

SCHUR FUNCTIONS IN NONCOMMUTING VARIABLES

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CALICO
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INTEGER PARTITIONS

An **integer partition** $\lambda = \lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_\ell > 0$ of n is a list of positive integers whose sum is n : $3221 \vdash 8$.

Let $\lambda = \lambda_1 \lambda_2 \dots \lambda_\ell = 1^{r_1} 2^{r_2} \dots n^{r_n}$. Then

$$\lambda! = \lambda_1! \lambda_2! \dots \lambda_\ell!$$

and

$$\lambda! = r_1! r_2! \dots r_n!$$

EXAMPLE

If $\lambda = 3221 = 1^1 2^2 3^1 4^0 5^0 6^0 7^0 8^0 \vdash 8$, then

$$\lambda! = 3! 2! 2! 1! = 6 \times 2 \times 2 \times 1 = 24$$

$$\lambda! = 1! 2! 1! 0! 0! 0! 0! 0! = 2.$$

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SET PARTITIONS

A **set partition** π of $[n] = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ is a partitioning of $[n]$ into disjoint sets B_1, B_2, \dots, B_ℓ called **blocks** so

- $B_i \neq \emptyset$
- $B_1 \cup B_2 \cup \dots \cup B_\ell = [n]$.

$$\pi = B_1/B_2/\dots/B_\ell \vdash [n]$$

EXAMPLE

$$\{1, 3, 4\}, \{2, 5\}, \{6\}, \{7, 8\}$$

is a set partition of $[8]$, or

$$\pi = 134/25/6/78 \vdash [8].$$

PARTITIONS AND PERMUTATIONS

If $\pi = B_1/B_2/\cdots/B_\ell \vdash [n]$, then

$$\lambda(\pi) = |B_1||B_2|\cdots|B_\ell|$$

with sizes weakly decreasing. If $\delta \in \mathfrak{S}_n$, then

$$\delta(\pi) = \delta(B_1)/\delta(B_2)/\cdots/\delta(B_\ell).$$

EXAMPLE

If $\pi = 134/25/6/78 \vdash [8]$, then

$$\lambda(134/25/6/78) = 3221$$

and $\delta = 14325876 \in \mathfrak{S}_8$

$$\begin{aligned}\delta(134/25/6/78) &= \delta(1)\delta(3)\delta(4)/\delta(2)\delta(5)/\delta(6)/\delta(7)\delta(8) \\ &= 132/45/8/76 = 123/45/67/8.\end{aligned}$$

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SLASH PRODUCT

If

$$S + n = \{s + n : s \in S\}$$

then for $\pi \vdash [n]$ and $\sigma = B_1/B_2/\cdots/B_\ell \vdash [m]$ the slash product is

$$\pi \mid \sigma = \pi/(B_1 + n)/(B_2 + n)/\cdots/(B_\ell + n) \vdash [n + m].$$

EXAMPLE

If $\pi = 134/25 \vdash [5]$ and $\sigma = 1/23 \vdash [3]$ then

$$\pi \mid \sigma = 134/25/6/78 \vdash [8].$$

NCSym (ROSAS-SAGAN 2004)

NCSym is the algebra of symmetric functions in noncommuting variables x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots

$$\text{NCSym} = \text{NCSym}^0 \oplus \text{NCSym}^1 \oplus \dots \subset \mathbb{Q} \ll x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots \gg$$

where $\text{NCSym}^0 = \text{span}\{1\}$ and for $n > 0$



$$\begin{aligned} \text{NCSym}^n &= \text{span}\{m_\pi : \pi \vdash [n]\} \\ &= \text{span}\{p_\pi : \pi \vdash [n]\} \\ &= \text{span}\{e_\pi : \pi \vdash [n]\} \\ &= \text{span}\{h_\pi : \pi \vdash [n]\}. \end{aligned}$$



Note: The e_π defined by Wolf in 1936.

MONOMIAL FUNCTION IN NCSym

The monomial symmetric function in NCSym for $\pi \vdash [n]$ is

$$m_\pi = \sum_{(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n)} x_{i_1} x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_n}$$

summed over all tuples (i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n) with

$$i_j = i_k$$

if and only if j and k are in the same block of π .

EXAMPLE

$$m_{13/2} = x_1 x_2 x_1 + x_2 x_1 x_2 + x_1 x_3 x_1 + x_2 x_3 x_2 + \cdots$$

POWER SUM FUNCTION IN NCSym

The power sum symmetric function in NCSym for $\pi \vdash [n]$ is

$$p_\pi = \sum_{(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n)} x_{i_1} x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_n}$$

summed over all tuples (i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n) with

$$i_j = i_k$$

if j and k are in the same block of π .

EXAMPLE

$$p_{13/2} = x_1 x_2 x_1 + x_2 x_1 x_2 + \cdots + x_1^3 + x_2^3 + \cdots$$

ELEMENTARY FUNCTION IN NCSym

The elementary symmetric function in NCSym for $\pi \vdash [n]$ is

$$e_\pi = \sum_{(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n)} x_{i_1} x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_n}$$

summed over all tuples (i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n) with

$$i_j \neq i_k$$

if j and k are in the same block of π .

EXAMPLE

$$e_{13/2} = x_1 x_1 x_2 + x_1 x_2 x_2 + x_2 x_2 x_1 + x_2 x_1 x_1 + \cdots + x_1 x_2 x_3 + \cdots$$

COMPLETE HOMOGENEOUS FUNCTION IN NCSym

The complete homogeneous symmetric function in NCSym for $\pi \vdash [n]$ is

$$h_\pi = \sum_{\sigma} \lambda(\sigma \wedge \pi)! m_\sigma$$

where $\sigma \wedge \pi$ is the maximal set partition where every block is a subblock of σ and π .

EXAMPLE

$$h_{13/2} = 2m_{123} + m_{12/3} + m_{1/23} + 2m_{13/2} + m_{1/2/3}$$

$$123 \wedge 13/2 = 13/2 \wedge 13/2 = 13/2 \quad \lambda(13/2)! = 2$$

$$12/3 \wedge 13/2 = 1/23 \wedge 13/2 = 1/2/3 \wedge 13/2 = 1/2/3 \quad \lambda(1/2/3)! = 1$$

PERMUTATIONS AND PRODUCTS

Fact: If $\pi \vdash [n]$, $\delta \in \mathfrak{S}_n$ and $\delta \circ m_\pi = m_{\delta(\pi)}$, then for $b = p, e, h$

$$\delta \circ b_\pi = b_{\delta(\pi)}.$$

Fact: If π, σ are set partitions, then for $b = p, e, h$

$$b_\pi b_\sigma = b_{\pi|\sigma}.$$

EXAMPLE

$$132 \circ m_{12/3} = m_{13/2} \quad p_{13/2} p_1 = p_{13/2|1} = p_{13/2/4}$$

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Let the variables commute:

$$\rho : \text{NCSym} \rightarrow \text{Sym}$$

THEOREM (ROSAS-SAGAN 2004)

Let π be a set partition.

$$\rho(m_\pi) = \lambda(\pi)! m_{\lambda(\pi)} \quad \rho(p_\pi) = p_{\lambda(\pi)}$$

$$\rho(e_\pi) = \lambda(\pi)! e_{\lambda(\pi)} \quad \rho(h_\pi) = \lambda(\pi)! h_{\lambda(\pi)}$$

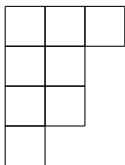
Note: The images are **classical** monomial, power sum, elementary and complete homogeneous symmetric functions.

Question: Where are the Schur functions?

PARTITIONS AND DIAGRAMS

An **integer partition** $\lambda = \lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_\ell > 0$ of n is a list of positive integers whose sum is n : $3221 \vdash 8$.

The **diagram** $\lambda = \lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_\ell > 0$ is the array of **boxes** with λ_i boxes in row i from the **top**.



3221

SEMISTANDARD YOUNG TABLEAUX

A semistandard Young tableau (SSYT) T of shape λ is a filling with $1, 2, 3, \dots$ so rows **weakly increase** and columns **increase**.

1	1
2	

Given an SSYT T we have for **commuting** variables

$$x^T = x_1^{\#1s} x_2^{\#2s} x_3^{\#3s} \dots$$

$$x_1^2 x_2$$

SCHUR FUNCTIONS

The Schur function in Sym is

$$s_\lambda = \sum_{T \text{ SSYT of shape } \lambda} x^T.$$

EXAMPLE

$$s_{21} = x_1^2 x_2 + x_1 x_2^2 + x_1^2 x_3 + x_1 x_3^2 + x_2^2 x_3 + x_2 x_3^2 + 2x_1 x_2 x_3 + \dots$$

1	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	2	2	2	3	1	2	1	3
2		2		3		3		3		3		3		2	

DOTTED YOUNG TABLEAUX

A dotted Young tableau (DYT) \dot{T} of shape λ is a filling with $1, 2, 3, \dots$ so rows weakly increase and columns increase, and $1, 2, \dots, n$ dots appear exactly once.

$\ddot{1}$	$\dot{1}$
$\ddot{2}$	

Given a DYT \dot{T} we have for noncommuting variables

$x^{\dot{T}} = x_i$ in position j iff i has j dots above it.

$$x_1 x_2 x_1$$

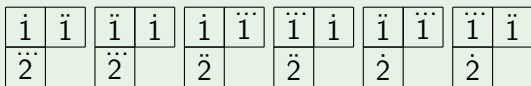
ROSAS-SAGAN SCHUR FUNCTIONS

The Rosas-Sagan Schur function in NCSym is

$$s_{\lambda}^{RS} = \sum_{\dot{T} \text{ DYT of shape } \lambda} x^{\dot{T}}.$$

EXAMPLE

$$s_{21}^{RS} = 2x_1x_1x_2 + 2x_1x_2x_1 + 2x_2x_1x_1 + \dots$$



ROSAS-SAGAN SCHUR FUNCTIONS

THEOREM (ROSAS-SAGAN 2004)

Let $\lambda \vdash n$.

- The S_λ^{RS} are linearly independent.
- We have $\rho(S_\lambda^{RS}) = n!s_\lambda$.

Note: However they are **not** a basis for NCSym because we only have one for each **integer** partition, not **set** partition.

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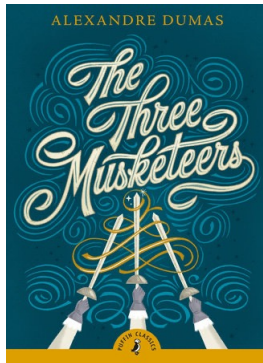
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Yes there is!

THE THREE MUSKETEERS



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SCHUR FUNCTIONS REVISITED

DEFINITION

Let $\lambda = \lambda_1 \lambda_2 \cdots \lambda_\ell$. Then the **Jacobi-Trudi identity**

$$s_\lambda = \det (h_{\lambda_i - i + j})_{1 \leq i, j \leq \ell}$$

where $h_0 = 1$ and $h_{-ve} = 0$.

EXAMPLE

$$s_{21} = \det \begin{pmatrix} h_2 & h_3 \\ h_0 & h_1 \end{pmatrix} = h_2 h_1 - h_3 h_0 = h_{21} - h_3$$

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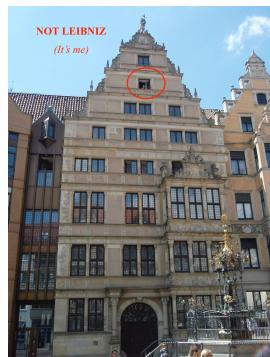
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“ALL FOR ONE ...” – DUMAS, T3M

The noncommutative Leibniz formula for $A = (a_{ij})_{1 \leq i, j \leq n}$ with noncommuting entries a_{ij} is

$$\det(A) = \sum_{\varepsilon \in \mathfrak{S}_n} \operatorname{sgn}(\varepsilon) a_{1\varepsilon(1)} a_{2\varepsilon(2)} \cdots a_{n\varepsilon(n)}$$

- product of the entries is taken top row to the bottom row
- $\operatorname{sgn}(\varepsilon)$ is the sign of permutation ε .



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DEFINITION

Let $\lambda = \lambda_1 \lambda_2 \cdots \lambda_\ell$. Then the source Schur function

$$s_{[\lambda]} = \det \left(\frac{1}{(\lambda_i - i + j)!} h_{[\lambda_i - i + j]} \right)_{1 \leq i, j \leq \ell}$$

where $h_{[0]} = h_\emptyset = 1$ and $h_{-ve} = 0$.

EXAMPLE

$$\begin{aligned} s_{[21]} &= \det \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2!} h_{12} & \frac{1}{3!} h_{123} \\ \frac{1}{0!} h_\emptyset & \frac{1}{1!} h_1 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2!} h_{12} \frac{1}{1!} h_1 - \frac{1}{3!} h_{123} \frac{1}{0!} h_\emptyset \\ &= \frac{1}{2} h_{12|1} - \frac{1}{6} h_{123} = \frac{1}{2} h_{12/3} - \frac{1}{6} h_{123}. \end{aligned}$$

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“ ... AND ONE FOR ALL,” – DUMAS, T3M

We now create a **set** partition $\pi \vdash [n]$ from an **integer** partition $\lambda \vdash n$ where

$$\lambda(\pi) = \lambda$$

using tableaux T_π of shape λ such that

- every element $1, 2, \dots, n$ appears exactly once
- rows increase left to right
- first column of rows of same length increase top to bottom.

rows \longleftrightarrow blocks

EXAMPLE

$$T_\pi = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline 1 & 3 & 4 \\ \hline 2 & 5 & \\ \hline 7 & 8 & \\ \hline 6 & & \\ \hline \end{array} \longleftrightarrow \pi = 134/25/78/6$$

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We now create a permutation $\delta_\pi \in \mathfrak{S}_n$ using T_π .

read by row \longleftrightarrow one line notation

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“ ... AND ONE FOR ALL,” – DUMAS, T3M

DEFINITION

Let $\pi = B_1/B_2/\cdots/B_\ell$. Then the Schur function in NCSym is

$$s_\pi = \delta_\pi \circ s_{[\lambda(\pi)]} = \delta_\pi \circ \det \left(\frac{1}{(\lambda_i - i + j)!} h_{[\lambda_i - i + j]} \right)_{1 \leq i, j \leq \ell}.$$

EXAMPLE

If $\pi = 13/2$ then $T_\pi = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 1 & 3 \\ \hline 2 & \\ \hline \end{array}$ and $\delta_\pi = 132$.

$$s_{13/2} = 132 \circ s_{[21]} = 132 \circ \left(\frac{1}{2} h_{12/3} - \frac{1}{6} h_{123} \right) = \frac{1}{2} h_{13/2} - \frac{1}{6} h_{123}$$

A REFINED BASIS

THEOREM (ALINIAEIFARD-LI-VW 2022)

$$\text{NCSym}^n = \text{span}\{s_\pi : \pi \vdash [n]\} \quad \rho(s_\pi) = s_{\lambda(\pi)}$$

$$s_\lambda^{RS} = \sum_{\delta \in \mathfrak{S}_n} \delta \circ s_{[\lambda]}$$

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Note: $\delta \circ s_\pi \neq s_{\delta(\pi)}$ in general.

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THEOREM (ALINIAEIFARD-LI-VW 2022)

For $n \geq 5$ we have $n!$ different bases:

$$\text{NCSym}^n = \text{span}\{\delta \circ s_\pi : \pi \vdash [n]\} \quad \rho(\delta \circ s_\pi) = s_{\lambda(\pi)}$$

YOUNG TABLEAUX

A Young tableau (YT) t of shape λ is a filling with $1, 2, 3, \dots$ so each number appears exactly **once**.

We now create a permutation $\delta_t \in \mathfrak{S}_n$ using t .

read by row \longleftrightarrow one line notation

Then

$$s_t = \delta_t \circ s_{[\lambda]}.$$

EXAMPLE

$$t = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 2 & 1 \\ \hline 3 & \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \delta_t = 213$$

$$s_t = 213 \circ s_{[21]} = 213 \circ \left(\frac{1}{2} h_{12/3} - \frac{1}{6} h_{123} \right) = \frac{1}{2} h_{12/3} - \frac{1}{6} h_{123}$$

YOUNG TABLEAUX

The row-equivalence class $[t]$ of t consists of \tilde{t}

- same shape as t
- same set of row entries as t .

EXAMPLE

$$t = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 2 & 1 \\ \hline 3 & \\ \hline \end{array} \quad [t] = \left\{ \begin{array}{|c|c|}, \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 1 & 2 \\ \hline 3 & \\ \hline \end{array} \right\}$$
$$\delta_t = 213 \quad \delta_{\tilde{t}} = 123$$

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A TABLOID BASIS

The tabloid Schur function in NCSym is

$$s[t] = \sum_{\tilde{t}} s_{\tilde{t}}$$

where \tilde{t} and t are row equivalent.

EXAMPLE

$$s \left[\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 2 & 1 \\ \hline 3 & \\ \hline \end{array} \right] = 213 \circ s_{[21]} + 123 \circ s_{[21]}$$
$$= \frac{1}{2} h_{12/3} - \frac{1}{6} h_{123} + \frac{1}{2} h_{12/3} - \frac{1}{6} h_{123} = h_{12/3} - \frac{1}{3} h_{123}$$

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THEOREM (ALINIAEIFARD-LI-VW 2022)

We have basis

$$\text{NCSym}^n = \text{span}\{s_{[t]} : t \leftrightarrow \pi, \pi \vdash [n]\}.$$

If t has shape λ then

$$\rho(s_{[t]}) = \lambda! s_{\lambda}.$$

SPECHT MODULES

Given Young tableau t

$$e_t = \left(\sum_{\delta} \text{sgn}(\delta)\delta \right) \circ [t] \quad \mathbf{e}_t = \left(\sum_{\delta} \text{sgn}(\delta)\delta \right) \circ s[t]$$

where the sums are over all **column-stabilizers** of t that permute elements within each column.

Given partition λ we have **Specht module**; submodule of NCSym.

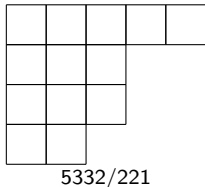
$$S^\lambda = \text{span}\{e_t : t \text{ has shape } \lambda\} \quad \mathbf{S}^\lambda = \text{span}\{\mathbf{e}_t : t \text{ has shape } \lambda\}$$

THEOREM (ALINIAEIFARD-LI-VW 2022)

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S^\lambda & \cong & \mathbf{S}^\lambda \\ e_t & \mapsto & \mathbf{e}_t \end{array}$$

SKEW DIAGRAMS

For $\lambda \vdash n, \mu \vdash m$ the skew diagram λ/μ is the array of $n - m$ boxes contained in λ but **not** in μ .



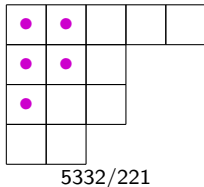
A skew shape λ/μ is a **ribbon** if it is

connected with no 2×2 square.

A ribbon can be denoted by row lengths α :

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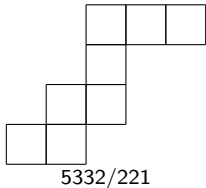
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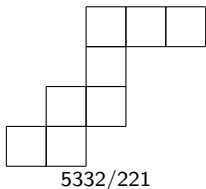
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A skew shape λ/μ is a **ribbon** if it is

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A ribbon can be denoted by row lengths α : **3122**.

SKEW SCHUR FUNCTIONS

Let $\lambda = \lambda_1 \lambda_2 \cdots \lambda_\ell$. Then the skew Schur function in Sym is

$$\begin{aligned} s_{\lambda/\mu} &= \det (h_{\lambda_i - \mu_j - i + j})_{1 \leq i, j \leq \ell} \\ &= \sum_{T \text{ SSYT of shape } \lambda/\mu} x^T \\ &= \sum_{\nu} c_{\mu\nu}^{\lambda} s_{\nu} \end{aligned}$$

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and the $c_{\mu\nu}^{\lambda}$ are the Littlewood-Richardson coefficients.

Let λ/μ be a ribbon α . Then the ribbon Schur function in Sym is

$$r_{\alpha} = s_{\lambda/\mu}.$$

SKEW SCHUR FUNCTIONS IN NONCOMMUTING VARIABLES

Let $\lambda = \lambda_1 \lambda_2 \cdots \lambda_\ell$. Then the source skew Schur function

$$s_{[\lambda/\mu]} = \mathbf{det} \left(\frac{1}{(\lambda_i - \mu_j - i + j)!} h_{[\lambda_i - \mu_j - i + j]} \right)_{1 \leq i, j \leq \ell}$$

and the skew Schur function in NCSym is

$$s_{(\delta, \lambda/\mu)} = \delta \circ s_{[\lambda/\mu]} = \delta \circ \mathbf{det} \left(\frac{1}{(\lambda_i - \mu_j - i + j)!} h_{[\lambda_i - \mu_j - i + j]} \right)_{1 \leq i, j \leq \ell}.$$

THEOREM (ALINIAEIFARD-LI-VW 2022)

$$\rho(s_{(\delta, \lambda/\mu)}) = s_{\lambda/\mu}$$

SKEW SCHUR FUNCTIONS IN NONCOMMUTING VARIABLES

$$\begin{aligned}
 s_{[22/1]} &= \mathbf{det} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{1!} h_1 & \frac{1}{3!} h_{123} \\ \frac{1}{0!} h_\emptyset & \frac{1}{2!} h_{12} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{1!} h_1 \frac{1}{2!} h_{12} - \frac{1}{3!} h_{123} \frac{1}{0!} h_\emptyset \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} h_{1|12} - \frac{1}{6} h_{123} = \frac{1}{2} h_{1/23} - \frac{1}{6} h_{123}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$s_{(132,22/1)} = 132 \circ s_{[22/1]} = 132 \circ \left(\frac{1}{2} h_{1/23} - \frac{1}{6} h_{123} \right) = \frac{1}{2} h_{1/23} - \frac{1}{6} h_{123}$$

ROSAS-SAGAN SKEW SCHUR FUNCTIONS

The Rosas-Sagan skew Schur function in NCSym is

$$S_{\lambda/\mu}^{RS} = \sum_{\dot{T} \text{ DYT of shape } \lambda/\mu} x^{\dot{T}}.$$

THEOREM (ALINIAEIFARD-LI-VW 2022)

Let $\lambda \vdash n$ and $\mu \vdash m$.

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(S_{\lambda/\mu}^{RS}) &= (n-m)! s_{\lambda/\mu} \\ S_{\lambda/\mu}^{RS} &= \sum_{\delta \in \mathfrak{S}_{(n-m)}} s_{(\delta, \lambda/\mu)} \\ &= \sum_{\nu \vdash (n-m)} c_{\mu\nu}^{\lambda} S_{\nu}^{RS} \end{aligned}$$

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and the $c_{\mu\nu}^{\lambda}$ are the *Littlewood-Richardson coefficients*.

NONCOMMUTATIVE SYMMETRIC FUNCTIONS

Take the *noncommutative symmetric functions* (Gelfand-Krob-Lascoux-Leclerc-Thibon) with map \mathcal{J} (Bergeron-Reutenauer-Rosas-Zabrocki).

$$\mathcal{J} : \sum_{j_1 \leq j_2 \leq \dots \leq j_n} x_{j_1} x_{j_2} \cdots x_{j_n} \mapsto \frac{1}{n!} h_{[n]} \in \text{NCSym}$$

THEOREM (ALINIAEIFARD-LI-VW 2022)

For the immaculate function \mathfrak{S}_λ of Berg-Bergeron-Saliola-Serrano-Zabrocki

$$\mathcal{J}(\mathfrak{S}_\lambda) = s_{[\lambda]}.$$

For the noncommutative ribbon Schur function \mathbf{r}_α of Gelfand et al.

$$\mathcal{J}(\mathbf{r}_\alpha) = r_{[\alpha]}$$

the ribbon source Schur function: $r_{[\alpha]} = s_{[\lambda/\mu]}$.

FURTHER AVENUES

- Find **product** rules

$$s_\pi s_\sigma = \sum_{\tau} c_{\pi\sigma}^{\tau} s_{\tau}$$

$$s_{\lambda}^{RS} s_{\mu}^{RS} = \sum_{\nu} c_{\lambda\mu}^{\nu} s_{\nu}^{RS}.$$

- Find a **coproduct** rule

$$\Delta(s_\pi) = \sum_{\sigma, \tau} d_{\sigma\tau}^{\pi} s_{\sigma} \otimes s_{\tau}.$$

- **Generalize** s_π , for example to MacMahon symmetric functions.
- Find the **dual basis** to Schur functions in NCSym.
- **Relationship** to \mathbf{x} -basis of Bergeron-Hohlweg-Rosas-Zabrocki.

“NEVER FEAR QUARRELS, BUT SEEK HAZARDOUS
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Schur functions in noncommuting variables
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Thank you very much,
and a big thank you to the organizers for a wonderful conference!