi \in \mathcal{P}_n(132)$ such that π contains exactly one subsequence of type $d12\dots(d-1)$. We consider the three cases of Proposition 2.1. If $\pi(1) = n$ then $\pi(n) = n-1$, since π avoids 132, 2341, and contains exactly one subsequence of type $d12\dots(d-1)$. Moreover, it is routine to show that the map $\pi' \mapsto n, \pi', n-1$ is a bijection between those permutations in $\mathcal{P}_{n-2}(132)$ which contain exactly one subsequence of type $12\dots(d-2)$ and those permutations in $\mathcal{P}_n(132)$ which contain exactly one subsequence of type $d12\dots(d-1)$. If $\pi(2) = n$ and $\pi(1) = n-1$ then π does not contain exactly one subsequence of type $d12\dots(d-1)$. If $\pi(n) = n$ then $\pi = \pi', n$, where $\pi' \in \mathcal{P}_{n-1}(132)$ and π' contains exactly one subsequence of type $d12\dots(d-1)$. Combine these observations to find

$$B_{d12\dots(d-1)}^1(x) = x^2 B_{12\dots(d-2)}^1(x) + x B_{d12\dots(d-1)}^1(x).$$

Now use (23) to eliminate $B_{12\dots(d-2)}^1(x)$ and solve for $B_{d12\dots(d-1)}^1(x)$ to obtain (31). \square

Corollary 3.11 *For all $n \geq 1$, the number of permutations in $\mathcal{P}_n(132)$ which contain exactly one subsequence of type 51234 is*

$$F_{n+2} - \binom{n+1}{2}.$$

Proof. Set $d = 5$ in (31) and simplify the result to find

$$B_{51234}^1(x) = \frac{x+1}{1-x-x^2} - \frac{3}{1-x} + \frac{2}{(1-x)^2} - \frac{1}{(1-x)^3}.$$

Now the result follows from (1) and the binomial theorem. \square

We conclude this section by finding $B_{d\dots 21}^1(x)$.

Theorem 3.12 *For all $d \geq 1$,*

$$B_{d\dots 21}^1(x) = \frac{x^d}{(1-x)^{d-1}}. \tag{32}$$

Proof. This is similar to the proof of Theorem 3.10. \square

4 Two-stack Sortable Permutations Which Contain 132 Exactly Once

We now turn our attention to the set of permutations in \mathcal{P}_n which contain 132 exactly once.

Definition 4.1 *For all $n \geq 0$, we write \mathcal{Q}_n to denote the set of permutations in \mathcal{P}_n which contain exactly one subsequence of type 132.*

Using the methods of the previous section, one can obtain generating functions for those permutations in \mathcal{Q}_n which avoid, or contain exactly once, any permutation $\tau \in S_k$. In this section we illustrate these derivations with examples in which the resulting generating functions are given in terms of the generating functions for the Pell or Fibonacci numbers. We begin with an analogue of Proposition 2.1.

Proposition 4.2 Fix $n \geq 3$ and suppose $\pi \in \mathcal{Q}_n$. Then the following hold.

(i) $\pi(1) = n, \pi(2) = n, \pi(n) = n$, or $\pi = 3142$.

(ii) The map from \mathcal{Q}_{n-1} to \mathcal{Q}_n given by

$$\pi \mapsto n, \pi$$

is a bijection between \mathcal{Q}_{n-1} and the set of permutations in \mathcal{Q}_n which begin with n .

(iii) The map from \mathcal{Q}_{n-2} to \mathcal{Q}_n given by

$$\pi \mapsto n-1, n, \pi$$

is a bijection between \mathcal{Q}_{n-2} and the set of permutations in \mathcal{Q}_n whose second entry is n and in which n is not an element of the subsequence of type 132.

(iv) The map from \mathcal{Q}_{n-1} to \mathcal{Q}_n given by

$$\pi \mapsto \pi, n$$

is a bijection between \mathcal{Q}_{n-1} and the set of permutations in \mathcal{Q}_n which end with n .

(v) The map from \mathcal{P}_{n-2} to \mathcal{Q}_n given by

$$\pi \mapsto n-2, n, \pi',$$

where π' is the permutation of $1, 2, \dots, n-3, n-1$ obtained by replacing $n-2$ with $n-1$ in π , is a bijection between \mathcal{P}_{n-2} and the set of permutations in \mathcal{Q}_n whose second entry is n and in which n is an element of the subsequence of type 132.

Proof. (i) Suppose $2 < \pi^{-1}(n) < n$. We consider two cases: n is an element of the subsequence of type 132 or n is not an element of the subsequence of type 132.

If n is not an element of the subsequence of type 132 then the elements to the left of n are all greater than every element to the right of n . Since there are at least two elements to the left of n and at least one element to the right of n , there must be a pattern of type 3241 or 2341 in which n plays the role of the 4. This contradicts our assumption that $\pi \in \mathcal{Q}_n \subseteq \mathcal{P}_n$.

Now suppose the subsequence of type 132 in π is a, n, b . Since π contains no other subsequence of type 132, all elements to the left of n other than a are greater than b and all elements to the right of n other than b are less than a . Observe that if there are additional elements both to the right and left of n then one of these elements on each side of n , together with a and n , form a pattern of type 2341 or 3241. Therefore, there can only be additional elements on one side of n . Since we have assumed $2 < \pi^{-1}(n) < n$, there must be at least one additional element to the left of n and no additional elements to the right of n . If there are two (or more) additional elements to the left of n then they combine with n and b to form a 3241 or a 2341 pattern, so there must be exactly one additional element to the left of n . Now the only possibilities are $\pi = 3142$ and $\pi = 1342$. But 1342 has more than one subsequence of type 132, so we must have $\pi = 3142$, as desired.

(ii)–(v) These are similar to the proof of Proposition 2.1(ii). \square

Using Proposition 4.2, we now find the generating function for \mathcal{Q}_n .

Theorem 4.3 *We have*

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} |\mathcal{Q}_n| x^n = \frac{x^3(1+x-2x^2-x^3)}{(1-2x-x^2)^2}. \quad (33)$$

Moreover,

$$|\mathcal{Q}_n| = \frac{1}{4} (51np_n - 145p_n - 21np_{n+1} + 60p_{n+1}) \quad (n \geq 3). \quad (34)$$

Proof. For notational convenience, set

$$Q(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} |\mathcal{Q}_n| x^n.$$

To obtain (33), observe that by Proposition 4.2 we have

$$Q(x) = 2xQ(x) + x^2Q(x) + x^2P_{132}(x) + x^4.$$

Use (3) and (2) to eliminate $P_{132}(x)$ and solve the resulting equation for $Q(x)$ to obtain (33).

To obtain (34), first observe that

$$Q(x) = -x^2 + 4x - 15 + \frac{87x - 36}{(1 - 2x - x^2)^2} - \frac{49x - 51}{1 - 2x - x^2}.$$

Now observe that

$$\frac{1}{(1 - 2x - x^2)^2} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{4} ((n+1)p_n + (3n+4)p_{n+1}) x^n.$$

Combine these observations with (2) to obtain (34). \square

Proposition 4.2 enables us to find the generating function for those permutations in \mathcal{Q}_n which avoid, or contain exactly once, any permutation τ . We illustrate how this is done by considering those permutations in which $\tau = 12\dots d$ appears exactly once.

Definition 4.4 *For any permutation $\tau \in S_k$, let c_n denote the number of permutations in \mathcal{Q}_n which contain exactly one subsequence of type τ . We write $D_{\tau}^1(x)$ to denote the generating function given by*

$$D_{\tau}^1(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n.$$

Theorem 4.5 *For all $d \geq 2$,*

$$D_{12\dots d}^1(x) = \frac{(d-2)x^{d+2}}{(1-x)^2(1-x-x^2)^{d-1}}. \quad (35)$$

Proof. The case $d = 2$ is immediate, so we assume $d > 2$ and argue by induction on d . By Proposition 4.2, we find

$$D_{12\dots d}^1(x) = xD_{12\dots d}^1(x) + x^2D_{12\dots d}^1(x) + xD_{12\dots(d-1)}^1(x) + x^2B_{12\dots d}^1(x).$$

Use (23) to eliminate $B_{12\dots d}^1(x)$ and solve the resulting equation for $D_{12\dots d}^1(x)$, obtaining

$$D_{12\dots d}^1(x) = \frac{1}{1-x-x^2} \left(xD_{12\dots(d-1)}^1(x) + \frac{x^{d+2}}{(1-x)^2(1-x-x^2)^{d-2}} \right).$$

Use induction to eliminate $D_{12\dots(d-1)}^1(x)$ and (35) follows. \square

Corollary 4.6 *The number of permutations in \mathcal{Q}_n which contain exactly one subsequence of type 123 is*

$$\frac{n}{5}(F_{n+1} + F_{n-1}) - \frac{2}{5}(5F_{n+1} - F_{n-1}) + n + 2 \quad (n \geq 4).$$

Proof. This is similar to the proof of (7). \square

5 Directions for Future Work

In this section we present several directions in which this work may be generalized, using similar techniques.

1. In Section 2 we enumerated two-stack sortable permutations which avoid 132 and one additional pattern. Using the same techniques, one ought to be able to enumerate two-stack sortable permutations which avoid 132 and two or more additional patterns. For instance, for any $d \geq 2$, it should be possible using our techniques to find the generating function $P_{132,123\dots d,213\dots d}(x)$. Moreover, we expect that this generating function will be given in terms of the generating function for the Fibonacci numbers.
2. In Section 3 we found generating functions for two-stack sortable permutations with respect to various statistics on permutations. Using similar techniques, one ought to be able to find generating functions for two-stack sortable permutations with respect to additional statistics, such as rises, descents, right to left maxima, right to left minima, left to right maxima, and left to right minima.
3. In Section 4 we enumerated two-stack sortable permutations which contain exactly one subsequence of type 132 and avoid (or contain exactly once) another pattern. One ought to be able to use similar techniques to enumerate permutations which contain exactly r subsequences of type 132, for a given r .

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