Schur functions: tableaux, determinant formulas and lattices paths

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- 1. Partitions and Young diagrams
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$$\lambda = (4, 3, 2), |\lambda| = 9, l(\lambda) = 3$$



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The partition λ' conjugate of λ is such that F^{λ'} is obtained from F^λ by interchanging rows and columns.

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- T has type $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n)$ if T has α_i entries equal *i*.

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7- semistandard tableau *T* of shape $\lambda = (4, 3, 2), \alpha = (0, 1, 1, 3, 1, 3, 0).$

• Equivalently $T : \{(i,j) \in \mathbb{Z}^2 : 1 \le i \le r, 1 \le j \le \lambda_i\} \longrightarrow \{1, \dots, n\}, \quad T(i,j) = T_{ij}.$

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- Let n be a fixed positive integer and x = (x₁,..., x_n) a sequence of variables.
- The monomial weight of an n-semistandard tableau T of shape λ is the monomial of degree |λ|, in the variables x₁,..., x_n,

$$X^T = \prod_{T_{ij}} X_{T_{ij}}$$

where T_{ij} runs over all the $|\lambda|$ entries of T.



Given a partition *λ* with *l*(*λ*) ≤ *n*, the Schur function *s_n*(*λ*, **x**) associated with the partition *λ* is the homogeneous polynomial of degree |*λ*| on the variables *x*₁..., *x_n*,

$$s_n(\lambda, \mathbf{x}) = \sum_T X^T$$

where T runs over all *n*-semistandard tableaux of shape λ .



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$$s_n(\lambda, \mathbf{x}) = \sum_T X^T$$
$$= \sum_{\alpha \text{ weak composition of } |\lambda| \text{ of length } \leq n} K_{\lambda, \alpha} x^{\alpha},$$
$$x^{\alpha} = x_1^{\alpha_1} x_2^{\alpha_2} \dots x_n^{\alpha_n},$$

 $K_{\lambda\alpha}$ is the Kostka number, the number of SSYTs of shape λ and type α .

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- Let S_n be the symmetric group of degree n, consisting of all permutations of {1,..., n}, and π ∈ S_n. There is a natural action of π on f(x) ∈ C[x],

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•
$$K_{\lambda \tilde{\alpha}} = K_{\lambda \alpha}$$
 , with $\tilde{\alpha} = (i i + 1) \alpha$?





- each column of T contains either an i, i + 1 pair; exactly one of i, i + 1; or neither.
- ► the numbers in such pairs are called *fixed* and the other occurrences of *i*'s or *i* + 1's are *free*.
- if in a row one has k free i's followed by ℓ free i + 1's then replace them by ℓ free i's followed by k free i + 1's.





Bender-Knuth involution is a bijection ξ : T → Q, on the set of semistandard tableaux of shape λ, such that the numbers of *i*'s and (*i* + 1)'s are swapped when passing from T to Q with all other multiplicities staying the same.



Corollary

- $K_{\lambda\beta} = K_{\lambda\alpha}$, with β any permutation of α .
- The Schur function $s_n(\lambda, \mathbf{x})$ is a homogeneous symmetric function in x_1, \ldots, x_n .

6. The ring of symmetric functions

• Given λ with $\ell(\lambda) \leq n$,

$$m_{\lambda}(x_1 \ldots, x_n) = \sum_{\alpha} x^{\alpha},$$

 α a permutation of λ .

The ring of symmetric functions on variables the $x_1 \ldots, x_n$ is the vector space

$$\Lambda = \mathbb{C}m_{\lambda}.$$

- For each $k \ge 0$, let Λ^k be the vector space generated by $\{m_{\lambda} : |\lambda| = k\}$. The Schur functions s_{λ} with $|\lambda| = k$, on the variables x_1, \ldots, x_n , form a basis of the vector space Λ^k .
- The Schur functions s_λ on the variables x₁,..., x_n, form an additive basis of the ring Λ.

7. Complete homogeneous symmetric functions and elementary symmetric functions

• row partition
$$\lambda = (m)$$
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Example

$$m = 3, n = 3$$

 T
 $x^{T} = x_{1}x_{2}x_{2}$
 $Q = 113$
 $x^{Q} = x_{1}x_{1}x_{3}$.

$$h_3(x_1, x_2, x_3) = x_1^3 + x_2^3 + x_3^3 + x_1^2 x_3 + x_1^2 x_2 + x_1 x_2^2 + x_1 x_3^2 + x_1 x_2 x_3 + x_2^2 x_3 + x_2 x_3^2$$
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Example

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 $T = 122$ $Q = 113$
 $x^{T} = x_{1}x_{2}x_{2}$ $x^{Q} = x_{1}x_{1}x_{3}$.
 $h_{3}(x_{1}, x_{2}, x_{3}) = x_{1}^{3} + x_{2}^{3} + x_{3}^{3} + x_{1}^{2}x_{3} + x_{1}^{2}x_{2} + x_{1}x_{2}^{2} + x_{1}x_{3}^{2} + x_{1}x_{2}x_{3} + x_{2}^{2}x_{3} + x_{2}x_{3}^{2}$

• The m^{th} complete homogeneous symmetric function, in the variables x_1, \ldots, x_n , is the sum of all monomials of degree m in the variables x_1, \ldots, x_n

$$h_m(x_1,...,x_n) := s_n((m),x_1,...,x_n) = \sum_{1 \le i_1 \le \cdots \le i_m \le n} x_{i_1}x_{i_2}...x_{i_m}$$

continued

• column partition $\lambda = (1, 1, \dots, 1) = (1^m)$



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Example

m = 3, n = 4 T = 4 $x^{T} = x_{1}x_{3}x_{4}.$

$$e_3(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = x_1 x_2 x_3 + x_1 x_2 x_4 + x_1 x_3 x_4 + x_2 x_3 x_4$$

The *mth* elementary symmetric function, in the variables *x*₁,..., *x_n*, is the sum of all monomials *x_{i1}*... *x_{im}* for all strictly increasing sequences 1 ≤ *i*₁ < *i*₂ < ··· < *i_m* ≤ *n*

$$e_m(x_1,...,x_n) := s_n((1^m),x_1,...,x_n) = \sum_{1 \le i_1 < \cdots < i_m \le n} x_{i_1}x_{i_2}...x_{i_m}$$

8. The (classical) Jacobi-Trudi determinant formulas

- Let λ be a partition with $l(\lambda) = r \le n$.
- The original definition of Schur function (and that Schur originally used)

$$\mathbf{s}_n(\lambda, \mathbf{x}) = \frac{|\mathbf{x}_j^{\lambda_i + n - i}|_{r \times r}}{|\mathbf{x}_j^{n - i}|_{r \times r}}$$

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 The Schur function s_n(λ, x) can be expressed as a determinant in terms of complete symmetric functions and elementary symmetric functions

$$s_{n}(\lambda, \mathbf{x}) = |h_{\lambda_{j}-j+i}(\mathbf{x})|_{r\times r}, \quad h\text{-formula}$$

$$= \begin{vmatrix} h_{\lambda_{1}}(x) & h_{\lambda_{2}-1}(x) & h_{\lambda_{3}-2}(x) & \dots & h_{\lambda_{r-1}-r}(x) & h_{\lambda_{r}-r+1}(x) \\ h_{\lambda_{1}+1}(x) & h_{\lambda_{2}}(x) & h_{\lambda_{3}-1}(x) & \dots & h_{\lambda_{r-1}-r+1}(x) & h_{\lambda_{r}-r+2}(x) \\ h_{\lambda_{1}+2}(x) & h_{\lambda_{2}+1}(x) & h_{\lambda_{3}}(x) & \dots & h_{\lambda_{r-1}-r+2}(x) & h_{\lambda_{r}-r+3}(x) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ h_{\lambda_{1}+r-1}(x) & h_{\lambda_{2}+r-2}(x) & h_{\lambda_{3}+r-3}(x) & \dots & h_{\lambda_{r-1}+1}(x) & h_{\lambda_{r}}(x) \\ \end{aligned}$$
where we set $h_{0} = 1, h_{k} = 0, k < 0.$

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$$s_{n}(\lambda, \mathbf{x}) = |e_{\lambda_{j}'-j+i}(\mathbf{x})|_{\lambda_{1}\times\lambda_{1}}, \quad e\text{-formula,} \\ where we set $e_{0} = 1, e_{k} = 0, k > n.$$$

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•
$$n = 2, \mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2), \lambda = (2, 1)$$

h-formula

$$\begin{aligned} |h_{\lambda_{j}-j+i}(\mathbf{x})| &= \left| \begin{array}{c} h_2 & h_0 \\ h_3 & h_1 \end{array} \right| &= h_2(x)h_1(x) - h_3(x).1 \\ &= (x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_1x_2)(x_1 + x_2) - (x_1^3 + x_1^2x_2 + x_1x_2^2 + x_2^3) \\ &= x_1^3 + 2x_1x_2^2 + 2x_1x_2^2 + x_2^3 - (x_1^3 + x_1^2x_2 + x_1x_2^2 + x_2^3) = x_1^2x_2 + x_1x_2^2. \end{aligned}$$

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e-formula

$$|e_{\lambda'_j-j+i}(\mathbf{x})| = \begin{vmatrix} e_2 & e_0 \\ e_3 & e_1 \end{vmatrix} = e_2(x)e_1(x) - 0.1$$

= $(x_1x_2)(x_1 + x_2) = x_1^2x_2 + x_1x_2^2.$

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Example

$$n = 2, \lambda = (2, 1), |\lambda| = 3, \qquad \boxed{\begin{array}{c} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & \end{array}} \qquad \boxed{\begin{array}{c} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & \end{array}}$$

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Example

$$n = 2, \lambda = (2, 1), |\lambda| = 3, \qquad \boxed{1 \ 1} \qquad \boxed{1 \ 2} \qquad x_2^T.$$

$$s_2(\lambda, x) = x_1^2 x_2 + x_1 x_2^2 = \sum_{\substack{2 \text{-semistandard tableaux } T \text{ of shape } \lambda} x^T.$$

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• The plane of integer points \mathbb{Z}^2 is a lattice with the relation \leq .













 A lattice path from *u* to *v*, with *u* ≤ *v*, is a sequence of adjacent points in the integer lattice, *i.e.* a sequence of unit horizontal (East) and vertical (North) steps in the positive direction, starting in *u* and ending in *v*.



• Given $u, v \in \mathbb{Z}^2$, $\mathcal{P}(u, v)$ is the set of all lattice paths from u to v.

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• Given $u, v \in \mathbb{Z}^2$, $\mathcal{P}(u, v)$ is the set of all lattice paths from u to v.

$$#\mathcal{P}(u,v) = #\mathcal{P}(0,v-u) = \begin{pmatrix} v_1 - u_1 + v_2 - u_2 \\ v_1 - u_1 \end{pmatrix}, \ u = (u_1, u_2) \le v = (v_1, v_2).$$

$$\mathcal{P}(u,v) = \emptyset, \quad u, v \text{ not comparable.}$$

(continued)

• Two lattice paths are nonintersecting if they do not have any (lattice) point in common.



(continued)

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12. Weight-preserving bijection between tableaux and non intersecting lattice paths










T =











(continued)

Example

 $n = 6, \lambda = (5, 3, 2)$



• Given a *n*-semistandard tableau of length $r \le n$, the map

$$T \longrightarrow (P_1, P_2, \ldots, P_r),$$

where $(P_1, P_2, ..., P_r)$ is an *r*-tuple of nonintersecting lattice paths:

▶ *i*-th row of $T \longrightarrow P_i$ from $u_i = (-i, 1)$ to $v_i = (\lambda_i - i, n)$, i = 1, ..., r, whose heights of horizontal steps are the entries in the *i*-th row.

(continued) Example $n = 6, \lambda = (5, 3, 2)$ 5 3 5 6 6 5 3 6 2 3 4 3 5 $X^{T} = x_{2}x_{3}^{2}x_{4}^{2}x_{5}^{2}x_{6}^{3}$ $\mathbf{Q} = (Q_1, Q_2, Q_3, Q_4, Q_5)$ $w_{e}(\mathbf{Q}) = w_{e}(Q_{1})w_{e}(Q_{2})w_{e}(Q_{3})w_{e}(Q_{4})w_{e}(Q_{5}) = x_{2}x_{3}x_{4}.x_{3}x_{5}x_{6}.x_{5}x_{6}.x_{6}.x_{6}$



column *i* of $T \longrightarrow P_i$ from $u_i = (-i + 1, i - 1)$ to $(\lambda'_i - i + 1, n - \lambda'_i + i - 1)_{1/10}$

13. Complete and elementary homogeneous symmetric functions are weight generating functions of lattice paths between two points

Example



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Example



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7. The (classical) Jacobi-Trudi determinant formulas

• $|h_{\lambda_j-j+i}(\mathbf{x})|_{\mathbf{r}\times\mathbf{r}}$, *h*-formula

$$= \begin{vmatrix} h_{\lambda_{1}}(x) & h_{\lambda_{2}-1}(x) & h_{\lambda_{3}-2}(x) & \dots & h_{\lambda_{r-1}-r}(x) & h_{\lambda_{r}-r+1}(x) \\ h_{\lambda_{1}+1}(x) & h_{\lambda_{2}}(x) & h_{\lambda_{3}-1}(x) & \dots & h_{\lambda_{r-1}-r+1}(x) & h_{\lambda_{r}-r+2}(x) \\ h_{\lambda_{1}+2}(x) & h_{\lambda_{2}+1}(x) & h_{\lambda_{3}}(x) & \dots & h_{\lambda_{r-1}-r+2}(x) & h_{\lambda_{r}-r+3}(x) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ h_{\lambda_{1}+r-1}(x) & h_{\lambda_{2}+r-2}(x) & h_{\lambda_{3}+r-3}(x) & \dots & h_{\lambda_{r-1}+1}(x) & h_{\lambda_{r}}(x) \\ \end{vmatrix}$$
where we set $h_{0} = 1, h_{k} = 0, k < 0.$

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where we set $h_0 = 1$, $h_k = 0$, k < 0.

• $|e_{\lambda'_j - j + i}(\mathbf{x})|_{\lambda_1 \times \lambda_1}$, *e*-formula, where we set $e_0 = 1$, $e_k = 0$, k > n.

$$|GF\mathcal{P}(u_i, v_j)|_{m \times m} = \sum_{\sigma \in S_m} sgn(\sigma) \prod_{i=1}^m GF(\mathcal{P}(u_i, v_{\sigma(i)}))$$

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$$\mathcal{P}(u, v_{\sigma}) = \{ \boldsymbol{P} = (\boldsymbol{P}_{1}, \dots, \boldsymbol{P}_{m}) : \boldsymbol{P}_{i} \in \mathcal{P}(u_{i}, v_{\sigma(i)}), \ 1 \leq i \leq m \}$$
$$= \mathcal{P}(u_{1}, v_{\sigma(1)}) \times \dots \times \mathcal{P}(u_{m}, v_{\sigma(m)})$$

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$$= \sum_{\sigma \in S_m, P \in \mathcal{P}(u, v_{\sigma})} sgn(\sigma)w(P)$$





 The LGV-involution is a weight -preserving but sign-reversing involution on the set of all those *m*-tuples that are intersecting. • By the LGV involution all the intersecting *m*-tuples of paths will cancel and only the nonintersecting will survive. The associated permutation for such *m*-tuples is the identity. These *m* -paths correspond exactly to the *n*-semistandard tableaux of shape λ

$$\begin{aligned} |GF\mathcal{P}(u_i, v_j)|_{m \times m} &= \sum_{\sigma \in S_m} sgn(\sigma) \prod_{i=1}^m GF(\mathcal{P}(u_i, v_{\sigma(i)})) \\ &= \sum_{\sigma \in S_m, P \in \mathcal{P}(u, v_{\sigma})} sgn(\sigma) w(P) \end{aligned}$$

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$$= \sum_{\sigma \in S_{m}, P \in \mathcal{P}(u, v_{\sigma})} sgn(\sigma)w(P)$$

$$= \sum_{nonintersecting m-tuple P \in \mathcal{P}(u, v)} w(P)$$

$$= \sum_{n-semistandard tableau T of shape \lambda} x^{T}$$

$$= s_{n}(\lambda, x)$$

- $u_1 = (-1,1), v_1 = (1,2), u_2 = (-2,1), v_2 = (-1,2)$
 - $(P_1,P_2)\in\mathbb{P}(u_1,v_1)\times\mathbb{P}(u_2,v_2)$



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 $(x_1 + x_2)(x_1^2 + x_1x_2 + x_2^2) = x_1^2x_2 + x_1x_2^2 + x_1^{3+x_1^2x_2+x_1x_2^2+x_2^3}$

• $(P_1,P_2)\in\mathbb{P}(\underline{u}_1,\underline{v}_2)\times\mathbb{P}(\underline{u}_2,\underline{v}_1)$

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- $(x_1 + x_2)(x_1^2 + x_1x_2 + x_2^2) = x_1^2x_2 + x_1x_2^2 + x_1^{3} + x_1^{2}x_2 + x_1x_2^{2} + x_2^{3}$
- $(P_1,P_2)\in\mathbb{P}(\underline{u}_1,\underline{v}_2)\times\mathbb{P}(\underline{u}_2,\underline{v}_1)$



Jacobi-Trudi continued

$$\begin{aligned} |h_{\lambda_j - j + i}(\mathbf{x})| &= \left| \begin{array}{c} h_2 & h_0 \\ h_3 & h_1 \end{array} \right| &= h_2(x)h_1(x) - h_3(x).1 \\ &= (x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_1x_2)(x_1 + x_2) - (x_1^3 + x_1^2x_2 + x_1x_2^2 + x_2^3) \\ &= x_1^3 + 2x_1x_2^2 + 2x_1x_2^2 + x_2^3 - (x_1^3 + x_1^2x_2 + x_1x_2^2 + x_2^3) = x_1^2x_2 + x_1x_2^2. \end{aligned}$$

Jacobi-Trudi continued

$$|h_{\lambda_{j}-j+i}(\mathbf{x})| = \begin{vmatrix} h_{2} & h_{0} \\ h_{3} & h_{1} \end{vmatrix} = h_{2}(x)h_{1}(x) - h_{3}(x).1$$
$$= (x_{1}^{2} + x_{2}^{2} + x_{1}x_{2})(x_{1} + x_{2}) - (x_{1}^{3} + x_{1}^{2}x_{2} + x_{1}x_{2}^{2} + x_{2}^{3})$$
$$= x_{1}^{3} + 2x_{1}x_{2}^{2} + 2x_{1}x_{2}^{2} + x_{2}^{3} - (x_{1}^{3} + x_{1}^{2}x_{2} + x_{1}x_{2}^{2} + x_{2}^{3}) = x_{1}^{2}x_{2} + x_{1}x_{2}^{2}.$$

e-formula

$$|e_{\lambda'_j-j+i}(\mathbf{x})| = \begin{vmatrix} e_2 & e_0 \\ e_3 & e_1 \end{vmatrix} = e_2(x)e_1(x) - 0.1$$

= $(x_1x_2)(x_1+x_2) = x_1^2x_2 + x_1x_2^2.$

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