## ALGEBRA I NOTES

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Abstract. These are my notes from Victor Ginzburg's Representation Theory (Math 325) class at UChicago, Autumn 2025.

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## 1. Introduction

In this class we'll be interested in the representations of matrix groups. Something like GL(V) or SO(V) clearly acts on V, but it can also act on other interesting spaces. One relevant case of this for us will be when G acts on polynomials in  $x_1, \ldots, x_n$ . Let

$$P_d \subseteq \mathbb{C}[x_1,\ldots,x_n]$$

be the subspace of homogeneous degree-d polynomials in n variables. This space has a basis given by the monomials

$$\left\{ x_1^{d_1} x_2^{d_2} \cdots x_n^{d_n} \mid \sum_i d_i = d \right\}$$

and hence is finite-dimensional.  $P_d$  is stable under action by  $GL_n$ . This is because linear transformation does not affect the degree of monomials (every  $x_j$  is sent to a linear combination of  $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n$ ).

Consider the case of  $G = O_n$ , the orthogonal group. This group fixes the polynomial

$$R := x_1^2 + \dots + x_n^2$$

so as a result, multiplication by R is an intertwining map  $P_d \to P_{d+2}$ , meaning  $R \circ g^* f = g^* (R \circ f)$ . Likewise, let

$$\Delta := \sum_{i} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_j^2}$$

be the Laplacian. This  $\Delta$  is an  $O_n$ -intertwining operator.

We call a function f harmonic if it has  $\Delta(f) = 0$ . The space of harmonic polynomials in n variables of degree d is denoted  $H_d \subseteq P_d$ . For  $d \in \{0,1\}$ ,  $H_d = P_d$ , but for  $d \geq 2$   $H_d$  is strictly smaller. Note that  $H_d$  is stable under orthogonal transformations.

We will now work toward showing that  $H_d$  is an irreducible  $SO_n$ -representation for  $n \geq 3$ .

A representation  $\rho: G \mapsto \operatorname{GL}(V)$  is unitary if G always acts as a unitary operator (i.e. preserves Hermitian inner product) on V. We can give an inner product between polynomials (or any functions) by

$$\langle f_1, f_2 \rangle := \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f_1(x) \overline{f_2(x)} e^{-|x|^2} dx$$

where dx is the Lebesgue measure. Action of  $SO_n$  on  $P_d$  preserves this inner product.

Alternatively, we could put an inner product on  $P_d$  (or on all functions) from integration over  $S^{n-1}$  (the sphere). And polynomials in  $P_d$  are determined by their behavior on  $S^{n-1}$ .

**Proposition**: If V is a finite-dimensional vector space with an inner product, then any *unitary* action of G on V is completely reducible. Specifically, if  $W \subseteq V$  is a G-stable subspace, then one can decompose the action into  $V = W \oplus W^{\perp}$ .

*Proof.* The thing that we need to prove is that if W is G-stable then  $W^{\perp}$  is as well. Let  $x \in W^{\perp}$  and  $w \in W$ . Because g acts as a unitary operator, we have

$$\langle g \cdot x, w \rangle = \langle x, g^{-1} \cdot w \rangle = 0$$

since  $q^{-1} \cdot w \in W$  by G-stability of W.

**Key Lemma**: If  $F \subseteq C(S^{n-1})$  is any subspace stable under  $SO_n$ , then it has an element fixed by  $SO_{n-1}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $N:=(0,0,\ldots,0,1)\in S^{n-1}.$  We have the evaluation map  $\alpha:C(S^{n-1})\to\mathbb{C}$  given by evaluating functions at N. We have an inner product on F given by

$$\langle f, g \rangle := \int_{S^{n-1}} f \overline{g}$$

which is clearly fixed by  $SO_n$ , thus F is a unitary representation of  $SO_n$ . By Riesz representation theorem,  $\alpha(f) \equiv \langle f, \varphi \rangle$  for some  $\varphi \in F$ . For any  $g \in SO_{n-1}$ , g fixes N, thus

$$\langle f, \varphi \rangle = f(N) = f(gN) = (g^{-1}f)(N) = \langle g^{-1}(f), \varphi \rangle = \langle f, g\varphi \rangle$$

and because this is true for arbitrary  $f \in F$  and  $g \in SO_{n-1}$ ,  $\varphi$  is fixed by  $SO_n$ . Now it remains to show that  $\varphi \neq 0$ . We can get this by assuming that some function in F takes a nonzero value on N (we can move N to some point where this is true, since F contains a nonzero function).  $\square$ 

We can apply this key lemma to  $P_d$  or  $H_d$  as F.

Consider  $P_d^{SO_{n-1}}$ , the homogeneous polynomials fixed by  $SO_{n-1}$ . On homework we showed that this is a subspace of  $\mathbb{C}\langle x_n, R \rangle$  (where  $R := x_1^2 + \cdots + x_n^2$ ). One basis of this space is

$$P_d^{\mathrm{SO}_{n-1}} := \mathbb{C}\langle x_n^d, x_n^{d-2} R, x_n^{d-4} R^2, \ldots \rangle$$

thus  $\dim(P_d^{SO_{n-1}}) = \lfloor \frac{d}{2} \rfloor + 1$ .

A very important fact about  $P_d$  is that it decomposes into the subspaces

$$P_d = H_d \oplus R \cdot P_{d-2}$$
  
=  $H_d \oplus RH_{d-2} \oplus R^2H_{d-4} \oplus R^3H_{d-6} \oplus \cdots$ 

(we will show this later). This allows us to deduce the dimension of  $H_d$  from  $P_d$ :

$$\dim(H_d) = \dim(P_d) - \dim(P_{d-2}) = \binom{d+2}{2} - \binom{d}{2} = 2d+1.$$

Likewise, we can decompose  $P_d^{SO_{n-1}}$  the same way:

$$P_d^{SO_{n-1}} = H_d^{SO_{n-1}} \oplus RP_{d-2}^{SO_{n-1}}$$

$$= H_d^{SO_{n-1}} \oplus RH_{d-2}^{SO_{n-1}} \oplus R^2H_{d-4}^{SO_{n-1}} \oplus R^3H_{d-6}^{SO_{n-1}} \oplus \cdots$$

which gives us the dimension of  $H_d^{\mathrm{SO}_{n-1}}$  as

$$\dim(H_d^{SO_{n-1}}) = \dim(P_d^{SO_{n-1}}) - \dim(P_{d-2}^{SO_{n-1}}) = (\lfloor d/2 \rfloor + 1) - (\lfloor (d-2)/2 \rfloor + 1) = 1.$$

As a consequence, we see that each  $H_d$  is an *irreducible* representation of  $SO_n$ ; every stable subspace has a fixed point by the Key Lemma, and the fixed-points are one-dimensional, so there can only be one stable subspace. Thus, as an  $SO_n$ -representation,  $P_d$  decomposes exactly into the sequence  $H_{d-2j}$  for  $2j \leq d$ .

**Theorem:** If  $n \geq 3$ , then for each  $d \geq 0$ , the representation of  $SO_n$  in  $H_d$  is irreducible, and moreover the representations are all distinct for different d.<sup>1</sup>

*Proof.* To show that the representations are distinct, we can use a homework problem which shows that the dimension of  $H_d$  is always increasing in d for any  $n \ge 3$ .

1.1. **Differential Algebra.** Let W be a vector space over k with basis  $w_1, \ldots, w_n$ , and let  $x_1, \ldots, x_n$  be a dual basis for  $W^*$ . We let

$$k[W] := \bigoplus_{d \geq 0} k[W]_d$$

be the homogeneous polynomials over W, where

$$k[W]_j := \operatorname{Sym}^j(W^*).$$

We have the directional derivative operator

$$\partial_{\xi}: k[W]_{i} \to k[W]_{i-1}$$

which acts on k[W] in the expected way (product rule). Thus we have the differential algebra

$$\mathcal{D}(W) = k[\partial_{w_1}, \dots, \partial_{w_n}]$$

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>In the case n=3 this gives all the irreps. In general you miss  $\Lambda^2(\mathbb{C}^n)$ , but when n=3 this is just  $\mathbb{C}^3$ , which you get from  $H_1$ .

acting on k[W]. There is a natural correspondence between k[W] and  $\mathcal{D}(W)$ , if one assumes that k is characteristic 0. We have a k-bilinear pairing

$$\mathcal{D}(W) \times k[W] \to k$$

by  $\langle u, f \rangle \mapsto u(f)(0)$ . This is a perfect pairing. And in general we can do the same thing with

$$\operatorname{Sym}^{j}(W) \times \operatorname{Sym}^{j}(W^{*}) \to k.$$

**Lemma**: Let  $\xi \in W$  and  $f \in k[W]$ . Then

$$\langle \xi^m, f \rangle = m! f(\xi).$$

In particular, if  $f = \varphi \in W^*$ ,  $\langle \xi^m, \varphi^m \rangle = m! \varphi^m(\xi)$ .

*Proof.* We will show this for homogeneous f first, and the general result will follow from expressing f as a sum of homogeneous polynomials. Let the degree of f be d. Then by Taylor expansion,

$$f(\xi) = \sum_{k>0} \frac{1}{k!} (\partial_{\xi}^k f)(0).$$

But note that only the dth term of this is nonzero, since  $\partial_{\xi}^{j} f = 0$  unless j = d (since we are evaluating at 0). Thus,

$$f(\xi) = \frac{(\partial_{\xi}^{d} f)(0)}{d!}$$

and for other j both sides are 0.

We can use this pairing to get another inner product on polynomials in k[W] given by

$$\langle p, q \rangle := p(\partial)(q)(0)$$

where  $p(\partial)$  is the corresponding element to p in  $\mathcal{D}(W)$ .<sup>2</sup> For this inner product, we have that multiplication by p is adjoint to  $p(\partial)$ , i.e.

$$\langle r, p(\partial)q \rangle = \langle pr, q \rangle.$$

With this fact, we can finally show why  $P_d = H_d \oplus RP_{d-2}$ :

$$W = \ker(\Delta) \oplus \operatorname{im}(\Delta^*) = \ker(\Delta) \oplus \operatorname{im}(R) = H_d \oplus RP_{d-2}.$$

Another application of this pairing: Let V be a finite dimensional vector space and  $A \subseteq V$  a subset of V (not necessarily subspace). Let  $\operatorname{span}^d(A) \subseteq \operatorname{Sym}^d(V)$  be generated over  $\mathbb C$  by  $a^d$  for  $a \in A$ . If A is dense in V then  $\operatorname{span}^d(A) = \operatorname{Sym}^d(A)$ . We will show this by using the pairing.

Assume for contradiction that  $\operatorname{span}^d(A) \neq \operatorname{Sym}^d(V)$ . Then there is some nonzero linear functional  $F: \operatorname{Sym}^d(V) \to \mathbb{C}$  which vanishes on  $\operatorname{span}^d(A)$ . Then F corresponds to some differential polynomial f, and  $\partial_a^d f(0) = 0$  for all  $a \in A$ . But  $\partial_a^d f(0) = d! f(a)$ , so f(a) = 0. But then A is dense, so f = 0.

1.2. Representation Theory Basics. If G acts on sets X and Y, then G can also act on the space of maps  $X \to Y$  via conjugation:

$$g: f \mapsto g \circ f \circ g^{-1}$$
.

We can ask about the space of maps which commute with this G-action. Or, equivalently, the maps which are fixed by the G-action. We call these *intertwining operators*. The set of such operators is denoted  $\operatorname{Hom}_G(X,Y)$ .

We are usually interested in the case where X,Y are vector spaces and  $\operatorname{Hom}(X,Y)$  is the space of linear maps.

Schur-Weyl Duality: Let W be a finite-dimensional vector space over  $\mathbb{C}$ .  $\mathrm{GL}(W)$  can act on  $W^{\otimes d}$  with g acting as  $g^{\otimes d}$ .  $S_d$  also acts on  $W^{\otimes d}$  by permutation. It is not too hard to see that these two actions commute. But moreover, action by  $\mathrm{GL}(W)$  spans the space of  $S_d$ -intertwiners on  $W^{\otimes d}$ .

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>In the homework, we establish that on  $H_d$ , this is actually equivalent to the inner product from integrating over  $S^{n-1}$ !

*Proof.* Let  $\Phi: (\operatorname{End}(W))^{\otimes d} \to \operatorname{End}(W^{\otimes d})$  be given by

$$\Phi: a_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes a_d \mapsto (w_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes w_d \mapsto a_1(w_1) \otimes \cdots \otimes a_d(w_d)).$$

 $\Phi$  is an invertible linear map with inverse

$$\Phi^{-1}f \mapsto f|_{W_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes f|_{W_n}$$

where  $W_j$  is  $0 \otimes \cdots \otimes W \otimes \cdots \otimes 0$  with the W in the jth spot. Note also that  $\Phi$  commutes with the action of  $S_d$ . By using  $\Phi$ , we see that

$$\operatorname{Sym}^{d}(\operatorname{End} W) = ((\operatorname{End} W)^{\otimes d})^{S_{d}} \xrightarrow{\Phi^{-1}} \operatorname{End}_{S_{d}}(W^{\otimes d}).$$

So we only need to understand  $\operatorname{Sym}^d(\operatorname{End} W)$ . But  $\operatorname{GL}(W)$  is dense in  $\operatorname{End}(W)$ , so by a previous lemma, we see that  $\operatorname{span}^d(\operatorname{GL}(W)) = \operatorname{Sym}^d(\operatorname{End} W)$ .

1.3. **Spectral Theorem.** Let A be a k-algebra with  $a \in A$ . We have an evaluation map

$$\operatorname{ev}_a: k[t] \to A \quad \operatorname{ev}_a: p \mapsto p(a).$$

Let  $A_a := \operatorname{im}(\operatorname{ev}_a)$ , i.e. the subalgebra of A generated by a. The kernel  $\ker(\operatorname{ev}_a)$  is an ideal of k[t], and it is a principal ideal since k[t] is a PID. Thus, in the case that  $\operatorname{ev}_a$  is non-injective, there is a unique  $\operatorname{minimal\ polynomial\ }$  of  $a, p_a$ , which divides every polynomial which vanishes at a.

**Lemma**: a is algebraic iff  $A_a$  is finite-dimensional.

*Proof.* If  $A_a$  is finite-dimensional then there is a relation between  $1, a, a^2, \ldots, a^n$  for some n, i.e. a polynomial that a solves. Conversely if a solves a polynomial of degree n then every linear combination of powers of a can be expressed by the first n powers of a.

We define the *spectrum* of a, denoted Spec(a), as

$$\operatorname{Spec}(a) := \{ \lambda \in k : (a - \lambda) \text{ is not invertible} \}.$$

So for example, if A is a function algebra,  $\operatorname{Spec}(a)$  denotes the values that a can take. In the case that A is the matrix algebra  $M_n(k)$ ,  $\operatorname{Spec}(a)$  is the set of eigenvalues of a.

The Spectral Theorem: Let A be a k-algebra of one of the following types:

- $\bullet$  A is finite-dimensional over k and k is algebraically closed.
- $\bullet$  A is countable-dimension and k is uncountable.

Then,

- (i) Spec(a) is nonempty.
- (ii) a is nilpotent iff  $Spec(a) = \{0\}.$
- (iii) If A is a division algebra then A = k.<sup>3</sup>

*Proof.* Lemma: If  $\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_n \notin \operatorname{Spec}(a)$ , i.e.  $(a - \lambda_j)$  is invertible for each j, then if

$$\sum_{j} c_j (a - \lambda_j)^{-1} = 0$$

for some  $c_i \in k$  then a is algebraic (proof is by clearing denominators). We will use this fact.

(i): We will split into two cases: if a is algebraic then  $\operatorname{Spec}(a)$  is finite but nonempty and if a is not algebraic then  $\operatorname{Spec}(a)$  is uncountable (and the converses to both of these are true).

If a is algebraic, then  $\operatorname{Spec}(a)$  is the roots of the minimal polynomial (HW), and particular this means  $\operatorname{Spec}(a)$  is finite and nonempty because k is algebraically closed.

If a is not algebraic, then by the Lemma, there is no linear relation between any finitely-many  $(a-\lambda)^{-1}$  for  $\lambda \notin \operatorname{Spec}(a)$ . We assumed that  $\dim(A)$  is at most countable, and it has an independent set of size  $|k \setminus \operatorname{Spec}(a)|$ , so  $\operatorname{Spec}(a)$  must be uncountable (because k is).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>For a counterexample of this when k is not algebraically closed, take the Quaternions over  $\mathbb{R}$ .

(ii): If  $a^n = 0$ , then  $0 \in \text{Spec}(a)$  because a is not invertible, but all other  $(a - \lambda)$  are invertible:  $(a - \lambda)(a^{n-1} + a^{n-2}\lambda + a^{n-3}\lambda^2 + \dots + \lambda^{n-1}) = a^n - \lambda^n = -\lambda^n$ .

so

$$(a - \lambda)^{-1} = -\lambda^{-n} (a^{n-1} + a^{n-2}\lambda + a^{n-3}\lambda^2 + \dots + \lambda^{n-1}).$$

Conversely, suppose that  $Spec(a) = \{0\}$ .  $\{0\}$  is a finite set, so by part (i), a is algebraic, but its minimal polynomial only has root a = 0, so  $a^n = 0$  for some n.

- (iii): Assume for contradiction that A is a division algebra yet  $\exists a \in A \setminus k$ . Then  $(a \lambda)$  is invertible for all  $\lambda \in k$ , but then Spec(a) would be empty, contradicting (i).
- 1.4. **Modules.** A module M over ring A is called *simple* if it is nonzero and has no proper non-trivial submodules (i.e. its only submodules are 0 and M).

**Schur's Lemma**: If  $f: M \to N$  is an A-linear map between *simple A*-modules M and N, then f is either 0 or an isomorphism.

*Proof.*  $\ker(f)$  is a submodule of M and  $\operatorname{im}(f)$  is a submodule of N. By simplicity, both must be either trivial or the full module. This implies that f is either injective or 0, and either surjective or 0.

As a corollary, we see that  $\operatorname{End}_A M$  is a division ring.

Schur's Lemma for Algebras: If A is a k-algebra and M a simple A-module either

- k is algebraically closed and either A or M is finite-dimensional over k.
- $k = \mathbb{C}$  and either A or M is countable-dimension over k.

Then,  $\operatorname{End}_A M = k \operatorname{id}_M$ .

*Proof.* On HW we showed that  $\dim(\operatorname{End}_A M) \leq \dim_A M$ . The lemma can be proven by applying the spectral theorem to the algebra  $\operatorname{End}_A M$ .

If A satisfies the hypotheses of the Spectral Theorem and M is a simple A-module, then the center Z of A acts in M by scalars, as  $z \cdot am = az \cdot m$  for  $z \in Z, a \in A, m \in M$ . And in particular if A is commutative then  $\dim_k M = 1$  because every subspace of M is A-stable.

Schur's Lemma for Group Representations: If V, W are representations of a group G over a field k,

- (i) If V, W are irreducible then all intertwiners are either 0 or isomorphisms.
- (ii) If  $\dim_k(V)$  is finite and k is algebraically closed or  $k = \mathbb{C}$  and  $|G| = \aleph_0$ , then

$$\operatorname{End}_G V = k \cdot \operatorname{id}_V.$$

*Proof.* This follows from applying Schur's Lemma for Algebras. A representation of G corresponds to a module over the group algebra A := kG. Note that  $\dim_k(A) = |G|$ .

1.5. Representations of  $S_n$ .  $S_n$  acts on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  by permuting the coordinates. We have the sign representation given by taking the determinant.

 $S_n$  also acts on  $P_d$  by permuting the variables:

$$\sigma(f)(x_1,\ldots,x_n) := f(x_{\sigma^{-1}(1)},x_{\sigma^{-1}(2)},\ldots,x_{\sigma^{-1}(n)}).$$

Motivated by this action, we can consider the symmetric polynomials  $P^{S_n}$ .

A partition of n is a finite non-increasing sequence of positive integers  $\lambda_1 \geq \cdots \geq \lambda_k$  whose sum is n. Let the set of partitions of n be  $\mathcal{P}_n$ . Corresponding to a partition, we have a decomposition of [1, n] into  $I_1, I_2, \ldots, I_k$  of length  $|I_j| = \lambda_j$ .

The Vandermonde Determinant is the polynomial

$$\Delta_n := \prod_{1 \le i < j \le n} (x_j - x_i)$$

which can also be written as the determinant

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ x_1 & x_2 & \dots & x_n \\ x_1^2 & x_2^2 & \dots & x_n^2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ x_1^{n-1} & x_2^{n-1} & \dots & x_n^{n-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

Corresponding to a given partition  $\lambda$ , define

$$\Delta(I_m) := \prod_{i < j \in I_m} (x_j - x_i)$$

and

$$\Delta_{\lambda} := \prod_{m} \Delta(I_m).$$

 $\Delta_{\lambda}$  is a homogeneous polynomial, and its degree is

$$d := \sum_{m} \frac{\lambda_m(\lambda_m - 1)}{2}$$

so  $\Delta_{\lambda} \in P_d$ .

The Specht Module associated with  $\lambda$ , denoted  $V(\lambda)$  is the k-span of  $\Delta_{\lambda}$  under the action of  $S_n$ . It is clearly stable under the action of  $S_n$ .

Examples:

- Let  $\lambda = (1, 1, 1, ..., 1)$ . Then  $\Delta_{\lambda} = 1$ , and  $V(\lambda) = P_0$ , the constant polynomials. The action of  $S_n$  on  $V(\lambda)$  is trivial. Thus, this  $\lambda$  represents the trivial representation.
- Let  $\lambda = (n)$ . Then  $\Delta_{\lambda} = \Delta_n$ , the entire Vandermonde determinant. Since this is just a determinant whose columns are permuted by the action of  $S_n$ , the action scales by the sign of the permutation. This makes  $V(\lambda) = k\Delta_n$ , which is one-dimensional. It is the sign representation of  $S_n$ .

Note that in all of these cases  $V(\lambda)$  is irreducible. This is actually true in general:

**Theorem:** Assuming that the underlying field k is characteristic 0, the Specht module is always an irreducible representation. Moreover, all irreps of  $S_n$  can be expressed as  $V(\lambda)$  for some partition  $\lambda$ .<sup>5</sup>

*Proof.* The proof has three steps. The first step will be to show that  $V(\lambda)$  is irreducible, which we do on homework. Step 2 is that the number of irreducible representations of  $S_n$  is equal to the number of partitions of n. Step 3 will show that the modules  $V(\lambda)$  are pairwise non-isomorphic for different  $\lambda$ , and hence we have a bijection.

Step 3: In homework (it is fairly clear I think) we showed that if  $d_{\mu} \neq d_{\lambda}$  then  $V(\mu) \not\cong V(\lambda)$ , so it remains to show this for  $\mu, \lambda$  that have equal degree.

Notation: for  $\nu \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^n$  (note: may have repeats!),  $S_n$  acts on  $\nu$  in the natural way. Let  $m_j(\nu)$  denote the number of elements of  $\nu$  that are equal to j (this is invariant under  $S_n$ ). Let  $\nu(\lambda)$  be

$$\nu(\lambda) := (1, 2, \dots, \lambda_1, 1, 2, \dots, \lambda_2, \dots, 1, 2, \dots, \lambda_n).$$

Then  $m_j(\nu(\lambda))$  is the length of the jth column in the Young diagram of  $\lambda$ ,  $D(\lambda)$ . Or equivalently, the  $m_j$  form another partition corresponding to the transposed Young diagram  $D^T(\lambda)$ .

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>This is not the most common way to construct the Specht module of  $\lambda$ .

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>It is also true that  $V(\lambda)$  is a subspace of the  $S_n$ -harmonic polynomials (as defined on HW) and the index is  $\dim(V(\lambda))$ .

Similarly, we can apply all this to polynomials in n variables. The monomial  $x^{\nu}$  is

$$x^{\nu} := \prod_{j=1}^{n} x_j^{\nu_j}$$

so that for a partition  $\lambda$ ,

$$x^{\nu(\lambda)} := \prod_{i=1}^k \prod_{j=1}^{\lambda_i} x_{\lambda_i+j}^j.$$

Recall that  $\Delta_{\lambda}$  is defined in terms of Vandermonde determinants, which are expressed as

$$\Delta_n = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \operatorname{sgn}(\sigma) x_1^{\sigma(1)-1} \cdots x_n^{\sigma(n)-1}.$$

And for  $\Delta_{\lambda}$ , we have a similar thing but with Young subgroups:

$$\Delta_{\lambda} = \sum_{\sigma \in S_{\lambda}} \operatorname{sgn}(\sigma) x_1^{\sigma(1)-1} \cdots x_n^{\sigma(n)-1} = \frac{1}{x_1 x_2 \cdots x_n} \sum_{\sigma \in S_{\lambda}} \operatorname{sgn}(\sigma) x^{s(\nu(\lambda))}.$$

Now, if  $V(\mu) = V(\lambda)$ , then  $\Delta_{\mu} \in V(\lambda)$ , i.e. it is a linear combination of permutations of  $\Delta_{\lambda}$ . So for example, the monomial  $x^{\nu(\mu)}$  appears as  $x^{\sigma(\nu(\lambda))}$  for some  $\sigma$ . But we can show that this fails (fill in later).

The Young Subgroup of  $S_n$  corresponding to  $\lambda$  consists of all permutations which preserve all

the pieces  $I_m$ . It is denoted  $S_{\lambda}$  and is isomorphic to  $S_{\lambda_1} \times S_{\lambda_2} \times \cdots \times S_{\lambda_k}$ . Define  $P^{S_{\lambda}}$  to be the polynomials fixed by  $S_{\lambda}$ , and  $P^{\operatorname{sgn}(\lambda)}$  the polynomials on which  $S_{\lambda}$  acts in an anti-symmetric way. We can see that  $P^{\operatorname{sgn}(\lambda)}$  is stable under scaling by  $P^{S_{\lambda}}$ , i.e. it is a  $P^{S_{\lambda}}$ -submodule.

**Lemma:** Let  $F: V(\lambda) \to P_d$  be an  $S_n$ -intertwiner. Then

- (1) If  $d = d_{\lambda}$ , then F acts by scaling.
- (2) If  $d < d_{\lambda}$ , then F is trivial.

*Proof.* For  $s \in S_{\lambda}$ ,  $s(F(\Delta_{\lambda})) = F(s(\Delta_{\lambda}))$ , and  $s(\Delta_{\lambda}) = \operatorname{sgn}_{\lambda}(s) \cdot \Delta_{\lambda}$ , so F acts by scaling. fill in

In general, we can see that  $V(\lambda^t) = V(\lambda) \otimes \operatorname{sgn}$ .