

# Higher Dimer Covers on Snake Graphs

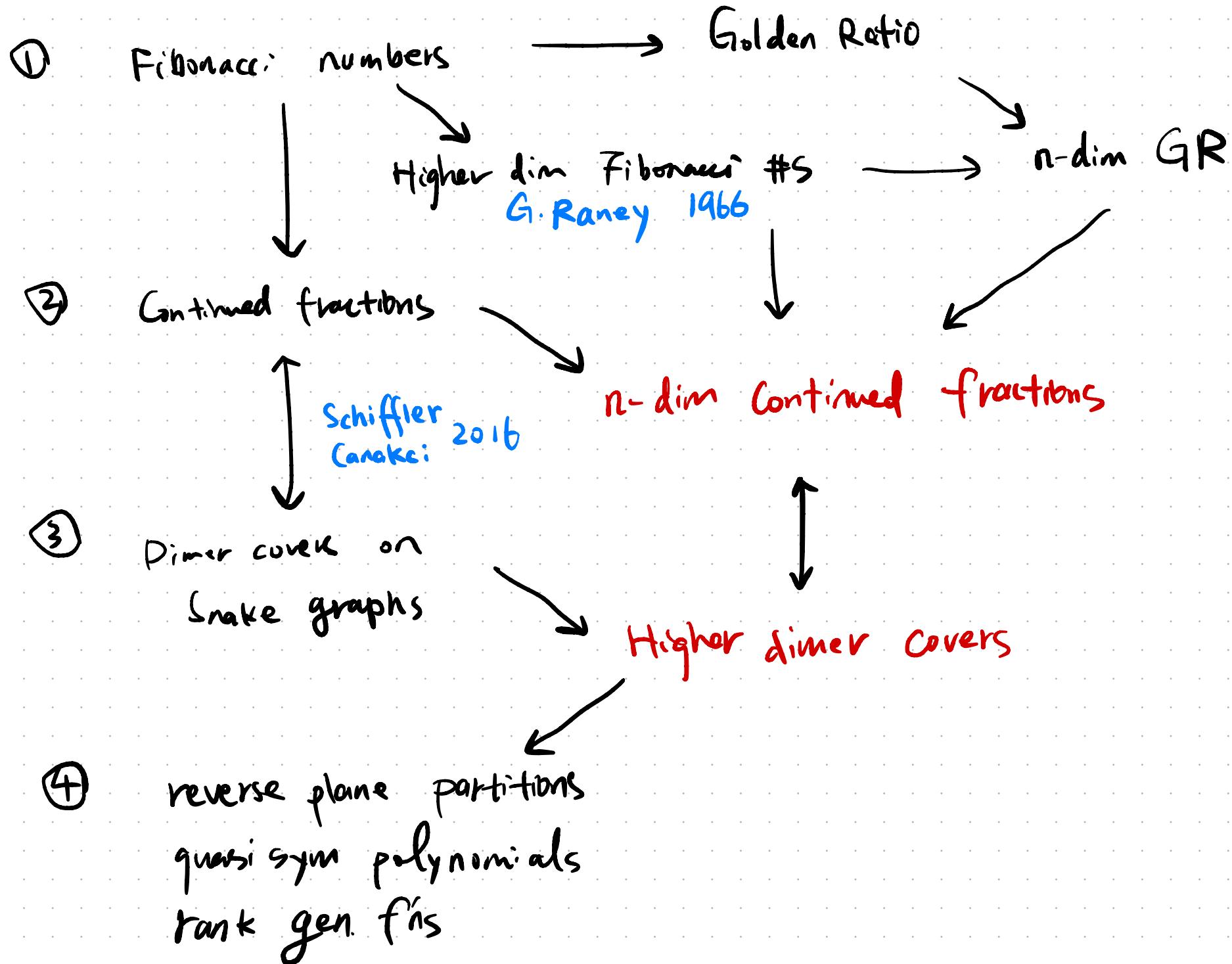
Sylvester Zhang UMN

-joint work w/

Gregg Musiker UMN

Nick Overhouse Yale

Ralf Schiffler UConn



1 1 2 3 5 8 13 ...

"Golden Ratio"

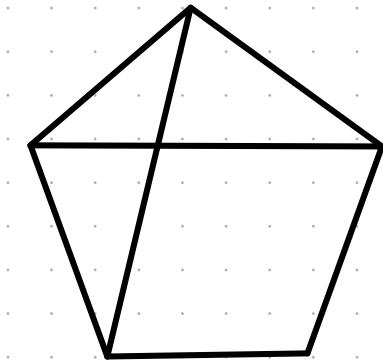
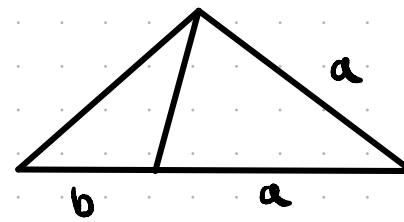
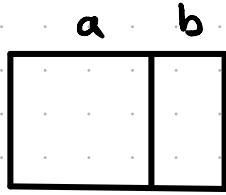
1 2  $\frac{3}{2}$   $\frac{5}{2}$   $\frac{8}{5}$   $\frac{13}{8}$  ...  $\varphi$

1  $1+1$   $1+\frac{1}{1+1}$   $1+\frac{1}{1+\frac{1}{1+1}}$  ...

$1+\frac{1}{1+\frac{1}{1+\frac{1}{1+...}}}$

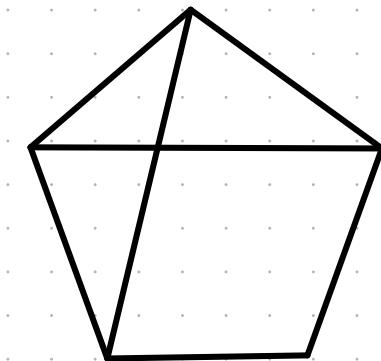
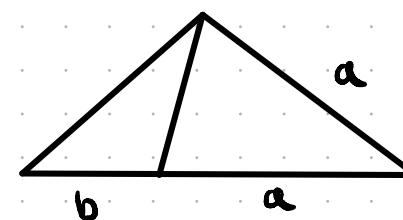
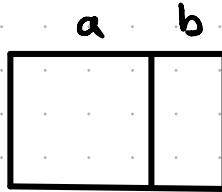
# The golden ratio

$$\frac{b}{a} = \frac{a}{a+b}$$



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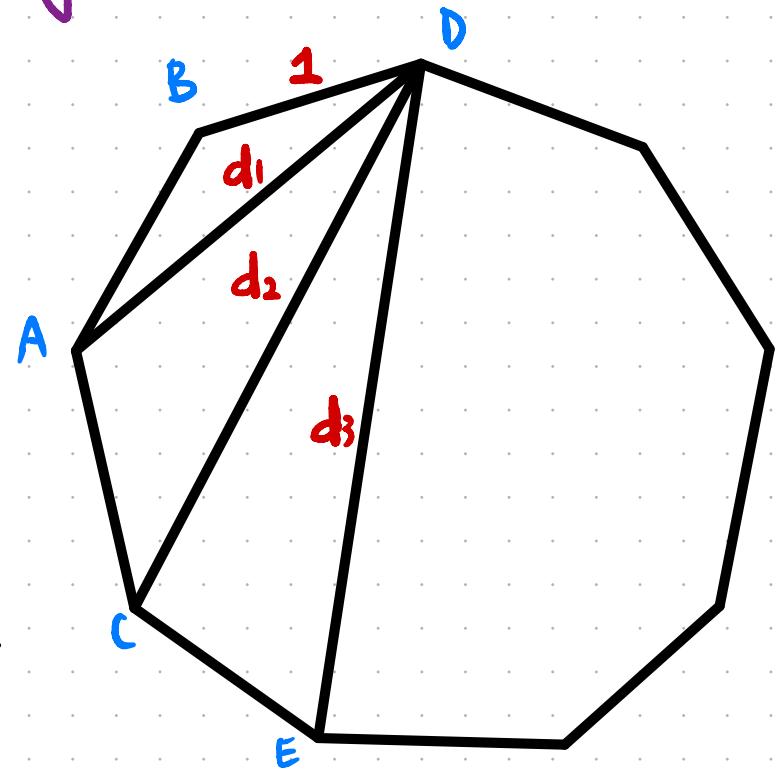


Higher dim?

$$\begin{aligned}
 1 &: d_1 : d_2 : d_3 \\
 &= d_1 : 1+d_2 : d_1+d_3 : d_2+d_3 \\
 &= d_2 : d_1+d_3 : 1+d_2+d_3 : d_1+d_2+d_3 \\
 &= d_3 : d_2+d_3 : d_1+d_2+d_3 : 1+d_1+d_2+d_3
 \end{aligned}$$



regular  $2n+1$  polygon



Golden portions / n-dim Golden Ratios.

$\varphi_i^{(n)}$  := i-th diag of regular  $(2n+3)$ -gon

where  $\varphi_0^{(n)} = 1$ .

$$\left( \varphi_1^{(1)} = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2} \text{ the classical GR} \right)$$

n-dim GR :  $(\varphi_1^{(n)}, \varphi_2^{(n)}, \dots, \varphi_n^{(n)})$

# $n$ -dim Fibonacci #s. (to be defined later)

338

GEORGE N. RANEY

TABLE I

	$d = 0$	$d = 1$	$d = 2$	$d = 3$	$d = 4$	$d = 5$	$d = 6$
$n = 1$	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
$n = 2$	$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 8 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 13 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix}$
$n = 3$	$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 5 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 14 \\ 11 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 31 \\ 25 \\ 14 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 70 \\ 56 \\ 31 \end{pmatrix}$
$n = 4$	$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 10 \\ 9 \\ 7 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 30 \\ 26 \\ 19 \\ 10 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 85 \\ 75 \\ 56 \\ 30 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 246 \\ 216 \\ 160 \\ 85 \end{pmatrix}$

Prop.  $n$ -dim Fibonacci converges to  $n$ -dim GR  
as pt in a proj space.

## Continued Fractions

$$f_n = 1 + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{1 + \dots + \frac{1}{1}}} = [1, 1, \dots, 1]^{\overbrace{\quad}^n}$$

$$\varphi_1^{(1)} = 1 + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{1 + \dots}}} = [1, 1, \dots]$$

## General Continued fraction

$$[a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n] = a_1 + \frac{1}{a_2 + \frac{1}{a_3 + \dots + \frac{1}{a_n}}}$$

Golden Ratio  
&  
Fibonacci #s



n-dim GR  
& Fibonacci #s.



Continued fractions

$$a_1 + \cfrac{1}{a_2 + \cfrac{1}{a_3 + \cfrac{1}{a_4}}}$$

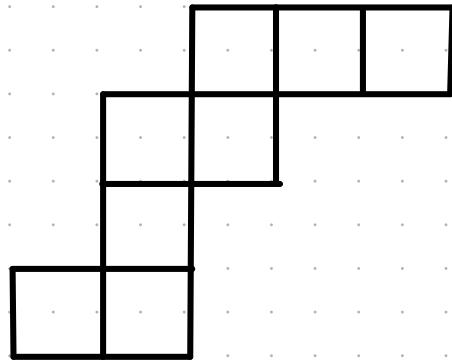
?



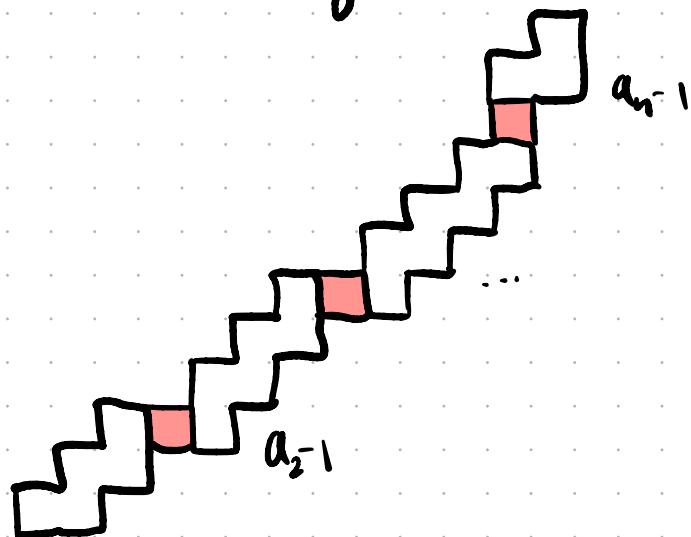
n-dim  
continued fractions ??

NOT the higher  
dimensional continued  
fraction you will find  
on Google !

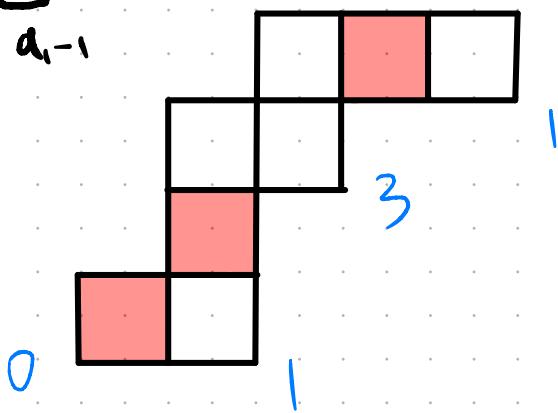
# Introducing Snake Graphs



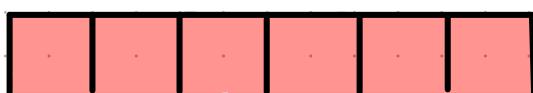
# Introducing Snake Graphs



$$= g[a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n]$$



$$= G[1, 2, 4, 2]$$



$$= G[1, 1, \dots, 1]$$

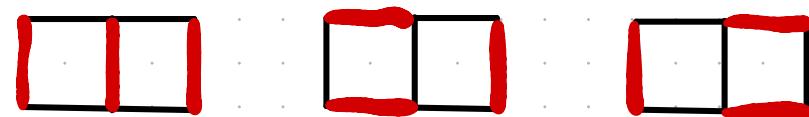
# Perfect Matchings (Dimer covers)

Denote  $\Omega[a_1 \dots a_n]$  the # of dimer covers on  $G[a_1 \dots a_n]$

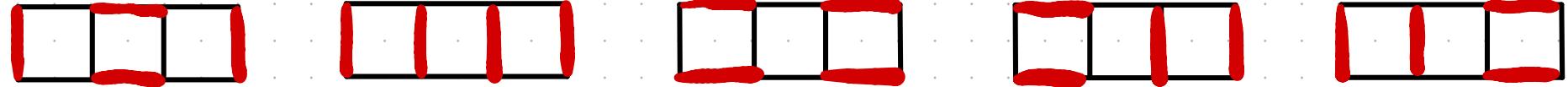
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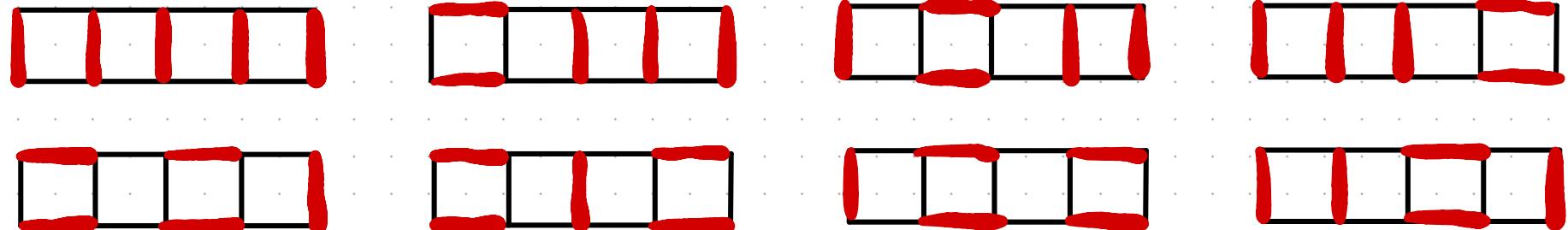
3



5



8



# Continued fractions via Snake Graphs.

Thm. Schiffler- Canakci 2016

$$[a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n] = \frac{\Omega[a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n]}{\Omega[a_2, \dots, a_n]}$$

Define  $\Delta(a) = \begin{pmatrix} a & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  then...

Thm (old)

$$\Delta(a_1) \Delta(a_2) \dots \Delta(a_n) = \begin{pmatrix} \Omega[a_1, \dots, a_n] & * \\ \Omega[a_2, \dots, a_n] & * \end{pmatrix}$$

Can be further decomposed...

## More on Matrix formula

Define  $L = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$   $R = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  then...

$$R^{a_1} L^{a_2} R^{a_3} \cdots = \Delta(a_1) \Delta(a_2) \cdots \Delta(a_n) \text{ "up to sign"}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} \Omega[a_1 \dots a_n] & * \\ \Omega[a_2 \dots a_n] & * \end{pmatrix}$$

Denote this matrix  $\Delta(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$

Remark  $L, R$  and hence  $\Delta \in SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$

## Our motivation

In Musiker-Schiffler 08 & Musiker-Schiffler-Williams 09, dimers on Snake graphs are used to give formula for Type A Cluster algebras.  
"Gr(2,n) or  $\bar{T}(\emptyset)$ "

In Musiker-Owenhouse-Z. 21, we found that certain Super cluster variables correspond to double dimer covers of the same Snake graph.

Question [Schiffler, OPAC 2022]

Find Continued fraction / Number theory interpretation for double dimers.

Answer [Musiker-Owenhouse-Schiffler-Z. 2023]

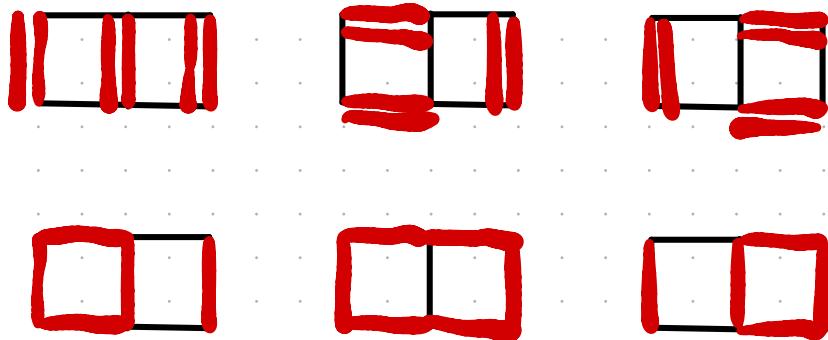
# What are Higher Dimers?

Def An m-dimer is a multi-collection of edges.

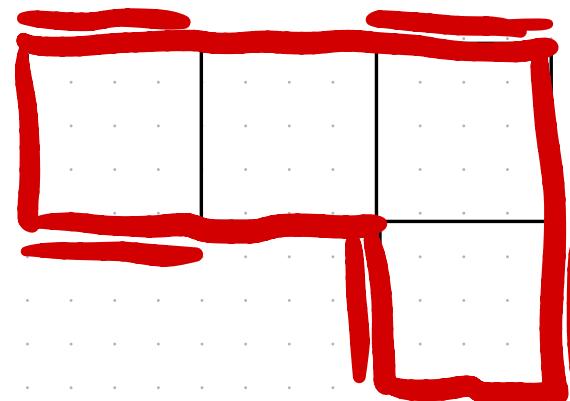
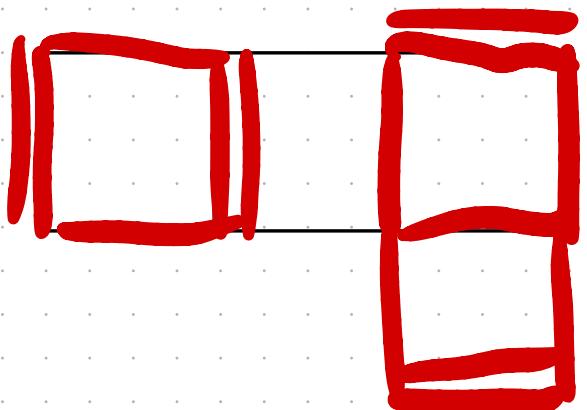
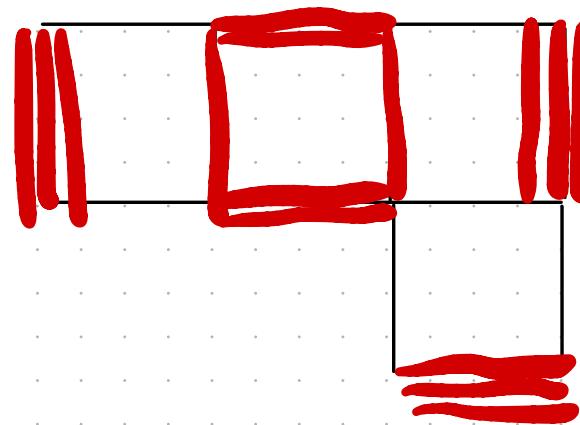
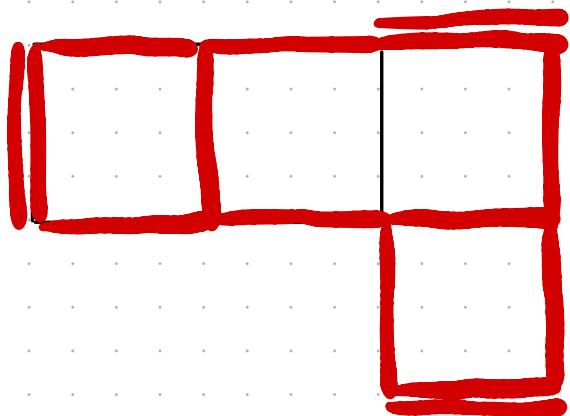
Such that every vertex is incident to m of them.

i.e. Overlay m different perfect matchings (dimers)

Eg. Double dimers on  $G[1,1,1]$ .



E.g. Some 3-dimers.



Define  $\Omega^m[a, \dots, a_n]$  the # of m-dimers on  $G[a, \dots, a_n]$

Then define  $\Omega^m[\underbrace{1, \dots, 1}_n]$  to be the n-th m-dim Fibb #.

In Raney's language :

$$\begin{pmatrix} \Omega^m[1^n] \\ \vdots \\ \Omega^m[1^n] \end{pmatrix}$$

How to Count them ?

# Matrix formula Upgraded.

$$\Delta_m(a) := \begin{pmatrix} [a] & [a] & \cdots & [a] & | \\ [m] & [m-1] & & [m] & | \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & | \\ [a] & [a] & [a] & | \\ [3] & [2] & [1] & | \\ [a] & [a] & | \\ [2] & [1] & | \\ [a] & | \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{where}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a \\ i \end{bmatrix} = \binom{a}{i} = \binom{a+i-1}{i}$$

Thm [MOSZ23]

$$\Delta_m(a_1) \cdots \Delta_m(a_n) = \begin{pmatrix} \Omega^m[a_1 \cdots a_n] & * & * & \cdots & * \\ * & * & \cdots & * \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ * & * & \cdots & * \\ \Omega^m[a_2 \cdots a_n] & * & * & \cdots & * \end{pmatrix} = \Delta_m(a_1 \cdots a_n)$$

$$\text{def } L_m = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad R_m = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & \ddots & -1 \\ & & & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Thm [MOSE23]

$$\Delta_m(a_1 \dots a_n) = R_m^{a_1} L_m^{a_2} R_m^{a_3} \dots$$

Cor Raney's def of  $m$ -dim Fib. #. is the  
first column of  $\Delta_m(a_1 \dots a_n)$ .

## Continued fractions.

Recall that  $[a_1, \dots, a_n] = a_1 + \frac{1}{a_2 + \frac{1}{\ddots + \frac{1}{a_n}}}$  has recurrence.

$$[a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n] = a_1 + \frac{1}{[a_2, \dots, a_n]}$$

## m-Dimer Cont. Frac.

$$[a_1, \dots, a_n]^m = (r_1(a_1, \dots, a_n), r_2(a_1, \dots, a_n), \dots, r_m(a_1, \dots, a_n))$$

$$r_k(a_1, \dots, a_n) = \frac{\sum [ \begin{smallmatrix} a_1 \\ \vdots \\ i \end{smallmatrix} ] \cdot r_{i+m-k}(a_2, \dots, a_n)}{r_m(a_2, \dots, a_n)}$$

Thm (MOSZ 23)

$$r_m(a_1 \dots a_n) = \frac{\Omega_m[a_1 \dots a_n]}{\Omega_m[a_2 \dots a_n]}$$

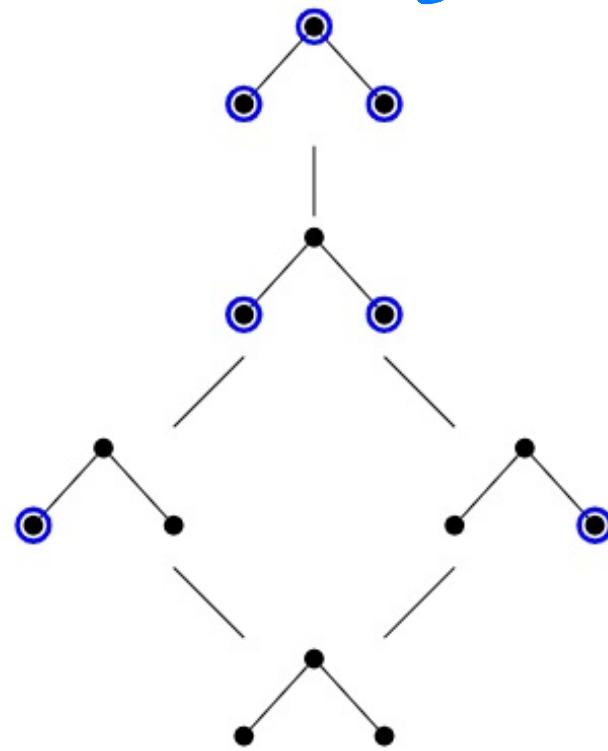
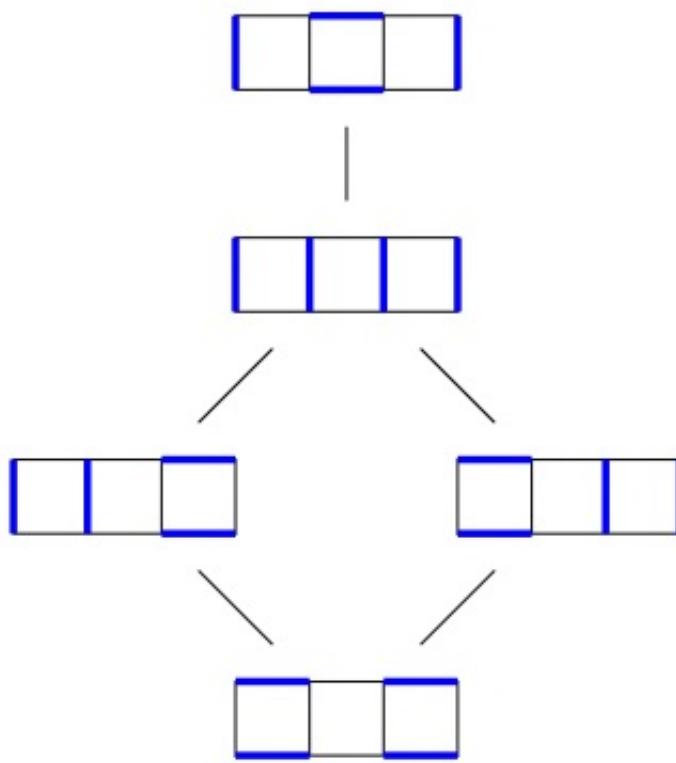
and more generally

$$r_i(a_1 \dots a_n) = \frac{x_{1,m+1-i}}{x_{1,m+1}}$$

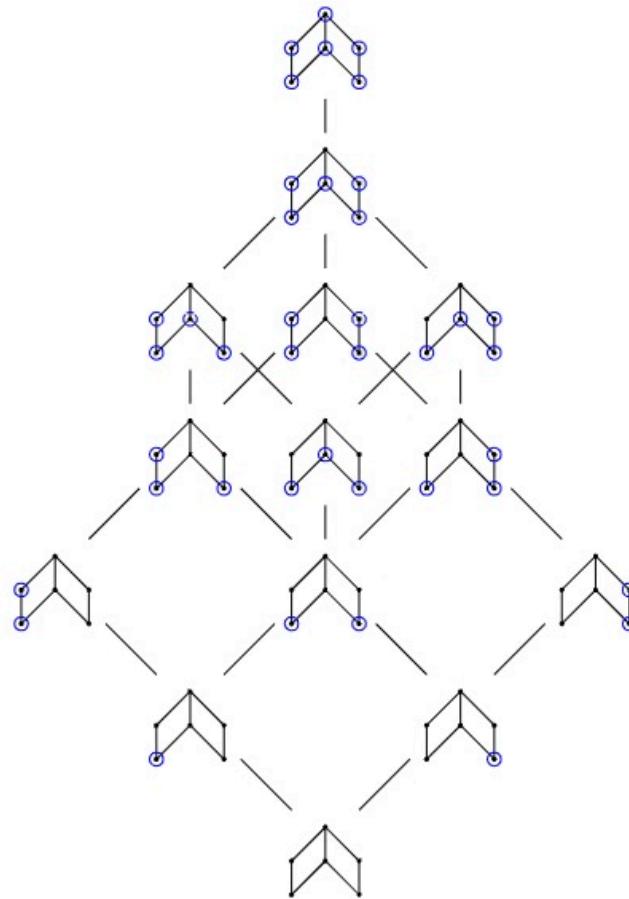
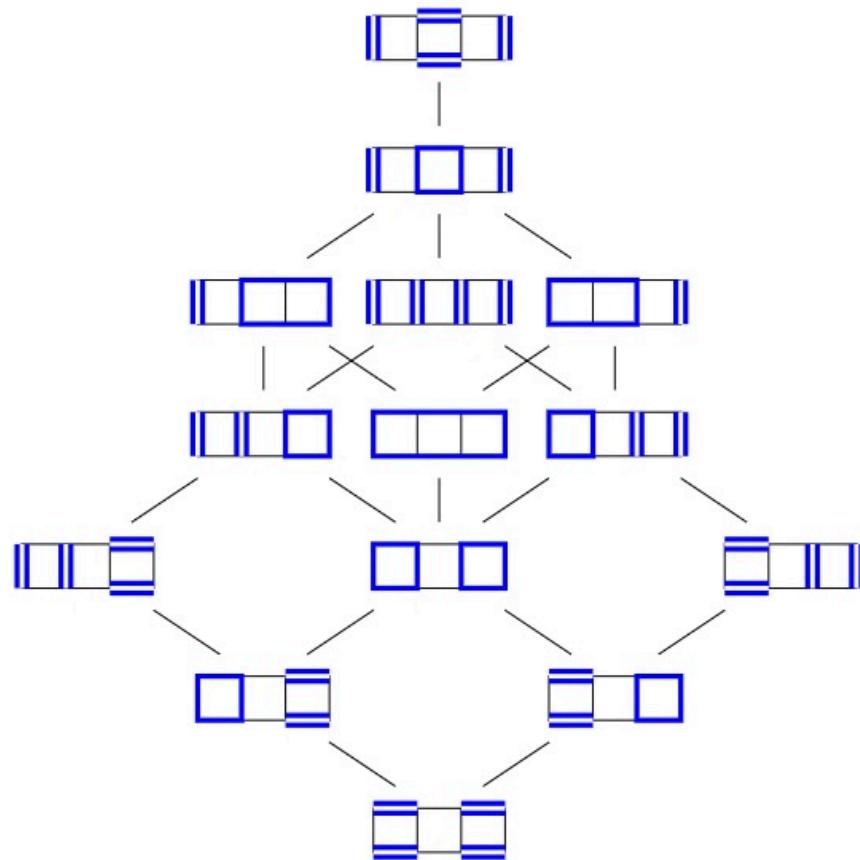
where  $X = \Delta(a_1 \dots a_n)$

Dimer covers form a distributive lattice.

The fence poset



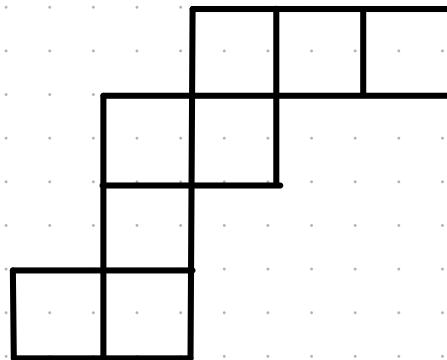
The same story is true for  $m$ -dimers.



Denote this poset  $P_G^{(m)}$  for a snake graph  $G$ .

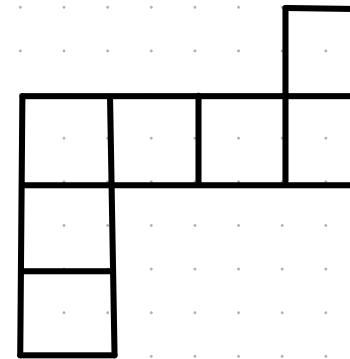
# Dual Snake Graph.

$G$



RUURUUR

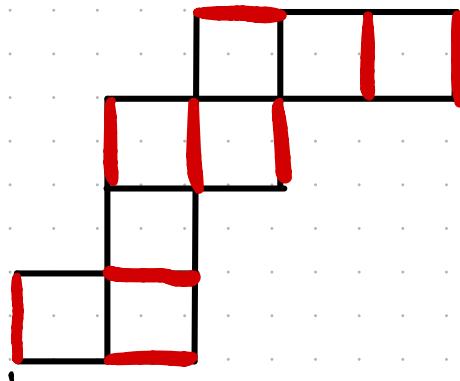
$G^*$



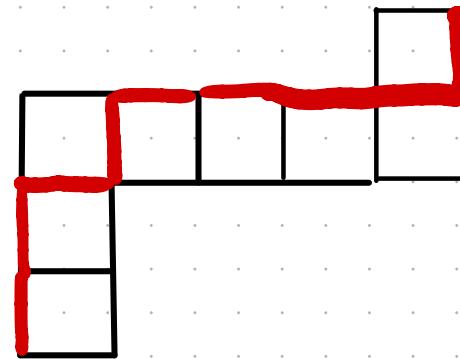
UURRRRU

# Dual Snake Graph . (Propp, 2005)

$G$



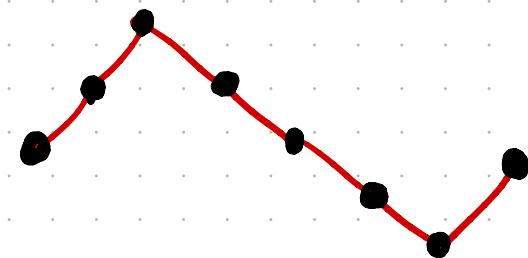
$G^*$



RUURURR

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The fence of  $G$  is the "shape" of  $G^*$

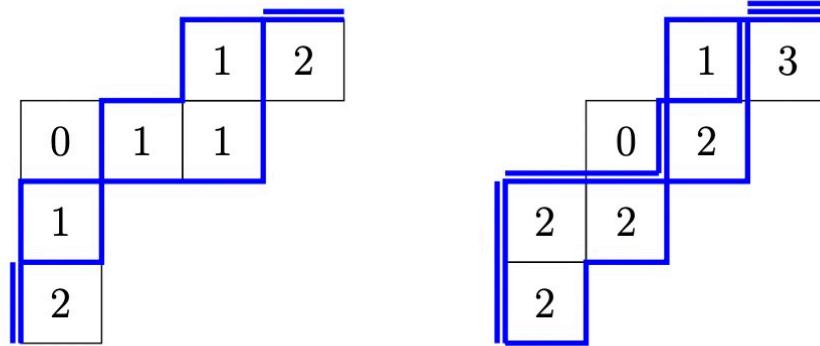


$\Omega^m(G)$   $m$ -dimers of  $G = m$ -lattice paths of  $G^*$   $\mathcal{L}(G^*)$

= reverse plane partitions

= P-partitions of fence poset.

label entries by the # of paths above.



$\sum_{\ell \in \mathcal{L}(G^*)} \prod_i x_i^{\#_i^\ell}$  is a quasi-symmetric polynomial.

as an instance of the Wave Schur functions (Lam-Pylyavskyy)

Rmk  $\Omega^m(G)$  can also be counted by a Jacobi-Trudi determinant.

# Rank generating functions of $P_G^{(m)} =: \mathcal{P}$

$$\text{let } U_{P,m}(q) := \sum_{p \in P} q^{\text{rk}(p)}$$

Question: Find a formula.

Partial answer by Stanley ↗

Thm (Stanley's thesis Prop 8.13)

$$F_p(q, x) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} U_{P,m}(q) x^m = \frac{\sum_{\substack{\text{linear extensions} \\ \pi}} q^{\text{maj}(\pi)} x^{\text{des}(\pi)}}{(1-x)(1-qx)\cdots(1-q^{N-1}x)}$$

Question remains: What is  $[x^m] F_p(q, x)$  ?

Rmk: By Morelás  
Pak  
Panova  
2015

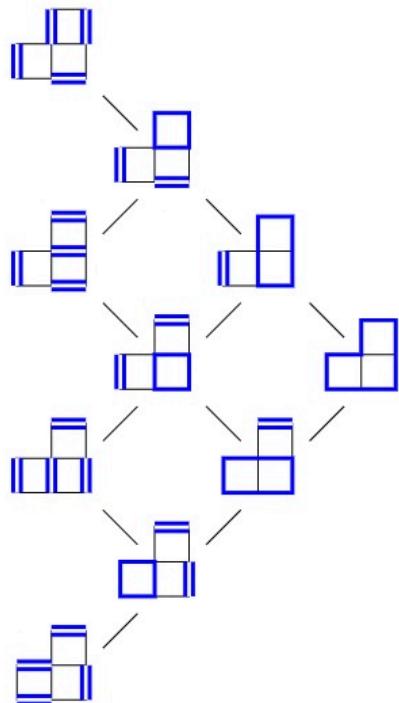
$$F_p(q, 1) = \sum_{S \text{ pleasant diag}} \prod_{e \in S} \frac{q^{h(e)}}{1 - q^{h(e)}}$$

using "pleasant diagrams".

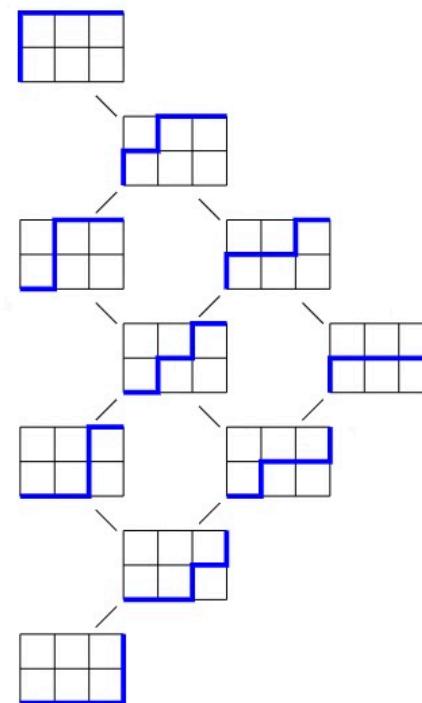
A Special Case, when  $G = \mathbb{G}[\wedge]$

$$U_{p,m}(q) = \binom{n+m}{m}_q$$

the  $q$ -binomial coefficient.



$$m=2 \quad n=3$$



$$\sum_p q^{\text{rk}(p)} = \binom{5}{2}_q$$

thank you !