K-theoretic Catalan functions

George H. Seelinger

ghs9ae@virginia.edu

University of Virginia

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Overview

- Schubert calculus: connecting geometry and combinatorics
- Catalan functions: a new approach to old problems
- K-theoretic Catalan functions

Overview of Schubert Calculus Combinatorics

Geometric problem

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Representatives

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

Polynomials informing Geometry

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

Goal

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

Algebra of Symmetric Functions

- Polynomials $f \in \mathbb{Q}[x_1, \ldots, x_n]$ satisfying $\sigma.f = f$ for all $\sigma \in S_n$?

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- Symmetric polynomials ($n = 3$)

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- Bases indexed by integer partitions.

Partitions

Definition

$n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, a *partition of n* is $\lambda = (\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \cdots \geq \lambda_\ell > 0)$ such that $\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \cdots + \lambda_\ell = n$.

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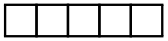
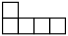
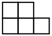
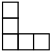
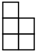
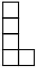
$5 \to$ 

$4 + 1 \to$ 

$3 + 2 \to$ 

$3 + 1 + 1 \to$ 

$2 + 2 + 1 \to$ 

$2 + 1 + 1 + 1 \to$ 

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- Schubert varieties $X_\lambda = \overline{\Omega_\lambda}$.

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Tableaux

Example

Semistandard tableaux: columns increasing and rows non-decreasing.

$$T = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline 5 \\ \cline{1-2} 3 & 4 \\ \cline{1-2} 2 & 3 \\ \hline 1 & 2 & 2 & 5 \\ \hline \end{array} \qquad \qquad \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline 8 \\ \cline{1-2} 7 & 9 \\ \cline{1-2} 3 & 4 \\ \hline 1 & 2 & 5 & 6 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

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$\mathrm{SSYT}(\lambda) =$ all semistandard tableaux of shape λ.

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 2 \\ \cline{1-1} 1 & 1 \\ \hline \end{array}, \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 3 \\ \cline{1-1} 1 & 1 \\ \hline \end{array}, \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 3 \\ \cline{1-1} 2 & 2 \\ \hline \end{array}, \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 2 \\ \cline{1-1} 1 & 2 \\ \hline \end{array}, \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 3 \\ \cline{1-1} 1 & 3 \\ \hline \end{array}, \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 3 \\ \cline{1-1} 2 & 3 \\ \hline \end{array}, \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 2 \\ \cline{1-1} 1 & 3 \\ \hline \end{array}, \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 3 \\ \cline{1-1} 1 & 2 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Schur functions s_λ

Schur function s_λ is a "weight generating function" of semistandard tableaux:

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$$s_{\ydiagram{1,2}}(x_1, x_2, x_3) = x_1^2 x_2 + x_1^2 x_3 + x_2^2 x_3 + x_1 x_2^2 + x_1 x_3^2 + x_2 x_3^2 + 2x_1 x_2 x_3$$

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$$s_{\ydiagram{1,2}}(x_1, x_2, x_3) = x_1^2 x_2 + x_1^2 x_3 + x_2^2 x_3 + x_1 x_2^2 + x_1 x_3^2 + x_2 x_3^2 + 2x_1 x_2 x_3$$

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$s_\lambda(x)$ is homogeneous of degree $\lambda_1 + \cdots + \lambda_\ell$.

Schur functions s_λ (cont.)

Pieri rule

Determines multiplicative structure:

$$s_r s_\lambda = \sum (1 \text{ or } 0) s_\nu$$

$$s_{(1)} s_{(2,1)} = s_{(3,1)} + s_{(2,2)} + s_{(2,1,1)}$$

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$$s_{\mu_1} \cdots s_{\mu_r} s_\lambda = \sum (\# \text{ known tableaux}) s_\nu$$

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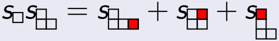

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Since $s_{\mu_1} \cdots s_{\mu_r} = s_{(\mu_1, \ldots, \mu_r)} +$ lower order terms, subtract to get

$$s_{(\mu_1, \ldots, \mu_r)} s_\lambda = \sum c_{\lambda\mu}^{\nu} s_\nu$$

for well-understood *Littlewood-Richardson coefficients* $c_{\lambda\mu}^{\nu}$.

Schur functions s_λ (cont.)

Upshot

Let $\{f_\lambda\}$ be a basis of Λ such that

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2. $f_r f_\lambda$ satisfies the Pieri rule.

Then, $f_\lambda = s_\lambda$.

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Looking Ahead

This type of technique will be useful for establishing the equivalence of new formulas for other bases.

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When examining Schubert representatives in Λ, we ask

- Does it have a Pieri rule? $(s_r s_\lambda = \sum s_\nu)$
- Does it have a direct formula? $(s_\lambda = \sum_{T \in \mathrm{SSYT}(\lambda)} x^T)$

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Quantum cohomology of flag variety	Quantum Schuberts
(Co)homology of Types BCD Grassmannian	Schur-P and Q functions
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K-theory of Grassmannian	Grothendieck polynomials
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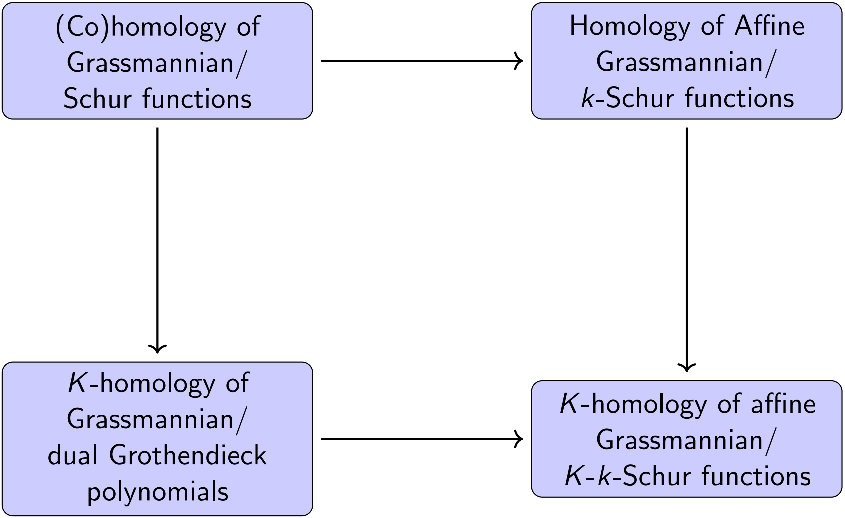
And many more!

Big Picture


(Co)homology of Grassmannian/ Schur functions
Homology of Affine Grassmannian/ k-Schur functions
K-homology of Grassmannian/ dual Grothendieck polynomials
K-homology of affine Grassmannian/ K-k-Schur functions

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- Branching with positive coefficients (Lam et al., 2010):

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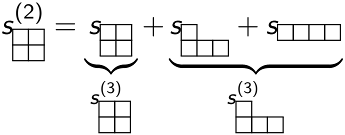

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  - Branching with t important for Macdonald polynomial positivity.

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$$s^{(2)}_{\ydiagram{2,2}} = \underbrace{s_{\ydiagram{2,2}}}_{s^{(3)}_{\ydiagram{2,2}}} + \underbrace{s_{\ydiagram{1,3}} + s_{\ydiagram{4}}}_{s^{(3)}_{\ydiagram{1,3}}}$$

  - (Lam et al., 2010) gives geometric interpretation,
  - but no combinatorial interpretation of branching coefficients.
  - Branching with t important for Macdonald polynomial positivity.
- Many conjecturally equivalent definitions.

Overview

- Schubert calculus
- **Catalan functions: a new approach to old problems**
- K-theoretic Catalan functions

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Key:

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Key: $\{s_\lambda^{(k)}\}_\lambda \subseteq$ Catalan functions $=$ large class of symmetric functions.

Ingredients for Catalan functions

- Raising operators

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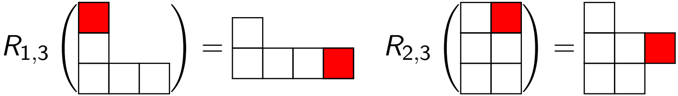
Raising Operators on Symmetric Functions

- Raising operators $R_{i,j}$ act on diagrams



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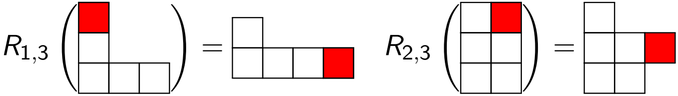

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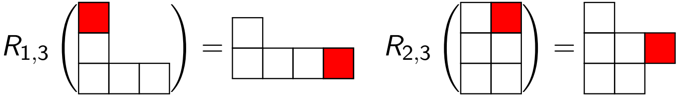

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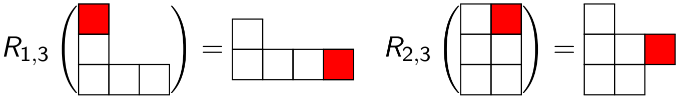

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$$s_\lambda = \prod_{i<j}(1 - R_{ij})h_\lambda$$

$$s_{22} = (1 - R_{12})h_{22} = h_{22} - h_{31}$$

$$s_{211} = (1 - R_{12})(1 - R_{23})(1 - R_{13})h_{211}$$

$$= h_{211} - h_{301} - h_{220} - h_{310} + h_{310} + \underbrace{h_{32\,\text{-}1}}_{=0} + h_{400} - \underbrace{h_{41\,\text{-}1}}_{=0}$$

some terms cancel

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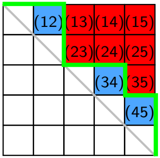
Root Ideals

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



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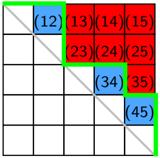

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For Ψ and $\gamma \in \mathbb{Z}^\ell$

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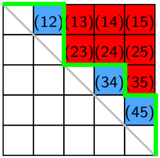

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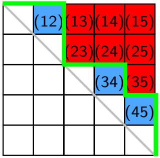

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Catalan functions

Intuition

Catalan functions interpolate between h_λ and s_λ.

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Theorem (Blasiak et al., 2020)

For Ψ any root ideal and λ a partition, $H(\Psi;\lambda)$ is Schur positive!
Precisely, $H(\Psi;\lambda) = \sum_\nu c^\nu_{\Psi,\lambda} s_\nu$ satisfies $c^\nu_{\Psi,\lambda} \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$.

Catalan functions

k-Schur root ideal for λ

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

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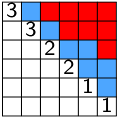
$\Delta^4(3,3,2,2,1,1) =$ 

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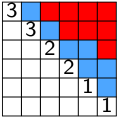
$\Delta^4(3,3,2,2,1,1) =$  $\leftarrow$ row i has $4 - \lambda_i$ non-roots

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

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

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

Key ingredient of branching proof

Dual vertical Pieri rule: $s_{1^r}^{\perp} s_{\lambda}^{(k)} = \sum_{\mu} a_{\lambda\mu} s_{\mu}^{(k)}$ for $\langle s_{1^r}^{\perp} f, g \rangle = \langle f, s_{1^r} g \rangle$.

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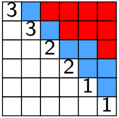
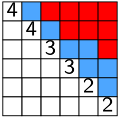
$\Delta^4(3,3,2,2,1,1) =$ 

$\Delta^5(4,4,3,3,2,2) =$ 

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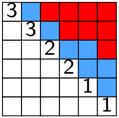
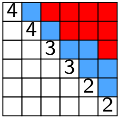
$\Delta^4(3,3,2,2,1,1) =$ 

$\Delta^5(4,4,3,3,2,2) =$ 

Pieri:

$$s_{1^\ell}^{\perp} s_{\lambda+1^\ell}^{(k+1)} = \sum_\mu a_{\lambda+1^\ell,\mu} s_\mu^{(k+1)}$$

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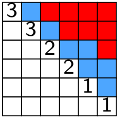
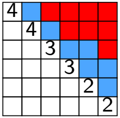
$\Delta^4(3,3,2,2,1,1) =$ 

$\Delta^5(4,4,3,3,2,2) =$ 

Branching is a special case of Pieri:

$$s_{\lambda}^{(k)} = s_{1^\ell}^{\perp} s_{\lambda+1^\ell}^{(k+1)} = \sum_{\mu} a_{\lambda+1^\ell,\mu} s_{\mu}^{(k+1)}$$

Big Picture

$$\begin{tikzcd}
\begin{array}{c}\text{(Co)homology of} \\ \text{Grassmannian} \\ s_\lambda = H(\varnothing; \lambda)\end{array} \arrow[r] \arrow[d] & \begin{array}{c}\text{Homology of Affine} \\ \text{Grassmannian} \\ s_\lambda^{(k)} = H(\Delta^k(\lambda); \lambda)\end{array} \arrow[d] \\
\begin{array}{c}K\text{-homology of} \\ \text{Grassmannian/} \\ \text{dual Grothendieck} \\ \text{polynomials}\end{array} \arrow[r] & \begin{array}{c}K\text{-homology of affine} \\ \text{Grassmannian/} \\ K\text{-}k\text{-Schur functions}\end{array}
\end{tikzcd}$$

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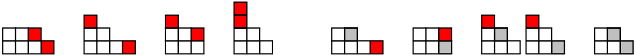

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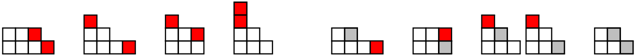

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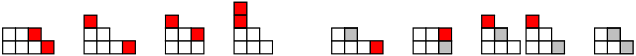

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- Dual to Grothendieck polynomials G_λ: Schubert representatives for $K^*(Gr(m,n))$

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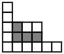

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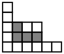

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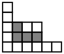
- A $(k+1)$-core is a partition with no cell of hook length $k+1$. 

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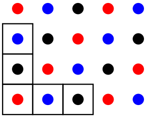

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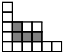

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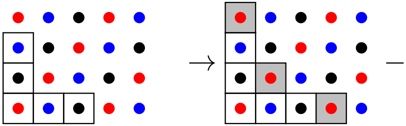

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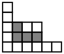

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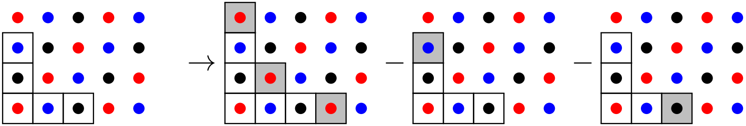

K-k-Schur functions

Conjecture (Lam et al., 2010; Morse, 2011)

$g_\lambda^{(k)}$ have positive branching into $g_\mu^{(k+1)}$.

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Problem

No direct formula for $g_\lambda^{(k)}$

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Find a formula for $g_\lambda^{(k)}$ analogous to raising operator formula for $s_\lambda^{(k)}$.

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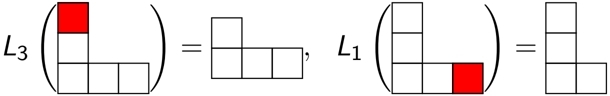
Requires an inhomogeneous refinement of Catalan functions.

An Extra Ingredient: Lowering Operators

Lowering Operators $L_j(f_\lambda) = f_{\lambda - \epsilon_j}$



Affine K-Theory Representatives with Raising Operators

K-theoretic Catalan function

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

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

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Example

non-roots of Ψ, roots of $\mathcal{L}$

	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)
		(23)	(24)	(25)
			(34)	(35)
				(45)

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

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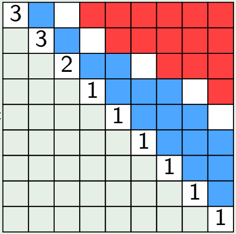
$g^{(4)}_{332111111} =$ 

$\Delta_9^+/\Delta^4(332111111), \Delta^5(332111111)$

Pieri Rule Illustrated (Recurrences)

A "graphical calculus."

$$g_1 g_{211}^{(2)}$$

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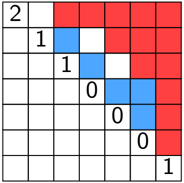

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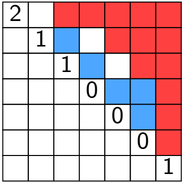

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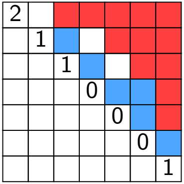

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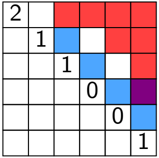

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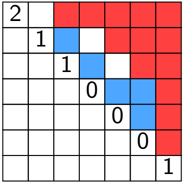
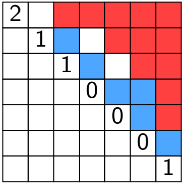
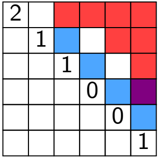
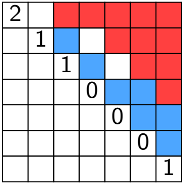
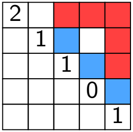
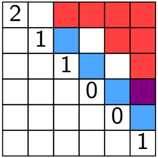
$g_1 g_{211}^{(2)}$ $=$ 

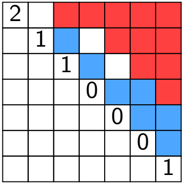
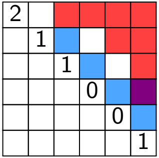
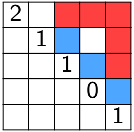
$=$ 

$+$ 

$=$ 

$+$ 

$+$ 

$$g_1 g^{(2)}_{211} =$$  $+$  $+$ 

Pieri Rule Illustrated (Straightening)

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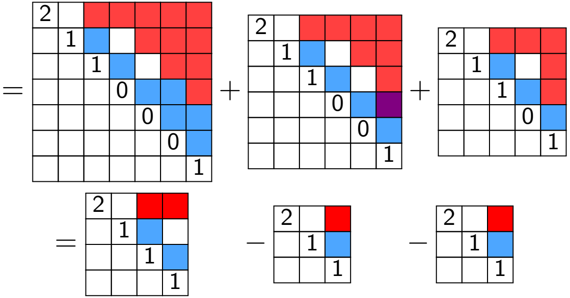

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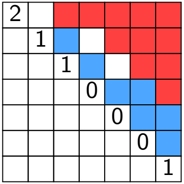
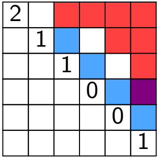
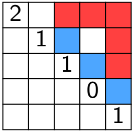
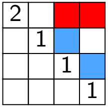
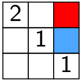
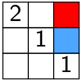
$g_1 g^{(2)}_{211}$ $=$  $+$  $+$ 

$=$  $-$  $-$ 

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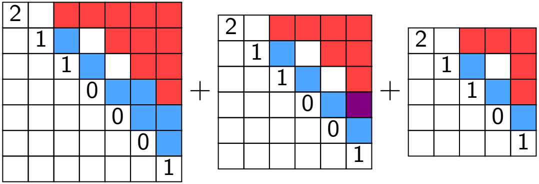

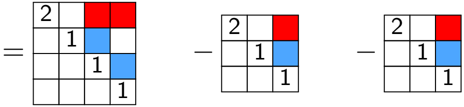

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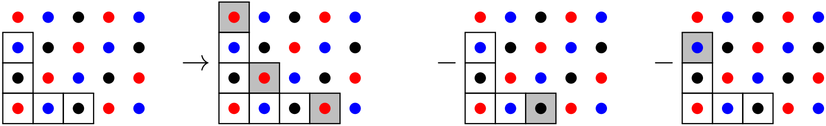
3-core perspective:



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Big Picture

$$\begin{tikzcd}
\boxed{\begin{array}{c}\text{Schur functions}\\ H(\varnothing;\lambda)\end{array}} \arrow[r] \arrow[d] & \boxed{\begin{array}{c}k\text{-Schur functions}\\ H(\Delta^k(\lambda);\lambda)\end{array}} \arrow[d] \\
\boxed{\begin{array}{c}\text{dual Grothendieck}\\ \text{polynomials}\\ K(\varnothing;\varnothing;\lambda)\end{array}} \arrow[r] & \boxed{\begin{array}{c}K\text{-}k\text{-Schur functions}\\ {\color{red}K(\Delta^k(\lambda);\Delta^{k+1}(\lambda);\lambda)}\end{array}}
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For $w \in S_{k+1}$ and $\mathfrak{G}_w^Q$ a "quantum Grothtendieck polynomial",

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What can be said about K-theoretic Catalan functions in general?

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Beyond K-theory

Raising operator techniques extend beyond Schubert calculus! Work by Blasiak-Haiman-Morse-Pun-S.:

- Shuffle theorems (Blasiak et al., 2021a; 2021b).
- Macdonald polynomials and LLT polynomials (Blasiak et al., 2021c).
- Much more work to be done!

References

Thank you!

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Details

$$k_m^{(r)} = \sum_{i=0}^{m} \binom{r+i-1}{i} h_{m-i} = s_m(X+r)\,,$$

a specialization of "multiSchur functions." See, e.g., Lascoux-Naruse (2014).

$$k_\gamma = k_{\gamma_1}^{(0)} k_{\gamma_2}^{(1)} \dots k_{\gamma_\ell}^{(\ell-1)}$$