

Weighted posets and the enriched monomial basis of QSym [slides]

Darij Grinberg and Ekaterina Vassilieva

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these slides: <https://github.com/darijgr/fpsac21eta/raw/main/fps21eta-talk.pdf>
paper: <https://www.mat.univie.ac.at/~slc/wpapers/FPSAC2021/58Grinberg.pdf>

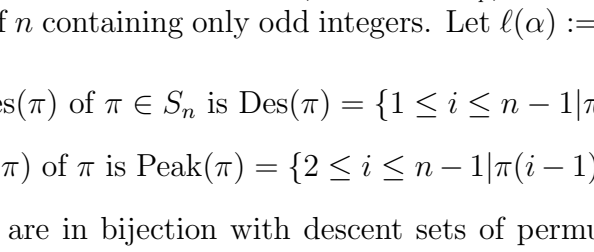
Summary of our work

Hsiao defines in [4] the **monomial peak functions** η_α : a class of quasisymmetric functions indexed by **odd compositions** of n . They provide a monomial-like basis to Stembridge's algebra of peaks [5] and are related to Stembridge peak functions K_α through

$$K_\alpha = \sum_{\substack{\beta \in \text{Odd}(n); \\ \text{Peak}(\beta) \subseteq \text{Peak}(\alpha)}} \eta_\beta.$$

In the present work:

- We show that monomial peak functions may be extended to a **basis of (the whole) QSym**. We name this new basis the **enriched monomial basis** of QSym.
- We relate it to other bases of QSym, compute its **antipode** and **coproduct**.
- We introduce **weighted posets** and their **enriched P-partitions** (generalizing both the weighted posets of [1] and the enriched P-partitions of [5]), whose generating functions give a **universal framework** for many types of quasisymmetric functions.



- We use our framework to compute the **product** of two enriched monomials:

$$\eta_\alpha \eta_\beta = \sum_{\substack{\gamma \in \text{ow}(\beta); \\ I \subseteq (S_\beta(\gamma) \setminus (S_\beta(\gamma) - 1)) \setminus \{1\}}} (-1)^{|I|} \eta_{\gamma \dot{\cup} I}.$$

1. Notation and basic definitions

1.1. Compositions and permutations statistics

- $\mathbb{P} = \{1, 2, \dots\}$, $\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, \dots\}$, $[n] = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$, S_n the symmetric group on $[n]$
- **Comp**(n) is the set of **compositions** $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_p)$ of n . **Odd**(n) is the set of **odd compositions** of n containing only odd integers. Let $\ell(\alpha) := p$, $|\alpha| := \sum_i \alpha_i = n$.

- The **descent set** $\text{Des}(\pi)$ of $\pi \in S_n$ is $\text{Des}(\pi) = \{1 \leq i \leq n-1 \mid \pi(i) > \pi(i+1)\}$.
- The **peak set** $\text{Peak}(\pi)$ of π is $\text{Peak}(\pi) = \{2 \leq i \leq n-1 \mid \pi(i-1) < \pi(i) > \pi(i+1)\}$.

Compositions of n are in bijection with descent sets of permutations in S_n while odd compositions of n , are in one-to-one correspondence with peak sets. Denote **Des**(α) (**Peak**(α)) the descent set (peak set) associated with (odd) composition α .

1.2. Quasisymmetric functions

- For any $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_p) \in \text{Comp}(n)$, define the **monomial quasisymmetric function** M_α and the **fundamental quasisymmetric function** L_α by

$$M_\alpha = \sum_{i_1 < \dots < i_p} x_{i_1}^{\alpha_1} x_{i_2}^{\alpha_2} \dots x_{i_p}^{\alpha_p}, \quad L_\alpha = \sum_{\substack{i_1 \leq \dots \leq i_n; \\ j \in \text{Des}(\alpha) \Rightarrow i_j < i_{j+1}}} x_{i_1} x_{i_2} \dots x_{i_n}.$$

- As an example, for $n = 3$, we have

$$M_{(2,1)} = \sum_{i < j} x_i^2 x_j = x_1^2 x_2 + x_1^2 x_3 + x_2^2 x_3 + x_1^2 x_4 + x_2^2 x_4 + x_3^2 x_4 + \dots,$$

$$L_{(2,1)} = \sum_{i \leq j < k} x_i x_j x_k = x_1^2 x_2 + x_1^2 x_3 + x_1 x_2 x_3 + x_2^2 x_3 + x_1^2 x_4 + x_1 x_2 x_4 + x_2^2 x_4 + \dots$$

- The sets $\{M_\alpha\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}, \alpha \in \text{Comp}(n)}$ and $\{L_\alpha\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}, \alpha \in \text{Comp}(n)}$ are two bases of the \mathbf{k} -module QSym. They are related through

$$L_\alpha = \sum_{\substack{\beta \in \text{Comp}(n); \\ \text{Des}(\alpha) \subseteq \text{Des}(\beta)}} M_\beta. \quad (1)$$

1.3. Peak and monomial peak functions

- In [5], Stembridge introduces **peak** quasisymmetric functions. Given $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\alpha \in \text{Odd}(n)$,

$$K_\alpha = \sum_{j \in \text{Peak}(\alpha) \Rightarrow i_{j-1} < i_j > i_{j+1}} 2^{\{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n\}} x_{i_1} x_{i_2} \dots x_{i_n}.$$

- Hsiao defines in [4] the **monomial peak functions**. For any odd composition $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_p) \in \text{Odd}(n)$, let

$$\eta_\alpha = (-1)^{(n-\ell(\alpha))/2} \sum_{i_1 \leq \dots \leq i_p} 2^{\{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_p\}} x_{i_1}^{\alpha_1} x_{i_2}^{\alpha_2} \dots x_{i_p}^{\alpha_p}. \quad (2)$$

- An identity similar to Equation (1) relates peak and monomial peak functions:

$$K_\alpha = \sum_{\substack{\beta \in \text{Odd}(n); \\ \text{Peak}(\beta) \subseteq \text{Peak}(\alpha)}} \eta_\beta. \quad (3)$$

1.4. Posets and P -partitions

- A **labelled poset** $P = ([n], <_P)$ is an arbitrary partial order $<_P$ on the set $[n]$.

- Let $P = ([n], <_P)$ be a labelled poset. A **P -partition** is a map $f : [n] \rightarrow \mathbb{P}$ that satisfies the two following conditions:

- If $i <_P j$, then $f(i) \leq f(j)$.
- If $i <_P j$ and $i > j$, then $f(i) < f(j)$.

- Let $\mathbb{P}^\pm = \{-, +\} \times \mathbb{P}$. We equip the set \mathbb{P}^\pm with a total order given by $-1 < 1 < -2 < 2 < -3 < \dots$. Let $P = ([n], <_P)$ be a labelled poset. An **enriched P -partition** is a map $f : [n] \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^\pm$ that satisfies the following two conditions:

- If $i <_P j$ and $i < j$, then $f(i) < f(j)$ or $f(i) = f(j) \in \mathbb{P}$.
- If $i <_P j$ and $i > j$, then $f(i) < f(j)$ or $f(i) = f(j) \in -\mathbb{P}$.

- A more general concept was defined in [2]: Let \mathcal{Z} be a subset of the totally ordered set \mathbb{P}^\pm and $P = ([n], <_P)$ be a labelled poset. A **\mathcal{Z} -enriched P -partition** is an enriched P -partition $f : [n] \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^\pm$ with $f([n]) \subseteq \mathcal{Z}$. Let $\mathcal{L}_\mathcal{Z}(P)$ denote the set of \mathcal{Z} -enriched P -partitions.

- Let $X = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots\}$, $P = ([n], <_P)$, and $\mathcal{Z} \subseteq \mathbb{P}^\pm$. Define the **\mathcal{Z} -generating function of P** as the formal power series

$$\Gamma_\mathcal{Z}([n], <_P) = \sum_{f \in \mathcal{L}_\mathcal{Z}([n], <_P)} \prod_{1 \leq i \leq n} x_{|f(i)|}. \quad (4)$$

- Given $\pi \in S_n$, let $P_\pi = ([n], <_\pi)$ denote the labelled poset where the order relation $<_\pi$ is such that $\pi_i <_\pi \pi_j$ if and only if $i < j$ (see Figure 1).

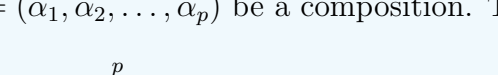


Figure 1: The labelled poset associated to permutation π .

- Set $L_\pi = \Gamma_\mathbb{P}([n], <_\pi)$ and $K_\pi = \Gamma_\mathbb{P}([n], <_\pi)$. The function L_π is equal to the fundamental quasisymmetric function L_α indexed by the unique composition α such that $\text{Des}(\alpha) = \text{Des}(\pi)$. Similarly, K_π is equal to the peak function K_α indexed by the unique odd composition α such that $\text{Peak}(\alpha) = \text{Peak}(\pi)$.

- Given two permutations $\pi \in S_n$ and $\sigma \in S_m$

$$\Gamma_\mathcal{Z}([n], <_\pi) \Gamma_\mathcal{Z}([m], <_\sigma) = \sum_{\gamma \in \pi \cup \sigma} \Gamma_\mathcal{Z}([n+m], <_\gamma). \quad (5)$$

$$L_\pi L_\sigma = \sum_{\gamma \in \pi \cup \sigma} L_\gamma, \quad K_\pi K_\sigma = \sum_{\gamma \in \pi \cup \sigma} K_\gamma. \quad (6)$$

2. The enriched monomial basis of QSym

2.1. The enriched monomial functions

Definition 1: Enriched monomials

For any $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and any composition $\alpha \in \text{Comp}(n)$, we define a quasisymmetric function $\eta_\alpha \in \text{QSym}$ by

$$\eta_\alpha = \sum_{\substack{\beta \in \text{Comp}(n); \\ \text{Des}(\beta) \subseteq \text{Des}(\alpha)}} 2^{\ell(\beta)} M_\beta. \quad (7)$$

Examples

- (a) Setting $n = 5$ and $\alpha = (1, 3, 1)$ in this definition, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \eta_{(1,3,1)} &= \sum_{\substack{\beta \in \text{Comp}(5); \\ \text{Des}(\beta) \subseteq \text{Des}(1,3,1)}} 2^{\ell(\beta)} M_\beta = \sum_{\substack{\beta \in \text{Comp}(5); \\ \text{Des}(\beta) \subseteq \{1,4\}}} 2^{\ell(\beta)} M_\beta \quad (\text{Des}(1,3,1) = \{1,4\}) \\ &= 2^{\ell(5)} M_{(5)} + 2^{\ell(1,4)} M_{(1,4)} + 2^{\ell(4,1)} M_{(4,1)} + 2^{\ell(1,3,1)} M_{(1,3,1)} \\ &= 2M_{(5)} + 4M_{(1,4)} + 4M_{(4,1)} + 8M_{(1,3,1)}. \end{aligned}$$

- (b) For any positive integer n , we have $\eta_{(n)} = 2M_{(n)}$ (since the composition (n) satisfies $\text{Des}(n) = \emptyset$). Likewise, the empty composition $\emptyset = ()$ satisfies $\eta_\emptyset = M_\emptyset$.

Proposition 1: Power series expansion

Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_p) \in \text{Comp}(n)$. Then,

$$\eta_\alpha = \sum_{\substack{i_1 \leq i_2 \leq \dots \leq i_n; \\ i_j = i_{j+1} \text{ for } j \in [n-1] \setminus \text{Des}(\alpha)}} 2^{\{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n\}} x_{i_1} x_{i_2} \dots x_{i_n},$$

$$\eta_\alpha = \sum_{i_1 \leq i_2 \leq \dots \leq i_p} 2^{\{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_p\}} x_{i_1}^{\alpha_1} x_{i_2}^{\alpha_2} \dots x_{i_p}^{\alpha_p}.$$

Proposition 2: Relation to fundamental basis

Let n be a positive integer. Let $\alpha \in \text{Comp}(n)$. Then,

$$\eta_\alpha = 2 \sum_{\gamma \in \text{Comp}(n)} (-1)^{|\text{Des}(\gamma) \setminus \text{Des}(\alpha)|} L_\gamma.$$

2.2. The η_α as a basis, antipode and coproduct

Theorem 1: Enriched monomials are a basis of QSym

Assume that 2 is invertible in \mathbf{k} . Then, the family $(\eta_\alpha)_{n \in \mathbb{N}, \alpha \in \text{Comp}(n)}$ is a basis of the \mathbf{k} -module QSym. Furthermore, for $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\beta \in \text{Comp}(n)$,

$$2^{\ell(\beta)} M_\beta = \sum_{\substack{\alpha \in \text{Comp}(n); \\ \text{Des}(\alpha) \subseteq \text{Des}(\beta)}} (-1)^{\ell(\beta) - \ell(\alpha)} \eta_\alpha.$$

Proposition 3: Antipode of enriched monomials

Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\alpha \in \text{Comp}(n)$. Then, the antipode S of QSym satisfies

$$S(\eta_\alpha) = (-1)^{\ell(\alpha)} \eta_{\text{rev } \alpha}.$$

Theorem 2: Coproduct of enriched monomials

Consider the coproduct $\Delta : \text{QSym} \rightarrow \text{QSym} \otimes \text{QSym}$ of the Hopf algebra QSym (see [3, §5.1]). Let $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_p)$ be a composition. Then,

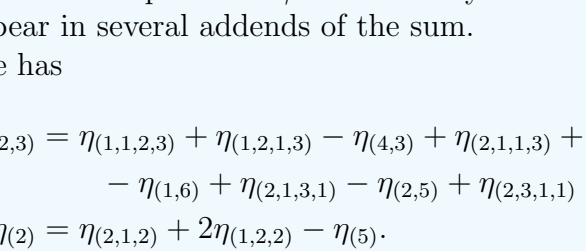
$$\Delta(\eta_\alpha) = \sum_{k=0}^p \eta_{(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_k)} \otimes \eta_{(\alpha_{k+1}, \alpha_{k+2}, \dots, \alpha_p)}.$$

3. The product rule for the enriched monomial basis

3.1. Weighted posets

Definition 2: Labelled weighted posets

A **labelled weighted poset** is a triple $P = ([n], <_P, \epsilon)$ where $([n], <_P)$ is a labelled poset and $\epsilon : [n] \rightarrow \mathbb{P}$ is a map (called the **weight function**). In a labelled weighted poset each node is marked with two numbers: its label $i \in [n]$ and its weight $\epsilon(i)$.



For any set $\mathcal{Z} \subseteq \mathbb{P}^\pm$, we define the generating function $\Gamma_\mathcal{Z}([n], <_P, \epsilon)$ of the labelled weighted poset $([n], <_P, \epsilon)$ by

$$\Gamma_\mathcal{Z}([n], <_P, \epsilon) = \sum_{f \in \mathcal{L}_\mathcal{Z}([n], <_P)} \prod_{1 \leq i \leq n} x_{|f(i)|}^{\epsilon(i)}. \quad (8)$$

3.2. Universal quasisymmetric functions

Definition 3: Universal quasisymmetric functions

Let $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n)$ be a composition. Let $\pi = \pi_1 \dots \pi_n$ be a permutation in S_n . Let $P_{\pi, \alpha} = ([n], <_{\pi, \alpha})$ denote the labelled weighted poset composed of the labelled poset $([n], <_\pi)$ and the weight function sending the vertex labelled π_i to α_i .

$$\pi_1, \alpha_1 \longrightarrow \pi_2, \alpha_2 \longrightarrow \dots \longrightarrow \pi_n, \alpha_n$$

We define the **universal quasisymmetric function** $U_{\pi, \alpha}^\mathcal{Z}$ as the generating function

$$U_{\pi, \alpha}^\mathcal{Z} = \Gamma_\mathcal{Z}([n], <_{\pi, \alpha}). \quad (9)$$

Proposition 4: Specialisation of universal quasisymmetric functions

Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Let id_n and \overline{id}_n denote the two permutations in S_n given by $id_n = 1 \ 2 \ 3 \dots n$ and $\overline{id}_n = n \ n-1 \ n-2 \dots 1$ (in one-line notation). Denote further (1^n) the composition of n with n entries equal to 1. Let $\pi \in S_n$. Then,

$$U_{\pi, (1^n)}^\mathbb{P} = L_\pi, \quad U_{\pi, (1^n)}^{\mathbb{P}^\pm} = K_\pi, \quad U_{id_n, \alpha}^\mathbb{P} = M_\alpha, \quad U_{id_n, \alpha}^{\mathbb{P}^\pm} = \eta_\alpha. \quad (10)$$

3.3. Product rule

Theorem 3: Product of universal quasisymmetric functions

Let \mathcal{Z} be a subset of \mathbb{P}^\pm . Let π and σ be two permutations in S_n and S_m , and let $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$ and $\beta = (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_m)$ be two compositions with n and m entries. The product of two universal quasisymmetric functions is given by

$$U_{\pi, \alpha}^\mathcal{Z} U_{\sigma, \beta}^\mathcal{Z} = \sum_{(\tau, \gamma) \in (\pi, \alpha) \sqcup (\sigma, \beta)} U_{\tau, \gamma}^\mathcal{Z}. \quad (11)$$

Proof. The proof is iterative and uses the following decomposition of posets. \square

Figure 2: Decomposition of a double chain weighted poset into two posets with one incomparable pair less.

3.4. Product of enriched monomials

Let α and β be two compositions with n and m entries. Equations (10) and (11) imply:

$$\eta_\alpha \eta_\beta = U_{id_n, \alpha}^{\mathbb{P}^\pm} U_{id_m, \beta}^{\mathbb{P}^\pm} = \sum_{(\tau, \gamma) \in (id_n, \alpha) \sqcup (id_m, \beta)} U_{\tau, \gamma}^{\mathbb{P}^\pm}. \quad (12)$$

Definition 4: Composition reduction

Let $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$ be a composition with n entries. Let $\alpha^{i \downarrow i}$ denote the following composition with $n-2$ entries:

$$\alpha^{i \downarrow i} = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{i-2}, \alpha_{i-1} + \alpha_i + \alpha_{i+1}, \alpha_{i+2}, \dots, \alpha_n).$$

Furthermore, for any peak-lacunar subset $I \subseteq [n-1]$, we set $\alpha^{i \downarrow i, I} = \alpha$ if $I = \emptyset$ and

$$\alpha^{i \downarrow i, I} = \left((\dots (\alpha^{i \downarrow i_k}) \dots)^{i \downarrow i_2} \right)^{i \downarrow i_1},$$

where i_1, i_2, \dots, i_k are the elements of $I \neq \emptyset$ in increasing order. As an example, let $\alpha = (2, 1, 4, 3, 2)$. We have $\alpha^{i \downarrow i, 2} = (2, 8, 2)$ and $\alpha^{i \downarrow i, 2, 4} = (12)$.

Theorem 4: Universal quasisymmetric functions to enriched monomials

Let α be a composition with n entries and π a permutation in S_n . We have

$$U_{\pi, \alpha}^{\mathbb{P}^\pm} = \sum_{I \subseteq \text{Peak}(\pi)} (-1)^{|I|} \eta_{\alpha^{i \downarrow i, I}}. \quad (13)$$

Proof (sketch). From the definition of $U_{\pi, \alpha}^{\mathbb{P}^\pm}$, one can obtain without too much trouble that

$$U_{\pi, \alpha}^{\mathbb{P}^\pm} = \sum_{\substack{i_1 \leq i_2 \leq \dots \leq i_n; \\ j \in \text{Peak}(\pi) \Rightarrow i_{j-1} = i_j = i_{j+1}}} 2^{\{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n\}} x_{i_1}^{\alpha_1} x_{i_2}^{\alpha_2} \dots x_{i_n}^{\alpha_n}.$$

By the inclusion-exclusion principle, this can be rewritten as

$$U_{\pi, \alpha}^{\mathbb{P}^\pm} = \sum_{I \subseteq \text{Peak}(\pi)} (-1)^{|I|} \sum_{\substack{i_1 \leq i_2 \leq \dots \leq i_n; \\ j \in I \Rightarrow i_{j-1} = i_j = i_{j+1}}} 2^{\{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n\}} x_{i_1}^{\alpha_1} x_{i_2}^{\alpha_2} \dots x_{i_n}^{\alpha_n}. \quad \square$$

Theorem 5: Product rule for enriched monomials

Let $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$ and $\beta = (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_m)$ be two compositions. Given a composition γ obtained by shuffling α and β (we shall denote this by $\gamma \in \alpha \sqcup \beta$), let $S_\beta(\gamma)$ be the set of the positions of the entries of β in γ . Denote further $S_\beta(\gamma) - 1 = \{i-1 \mid i \in S_\beta(\gamma)\}$. Then,

$$\eta_\alpha \eta_\beta = \sum_{\substack{\gamma \in \alpha \sqcup \beta; \\ I \subseteq (S_\beta(\gamma) \setminus (S_\beta(\gamma) - 1)) \setminus \{1\}}} (-1)^{|I|} \eta_{\gamma \dot{\cup} I}. \quad (14)$$

The sum ranges not over compositions γ but over ways to shuffle α with β . Thus, the same γ can appear in several addends of the sum.

As an example, one has

$$\begin{aligned} \eta_{(1,1)} \eta_{(2,3)} &= \eta_{(1,1,2,3)} + \eta_{(1,2,1,3)} - \eta_{(4,3)} + \eta_{(2,1,1,3)} + \eta_{(1,2,3,1)} \\ &\quad - \eta_{(1,6)} + \eta_{(2,1,3,1)} - \eta_{(2,5)} + \eta_{(2,3,1,1)} - \eta_{(6,1)}, \\$$