# LOZENGE TILINGS WITH GAPS IN A 90° WEDGE DOMAIN WITH MIXED BOUNDARY CONDITIONS

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Correlation in a sea of dimers

[C, '05-'10]

In bulk, for large separations, this is asymptotically 2D electrostatics

# What about the interaction with boundary?

Two natural types:





Previous examples



"straight line" constrained boundary



straight line free boundary



 $60^\circ$  angle, constrained boundary



 $120^\circ$  angle, constrained boundary



Current talk:  $90^{\circ}$  angle, mixed boundary



 $D_{n,x,y}$ : n = 6, x = 5, y = 4

 $D_{n,x,y}(\alpha,\beta): n = 6, x = 5, y = 4, \alpha = 2, \beta = 4$ 

- $\mathcal{M}_f(D)$ : # tilings of D with tiles allowed to protrude across free boundary portions
- •:  $\omega_c(\alpha, \beta)$  (correlation of the gap with the corner):

$$\omega_c(\alpha,\beta) := \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{\mathcal{M}_f(D_{n,n,0}(\alpha,\beta))}{\mathcal{M}_f(D_{n,n,0}(1,1))}$$



 $D_{10,10,0}(3,4).$ 





The gap and its three images for  $\alpha = 3, \, \beta = 4$ 

#### The main result of this talk:

THEOREM. Let q be a fixed positive rational number. As  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  approach infinity so that  $\alpha = q\beta$ , we have

$$\omega_c(\alpha,\beta) \sim \frac{16}{3\pi Rq\sqrt{q^2 + \frac{1}{3}}} \sim \frac{32}{\pi} \sqrt{\frac{\mathrm{d}(O_1, O_2)\,\mathrm{d}(O_3, O_4)}{\mathrm{d}(O_1, O_3)\,\mathrm{d}(O_1, O_4)\,\mathrm{d}(O_2, O_3)\,\mathrm{d}(O_2, O_4)}},$$

where d is the Euclidean distance.



 $D_{n,x,y}^{i_1,\ldots,i_k}$  for n = 6, x = 5, y = 4, k = 4,  $i_1 = 1$ ,  $i_2 = 3$ ,  $i_3 = 5$ ,  $i_4 = 6$ .

It turns out we can reduce to enumerating tilings of such regions.

Great strike of luck: They are given by "round" formulas!

PROPOSITION. For any integers  $n, x \ge 0$  and  $y \ge -1$ , and for any integers  $1 \le i_1 < \cdots < i_k \le n$ , we have

$$\mathcal{M}_f(D_{n,x,y}^{i_1,...,i_k}) = \prod_{a=1}^k \binom{x+y+n+i_a}{y+2i_a} \prod_{1 \le a < b \le k} \frac{i_b - i_a}{y+i_b + i_a}.$$



Tilings and paths

Starting and ending segments

The tilings are in bijection with non-intersecting families of paths of rhombi:

- starting points: fixed
- $\bullet$  ending points: can vary among a specified set



Regarding the paths of lozenges as lattice paths in  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ 

A result of Stembridge expresses this as a Pfaffian.

After using some combinatorial identities, this Pfaffian can be evaluated explicitly using Schur's Pfaffian Identity:

THEOREM (SCHUR'S PFAFFIAN IDENTITY). Let n be even, and let  $x_1, \ldots, x_n$  be indeterminates. Then we have

$$\Pr\left[\frac{x_j - x_i}{x_j + x_i}\right]_{i,j=1}^n = \prod_{1 \le i < j \le n} \frac{x_j - x_i}{x_j + x_i}.$$



Generalization of SSC plane partitions, even by even by even case.



Generalization of SSC plane partitions, even by odd by odd case.

COROLLARY (GENERALIZATION OF SSC PLANE PARTITIONS). Let  $n, x \ge 0$  and  $1 \le k_1 < \cdots < k_s \le n$  be integers. If  $k_1 > 1$  set t = 0, otherwise define t by requiring  $k_i - i = 0$ ,  $i = 1, \ldots, t$ , and  $k_{t+1} - (t+1) > 0$ . Let  $\{1, \ldots, n\} \setminus \{k_1, \ldots, k_s\} = \{i_1, \ldots, i_{n-s}\}$ . Then we have: (a).

$$M_{-,|}(H_{2n,2n,2x}(k_1,\ldots,k_s)) = M_f(D_{n,x,2t-1}^{i_1,\ldots,i_{n-s}})$$

$$=\prod_{a=1}^{n-s} \begin{pmatrix} x+2t+n+i_a-1\\ 2t+2i_a-1 \end{pmatrix} \prod_{1 \le a < b \le n-s} \frac{i_b-i_a}{2t+i_a+i_b-1}$$

(b).

 $M_{-,|}(H_{2n+1,2n+1,2x}(k_1,\ldots,k_s)) = M_f(D_{n,x,2t}^{i_1,\ldots,i_{n-s}})$ 

$$=\prod_{a=1}^{n-s} \binom{x+2t+n+i_a}{2t+2i_a} \prod_{1 \le a < b \le n-s} \frac{i_b-i_a}{2t+i_a+i_b}.$$

# A limit formula for regions with two dents

PROPOSITION. For any fixed integers  $1 \le i < j$ , we have

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{\mathrm{M}_f\left(D_{n,n,0}^{[n] \setminus \{i,j\}}\right)}{\mathrm{M}_f\left(D_{n,n,0}^{[n] \setminus \{1,2\}}\right)} = 4 \frac{j-i}{j+i} \frac{1}{2^{2i-2}} \binom{2i-1}{i-1} \frac{1}{2^{2j-2}} \binom{2j-1}{j-1}.$$

# To finish the proof:

- $\bullet$  a double sum formula
- its asymptotic analysis



Changing from  $(\alpha, \beta)$  to (R, v)-coordinates.

#### A double sum formula

LEMMA. Write  $\alpha = 2v - R$ ,  $\beta = R$ , with R and v non-negative integers. Then we have

 $\omega_c(\alpha,\beta) = \omega_c(2v - R, R)$ 

$$= 4R \left| \sum_{a=0}^{R} \sum_{b=0}^{R} (-1)^{a+b} \frac{(R+a-1)! (R+b-1)!}{(2a)! (R-a)! (2b)! (R-b)!} \times \frac{(2v'+2a+1)! (2v'+2b+1)!}{2^{2(2v'+a+b)} (v'+a)! (v'+a+1)! (v'+b)! (v'+b+1)!} \frac{(b-a)^2}{2v'+a+b+2} \right|,$$

where v' = 2v - R - 1.





 $D_{6,6,0}(3,3;\{1,2,6,8\})$ 

Paths of lozenges



Labeling starting and ending points

 $D^{1,2,4,6}_{6,6,0}(\{1,2,6,8\})$ 

#### Outline of proof of double sum formula

• Free boundary is sum over constrained boundaries:

$$\mathcal{M}_f(D_{n,n,0}(\alpha,\beta)) = \sum_{\substack{S \subset T \\ |S|=n-2}} \mathcal{M}(D_{n,n,0}(\alpha,\beta;S))$$

• Use Pfaffian formula for lattice paths and Laplace expansion to get

$$M(D_{n,n,0}(\alpha,\beta;S)) = \\ \left| \sum_{0 \le a < b \le R} (-1)^{a+b} \frac{(b-a)(R+a-1)! (R+b-1)!}{(2a)! (R-a)! (2b)! (R-b)!} M(D_{n,n,0}^{[n] \setminus \{2v-R+a,2v-R+b\}}(S)) \right|$$

• Sum over boundaries to get

$$M_f(D_{n,n,0}(\alpha,\beta)) = 2R \left| \sum_{0 \le a < b \le R} (-1)^{a+b} \frac{(b-a)(R+a-1)! (R+b-1)!}{(2a)! (R-a)! (2b)! (R-b)!} M_f(D_{n,n,0}^{[n] \setminus \{2v-R+a,2v-R+b\}}) \right|$$

• divide by  $M_f(D_{n,n,0}(1,1))$ , let  $n \to \infty$ , and use 2-dent limit formula

# Reduction of the double sum to simple sums

• The double sum separates if we write

$$\frac{1}{2v'+a+b+2} = \int_0^1 x^{2v'+a+b+1} \, dx$$

• Moment sums  $(k \in \mathbb{Z}, x \in [0, 1])$ :

$$T^{(k)}(R,v;x) := \frac{1}{R} \sum_{a=0}^{R} \frac{(-R)_a(R)_a(3/2)_{v+a}}{(1)_a(1/2)_a(2)_{v+a}} \left(\frac{x}{4}\right)^a a^k$$

#### LEMMA. We have that

$$\omega_c(2v - R, R) = \\ 8R \left| \int_0^1 T^{(2)}(R, v'; x) T^{(0)}(R, v'; x) x^{2v' + 1} dx - \int_0^1 \left( T^{(1)}(R, v'; x) \right)^2 x^{2v' + 1} dx \right|,$$

where v' = 2v - R - 1.

# The asymptotics of the integrals in the lemma

It follows from results in [C, Mem. AMS, 2005] that:

$$\int_0^1 T^{(2)}(R, v'; x) T^{(0)}(R, v'; x) x^{2v'+1} dx$$

$$\sim \frac{2}{\pi R} \int_0^1 x^{2qR} \frac{1}{(4-x)\sqrt{q^2 + \frac{x}{4-x}}} \cos\left[2R \arccos\left(1 - \frac{x}{2}\right) - \arctan\frac{1}{q}\sqrt{\frac{x}{4-x}} + \pi\right] dx$$
  
and

$$\int_0^1 \left( T^{(1)}(R, v'; x) \right)^2 dx \sim$$

$$\frac{2}{\pi R} \int_0^1 x^{2qR} \frac{1}{(4-x)\sqrt{q^2 + \frac{x}{4-x}}} \left\{ 1 + \cos\left[2R\arccos\left(1 - \frac{x}{2}\right) - \arctan\frac{1}{q}\sqrt{\frac{x}{4-x}} + \pi\right] \right\} dx$$

Lemma then implies

$$\omega_c(2v - R, R) \sim \frac{16}{\pi} \left| \int_0^1 x^{2qR} \frac{1}{(4 - x)\sqrt{q^2 + \frac{x}{4 - x}}} dx \right|$$

as R and v approach infinity so that 2v - R = qR.
We have

$$\int_0^1 x^{2qR} \frac{1}{(4-x)\sqrt{q^2 + \frac{x}{4-x}}} dx \sim \frac{1}{3q\sqrt{q^2 + \frac{1}{3}}} \frac{1}{R}, \quad R \to \infty$$

Then we get

$$\omega_c(2v - R, R) \sim \frac{16}{3\pi q \sqrt{q^2 + \frac{1}{3}}} \frac{1}{R},$$

which proves the Theorem.

A general conjecture for regions  $\Omega_n$  on the triangular lattice



The two types of zig-zag corners in  $\Omega_n$ 



An example of  $\Omega_n$ 



The corresponding steady state heat flow problem

- $O_1^{(n)}, \ldots, O_k^{(n)}$ : finite unions of unit triangles from the interior of  $\Omega_n$  (the gaps)
- for fixed  $i, O_i^{(n)}$ 's are translates of one another for all  $n \ge 1$
- $O_i^{(n)}$  shrinks to point  $a_i \in \Omega$  in scaling limit, i = 1, ..., k
- $\Omega_n \to \Omega, \ n \to \infty$
- E: heat energy when sources/sinks are at positions  $a_1, \ldots, a_k$

CONJECTURE. Let  $O'^{(n)}$ 's be translations of the  $O^{(n)}_i$ 's that shrink to distinct points  $a'_1, \ldots, a'_k \in \Omega$  in the scaling limit as  $n \to \infty$ . Then

$$\frac{\mathrm{M}_f(\Omega_n \setminus O_1^{(n)} \cup \dots \cup O_k^{(n)})}{\mathrm{M}_f(\Omega_n \setminus O_1^{\prime(n)} \cup \dots \cup O_k^{\prime(n)})} \to \frac{\exp(-E)}{\exp(-E')},$$

where E' is the heat energy of the system obtained from S by moving the point heat sources to positions  $a'_1, \ldots, a'_k$ .



A different direction: What if there are some defects in the tiling?

domino tilings 



The holes moved to a different position

08813851346146364741448714050827831732464752388760580270876837899212933766361991domino tilings 



A third position of the holes

domino tilings 



Relative sizes:

$$\frac{n_1}{n_2} = 3.832529164...$$
$$\frac{n_1}{n_3} = 0.556951983...$$

Can we understand *why* these ratios come out as they do? Can we predict the ratios for other arrangements?



Positions of the green unit squares:  $w_1, w_2 \in \mathbb{C}$ black unit squares:  $b_1, b_2 \in \mathbb{C}$ 

**Electrostatic Energy**:

$$E(w_1, w_2, b_1, b_2) := \frac{\sqrt{|w_1 - w_2|}\sqrt{|b_1 - b_2|}}{\sqrt{|w_1 - b_1|}\sqrt{|w_1 - b_2|}\sqrt{|w_2 - b_1|}\sqrt{|w_2 - b_2|}}$$

Relative sizes of energies:

$$\frac{E_1}{E_2} = 3.726575104...$$
$$\frac{E_1}{E_3} = 0.570399674...$$

Fisher and Stephenson (1963): Correlation of monomers in a sea of dimers



Fisher and Stephenson conjectured (from exact data) that

$$\omega_{2p+1,0} \sim c \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mathbf{d}((2p+1,0),(0,0))}}$$
$$\omega_{p+1,p} \sim c \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mathbf{d}((p+1,p),(0,0))}}$$

as  $p \to \infty$ , with same c.

Based on this, they conjectured that  $\omega_{p,q}$  is rotationally invariant for  $p_k/q_k \to s, \ k \to \infty$ , over all slopes s.

This still stands open.

Only proved direction is diagonal direction (Hartwig '66)

## Correlation defined via tori





- **r**: position vector of O
- $\alpha O :$  translation of O whose position vector is  $\alpha {\bf r}$







Charge of a hole:

q(O) := # (green monomers in O) - # (black monomers in O)

## **Electrostatic Energy:**

$$E(O_1, \dots, O_n) := \prod_{1 \le i < j \le n} d(O_i, O_j)^{\frac{1}{2}q(O_i)q(O_j)}$$

**Theorem (C., 2009).** Suppose  $O_i$  is either of type  $\triangleright_{k_i}$  or of type  $\triangleleft_{k_i}$ , with  $k_i$  even, for i = 1, ..., n. Then

$$\omega(\alpha O_1 \dots, \alpha O_n) \sim cE(\alpha O_1 \dots, \alpha O_n), \qquad \alpha \to \infty.$$

**Electrostatic Hypothesis** 

**Conjecture.** For any holes  $O_1, \ldots, O_n$  we have

$$\omega(\alpha O_1 \dots, \alpha O_n) \sim cE(\alpha O_1 \dots, \alpha O_n), \quad \alpha \to \infty.$$

**Remark.** The square lattice analog of the above conjecture specializes in the case of a white and a black monomer to the original Fisher-Stephenson conjecture (the charges are +1 and -1).



Want a natural interaction of gap with angle



Enclose gap in a large finite region



Count the number of tilings by unit rhombi (also called lozenges)



218131887229055600711360 such tilings



Change position of the gap: 6875618273315530597996800540627408141179940675855769850310123742702260907192122748128905284734912 tilings



A third position: 2471820827197543647149065107349125334045443362715444874 9303938821838323802787518678574676986416624 tilings

Denote the three numbers by  $n_1, n_2, n_3$ 

Then

$$\frac{n_1}{n_2} = 0.2119224961\dots$$

$$\frac{n_1}{n_3} = 0.05894837404\dots$$

For regions with bottom edge of length 100 the numbers become:

16660626826040016929013311182024909599148433033742628802714230209219265190615072420621273236'561266713456739867535715032727350058341927620215077174496868482836145433479692200855384192518571168133502514028369630674747280448810377386251148448440570231792451586266667562228392946988832700296211575279794975949518198552270235058896849550825711467018487044420984046020577887!7924920137276324302500204611760039797222774821688523617903885327204123619383074739466359280288676727804888031137873585357580030589809910889199296212771171705456268842732668122919241472! $77515586394529613977454438993584247849437583934205588435234854318214665541599159338150203084^\circ$ 29496468169958665034832786526005791702620794939876844771452765038077221865003500715471434144;7701990680928108255466346389703452356520651600983392216184276751949080089268626025901068635978/1036858902/71750858/3919973/73933902703/18707187657182350378/575723110/000000000

8160033330142943362663440637958463356352316101088265678869833136173241795494145946552650499649550104843183844522225304911243808672821745780174274407548663902083943790610963682615709826!263811865384553067124848337447216389675593916295319541144991724347244824011916703701213820320-00604949100586469656328533103814006246757342192015139927592102858559709586722746298174729863'00245451153960969508276293067910689692197807535360783805055470665671636149027736271898595789;67385072658506103534619411748110290252539970230391731970256778754436787709469558571398418329'13351322820998181706817236812124573621412924142221183668455118105560224596123409427678405799;15206132134487885755543024886741261025294950492776343097616880282450097988164449473711828037462267165919781721790129348098512065777578414822863756196034450836782971911163218190068602816

96368212186357504131856851050831205118623657733723163794435562073087442717411734717353592319;

and

Their ratios are

$$\frac{N_1}{N_2} = 0.2041735144\dots$$

$$\frac{N_1}{N_3} = 0.07487097552...$$

Main question: What are these ratios in the limit?



- $O_1$ : original gap;  $O_2, \ldots, O_6$  its mirror images
- $c_1, \ldots, c_6$ : the centers
- $E := d(c_1, c_2) d(c_1, c_3) d(c_1, c_4) d(c_1, c_5) d(c_1, c_6)$

Then

$$\frac{E_1}{E_2} = 0.2011066817\dots$$

$$\frac{E_1}{E_3} = 0.07969684211\dots$$

(Recall

$$\frac{N_1}{N_2} = 0.2041735144\dots$$

$$\frac{N_1}{N_3} = 0.07487097552...)$$

The correlation  $\omega_c(R, v)$ 

Previous regions were of the following type:



 $D_{n,x}(R,v)$ 

(here 
$$n = 7, x = 4, R = 4, v = 3$$
)


 $D_{11,1}(4,5)$ 

 $D_{11,1}^0$ 

- M(region): the number of tilings of that region
- Define the correlation of the gap with the corner of the angle by

$$\omega_c(R,v) := \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{\mathcal{M}(D_{n,1}(R,v))}{\mathcal{M}(D_{n,1}^0)}$$

This is "correlation in a sea of dimers."

THEOREM (C. AND FISCHER, 2012). The correlation of the gap with the corner is

$$\omega_c(R,v) = \\ \begin{cases} \frac{1}{81}R(3v-R)(3v-2R)(4R^2-12Rv+12v^2-8R+16v+3), \ R = 0 \pmod{3} \\ \frac{1}{162}R(2R+1)(3v-R+1)(6v-4R+1)(2R^2-6Rv+6v^2-R-v), \ R = 1 \pmod{3} \\ \frac{1}{162}R(2R-1)(6v-2R+1)(3v-2R+1)(2R^2-6Rv+6v^2+2R-v), \ R = 2 \pmod{3} \end{cases}$$

$$\sim \frac{1}{1944} \operatorname{d}(O_1, O_2) \operatorname{d}(O_1, O_3) \operatorname{d}(O_1, O_4) \operatorname{d}(O_1, O_5) \operatorname{d}(O_1, O_6).$$

Note. Product of distances is  $2(2R-1)(3v-2R)(6v-2R-1)(12R^2-36Rv+36v^2-6v+1)$ .