

Staircase Macdonald polynomials and the q -discriminant

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Introduction

Let $\mathbb{X} = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$.

q -discriminant:

$$\mathcal{D}_1(\mathbb{X}, q) := \prod_{i \neq j} (qx_i - x_j).$$

Example: $n = 4$

$$\mathcal{D}_1(\mathbb{X}, q) = \underbrace{\frac{(qx_1 - x_4)}{(qx_1 - x_3)(qx_2 - x_4)}}_{i < j} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{(qx_4 - x_1)}{(qx_4 - x_2)(qx_3 - x_1)}}_{i > j} \cdot \frac{(qx_1 - x_2)(qx_2 - x_3)(qx_3 - x_4)}{(qx_4 - x_3)(qx_3 - x_2)(qx_2 - x_1)}$$

Introduction

We define the “polarized powers” of the q -discriminant by:

$$\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{X}, q) := \prod_{i=1}^k \mathcal{D}_1(\mathbb{X}, q^{2^i-1})$$

Example: for $k = 3$

$$\mathcal{D}_3(\mathbb{X}, q) = \mathcal{D}_1(\mathbb{X}, q^1) \cdot \mathcal{D}_1(\mathbb{X}, q^3) \cdot \mathcal{D}_1(\mathbb{X}, q^5)$$

Aim 1

$$\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{X}, q^{-1/2}) = \text{cst} \cdot P_{2k\rho}(\mathbb{X}, q, q^{-\frac{2k-1}{2}})$$

is a Macdonald polynomial indexed by the staircase partition
 $2k\rho = [2k(n-1), \dots, 2k, 0]$.

Example: for $k = 2$ and $n = 4$,

$$\prod_{i \neq j} (q^{-1/2} x_i - x_j) \prod_{i \neq j} (q^{-3/2} x_i - x_j) = q^{-12} P_{[12,8,4,0]}(\mathbb{X}, q, q^{-3/2})$$

is a product of q -discriminants.

Aim 2

$$\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{X}, q) = \sum_{\lambda} c_{\lambda}(q) S_{\lambda}$$

We give a characterisation of $\{\lambda | c_{\lambda}(q) \neq 0\}$.

Generalisation of a result of King, Toumazet and Wybourne ($k = 1$) (2004).

When $q = 1$, $\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{X}, 1)$ is exactly an even power of the vanderMonde.

$$\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{X}, 1) = \prod_{i \leq j} (x_i - x_j)^{2k}$$

Used to describe the fractionnal quantum Hall effect (*Laughlin's wave functions, Coulomb gases and expansions of the discriminant*, Di Francesco, Gaudinn, Itzykson, Lesage, 1994).

Plan

- 1 Macdonald operators and functions
- 2 The “polarized powers” of the q -discriminant and the Macdonald polynomials
- 3 The “polarized powers” of the q -discriminant and the Schur functions

Plan

- 1 Macdonald operators and functions
 - Macdonald polynomials
 - Macdonald operator
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Macdonald polynomials

(q, t) -deformation of the usual scalar product :

$$\langle p_\lambda | p_\mu \rangle_{q,t} = \delta_{\lambda\mu} z_\lambda \prod_{i=1}^{l(\lambda)} \frac{1 - q^{\lambda_i}}{1 - t^{\lambda_i}}$$

The family of Macdonald polynomials is the unique basis of the symmetric functions which:

- are orthogonal for the (q, t) -deformed scalar product,
- verify

$$P_\lambda(\mathbb{X}; q, t) = m_\lambda(\mathbb{X}) + \sum_{\mu < \lambda} u_{\mu,\lambda} m_\mu(\mathbb{X}).$$

Macdonald operator \mathcal{M}_1

$$\text{Resultant: } R(\mathbb{X}, \mathbb{Y}) = \prod_{\substack{x \in \mathbb{X} \\ y \in \mathbb{Y}}} (x - y).$$

Macdonald operator:

$$\mathcal{M}_1.f(\mathbb{X}) = (f(\mathbb{X} - (1 - q)x_1)R(tx_1; \mathbb{X} - x_1)) \quad \partial_1 \dots \partial_{n-1}$$

where ∂_i are the divided differences defined by

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_n) \partial_i := \frac{f(x_1, \dots, x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n) - f(x_1, \dots, x_{i+1}, x_i, \dots, x_n)}{x_i - x_{i+1}}$$

Example: for $n = 2$ we have

$$\mathcal{M}_1.f(x_1, x_2) = (f(q.x_1, x_2)(t.x_1 - x_2)) \quad \partial_1.$$

Macdonald polynomials are the eigenfunctions of \mathcal{M}_1

Eigenspaces of the Macdonald operator \mathcal{M}_1 : dimension 1 for q and t generic.

Eigenfunctions :

$$\mathcal{M}_1.P_\lambda(\mathbb{X}, q, t) = [[\lambda]]_{q,t}.P_\lambda(\mathbb{X}, q, t)$$

Eigenvalues :

$$[[\lambda]]_{q,t} := q^{\lambda_1} t^{n-1} + q^{\lambda_2} t^{n-2} + \cdots + q^{\lambda_n}.$$

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- 1 Macdonald operators and functions
- 2 The “polarized powers” of the q -discriminant and the Macdonald polynomials
 - The \mathcal{D}_k are Macdonald polynomials
 - Sketch of the proof
- 3 The “polarized powers” of the q -discriminant and the Schur functions

The \mathcal{D}_k are Macdonald polynomials

Theorem

$$\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{X}, q^{-1/2}) = (-q^{-1/2})^{k^2 n(n-1)/2} \cdot P_{2kp}(\mathbb{X}; q, q^{-\frac{2k-1}{2}})$$

Example: for $k = 2$ and $n = 4$ we have:

$$\prod_{i \neq j} (q^{-1/2} x_i - x_j) \prod_{i \neq j} (q^{-3/2} x_i - x_j) = q^{-12} P_{[12,8,4,0]}(\mathbb{X}, q, q^{-3/2})$$

Main steps of the proof:

- \mathcal{D}_k is an eigenfunction. We calculate the associated eigenvalue.
- It belongs to an eigenspace of dimension 1.
- We compute the constant.

\mathcal{D}_k is an eigenfunction

$\mathcal{D}_2(x_1, x_2, x_3; q^{-1/2})$ is an eigenfunction of \mathcal{M}_1 .

By definition of \mathcal{M}_1 , we have

$$\mathcal{M}_1.\mathcal{D}_2(x_1, x_2, x_3, q^{-1/2}) = \left(\mathcal{D}_2(qx_1, x_2, x_3, q^{-1/2}).R(q^{-\frac{2k-1}{2}}x_1, \{x_2, x_3\}) \right) \partial_1 \partial_2.$$

$$\mathcal{D}_2(qx_1, x_2, x_3, q^{-1/2})R(q^{-\frac{2k-1}{2}}x_1, \{x_2, x_3\}) =$$

$$\mathcal{D}_2(qx_1, x_2, x_3, q^{-1/2}) R(q^{-\frac{2k-1}{2}} x_1, \{x_2, x_3\}) =$$

$$\frac{(q^{-3/2}x_3 - qx_1)}{(q^{-3/2}x_2 - qx_1) \cdot (q^{-3/2}x_3 - x_2)}$$

$$\frac{(q^{-1/2}x_3 - qx_1)}{(q^{-1/2}x_2 - qx_1) \cdot (q^{-1/2}x_3 - x_2)}$$

$$\frac{(q^{1/2}x_1 - x_3)}{(q^{1/2}x_1 - x_2) \cdot (q^{-1/2}x_2 - x_3)}$$

$$\frac{(q^{-1/2}x_1 - x_3)}{(q^{-1/2}x_1 - x_2) \cdot (q^{-3/2}x_2 - x_3)}$$

$$\frac{(q^{-3/2}x_1 - x_3)}{(q^{-3/2}x_1 - x_2)}$$

$$\mathcal{D}_2(qx_1, x_2, x_3, q^{-1/2})R(q^{-\frac{2k-1}{2}}x_1, \{x_2, x_3\}) =$$

$$(q^{-3/2}x_3 - qx_1) \\ (q^{-3/2}x_2 - qx_1).(q^{-3/2}x_3 - x_2)$$

$$(q^{-1/2}x_3 - qx_1) \\ (q^{-1/2}x_2 - qx_1).(q^{-1/2}x_3 - x_2)$$

$$(q^{1/2}x_1 - x_3) \\ (q^{1/2}x_1 - x_2).(q^{-1/2}x_2 - x_3)$$

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$$(q^{-3/2}x_1 - x_3) \\ (q^{-3/2}x_1 - x_2)$$

$$\mathcal{D}_2(qx_1, x_2, x_3, q^{-1/2})R(q^{-\frac{2k-1}{2}}x_1, \{x_2, x_3\}) =$$

$$(q^{-3/2}x_3 - qx_1) \\ (q^{-3/2}x_2 - qx_1) \cdot (q^{-3/2}x_3 - x_2)$$

$$(q^{-1/2}x_3 - qx_1) \\ (q^{-1/2}x_2 - qx_1) \cdot (q^{-1/2}x_3 - x_2)$$

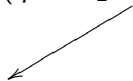
$$(q^{1/2}x_1 - x_3) \\ (q^{1/2}x_1 - x_2) \cdot (q^{-1/2}x_2 - x_3)$$

$$(q^{-1/2}x_1 - x_3) \\ (q^{-1/2}x_1 - x_2) \cdot (q^{-3/2}x_2 - x_3)$$

$$(q^{-3/2}x_1 - x_3) \\ (q^{-3/2}x_1 - x_2) \cdot$$

$$\mathcal{D}_2(qx_1, x_2, x_3, q^{-1/2})R(q^{-\frac{2k-1}{2}}x_1, \{x_2, x_3\}) =$$

$$(q^{-3/2}x_3 - qx_1) \\ (q^{-3/2}x_2 - qx_1) \cdot (q^{-3/2}x_3 - x_2)$$



$$(q^{-1/2}x_3 - qx_1) \quad (q^{1/2}x_1 - x_3) \\ (q^{-1/2}x_2 - qx_1) \cdot (q^{-1/2}x_3 - x_2) \quad (q^{1/2}x_1 - x_2) \cdot (q^{-1/2}x_2 - x_3)$$



$$(q^{-1/2}x_1 - x_3) \quad (q^{-3/2}x_1 - x_3) \\ (q^{-1/2}x_1 - x_2) \cdot (q^{-3/2}x_2 - x_3) \quad (q^{-3/2}x_1 - x_2).$$

$$\mathcal{D}_2(qx_1, x_2, x_3, q^{-1/2})R(q^{-\frac{2k-1}{2}}x_1, \{x_2, x_3\}) =$$

$$\frac{(q^{-3/2}x_3 - qx_1)}{(q^{-3/2}x_2 - qx_1)}$$

$$\frac{(q^{-1/2}x_3 - qx_1)}{(q^{-1/2}x_2 - qx_1)} \cdot (q^{-3/2}x_3 - x_2)$$

$$\frac{(q^{1/2}x_1 - x_3)}{(q^{1/2}x_1 - x_2)} \cdot (q^{-1/2}x_3 - x_2)$$

$$\frac{(q^{-1/2}x_1 - x_3)}{(q^{-1/2}x_1 - x_2)} \cdot (q^{-1/2}x_2 - x_3)$$

$$\frac{(q^{-3/2}x_1 - x_3)}{(q^{-3/2}x_1 - x_2)} \cdot (q^{-3/2}x_2 - x_3)$$

$$\mathcal{D}_2(qx_1, x_2, x_3, q^{-1/2})R(q^{-\frac{2k-1}{2}}x_1, \{x_2, x_3\}) =$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & (q^{-3/2}x_3 - qx_1) & \\
 (q^{-3/2}x_2 \xrightarrow{q^2} qx_1) & & \xleftarrow{q} \\
 \begin{array}{l} (q \cdot q^{-3/2}x_3 - q x_1) \\ (q \cdot q^{-3/2}x_2 - q x_1) \cdot (q^{-3/2}x_3 - x_2) \end{array} & & \begin{array}{l} (q^{1/2}x_1 - q^{1/2} \cdot q^{-1/2}x_3) \\ (q^{1/2}x_1 - q^{1/2} \cdot q^{-1/2}x_2) \cdot (q^{-1/2}x_3 - x_2) \end{array} \\
 \\
 \begin{array}{l} (q^{-1/2}x_1 - x_3) \\ (q^{-1/2}x_1 - x_2) \cdot (q^{-1/2}x_2 - x_3) \end{array} & & \begin{array}{l} (q^{-3/2}x_1 - x_3) \\ (q^{-3/2}x_1 - x_2) \cdot (q^{-3/2}x_2 - x_3) \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

$$\mathcal{D}_2(qx_1, x_2, x_3, q^{-1/2})R(q^{-\frac{2k-1}{2}}x_1, \{x_2, x_3\}) =$$

$$\frac{(q^{5/2}x_1 - x_3)}{(q^{5/2}x_1 - x_2)}$$

$$\frac{(q^{-3/2}x_3 - x_1)}{(q^{-3/2}x_2 - x_1) \cdot (q^{-3/2}x_3 - x_2)}$$

$$\frac{(q^{-1/2}x_3 - x_1)}{(q^{-1/2}x_2 - x_1) \cdot (q^{-1/2}x_3 - x_2)}$$

$$\frac{(q^{-1/2}x_1 - x_3)}{(q^{-1/2}x_1 - x_2) \cdot (q^{-1/2}x_2 - x_3)}$$

$$\frac{(q^{-3/2}x_1 - x_3)}{(q^{-3/2}x_1 - x_2) \cdot (q^{-3/2}x_2 - x_3)}$$

$$\mathcal{D}_2(qx_1, x_2, x_3, q^{-1/2})R(q^{-\frac{2k-1}{2}}x_1, \{x_2, x_3\}) = \\ R(q^{\frac{2k-1}{2}}x_1, \{x_2, x_3\})$$

$$\frac{(q^{-3/2}x_3 - x_1)}{(q^{-3/2}x_2 - x_1) \cdot (q^{-3/2}x_3 - x_2)}$$

$$\frac{(q^{-1/2}x_3 - x_1)}{(q^{-1/2}x_2 - x_1) \cdot (q^{-1/2}x_3 - x_2)}$$

$$\frac{(q^{-1/2}x_1 - x_3)}{(q^{-1/2}x_1 - x_2) \cdot (q^{-1/2}x_2 - x_3)}$$

$$\frac{(q^{-3/2}x_1 - x_3)}{(q^{-3/2}x_1 - x_2) \cdot (q^{-3/2}x_2 - x_3)}$$

$$\mathcal{D}_2(qx_1, x_2, x_3, q^{-1/2})R(q^{-\frac{2k-1}{2}}x_1, \{x_2, x_3\}) = \\ R(q^{\frac{2k-1}{2}}x_1, \{x_2, x_3\})\mathcal{D}_2(x_1, x_2, x_3, q^{-1/2})$$

$$\mathcal{D}_2(qx_1, x_2, x_3, q^{-1/2})R(q^{-\frac{2k-1}{2}}x_1, \{x_2, x_3\}) = \\ R(q^{\frac{2k-1}{2}}x_1, \{x_2, x_3\})\mathcal{D}_2(x_1, x_2, x_3, q^{-1/2})$$

$\mathcal{D}_2(x_1, x_2, x_3; q^{-1/2})$ is an eigenvector of \mathcal{M}_1

We have just shown

$$\mathcal{D}_k(qx_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, q^{-1/2})R(q^{-\frac{2k-1}{2}}x_1, \mathbb{X}) = R(q^{\frac{2k+1}{2}}x_1, \mathbb{X})\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{X}, q^{-1/2}).$$

We deduce from \mathcal{M}_1 definition that:

$$\mathcal{M}_1.\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{X}, q^{-1/2}) = R(q^{\frac{2k+1}{2}}x_1, \mathbb{X})\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{X}, q^{-1/2})\partial_1 \dots \partial_k.$$

Since $\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{X}, q)$ is symmetric, we deduce that

$$\mathcal{M}_1.\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{X}, q^{-1/2}) = \underbrace{R(q^{\frac{2k+1}{2}}x_1, \mathbb{X})\partial_1 \dots \partial_{n-1}}_{\text{eigenvalue}}.\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{X}, q^{-1/2}).$$

End of the proof

The eigenvalue associated to $\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{X})$ is:

$$R(q^{\frac{2k+1}{2}} x_1, \mathbb{X}) \partial_1 \dots \partial_{n-1} = [[2k\rho]]_{q, q^{\frac{1-2k}{2}}}.$$

Under the specialisation $t \rightarrow q^{\frac{1-2k}{2}}$, the Macdonald polynomial $P_{2k\rho}(\mathbb{X}, q, q^{\frac{1-2k}{2}})$ belongs to an eigenspace of \mathcal{M}_1 of dimension 1.

$$[[\lambda]]_{q, q^{\frac{1-2k}{2}}} \neq [[2k\rho]]_{q, q^{\frac{1-2k}{2}}} \text{ for all } \lambda \neq 2k\rho.$$

We deduce that

$$D_k(\mathbb{X}, q^{-1/2}) = \text{cst} \cdot P_{2k\rho}(\mathbb{X}, q, q^{(1-2k)/2}).$$

We get the constant *cst* by computing the coefficients of the dominant monomial of $D_k(\mathbb{X}, q^{-1/2})$.

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- 1 Macdonald operators and functions
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- 3 The “polarized powers” of the q -discriminant and the Schur functions
 - (n, m) -admissible partitions
 - Enumerate the (n, m) -admissible partitions
 - “Polarized powers” of the q -discriminant on the Schur basis

$\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{X}, q)$ in the Schur basis

$$\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{X}, q) = \sum_{\lambda} c_{\lambda} S_{\lambda}(\mathbb{X})$$

We want to characterise λ when $c_{\lambda}(q) \neq 0$.

We generalize a result by Toumazet, King and Wybourne ($k = 1$) (2004).

(n, m) -admissible partitions

We recall that $\rho = [n-1, n-2, \dots, 1, 0]$.

The set of (n, m) -admissible partitions can be obtained by the induction:

$$A_{n,1} = \{[\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n] \mid \lambda \leq \rho\}$$

$$A_{n,m} = \{[\lambda_1 + \sigma(1) - 1, \dots, \lambda_n + \sigma(n) - 1] \mid \sigma \in S_n \text{ and } \lambda \in A_{n,m-1}\}$$

Example : $n = 3, m = 2$

$$A_{3,1} = \{[2, 1, 0], [1, 1, 1]\}$$

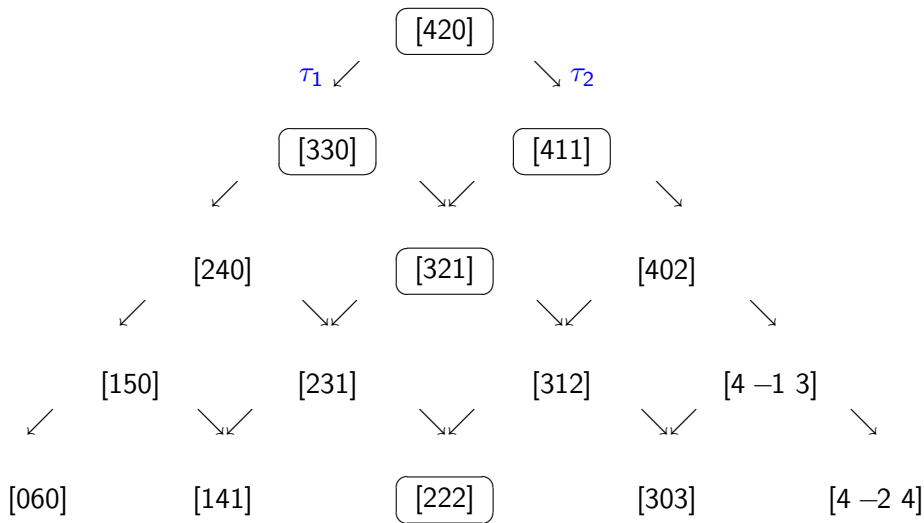
$$\begin{array}{c} 210, 201, 120, 102, 021, 012 \\ \downarrow \end{array}$$

$$A_{3,2} = \{[4, 2, 0], [4, 1, 1], [3, 3, 0], [3, 2, 1], [2, 2, 2]\}$$

The (n, m) -admissible partitions are all the partitions with n parts which are lower or equal than $m\rho$ with respect to the dominance order.

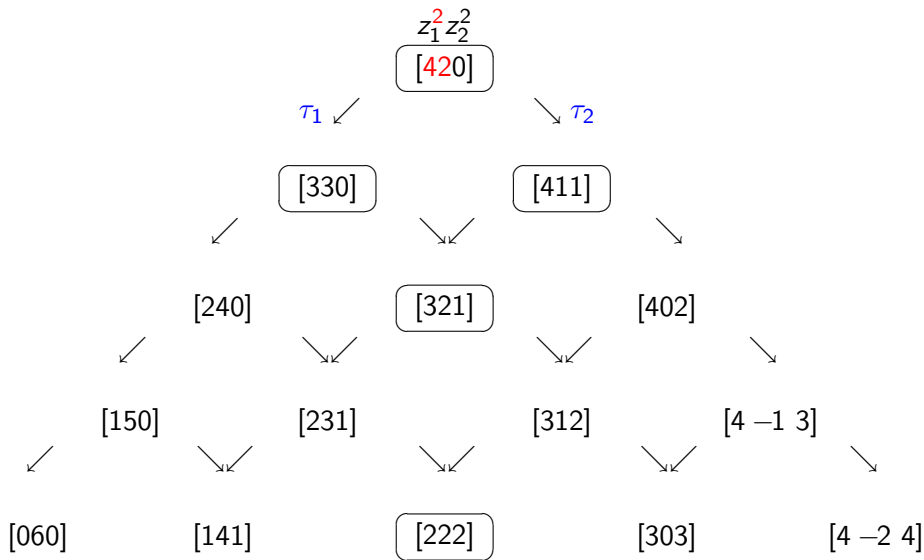
Enumerate the (n, m) -admissible partitions

Let $\tau_1 = [-1, +1, 0]$ and $\tau_2 = [0, -1, +1]$.



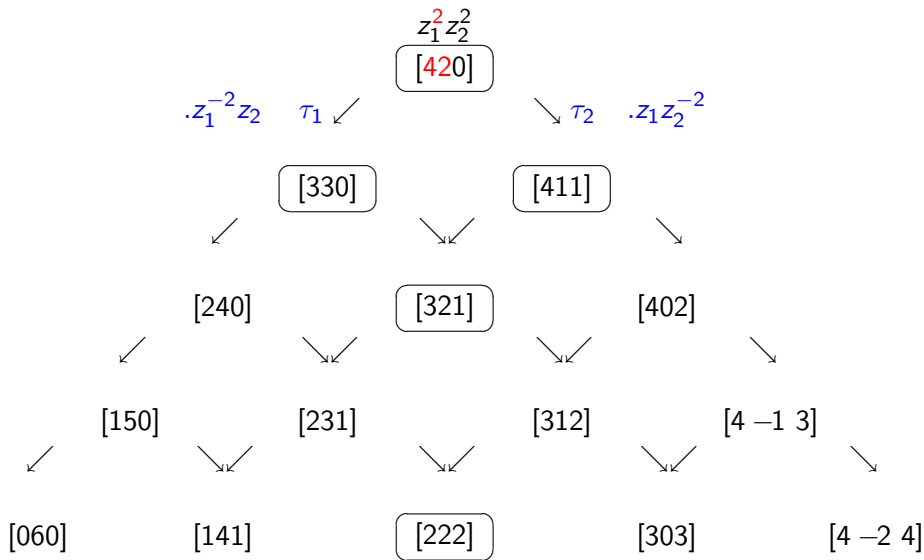
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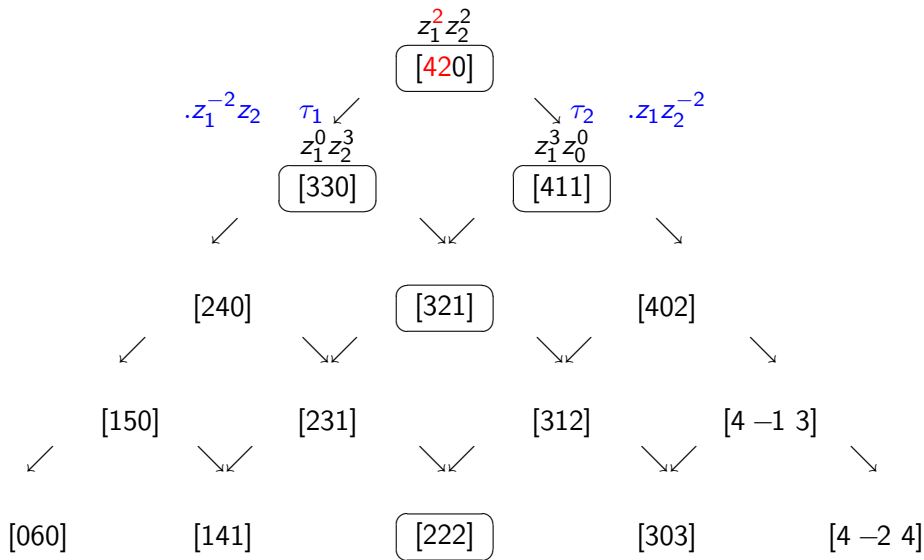
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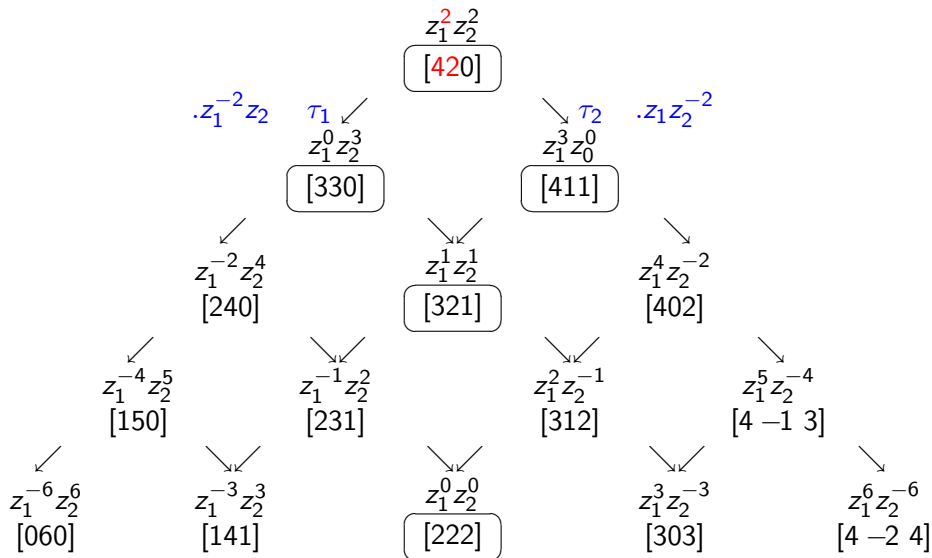
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Enumerate the (n, m) -admissible partitions

Let $\tau_1 = [-1, +1, 0]$ and $\tau_2 = [0, -1, +1]$.



Generating series

Let Ω_{z_1, z_2} be the MacMahon Omega operator defined by

$$\Omega_{z_1, z_2} \sum_{n_1, n_2 \in \mathbb{Z}} a_{n_1, n_2} z_1^{n_1} z_2^{n_2} = \sum_{n_1, n_2 \in \mathbb{N}} a_{n_1, n_2} z_1^{n_1} z_2^{n_2}$$

The generating function of the $(3, 2)$ -admissible partitions is

$$\Omega_{z_1, z_2} \frac{z_1^2 z_2^2}{(1 - \frac{z_2}{z_1^2} q)(1 - \frac{z_1}{z_2^2} q)} = z^{22} + (z^{03} + z^{30})q + z^{11}q^2 + z^{00}q^4$$

“Polarized powers” of the q -discriminant on the Schur basis

We want to prove

$$\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{X}; q) = \sum_{\lambda} c_{\lambda}(q) S_{\lambda}(\mathbb{X})$$

$c_{\lambda}(q) \neq 0$ if and only if λ is $(n, 2k)$ -admissible.

Sketch of the proof

We just have to prove that $c_\lambda(-1) \neq 0$.

$$\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{X}, -1) = \prod_{i \neq j} (x_i + x_j)^k = (S_\rho(\mathbb{X}))^{2k}$$

Proof by induction:

- For $k = 1$, King, Toumazet and Wybourne have proved that:

$$S_\rho^2 = \sum_{\lambda \text{ is } (n, 2)\text{-admissible}} c_\lambda^{n, 2} S_\lambda \quad \text{with} \quad c_\lambda^{n, 2} > 0$$

- For $k = m$,

$$S_\rho^m = S_\rho^{m-1} S_\rho = \sum_\lambda c_\lambda^{n, m-1} (S_\lambda S_\rho) \quad \text{with} \quad c_\lambda^{n, m-1} > 0.$$

$$S_\rho^m = \sum_{\mu \leq m\rho} \bullet S_\mu = \sum_{\mu \text{ is } (n, m)\text{-admissible}} \bullet S_\mu$$

$$\mu \leq m\rho \Rightarrow \exists \sigma | \mu - \rho \cdot \sigma \text{ is } (n, m-1)\text{-admissible.}$$

$$\mu - \lambda \text{ is a permutation of } \rho \Rightarrow \langle S_\mu | S_\lambda S_\rho \rangle \geq 1.$$

$$c_\lambda^{n, 2k} \neq 0 \text{ iff the coefficient } \lambda \text{ is } (n, 2k)\text{-admissible.}$$

Conclusion

We have seen that:

$$\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{X}, q^{-1/2}) = \text{cst} \cdot P_{2k\rho}(\mathbb{X}, q, q^{-\frac{2k-1}{2}}),$$

and we have characterized all the set $\{\lambda | c_\lambda(q) \neq 0\}$ in

$$\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{X}, q) = \sum_{\lambda} c_\lambda(q) S_\lambda.$$

- Can we find an algebraic and combinatoric interpretation of $c_\lambda(q)$ in

$$\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{X}, q) = \sum_{\lambda} c_\lambda(q) S_\lambda?$$

- There exist other products being Macdonald polynomials:

$$\prod_{l=1}^{k-1} \prod_{i \neq j} (x_i - q^l x_j) = \bullet P_{((k-1)(n-1))^n} \left(\frac{1-q}{1-q^k} \mathbb{X}, q, q^k \right).$$

- What are its properties on the Schur basis?