

Random t -cores and hook lengths in random partitions

joint work with **Arvind Ayyer**

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Preliminaries

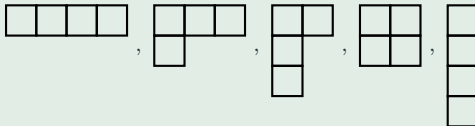
(Integer) Partitions

Definition

A **partition** λ is a non-increasing tuple of non-negative integers. We denote $\mathcal{P}(n)$ to be the set of partitions λ of size n and $p(n) := |\mathcal{P}(n)|$.

Example

For $n = 4$, we have $p(4) = 5$; the following are Young diagrams of these five partitions in $\mathcal{P}(4)$.



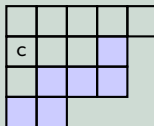
Definition

Let c be a cell in the Young diagram of a partition λ ,

- **Hook** of c = cells to the right and to the bottom of c (in the same row/column).
- **Rim-hook** of c = boundary joining the two ends of the hook.
- **Hook-length** h_c is the size of Rim-hooks of c .

Example

Let $\lambda = (5, 4, 4, 2)$ and c is the cell at position $(1, -2)$. The shaded set is the rim-hook of c .

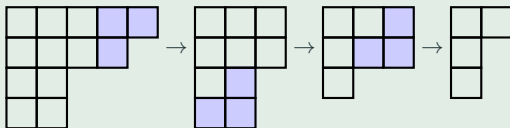


Definition

The t -core of a partition λ , denoted $\text{core}_t(\lambda)$, is the partition obtained by removing as many rim hooks of size t as possible.

Example

Let $t = 3$ and $\lambda = (5, 4, 2, 2)$, then $\text{core}_3(\lambda) = (2, 1, 1)$.



Definition

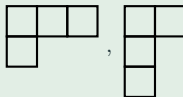
We say a partition λ is a

- **t -core** if $\text{core}_t(\lambda) = \lambda$.
- **t -divisible** if $\text{core}_t(\lambda) = (0)$. (Note that t must divides $|\lambda|$)

Let $\mathfrak{C}_t(n)$ and $\mathcal{D}_t(n)$ be the set of t -core and t -divisible partition resp of size n . We also denote $c_t(n)$ and $d_t(n)$ to be the cardinality of the above sets.

Example

For $t = 3$ and $n = 4$, we see $\mathcal{D}_3(4)$ is empty and $\mathfrak{C}_3(4)$ consists of



Let $\mathcal{P}$, $\mathcal{D}_t$ and $\mathfrak{C}_t$ be union of $\mathcal{P}(n)$, $\mathcal{D}_t(n)$ and $\mathfrak{C}_t(n)$ over all n .

Theorem (Partition Division)

There is a natural bijection

$$\Delta_t : \mathcal{P} \rightarrow \mathfrak{C}_t \times \mathcal{D}_t$$

given by $\Delta_t(\lambda) = (\rho, \nu)$, where $\rho = \text{core}_t(\lambda)$ and ν is the 't-quotient'. Moreover,

$$|\lambda| = |\rho| + |\nu|$$

Remark

This a generalization of the euclidean division for natural numbers which can be stated as $\Delta_t : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \{0, 1, \dots, t-1\} \times t\mathbb{N}$ is a bijection.

Corollary

We have the following identity of generating functions

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} p(k)q^k = \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_t(k)q^k \right) \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} d_t(k)q^k \right)$$

The following identities are known :

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_t(n)x^n = \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(1 - x^{tk})^t}{1 - x^k}$$
$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} d_t(n)x^n = \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1 - x^{tk})^t}.$$

Remark

We know the following asymptotic results (work by Hardy-Ramanujan)

$$p(n) \sim \frac{\exp\left(\pi\sqrt{\frac{2n}{3}}\right)}{4n\sqrt{3}}, \quad d_t(n) \sim \frac{t^{(t+2)/2} \exp\left(\pi\sqrt{\frac{2n}{3}}\right)}{2^{(3t+5)/4} 3^{(t+1)/4} n^{(t+3)/4}}. \quad (1)$$

But $c_t(n)$ does not have a similar asymptotic result.

- $c_2(n) = 1$ for n a triangular number and zero otherwise.
- Gravnille and Ono

$$c_3(n) = \sum_{d|(3n+1)} \left(\frac{d}{3}\right)$$

- Gravnille and Ono showed t -core partition conjecture that for $t > 3$,

$$c_t(n) > 0$$

Definition

$$C_t(n) := \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{t} \rfloor} c_t(n - i t).$$

There is a combinatorial reason for taking this sum. Let $\pi : \mathfrak{C}_t \times \mathcal{D}_t \rightarrow \mathfrak{C}_t$ be the projection, then

$$\begin{aligned} C_t(n) &= |\pi(\Delta_t(\mathcal{P}(n)))| \\ &= \#\{\text{core}_t(\lambda) \mid \lambda \text{ a partition of } n\}. \end{aligned}$$

Remark

When t is a prime number, $C_t(n)$ can be defined to be the number of t -blocks in the t -modular representation theory of the symmetric group S_n .

Theorem (AA,SS)

We have

$$C_t(n) = \frac{(2\pi)^{(t-1)/2}}{t^{(t+2)/2} \Gamma(\frac{t+1}{2})} \left(n + \frac{t^2 - 1}{24} \right)^{(t-1)/2} + O(n^{(t-2)/2}).$$

**Distribution of the size of t -core of
uniformly random $\lambda \in \mathcal{P}(n)$**

Definition

Fix $t \geq 2$. Let λ be a uniformly random partition of n and Y_n be random variable on $\mathbb{N}_{\geq 0}$ given by

$$Y_n = |\text{core}_t(\lambda)|.$$

The probability mass function of Y_n is given by

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_n(k) &= \frac{\#\{\lambda \vdash n : |\text{core}_t(\lambda)| = k\}}{p(n)} \\ &= \frac{c_t(k)d_t(n-k)}{p(n)}\end{aligned}$$

We are interested in the convergence of Y_n .

Definition

Let X_n be continuous random variables defined on $[0, \infty)$ with the probability density function $f_n \equiv f_{n,t}$ given by

$$f_n(x) = \frac{\sqrt{n} c_t(\lfloor x\sqrt{n} \rfloor) d_t(n - \lfloor x\sqrt{n} \rfloor)}{p(n)}.$$

Note that

$$\int_0^\infty f_n(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{c_t(k) d_t(n - k)}{p(n)} = 1.$$

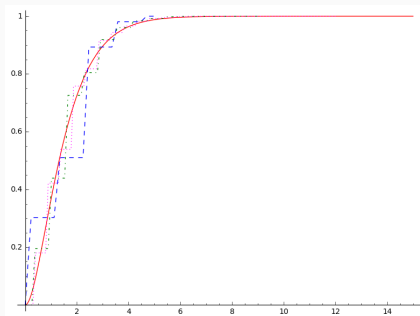
Theorem (Main Result (AA,SS))

The random variable X_n converges weakly to a gamma-distributed random variable X with shape parameter $\alpha = (t - 1)/2$ and rate parameter $\beta = \pi/\sqrt{6}$.

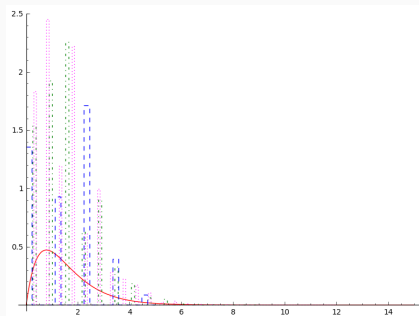
Recall that the *gamma distribution* with *shape parameter* $\alpha > 0$ and *rate parameter* $\beta > 0$ is a continuous random variable on $[0, \infty)$ with density given by

$$\gamma(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} x^{\alpha-1} \exp(-\beta x), & x \geq 0, \\ 0, & x < 0, \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

where Γ is the standard gamma function.



(a)



(b)

Figure 1: Comparison of the limiting CDFs and densities for small values of n with $t = 5$. A red solid line is used for the limiting distribution, dashed blue for $n = 20$, dash-dotted green for $n = 62$ and dotted magenta for $n = 103$. In (a) the CDFs, and in (b) the densities, are plotted for X and these X_n 's.

Expected size of the t -cores

Theorem (AA,SS)

The expectation of the size of t -core for a uniformly random partition of size n is asymptotic to $(t-1)\sqrt{6n}/2\pi$.

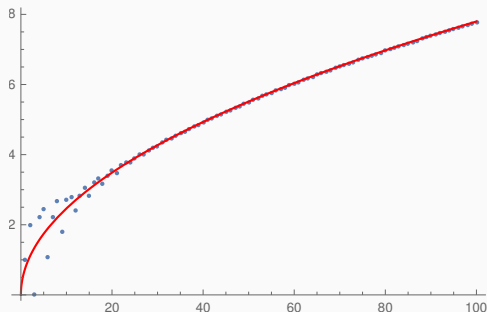


Figure 2: The average size of the 3-core for partitions of size 1 to 100 in blue circles, along with the result from Corollary, $\sqrt{6x}/\pi$, as a red line.

A brief introduction to abacus

Definition

An **abacus** or **1-runner** is a function $w : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ such that $w(m) = 1$ for $m \ll 0$ and $w(m) = 0$ for $m \gg 0$. We say w is **justified** at position p if $w_i = 1$ (resp. $w_i = 0$) for $i < p$ (resp. $i \geq p$).

Any abacus can be transformed to a justified by moving 1's to the left. We say w is **balanced** if after this transformation, we get abacus justified at 0.

Example

$$w = \cdots 11100110\underline{1}001000 \cdots$$

$\downarrow$

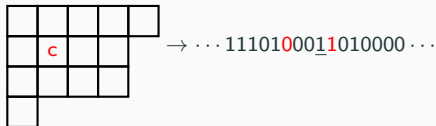
$$w' = \cdots 11111111\underline{0}0000000 \cdots$$

Theorem

There is a natural bijection

$$\mathcal{P} = \left\{ \text{partitions } \lambda \right\} \leftrightarrow \left\{ \text{Balanced Abaci } w \right\}.$$

- cell c in $\lambda \leftrightarrow$ pair of positions $i < j$ with $(w_i, w_j) = (0, 1)$.

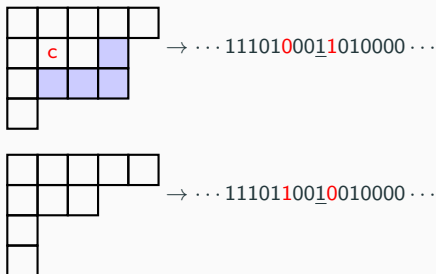


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- cell c in $\lambda \leftrightarrow$ pair of positions $i < j$ with $(w_i, w_j) = (0, 1)$.
- Removing rim-hook of $c \leftrightarrow$ Swapping $(w_i, w_j) = (0, 1)$ to $(w'_i, w'_j) = (1, 0)$.



Definition

Let w be a 1-runner abacus, then the t -runner of w is the t -tuple $(\lambda^0, \dots, \lambda^{t-1})$ of 1-runner abaci given by

$$\lambda_n^i = w_{nt+i}$$

Example

Let $t = 3$ and $\lambda = (5, 4, 2, 2)$ then $w = (\dots 110011\underline{0}010100 \dots)$ then

$$\lambda^0 = (\dots, 1, 1, 0, \underline{0}, 0, 0, \dots),$$

$$\lambda^1 = (\dots, 1, 1, 1, 0, 1, 0, \dots),$$

$$\lambda^2 = (\dots, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, \dots).$$

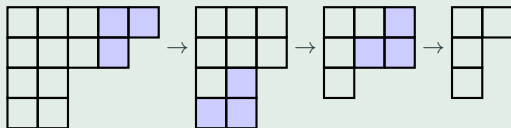
What is $\text{core}_t(\lambda)$?

Definition

The t -core of a partition λ , denoted $\text{core}_t(\lambda)$, is the partition obtained by removing as many rim hooks of size t as possible.

Example

Let $t = 3$ and $\lambda = (5, 4, 2, 2)$, then $\text{core}_3(\lambda) = (2, 1, 1)$.



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Let $t = 3$ and $\lambda = (5, 4, 2, 2)$ then $w = (\dots 110011\underline{0}010100\dots)$ then

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda^0 &= (\dots, 1, 1, 0, \underline{0}, 0, 0, \dots), \\ \lambda^1 &= (\dots, 1, 1, 1, 0, 1, 0, \dots), \\ \lambda^2 &= (\dots, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, \dots).\end{aligned}$$

Then $\text{core}_3(\lambda) = (2, 1, 1)$ is given by

$$\begin{aligned}\rho^0 &= (\dots, 1, 1, 0, \underline{0}, 0, 0, \dots), \\ \rho^1 &= (\dots, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, \dots), \\ \rho^2 &= (\dots, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, \dots).\end{aligned}$$

Let (p_0, p_1, p_2) be the position of justification which is $(-1, 1, 0)$.

Definition

Let λ be a partition, $(\nu^0, \dots, \nu^{t-1})$ be corresponding t -runners. Let ν^i be the balanced 1-runner obtained by shifting λ^i appropriately. We denote **t -quotient partition** to be the partition ν corresponding to t -runner abacus $(\nu^0, \dots, \nu^{t-1})$.

Example

Let $t = 3$ and $\lambda = (5, 4, 2, 2)$ then $w = (\dots 110011\underline{0}010100\dots)$ then

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda^0 &= (\dots, 1, 1, 0, \underline{0}, 0, 0, \dots), \\ \lambda^1 &= (\dots, 1, 1, 1, 0, 1, 0, \dots), \\ \lambda^2 &= (\dots, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, \dots).\end{aligned}$$

Then the $\rho = \text{core}_3(\lambda) = (2, 1, 1)$ and 3-quotient $\nu = (3, 3, 2, 1)$ is given by

$$\begin{aligned}\nu^0 &= (\dots, 1, 1, 1, \underline{0}, 0, 0, \dots), \\ \nu^1 &= (\dots, 1, 1, 0, 1, 0, 0, \dots), \\ \nu^2 &= (\dots, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, \dots).\end{aligned}$$

Note also $|\lambda| = |\rho| + |\nu|$ and ν is by construction a 3-divisible partition.

Random Hook-length

Corollary (of the Main Result)

For a uniformly random cell c of a uniformly random partition λ of n , the probability that the hook length of c in λ is divisible by t is $1/t + O(n^{-1/2})$.

Proof.

Observe that removing a t -rim hook reduces the number of hooks h_c with $t|h_c$ by exactly one. So, for any partition $\lambda \vdash n$

$$\#\{c \in \lambda \mid t|h_c\} = \frac{n - |\text{core}_t(\lambda)|}{t}.$$

Thus the probability that t divides h_c as $n \rightarrow \infty$ is

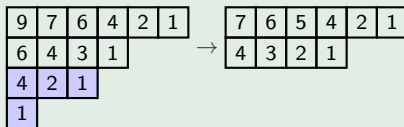
$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n - E(|\text{core}_t(\lambda)|)}{tn} = \frac{1}{t} - \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{t-1}{2t\pi} \sqrt{\frac{6}{n}},$$

□

Removing size t rim-hook

Example

Consider the partition $\lambda = (6, 4, 3, 1)$ and let $t = 4$.



Removing the shaded size 4 rim-hook we obtain $\lambda' = (6, 4)$.

i	No. of hook lengths in $\lambda \equiv i \pmod{4}$	No. of hook lengths in $\lambda' \equiv i \pmod{4}$
0	3	2
1	5	3
2	4	3
3	2	2

Therefore, we have removed two cells congruent to 1 modulo 4, but none congruent to 3 modulo 4.

Let $\mathcal{P}$, $\mathcal{D}_t$ and $\mathfrak{C}_t$ be union of $\mathcal{P}(n)$, $\mathcal{D}_t(n)$ and $\mathfrak{C}_t(n)$ over all n .

Theorem (Partition Division)

There is a natural bijection

$$\Delta_t : \mathcal{P} \rightarrow \mathfrak{C}_t \times \mathcal{D}_t$$

given by $\Delta_t(\lambda) = (\rho, \nu)$, where $\rho = \text{core}_t(\lambda)$ and ν is the 't-quotient'. Moreover,

$$|\lambda| = |\rho| + |\nu|$$

Definition

We define the action of S_t on $\mathcal{D}_t(n)$, the set of t -divisible of n , partitions induced by the action S_t on the corresponding t -runners

$$\sigma \cdot (\nu^0, \nu^1, \dots, \nu^{t-1}) = (\nu^{\sigma_0}, \nu^{\sigma_1}, \dots, \nu^{\sigma_{t-1}}) \quad (3)$$

Note that the above action preserves the size of the t -divisible partition.

Definition

We define the action of $\sigma \in S_t$ on $\mathcal{P}(n)$ by $\sigma\lambda = \Delta_t^{-1}(\rho, \sigma\nu)$.

Definition

The b -smoothing of a t -divisible partition ν , denoted C_ν^b , is the union of cells in the Young diagram of ν whose corresponding $(0,1)$ pairs are at least $(b+1)$ columns apart in the t -runner abacus of ν .

Example

Let $\nu = (7, 3, 2)$ be a 3-divisible partition, whose 3-runner abacus is given by

$$\begin{aligned}\nu^0 &= (\dots, 1, 1, 0, \underline{0}, 0, 1, 0, \dots) \\ \nu^1 &= (\dots, 1, 1, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, \dots) \\ \nu^2 &= (\dots, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, \dots)\end{aligned}$$

Then the following are the b -smoothings C_ν^b :

$\nu \in \mathcal{D}_3$	C_ν^0	C_ν^1	C_ν^2
$(7, 3, 2)$	$(7, 2)$	(4)	(2)

Remark

C_ν^b gives a sequence of sub partitions of ν ,

$$\nu \supset C_\nu^0 \supset C_\nu^1 \supset C_\nu^2 \dots$$

Moreover, the *b*-smoothings are invariant under action of S_t .

$$C_{\sigma\nu}^b = C_\nu^b$$

Lemma

For a uniformly random cell $c \in C_\nu^b$ of uniformly random ν , the probability that the hook length h_c^ν is congruent to i modulo t , where $i \neq 0$, is independent of i .

Randomizing modulo class of hook-length

Example

Let $\nu = (7, 3, 2)$ be a 3-divisible partition, whose 3-runner abacus is given by

$$\nu^0 = (\dots, 1, 1, 0, \underline{0}, 0, \textcolor{red}{1}, 0, \dots)$$

$$\nu^1 = (\dots, 1, 1, \textcolor{red}{0}, 1, 0, 0, 0, \dots)$$

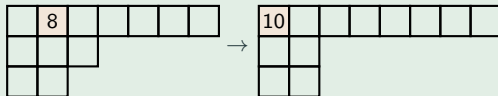
$$\nu^2 = (\dots, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, \dots)$$

Let $\sigma = (213) \in S_3$, then $\sigma \cdot \nu = (8, 2, 2)$

$$\nu^{\sigma_0} = (\dots, 1, 1, \textcolor{red}{0}, \underline{1}, 0, 0, 0, \dots)$$

$$\nu^{\sigma_1} = (\dots, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, \textcolor{red}{1}, 0, \dots)$$

$$\nu^{\sigma_2} = (\dots, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, \dots)$$



(4)

Let $\Delta_t(\lambda) = (\rho, \nu)$ and $(\rho^1, \dots, \rho^{t-1})$ be the t -runner of the t -core ρ . Recall ρ^i are justified (say at positions p_i).

Definition

Let

$$b_\lambda = \max_{1 \leq i < j \leq t-1} |p_i - p_j|$$

then we define canonical smoothing $C_\lambda = C_\nu^{b_\lambda}$ as sub partition of ν .

Example

Let $\rho = (1)$ and $t = 3$

$$\begin{aligned}\rho^0 &= (\dots, 1, 1, 1, \underline{1}, 0, 0, 0, \dots) \\ \rho^1 &= (\dots, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, \dots) \\ \rho^2 &= (\dots, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, \dots)\end{aligned}$$

So $(p_0, p_1, p_2) = (1, 0, -1)$, hence $b_\lambda = 2$

Example

Let $\lambda = (10, 3)$. Then $\Delta_3(\lambda) = (\rho, \nu)$, where $\nu = (7, 3, 2)$ and $\rho = (1)$. The 3-runner abacus of ρ is given by $(p_0, p_1, p_2) = (1, 0, -1)$ which implies $b_\lambda = 2$.

$$\begin{aligned}\nu^0 &= (\dots, 1, 1, \hat{0}, \underline{0}, 0, \tilde{1}, 0, \dots) \\ \nu^1 &= (\dots, 1, 1, \tilde{0}, 1, 0, 0, 0, \dots) \\ \nu^2 &= (\dots, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, \dots)\end{aligned}$$

and in the t -runner of λ

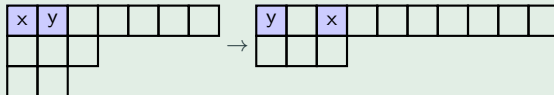
$$\begin{aligned}\lambda^0 &= (\dots, 1, 1, 1, \underline{0}, 0, 0, \mathbf{1}, \dots) \\ \lambda^1 &= (\dots, 1, 1, \mathbf{0}, 1, 0, 0, 0, \dots) \\ \lambda^2 &= (\dots, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, \dots)\end{aligned}$$

Lemma

Let λ be a partition with $\Delta_t(\lambda) = (\rho, \nu)$. Then there exists an injective map ϕ that takes the cells in C_λ to the cells in λ such that for any cell $c \in C_\lambda$, the hook lengths

$$h_{\phi(c)}^\lambda \equiv h_c^\nu \pmod{t}$$

Example



$$\nu = (7, 3, 2)$$

$$\lambda = (10, 3)$$

$$h_x^\nu = 9, h_y^\nu = 8$$

$$h_x^\lambda = 9, h_y^\lambda = 11$$

Lemma

For a uniformly random cell $c \in \phi(C_\lambda) \subset \lambda$ of uniformly random λ , the probability that the hook length h_c^λ is congruent to i modulo t , where $i \neq 0$, is independent of i .

So it will be enough to show that for random λ ,

$\phi(C_\lambda)$ is 'majority' of cells in λ .

Lemma

For any partition $\lambda \vdash n$ with $\Delta_t(\lambda) = (\rho, \nu)$,

$$|\nu| - |C_\lambda| < \#\{c \in \nu \mid h_c < t(b_\lambda + 1)\} = O(t(b_\lambda + 1)\sqrt{n}). \quad (5)$$

A simple counting also gives us $b_\lambda \leq 2\sqrt{|\text{core}_t(\lambda)|}$.

Since expected size of $\text{core}_t(\lambda)$ is $O(\sqrt{n})$,

$$\begin{aligned} |\lambda| - |\phi(C_\lambda)| &= |\text{core}_t(\lambda)| + |\nu| - |C_\lambda| \\ &= O(n^{3/4}) \end{aligned}$$

So far we have

- For $i = 0$, probability that $h_c \equiv i \pmod t$ is $1/t$.
- For $i \neq 0$ and $c \in \phi(C_\lambda)$, probability that $h_c \equiv i \pmod t$ is independent of i .

Using the size estimate and the above two result we obtain :

Theorem

For a uniformly random cell c of a uniformly random partition λ of n , the probability that the hook length of c in λ is congruent to i modulo t is asymptotic to $1/t$ for any $i \in \{0, 1, \dots, t-1\}$.

- Distribution of the size of t -cores of uniformly random partition on n 'converges' to Gamma distribution (upon scaling) as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

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$$(t-1)\sqrt{6n}/2\pi.$$

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- There is a new construction "**smoothing**" of partitions which can be explored further.
- Hook-lengths are randomly distributed over modulo classes of t .

Thank you!
