



First Plane	21	2	2	1111	111	11	11	1	111
		1			1	11	1	1	
							1	1	
								1	
Second Plane	1	1	1						1
Third Plane			1						
Fourth Plane									

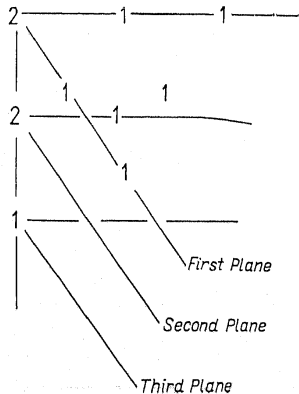
  

First Plane		11	1	11	11	1	1	1
		1	1			1	1	
			1					
Second Plane		1	1	11	1	1	1	1
						1		
Third Plane					1	1	1	
Fourth Plane							1	

where one imagines the  $i$ th plane placed under the  $(i-1)$ st plane, e.g. the solid partition of 11 with 211 on the first plane, 21 on the second plane

11  
1

and 1 on the third plane can be thought of as



We define  $a(n)$  to be the number of solid partitions. We see from the previously enumerated partitions that  $a(4) = 26$ . We define

$$A(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a(n)x^n$$

to be the generating function for solid partitions. MacMahon [3] conjectured that

$$A(x) = \prod_{r=1}^{\infty} (1-x^r)^{-r(r+1)/2}$$

but recent computations, [1], have shown this to be incorrect.

We will also consider solid partitions with the restriction that  $n_{i,j,k} > n_{i+1,j,k}$ , i.e. partitions with distinct parts along rows. We define  $b(n)$  to be the number of such partitions and the corresponding generating function

$$B(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b(n)x^n.$$

For example  $b(4) = 16$ , the relevant partitions being

First Plane	4	31	3	3	2	2	21	2	21
			1		2		1	1	
									1
Second Plane				1		2			1
Third Plane									
Fourth Plane									

First Plane	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
	1		1	1	1	1	
			1	1			
				1			
Second Plane	1	1		1	1	1	1
					1		
Third Plane		1				1	1
Fourth Plane							1

**3. THEOREM.** Let  $f_{i,j}$  be integers such that

$$f_{i,j} \geq f_{i+1,j} \geq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad f_{i,j} \geq f_{i,j+1} \geq 0 \quad (i = 1, \dots, \varrho, j = 1, \dots, \sigma).$$

Let  $b(n; f_{1,1}, \dots, f_{\varrho,\sigma})$  be the number of solid partitions of  $n$  strictly decreasing on rows with the property that there are precisely  $f_{i,j}$  parts on the  $i$ -th row of the  $j$ -th plane. We call such a partition a partition of type  $(f_{1,1}, \dots, f_{\varrho,\sigma})$ . Let  $B(x; f_{1,1}, \dots, f_{\varrho,\sigma})$  be the corresponding generating function. Then  $B(x; f_{1,1}, \dots, f_{\varrho,\sigma})$  satisfies the recursion formula

$$B(x; f_{1,1}, \dots, f_{\varrho,\sigma}) = x^f \sum_{\varepsilon_{i,j}=0}^1 B(x; f_{1,1} - \varepsilon_{1,1}, \dots, f_{\varrho,\sigma} - \varepsilon_{\varrho,\sigma})$$

where  $f = \sum_{i,j} f_{i,j}$ ; and is uniquely defined by this recursion subject to initial conditions that

$$B(x; f_{1,1}, \dots, f_{\varrho,\sigma}) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{unless } f_{i,j} \geq f_{i+1,j} \geq 0, f_{i,j} \geq f_{i,j+1} \geq 0, \\ 1 & \text{if } f_{1,1} = \dots = f_{\varrho,\sigma} = 0. \end{cases}$$

In addition,  $b(n; f_{1,1}, \dots, f_{\varrho,\sigma})$  satisfies the partial difference equation

$$b(n; f_{1,1}, \dots, f_{\varrho,\sigma}) = \sum_{\varepsilon_{i,j}=0}^1 b(n-f; f_{1,1} - \varepsilon_{1,1}, \dots, f_{\varrho,\sigma} - \varepsilon_{\varrho,\sigma})$$

and are uniquely defined by the initial conditions

$$b(n; f_{1,1}, \dots, f_{\varrho,\sigma}) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{unless } n \geq 0, f_{i,j} \geq f_{i+1,j} \geq 0, f_{i,j} \geq f_{i,j+1} \geq 0, \\ 1 & \text{if } n = f_{1,1} = \dots = f_{\varrho,\sigma} = 0. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* The proof is analogous to that of [2]. We can classify the set of partitions of type  $(f_{1,1}, \dots, f_{\varrho,\sigma})$  according as to which rows end in 1. Thus for each matrix

$$\varepsilon = \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon_{1,1} & \dots & \varepsilon_{1,\sigma} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \varepsilon_{\varrho,1} & \dots & \varepsilon_{\varrho,\sigma} \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $\varepsilon_{i,j} = 1$  or 0, we can associate those partitions of type  $(f_{1,1}, \dots, f_{\varrho,\sigma})$  whose  $i, j$ th row ends in 1 or not according as  $\varepsilon_{i,j} = 1$  or 0. If we subtract 1 from each part of a partition related to a matrix  $\varepsilon$  we obtain a partition of type  $n-f$  of type  $(f_{1,1} - \varepsilon_{1,1}, \dots, f_{\varrho,\sigma} - \varepsilon_{\varrho,\sigma})$ . Since this correspondence is bijective, the number of partitions associated with  $\varepsilon$  is equal to  $b(n-f; f_{1,1} - \varepsilon_{1,1}, \dots, f_{\varrho,\sigma} - \varepsilon_{\varrho,\sigma})$ . Summation over all matrices  $\varepsilon$  yields

$$b(n; f_{1,1}, \dots, f_{\varrho,\sigma}) = \sum_{\varepsilon_{i,j}=0}^1 b(n-f; f_{1,1} - \varepsilon_{1,1}, \dots, f_{\varrho,\sigma} - \varepsilon_{\varrho,\sigma}).$$

We can multiply both sides by  $x^n$  and sum over all  $n \geq 0$  to obtain

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b(n; f_{1,1}, \dots, f_{\varrho,\sigma}) x^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{\varepsilon_{i,j}=0}^1 x^n b(n-f; f_{1,1} - \varepsilon_{1,1}, \dots, f_{\varrho,\sigma} - \varepsilon_{\varrho,\sigma}).$$

But the left side is  $B(x; f_{1,1}, \dots, f_{\varrho,\sigma})$  hence

$$\begin{aligned} B(x; f_{1,1}, \dots, f_{\varrho,\sigma}) &= \sum_{\varepsilon_{i,j}=0}^1 x^f \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b(n-f; f_{1,1} - \varepsilon_{1,1}, \dots, f_{\varrho,\sigma} - \varepsilon_{\varrho,\sigma}) x^{n-f} \\ &= x^f \sum_{\varepsilon_{i,j}=0}^1 B(x; f_{1,1} - \varepsilon_{1,1}, \dots, f_{\varrho,\sigma} - \varepsilon_{\varrho,\sigma}) \end{aligned}$$

since

$$b(n-f; f_{1,1} - \varepsilon_{1,1}, \dots, f_{\varrho,\sigma} - \varepsilon_{\varrho,\sigma}) = 0 \quad \text{for } n < f.$$

The uniqueness is obvious. This completes the proof.

*Remark.* If we define  $B_{\varrho,\sigma}(x)$  to be the generating function for the number of  $\varrho$  row,  $\sigma$  plane partitions of  $n$ , i.e., solid partitions with  $n_{i,j,k} = 0$  for  $i > \varrho$  and  $k > \sigma$ , then

$$B_{\varrho,\sigma}(x) = \sum_{\substack{f_{i,j} \geq f_{i,j+1} \geq 0 \\ f_{i,j} \geq f_{i+1,j} \geq 0}} B(x; f_{1,1}, \dots, f_{\varrho,\sigma}).$$

Hence

$$B(x) = \lim_{\varrho, \sigma \rightarrow \infty} B_{\varrho,\sigma}(x).$$

**4.** Let  $f_{1,1} = \dots = f_{\varrho,\sigma} = g$ . The partitions enumerated by  $b(n; g, \dots, g)$  are precisely those obtained by superimposing any unrestricted  $\varrho$  row,  $\sigma$  plane partitions with at most  $g$  parts on any row upon the array

	$g$	$g-1$	$g-2$	$\dots$	$1$	
First Plane	$g$	$g-1$	$g-2$	$\dots$	$1$	$\varrho$ rows
	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	
	$g$	$g-1$	$g-2$	$\dots$	$1$	
$\sigma$ th Plane	$g$	$g-1$	$g-2$	$\dots$	$1$	$\varrho$ rows
	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	
	$g$	$g-1$	$g-2$	$\dots$	$1$	

The sum of the numbers in this array is  $\varrho\sigma\binom{g+1}{2}$ . Hence if  $a(n; f_{1,1}, \dots, f_{e,\sigma})$  denotes the number of unrestricted  $\varrho$  row,  $\sigma$  plane partitions of  $n$  with at most  $f_{i,j}$  non-zero parts on the  $i, j$ th row. Hence

$$b(n; g, \dots, g) = \sum_{i,j \leq \sigma} a\left(n - \varrho\sigma\binom{g+1}{2}; f_{1,1}, \dots, f_{e,\sigma}\right).$$

Multiply both sides by  $x^n - \varrho\sigma\binom{g+1}{2}$  and sum over  $n$ . We obtain

$$\begin{aligned} B(x; g, \dots, g) &= x^{\varrho\sigma\binom{g+1}{2}} \sum_{i,j \leq \sigma} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a(n; f_{1,1}, \dots, f_{e,\sigma}) x^n \\ &= x^{\varrho\sigma\binom{g+1}{2}} \sum_{i,j \leq \sigma} A(x; f_{1,1}, \dots, f_{e,\sigma}) \end{aligned}$$

where we may replace  $n - \varrho\sigma\binom{g+1}{2}$  by  $n$  as the summation index in the right since the terms vanish for  $n < \varrho\sigma\binom{g+1}{2}$ . If we let  $g \rightarrow \infty$  and note that

$$A_{e,\sigma}(x) = \sum_{i,j} A(x; f_{1,1}, \dots, f_{e,\sigma})$$

we can obtain an expression for  $A_{e,\sigma}(x)$ . Further we can see that since

$$A(x) = \lim_{\substack{g \rightarrow \infty \\ \sigma \rightarrow \infty}} A_{e,\sigma}(x),$$

a solution to the recursion of the theorem will enable us also to obtain a solution to the unrestricted case. At present only a numerical solution is available.

#### References

- [1] A. O. L. Atkin, P. Bratley, I. G. Macdonald and J. K. S. MacKay, *Some computations for  $m$ -dimensional partitions*, Proc. Camb. Phil. Soc. 63 (1967), p. 1057.  
 [2] B. Gordon and L. Houten, *Notes on plane partitions I*, J. of Comb. Thy. 4 (1) (1968).  
 [3] P. A. MacMahon, *Combinatory Analysis, II*, Cambridge 1916.

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## A note on the representability of binary quadratic forms with Gaussian integer coefficients as sums of squares of two linear forms

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**1. Notations.** Let  $\mathcal{G}$  denote the ring of Gaussian integers. Small Greek letters will denote elements of  $\mathcal{G}$ , except for the unit  $i$ , and small Latin letters will denote ordinary integers in  $\mathcal{Z}$ . If  $a$  is in  $\mathcal{G}$ , the norm of  $a$  will be denoted by  $N(a)$ .

**DEFINITION.**  $a$  in  $\mathcal{G}$  is called *odd* if  $N(a)$  is odd.  $a$  in  $\mathcal{G}$  is called *even* if  $N(a)$  is even.

With each integer  $a + bi$  in  $\mathcal{G}$ , there are associated three other integers, namely  $-a - bi$ ,  $-b + ai$ ,  $b - ai$ .

**DEFINITION.** The number  $x + yi$  of the four associated odd integers  $a + bi$ ,  $-a - bi$ ,  $-b + ai$ ,  $b - ai$  is called *primary* if

$$x \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \quad y \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$$

or

$$x \equiv 3 \pmod{4}, \quad y \equiv 2 \pmod{4}.$$

In any group of four associated odd integers, exactly one is primary.

**DEFINITION.** If  $a$  in  $\mathcal{G}$  is even, we distinguish between the associates of  $a$  by taking as *primary* that one which can be written as  $(1+i)^k \beta$  where  $\beta$  is an odd, primary integer.

**DEFINITION.** Let  $\alpha, \beta, \delta$  be Gaussian integers.  $\delta$  will be called the *greatest common divisor* of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  if

- 1)  $\delta$  is a common divisor of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ ,
- 2) if  $\gamma$  in  $\mathcal{G}$  is a common divisor of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , then  $\gamma \mid \delta$ ,
- 3)  $\delta$  is primary.

We shall write  $\delta = (\alpha, \beta)$ .

2. The following result may be found in [2].

**THEOREM.** *If  $a$  is an odd Gaussian integer of the form  $a + 2bi$ , then  $a$  can be expressed as a sum of two squares of integers in  $\mathcal{G}$ . If  $a$  is even,*