

On an involution on the set of Littlewood-Richardson tableaux and the hidden commutativity

Olga Azenhas ¹

Departamento de Matemática
Universidade de Coimbra
3001-454 Coimbra, Portugal

14-7-2005

Abstract

We translate to the language of triangles with boundary [9] the involution presented in [3], [4], where the language of skew-tableaux has been used. This involution makes explicit, in a simple way, the commutativity of the Littlewood-Richardson rule.

In [4] the language of skew-tableaux is exclusively used to prove this symmetry. Although the description of the algorithm, using these combinatorial objects, is very simple and makes natural the commutativity of the Littlewood-Richardson rule, the language of triangles suits more the purpose to giving a shorter proof of the involution which exhibits the commutativity of the Littlewood-Richardson rule.

The motivation for this involution is easily understood in the language of the invariant factors of a product of integral matrices when the transposition of this product is considered. This matrix analogue follows from an appropriate decomposition of a product of integral matrices established by R. C. Thompson in [14].

Keywords: Littlewood-Richardson triangles, Littlewood-Richardson rule symmetries, combinatorics of integral matrices.

AMS Subject Classification: 05E10, 05E05, 15A18; 15A33

¹Work supported by FCT, CMUC/FCT

$k - 1$, for $k > 1$, which defines an a -decomposition of an LR triangle of type $[a, b, c]$. That is, given an LR triangle A of size k and type $[a, b, c]$, this operation defines, uniquely, a nested sequence $A = A^{(k)} \supseteq A^{(k-1)} \supseteq \dots \supseteq A^{(2)} \supseteq A^{(1)}$ of LR triangles, with $A^{(s)}$ of size s and type $[(a_1^{(s)}, \dots, a_s^{(s)}); (b_1, \dots, b_s); (c_1, \dots, c_s)]$, $s = 1, \dots, k$, and such that the sequence of partitions $a^{(s)} = (a_1^{(s)}, \dots, a_s^{(s)})$, $s = 1, \dots, k$, with $a^{(k)} = a$, satisfies

$$a_{i+1}^{(s+1)} \leq a_i^{(s)} \leq a_i^{(s+1)}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq s \leq k - 1. \quad (iv)$$

Furthermore, since the deletion operation can be performed backwards, we have also

$$b_{s-1} + \sum_{j=1}^{r-1} (a_j^{(s-1)} - a_j^{(s-2)}) \geq b_s + \sum_{j=1}^r (a_j^{(s)} - a_j^{(s-1)}), \quad r = 1, \dots, s - 1, \quad s = 2, \dots, k, \quad (v)$$

$$b_s + \sum_{j=1}^s (a_j^{(s)} - a_j^{(s-1)}) = c_s, \quad s = 1, \dots, k. \quad (vi)$$

(We put $a_1^{(0)} = 0$.)

This combinatorial deletion operation defines, uniquely, an a -decomposition of A . Thus, given an LR triangle A of type $[a, b, c]$, we may associate, uniquely, by means of this deletion operation, an LR triangle B of type $[b, a, c]$, defined by the a -decomposition of A . Moreover, applying to B this combinatorial deletion operation, we recover A .

Considering [14] we may assert:

Let X, Y and Z be k -square non-singular matrices, with entries in a local principal ideal domain, such that $AB = C$. Let p^{a_1}, \dots, p^{a_k} , p^{b_1}, \dots, p^{b_k} , and p^{c_1}, \dots, p^{c_k} be the invariant factors of X, Y and Z , respectively, where $a_1 \geq \dots \geq a_k$, $b_1 \geq \dots \geq b_k$ and $c_1 \geq \dots \geq c_k$. We may assume that:

- (i) X is lower triangular [X diagonal, $X = \text{diag}(p^{a_1}, \dots, p^{a_k})$];
- (ii) Y is diagonal, $Y = \text{diag}(p^{b_1}, \dots, p^{b_k})$ [Y upper triangular];
- (iii) $Z = [\gamma_{ij}]$ is lower triangular with $\gamma_{ii} = p^{c_i}$, $p^{c_i} | \gamma_{ij}$ for $i > j$, $1 \leq i \leq k$ [$Z = [\gamma_{ij}]$ is upper triangular with $\gamma_{ii} = p^{c_i}$, $p^{c_i} | \gamma_{ij}$, for $i < j$, $1 \leq i \leq k$] (the symbol " $|$ " denotes divisibility).

Denote by A the LR triangle of type $[a, b, c]$ realized by $XY = Z$. A is defined by the interlacing decomposition of b as follows. Put X diagonal and Y upper triangular. Let $X^{(k)} := X$, $Y^{(k)} := Y$, $Z^{(k)} := Z$ and $T^{(k)} := A$, and consider the sequence of product of matrices $X^{(s)}Y^{(s)} = Z^{(s)}$, $s = 1, \dots, k - 1$, obtained by deleting the $(s + 1)$ -th rows and columns of $X^{(s+1)}$, $Y^{(s+1)}$ and $Z^{(s+1)}$. That is, $X^{(s)}$, $Y^{(s)}$ and $Z^{(s)}$ are the s -leading submatrices in the first s rows of $X^{(s+1)}$, $Y^{(s+1)}$ and $Z^{(s+1)}$ respectively, for $s = 1, 2, \dots, k - 1$. Since X is in the triangular form, by the interlacing property relating the invariant factors of a matrix with those of a submatrix [11, 12, 13, 15], we obtain, for each $s \in \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$, one LR triangle $T^{(s)}$ of type $[(a_1, \dots, a_s); (b_1^{(s)}, \dots, b_s^{(s)}); (c_1, \dots, c_s)]$ realized by $X^{(s)}Y^{(s)} = Z^{(s)}$, where the sequence $b^{(s)} = (b_1^{(s)}, \dots, b_s^{(s)})$, $s = 1, \dots, k$, satisfies (i).

Now put X lower triangular and Y diagonal and consider the sequence of product of matrices $X^{(s)}Y^{(s)} = Z^{(s)}$, $s = 1, \dots, k - 1$, obtained by deleting the $(s + 1)$ -th rows and columns of $X^{(s+1)}$, $Y^{(s+1)}$ and $Z^{(s+1)}$. That is, $X^{(s)}$, $Y^{(s)}$ and $Z^{(s)}$ are the s -leading submatrices in the first s rows of $X^{(s+1)}$, $Y^{(s+1)}$ and $Z^{(s+1)}$ respectively, for $s = 1, 2, \dots, k - 1$. Again, since X is in the triangular form, by the interlacing property, we obtain, for each $s \in \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$, one LR triangle of type $[(a_1^{(s)}, \dots, a_s^{(s)}); (b_1, \dots, b_s); (c_1, \dots, c_s)]$ realized by $X^{(s)}Y^{(s)} = Z^{(s)}$, where

the sequence $a^{(s)} = (a_1^{(s)}, \dots, a_s^{(s)})$, $s = 1, \dots, k$, satisfies (iv). By transposition, the s -leading submatrices in the first s rows of $Y^t X^t = Z^t$ (transposing both sides of $XY = Z$), realize sequence of LR triangles of type $[(b_1, \dots, b_s); (a_1^{(s)}, \dots, a_s^{(s)}); (c_1, \dots, c_s)]$, $s = 1, \dots, k$, which defines a, unique, LR triangle B of type $[b, a, c]$. Thus the matrix meaning of our combinatorial involution, in the context of the invariant factors, is the transposition of a product of matrices.

Each triple $XY = Z$ of matrices realizes a unique pair (A, B) of LR triangles of types $[a, b, c]$ and $[b, a, c]$ respectively. The triangle A is defined by the sequence of triangles $T^{(s)}$, $s = 1, \dots, k$, realized by the sequence of matrices $X^{(s)}Y^{(s)} = Z^{(s)}$, $s = 1, \dots, k$, considering X diagonal and Y upper triangular. On the other hand, considering X lower triangular and Y diagonal, the matrix sequence $X^{(s)}Y^{(s)} = Z^{(s)}$, of s -leading submatrices in the first s rows of $XY = Z$, $s = 1, \dots, k$, realizes sequence of LR triangles of type $[(a_1^{(s)}, \dots, a_s^{(s)}); (b_1, \dots, b_s); (c_1, \dots, c_s)]$ where $a^{(s)}$ interlaces with $a^{(s+1)}$, for $s = 1, 2, \dots, k - 1$. We point out the analogy between this sequence of LR triangles of type $[(a_1^{(s)}, \dots, a_s^{(s)}); (b_1, \dots, b_s); (c_1, \dots, c_s)]$ and the sequence of LR triangles $A^{(s)}$, $s = 1, \dots, k$, with $A^{(k)} = A$ realized by $XY = Z$, achieved by means of a combinatorial deletion operation, which decomposes a into a sequence of interlacing partitions.

Therefore, if Pak-Vallejo Conjecture 1 in [10] is true, this means that the bijections ρ_1 , ρ_2 , ρ'_2 and the one presented here (denoted by ρ_3 in [10]) have a matrix analogue. In [5] is shown that symmetries ρ_1 , ρ_2 , and ρ'_2 coincide.

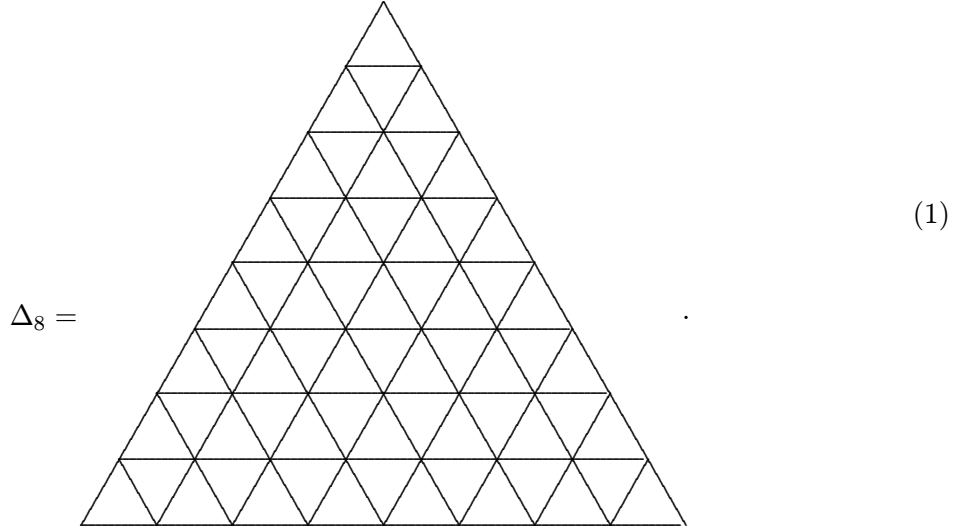
2 The space of triangles and the hive graph

Let k be a positive integer. Let T_k be the space of triangles of size k [7] consisting of all sequences

$$A = (V^{(0)}, V^{(1)}, \dots, V^{(k)}),$$

where $V^{(j)} = (a_{jj}, \dots, a_{kj}) \in \mathbb{R}^{k-j+1}$, $0 \leq j \leq k$, and $a_{00} = 0$. As a vector space $T_k \simeq \mathbb{R}^{\frac{(k+1)(k+2)}{2}-1}$.

The hive graph Δ_k of size k is a graph in the plane with $\binom{k+2}{2}$ vertices arranged in a triangular grid, consisting of k^2 small equilateral triangles.



We identify T_k with the vector space of all labelling $A = (a_{ij})_{0 \leq j \leq i \leq k}$ of Δ_k by real numbers such that $a_{00} = 0$.

We write $A \in T_k$ as a triangular array of real numbers

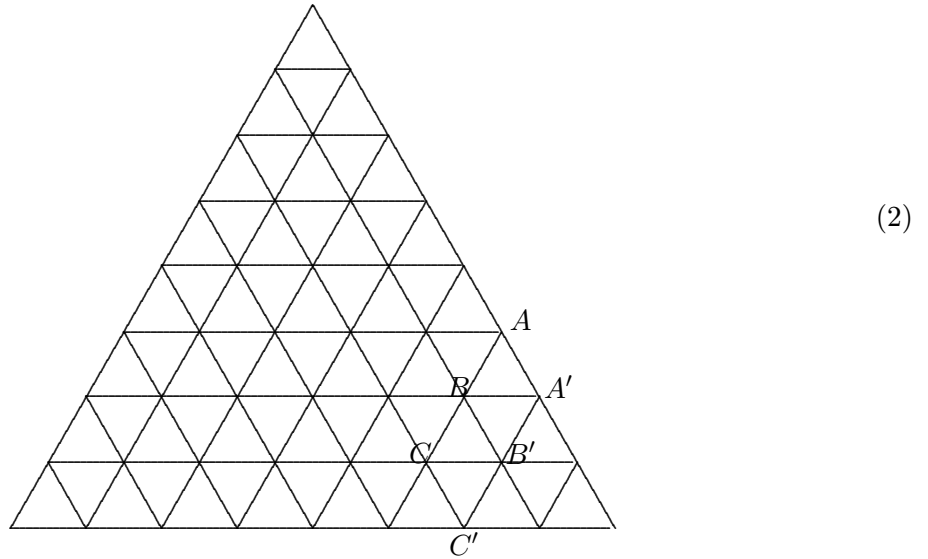
$$A = \begin{array}{cccc} & & a_{00} & & \\ & & a_{10} & a_{11} & \\ & a_{20} & a_{21} & a_{22} & \\ a_{30} & a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} & \end{array} \in T_3.$$

A Littlewood-Richardson (**LR**) triangle of size k [9] is an element $A = (a_{ij})_{0 \leq j \leq i \leq k}$ of T_k that satisfies the following inequalities

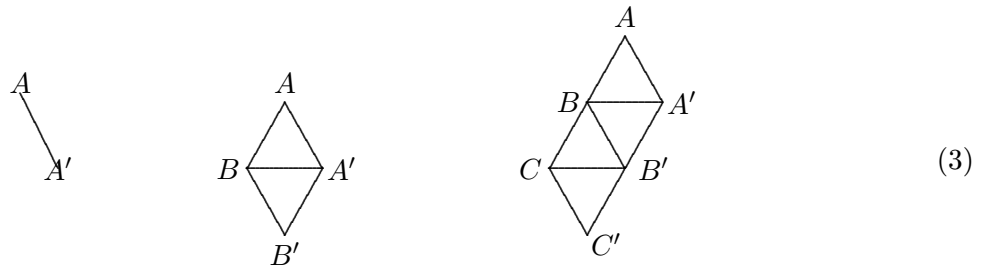
$$\begin{aligned} (P) \quad & a_{ij} \geq 0, & 0 \leq i, j \leq k, \\ (I) \quad & \sum_{q=j}^i a_{qj} \geq \sum_{q=j+1}^{i+1} a_{q,j+1}, & 1 \leq j \leq i < k, \\ (S) \quad & \sum_{p=0}^{j-1} a_{ip} \geq \sum_{p=0}^j a_{i+1,p}, & 1 \leq j \leq i < k. \end{aligned}$$

For each $j = 1, \dots, k-1$, we consider, in Δ_k (2), the labelled parallelogram $\mathbf{p}_j = [a_{jj}, \dots, a_{k-1,j}, V^{(j+1)}]$. (We convention $\mathbf{p}_{k-1} = [a_{k-1,k-1}, a_{kk}]$ as a degenerated parallelogram.) The labels of parallelograms \mathbf{p}_j , $1 \leq j \leq k-1$, satisfy inequalities (I).

For $k = 8$, we have the parallelogram $\mathbf{p}_5 = [ABC; A'B'C']$ in Δ_8



where the labels of

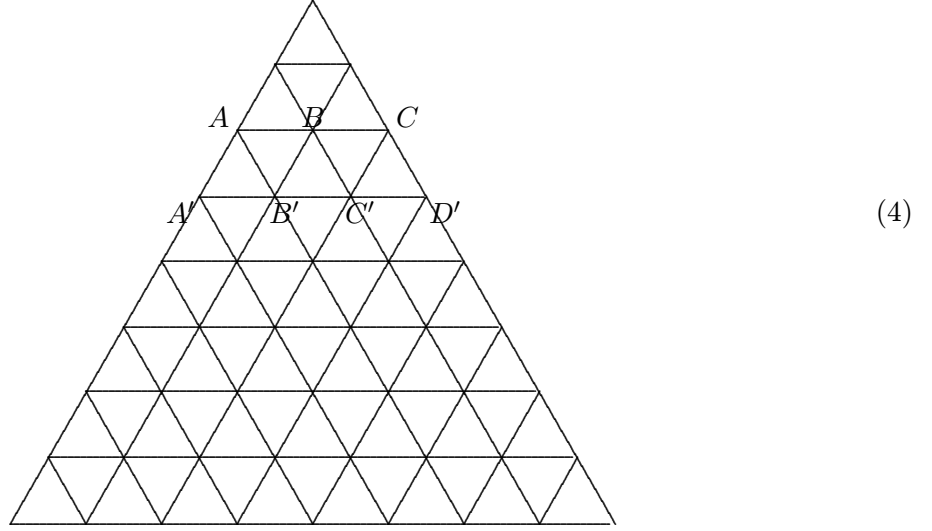


satisfy the inequalities

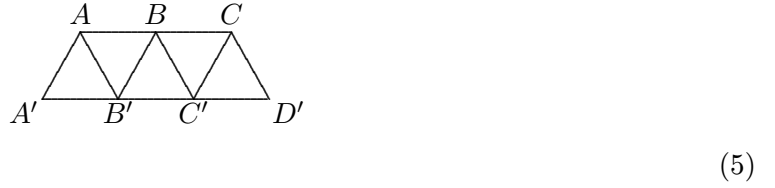
$$\begin{aligned} A &\geq A' \\ A + B &\geq A' + B' \\ A + B + C &\geq A' + B' + C'. \end{aligned}$$

For $i = 1, \dots, k-1$, we consider the labelled trapezoids $\mathbf{t}_i = [a_{i0}, a_{i1}, \dots, a_{ii}; a_{i+10}, a_{i+11}, \dots, a_{i+1, i+1}]$ in Δ_k (4). The labels of \mathbf{t}_j , $1 \leq j < k$, satisfy inequalities (S).

For $k = 8$, we have the trapezoid $\mathbf{t}_2 = [ABC; A'B'C'D']$ in Δ_8



The labels of



satisfy

$$\begin{aligned} A &\geq A' + B', \\ A + B &\geq A' + B' + C', \\ A + B + C &\geq A' + B' + C' + D'. \end{aligned}$$

We denote by LR_k the cone of all Littlewood-Richardson triangles in T_k , and call it the Littlewood-Richardson cone of order k .

To each triangle $A = (a_{ij})_{0 \leq j \leq i \leq k} \in T_k$ we associate the real vectors $a = (a_1, \dots, a_k)$, $b = (b_1, \dots, b_k)$ and $c = (c_1, \dots, c_k)$, where

$$\begin{aligned} a_i &= a_{i0}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq k \\ b_j &= \sum_{q=j}^k a_{qj}, \quad 1 \leq j \leq k \\ c_i &= \sum_{q=0}^i a_{iq}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq k. \end{aligned}$$

We call (a, b, c) the *type* of A , b the *weight* of A , and a the *boundary* of T_k . Note that a is the label of the right edge of the hive graph Δ_k .

Let x be a real vector, and denote by $|x|$ the sum of its entries. If $A \in LR_k$, it follows from (P), (S) and (I) that the vectors a , b , and c satisfy $a_1 \geq \dots \geq a_k \geq 0$, $b_1 \geq \dots \geq b_k \geq 0$, $c_1 \geq \dots \geq c_k \geq 0$, and $|a| + |b| = |c|$, $a \leq c$.

We denote by $LR_k(a, b, c)$ the set of all **LR** triangles in T_k of type (a, b, c) .

For example, the triangle below is in LR_4 with type given by $a = (5, 3, 2, 0)$, $b = (5, 4, 2, 1)$ and $c = (8, 6, 5, 3)$

$$\begin{array}{cccccc} & & & & & 0 \\ & & & & & 5 & 3 \\ & & & & & 3 & 1 & 2 & . \\ & & & & & 2 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ & & & & & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{array}$$

Let $LR_k(\mathbb{Z}) := LR_k \cap \mathbb{Z}^{\frac{(k+1)(k+2)}{2}-1}$ be the set of all integral **LR** triangles of size k , that is, the set of integer points of LR_k . Since LR_k is a rational polyhedral cone, $LR_k(\mathbb{Z})$ is a finitely generated semigroup and the cone generated by $LR_k(\mathbb{Z})$ is LR_k .

Let P_k denote the set of all k -tuples $x = (x_1, \dots, x_k)$ of nonnegative integers such that $x_1 \geq \dots \geq x_k \geq 0$.

Let a, b, c partitions in P_k such that $a \leq c$ and $|a| + |b| = |c|$. To each Littlewood-Richardson triangle \mathcal{T} of type (a, b, c) , we associate an integral Littlewood-Richardson triangle $A = (a_{ij})_{0 \leq j \leq i \leq k} \in T_k$ defined by

$$\begin{aligned} a_{00} &= 0, \quad a_{i0} = a_i, \quad 1 \leq i \leq k, \\ a_{ij} &\text{ the number of } j\text{'s in row } i \text{ of } \mathcal{T}, \quad 0 < j \leq i \leq k. \end{aligned}$$

For example,

$$\mathcal{T} = \begin{array}{cccccc} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 2 & & \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 3 & 3 & & & \\ 1 & 2 & 4 & & & & & \end{array} \longleftrightarrow A_{\mathcal{T}} = \begin{array}{cccccc} & & & & & & & 0 \\ & & & & & & & 5 & 3 \\ & & & & & & & 3 & 1 & 2 & . \\ & & & & & & & 2 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ & & & & & & & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{array}$$

Proposition 1 [9] *Let a, b, c partitions in P_k such that $|c| = |a| + |b|$ and $a \leq c$. Then the correspondence $\mathcal{T} \longleftrightarrow A_{\mathcal{T}}$ is a bijection between $LR_k(a, b, c) \cap \mathbb{Z}^{\frac{(k+1)(k+2)}{2}-1}$ and the set of all LR-skew tableaux of type (a, b, c) . In particular, $|LR_k(a, b, c) \cap \mathbb{Z}^{\frac{(k+1)(k+2)}{2}-1}| = N_{ab}^c$.*

3 Triangles with 0-boundary by excavation of a partition

We write $A = (0; a_{ij})_{1 \leq j \leq i \leq k} \in T_k$ when the right edge of Δ_k is labelled by the null vector, that is, $a_{i0} = 0$, $1 \leq i \leq k$.

Definition 1 *Let $b = (b_1, \dots, b_k) \in P_k$. A nonnegative integral triangle $A = (0; a_{ij}) \in T_k$, of weight b , is an excavation of b if*

$$\begin{aligned} b_i - a_{ki} &\geq b_{i+1}, \quad 1 \leq i < k \\ b_i - \sum_{j=k}^s a_{ji} &\geq b_{i+1} - \sum_{j=k}^{s+1} a_{ji+1}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq s < k. \end{aligned}$$

An excavation of $b = (b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4)$ may be seen as a decomposition of b . Put $b := b^{(4)}$ and split b into a sequence of partitions

$$\begin{aligned} b^{(4)} &:= (b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4 = a_{44}) \\ b^{(3)} &= (b_1 - a_{41}, b_2 - a_{42}, b_3 - a_{43} = a_{33}) \\ b^{(2)} &= (b_1^{(3)} - a_{31}, b_2^{(3)} - a_{32} = a_{22}) \\ b^{(1)} &= (b_1^{(2)} - a_{21} = a_{11}), \end{aligned}$$

as shown in the following sequence of arrays

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & & 0 & & & & 0 \\ & & 0 & b_1^{(4)} & & & 0 \\ & 0 & & b_2^{(4)} & & & 0 \\ & 0 & & b_3^{(4)} & & & 0 \\ 0 & & & b_4^{(4)} & & & 0 \end{array} \longrightarrow \begin{array}{ccccccc} & & 0 & & & & 0 \\ & & 0 & b_1^{(3)} & & & 0 \\ & 0 & & b_2^{(3)} & & & 0 \\ & 0 & & b_3^{(3)} & & & 0 \\ 0 & & & a_{41} & a_{42} & a_{43} & a_{44} \end{array} \longrightarrow \begin{array}{ccccccc} & & 0 & & & & 0 \\ & & 0 & b_1^{(2)} & & & 0 \\ & 0 & & b_2^{(2)} & & & 0 \\ & 0 & a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} & & 0 \\ 0 & a_{41} & a_{42} & a_{43} & a_{44} & & 0 \end{array} \longrightarrow \begin{array}{ccccccc} & & 0 & & & & 0 \\ & & 0 & & a_{11} & & 0 \\ & 0 & & a_{21} & a_{22} & & 0 \\ & 0 & a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} & & 0 \\ 0 & a_{41} & a_{42} & a_{43} & a_{44} & & 0 \end{array} \quad (6)$$

That is,

$$\begin{aligned} b_{i+1}^{(4)} \leq b_i^{(3)} \leq b_i^{(4)}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq 3, \\ b_{i+1}^{(3)} \leq b_i^{(2)} \leq b_i^{(3)}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq 2, \\ b_2^{(2)} \leq b_1^{(1)} \leq b_1^{(2)}, \end{aligned} \quad \text{schematically} \quad \begin{array}{ccccccc} & & & & b_1^{(1)} & & \\ & & & & b_1^{(2)} & & b_2^{(2)} \\ & & & & b_1^{(3)} & & b_2^{(3)} \\ & & & & b_1^{(4)} & & b_2^{(4)} \\ & & & & b_2^{(4)} & & b_3^{(4)} \\ & & & & & & b_3^{(3)} \\ & & & & & & b_4^{(4)} \end{array},$$

or equivalently

$$\begin{aligned} a_{11} + a_{21} + a_{31} &\geq a_{22} + a_{32} + a_{42} \geq 0 \\ a_{11} + a_{21} &\geq a_{22} + a_{32} \geq a_{33} + a_{43} \geq 0 \\ a_{11} &\geq a_{22} \geq a_{33} \geq a_{44} \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Proposition 2 Let $b = (b_1, \dots, b_k) \in P_k$. Let $A = (0; a_{ij})_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq k}$ be a nonnegative integral triangle in T_k of boundary 0 and weight b . The following conditions are equivalent:

- (a) A is an excavation of b .
- (b) A satisfy the interlacing inequalities (I), that is,

$$\sum_{q=j}^i a_{qj} \geq \sum_{q=j+1}^{i+1} a_{q,j+1}, \quad 1 \leq j \leq i \leq k.$$

- (c) b has a decomposition into a sequence of interlacing partitions $b^{(j)} \in P_j$, $1 \leq j \leq k$, with $b^{(k)} = b$,

$$b_{i+1}^{(j+1)} \leq b_i^{(j)} \leq b_i^{(j+1)}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq j \leq k-1.$$

Proof: A is an excavation of b iff b has a decomposition into a sequence of interlacing partitions $b^{(j)} \in P_j$, $1 \leq j \leq k$, with $b^{(k)} = b$, $b_{i+1}^{(j+1)} \leq b_i^{(j)} \leq b_i^{(j+1)}$, $1 \leq i \leq j \leq k-1$, where

$$b^{(j)} = (b_1^{(j+1)} - a_{j+1,1}, b_2^{(j+1)} - a_{j+1,2}, \dots, a_{j+1,j+1}), \quad 1 \leq j \leq k.$$

This is equivalent to

$$b_s^{(j)} - a_{js} = \sum_{q=s}^{j-1} a_{qs} \geq b_{s+1}^{(j+1)} - a_{j+1,s+1} = \sum_{q=s+1}^j a_{q,s+1}, \quad 1 \leq j \leq s \leq k.$$

■

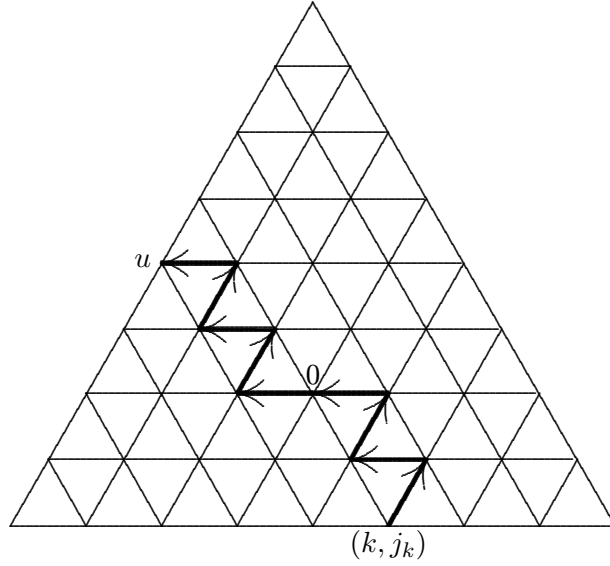
Given a partition b in P_k , this proposition shows that the triangles of size k obtained by excavation of b are exactly the triangles of weight b with 0-boundary satisfying inequalities (I); and may be identified with a decomposition of b into a sequence of interlacing partitions.

4 Deletion and insertion routes of LR triangles

Let $A \in LR_k$.

- A walk π_\uparrow in the hive graph Δ_k

$$(k, j_k) \rightarrow (k-1, j_k) \rightarrow (k-1, j_{k-1}) \rightarrow (k-2, j_{k-1}) \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow (u, j_{u+1}) \rightarrow (u, 0),$$



with $k > j_k > j_{k-1} > \dots > j_{u+1} > j_u = 0$, such that

$$\begin{aligned} a_{sj_s} &> 0, \quad s = k, \dots, u, \\ a_{sx} &= 0, \quad j_s < x < j_{s+1}, \quad s \in \{u, \dots, k-1\}, \end{aligned}$$

is called an *deletion route* of A . The vertices (k, j_k) and $(u, 0)$ are called the *initial and final vertices of the route*, respectively. Clearly, and $k-1 \geq u \geq k-j_k > 0$.

Do there exist always a deletion route of $A \in LR_k$ for each bottom vertex (k, j) in Δ_k , $1 \leq j \leq k - 1$, with non zero label?

There is one and only one deletion route of A with initial vertex (k, j) . The uniqueness is clear from the definition of deletion route. To prove the existence suppose that for some bottom vertex (k, j_k) in Δ_k , with $1 \leq j_k \leq k - 1$, with non zero label, we had, at a certain point of the route, $a_{qj} = 0$, $0 \leq j < j_{q+1}$, with $a_{k,j_k}, \dots, a_{q+1,j_{q+1}} > 0$. Then, as $a_{q+1,j_{q+1}} > 0$, the trapezoid \mathbf{p}_q wouldn't satisfy the (S) inequalities.

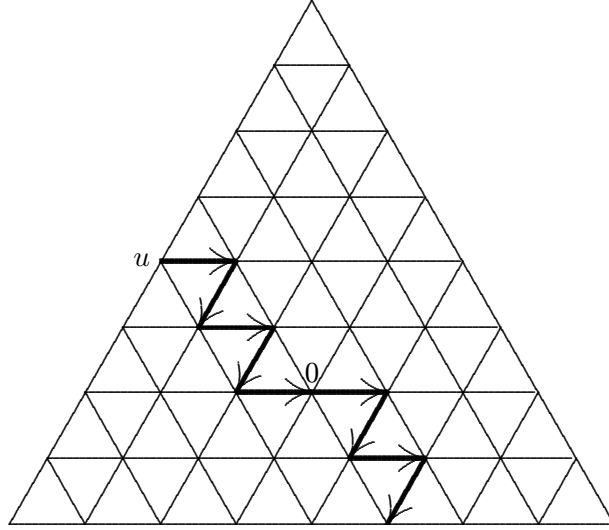
Given a bottom vertex (k, r) , there exists a unique deletion route π_\uparrow of $A \in LR_k$, thus we associate the deletion route triangle $\Pi_\uparrow = (p_{ij}) \in T_k$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} p_{sj_{s+1}} &= 1, \quad s \in \{u, \dots, k-1\} \\ p_{sj_s} &= -1, \quad s \in \{u, \dots, k\} \\ &0, \text{ otherwise.} \end{aligned}$$

The map $(A, \Pi_\uparrow) \rightarrow A + \Pi_\uparrow = (a_{ij} + p_{ij})$ defines a *deletion operation* on A .

- A walk π_\downarrow in the hive graph Δ_k

$$(k, j_k) \leftarrow (k-1, j_k) \leftarrow (k-1, j_{k-1}) \leftarrow \dots \leftarrow (u+1, j_{u+1}) \leftarrow (u, j_{u+1}) \leftarrow (u, 0),$$



with $k > j_k > j_{k-1} > \dots > j_{u+1} > j_u = 0$, such that

$$\begin{aligned} a_{u-1} &\geq a_u + 1, \quad u > 1, \\ a_{sj_{s+1}} &> 0, \quad s = k-1, \dots, u, \\ a_{sx} &= 0, \quad j_s < x < j_{s+1}, \quad s \in \{u, \dots, k-1\}, \end{aligned}$$

is called an *insertion route* of A . The vertices $(u, 0)$ and (k, j_k) are called the *initial and final vertices of the route*, respectively. Clearly, $k-1 \geq u \geq k-j_k > 0$.

Given $1 \leq u \leq k-1$, unlike the deletion route, we haven't always an insertion route with initial vertex $(u, 0)$ such that $a_{u-1} \geq a_u + 1$, $u > 1$. Clearly if there exists an insertion route

of A with initial vertex $(u, 0)$, that route is unique and the final vertex is uniquely determined by u and A . For example, the LR_3 triangle

$$\begin{array}{cccc} & & 0 & & \\ & & 2 & 1 & \\ & 2 & 0 & 0 & \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & \end{array}$$

has no insertion route with initial vertex $(1, 0)$, but has a deletion route with initial vertex $(3, 2)$ and final vertex $(1, 0)$.

In fact, there exists an insertion route of $A \in LR_k$ with initial vertex $(u, 0)$ iff $a_{u-1} \geq a_u + 1$, $u > 1$, and there exists a sequence of vertices (s, j_{s+1}) in Δ_k , with $j_s < j_{s+1} \leq s$, such that $a_{s, j_{s+1}} > 0$, $s = u, \dots, k-1$. Clearly, if $a_{k-1, k-1} > 0$ and $a_{u-1} \geq a_u + 1$, $u > 1$, there exists always an insertion route of $A \in LR_k$ with initial vertex $(u, 0)$.

Given the insertion route π_\downarrow , we associate the insertion route triangle $\Pi_\downarrow = (p_{ij}) \in T_k$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} p_{sj_{s+1}} &= -1, \quad s \in \{u, \dots, k-1\} \\ p_{sj_s} &= 1, \quad s \in \{u, \dots, k\} \\ &0, \text{ otherwise.} \end{aligned}$$

The map $(A, \Pi_\downarrow) \rightarrow A + \Pi_\downarrow = (a_{ij} + p_{ij})$ defines an *insertion operation* on A .

Note that the triangles Π_\uparrow and Π_\downarrow have weight 0 and, respectively, types $(-e_u, 0, -e_k)$ and $(e_u, 0, e_k)$ (e_i denotes, as usual, the elementary vector with 1 in entry i and zero elsewhere).

When we are referring indistinctly to a walk corresponding either to a deletion or insertion route, we drop the arrows.

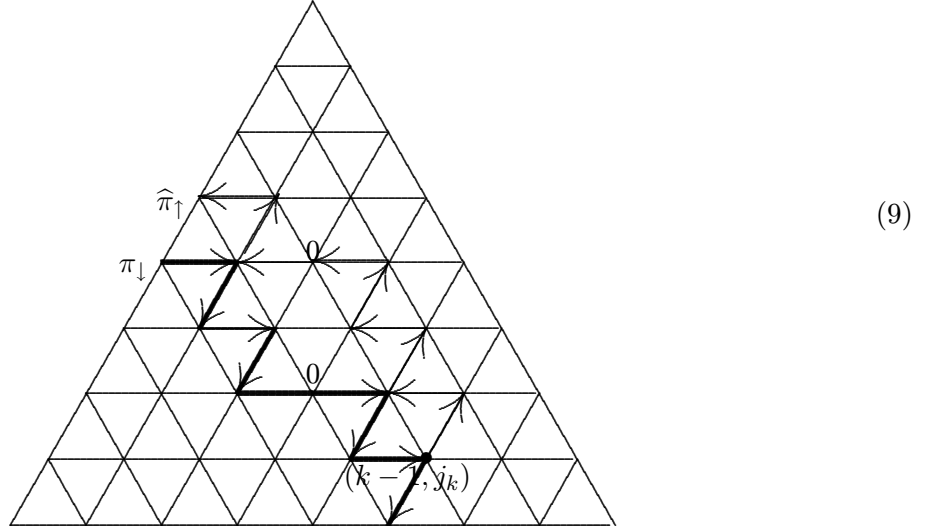
Definition 2 Given two walks π and $\hat{\pi}$ in Δ_k with, respectively, bottom and top vertices (k, r) , (\hat{k}, \hat{r}) , and $(u, 0)$, $(\hat{u}, 0)$. We say that $\hat{\pi}$ is to the right of π if

(i) either $k = \hat{k}$ and $\hat{r} > r$ or $k > \hat{k}$ and the vertices (\hat{k}, j) , $(\hat{k}, j+x)$, $x > 1$, of π satisfy $\hat{r} \geq j+x$;

(ii) (h, j) , $(h, j+x)$, $x \geq 1$ are vertices of π , with $h > \hat{k}$, then (h, \hat{j}) , $(h, \hat{j}+y)$, $y \geq 1$, are vertices of $\hat{\pi}$, such that $\hat{j} \geq j+x$.

By symmetry, we say that π is to the left of $\hat{\pi}$.

Clearly, if $\hat{\pi}$ is to the right of π then $\hat{u} < u$.



The walk $\hat{\pi}_\downarrow$, restricted to Δ_7 , is to the right of $\hat{\pi}_\uparrow$.

Proposition 3 *Let $A \in LR_k$, with $k \geq 3$, and π_\downarrow an insertion route of A with initial vertex $(u, 0)$ and final vertex (k, j_k) , where $1 \leq j_k \leq k - 2$. Then there exists a deletion route $\hat{\pi}_\uparrow$ in the restriction of A to Δ_{k-1} , with initial vertex $(k - 1, j_k)$ and final vertex $(v, 0)$ such that $u > v \geq 1$.*

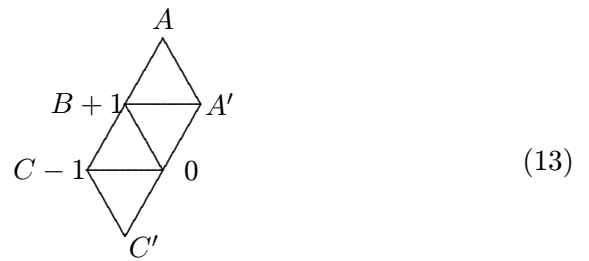
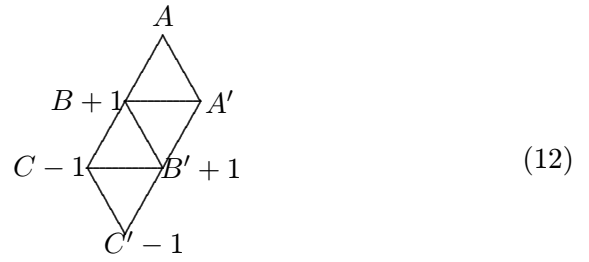
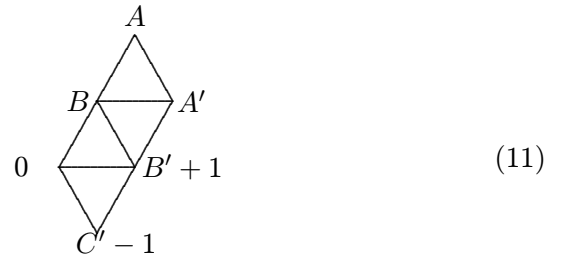
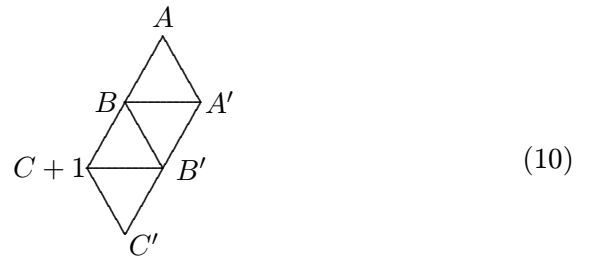
Proof: The vertices $(k - 1, j_k), (k - 2, j_{k-1}), \dots, (u + 1, j_{u+2}), (u, j_{u+1})$ of π_\downarrow have positive labels. Therefore there exists a deletion route $\hat{\pi}_\uparrow$ with initial vertex $(k - 1, j_k)$ to the right of π_\downarrow and henceforth with final vertex at $(v, 0)$, with $u > v$. ■

We have showed that for each insertion route of $A \in LR_k$, $k \geq 3$, with final vertex $1 \leq j_k \leq k - 2$, there exists to its right a deletion route in the restriction of A to Δ_{k-1} .

By symmetry for each deletion route in the restriction of A to Δ_{k-1} , there exists to its left an insertion route of A , with final vertex $1 \leq j_k \leq k - 2$.

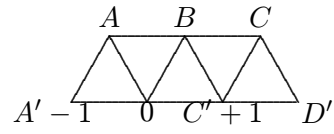
Proposition 4 *Let $A \in LR_k$ of type (a, b, c) . If π_\uparrow is a deletion route of A with final vertex $(u, 0)$, and Π_\uparrow its triangle, then $A + \Pi_\uparrow \in LR_k$ and is of type $(a - e_u, b, c - e_k)$.*

Proof: As the deletion route (7) traverses Δ_k , the labels of the parallelograms \mathbf{p} of A might change according the following situations

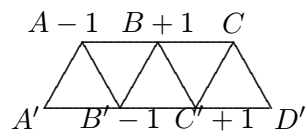


Clearly the labels of these parallelograms still satisfy inequalities (I), and therefore $A + \Pi_{\uparrow}$ satisfy inequalities (I).

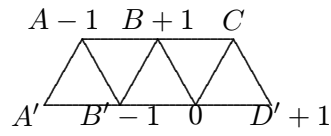
Similarly, as the deletion route (7) traverses Δ_k , the labels of the trapezoids t of A might change according to the following situations



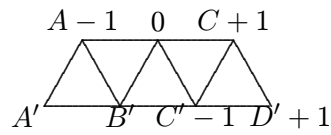
(14)



(15)



(16)



(17)

$$A \geq A' + B' + C', \quad C' > 0 \Rightarrow A > A' + B' \Rightarrow A - 1 \geq A' + B'.$$

Clearly, the (S) inequalities are still satisfied by these trapezoids. ■

This proposition shows that deletion operation preserve parallelogram and trapezoid inequalities.

As usual, let $e_j \in \mathbb{Z}^n$, $1 \leq j \leq n$, be the integral vector with j -entry equals 1 and 0 elsewhere.

Lemma 1 *Let $A \in LR_k$ of type (a, b, c) . Let $0 < s \leq r < k$ such that $a_{ks}, a_{kr} > 0$ (if $s = r$ put $a_{kr} > 1$). Let $\Pi_{\uparrow}^{(r)}$ be the deletion route triangle of A with initial vertex (k, r) , and $\Pi_{\uparrow}^{(s)}$ the deletion route triangle of $A + \Pi_{\uparrow}^{(r)}$ with initial vertex (k, s) .*

Then $A + \Pi_{\uparrow}^{(r)} \in LR_k$ is of type $(x^{(1)}, b, c - e_k)$, $A + \Pi_{\uparrow}^{(r)} + \Pi_{\uparrow}^{(s)} \in LR_k$ is of type $(x^{(2)}, b, c - 2e_k)$, where $x^{(i)}$ interlaces with a , for $1 \leq i \leq 2$.

Proof: If $(u, 0)$ is the final vertex of the deletion route of A with initial vertex (k, r) , then, as $s \leq r$, if $(v, 0)$ is the final vertex of the deletion route of $A + \Pi_{\uparrow}^{(r)}$ with initial vertex (k, s) , we have $v \geq u$. Therefore $x^{(1)} = a - e_u$ with $a_u - 1 \geq a_{u+1}$, and $x^{(2)} = a - e_u - e_v$, either with $a_u - 2 \geq a_{u+1}$, if $v = u$, or with $a_u - 1 \geq a_{u+1} \geq a_v \geq a_v - 1 \geq a_{v+1}$, otherwise. Therefore, $a - e_u$ and $a - e_u - e_v$ interlace with a . ■

Let $A \in LR_k$ of type (a, b, c) . Let $\alpha_k := c_k - a_{k0} - a_{kk}$. Put $r_0 = 0$ and define recursively, for $s = 1, \dots, \alpha_k$, $\Pi_{\uparrow}^{(r_s)}$ the triangle of the deletion route of $A + \sum_{i=1}^{r_s} \Pi_{\uparrow}^{(r_i)} \in LR_k$ with initial vertex (k, r_s) such that a_{k, r_s} is the rightmost non zero label, with $r_s < k$. By induction on α_k , we conclude that the triangle $A + \sum_{i=1}^{r_s} \Pi_{\uparrow}^{(r_i)}$ in LR_k of type $(x^{(s)}, b, c - se_k)$ is such that $x^{(s)}$ interlaces with a , for $1 \leq s \leq \alpha_k$.

Let $A_{\uparrow}^{(k-1)} \in LR_{k-1}$ of type $(a^{(k-1)}; (b_1, \dots, b_{k-1}); (c_1, \dots, c_{k-1}))$ with $a^{(k-1)} := x^{(\alpha_k)}$, be the triangle obtained from $X^{(\alpha_k)}$ deleting the $(k-1)$ -th row. Repeating the previous process with $A_{\uparrow}^{(k-1)}$ we obtain $A_{\uparrow}^{(k-2)} \in LR_{k-2}$ of type $(a^{(k-2)}; (b_1, \dots, b_{k-2}); (c_1, \dots, c_{k-2}))$, eventually we obtain $A_{\uparrow}^{(1)} \in LR_1$ of type $(a^{(0)}, b_1, c_1)$. Therefore, as shown in (6), the sequence $(a^{(s)})_{s=1}^k$ define a triangle $(0, Y) \in T_k$ by excavation of a .

Note that since the final vertex $(u, 0)$ of a deletion route of A with initial vertex (k, r) satisfies $k > u \geq k - r$, the triangles A and $(0, Y)$ are such that $Y = (y_{ij})_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq k}$ satisfy

$$(y_{s1}, \dots, y_{s, s-1}) \preceq (a_{s, s-1}, \dots, a_{s1}), \quad s = 2, \dots, k.$$

(\preceq denotes majorization). Let $k \geq 2$, for $s = 2, \dots, k$, we call $(y_{s1}, \dots, y_{s, s-1})$ the s -deletion sequence of A .

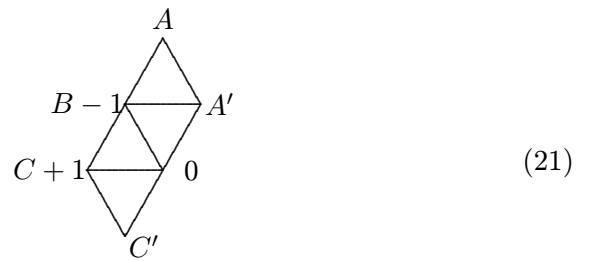
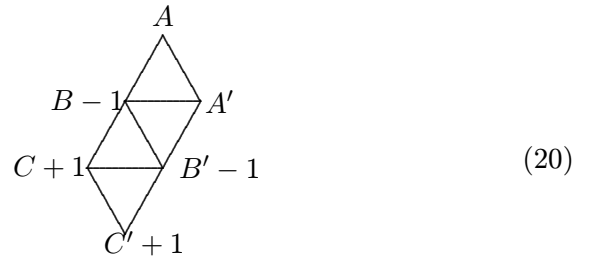
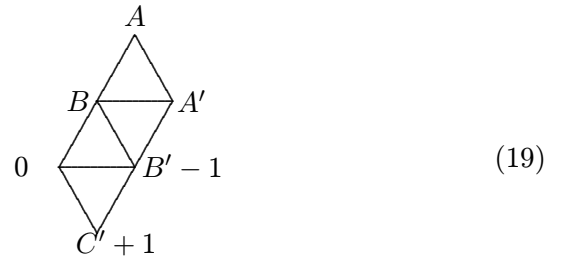
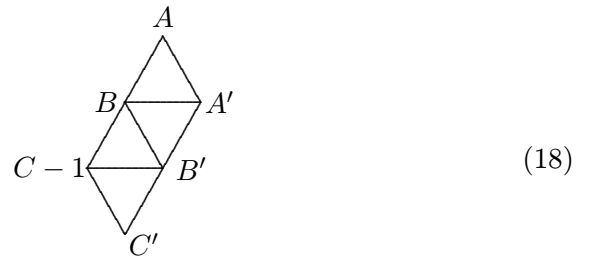
Next we shall prove that $T = (b, Y) \in LR_k$ of type (b, a, c) .

Lemma 2 *Let $A \in LR_{k+1}$ of type (a, b, c) such that $a_{kr} > 0$, with $1 \leq r \leq k$. If π_{\downarrow} is an insertion route of A with initial vertex $(u, 0)$ and final vertex $(k+1, r)$ such that $a_{u-1} > a_u + 1$, and Π_{\downarrow} its triangle, then $A + \Pi_{\downarrow} \in LR_{k+1}$ and is of type $(a + e_u, b, c + e_k)$, if and only if*

$$\sum_{i=r}^k a_{ir} \geq \sum_{i=r+1}^{k+1} a_{ir+1} + 1.$$

In particular, if $r = k$, we have $a_{kk} \geq a_{k+1, k+1} + 1$, and if $a_{k+1, r+1} = 0$, we have always $\sum_{i=r}^k a_{ir} \geq \sum_{i=r+1}^k a_{ir+1} + 1$.

Proof: As the insertion route (8) traverses Δ_k , the labels of the parallelograms \mathbf{t} of A might change according to the following situations



Situation (18) implies

$$\sum_{i=r}^k a_{ir} \geq \sum_{i=r+1}^{k+1} a_{ir+1} + 1.$$

But if $C' = 0$, then $A + B \geq A' + B'$ implies trivially $A + B + C \geq A' + B' + C' + 1$.

In the case of the degenerated parallelogram $[a_{kk} ; a_{k+1,k+1}]$ we have $a_{kk} \geq a_{k+1,k+1} + 1$.

The trapezoid inequalities can be easily checked, reversing the signs $+1$ and -1 in situations (14, 15, 16, 17). ■

This lemma shows that trapezoid inequalities are always preserved by insertion operations, but the preservation of parallelogram inequalities requires additional conditions.

Proposition 5 *Let $A \in LR_{k+1}$ such that $a_{k+1,j} = 0$, $1 \leq j \leq k$, and $(y_{k1}, \dots, y_{kk-1})$ its k -deletion sequence. Let $1 \leq u \leq k$ and $m > 0$. Then, for $i = 1, \dots, m$, $\pi_{\downarrow}^{(u;r_i)}$ is an insertion route of $A + \sum_{s=1}^{i-1} \Pi_{\downarrow}^{(u;r_s)} \in LR_{k+1}$, with initial vertex $(u, 0)$, and final vertex $(k+1, r_i)$, such that $A + \sum_{i=1}^m \Pi_{\downarrow}^{(u;r_i)} \in LR_{k+1}$ iff*

$$a_{kk} + \sum_{j=1}^{u-1} y_{kj} \geq a_{k+1,k+1} + m. \quad (22)$$

In particular, if $u = 1$, $a_{k,k} \geq a_{k+1,k+1} + m$. We call m an u -insertion number of $A \in LR_{k+1}$.

Proof: By induction on m . If $m = 1$, by lemma 1, with $a_{k+1,j} = 0$, $1 \leq j \leq k$, we have two cases:

Case 1: $r_1 = k$. Then $A + \Pi_{\downarrow}^{(u;r_1)} \in LR_{k+1}$ iff $a_{kk} \geq a_{k+1,k+1} + 1$. From proposition 3, $\sum_{j=1}^{u-1} y_{kj} = 0$, we have $a_{kk} \geq a_{k+1,k+1} + 1$ equivalent to $\sum_{j=1}^{u-1} y_{kj} + a_{kk} \geq a_{k+1,k+1} + 1$.

Case 2: $k+1-u \leq r_1 < k$. We have always $A + \Pi_{\downarrow}^{(u;r_1)} \in LR_{k+1}$. By proposition 3, this situation is equivalent to $\sum_{j=1}^{u-1} y_{kj} > 0$. As $a_{kk} \geq a_{k+1,k+1}$, this situation is also equivalent to $\sum_{j=1}^{u-1} y_{kj} + a_{kk} \geq a_{k+1,k+1} + 1$.

Let $m > 1$ and $A_{\downarrow}^{(s)} := A + \sum_{i=1}^s \Pi_{\downarrow}^{(u;r_i)}$, $s = 1, \dots, m-1$. Suppose that $A_{\downarrow}^{(s)} \in LR_{k+1}$, $s = 1, \dots, m-1$. As $\pi_{\downarrow}^{(u;r_m)}$ is an insertion route of $A_{\downarrow}^{(m-1)}$, we consider again two cases:

Case 1: $r_{m-1} \leq r_m < k$. We have $a_{k+1,j}^{(m-1)} = a_{k+1,j} = 0$, $r_{m-1} < j \leq k$, then, by lemma 1, we have always $A_{\downarrow}^{(m-1)} + \Pi_{\downarrow}^{(u;r_m)} = A + \sum_{i=1}^m \Pi_{\downarrow}^{(u;r_i)} \in LR_{k+1}$.

On the other hand, by proposition 3, $\sum_{j=1}^{u-1} y_{kj} \geq m$. As $a_{kk} \geq a_{k+1,k+1}$, $\sum_{j=1}^{u-1} y_{kj} \geq m$ is equivalent to $\sum_{j=1}^{u-1} y_{kj} + a_{kk} \geq a_{k+1,k+1} + m$.

Case 2: $r_m = k$. By lemma 1, $A_{\downarrow}^{(m-1)} + \Pi_{\downarrow}^{(u;r_m)} = A + \sum_{i=1}^m \Pi_{\downarrow}^{(u;r_i)} \in LR_{k+1}$ iff $a_{kk}^{(m-1)} \geq a_{k+1,k+1} + 1$. On the other hand, by proposition 3, $\sum_{j=1}^{u-1} y_{kj} + a_{kk} - m + 1 \geq a_{kk}^{(m-1)}$. Therefore, $\sum_{j=1}^{u-1} y_{kj} + a_{kk} - m + 1 \geq a_{k+1,k+1} + 1$. ■

We say that (m_1, \dots, m_k) is an *insertion sequence* of A if m_s is an s -insertion number of $A_{\downarrow}^{(m_1+\dots+m_{s-1})}$, for $s = 1, \dots, k$.

Example 1 In the triangle below, the 3-deletion sequence is $(y_{31}, y_{32}) = (1, 1)$. According to (22), 1 is an 2-insertion number, but 2 is not, since

$$a_{33} + y_{31} = 1 + 1 = a_{44} + 1 = 1 + 1,$$

and

$$a_{33} + y_{31} = 1 + 1 < a_{44} + 2 = 1 + 2.$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
& & & & 0 & & \\
& & & & 4 & 1 & \\
[1 \rightarrow] & 1 \rightarrow & & 2 & 1 & 1 & \\
& & & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\
& & & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1
\end{array} \longrightarrow$$

$$\begin{array}{cccccccc}
& & & & & 0 & & \\
& & & & & 4 & & 1 \\
\longrightarrow & [1 \rightarrow] & & 2+1 & & 1-1 & & 1 \\
& & & 0 & & 1+1 & & 1-1 & 1 \\
& & & 0 & 0 & & 0+1 & & 0 & 1
\end{array} \in LR_4$$

But

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
& & & & 0 & & \\
& & & & 4 & 1 & \\
1 \rightarrow & & & 3 & 0 & 1 & \\
& & & 0 & 2 & 0 & 1 \\
& & & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1
\end{array} \longrightarrow$$

$$\begin{array}{cccccccc}
& & & & & 0 & & \\
& & & & & 4 & & 1 \\
\longrightarrow & & & 3+1 & & 0 & & 1-1 \\
& & & 0 & & 2 & & 0+1 & 1-1 \\
& & & 0 & 0 & & 0 & & 1+0 & 1
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
& & & & 0 & & \\
& & & & 4 & 1 & \\
= & & & 4 & 0 & 0 & \\
& & & 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\
& & & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1
\end{array} \notin LR_4.$$

Proposition 6 Let $A \in LR_{k+1}$ such that $a_{k+1,j} = 0$, $1 \leq j \leq k$, and $(y_{k1}, \dots, y_{kk-1})$ its k -deletion sequence. Then $(0, \dots, 0, m_v, 0, \dots, 0, m_u, 0, \dots, 0)$, $u > v$ is an insertion sequence of A iff

$$\begin{aligned}
a_{kk} + \sum_{j=1}^{v-1} y_{kj} &\geq a_{k+1,k+1} + m_v, \\
a_{kk} + \sum_{j=1}^{u-1} y_{kj} &\geq a_{k+1,k+1} + m_u + m_v.
\end{aligned}$$

■

By an inductive argument, we conclude that (m_1, \dots, m_k) is an insertion sequence of A iff

$$\begin{aligned}
a_{kk} &\geq a_{k+1,k+1} + m_1, \\
a_{kk} + y_{k1} &\geq a_{k+1,k+1} + m_1 + m_2 \\
&\dots \\
a_{kk} + \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} y_{kj} &\geq a_{k+1,k+1} + m_1 + \dots + m_k.
\end{aligned} \tag{23}$$

Example 2 In the last example, we have seen that $(0, 1, 0)$ is an insertion sequence of

$$\begin{array}{cccccc}
& & & & & 0 \\
& & & & & 4 & 1 \\
& & & & & 2 & 1 & 1 \\
& & & & & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\
& & & & & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1
\end{array} \in LR_4.$$

Notice

$$a_{33} + y_{31} + y_{32} = 1 + 1 + 1 \geq a_{44} + 1 + 1 = 1 + 1 + 1.$$

So $(0, 1, 1)$ is an insertion sequence as well. On the other hand, considering the triangle

$$\begin{array}{cccccc}
& & & & & 0 \\
& & & & & 4 & 1 \\
& & & & & 2 & 1 & 1 \\
& & & & & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\
& & & & & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1
\end{array} \in LR_4.$$

$(0, 1, 0)$ is an insertion sequence, but $(0, 1, 1)$ is not. Notice that the 3-deletion sequence is $(1, 0)$ and thus

$$a_{33} + y_{31} + y_{32} = 1 + 0 + 1 < a_{44} + 1 + 1 = 1 + 1 + 1.$$

Example 3 The 3-deletion sequence of the triangle below is $(2, 1)$. The sequences $(1, 1, 0)$ and $(1, 0, 0)$ are not insertion sequences, although we have $a_{33} + y_{31} = 1 + 2 \geq a_{44} + 1 + 1 = 1 + 2$. That is, conditions (23) must be fulfilled

$$\begin{array}{cccccc}
& & & & & 0 \\
& & & & & 4 & 1 \\
& & & & & 2 & 1 & 1 \\
& & & & & 0 & 1 & 2 & 1 \\
& & & & & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1
\end{array} \in LR_4.$$

Theorem 1 (*Symmetry by boundary excavation*) Let $A \in LR_k$ of type (a, b, c) and $B = (b, Y)$ the triangle of type (b, a, c) obtained by excavation of the boundary of A . Then $B \in LR_k$.

Proof: It remains to prove that $B = (b, Y)$ satisfy the trapezoid inequalities. The LR triangle A may be obtained by insertion of Y into A . Put $A(\Delta_0) := 0$. Using proposition 6, let, for $r = 1, \dots, k$, $A(\Delta_r)$ be obtained from $A(\Delta_{r-1})$ by insertion of $(y_{r1}, \dots, y_{r,r-1})$. Clearly, $A(\Delta_k) = A$. On the other hand, the $r-1$ -deletion sequence of $A(\Delta_{r-1})$ is $(y_{r-1,1}, \dots, y_{r-1,r-2})$. Thus, by proposition 6, the triangle $B = (b, Y)$ satisfy the trapezoid inequalities as well. Hence $B \in LR_k$. ■

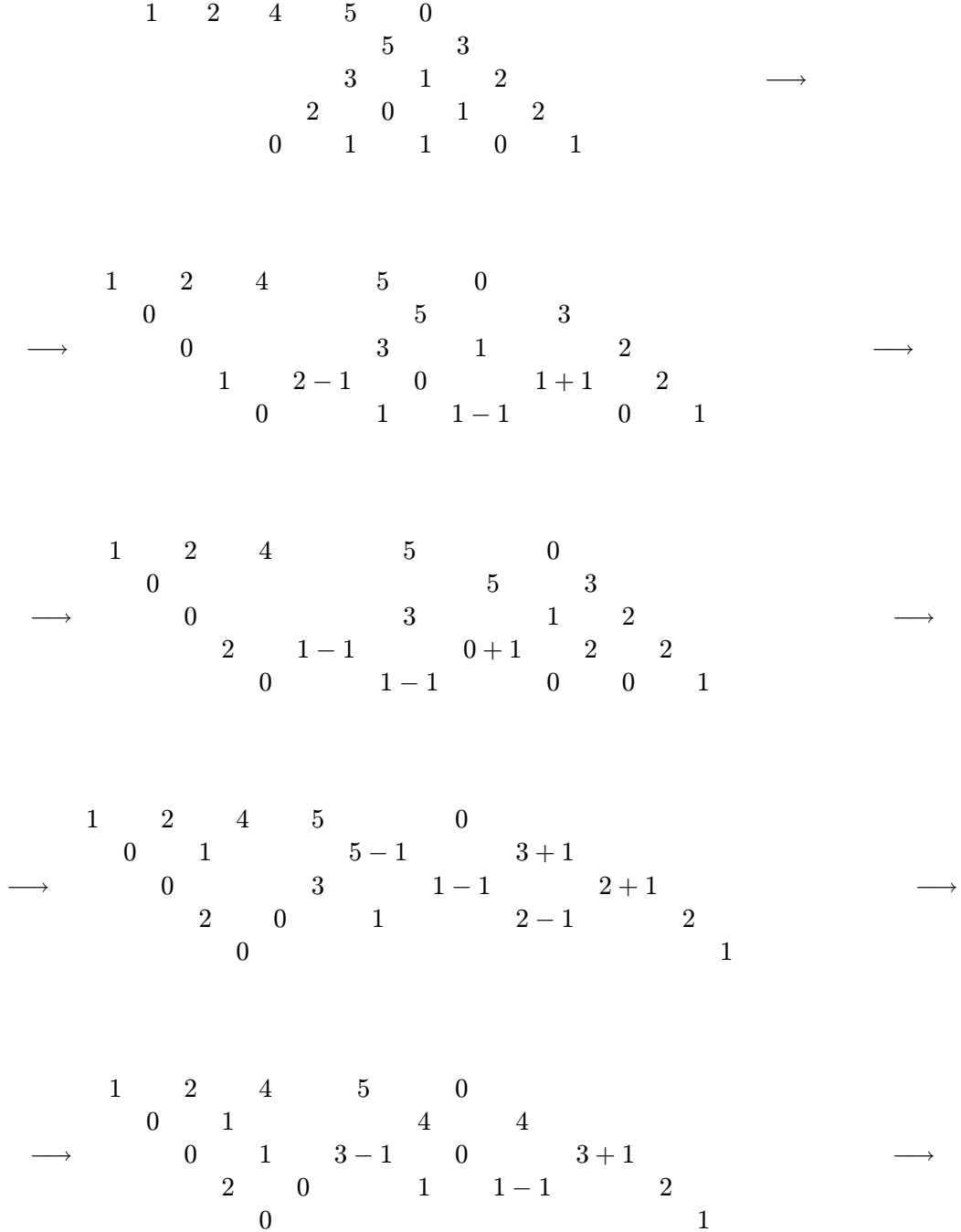
We write $excav(A) = B$.

Theorem 2 (*Symmetry by boundary insertion*) Let $A \in LR_k$ of type (a, b, c) and $\Gamma = (b, Z)$ the triangle of type (b, a, c) obtained by insertion of A . Then $\Gamma \in LR_k$.

Proof: The triangle A satisfy the trapezoid inequalities. Start with the triangle $\Gamma_1 = (a_{11}; a_1; c_1) \in LR_1$, using proposition 6, we get $\Gamma_2 = (a_{11} + a_{21}; (a_1, a_2); (c_1, c_2)) \in LR_2$ by insertion of a_{21} in Γ_1 . By an inductive argument we get Γ_r from Γ_{r-1} in LR_{r-1} by insertion of $(a_{r1}, \dots, a_{r,r-1})$, $r > 2$. Notice that the deletion sequence of Γ_{r-1} is $(a_{r-1,1}, \dots, a_{r-1,r-2})$ as the insertion operation can be reversed.■

We write $insert(A) = \Gamma$.

Example 4 Symmetry by excavation of the boundary



$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} & 1 & 2 & 4 & 5 & & 0 & & \\ & & 0 & 1 & & & 4 & & 4 \\ \longrightarrow & & & 0 & 1+1 & 2-1 & & 0+1 & 4 & & \\ & & & & 2 & 0 & 1-1 & & 0 & 2 & \\ & & & & & 0 & & & & & 1 \end{array} \longrightarrow$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} & 1 & 2 & 4 & 5 & & 0 & & \\ & & 0 & 1 & 1 & 4-1 & & 4+1 & & & \\ \longrightarrow & & & 0 & 2 & 1 & 1-1 & & 4 & & \\ & & & & 2 & 0 & & & & 2 & \\ & & & & & 0 & & & & & 1 \end{array} \longrightarrow$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} & 1 & 2 & 4 & 5 & 0 & & & \\ & & 0 & 1 & 1 & 3 & 5 & & \\ \longrightarrow & & & 0 & 2 & 1 & & 4 & & & \\ & & & & 2 & 0 & & & 2 & & \\ & & & & & 0 & & & & & 1 \end{array} \quad (24)$$

Example 5 Symmetry by boundary insertion

$$\begin{array}{cccccc} & & 0 & 5 & 3 & 2 & 0 \\ & & 5 & 3 & & & \\ & 3 & \underline{1} & 2 & & & \\ & 2 & 0 & 1 & 2 & & \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & & \longrightarrow \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{cccccc} & & 0 & 5-1 & 3 & 2 & 0 \\ & & 5 & 3+1 & 1 & & \\ & 3 & & 2 & & & \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & \underline{1} & 2 & & \\ & 1 & 1 & & 0 & 1 & \longrightarrow \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{cccccc} & & 0 & 4 & 3 & 2 & 0 \\ & & 5 & 4 & 1-1 & 0 & \\ & 3 & & 2+1 & 1 & & \\ 0 & 2 & & 2 & & & \\ & 1 & \underline{1} & 0 & 1 & & \longrightarrow \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{cccccccc}
& & & 0 & 4 & 3-1 & 2-1 & 0 \\
& & & 5 & 4 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\
& & 3 & & 3+1 & 1 & & \\
& 2 & & & & 2 & & \\
0 & \underline{1} & & & & 1 & &
\end{array} \longrightarrow$$

$$\begin{array}{cccccccc}
& & & 0 & 4-1 & 2-1 & 1-1 & 0 \\
& & 5 & 5 & 0+1 & & 1+1 & 1+1 \\
& 3 & & 4 & & 1 & 0 & \\
& 2 & & & 2 & & 0 & \\
0 & & & & & 1 & &
\end{array} =$$

$$\begin{array}{cccccccc}
& & & & 0 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\
& & & 5 & 5 & 1 & 2 & 2 & \\
& & 3 & & 4 & 1 & 0 & & \\
& 2 & & & 2 & 0 & & & \\
0 & & & & & 1 & & &
\end{array} \tag{25}$$

Notice that triangles (24) and (25) are the same.

5 Deletion and insertion are identical bijections

Clearly, deletion and insertion operations are the backwards of each other. That is, $insert(excav(A)) = A = excav(insert(A))$. But we have even more,

Theorem 3 *Let $A \in LR_k$, then*

$$excav(A) = insert(A). \tag{26}$$

This equality follows by induction, on the size of the triangle, and from the following interesting property

Theorem 4 *Let $A \in LR_{k+1}$ of type (a, b, c) with bottom row $(a_{k+1,0}, e_r, a_{k+1,k+1})$. Let $\Pi_{\uparrow}^{(r)}$ be the deletion triangle of A with respect to vertex $(k+1, r)$. Then*

$$insert \left[(A + \Pi_{\uparrow}^{(r)})|_{\Delta_k} \right] = [insert(A)]|_{\Delta_k}.$$

Proof: By induction on k . Easy for $k = 2, 3, 4$. ■

Corollary 1 *Let $A \in LR_{k+1}$ of type (a, b, c) . Let $\Pi_{\uparrow} = \sum_{r=1}^k \Pi_{\uparrow}^{(r)}$ Then*

$$insert \left[(A + \Pi_{\uparrow})|_{\Delta_k} \right] = [insert(A)]|_{\Delta_k}.$$

In plain language, these theorem and corollary say that a deletion operation on A , with initial vertex $(k + 1, r)$, means an r -insertion of the label $a_{k+1,r}$ on $insert(A|_{\Delta_k})$.

Proof of Theorem 3. For $k = 2, 3$, it is easy to check. By definition of excavation, we have

$$[excav(A)]|_{\Delta_k} = excav \left[(A + \Pi_\uparrow)|_{\Delta_k} \right]. \quad (27)$$

By induction on k and previous theorem, we get

$$[excav(A)]|_{\Delta_k} = excav \left[(A + \Pi_\uparrow)|_{\Delta_k} \right] = insert \left[(A + \Pi_\uparrow)|_{\Delta_k} \right] = [insert(A)]|_{\Delta_k}. \blacksquare \quad (28)$$

Example 6

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & & & 0 & & \\
 & & & & 5 & & 3 \\
 & & & 3 & 1 & & 2 \\
 A = & & & 2 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\
 & & & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\
 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & (\mathbf{1}) & 0 & 0
 \end{array} \longrightarrow$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & & & 0 & & \\
 & & & & 5 & & 3 \\
 & & & 3 & 1 & & 2 \\
 [A + \Pi^{(3)} \uparrow]|_{\Delta_4} = & & & 2 - (\mathbf{1}) & 0 & 1 + (\mathbf{1}) & 2 & 2 \\
 & & & 0 & 1 & 1 - (\mathbf{1}) & 0 + (\mathbf{1}) & 1
 \end{array} \longrightarrow$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & & & 0 & & 5 & & 3 & & 2 - (\mathbf{1}) & & 0 \\
 & & & & 5 & & 3 & & 2 & & & & \\
 & & & 3 & 1 & & 1 + (\mathbf{1}) & & 2 & & & & \\
 0 & & & 2 - (\mathbf{1}) & 0 & & 1 - (\mathbf{1}) & & 0 + (\mathbf{1}) & & 1 & & \\
 & & & & 0 & & 5 - 1 & & 3 & & 2 - (\mathbf{1}) & & 0 \\
 & & & & 5 & & 3 + 1 & & 1 & & & & \\
 & & & 3 & 1 & & 1 + (\mathbf{1}) & & 2 & & & & \\
 0 & & & 2 - (\mathbf{1}) & 0 & & 1 - (\mathbf{1}) & & 0 + (\mathbf{1}) & & 1 & & \\
 & & & & 0 & & 5 - 1 & & 3 & & 2 - (\mathbf{1}) & & 0 \\
 & & & & 5 & & 4 & & 1 - 1 & & & & \\
 & & & 3 & 1 & & 1 + (\mathbf{1}) & & 2 & & & & \\
 0 & & & 2 - (\mathbf{1}) & 0 & & (\mathbf{1}) & & 2 & & & & \\
 & & & & 0 & & 5 - 1 & & 3 & & 2 - (\mathbf{1}) & & 0 \\
 & & & & 5 & & 4 & & 1 - 1 & & & & \\
 & & & 3 & 1 & & 2 + 1 & & 1 & & & & \\
 0 & & & 2 - (\mathbf{1}) & 0 & & 1 - (\mathbf{1}) & & 0 + (\mathbf{1}) & & 1 & & \\
 & & & & 0 & & 5 - 1 & & 3 & & 2 - (\mathbf{1}) & & 0
 \end{array} \longrightarrow$$

$$\begin{array}{cccccccc}
& & & 0 & & 4 & & 3 - (1) & & 2 - (1) & & 0 \\
& & & 5 & & 4 & & 0 & & (1) & & 0 \\
& & & 3 & & & & 2 + 1 + (1) & & 1 & & 0 \\
& & 2 - (1) & & & & & 2 & & 0 & & \\
0 & & 1 & & 1 - (1) & & 0 + (1) & & 1 & & & \longrightarrow
\end{array}$$

Denote by \hat{Q} the right triangle.

$$\begin{array}{cccccccc}
& & & 0 & & 4 & & 2 & & 1 & & 0 \\
& & & 5 & & 4 & & 0 & & 1 & & 0 \\
& & & 3 & & & & 4 & & 1 - (1) & & \\
& & 2 - (1) & & & & & 2 + (1) & & (1) & & \longrightarrow \\
0 & & 1 & & & & & 1 & & & &
\end{array}$$

Denote by \hat{R} the right triangle.

$$\begin{array}{cccccccc}
& & & 0 & & 4 - 1 & & 2 - 1 & & 1 - 1 & & 0 \\
& & & 5 & & 4 + 1 & & 0 + 1 & & 1 + 1 & & 1 \\
& & & 3 & & & & 4 & & 0 & & 0 \\
& & 2 - 1 & & & & & 3 & & 1 & & = \\
0 & & & & & & & 1 & & & &
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{cccccccc}
& & & & & 0 & & 3 & & 1 & & 0 & & 0 \\
& & & & & 5 & & 5 & & 1 & & 2 & & 1 \\
& & & & & 3 & & & & 4 & & 0 & & 0 \\
& & & & & 2 - 1 & & & & 3 & & 1 & & \\
0 & & & & & & & & & 1 & & & &
\end{array}$$

Denote the triangle on the right by \hat{T} .

On the other hand

$$\begin{array}{cccccccc}
& & & & & 0 & & 4 & & 3 & & 2 & & 0 & & 0 \\
& & & & & 5 & & 4 & & 0 & & 0 & & & & \\
& & & & & 3 & & & & 3 & & 1 & & & & \longrightarrow \\
& & & & & 2 & & & & 2 & & & & & & \\
& & & & & 0 & & 1 & & 1 & & 0 & & 1 & & \\
0 & & & & & 0 & & 0 & & 0 & & (1) & & 0 & & 0
\end{array}$$

Denote by Q the right triangle, and notice that

$$\hat{Q} = \begin{array}{cccc}
& & & 0 \\
& & & 4 & & 4 \\
& & 3 + (1) & & 0 & & 3 - (1) \\
2 & & 1 & & (1) & & 2 - (1)
\end{array}$$

is obtained from

$$Q = \begin{array}{cccccc} & & & 0 & & \\ & & & 4 & 4 & \\ & & & 3 & 0 & 3 \\ & & & 2 & 1 & 0 & 2 \end{array}$$

by 2-insertion of 1 and then restricted to Δ_3 .

$$\begin{array}{cccccccc} & & & & 0 & 4 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ & & & & 5 & 4 & 0 & 1 & 1 & \\ & & & 3 & & 4 & 1 & 0 & & \\ & & 2 & & & 2 & 0 & & & \\ & 0 & 1 & 0 & & 0 & 1 & & & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & (1) & 0 & 0 & & & & \end{array} \longrightarrow$$

Denote the right triangle by Q' .

Notice that $\hat{Q} = Q'_{|\Delta_3}$, and

$$R' = \begin{array}{cccccc} & & & 0 & & \\ & & & 4 & 4 & \\ & & & 4 & 0 & 2 \\ & & 3 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array}$$

is obtained from Q' by 3-insertion of 1 and then restricted to Δ_4 .

$$\begin{array}{cccccccc} & & & & 0 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & & & & 5 & 5 & 1 & 2 & 2 & \\ & & & 3 & & 4 & 1 & 0 & & \\ & & 2 & & & 2 & 0 & & & \\ & 0 & 1 & 0 & & 1 & & & & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & (1) & 0 & 0 & & & & \end{array} \longrightarrow$$

$$\begin{array}{cccccccc} & & & & 0 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & & & & 5 & 5 & 1 & 2 & 2 - (1) & 0 & 0 \\ & & & 3 & & 4 & 1 - (1) & 0 & (1) & & \\ & & 2 & & & 2 + (1) & 1 - (1) & 0 & 0 & & \\ & 0 & 1 & 0 & & 1 & 0 + (1) & 0 & 0 & & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & (1) & 0 & 0 & & & & & = \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{cccccccc}
& & & & 0 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
& & & & 5 & 5 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\
& & & 3 & & 4 & 0 & 0 & 1 & \\
& & 2 & & & 3 & 1 & 0 & & \\
& 0 & & & & & 1 & 0 & & \\
0 & & & & & & & 0 & &
\end{array}$$

The triangle T' on the right is such that $T'_{|\Delta_4}$ is the triangle \hat{T} above.

Example 7

$$A = \begin{array}{cccccccc}
& & & & 0 & & & & & \\
& & & & 5 & & 4 & & & \\
& & & 4 & 1 & 4 & & & & \\
& & 3 & 4 & 0 & 0 & 2 & & & \longrightarrow \\
& 0 & 0 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & & \\
& & 0 & 0 & 0 & (1) & \bar{1} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
& & & 0 & 0 & [1] & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0
\end{array}$$

$$[A + \Pi_{\uparrow}^{(3)}]_{|\Delta_5} = \begin{array}{cccccccc}
& & & & 0 & & 4 & & & \\
& & & & 5 & & 1 & & 4 & \\
& & & 4 - (1) & 0 + (1) & & 0 & & 2 & \\
& & 3 & 4 & 0 & 0 + (1) & 0 & 2 & 1 & \\
& 0 & & 0 & 0 & 0 & \bar{1} + [1] & 0 & 0 & 0
\end{array}$$

By induction

$$\begin{array}{cccccccc}
& & & & 0 & & 3 & & 3 & & 3 & & 0 & \\
& & & & 5 & & 6 & & 2 - (1) & & 1 - (1) & & 1 - (1) & 3 & 0 \\
& & & 4 & 4 - (1) & & 4 + (1) & & 0 + (1) & & 0 + (1) & & 0 & 0 & \\
& & 3 & 4 & 0 & 0 & \bar{1} + [1] & & 2 & & 1 & & 0 & 0 & \\
& 0 & & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & & 0 & & 0 & & 0 & 0 &
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{cccccccc}
& & & & 0 & & 3 & & 3 & & 3 & & 3 & & 0 \\
& & & & 5 & & 6 & & 2 - (1) & & 1 - (1) & & 1 - (1) & 3 & 0 \\
& & & 4 & 4 - (1) & & 4 + (1) & & (1) - \bar{1} & & 1 - (1) & & (1) - \bar{1} & 0 & \\
& & 3 & 4 & 0 & 0 & [1] & & 2 + \bar{1} & & \bar{1} & & \bar{1} & 0 & \\
& 0 & & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & & 1 & & 0 & & 0 & 0 &
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{cccccccc}
& & & & 0 & & 3 & & 3 & & 3 - [1] & & 1 - (1) + [1] & 3 - [1] & 0 \\
& & & & 5 & & 6 & & 2 - (1) & & 1 - (1) & & 0 + (1) - \bar{1} & 0 & [1] \\
& & & 4 & 4 - (1) & & 4 + (1) & & 2 + \bar{1} + [1] & & 0 + \bar{1} & & 0 + (1) - \bar{1} & \bar{1} & \\
& & 3 & 4 & 0 & 0 & 0 & & 0 + (1) - \bar{1} & & 1 & & 0 & 0 & \\
& 0 & & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & & 0 & & 0 & & 0 & 0 &
\end{array}$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{array}{cccccccccccc}
 & & & & 0 & 3 & 3 & 3 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\
 & & & & 5 & 6 & 2 & 1 & 1 & & \\
 & & & 4 & & 4 & 0 & 0 & & & \\
 & & 3 & 4 & & & 2 & 0 & & & \\
 & 0 & 0 & 0 & (1) & \bar{1} & 0 & 1 & 0 & & \\
 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & & [1] & 0 & 0 & 0 & &
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{cccccccccccc}
 & & & & 0 & 3 & 3 & 3 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\
 & & & & 5 & 6 & 2 & 1 - \bar{1} & 1 - \bar{1} & 0 & 0 \\
 & & & 4 & & 4 & 0 & 0 + \bar{1} & \bar{1} & 0 & 0 \\
 & & 3 & 4 & & & 2 + \bar{1} & 0 & 0 & \bar{1} & 0 \\
 & 0 & 0 & 0 & (1) & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & & [1] & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 &
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{cccccccccccc}
 & & & & 0 & 3 & 3 & 3 - (1) & 3 - \bar{1} - (1) & 0 & 0 \\
 & & & & 5 & 6 & 2 - (1) & 1 - \bar{1} & \bar{1} & 1 - \bar{1} + (1) & \bar{1} & (1) & 0 \\
 & & & 4 & & 4 + (1) & 2 + \bar{1} & (1) & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
 & & 3 & 4 & & & & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & [1] & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 &
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{cccccccccccc}
 & & & & & 3 & 3 & 3 - (1) & 3 - (1) & 0 & 0 \\
 & & 6 & 3 & 2 - (1) & (1) - [1] & 1 - \bar{1} & \bar{1} - [1] & 1 - \bar{1} + (1) & \bar{1} - [1] & (1) & 0 & 0 \\
 & & 4 + (1) & & 2 + \bar{1} + [1] & & [1] & & [1] & & [1] & 0 & 0 \\
 & & & & & & 1 & 0 & & 0 & & 0 & 0 \\
 & & & & & & & 0 & & 0 & & & 0 \\
 & & & & & & & & & & & & 0 \\
 0 & & & & & & & 0 & & 0 & & &
 \end{array}$$

References

- [1] G. D. Appleby, A simple approach to matrix realizations for Littlewood-Richardson sequences, *Linear Algebra and its Applications*, 291:1-14, 1999.
- [2] O. Azenhas and E. Marques de Sá, Matrix realizations of Littlewood-Richardson sequences, *Linear and Multilinear Algebra*, 27:229-242, 1990.
- [3] O. Azenhas, Littlewood-Richardson fillings and their symmetries, *Matrices and Group Representations, Coimbra, 6-8 May 1998*, Textos de Matemática, Série B, Departamento de Matemática, Universidade de Coimbra, 1999.

- [4] O. Azenhas, On an involution on the set of Littlewood-Richardson tableaux and the hidden commutativity, Pré-Publicações do Departamento de Matemática, Universidade de Coimbra, preprint number 00-27(2000), available from <http://www.mat.uc.pt/preprints/2000.html>
- [5] V. I. Danilov, G. A. Koshevoy, Arrays and the octahedron recurrence, arXiv:math.CO/0504299, April 2005.
- [6] S. Johnson, *The Schubert Calculus and Eigenvalue Inequalities for Sums of Hermitian Matrices*, Dissertation, Santa Barbara, 1979 (unpublished).
- [7] A. N. Kirillov, A. D. Berenstein, Groups generated by involutions, Gelfand-Tsetlin patterns, and combinatorics of Young tableaux, *Algebra i Analiz* 7, 1995.
- [8] T. Klein, The multiplication of Schur functions and extensions of p -modules, *Journal of the London Mathematical Society*, 43:280-284, 1968.
- [9] I. Pak, Ernesto Vallejo, Combinatorics and geometry of Littlewood-Richardson cones, preprint (2003) 15 pp., to appear in Europ. J. Combinatorics, available from <http://www-math.mit.edu/pak/research.html>
- [10] I. Pak, E. Vallejo, Reductions of Young tableaux bijections, preprint (2004), 42 pp, available from <http://www-math.mit.edu/pak/research.html>
- [11] J. F. Queiró, E. M. de Sá, A. P. Santana. O. Azenhas, Interlacing of eigenvalues and invariant factors, *Mathematical Inequalities and Applications*, 2:149-154, 2000.
- [12] E. Marques de Sá, Imbedding conditions for λ -matrices, *Linear Algebra and its Applications* 24, 33-50, 1979.
- [13] R. C. Thompson, Interlacing inequalities for invariant factors, *Linear Algebra and its Applications* 24, 1-32, 1979.
- [14] R. C. Thompson, An inequality for invariant factors, *Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society*, 86, 1982.
- [15] R. C. Thompson, Smith invariants of a product of integral matrices, in Linear Algebra and its Role in Systems Theory, *Contemporary Mathematics*, 47:401-435, AMS, 1985.