



The Open  
University

# Characterising inflations of monotone grid classes of permutations

Robert Brignall Nicolasson

*Joint work with Michæl Albert and Aistis Atminas*

Reykjavik, 29 June 2017

## Two concepts of structure

### Enumeration

Structure

Characterisation

### Finitely many simple permutations

**Theorem (Albert & Atkinson, 2005):** Any permutation class containing only finitely many simple permutations has an algebraic generating function.

### (Geometric) griddability

**Theorem (Albert, Atkinson, Bouvel, Ruškuc & Vatter, 2013):** Any permutation class that is geometrically griddable has a rational generating function.

# Two concepts of structure

Enumeration

Structure

Characterisation

## Finitely many simple permutations

**Theorem (Albert & Atkinson, 2005):** Any permutation class containing only finitely many simple permutations is finitely based and well-quasi-ordered.

## (Geometric) griddability

**Theorem (Albert, Atkinson, Bouvel, Ruškuc & Vatter, 2013):** Any permutation class that is geometrically griddable is finitely based and well-quasi-ordered.

# Two concepts of structure

Enumeration

Structure

Characterisation

## Finitely many simple permutations

**B., Huczynska & Vatter, 2008:** Characterisation of simples, giving...

**Theorem (B., Ruškuc & Vatter, 2008):** It is decidable whether a permutation class contains only finitely many simple permutations.

**Bassino, Bouvel, Pierrot & Rossin, 2015:** Efficient algorithm.

## (Geometric) griddability

**Theorem (Huczynska & Vatter, 2006):** A permutation class is geometrically griddable if and only if it avoids long sums of 21 and skew sums of 12.

N.B. Reinstating 'geometrically' into the above seems hard!

## Theorem (Albert, Ruškuc & Vatter, 2015)

*Any permutation class containing only **geometrically griddable simples** has an algebraic generating function, is finitely based, and is well-quasi-ordered.*

- Related to this: Every class with growth rate  $< \kappa \approx 2.20557 \dots$  has a rational generating function.

## Theorem (Albert, Ruškuc & Vatter, 2015)

*Any permutation class containing only **geometrically griddable simples** has an algebraic generating function, is finitely based, and is well-quasi-ordered.*

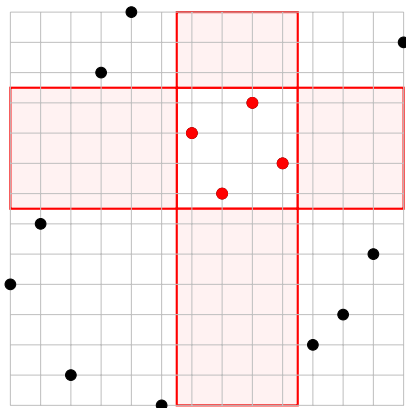
- Related to this: Every class with growth rate  $< \kappa \approx 2.20557 \dots$  has a rational generating function.
- **Today:** when are the simple permutations in a class geometrically griddable?
- Equivalently: what are the ‘minimal simple obstructions’ to griddability?
- As before, reinstating ‘geometrically’ is out of range.

A permutation class  $\mathcal{C}$  is *deflatable* if its simple permutations belong to a proper subclass  $\mathcal{D} \subsetneq \mathcal{C}$ .

*Albert, Atkinson, Homberger, Pantone (2016).*

# You want a definition of simple?

---



None of these (except trivial).



## And you want me to define 'griddable' *too*?! ---



- Mumble mumble ... chopping permutations up ... monotone cells ... mumble mumble.

## And you want me to define 'griddable' *too*?! ---

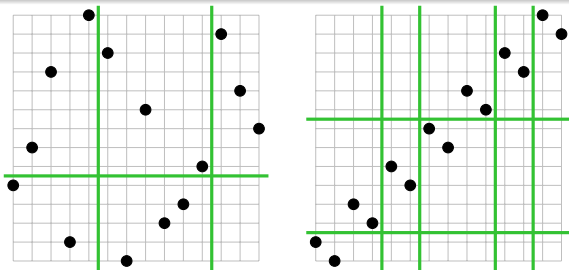
- Mumble mumble ... chopping permutations up ... monotone cells ... mumble mumble.
- Actually, you don't need to know. All you need is this:

# And you want me to define 'griddable' too?!

- Mumble mumble ... chopping permutations up ... monotone cells ... mumble mumble.
- Actually, you don't need to know. All you need is this:

## Theorem (Huczynska & Vatter, 2006)

*A class  $\mathcal{C}$  is griddable if and only if it avoids long sums of 21 and skew sums of 12.*





The same thing holds (obviously) for simple permutations:

## Proposition (Essentially Huczynska & Vatter)

*The simple permutations in a class  $\mathcal{C}$  are griddable if and only if they avoid long sums of 21 and skew sums of 12.*

- Not easy-to-check:  $\mathcal{C}$  can contain long sums of 21 without the simples doing so.

# Griddability of simples

The same thing holds (obviously) for simple permutations:

## Proposition (Essentially Huczynska & Vatter)

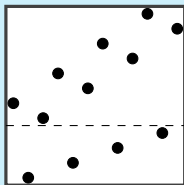
*The simple permutations in a class  $\mathcal{C}$  are griddable if and only if they avoid long sums of 21 and skew sums of 12.*

## Theorem (Albert, Atminas & B., 2017+)

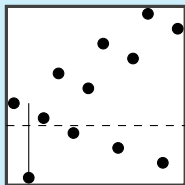
*The simple permutations in a class  $\mathcal{C}$  are griddable if and only if  $\mathcal{C}$  does not contain the following structures, or their symmetries:*

- *arbitrarily long parallel sawtooth alternations,*
- *arbitrarily long sliced wedge sawtooth alternations,*
- *proper pin sequences with arbitrarily many turns, and*
- *spiral proper pin sequences with arbitrarily many extensions.*

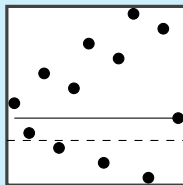
# The basic simples



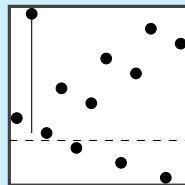
parallel sawtooth  
alternation



type 1

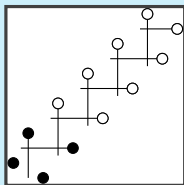


type 2

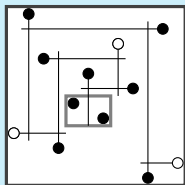


type 3

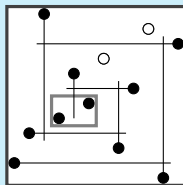
sliced wedge sawtooth alternations



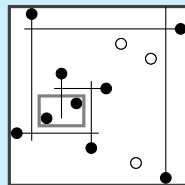
8 turns  
pin sequences with turns



3 turns



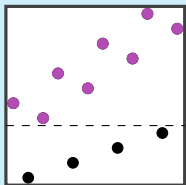
type 1



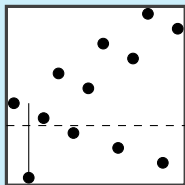
type 2

spiral pin sequences with extensions

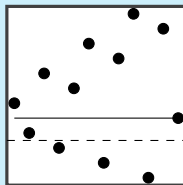
# The basic simples



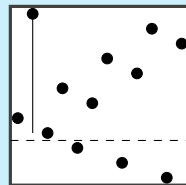
parallel sawtooth  
alternation



type 1

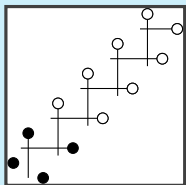


type 2

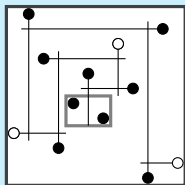


type 3

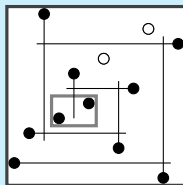
sliced wedge sawtooth alternations



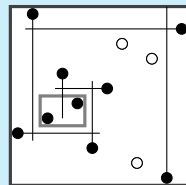
8 turns  
pin sequences with turns



3 turns



type 1

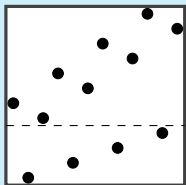


type 2

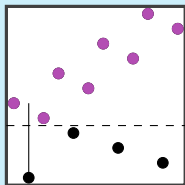
spiral pin sequences with extensions



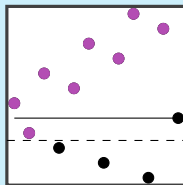
# The basic simples



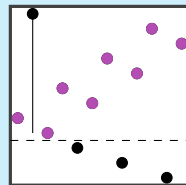
parallel sawtooth  
alternation



type 1

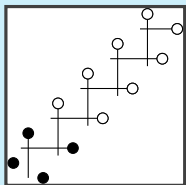


type 2

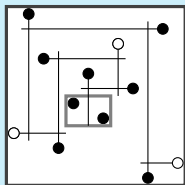


type 3

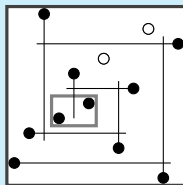
sliced wedge sawtooth alternations



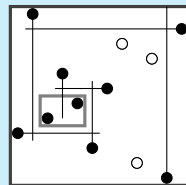
8 turns  
pin sequences with turns



3 turns



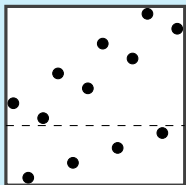
type 1



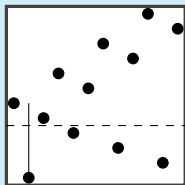
type 2

spiral pin sequences with extensions

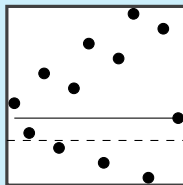
# The basic simples



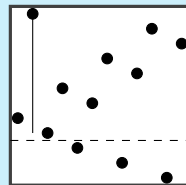
parallel sawtooth  
alternation



type 1

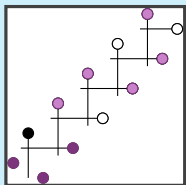


type 2

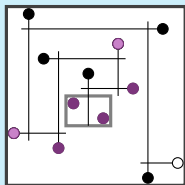


type 3

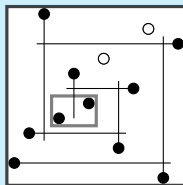
sliced wedge sawtooth alternations



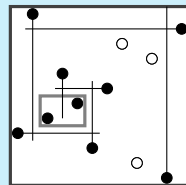
8 turns  
pin sequences with turns



3 turns



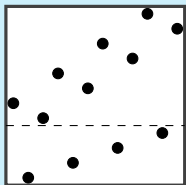
type 1



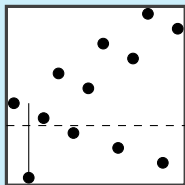
type 2

spiral pin sequences with extensions

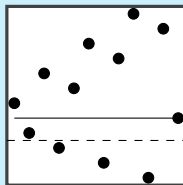
# The basic simples



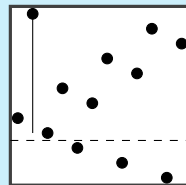
parallel sawtooth  
alternation



type 1

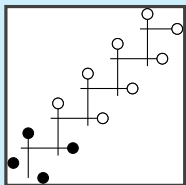


type 2

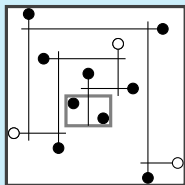


type 3

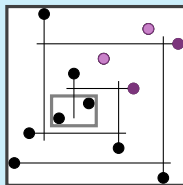
sliced wedge sawtooth alternations



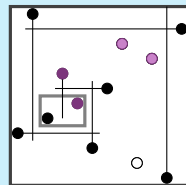
8 turns  
pin sequences with turns



3 turns



type 1



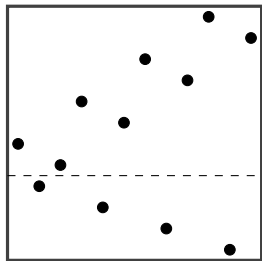
type 2

spiral pin sequences with extensions

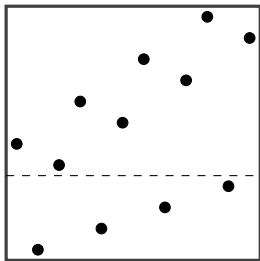
# Step 1: An easier characterisation

## Theorem

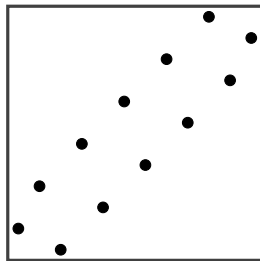
*There exists a function  $f(n)$  such that every simple permutation that contains a sum of  $f(n)$  copies of 21 must contain a parallel or wedge sawtooth alternation of length  $3n$  or an increasing oscillation of length  $n$ .*



wedge sawtooth



parallel sawtooth

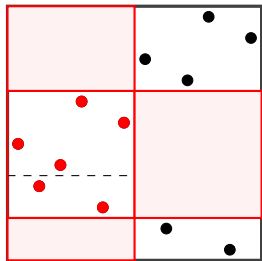


increasing oscillation

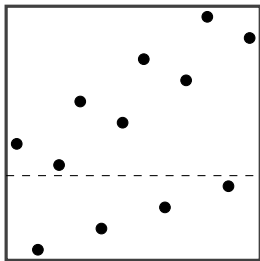
# Step 1: An easier characterisation

## Theorem

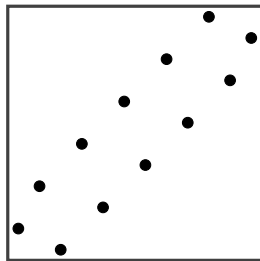
*There exists a function  $f(n)$  such that every simple permutation that contains a sum of  $f(n)$  copies of 21 must contain a parallel or wedge sawtooth alternation of length  $3n$  or an increasing oscillation of length  $n$ .*



wedge sawtooth



parallel sawtooth

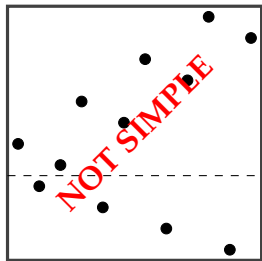


increasing oscillation

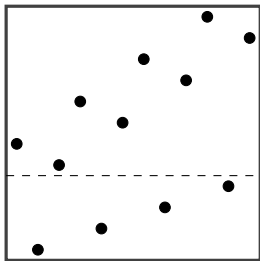
# Step 1: An easier characterisation

## Theorem

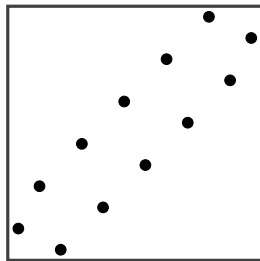
*There exists a function  $f(n)$  such that every simple permutation that contains a sum of  $f(n)$  copies of 21 must contain a parallel or wedge sawtooth alternation of length  $3n$  or an increasing oscillation of length  $n$ .*



wedge sawtooth

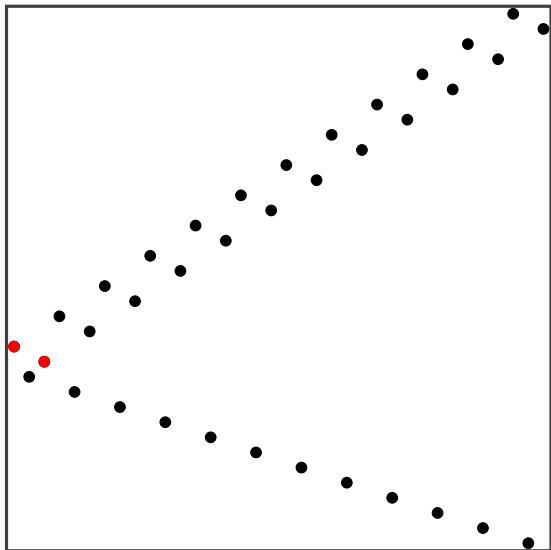


parallel sawtooth



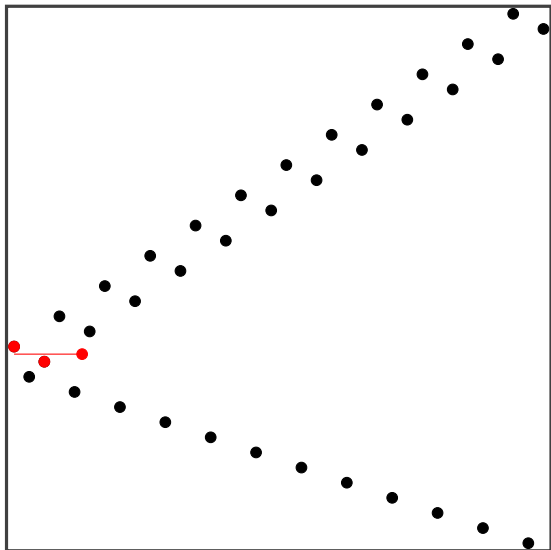
increasing oscillation

## Step 2: Handle wedge sawtooths



- Large wedge sawtooth *inside* a simple.
- Form a 'pin sequence'.
- Jump too far: sliced wedge sawtooth.
- Otherwise: long pin sequence.

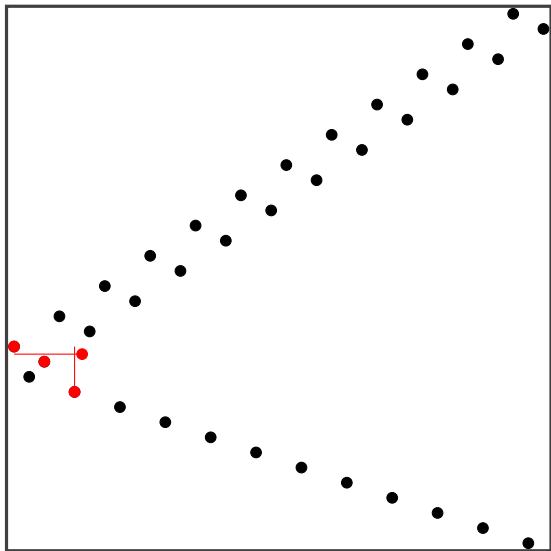
## Step 2: Handle wedge sawtooths



- Large wedge sawtooth *inside* a simple.
- Form a 'pin sequence'.
- Jump too far: sliced wedge sawtooth.
- Otherwise: long pin sequence.

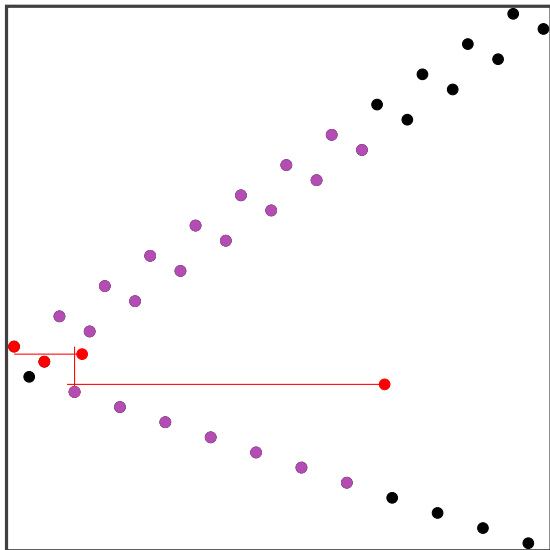


## Step 2: Handle wedge sawtooths



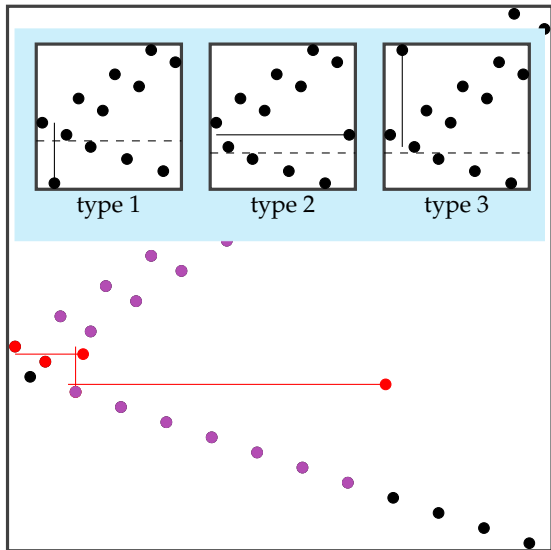
- Large wedge sawtooth *inside* a simple.
- Form a 'pin sequence'.
- Jump too far: sliced wedge sawtooth.
- Otherwise: long pin sequence.

## Step 2: Handle wedge sawtooths



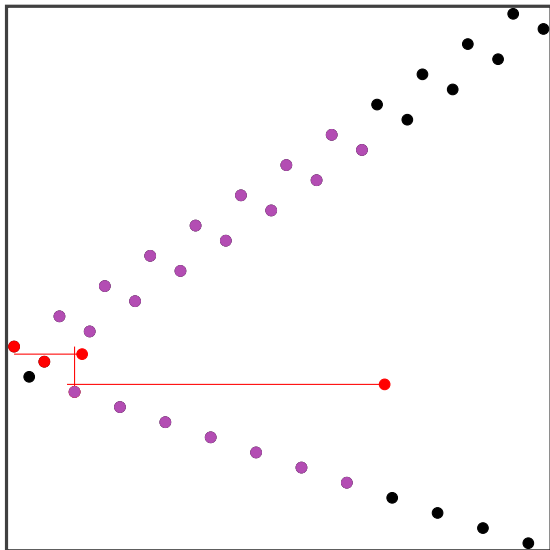
- Large wedge sawtooth *inside* a simple.
- Form a 'pin sequence'.
- **Jump too far: sliced wedge sawtooth.**
- Otherwise: long pin sequence.

## Step 2: Handle wedge sawtooths



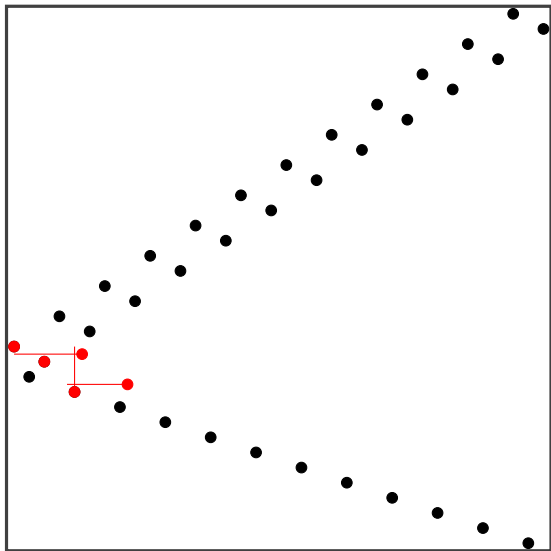
- Large wedge sawtooth *inside* a simple.
- Form a 'pin sequence'.
- **Jump too far: sliced wedge sawtooth.**
- Otherwise: long pin sequence.

## Step 2: Handle wedge sawtooths



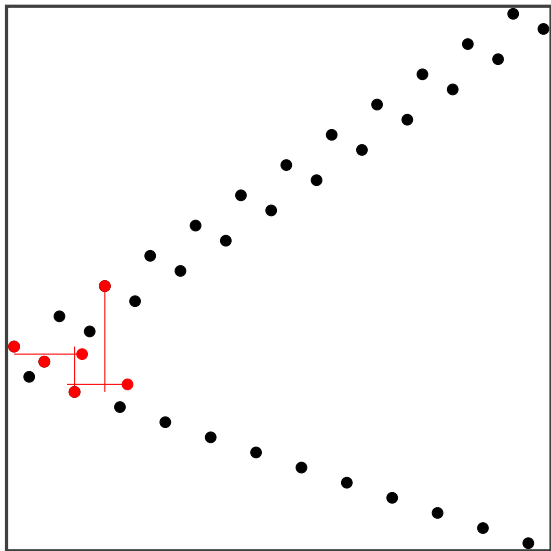
- Large wedge sawtooth *inside* a simple.
- Form a 'pin sequence'.
- **Jump too far: sliced wedge sawtooth.**
- Otherwise: long pin sequence.

## Step 2: Handle wedge sawtooths



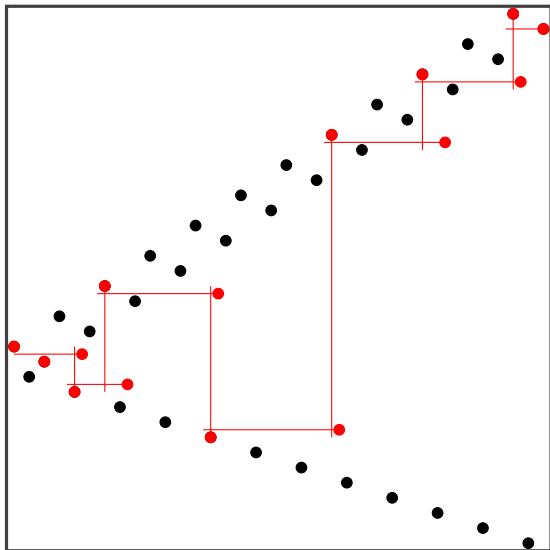
- Large wedge sawtooth *inside* a simple.
- Form a 'pin sequence'.
- Jump too far: sliced wedge sawtooth.
- Otherwise: long pin sequence.

## Step 2: Handle wedge sawtooths



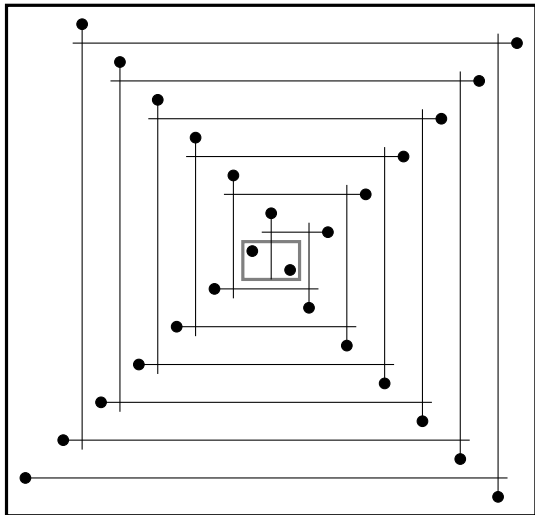
- Large wedge sawtooth *inside* a simple.
- Form a 'pin sequence'.
- Jump too far: sliced wedge sawtooth.
- Otherwise: long pin sequence.

## Step 2: Handle wedge sawtooths



- Large wedge sawtooth *inside* a simple.
- Form a 'pin sequence'.
- Jump too far: sliced wedge sawtooth.
- Otherwise: **long pin sequence.**

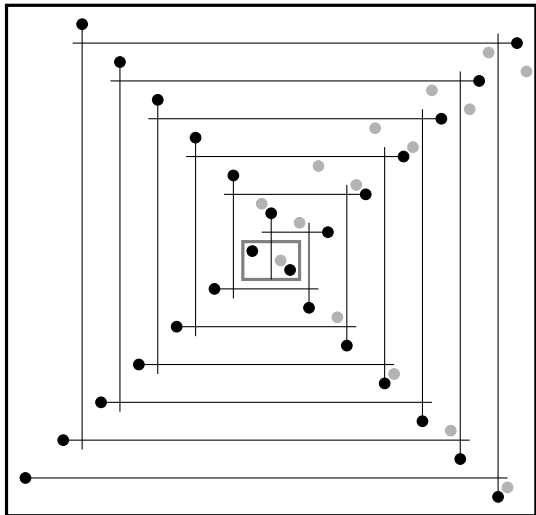
## Step 3: long pin sequences (handwaving)



- If a pin sequence 'turns' lots, we're happy.
- No turns = spiral pin sequences.
- Use wedge sawtooth to find 'extensions'.

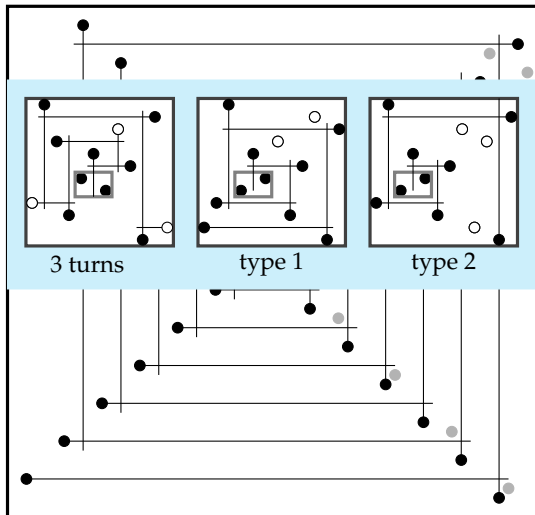


## Step 3: long pin sequences (handwaving)



- If a pin sequence 'turns' lots, we're happy.
- No turns = spiral pin sequences.
- Use **wedge sawtooth** to find 'extensions'.

## Step 3: long pin sequences (handwaving)

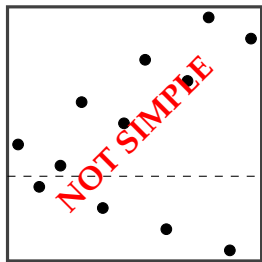


- If a pin sequence 'turns' lots, we're happy.
- No turns = spiral pin sequences.
- Use wedge sawtooth to find 'extensions'.

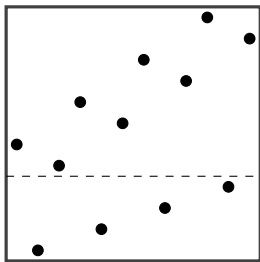
And so...

Theorem (I've already shown you this)

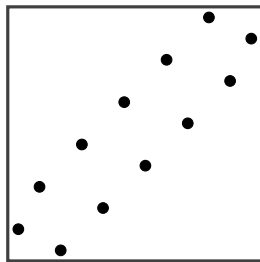
*There exists a function  $f(n)$  such that every simple permutation that contains a sum of  $f(n)$  copies of 21 must contain a parallel or wedge sawtooth alternation of length  $3n$  or an increasing oscillation of length  $n$ .*



wedge sawtooth



parallel sawtooth



increasing oscillation

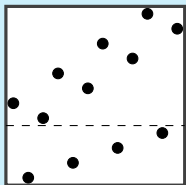
### Theorem (I've already shown you this)

*There exists a function  $f(n)$  such that every simple permutation that contains a sum of  $f(n)$  copies of 21 must contain a parallel or wedge sawtooth alternation of length  $3n$  or an increasing oscillation of length  $n$ .*

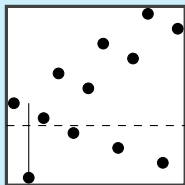
### Proposition

*Whenever a simple permutation contains a long wedge sawtooth alternation, then it contains a long split wedge sawtooth alternation, a proper pin sequence with many turns, or a spiral pin sequence with many extensions.*

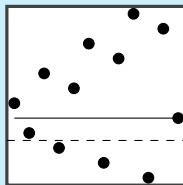
# The basic simples



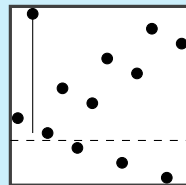
parallel sawtooth  
alternation



type 1

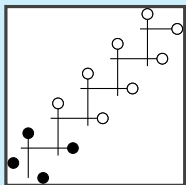


type 2

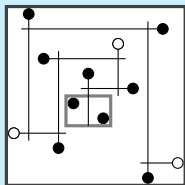


type 3

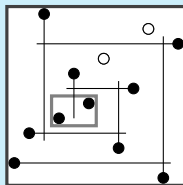
sliced wedge sawtooth alternations



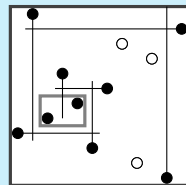
8 turns  
pin sequences with turns



3 turns



type 1



type 2

spiral pin sequences with extensions

- Q: Is this a decision procedure?  
A: Not quite, but it can probably be turned into one.
- ‘Geometrically griddable’ largely remains a remote goal (both for simple and generic permutations)

Takk!

Full paper: [arXiv:1702.04269](https://arxiv.org/abs/1702.04269).