

K -theoretic Catalan functions

George H. Seelinger (joint work with J. Blasiak and J. Morse)

Junior Mathematician Research Archive

ghs9ae@virginia.edu

Based on [arXiv:2010.01759](https://arxiv.org/abs/2010.01759)

November 2020

- ① Schubert calculus
- ② Catalan functions
- ③ K-theoretic Catalan functions

Overview of Schubert Calculus Combinatorics

Geometric problem

Find $c_{\lambda\mu}^\nu = \#$ of points in intersection of subvarieties in a variety X .

Overview of Schubert Calculus Combinatorics

Geometric problem

Find $c_{\lambda\mu}^\nu = \#$ of points in intersection of subvarieties in a variety X .



Cohomology

Schubert basis $\{\sigma_\lambda\}$ for $H^*(X)$ with property $\sigma_\lambda \smile \sigma_\mu = \sum_\nu c_{\lambda\mu}^\nu \sigma_\nu$

Overview of Schubert Calculus Combinatorics

Geometric problem

Find $c_{\lambda\mu}^\nu = \#$ of points in intersection of subvarieties in a variety X .



Cohomology

Schubert basis $\{\sigma_\lambda\}$ for $H^*(X)$ with property $\sigma_\lambda \smile \sigma_\mu = \sum_\nu c_{\lambda\mu}^\nu \sigma_\nu$



Representatives

Special basis of polynomials $\{f_\lambda\}$ such that $f_\lambda \cdot f_\mu = \sum_\nu c_{\lambda\mu}^\nu f_\nu$

Overview of Schubert Calculus Combinatorics (cont.)

Combinatorial study of $\{f_\lambda\}$ enlightens the geometry (and cohomology).

Overview of Schubert Calculus Combinatorics (cont.)

Combinatorial study of $\{f_\lambda\}$ enlightens the geometry (and cohomology).

Goal

Identify $\{f_\lambda\}$ in explicit (simple) terms amenable to calculation and proofs.

Geometric problem

Find $c_{\lambda\mu}^\nu = \#$ of points in intersection of Schubert varieties $\{X_\lambda\}_{\lambda \subseteq (n^m)}$ in variety $X = \text{Gr}(m, n)$.

Classical Schubert Calculus

Geometric problem

Find $c_{\lambda\mu}^\nu = \#$ of points in intersection of Schubert varieties $\{X_\lambda\}_{\lambda \subseteq (n^m)}$ in variety $X = \text{Gr}(m, n)$.



Cohomology

Schubert basis $\{\sigma_\lambda\}_{\lambda \subseteq (n^m)}$ for $H^*(X)$ with property $\sigma_\lambda \smile \sigma_\mu = \sum_\nu c_{\lambda\mu}^\nu \sigma_\nu$

Classical Schubert Calculus

Geometric problem

Find $c_{\lambda\mu}^\nu = \#$ of points in intersection of Schubert varieties $\{X_\lambda\}_{\lambda \subseteq (n^m)}$ in variety $X = \text{Gr}(m, n)$.



Cohomology

Schubert basis $\{\sigma_\lambda\}_{\lambda \subseteq (n^m)}$ for $H^*(X)$ with property $\sigma_\lambda \smile \sigma_\mu = \sum_\nu c_{\lambda\mu}^\nu \sigma_\nu$



Representatives

Special basis of Schur polynomials $\{s_\lambda\}$ such that $s_\lambda \cdot s_\mu = \sum_\nu c_{\lambda\mu}^\nu s_\nu$ for combinatorially understood Littlewood-Richardson coefficients $c_{\lambda\mu}^\nu$.

- Complete homogeneous symmetric function: for $r \in \mathbb{Z}$,
$$h_r = \sum_{i_1 \leq \dots \leq i_r} x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_r}.$$

Schur polynomials and raising operators

- Complete homogeneous symmetric function: for $r \in \mathbb{Z}$,
$$h_r = \sum_{i_1 \leq \dots \leq i_r} x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_r}.$$
- For $\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}^\ell$, $h_\lambda = h_{\lambda_1} \cdots h_{\lambda_\ell}.$

Schur polynomials and raising operators

- Complete homogeneous symmetric function: for $r \in \mathbb{Z}$,
$$h_r = \sum_{i_1 \leq \dots \leq i_r} x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_r}.$$
- For $\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}^\ell$, $h_\lambda = h_{\lambda_1} \cdots h_{\lambda_\ell}$.
- Raising operators $R_{i,j}(h_\lambda) = h_{\lambda + \epsilon_i - \epsilon_j}$

$$R_{1,3} \left(\begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \square & & \\ \hline \blacksquare & & \\ \hline \end{array} \right) = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline \square & \square & \square & \blacksquare \\ \hline \square & & & \\ \hline & & & \\ \hline \end{array} \quad R_{2,3} \left(\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \blacksquare \\ \hline \end{array} \right) = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \\ \hline \square & \blacksquare \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Schur polynomials and raising operators

- Complete homogeneous symmetric function: for $r \in \mathbb{Z}$,
$$h_r = \sum_{i_1 \leq \dots \leq i_r} x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_r}.$$
- For $\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}^\ell$, $h_\lambda = h_{\lambda_1} \cdots h_{\lambda_\ell}$.
- Raising operators $R_{i,j}(h_\lambda) = h_{\lambda + \epsilon_i - \epsilon_j}$

$$R_{1,3} \left(\begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \square & & \\ \hline \square & & \\ \hline \end{array} \right) = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline \square & \square & \square & \blacksquare \\ \hline \square & & & \\ \hline & & & \\ \hline \end{array} \quad R_{2,3} \left(\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array} \right) = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \blacksquare \\ \hline \end{array}$$

- Schur function $s_\lambda = \prod_{i < j} (1 - R_{ij}) h_\lambda$ (Jacobi-Trudi)

Schubert Calculus Variations

There are many variations on classical Schubert calculus of the Grassmannian (Type A).

Schubert Calculus Variations

There are many variations on classical Schubert calculus of the Grassmannian (Type A).

| Theory | f_λ |
|--|------------------------------|
| (Co)homology of Grassmannian | Schur functions |
| (Co)homology of flag variety | Schubert polynomials |
| Quantum cohomology of flag variety | Quantum Schuberts |
| (Co)homology of Types BCD Grassmannian | Schur- P and Q functions |
| (Co)homology of affine Grassmannian | (dual) k -Schur functions |
| K -theory of Grassmannian | Grothendieck polynomials |
| K -homology of affine Grassmannian | K - k -Schur functions |

Schubert Calculus Variations

There are many variations on classical Schubert calculus of the Grassmannian (Type A).

| Theory | f_λ |
|--|------------------------------|
| (Co)homology of Grassmannian | Schur functions |
| (Co)homology of flag variety | Schubert polynomials |
| Quantum cohomology of flag variety | Quantum Schuberts |
| (Co)homology of Types BCD Grassmannian | Schur- P and Q functions |
| (Co)homology of affine Grassmannian | (dual) k -Schur functions |
| K -theory of Grassmannian | Grothendieck polynomials |
| K -homology of affine Grassmannian | K - k -Schur functions |

Focus

K -theory and K -homology of the affine Grassmannian

Schubert Calculus Variations

There are many variations on classical Schubert calculus of the Grassmannian (Type A).

| Theory | f_λ |
|--|------------------------------|
| (Co)homology of Grassmannian | Schur functions |
| (Co)homology of flag variety | Schubert polynomials |
| Quantum cohomology of flag variety | Quantum Schuberts |
| (Co)homology of Types BCD Grassmannian | Schur- P and Q functions |
| (Co)homology of affine Grassmannian | (dual) k -Schur functions |
| K -theory of Grassmannian | Grothendieck polynomials |
| K -homology of affine Grassmannian | K - k -Schur functions |

Focus

K -theory and K -homology of the affine Grassmannian

Simultaneously generalizes K -theory of Grassmannian and (co)homology of affine Grassmannian.

What is known?

What is known?

- ① K -theory classes of Grassmannian (not affine!) represented by “Grothendieck polynomials.” We are interested in their dual:

$$g_\lambda = \prod_{i < j} (1 - R_{ij}) k_\lambda$$

for k_γ an inhomogeneous analogue of h_γ .

K -Theory of Affine Grassmannian

What is known?

- ① K -theory classes of Grassmannian (not affine!) represented by “Grothendieck polynomials.” We are interested in their dual:

$$g_\lambda = \prod_{i < j} (1 - R_{ij}) k_\lambda$$

for k_γ an inhomogeneous analogue of h_γ .

- ② Homology classes of affine Grassmannian represented by k -Schur functions ($t = 1$).

What is known?

- ① K -theory classes of Grassmannian (not affine!) represented by “Grothendieck polynomials.” We are interested in their dual:

$$g_\lambda = \prod_{i < j} (1 - R_{ij}) k_\lambda$$

for k_γ an inhomogeneous analogue of h_γ .

- ② Homology classes of affine Grassmannian represented by k -Schur functions ($t = 1$).
- ③ (Lam et al., 2010) leave open the question: what is a direct formulation of the K -homology representatives of the affine Grassmannian (K - k -Schur functions)?

Remember?

Goal

Identify $\{f_\lambda\}$ in explicit (simple) terms amenable to calculation and proofs.

Root Ideals

A root ideal Ψ of type $A_{\ell-1}$ positive roots: given by Dyck path (lattice path above diagonal).



$\Psi =$ Roots above Dyck path
 $\Delta_{\ell}^+ \setminus \Psi =$ Non-roots below

Root Ideals

A root ideal Ψ of type $A_{\ell-1}$ positive roots: given by Dyck path (lattice path above diagonal).



Ψ = Roots above Dyck path
 $\Delta_{\ell}^{+} \setminus \Psi$ = Non-roots below

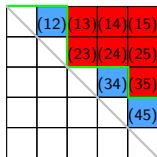
Catalan Function (Chen, 2010; Panyushev, 2010; Blasiak et al., 2019)

For Ψ and $\gamma \in \mathbb{Z}^{\ell}$

$$H(\Psi; \gamma)(x) = \prod_{(i,j) \in \Delta_{\ell}^{+} \setminus \Psi} (1 - R_{ij}) h_{\gamma}(x)$$

Root Ideals

A root ideal Ψ of type $A_{\ell-1}$ positive roots: given by Dyck path (lattice path above diagonal).



Ψ = Roots above Dyck path
 $\Delta_{\ell}^{+} \setminus \Psi$ = Non-roots below

Catalan Function (Chen, 2010; Panyushev, 2010; Blasiak et al., 2019)

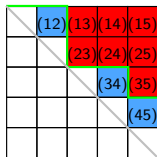
For Ψ and $\gamma \in \mathbb{Z}^{\ell}$

$$H(\Psi; \gamma)(x) = \prod_{(i,j) \in \Delta_{\ell}^{+} \setminus \Psi} (1 - R_{ij}) h_{\gamma}(x)$$

- $\Psi = \emptyset \implies H(\emptyset; \gamma) = s_{\gamma}$

Root Ideals

A root ideal Ψ of type $A_{\ell-1}$ positive roots: given by Dyck path (lattice path above diagonal).



Ψ = Roots above Dyck path
 $\Delta_{\ell}^{+} \setminus \Psi$ = Non-roots below

Catalan Function (Chen, 2010; Panyushev, 2010; Blasiak et al., 2019)

For Ψ and $\gamma \in \mathbb{Z}^{\ell}$

$$H(\Psi; \gamma)(x) = \prod_{(i,j) \in \Delta_{\ell}^{+} \setminus \Psi} (1 - R_{ij}) h_{\gamma}(x)$$

- $\Psi = \emptyset \implies H(\emptyset; \gamma) = s_{\gamma}$
- $\Psi = \text{all roots} \implies H(\Psi; \gamma) = h_{\gamma}$

k -Schur root ideal for λ

For $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ and $\lambda = (\lambda_1 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_\ell) \in \mathbb{Z}^\ell$,

$$\begin{aligned}\Psi = \Delta^k(\lambda) &= \{(i, j) : j > k - \lambda_i\} \\ &= \text{root ideal with } k - \lambda_i \text{ non-roots in row } i\end{aligned}$$

Catalan functions

k -Schur root ideal for λ

For $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ and $\lambda = (\lambda_1 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_\ell) \in \mathbb{Z}^\ell$,

$$\begin{aligned}\Psi = \Delta^k(\lambda) &= \{(i, j) : j > k - \lambda_i\} \\ &= \text{root ideal with } k - \lambda_i \text{ non-roots in row } i\end{aligned}$$

$$\Delta^4(3, 3, 2, 2, 1, 1) =$$

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | | | | | |
| | 3 | | | | |
| | | 2 | | | |
| | | | 2 | | |
| | | | | 1 | |
| | | | | | 1 |

\leftarrow row i has $4 - \lambda_i$ non-roots

Catalan functions

k -Schur root ideal for λ

For $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ and $\lambda = (\lambda_1 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_\ell) \in \mathbb{Z}^\ell$,

$$\begin{aligned}\Psi = \Delta^k(\lambda) &= \{(i, j) : j > k - \lambda_i\} \\ &= \text{root ideal with } k - \lambda_i \text{ non-roots in row } i\end{aligned}$$

$$\Delta^4(3, 3, 2, 2, 1, 1) =$$

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | | | | | |
| | 3 | | | | |
| | | 2 | | | |
| | | | 2 | | |
| | | | | 1 | |
| | | | | | 1 |

\leftarrow row i has $4 - \lambda_i$ non-roots

k -Schur is a Catalan function (Blasiak et al., 2019).

For partition λ with $\lambda_1 \leq k$,

$$s_\lambda^{(k)} = H(\Delta^k(\lambda); \lambda).$$

By realizing k -Schur functions in the framework of Catalan functions, (Blasiak et al., 2019) proves

By realizing k -Schur functions in the framework of Catalan functions, (Blasiak et al., 2019) proves

- The k -Schur functions are “shift invariant”, i.e. for $\ell = \ell(\lambda)$,
$$s_{1^\ell}^\perp s_{\lambda+1^\ell}^{(k+1)} = s_\lambda^{(k)}.$$

By realizing k -Schur functions in the framework of Catalan functions, (Blasiak et al., 2019) proves

- The k -Schur functions are “shift invariant”, i.e. for $\ell = \ell(\lambda)$,
 $s_{1^\ell}^\perp s_{\lambda+1^\ell}^{(k+1)} = s_\lambda^{(k)}$.
- This implies the $k+1$ -Schur expansion of a k -Schur function has positive coefficients.

By realizing k -Schur functions in the framework of Catalan functions, (Blasiak et al., 2019) proves

- The k -Schur functions are “shift invariant”, i.e. for $\ell = \ell(\lambda)$,
 $s_{1^\ell}^\perp s_{\lambda+1^\ell}^{(k+1)} = s_\lambda^{(k)}$.
- This implies the $k+1$ -Schur expansion of a k -Schur function has positive coefficients.
- Also the Schur expansion of a k -Schur function has positive coefficients.

Remark

(Blasiak et al., 2019) show results for k -Schur functions with parameter t , but $t = 1$ specialization is necessary for Schubert calculus.

Lowering Operators

- Recall K -theory/homology of affine Grassmannian simultaneously generalizes:
 - K -theory of Grassmannian: $g_\lambda = \prod_{i < j} (1 - R_{ij}) k_\lambda$ and

- Recall K -theory/homology of affine Grassmannian simultaneously generalizes:
 - K -theory of Grassmannian: $g_\lambda = \prod_{i < j} (1 - R_{ij}) k_\lambda$ and
 - Homology of affine Grassmannian: $s_\lambda^{(k)} = \prod_{(i,j) \in \Delta^+ \setminus \Delta^k(\lambda)} (1 - R_{ij}) h_\lambda$

Lowering Operators

- Recall K -theory/homology of affine Grassmannian simultaneously generalizes:
 - K -theory of Grassmannian: $g_\lambda = \prod_{i < j} (1 - R_{ij}) k_\lambda$ and
 - Homology of affine Grassmannian: $s_\lambda^{(k)} = \prod_{(i,j) \in \Delta^+ \setminus \Delta^k(\lambda)} (1 - R_{ij}) h_\lambda$
- Extra ingredient: lowering operators $L_j(h_\lambda) = h_{\lambda - \epsilon_j}$

$$L_3 \left(\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline \square & \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \square & & & \\ \hline \square & & & \\ \hline \end{array} \right) = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \square & & \\ \hline \square & & \\ \hline \end{array} \quad L_1 \left(\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline \square & \square & \square & \color{red}\square \\ \hline \square & & & \\ \hline \square & & & \\ \hline \end{array} \right) = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \\ \hline \square & \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Definition

Let $\Psi, \mathcal{L} \subseteq \Delta_{\ell}^{+}$ be order ideals of positive roots and $\gamma \in \mathbb{Z}^{\ell}$

Definition

Let $\Psi, \mathcal{L} \subseteq \Delta_\ell^+$ be order ideals of positive roots and $\gamma \in \mathbb{Z}^\ell$, then

$$K(\Psi; \mathcal{L}; \gamma) := \prod_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{L}} (1 - L_j) \prod_{(i,j) \in \Delta_\ell^+ \setminus \Psi} (1 - R_{ij}) k_\gamma$$

for k_γ an inhomogeneous analogue of h_γ .

Affine K -Theory Representatives with Raising Operators

Definition

Let $\Psi, \mathcal{L} \subseteq \Delta_\ell^+$ be order ideals of positive roots and $\gamma \in \mathbb{Z}^\ell$, then

$$K(\Psi; \mathcal{L}; \gamma) := \prod_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{L}} (1 - L_j) \prod_{(i,j) \in \Delta_\ell^+ \setminus \Psi} (1 - R_{ij}) k_\gamma$$

for k_γ an inhomogeneous analogue of h_γ .

Example

non-roots of Ψ in blue, roots of \mathcal{L} marked with •

| | | | | |
|--|------|------|------|---|
| | (12) | | • | • |
| | | | • | • |
| | | (34) | | |
| | | | (45) | |
| | | | | |

$$\begin{aligned} K(\Psi; \mathcal{L}; 54332) \\ &= (1 - L_4)^2 (1 - L_5)^2 \\ &\cdot (1 - R_{12})(1 - R_{34})(1 - R_{45}) k_{54332} \end{aligned}$$

Answer (Blasiak-Morse-S., 2020)

Answer (Blasiak-Morse-S., 2020)

For K -homology of affine Grassmannian,
 $f_\lambda = g_\lambda^{(k)} := K(\Delta^{(k)}(\lambda); \Delta^{(k+1)}(\lambda); \lambda)$ since this family has the correct structure constants.

Affine K -Theory Representatives with Raising Operators

Answer (Blasiak-Morse-S., 2020)

For K -homology of affine Grassmannian,

$f_\lambda = g_\lambda^{(k)} := K(\Delta^{(k)}(\lambda); \Delta^{(k+1)}(\lambda); \lambda)$ since this family has the correct structure constants.

Example

$$g_{332111}^{(4)} =$$

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | | | | • | • | • |
| | 3 | | | | • | • |
| | | 2 | | | | |
| | | | 1 | | | |
| | | | | 1 | | |
| | | | | | 1 | |

$$\Delta^+ \setminus \Psi = \Delta_6^+ \setminus \Delta^{(4)}(332111), \mathcal{L} = \Delta^{(5)}(332111)$$

Theorem (Blasiak-Morse-S., 2020)

Theorem (Blasiak-Morse-S., 2020)

The $g_{\lambda}^{(k)}$ are “shift invariant”, i.e. for $\ell = \ell(\lambda)$

$$G_{1^{\ell}}^{\perp} g_{\lambda+1^{\ell}}^{(k+1)} = g_{\lambda}^{(k)}$$

Theorem (Blasiak-Morse-S., 2020)

The $g_{\lambda}^{(k)}$ are “shift invariant”, i.e. for $\ell = \ell(\lambda)$

$$G_{1^{\ell}}^{\perp} g_{\lambda+1^{\ell}}^{(k+1)} = g_{\lambda}^{(k)}$$

Theorem (Blasiak-Morse-S., 2020)

The $g_{\lambda}^{(k)}$ “branching coefficients” are alternating by degree, i.e. the $b_{\lambda\mu}^{(k)}$ in

$$g_{\lambda}^{(k)} = \sum_{\mu} b_{\lambda\mu}^{(k)} g_{\mu}^{(k+1)}$$

satisfy $(-1)^{|\lambda|-|\mu|} b_{\lambda\mu}^{(k)} \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$.

For $G_{\lambda}^{(k)}$ an affine Grothendieck polynomial (dual to $g_{\lambda}^{(k)}$),

For $G_\lambda^{(k)}$ an affine Grothendieck polynomial (dual to $g_\lambda^{(k)}$),

- ① Combinatorially describe dual “Pieri rule”:

$$G_{1^r}^\perp g_\lambda^{(k)} = \sum_\mu ?? g_\mu^{(k)} \iff G_{1^r} G_\mu^{(k)} = \sum_\lambda ?? G_\lambda^{(k)}, \quad 1 \leq r \leq k.$$

For $G_\lambda^{(k)}$ an affine Grothendieck polynomial (dual to $g_\lambda^{(k)}$),

- 1 Combinatorially describe dual “Pieri rule”:

$$G_{1^r}^\perp g_\lambda^{(k)} = \sum_\mu ?? g_\mu^{(k)} \iff G_{1^r} G_\mu^{(k)} = \sum_\lambda ?? G_\lambda^{(k)}, \quad 1 \leq r \leq k.$$

- 2 Combinatorially describe branching coefficients: $g_\lambda^{(k)} = \sum_\mu ?? g_\mu^{(k+1)}$.

For $G_\lambda^{(k)}$ an affine Grothendieck polynomial (dual to $g_\lambda^{(k)}$),

- 1 Combinatorially describe dual “Pieri rule”:

$$G_{1^r}^\perp g_\lambda^{(k)} = \sum_\mu ?? g_\mu^{(k)} \iff G_{1^r} G_\mu^{(k)} = \sum_\lambda ?? G_\lambda^{(k)}, \quad 1 \leq r \leq k.$$

- 2 Combinatorially describe branching coefficients: $g_\lambda^{(k)} = \sum_\mu ?? g_\mu^{(k+1)}$.

- 3 Combinatorially describe $g_\lambda^{(k)} = \sum_\mu ?? s_\mu^{(k)}$.

Thank you!

Blasiak, Jonah, Jennifer Morse, Anna Pun, and Daniel Summers. 2019. *Catalan Functions and k -Schur Positivity*, Journal of the AMS.

Chen, Li-Chung. 2010. *Skew-linked partitions and a representation theoretic model for k -Schur functions*, Ph.D. thesis.

Lam, Thomas, Anne Schilling, and Mark Shimozono. 2010. *K -theory Schubert calculus of the affine Grassmannian*, Compositio Math. **146**, 811–852.

Morse, Jennifer. 2011. *Combinatorics of the K -theory of affine Grassmannians*, Advances in Mathematics.

Panyushev, Dmitri I. 2010. *Generalised Kostka-Foulkes polynomials and cohomology of line bundles on homogeneous vector bundles*, Selecta Math. (N.S.) **16**, no. 2, 315–342.