

# $K$ -theoretic Catalan functions

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# Overview

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

# Overview of Schubert Calculus Combinatorics

## Geometric problem

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

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# 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.

# Classical Schubert Calculus

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## Representatives

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

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## Open Problem

Structure constants  $\mathfrak{S}_w \mathfrak{S}_u = c_{wu}^\nu \mathfrak{S}_v$  are combinatorially unknown.

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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
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And many more!

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$$\mathfrak{S}_w^Q \mapsto \frac{s_\lambda^{(k)}}{\prod_{i \in Des(w)} \tau_i}$$

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## Upshot

Computations for (quantum) Schubert polynomials can be moved into symmetric functions.

# $k$ -Schur functions

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- Definition with  $t$  important for Macdonald polynomials.
- Many definitions. A new one makes proofs easier!

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- Schubert calculus
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- $K$ -theoretic Catalan functions

# Raising Operators on Symmetric Functions

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

$$R_{1,3} \left( \begin{array}{c|c} \text{red} & \\ \hline \text{white} & \\ \hline \text{white} & \\ \hline \text{white} & \\ \hline \end{array} \right) = \begin{array}{ccccc} & & & & \\ \text{white} & \text{white} & \text{white} & \text{white} & \text{red} \\ \hline & & & & \end{array}$$
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$$s_\lambda = \prod_{i < j} (1 - R_{ij}) h_\lambda$$

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

$$\begin{aligned} s_{211} &= (1 - R_{12})(1 - R_{23})(1 - R_{13}) h_{211} \\ &= h_{211} - h_{301} - h_{220} - \cancel{h_{310}} + \cancel{h_{310}} + \underbrace{h_{32-1}}_{=0} + h_{400} - \underbrace{h_{41-1}}_{=0} \end{aligned}$$

some terms cancel

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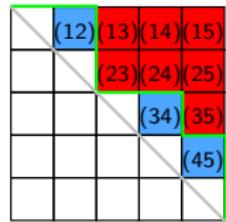
For  $\langle s_{1^r}^\perp s_\lambda, s_\mu \rangle = \langle s_\lambda, s_{1^r} s_\mu \rangle$ ,

$$s_{1^r}^\perp s_\lambda = \sum_{S \subseteq [1, \ell], |S|=r} s_{\lambda - \epsilon_S}$$

$$s_{1^2}^\perp s_{333} = s_{322} + s_{232} + s_{223}$$

# Root Ideals

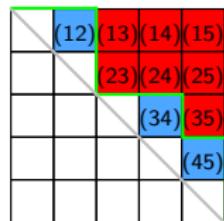
A root ideal  $\Psi$  of type  $A_{\ell-1}$  positive roots: given by Dyck path (lattice path above diagonal).



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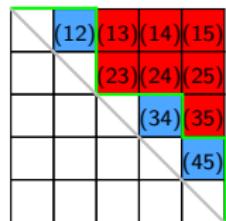
Catalan Function (Chen, 2010; Panyushev, 2010; Blasiak et al., 2019)

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

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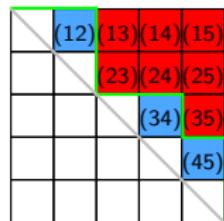
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- $\Psi = \text{all roots} \implies H(\Psi; \gamma) = h_\gamma$

# Catalan functions

## $k$ -Schur root ideal for $\lambda$

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

For partition  $\lambda$  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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Proof:  $k - \lambda_i = (k + 1) - (\lambda_i + 1)$

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

## Shift Invariance (Blasiak et al., 2019)

For partition  $\lambda$  of length  $\ell$  with  $\lambda_1 \leq k$ ,

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$$\Delta^4(3, 3, 2, 2, 1, 1) = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline & 3 & 2 & 2 & 1 & 1 \\ \hline 3 & & & & & \\ \hline 2 & & & & & \\ \hline 2 & & & & & \\ \hline 1 & & & & & \\ \hline 1 & & & & & \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\Delta^5(4, 4, 3, 3, 2, 2) = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline & 4 & 3 & 3 & 2 & 2 \\ \hline 4 & & & & & \\ \hline 3 & & & & & \\ \hline 2 & & & & & \\ \hline 2 & & & & & \\ \hline \end{array}$$

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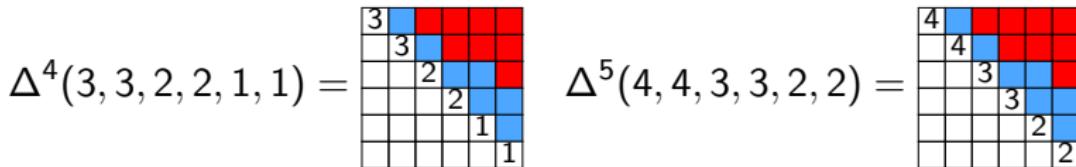
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Branching is a special case of Pieri:

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

# Overview

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

# Dual Grothendieck polynomials

- Inhomogeneous basis:  $g_\lambda = s_\lambda + \text{lower degree terms.}$

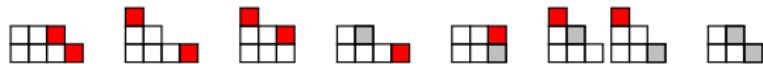
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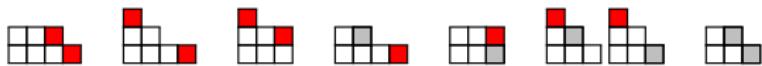
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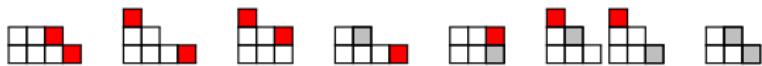


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- Dual to Grothendieck polynomials  $G_\lambda$ : Schubert representatives for  $K^*(Gr(m, n))$

# $K$ - $k$ -Schur functions

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$$g_1 g_{211}^{(2)} = g_{2111}^{(2)} - 2g_{211}^{(2)}$$

2-bounded partitions  $\leftrightarrow$  3-cores

The diagram illustrates the Pieri rule for  $g_1 g_{211}^{(2)}$ . It shows a 2-bounded partition (3,2,1) with colored dots (red, blue, black) being transformed into two 3-cores via the removal of specific sets of boxes. The transformation is shown as follows:

- Start with a 2-bounded partition (3,2,1) with colored dots.
- Remove a red box from the top row.
- Remove a blue box from the middle row.
- Remove a black box from the bottom row.
- Subtract the resulting 3-core from twice the original 3-core.

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The diagram illustrates the Pieri rule for  $g_1 g_{211}^{(2)}$ . On the left, there is a 2-bounded partition represented by a grid of colored dots (red, blue, black) and empty squares. An arrow points to the right, where the partition is transformed by an affine set-valued strip (2,1). This results in two 3-cores, each represented by a grid of colored dots and empty squares.

- Conjecture:  $g_{\lambda}^{(k)}$  have positive branching into  $g_{\mu}^{(k+1)}$  (Lam et al., 2010; Morse, 2011).

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## Problem

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

# An Extra Ingredient: Lowering Operators

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

$$L_3 \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{red} \\ \text{white} \\ \text{white} \\ \hline \text{white} \\ \text{white} \\ \text{white} \end{array} \right) = \begin{array}{c} \text{white} \\ \text{white} \\ \text{white} \\ \hline \text{white} \\ \text{white} \\ \text{white} \end{array}, \quad L_1 \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{white} \\ \text{white} \\ \text{white} \\ \hline \text{white} \\ \text{white} \\ \text{white} \\ \text{red} \end{array} \right) = \begin{array}{c} \text{white} \\ \text{white} \\ \text{white} \\ \hline \text{white} \\ \text{white} \\ \text{white} \end{array}$$

# 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  $\Psi$ , 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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## Example

$$g_{332111111}^{(4)} =$$

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

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## Theorem (Blasiak-Morse-S., 2020)

The branching coefficients in

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

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

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# References

## Thank you!

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