

# Counting Domains in $\{p, q\}$ Tessellations

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## Abstract

For any given regular  $\{p, q\}$  tessellation in the hyperbolic plane, we compute the number of vertices and tiles to be found as we distance from a given point, enabling a complete characterization of the asymptotic behavior.

## 1 Introduction

In the designs of communications systems the choice of signal constellation to be used play a fundamental role, mainly because the performance of the system is dependent of such signal constellation. In order to become a real system, is necessary to have strong instruments to manipulate the signals, generally a suitable algebraic structure. Forney [1] introduced the possibility of considering uniform geometric codes, build up from lattices  $\Lambda$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  that become a finite set of signal points, a constellation, just after taking a convenient quotient by a sublattice  $\Lambda' \subset \Lambda$ . Many other possibilities for constellations and associated codes arise if we realize that the same kind of construction may be done in other ambient metric spaces  $X$  ([2]) taking the care to consider a properly discontinuous group of isometries  $\Gamma$  and a normal subgroup  $\Gamma' \subset \Gamma$ .

One of the most important such possibilities is to consider constellations of points in the hyperbolic plane ([3], [4], [5]). The main potential for coding in the hyperbolic plane is the infinitude of essentially distinct tessellations, in contrast with the Euclidean case. Not only we can find infinite constellations, we also can find infinitely many properly discontinuous groups of isometries, not isomorphic (as abstract subgroups) one to the other. Moreover, rigidity (in the sense of Mostow) does not hold in the (2-dimensional) hyperbolic plane, so, for each co-compact properly discontinuous group of isometries  $\Gamma$ , there are uncountable many subgroups isomorphic to  $\Gamma$  but not conjugated to it. In other words, to every such subgroup there is a situation similar to the, essentially unique, situation found in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

Suppose we have such a signal constellation in the hyperbolic plane and let  $z$  be a point in the constellation. If there is random hyperbolic perturbation of this point, a noise, we get a point  $w$  that distance, let us say  $r$  from the original point. Since any practical approach to signal constellations faces the need of making efficient algorithms, the question of finding out how many maximum-likelihood regions may be found at a distance  $r$  from  $z$  becomes a relevant one. This what we do in this work, where we compute this quantity for every regular ( $\{p, q\}$ ) tessellation and essentially to every distance  $r$ .

## 2 Counting Tiles and Vertex

Let  $\mathbb{X}$  be either the Euclidean plane  $\mathbb{E}^2$ , the hyperbolic plane  $\mathbb{H}^2$  or the sphere  $S^2$ . A *polygon* in  $\mathbb{X}$  is a closed set  $D$ , with non empty interior, bounded by a finite number of geodesic arcs. Each of such arc is called an *edge* of  $D$  and a point in the intersection of two edges a *vertex*. A polygon is said *regular* if all its edges, as well as the angles between the edges at any vertex are congruent. A *p, q regular tessellation* of  $\mathbb{X}$  is a family  $D_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$  of isometric regular polygons (called *tiles of the tessellation*) with  $p$  edges such that:

- i)  $\cup_{i \in \mathbb{N}} D_i = \mathbb{X}$ .
- ii)  $\text{int}(D_i) \cap \text{int}(D_j) = \emptyset$  if  $i \neq j$ .
- iii) If  $D_i \cap D_j \neq \emptyset$  then it is either a common edge or a common vertex.
- iv) If  $z$  is a vertex of  $D_{i_1}$ , then it is a vertex of exactly  $q$  polygons  $D_{i_1}, \dots, D_{i_q}$ .

It is a well known result that a  $p, q$  tessellation occurs in  $S^2$  if  $0 < (p-2)(q-2) < 4$  (corresponding to the five Platonic solids), in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  if  $(p-2)(q-2) = 4$  or in  $\mathbb{H}^2$  if  $4 < (p-2)(q-2)$ . Those possibilities are mutually excluding. These multiplicity of tessellations represent the opportunities offered by the hyperbolic case.

We assume here that  $\{D_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$  is a regular  $\{p, q\}$  tessellation of the hyperbolic plane. Let  $p_0$  be the barycentre of the tile  $D_0$ , which has  $p$  vertices and denote by  $C_0$  the family consisting  $\{D_0\}$  containing only this tile. In our first level, we consider a ball  $B_1$ , centered at  $p_0$ , that contains  $D_0$  but no other tile. We denote by  $C_1$  the collection of all tiles that intersect  $B_1$ . This is the family of all tiles which has either an edge or a vertex in common with  $D_0$ . We choose now a ball  $B_2$ , centered at  $p_0$ , containing every tile in  $C_1$  but no other tile. We denote by  $C_2$  the family of all tiles that intersects  $B_2$ . In this way, given  $C_j$ , we choose a ball  $B_{j+1}$  centered at  $p_0$  and containing all tiles of  $C_j$  but no other and define  $C_{j+1}$  to be the family of all tiles that intersects  $B_{j+1}$ . In this way we get a family  $\{C_j\}_{j \in \mathbb{Z}}$  such that  $C_j \subsetneq C_{j+1}$  and  $\mathbb{H}^2 = \cup_{j \in \mathbb{N}} C_j$ . The set of tiles added in the passage from one level to the next one is denoted by  $L_{j+1} := C_{j+1} \setminus C_j$ .

Our goal is to give an explicit formula for  $P_j = \text{card}(C_j)$ . We will also consider the number  $V_j$  of vertices of polygons contained in  $C_j$ . Note that  $V_j$  is not just a multiple of  $P_j$ , since there are vertices joined by different number of polygons. The amount of new polygons and edges added at the level  $j$  will be denoted by  $NP_j = P_j - P_{j-1}$  and  $NV_j = V_j - V_{j-1}$  respectively. Note that all the quantities depend on  $p$  and  $q$ . Note that

$$V_{j+1} = \sum_{i=0}^{j+1} NV_i \quad P_{j+1} = \sum_{i=0}^{j+1} NP_i$$

Similar counting could be performed if we had started with a ball centered not at the barycentre of a polygon  $D_0$  but at one of its vertices, asking for the quantities  $\tilde{P}_j$  and  $\tilde{V}_j$  defined in an analogous way. We do not need to perform explicit computations in this case since, by a standard duality argument, we find that  $\tilde{P}_j(p, q) = V_j(q, p)$  and  $\tilde{V}_j(p, q) = P_j(q, p)$ .

We denote by  $v_{j,1}, v_{j,2}, \dots, v_{j,l}$  the vertices that belongs to  $L_j$  but not to  $L_{j-1}$ . A vertex  $v_{j,i}$  is said to be of *type*  $t(v_{j,i}) = k$  if it is a vertex of  $k$  edges in  $L_j$ . Note that  $2 \leq t(v_{j,i}) \leq q$ . Whenever we are counting either vertices  $v_{j,i}$  or edges  $e^{j,i}$  with the index  $0 \leq i \leq m$ , we consider the indices modulo  $m+1$ , that is, the pair  $v_{j,i}, v_{j,i+1}$  is the pair  $v_{j,k}, v_{j,0}$  when  $i = m$ . Generally,  $m$  will be understood from the context.

The counting process will be done in three different cases, namely, when  $p, q \geq 4$ ,  $p = 3$  and  $q = 3$ . The first case will be done in greater details, since it illustrate the type of argument used in the next two cases. To make it easier for the reader, intermediate steps in the counting process are typed using bold fonts: they are all gathered in the proposition that follows.

### 2.1 First Case: $p \geq 4$ and $q \geq 4$

We start counting the number of vertices in the level  $L_j$ .

In the level  $C_0$  there are  $p$  vertices, each one of type 2. When considered as vertices of the next level,  $C_1$ , each one of those vertices become a vertex of type  $q$ . So when constructing the next level, we must add  $q-2$

edges to each of this vertices, summing up  $p(q-2)$  edges. We may count them in an clockwise order and denote by  $e_1^{0,i}, e_2^{0,i}, \dots, e_{q-2}^{0,i}$  ( $i = 1, \dots, p$ ), the edges added to the vertex  $v_{0,i}$ . Each of this edge contribute with one vertex in the  $L_1$  level, so, by now, we counted  $\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{q}-2)$  vertices in  $L_1$ . Each pair of consecutive edges  $e_j^{0,i}, e_{j+1}^{0,i}$  are edges of the same polygon in  $L_1$  so, this polygon has  $p-3$  more vertices that must be counted at the level  $L_1$ . Since there are  $p(q-3)$  pairs of such edges, we counted  $\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{q}-3)(\mathbf{p}-3)$  more vertices in level  $L_1$ . To conclude the counting of this level, we note that  $e_{q-2}^{0,i}, e_1^{0,i+1}$  and the edge joining  $v_{0,i}$  to  $v_{0,i+1}$  are three edges of a polygon in  $L_1$  not counted yet. They determine 4 vertices of this polygon, consequently we must add  $p-4$  more edges, a total amount of  $\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{p}-4)$ . We sum all this edges and conclude that

$$NV_1 = p(q-2) + p(p-3)(q-3) + p(p-4).$$

We note that all these vertices are of type 2, except the  $p(p-2)$  vertices of the edges  $e_j^{0,i}$ , that are all of type 3, since we are considering  $p \geq 4$ .

We can calculate now  $NV_2$ . In level  $L_1$ , there are  $NV_{1,3} = p(q-2)$  vertices of type 3 and  $NV_{1,2} = p[(p-3)(q-3) + (p-4)]$  vertices of type 2. As we did before, we add  $q-2$  edges  $e_1^{1,i}, e_2^{1,i}, \dots, e_{q-2}^{1,i}$  to each one of the vertices  $v_{1,1}^2, v_{1,2}^2, \dots, v_{1,NV_{1,2}}^2$  of type 2 and  $q-3$  edges to each of the vertices  $v_{1,1}^3, v_{1,2}^3, \dots, v_{1,NV_{1,3}}^3$  of type 3 and they give rise to  $(\mathbf{q}-2)\mathbf{NV}_{1,2} + (\mathbf{q}-3)\mathbf{NV}_{1,3}$  new vertices, all them of type 3. Let  $v_{1,i}^2$  be a vertex of type 2 of  $L_1$  and  $e_j^{1,i}, e_{j+1}^{1,i}$  be two consecutive edges added to  $v_{1,i}$ : each of this pair give rise to a new polygon, with  $p-3$  vertices not yet counted. Since there are  $q-3$  pairs of such edges at each of the  $NV_{1,2}$  vertices of  $L_1$ , they sum up  $(\mathbf{p}-3)(\mathbf{q}-3)\mathbf{NV}_{1,2}$  new vertices. The same happens to the vertices  $v_{1,i}^3$  of type 3 of  $L_1$ , but now, to each  $NV_{1,3}$  of them, we can find  $q-4$  pairs of consecutive edges, and they sum  $(\mathbf{p}-3)(\mathbf{q}-4)\mathbf{NV}_{1,3}$  new vertices. Finally, the edges  $e_{q-2}^{2,i}, e_1^{2,i+1}$  and the edge of  $L_1$  joining  $v_{2,i}$  to  $v_{2,i+1}$  determine another polygon in  $L_2$  and  $p-4$  new vertices, all of type 2 and we added  $(\mathbf{p}-4)\mathbf{NV}_{1,2}$  new vertices of type 2. We can now sum up all of them and get:

$$\begin{aligned} NV_{1,3} &= (q-2)NV_{1,2} + (q-3)NV_{1,3} \\ NV_{1,2} &= [(p-4) + (p-3)(q-3)]NV_{1,2} + (p-3)(q-4)NV_{1,3}. \end{aligned}$$

The following levels work in the same way and we get the recursive formula:

**Proposition 1** *Given a regular  $\{p, q\}$  tessellation, with  $p, q > 3$ , the number of vertices in the level  $j$  is given by the recursive formula:*

$$\begin{aligned} NV_{1,2} &= p[(p-3)(q-3) + (p-4)], \quad NV_{1,3} = p(q-2) \\ NV_{j+1,2} &= [(p-4) + (p-3)(q-3)]NV_{j,2} + (p-3)(q-4)NV_{j,3} \\ NV_{j+1,3} &= (q-2)NV_{j,2} + (q-3)NV_{j,3} \end{aligned}$$

Now we compute the number  $NP_k$  of polygons at the level  $L_k$ . As before, level  $C_0$  has only type 2 vertices and to each vertex  $v_{0,i}^2$  we add  $q-2$  edges,  $e_1^{0,i}, \dots, e_{q-2}^{0,i}$ . Each pair of consecutive edges  $e_j^{0,i}, e_{j+1}^{0,i}$  ( $i = 1, \dots, p; j = 1, \dots, q-3$ ) corresponds to a polygon in  $L_1$ , so for the moment we have  $\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{q}-3)$  new polygons. But each of the edges joining  $v_{0,i}^2$  and  $v_{0,i+1}^2$ , together with edges  $e_{q-2}^{0,i}$  and  $e_1^{0,i+1}$  determines another polygon (a total of  $\mathbf{p}$ ) and we find

$$NP_1 = p + p(q-3).$$

The inductive step is again given by the determination of  $NP_2$ . As we did before, we add  $q-2$  edges to each type-2 vertices of  $L_1$  and  $q-3$  to type-3 vertices. If  $v_{1,i}^2$  is a type-2 vertex and  $e_1^{1,i}, \dots, e_{q-2}^{1,i}$  are the new edges attached to it, each pair of the  $q-3$  consecutive edges  $e_j^{1,i}, e_{j+1}^{1,i}$  corresponds to a new polygon in  $L_2$ . The same happens at the type-3 vertices, but now, at each one we added  $q-4$  polygons. By the moment, we added  $(\mathbf{q}-3)\mathbf{NV}_{1,2} + (\mathbf{q}-4)\mathbf{NV}_{1,3}$  polygons. But the edges  $e_{q-2}^{0,i}$  and  $e_1^{0,i+1}$  together with the one joining  $v_{1,i}$  to  $v_{1,i+1}$  determines another polygon in  $L_1$ , resuming in  $\mathbf{NV}_1$  more polygons. This can be summarised in the following:

**Proposition 2** *Given a regular  $\{p, q\}$  tessellation with  $p, q > 3$ , the number of polygons in the level  $j$  is given by the recursive formula:*

$$\begin{aligned} NP_0 &= 1, & NP_1 &= p + p(q - 3) \\ NP_{k+1} &= (q - 3)NV_{k,2} + (q - 4)NV_{k,3} + NV_k = (q - 2)NV_{k,2} + (q - 3)NV_{k,3} \end{aligned}$$

## 2.2 Case 2: $p = 3$ and $q \geq 6$

In this case our fundamental domains are triangle. We begin with a triangle, with vertices  $v_{0,1}, v_{0,2}$  and  $v_{0,3}$ . To each of these vertices, all of type 2, we add  $q - 2$  edges, determining  $p(q - 2) = 3(q - 2)$  new vertices. If  $e_j^{0,i}$  and  $e_{j+1}^{0,i}$  are consecutive edges added to vertex  $v_{0,i}$ , they determine a new triangle in  $L_1$ , to which we must add another edge, but not a new, yet uncounted vertex. In a similar way, the edges  $e_{q-2}^{0,i}$  and  $e_1^{0,i+1}$  must determine a triangle in  $L_1$ , so they have a common vertex, counted twice in the previous calculation, so that at level  $L_1$  we have  $3(q - 2) - 3 = 3(q - 3)$  vertices. The vertices corresponding to the edges  $e_j^{0,i}$ , for  $j = 2, \dots, q - 3$  are all vertices of type 3: each one is joined to a vertex in the previous level,  $C_0$ , and to vertices of the previous and next edge,  $e_{j-1}^{0,i}$  and  $e_{j+1}^{0,i}$  respectively. But, since the vertices corresponding to  $e_{q-2}^{0,i}$  and  $e_1^{0,i+1}$  coincide, they are type-4 vertices: they are joined to two vertices in the  $C_0$  (determined by the edges  $e_{q-2}^{0,i}$  and  $e_1^{0,i+1}$ ), just like the vertices determined by edges  $e_{q-3}^{0,i}$  and  $e_2^{0,i+1}$ . So, the total amount of vertices in  $L_1$  is given by

$$NV_1 = NV_{1,3} + NV_{1,4} = p(q - 4) + p.$$

To compute the number of vertices in the next level, we add  $q - 3$  new edges  $e_1^{1,i}, \dots, e_{q-3}^{1,i}$  to each of the  $NV_{1,3}$  type-3 vertices of  $L_1$ . Each pair of consecutive edges, excluding the extreme ones, gives rise to a new triangle to which an edge must be added, so, the  $q - 5$  edges  $e_2^{1,i}, \dots, e_{q-4}^{1,i}$  added to the  $NV_{1,3}$  vertices of type 3 of  $L_1$  contribute with a type-3 vertex in  $L_2$ . The same happens with the  $NV_{1,4}$  type-4 vertices of  $L_1$ , but now, excluding the extreme edges  $e_1^{1,i}$  and  $e_{q-4}^{1,i}$ , there are only  $q - 6$  edges, hence  $q - 6$  type-3 new vertices in  $L_2$ . As we did before,  $e_{q-\varepsilon}^{1,i}$ , the last edge added to each of the  $NV_1$  vertex  $v_{1,i}$  ( $\varepsilon$  may be 3 or 4, according to the type of the vertex to  $v_{1,i}$ ), and  $e_1^{1,i+1}$ , the first edge added to vertex  $v_{1,i+1}$  join a common vertex, a type-4 vertex in  $L_2$ . The passage from level  $L_1$  to level  $L_2$  gives us the inductive step and we conclude:

**Proposition 3** *Given a regular  $\{p, q\}$  tessellation with  $p = 3, q \geq 6$ , the number of vertices in the level  $j$  is given by the recursive formula:*

$$\begin{aligned} V_0 &= p, & NV_{1,3} &= p(q - 4), & NV_{1,4} &= p = 3 \\ NV_{j+1,3} &= (q - 5)NV_{j,3} + (q - 6)N_{j,4} & NV_{j+1,4} &= NV_{j,3} + NV_{j,4} = NV_j \end{aligned}$$

We compute now the number  $NP_j$  of new polygons at level  $L_j$ . At the first level, at each of the 3 vertices of  $C_0$ , we introduced a  $q - 2$  edges, each pair of consecutive ones gives rise to a new triangle, a total of  $3(q - 3)$  new triangles. Beside those, the edges  $e_{q-2}^{0,i}$  and  $e_1^{0,i+1}$  determine a new one and we find  $NP_1 = 3 + 3(q - 3)$ .

To each vertex  $v_{1,i}$  of type 3 in  $L_1$  we must add  $q - 3$  edges  $e_1^{1,i}, \dots, e_{q-3}^{1,i}$ . Each pair of consecutive of this edges determine a new triangle, a total of  $q - 4$  for each one of those vertices. The same happens to type-4 vertices, but now we introduce only  $q - 4$  edges, resulting in  $q - 5$  pairs of consecutive edges and hence  $q - 5$  new triangles. By the moment, we have computed  $(q - 4)NV_{1,3} + (q - 5)NV_{1,4}$  new polygons. It remains to consider the pairs of edges  $e_{q-\varepsilon}^{1,i}$  and  $e_1^{1,i+1}$  added to vertex  $v_{1,i}$  ( $\varepsilon = t(v_{1,i})$ ), which determines a new triangle for each  $i = 1, \dots, NP_1$ . This is the inductive step and we get the following:

**Proposition 4** *Given a regular  $\{p, q\}$  tessellation with  $p = 3, q \leq 6$ , the number of polygons in the level  $j$  is given by the recursive formula:*

$$\begin{aligned} NP_0 &= 1, & NP_1 &= p + p(q - 3) \\ NP_{k+1} &= V_k + (q - 4)NV_{k,3} + (q - 5)NV_{k,4} = (q - 3)NV_{k,3} + (q - 5)NV_{k,4} \end{aligned}$$

### 2.3 Case 3: $p \geq 6, q = 3$

Let us consider a  $\{p, q\}$  tessellation  $\{D_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ . We start from a  $p$ -polygon and, to each one of this vertices we must add one single edge, each one contributing to a type-3 vertex in  $L_1$ . If  $v_{0,i}$  is a vertex of  $C_0$  with added edge  $e^{0,i}$ , then  $e^{0,i}, e^{0,i+1}$  and the edge joined  $v_{0,i}$  to  $v_{0,i+1}$  are edges of the same polygon, that are determined by  $p-4$  vertices, they are all of type 2. So,  $\mathbf{NV}_{1,2} = \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{p}-4)$  and  $\mathbf{NV}_{1,3} = \mathbf{p}$ . The type-2 and type-3 vertices of  $L_1$  are uniformly distributed, in a way, there are  $p-4$  consecutive type-2 vertices between each pair of type-3 vertices.

To each type-2 vertex of  $L_1$  we must add one single edge that, as before, will be of type 3 in  $L_2$ . If  $v_{1,i}$  and  $v_{1,i+1}$  are consecutive type-2 vertices of  $L_1$ , the edges  $e^{1,i}$  and  $e^{1,i+1}$  are edges of one polygon, that has  $p-4$  yet uncounted vertices, all of type-2. Since there are  $p = \mathbf{NV}_{1,3}$  sequences of  $p-4$  consecutive such vertices, we get  $p(p-5)$  such polygons, contributing with  $(\mathbf{p}-4)(\mathbf{p}-5)\mathbf{NV}_{1,3}$  type-2 vertices in  $L_2$ . There are also  $p$  type-3 vertices. If  $v_{1,i}$  is such a vertices, it belongs to a same polygon as  $v_{1,i-1}$  and  $v_{1,i+1}$ , just like the edges  $e^{1,i-1}$  and  $e^{1,i+1}$ . We have already counted 5 of the vertices of this polygon, so there are more  $(p-5)$  for each of the type-2 vertices of  $L_1$  associated to this vertex, a total amount of  $(\mathbf{p}-5)\mathbf{NV}_{1,3}$ . This is the inductive step and we found the following:

**Proposition 5** *Given a regular  $\{p, q\}$  tessellation with  $p \geq 6, q = 3$ , the number of vertices in the level  $j$  is given by the recursive formula:*

$$\begin{aligned} NV_0 &= p, & NV_{1,2} &= p(p-4), & NV_{1,3} &= p \\ NV_{j+1,2} &= (p-4)(p-5)NV_{1,3} + (p-5)NV_{1,3}, & NV_{j+1,3} &= NV_{j,2} \\ NV_{j+1} &= NV_{j+1,2} + NV_{j+1,3} \end{aligned}$$

We count now the polygons added at each level. Obviously,  $NP_0 = 1$  and  $NP_1 = p$ . To compute the next level, that allows us to make the inductive step, we notice that we added one edge for each type-2 vertex of  $L_1$ . Two consecutive such edges contribute with a new polygon, so we find that there are  $\mathbf{NV}_{1,2}$  new polygons. We generalize to obtain:

**Proposition 6** *Given a regular  $\{p, q\}$  tessellation with  $p \geq 6, q = 3$ , the number of polygons in the level  $j$  is given by the recursive formula:*

$$NP_0 = 1, \quad NP_1 = p, \quad NP_{k+1} = NV_{k,2}.$$

## 3 Asymptotic Behavior

It is a well known fact that the fundamental group  $\Gamma$  of compact surface of negative curvature has exponential growth, in the sense that, given any finite set of generators of  $\Gamma = \langle \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n \rangle$ , the number  $B_k$  of elements of  $\Gamma$  that can be represented as words of length at most  $k$  in the generators  $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n$  is an exponential function on  $k$ , that is, there are constants  $c, \lambda > 0, b > 1$  such that  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{cb^{\lambda k}}{B_k} = 1$ .

In all the cases where a  $\{p, q\}$  tessellation is associated with a discrete group of isometries of the hyperbolic plane - all  $\{4g, 4g\}$  and  $\{4g+2, 2g+1\}$  tessellations are so ([2]) - we can describe  $B_k$  in a similar way we described  $P_k$ . We start with one single polygon and, at each step, instead of adding every polygon that has either an edge or an vertex contained in the previous one, we add only the polygons with a face contained in the previous stage. So, we find that for such tessellations,  $B_k < P_k < V_k$  and it will not be surprising that  $P_k$  and  $V_k$  behave exponentially in all the cases. This is indeed what we find. Moreover, we find explicitly the coefficients  $c, \lambda$  and  $b$ , depending on the pair  $\{p, q\}$ .

For each pair  $(p, q)$  the functions  $V_{k+1}(p, q)$  and  $P_{k+1}(p, q)$  are attained as a linear combination of the previous  $NV_{k,i}(p, q)$ , the number of vertices of type  $i$  (either 2, 3 or 4, depending on the case) added in the previous level, with coefficients being polynomials in  $p$  and  $q$ . Since we are concerned with the asymptotic behavior, we look only at the higher degree at each level  $k$ . Looking at the recursive formulas found in

propositions 1 – 6, it is easy to see that the higher exponents of  $p$  and  $q$  in the relevant cases are as given in the table below:

	$p \geq 4, q \geq 4$	$p = 3, q \geq 6$	$p \geq 6, q = 3$
Higher coefficient in $V_k(p, q)$	$p^{k+1}q^k$	$pq^k$	$p^{3k}$
Higher coefficient in $P_k(p, q)$	$p^kq^k$	$pq^k$	$p^{3(k-1)}$

With this table in mind, it is immediate to verify that the asymptotic behavior of the functions is the same as exponential functions  $c(b)^{\lambda k}$  with  $c, b$  and  $\lambda$  as follows:

	$p \geq 4, q \geq 4$	$p = 3, q \geq 6$	$p \geq 6, q = 3$
$V_k(p, q) \sim$	$c = p, b = pq, \lambda = 1$	$c = p, b = q, \lambda = 1$	$c = 1, b = p, \lambda = 3$
$P_k(p, q) \sim$	$c = 1, b = pq, \lambda = 1$	$c = p, b = q, \lambda = 1$	$c = \frac{1}{p^3}, b = p, \lambda = 3$

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