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Towards the Distribution of the Size of a Largest Planar Matching and Largest Planar Subgraph in Random Bipartite Graphs.

In this talk we will discuss the following question: When a randomly chosen regular bipartite multi-graph is drawn in the plane in the “standard way”, what is the distribution of its maximum size planar matching (set of non-crossing disjoint edges) and maximum size planar subgraph (set of non-crossing edges which may share endpoints)? The problem is a generalization of the Longest Increasing Sequence (LIS) problem (also called Ulam’s problem). We present combinatorial identities which relate the number of r -regular bipartite multi-graphs with maximum planar matching (maximum planar subgraph) of at most d edges to a signed sum of restricted lattice walks in \mathbb{Z}^d , and to the number of pairs of standard Young tableaux of the same shape and with a “descend-type” property.

Our results are obtained via generalizations of two combinatorial proofs through which Gessel’s identity can be derived (an identity that is crucial in the derivation of a bivariate generating function associated to the distribution of LISs, and key to the analytic attack on Ulam’s problem).

Our work can also be understood as a study of avoidance of a special family of patterns in ordered r -regular bipartite multi-graphs. (Received February 18, 2008)