

# Combinatorial interpretations for $T_G(1, -1)$

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## Abstract

Let  $G$  be a connected and simple graph with vertex set  $\{1, 2, \dots, n+1\}$  and  $T_G(x, y)$  the Tutte polynomial of  $G$ . In this paper, we give combinatorial interpretations for  $T_G(1, -1)$ . In particular, we give the definitions of even spanning tree and left spanning tree. We prove  $T_G(1, -1)$  is the number of even-left spanning trees of  $G$ . We associate a permutation with a spanning forest of  $G$  and give the definition of odd  $G$ -permutations. We show  $T_G(1, -1)$  is the number of odd  $G$ -permutations. We give a bijection from the set of odd  $K_{n+1}$ -permutations to the set of alternating permutations on the set  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ .

**Keywords:** alternating permutation; spanning tree; Tutte polynomial

## 1 Introduction

Let  $G$  be a connected graph with vertex  $V(G)$  and edge set  $E(G)$ . Suppose we are given a total ordering of edges in  $G$ . Fix a spanning tree  $T$  of  $G$ . Given an edge  $e \in E(G) \setminus E(T)$ , we call the edge  $e$  an externally active edge of  $T$  if it is the smallest edge in the unique cycle contained in  $T \cup e$ . Define  $EA_G(T)$  as the set of externally active edges for  $T$  and let  $ea_G(T) = |EA_G(T)|$ . Given an edge  $e \in E(T)$ , define  $U_T(e)$  as the set of edges  $\tilde{e}$  in  $E(G)$  such that  $(T - e) \cup \tilde{e}$  is a spanning tree. An edge  $e$  in  $E(T)$  is internally active if it is the smallest edge in  $U_T(e)$ . Define  $IA_G(T)$  as the set of internally active edges in  $T$  and let  $ia_G(T) = |IA_G(T)|$ . In [9], the Tutte polynomial was defined as follows

$$T_G(x, y) = \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_G} x^{ia_G(T)} y^{ea_G(T)},$$

where  $\mathcal{T}_G$  denotes the set of spanning trees of  $G$ .

In general, the Tutte polynomial encodes information about subgraphs of  $G$ . Following [1], we list some special values of the Tutte polynomial in Table 1.

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$T_G(1, 1)$	is the number of spanning trees of $G$ .
$T_G(2, 1)$	is the number of spanning forests of $G$ .
$T_G(1, 2)$	is the number of connected spanning subgraphs of $G$ .
$T_G(2, 2)$	is the number of spanning subgraphs of $G$ .

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Table 1. Some special values of the Tutte polynomial.

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†Partially supported by NSC 96-2115-M-001-005

Let  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  denote the set of permutations on the set  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ . A permutation  $\sigma = (\sigma(1) \dots \sigma(n)) \in \mathfrak{S}_n$  is said to be *alternating* if  $\sigma(1) > \sigma(2) < \sigma(3) > \sigma(4) < \sigma(5) > \sigma(6) < \dots < \sigma(n)$ . Let  $\mathcal{A}_n$  be the set of alternating permutations in  $\mathfrak{S}_n$ . We put  $a_n = |\mathcal{A}_n|$ . The sequence  $\{a_n\}_{n \geq 0}$  satisfies the following recurrence relation

$$a_n = \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \frac{n-1}{2} \rfloor} \binom{n-1}{2i} a_{2i} a_{n-2i-1}$$

with initial condition  $a_0 = 1$ , see [6] and [8].

Let  $K_{n+1}$  be the complete graph on  $n+1$  vertices. In [6] and [8], it is proved that  $T_{K_{n+1}}(1, -1)$  is equal to the number of alternating permutations on the set  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  follows from the fact that satisfies the same recurrence relation as the sequence  $\{a_n\}_{n \geq 0}$ . We are interested in combinatorial interpretations of  $T_{K_{n+1}}(1, -1)$ . A tree on vertex set  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  and rooted at 1 is said to be *increasing* if its vertices increase along the paths away from the root. A increasing tree is even if every non-root vertex has an even number of children. Kuznetsov, Pak and Postnikov [8] constructed an involution that is fixed on even increasing trees and changes the parity of the number of inversions of the remaining trees and proved  $T_{K_{n+1}}(1, -1)$  is equal to the number of even increasing trees in  $K_{n+1}$ . Moreover, A 0-1-2 increasing tree is an increasing tree where all the vertices including the root have at most 2 children. An important fact is  $T_{K_{n+1}}(1, -1)$  is equal to the number of 0-1-2 increasing trees in  $K_n$ . This was first formulated by Foata [4] and was proved by Foata and Strehl [5]. Donaghey [3] gave a simple bijective proof for this fact.

Let  $G$  be a connected and simple graph with vertex set  $\{1, 2, \dots, n+1\}$ . In this paper, we give combinatorial interpretations for  $T_G(1, -1)$ . In particular, for any a spanning tree  $T$  of  $G$ , let  $\pi_T$  be a sequence on vertices of  $G$  formed by the vertex-adding order, which is the third example of a proper tree order given in Chebikin and Pylyavskyy [2], and described in Algorithm A below. With respect to the sequence  $\pi_T$ , we define  $N_T$  as the set of  $T$ -redundant edges of  $G$ , in the sense of Kostic and Yan [7, §4.1] and as defined below after Algorithm A. In [7, p.91] it is shown that  $T_G(1, y) = \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_G} y^{|N_T|}$ . We then proceed to define even spanning trees and left spanning trees. Let  $\mathcal{T}_G$  be all even-left spanning trees of  $G$  and  $\bar{\mathcal{T}}_G = \mathcal{T}_G \setminus \mathcal{T}_G$ . By establishing an involution on the set  $\bar{\mathcal{T}}_G$ , we show  $T_G(1, -1)$  is the number of even-left spanning trees of  $G$ .

We associate a permutation in  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  with a spanning forest of the graph  $G$  and give the definition of odd  $G$ -permutations. Let  $\mathfrak{S}_{G, odd}$  be the set of odd  $G$ -permutations. We give a bijection from  $\mathcal{T}_G$  to  $\mathfrak{S}_{G, odd}$ . Hence  $T_G(1, -1)$  is also the number of odd  $G$ -permutations in  $\mathfrak{S}_n$ . We consider the case in which the graph  $G$  is the complete graph  $K_{n+1}$ . We give a bijection from the set  $\mathfrak{S}_{K_{n+1}, odd}$  to the set  $\mathcal{A}_n$ , where  $\mathcal{A}_n$  denotes the set of alternating permutations of  $\mathfrak{S}_n$ .

We organize this paper as follows. In Section 2, we prove  $T_G(1, -1)$  is the number of even-left spanning trees of  $G$ . In Section 3, we give the definition of odd  $G$ -permutations and prove  $T_G(1, -1)$  is the number of odd  $G$ -permutations in  $\mathfrak{S}_n$ . Let  $G = K_{n+1}$ . We give a bijection from the set  $\mathfrak{S}_{K_{n+1}, odd}$  to the set  $\mathcal{A}_n$ .

## 2 Even-left spanning trees of $G$

Let  $[n] := \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  and  $G$  be a simple and connected graph with vertex set  $[n+1]$  and edge set  $E(G)$ . In this section, we give the definition of even-left spanning trees of  $G$  and prove  $T_G(1, -1)$  is the number of even-left spanning trees of  $G$ .

A subtree of  $G$  is a connected subgraph of  $G$  without cycles. A spanning tree of  $G$  is a subtree of  $G$  containing all the vertices of  $G$ . Let  $\mathcal{T}_G$  be the set of the spanning trees of  $G$ . Given disjoint subsets  $U$  and

$W$  of the vertex set of  $G$ , we write  $E_G(U, W)$  for the set of  $U$ - $W$  edges, that is, for the set of edges joining a vertex in  $U$  to a vertex in  $W$ .

Given a spanning tree  $T$  of  $G$ , we associate  $T$  with a sequence

$$\pi_T = (\pi_T(0), \pi_T(1), \dots, \pi_T(n))$$

on vertices of  $G$  by the following algorithm:

**Algorithm A.**

**Step 1.** Let  $\pi_T(0) = n + 1$ .

**Step 2.** Assume that  $\pi_T(0), \pi_T(1), \dots, \pi_T(i)$  are determined. Let  $U_i = \{\pi_T(j) \mid j = 0, 1, \dots, i\}$ . Let  $v = \min\{w \in V(G) \setminus U_i \mid E_T(U_i, \{w\}) \neq \emptyset\}$  and set  $\pi_T(i + 1) = v$ .

The sequence  $\pi_T$  obtained by Algorithm A is the same as the vertex-adding order on vertices of  $G$  rooted at  $n + 1$  defined by Chebikin and Pylyavskyy [2]. Note that  $\pi_T$  can be viewed as a bijection from the set  $\{0, 1, \dots, n\}$  to  $[n + 1] = V(G)$ . Furthermore, for any vertex  $v \in V(G) \setminus \{n + 1\}$ , there exists a unique vertex  $u$  such that  $\{u, v\} \in E(T)$  and  $\pi_T^{-1}(u) < \pi_T^{-1}(v)$ . We say  $u$  is the predecessor of  $v$  and write  $u = p_T(v)$ . Fixing a vertex  $v$ , suppose  $u$  is its predecessor. Define  $N_{T,v}$  as the set of vertices  $w$  such that  $\{w, v\} \in E(G) \setminus E(T)$  and  $\pi_T^{-1}(u) < \pi_T^{-1}(w) < \pi_T^{-1}(v)$ . For any  $w \in N_{T,v}$ , the edge  $\{w, v\}$  is called a  $T$ -redundant edge in [7]. Let  $N_T$  be the set of  $T$ -redundant edges in  $G$ , i.e.,  $N_T = \bigcup_{v \in [n]} \{\{w, v\} \mid w \in N_{T,v}\}$ .

**Lemma 2.1** (Kostić and Yan [7])  $T_G(1, y) = \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_G} y^{|N_T|}$ .

Fix a spanning tree  $T$ . Let  $\pi_T$  be the sequence of vertices of  $G$  obtained by Algorithm A. We say a vertex  $v$  in  $[n]$  is  $T$ -even if the number of  $T$ -redundant edges incident with  $v$  in  $G$  is even, i.e.,  $|N_{T,v}| \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ . If every vertex in  $[n]$  is  $T$ -even, then  $T$  is called an *even spanning tree*.

Given a vertex  $v \in [n]$ , for any  $w \in [n + 1]$ , we say  $(w, v)$  is an inversion of the sequence  $\pi_T$  if  $w > v$  and  $\pi_T^{-1}(w) < \pi_T^{-1}(v)$ . Since  $\pi_T(0) = n + 1$ , there exists a unique vertex  $u$  such that  $(u, v)$  is an inversion of  $\pi_T$  and  $\pi_T(j) < v$  for any  $\pi_T^{-1}(u) < j < \pi_T^{-1}(v)$ . We say the vertex  $u$  is a  $(T; v)$ -rightmost inversion vertex. Let  $w = p_T(v)$ . It is easy to see  $\pi_T^{-1}(u) \leq \pi_T^{-1}(w)$  by Algorithm A. Define  $M_{T,v}$  as the set of vertices  $s$  such that  $\{s, v\} \in E(G) \setminus E(T)$  and  $\pi_T^{-1}(u) \leq \pi_T^{-1}(s) < \pi_T^{-1}(w)$ . If  $M_{T,v} = \emptyset$ , then we say the vertex  $v$  is  $T$ -left. If every vertex in  $[n]$  is  $T$ -left, then we say  $T$  is a *left spanning tree*.

**Example 2.2** Let us consider the complete graph  $K_{n+1}$ . Let  $T$  and  $\pi_T$  be a spanning tree and the sequence of vertices of  $K_{n+1}$  obtained by Algorithm A respectively. For any vertex  $v \in [n]$ , let  $w$  and  $u$  be the predecessor of  $v$  and the  $(T; v)$ -rightmost inversion vertex, respectively. Then  $v$  is  $T$ -even if and only if the number of vertices between  $w$  and  $v$  in the sequence  $\pi_T$ , not including  $w$  and  $v$ , is even;  $v$  is  $T$ -left if and only if  $u = w$ .

**Example 2.3** We consider the graph  $G$  in Fig. 1.

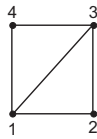


Fig. 1. A graph  $G$ .

We give all the spanning trees of the graph  $G$  in Fig. 2.

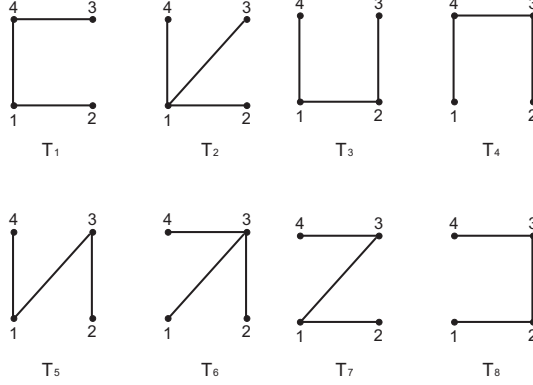


Fig. 2. All the spanning trees of  $G$ .

See Table 2. For the spanning tree  $T_1$  in Fig. 2., by Algorithm A, we have  $\pi_{T_1} = (4, 1, 2, 3)$ . It is easy to see  $N_{T_1,1} = \emptyset$ ,  $N_{T_1,2} = \emptyset$  and  $N_{T_1,3} = \{1, 2\}$ . Hence,  $T_1$  is an even spanning tree in  $G$ . Note that  $M_{T_1,v} = \emptyset$  for all  $v = 1, 2, 3$ . So  $T_1$  is a left spanning tree in  $G$ .

	$\pi_{T_i}$	$N_{T_i,1}$	$N_{T_i,2}$	$N_{T_i,3}$		$M_{T_i,1}$	$M_{T_i,2}$	$M_{T_i,3}$	
$T_1$	(4, 1, 2, 3)	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\{1, 2\}$	<i>even</i>	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	<i>left</i>
$T_2$	(4, 1, 2, 3)	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\{2\}$		$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\{4\}$	
$T_3$	(4, 1, 2, 3)	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	<i>even</i>	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\{1, 4\}$	
$T_4$	(4, 1, 3, 2)	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\{1\}$		$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	<i>left</i>
$T_5$	(4, 1, 3, 2)	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	<i>even</i>	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\{4\}$	
$T_6$	(4, 3, 1, 2)	$\emptyset$	$\{1\}$	$\emptyset$		$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	<i>left</i>
$T_7$	(4, 3, 1, 2)	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	<i>even</i>	$\emptyset$	$\{3\}$	$\emptyset$	
$T_8$	(4, 3, 2, 1)	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	<i>even</i>	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	<i>left</i>

Table 2. Even and left spanning trees of  $G$ .

We say  $T$  is *even-left* if  $T$  is a spanning tree of  $G$  that is both even and left. Define  $\mathcal{T}_G$  as the set of even-left spanning trees of  $G$ . Let  $\tilde{\mathcal{T}}_G = \mathcal{T}_G \setminus \mathcal{T}_G$ .

**Lemma 2.4** *There is an involution  $\phi = \phi_G$  from the set  $\tilde{\mathcal{T}}_G$  to itself such that  $||N_T| - |N_{\phi(T)}|| = 1$  for any  $T \in \tilde{\mathcal{T}}_G$ .*

**Proof.** For any  $T \in \tilde{\mathcal{T}}_G$ , let  $\pi_T$  be the sequence of vertices of  $G$  obtained by Algorithm A. Since  $T$  is not an even-left spanning tree, there are some vertices  $w$  such that either  $|N_{T,w}| \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$  or  $M_{T,w} \neq \emptyset$ . Let  $v$  be the first such vertex in the sequence  $\pi_T$ . We discuss the following two cases.

*Case 1.*  $|N_{T,v}| \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ .

Clearly,  $N_{T,v} \neq \emptyset$ . Let  $u$  be the vertex in  $N_{T,v}$  such that  $\pi_T^{-1}(u) \leq \pi_T^{-1}(w)$  for any  $w \in N_{T,v}$ . We construct a new spanning tree of  $G$ , denoted  $\phi(T)$ , by adding the edge  $\{u, v\}$  and deleting the edge  $\{p_T(v), v\}$ . It is easy to see  $\pi_T = \pi_{\phi(T)}$ ,  $|N_{\phi(T),v}| \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ ,  $M_{\phi(T),v} \neq \emptyset$  and  $|N_T| - |N_{\phi(T)}| = 1$ .

*Case 2.*  $|N_{T,v}| \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$  and  $M_{T,v} \neq \emptyset$ .

Let  $u$  be the vertex in  $M_{T,v}$  such that  $\pi_T^{-1}(u) \geq \pi_T^{-1}(w)$  for any  $w \in M_{T,v}$  since  $M_{T,v} \neq \emptyset$ . Adding the edge  $\{u, v\}$  and deleting the edge  $\{p_T(v), v\}$ , we denote the obtained spanning tree by  $\phi(T)$ . Then  $\pi_T = \pi_{\phi(T)}$ ,  $|N_{\phi(T),v}| \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$  and  $|N_T| - |N_{\phi(T)}| = -1$ .  $\blacksquare$

**Example 2.5** Let  $G$  be the graph in Fig. 1. See Table 2. We have  $\mathcal{T}_G = \{T_1, T_8\}$  and  $\bar{\mathcal{T}}_G = \{T_i \mid 2 \leq i \leq 7\}$ . We easily obtain  $\phi(T_2) = T_3$ ,  $\phi(T_4) = T_5$  and  $\phi(T_6) = T_7$ .

**Theorem 2.6** *The number of even-left spanning trees of  $G$  is  $T_G(1, -1)$ , i.e.,  $T_G(1, -1) = |\mathcal{T}_G|$ .*

**Proof.** Note that  $|N_T| \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$  for any  $T \in \mathcal{T}_G$ . By Lemma 2.4, we have

$$\begin{aligned} T_G(1, -1) &= \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_G} (-1)^{|N_T|} \\ &= \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_G} (-1)^{|N_T|} + \sum_{T \in \bar{\mathcal{T}}_G} (-1)^{|N_T|} \\ &= \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_G} 1 \\ &= |\mathcal{T}_G|. \end{aligned}$$

■

### 3 Odd $G$ -permutations

In this Section, we give the definition of odd  $G$ -permutations and prove  $T_G(1, -1)$  is the number of odd  $G$ -permutations in  $\mathfrak{S}_n$ . We conclude with a bijection from the set of odd  $G$ -permutations to the set of alternating permutations on the set  $[n]$ .

Fix a simple graph  $G$  with vertex set  $[n+1]$ . Given a permutation  $\sigma = (\sigma(1) \dots \sigma(n)) \in \mathfrak{S}_n$ , we associate  $\sigma$  with a spanning forest of  $G$  as follows.

**Algorithm B.**

**Step 1.** Set  $\sigma(0) = n+1$ . Let  $E_0 = \emptyset$ .

**Step 2.** At time  $i \geq 1$ , let  $j = \max\{k \mid 0 \leq k < i, \sigma(k) > \sigma(i)\}$ . Define  $\tilde{N}_{\sigma,i}$  as the set of indexes  $k$  such that  $j \leq k < i$  and  $\{\sigma(k), \sigma(i)\} \in E(G)$ . If  $\tilde{N}_{\sigma,i} = \emptyset$ , then let  $E_i = E_{i-1}$ . Otherwise let  $E_i = E_{i-1} \cup \{\sigma(m), \sigma(i)\}$ , where  $m = \min \tilde{N}_{\sigma,i}$ .

Iterating Step 2 until  $i = n$ , we obtain a spanning forest of  $G$  with edge set  $E_n$ . Denote this spanning forest by  $F_\sigma$ . If  $F_\sigma$  is a spanning tree, then we say  $\sigma$  is a  $G$ -permutation. Clearly, a permutation  $\sigma$  is a  $G$ -permutation if and only if  $\tilde{N}_{\sigma,i} \neq \emptyset$  for all  $i \in [n]$ . Let  $\mathfrak{S}_G$  be the set of all  $G$ -permutations. Furthermore, we say a  $G$ -permutation  $\sigma$  is *odd* if  $|\tilde{N}_{\sigma,i}| \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$  for each  $i \in [n]$ . Let  $\mathfrak{S}_{G,odd}$  be the set of odd  $G$ -permutations.

**Example 3.1** Let  $G$  be the graph in Fig. 1. We consider all the permutations in  $\mathfrak{S}_3$  and give the following table.

	$\sigma$	$\tilde{N}_{\sigma,1}$	$\tilde{N}_{\sigma,2}$	$\tilde{N}_{\sigma,3}$
$\sigma_1$	(1, 2, 3)	{0}	{1}	{0, 1, 2}
$\sigma_2$	(1, 3, 2)	{0}	{0, 1}	{2}
$\sigma_3$	(2, 1, 3)	$\emptyset$	{1}	{0, 1, 2}
$\sigma_4$	(2, 3, 1)	$\emptyset$	{0, 1}	{2}
$\sigma_5$	(3, 1, 2)	{0}	{1}	{1, 2}
$\sigma_6$	(3, 2, 1)	{0}	{1}	{2}

Table 3. All the permutations in  $\mathfrak{S}_3$ .

It is easy to see  $\mathfrak{S}_G = \{\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_5, \sigma_6\}$  and  $\mathfrak{S}_{G,odd} = \{\sigma_1, \sigma_6\}$ .

**Lemma 3.2** *There is a bijection from  $\mathcal{T}_G$  to  $\mathfrak{S}_{G,odd}$ .*

**Proof.** For any  $T \in \mathcal{T}_G$ , let  $\pi_T$  be the sequence of vertices of  $G$  obtained by Algorithm A. Consider a permutation  $\sigma$  such that  $\sigma(i) = \pi_T(i)$  for any  $i \in [n]$ . It is easy to see  $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_{G,odd}$ .

Conversely, for any  $\sigma = (\sigma(1) \dots \sigma(n)) \in \mathfrak{S}_{G,odd}$ , let  $T$  be the spanning tree of  $G$  obtained by Algorithm B. Let  $\pi_T$  be the sequence of vertices of  $G$  obtained by Algorithm A. To prove  $T \in \mathcal{T}_G$ , it is sufficient to show  $\pi_T(i) = \sigma(i)$  for all  $i \in \{0, 1, \dots, n\}$ . Note that  $\pi_T(0) = \sigma(0) = n + 1$ . By Algorithm A, for the spanning tree  $T$ , we assume  $\pi_T(0), \dots, \pi_T(i)$  are determined and  $\pi_T(j) = \sigma(j)$  for all  $0 \leq j \leq i$ . Let  $U_i = \{\pi_T(j) \mid j = 0, \dots, i\}$  and  $W = \{w \mid w \notin U_i, E_T(U_i, \{w\}) \neq \emptyset\}$ . By Algorithm B, we have  $\sigma(i+1) \in W$  since  $|\tilde{N}_{\sigma, i+1}| \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ . We claim  $\sigma(i+1) = \min W$ . Otherwise, there exists a vertex  $u = \sigma(k)$  for some  $k \geq i+2$  such that  $u < \sigma(i+1)$  and  $p_T(u) \in V_i$ .  $u = \sigma(k) < \sigma(i+1)$  implies  $\tilde{N}_{\sigma, k} \subseteq \{\sigma(s) \mid i+1 \leq s \leq k-1\}$ . Hence, by Algorithm B,  $p_T(u) \notin V_i$ , a contradiction. So  $\pi_T(i) = \sigma(i)$  for all  $0 \leq i \leq n$ . By Algorithm B, we have  $|N_{T, \sigma(i)}| = |\tilde{N}_{\sigma, i}| - 1$  and  $M_{T, \sigma(i)} = \emptyset$  for all  $i \in [n]$ . Hence,  $T \in \mathcal{T}_G$ .  $\blacksquare$

Combining Theorem 2.6 and Lemma 3.2, we obtain the following corollary.

**Corollary 3.3** *The number of odd  $G$ -permutations is  $T_G(1, -1)$ , i.e.,  $T_G(1, -1) = |\mathfrak{S}_{G,odd}|$ .*

We now consider the case when  $G$  is the complete graph  $K_{n+1}$ . Let  $op_n$  be the number of odd  $K_{n+1}$ -permutations, i.e.,  $op_n = |\mathfrak{S}_{K_{n+1}, odd}|$ . By Corollary 3.3, we immediately obtain the following corollary.

**Corollary 3.4**  $T_{K_{n+1}}(1, -1) = op_n$ .

Recall  $\mathcal{A}_n$  is the set of alternating permutations in  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  and  $a_n = |\mathcal{A}_n|$ . By Corollary 3.4, we have  $op_n = a_n$  since  $T_{K_{n+1}}(1, -1) = a_n$ . It is easy to see the sequence  $\{op_n\}_{n \geq 0}$  satisfies the same recurrence relation and the initial condition as the sequence  $\{a_n\}_{n \geq 0}$ . In particular, for any  $\sigma = (\sigma(1) \dots \sigma(n)) \in \mathfrak{S}_n$ , let  $\tau = (\sigma(i_1)\sigma(i_2) \dots \sigma(i_k))$  be a subsequence of  $\sigma$  and “red” the increasing bijection of  $\{\sigma(i_1), \sigma(i_2), \dots, \sigma(i_k)\}$  onto  $[k]$ . Define the reduction of the subsequence  $\tau$ , denoted by  $red(\tau)$ , as  $(red(\sigma(i_1))red(\sigma(i_2)) \dots red(\sigma(i_k)))$ . For any  $\sigma = (\sigma(1) \dots \sigma(n)) \in \mathfrak{S}_n$ , suppose  $\sigma(2i+1) = n$  for some  $0 \leq i \leq \lfloor \frac{n-1}{2} \rfloor$ . We obtain two subsequences  $\tau_1 = (\sigma(1) \dots \sigma(2i))$  and  $\tau_2 = (\sigma(2i+2) \dots \sigma(n))$  of  $\sigma$ . Clearly,  $red(\tau_1) \in \mathfrak{S}_{K_{2i+1}, odd}$  and  $red(\tau_2) \in \mathfrak{S}_{K_{n-2i}, odd}$ . There are  $\binom{n-1}{2i}$  ways to form the set  $\{\sigma(1), \dots, \sigma(2i)\}$ . Hence, we have  $op_n = \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \frac{n-1}{2} \rfloor} \binom{n-1}{2i} op_{2i} op_{n-2i-1}$ .

For any  $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n$ , suppose  $\tau = \sigma(i_1)\sigma(i_2) \dots \sigma(i_k)$  be a subsequence of  $\sigma$ . Let  $\bar{\tau}$  denote the sequence  $(n+1 - \sigma(i_1))(n+1 - \sigma(i_2)) \dots (n+1 - \sigma(i_k))$ .

**Lemma 3.5** *There is a a bijection  $\Phi_n$  from  $\mathfrak{S}_{K_{n+1}, odd}$  to  $\mathcal{A}_n$ .*

**Proof.** By induction. Clearly,  $\Phi_1(1) = 1$ . Now, we assume that  $\Phi_k$  is the bijection from  $\mathfrak{S}_{K_{k+1}, odd}$  to  $\mathcal{A}_k$  for all  $k \leq n$ . For any  $\sigma = (\sigma(1) \dots \sigma(n+1)) \in \mathfrak{S}_{n+1}$ , suppose  $\sigma(2k+1) = n+1$ ,  $\tau_1 = (\sigma(1) \dots \sigma(2k))$  and  $\tau_2 = (\sigma(2k+2) \dots \sigma(n+1))$  for some  $0 \leq k \leq \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$ . Note that  $red(\tau_1) \in \mathfrak{S}_{K_{2k+1}, odd}$  and  $red(\tau_2) \in \mathfrak{S}_{K_{n-2k+1}, odd}$ . It is easy to see that  $\Phi_{2k}(red(\tau_1)) \in \mathcal{A}_{2k}$  and  $\Phi_{n-2k}(red(\tau_2)) \in \mathcal{A}_{n-2k}$ . Let  $\phi_m = red^{-1} \circ \Phi_m \circ red$  and  $\psi_m = red^{-1} \circ (\overline{\Phi_m \circ red})$  for short. Let  $\Phi_n(\sigma) = \phi_{2k}(\tau_1)(n+1)\psi_{n-2k}(\tau_2)$ . Then  $\Phi_n(\sigma) \in \mathcal{A}_n$ .  $\blacksquare$

**Example 3.6** Given  $\sigma = (42531) \in \mathfrak{S}_{K_6, odd}$ , we have  $\tau_1 = 42$  and  $\tau_2 = 31$ . So,  $\phi_2(42) = red^{-1} \circ \Phi_2 \circ red(42) = red^{-1} \circ \Phi_2(21) = red^{-1}(21) = 42$  and  $\psi_2(31) = red^{-1} \circ (\overline{\Phi_2 \circ red(31)}) = red^{-1} \circ (\overline{\Phi_2(21)}) = red^{-1} \circ \overline{21} = red^{-1}(12) = 13$ . Then  $\Phi_5(\sigma) = 42513$ .

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