

Let  $\mathbb{N}$  denote the nonnegative integers and  $\mathbb{P}$  the positive integers. Fix  $m \in \mathbb{P}$  and let  $\mathcal{A} = \{x_{i,j} \mid i \in [r], j \in \mathbb{P}\}$ . Everything that follows takes place in the ring of formal power series  $R = \mathbb{k}[[\mathcal{A}]]$ , where  $\mathbb{k}$  is a field (assumed to be of characteristic 0 if necessary). There is an  $\mathbb{N}^r$ -grading on  $R$ ; the homogeneous component of degree  $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, \dots, u_r) \in \mathbb{N}^r$  is the vector space span of monomials having total degree  $u_i$  in the variables  $\{x_{i,j} \mid j \in \mathbb{P}\}$ .

The group  $\mathfrak{S}$  of permutations of  $\mathbb{P}$  acts diagonally on  $\mathcal{A}$  by  $\sigma(x_{i,j}) = x_{i,\sigma(j)}$ ; this action extends to  $R$ . The invariants of the action are the **MacMahon (symmetric) functions**. They form a graded subring  $\mathfrak{M} \subseteq R$ , with  $\mathfrak{M}_{\mathbf{u}} = \mathfrak{M} \cap R_{\mathbf{u}}$ .

Following Rosas [Ros01], the standard combinatorial bases for  $\mathfrak{M}$  are as follows. For  $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{N}^r$ , each basis for  $\mathfrak{M}_{\mathbf{u}}$  is indexed by the **vector partitions**  $\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}$ . Such a thing is a multiset of nonzero vectors  $\lambda^{(1)}, \dots, \lambda^{(k)} \in \mathbb{N}^r$  that sum to  $\mathbf{u}$ .

Let  $\lambda = \{\lambda^{(1)}, \dots, \lambda^{(k)}\}$  be a vector partition, where  $\lambda^{(j)} = (\ell_{1,j}, \dots, \ell_{r,j})$ . The **monomial MacMahon function**  $m_{\lambda}$  is the sum of all monomials in the  $\mathfrak{S}$ -orbit of the monomial

$$\prod_{j=1}^k \prod_{i=1}^r x_{i,j}^{\ell_{i,j}}.$$

For  $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, \dots, a_r) \in \mathbb{N}^r$ , the **power-sum MacMahon function** is

$$p_{\mathbf{a}} = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} x_{1,i}^{a_1} x_{2,i}^{a_2} \cdots x_{r,i}^{a_r};$$

the **elementary MacMahon function** is

$$e_{\mathbf{a}} = [t_1^{a_1} \cdots t_r^{a_r}] \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} 1 + t_1 x_{1,i} + t_2 x_{2,i} + \cdots + t_r x_{r,i}$$

and the **complete homogeneous MacMahon function** is

$$h_{\mathbf{a}} = [t_1^{a_1} \cdots t_r^{a_r}] \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1 - t_1 x_{1,i} - t_2 x_{2,i} - \cdots - t_r x_{r,i}}.$$

These are all multiplicative bases: for a vector partition  $\lambda = \{\lambda^{(1)}, \dots, \lambda^{(k)}\}$  we set

$$p_{\lambda} = \prod_{j=1}^k p_{\lambda^{(j)}}, \quad e_{\lambda} = \prod_{j=1}^k e_{\lambda^{(j)}}, \quad h_{\lambda} = \prod_{j=1}^k h_{\lambda^{(j)}}.$$

Finally, there is an involutive automorphism  $\omega: \mathfrak{M} \rightarrow \mathfrak{M}$  defined by  $\omega(e_{\lambda}) = h_{\lambda}$ . The **forgotten MacMahon functions** are defined by  $f_{\lambda} = \text{sign}(\lambda)m_{\lambda}$ .

## 1 Transitions between bases

First, a standard linear algebra fact. Let  $V$  be a vector space of finite dimension  $n$  over ground field  $\mathbb{k}$  (it doesn't matter what it is).

**Proposition 1.** Suppose that  $B = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  and  $B^* = \{v_1^*, \dots, v_n^*\}$  are bases for  $V$  that are orthogonal, i.e.,

$$\langle v_i, v_j^* \rangle = \delta_{ij} k_i$$

for some nonzero constants  $k_1, \dots, k_n$ . Then the unique expansion of  $u$  with respect to  $B$  is

$$u = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\langle v_i^*, u \rangle}{k_i} v_i. \quad (1)$$

*Proof.* For every  $j \in [n]$  we have

$$\left\langle v_j^*, \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\langle v_i^*, u \rangle}{k_i} v_i \right\rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\langle v_i^*, u \rangle}{k_i} \langle v_j^*, v_i \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n \langle v_i^*, u \rangle \delta_{ij} = \langle v_j^*, u \rangle.$$

That is, every element of  $B^*$  has the same inner product with the left and right-hand sides of (1). This is necessary and sufficient for equality.  $\square$

This proposition reduces the problem of expanding a vector in a particular basis  $B$  to computing inner products with an orthogonal basis  $B^*$ . (The best possible case is that  $k_i = 1$  for all  $i$ , i.e.,  $B^*$  is the dual basis to  $B$ . However, we're not always that lucky.)

Notation:

- $\mathbb{N}$  = nonnegative integers
- For  $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{N}^k$ , a **vector partition**  $\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}$  is a multiset of nonzero vectors (the **parts** of  $\lambda$ ) that sum to  $u$ .
- Weight of a vector partition = sum of all entries in all vectors in it (ex.:  $\text{wt}(\{120, 100, 100, 013\}) = 9$ )
- $\mathfrak{M}_{\mathbf{u}}$  = MacMahon symmetric functions of homogeneous multidegree  $u$
- $\text{sign}(\lambda) = (-1)^{\text{number of parts with even sum}}$
- $m_\lambda, e_\lambda, h_\lambda, p_\lambda, f_\lambda$ : monomial, elementary, homogeneous, power-sum, and forgotten MacMahon symmetric functions [Ros01, pp.327–328]
- For a vector partition  $\lambda$  in which each part  $v_i$  occurs with multiplicity  $m_i$ , define

$$|\lambda| = \prod_i m_i! \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda! = \prod_i \prod_{x \in v_i} (x!)^{m_i}.$$

A vector partition is **unitary** if it is a partition of the all-ones vector  $\mathbf{1} \in \mathbb{N}^k$ . There is an obvious bijection between unitary vector partitions and set partitions of  $[k]$ . Unitary MacMahon symmetric functions are the focus of [Dou72]. These are the graded pieces  $\mathfrak{M}_{(1)^k}$ .

The **type** of a set partition  $\pi = B_1 | \dots | B_\ell$ , with respect to a vector  $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, \dots, u_r)$  of weight  $n$ , is the vector partition  $\text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi) = \lambda = \lambda_1 \dots \lambda_\ell$  where  $\lambda_k$  is the vector in  $\mathbb{N}^r$  whose  $i$ th coordinate is

$$\#\{j \in B_k \mid u_1 + \dots + u_{i-1} < j \leq i_1 + \dots + u_i\}.$$

the number of elements of  $B_k$  such that in the  $i$ th equivalence class.

For a vector  $\mathbf{u}$  of weight  $n$  and a vector partition  $\lambda$  of weight  $n$ , the number of set partitions  $\pi$  of type  $\text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi)$  is

$$\binom{\mathbf{u}}{\lambda} := \frac{\mathbf{u}!}{\lambda! |\lambda|}.$$

Define a scalar product on  $\mathfrak{M}$ :

$$\boxed{\langle h_\lambda, m_\mu \rangle = \delta_{\lambda\mu}.} \quad (2)$$

The idea is to use this for basis transitions, along the lines discussed earlier. Specifically, formula (1) says that for any  $F \in \mathfrak{M}_u$ , we have

$$F = \sum_{\lambda \vdash u} \langle h_\lambda, F \rangle m_\lambda \quad \text{and} \quad F = \sum_{\lambda \vdash u} \langle m_\lambda, F \rangle h_\lambda. \quad (3)$$

Thus we have to know how to compute inner products.

There is a “lifting map”  $\hat{\rho}$  [Ros01, Defn. 6] sending MacMahon functions to unitary (Doubilet) symmetric functions. Specifically:

$$\binom{\mathbf{u}}{\lambda} |\lambda| m_\lambda \xrightarrow{\hat{\rho}} \sum_{\pi: \text{ type}_u(\pi) = \lambda} m_\pi \quad (4a)$$

$$\binom{\mathbf{u}}{\lambda} \lambda! h_\lambda \xrightarrow{\hat{\rho}} \sum_{\pi: \text{ type}_u(\pi) = \lambda} h_\pi \quad (4b)$$

$$\binom{\mathbf{u}}{\lambda} \lambda! e_\lambda \xrightarrow{\hat{\rho}} \sum_{\pi: \text{ type}_u(\pi) = \lambda} e_\pi \quad (4c)$$

$$\binom{\mathbf{u}}{\lambda} p_\lambda \xrightarrow{\hat{\rho}} \sum_{\pi: \text{ type}_u(\pi) = \lambda} p_\pi \quad (4d)$$

$$\binom{\mathbf{u}}{\lambda} |\lambda| f_\lambda \xrightarrow{\hat{\rho}} \sum_{\pi: \text{ type}_u(\pi) = \lambda} f_\pi \quad (4e)$$

Moreover, for all  $f, g \in \mathfrak{M}_u$  we have [Ros01, Prop. 7]

$$\langle f, g \rangle = \mathbf{u}! \langle \hat{\rho}(f), \hat{\rho}(g) \rangle \quad (5)$$

Prop. 1 together with the scalar product (2) says in particular that for  $F \in \mathfrak{M}_u$  we have

$$F = \sum_{\lambda \vdash u} \langle m_\lambda, F \rangle h_\lambda, \quad F = \sum_{\lambda \vdash u} \langle h_\lambda, F \rangle m_\lambda. \quad (6)$$

Doubilet [Dou72, Appendix 2] calculated the scalar products for all five families of unitary symmetric functions (which requires things like lattice operations and Möbius and zeta functions in the set partition lattice  $\Pi_n$ ). Therefore, we should be able to compute scalar products, and thus basis expansions, for all MacMahon functions. **Warning:** Doubilet’s notation for the standard bases is not the usual modern notation (he used  $k, a, h, s, f$  for what we call  $m, e, h, p, f$  — perhaps this was not standardized in 1970?), and each of his formulas has an extra  $n!$  that needs to be deleted (he was working in an analogous ring where the  $n!$  makes sense. Rosas reproduced Doubilet’s calculations (in modern notation and without the  $n!$ ’s that are extraneous in our context).

## 2 Expansions in the $m$ -basis

$$\begin{aligned}
p_\mu &= \mathbf{u}! \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \langle \hat{\rho}(h_\lambda), \hat{\rho}(p_\mu) \rangle m_\lambda && \text{(by (3) and (5))} \\
&= \mathbf{u}! \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \left\langle \frac{1}{(\lambda) \lambda!} \sum_{\pi: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi)=\lambda} h_\pi, \frac{1}{(\mu) \mu!} \sum_{\sigma: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma)=\mu} p_\sigma \right\rangle m_\lambda && \text{(by (4b) and (4d))} \\
&= \frac{\mathbf{u}!}{(\mu)} \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \frac{1}{(\lambda) \lambda!} \sum_{\substack{\pi: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi)=\lambda \\ \sigma: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma)=\mu}} \langle h_\pi, p_\sigma \rangle m_\lambda && \text{(by bilinearity)} \\
&= \frac{\mathbf{u}!}{(\mu)} \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \frac{1}{(\lambda) \lambda!} \sum_{\substack{\pi: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi)=\lambda \\ \sigma: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma)=\mu}} \zeta(\sigma, \pi) m_\lambda && \text{(by Doubilet formula #3)} \\
p_\mu &= \frac{\mathbf{u}!}{(\mu)} \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \frac{\#\{(\pi, \sigma) \mid \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi)=\lambda, \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma)=\mu, \sigma \leq \pi\}}{(\lambda) \lambda!} m_\lambda
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
h_\mu &= \mathbf{u}! \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \langle \hat{\rho}(h_\lambda), \hat{\rho}(h_\mu) \rangle m_\lambda && \text{(by (3) and (5))} \\
&= \mathbf{u}! \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \left\langle \frac{1}{(\lambda) \lambda!} \sum_{\pi: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi)=\lambda} h_\pi, \frac{1}{(\mu) \mu!} \sum_{\sigma: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma)=\mu} h_\sigma \right\rangle m_\lambda && \text{(by (4b) twice)} \\
&= \frac{\mathbf{u}!}{(\mu) \mu!} \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \frac{1}{(\lambda) \lambda!} \sum_{\substack{\pi: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi)=\lambda \\ \sigma: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma)=\mu}} \langle h_\pi, h_\sigma \rangle m_\lambda && \text{(by bilinearity)} \\
&= \frac{\mathbf{u}!}{(\mu) \mu!} \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \frac{1}{(\lambda) \lambda!} \sum_{\substack{\pi: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi)=\lambda \\ \sigma: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma)=\mu}} \lambda(\sigma \wedge \pi)! m_\lambda && \text{(by Doubilet formula #9)}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
e_\mu &= \mathbf{u}! \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \langle \hat{\rho}(h_\lambda), \hat{\rho}(e_\mu) \rangle m_\lambda && \text{(by (3) and (5))} \\
&= \mathbf{u}! \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \left\langle \frac{1}{(\lambda) \lambda!} \sum_{\pi: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi)=\lambda} h_\pi, \frac{1}{(\mu) \mu!} \sum_{\sigma: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma)=\mu} e_\sigma \right\rangle m_\lambda && \text{(by (4b) and (4c))} \\
&= \frac{\mathbf{u}!}{(\mu) \mu!} \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \frac{1}{(\lambda) \lambda!} \sum_{\substack{\pi: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi)=\lambda \\ \sigma: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma)=\mu}} \langle h_\pi, e_\sigma \rangle m_\lambda && \text{(by bilinearity)} \\
&= \frac{\mathbf{u}!}{(\mu) \mu!} \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \frac{\#\{(\pi, \sigma) \mid \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi)=\lambda, \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma)=\mu, \pi \wedge \sigma = \hat{\mathbf{0}}\}}{(\lambda) \lambda!} m_\lambda && \text{(by Doubilet formula #6)}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
f_\mu &= \mathbf{u}! \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \langle \hat{\rho}(h_\lambda), \hat{\rho}(f_\mu) \rangle m_\lambda && \text{(by (3) and (5))} \\
&= \mathbf{u}! \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \left\langle \frac{1}{(\lambda) \lambda!} \sum_{\pi: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi) = \lambda} h_\pi, \frac{1}{(\mu) |\mu|} \sum_{\sigma: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma) = \mu} f_\sigma \right\rangle m_\lambda && \text{(by (4b) and (4d))} \\
&= \frac{\mathbf{u}!}{(\mu) |\mu|} \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \frac{1}{(\lambda) \lambda!} \sum_{\substack{\pi: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi) = \lambda \\ \sigma: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma) = \mu}} \langle h_\pi, f_\sigma \rangle m_\lambda && \text{(by bilinearity)} \\
&= \frac{\mathbf{u}!}{(\mu) |\mu|} \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \frac{1}{(\lambda) \lambda!} \sum_{\substack{\pi: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi) = \lambda \\ \sigma: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma) = \mu \\ \sigma \leq \pi}} \lambda(\sigma, \pi)! m_\lambda && \text{(by Doubilet formula #13)}
\end{aligned}$$

### 3 Expansions in the $h$ -basis

$$\begin{aligned}
m_\mu &= \mathbf{u}! \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \langle \hat{\rho}(m_\lambda), \hat{\rho}(m_\mu) \rangle h_\lambda && \text{(by (3) and (5))} \\
&= \mathbf{u}! \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \left\langle \frac{1}{(\lambda) |\lambda|} \sum_{\pi: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi) = \lambda} m_\pi, \frac{1}{(\mu) |\mu|} \sum_{\sigma: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma) = \mu} m_\sigma \right\rangle h_\lambda && \text{(by (4a) twice)} \\
&= \frac{\mathbf{u}!}{(\mu) |\mu|} \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \frac{1}{(\lambda) |\lambda|} \sum_{\substack{\pi: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi) = \lambda \\ \sigma: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma) = \mu}} \langle m_\pi, m_\sigma \rangle h_\lambda && \text{(by bilinearity)} \\
&= \frac{\mathbf{u}!}{(\mu) |\mu|} \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \frac{1}{(\lambda) |\lambda|} \sum_{\substack{\pi: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi) = \lambda \\ \sigma: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma) = \mu}} \sum_{\tau \geq \pi \vee \sigma} \frac{\mu(\pi, \tau) \mu(\sigma, \tau)}{\mu(\hat{\mathbf{0}}, \tau)} h_\lambda && \text{(by Doubilet formula #7)}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
p_\mu &= \mathbf{u}! \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \langle \hat{\rho}(m_\lambda), \hat{\rho}(p_\mu) \rangle h_\lambda && \text{(by (3) and (5))} \\
&= \mathbf{u}! \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \left\langle \frac{1}{(\lambda) |\lambda|} \sum_{\pi: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi) = \lambda} m_\pi, \frac{1}{(\mu)} \sum_{\sigma: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma) = \mu} p_\sigma \right\rangle h_\lambda && \text{(by (4a) and (4d))} \\
&= \frac{\mathbf{u}!}{(\mu) |\mu|} \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \frac{1}{(\lambda) |\lambda|} \sum_{\substack{\pi: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi) = \lambda \\ \sigma: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma) = \mu}} \langle m_\pi, p_\sigma \rangle h_\lambda && \text{(by bilinearity)} \\
&= \frac{\mathbf{u}!}{(\mu) |\mu|} \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \frac{1}{(\lambda) |\lambda|} \sum_{\substack{\pi: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi) = \lambda \\ \sigma: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma) = \mu \\ \pi \leq \sigma}} \frac{\mu(\pi, \sigma)}{|\mu(\hat{\mathbf{0}}, \sigma)|} h_\lambda && \text{(by Doubilet formula #10)}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
e_\mu &= \mathbf{u}! \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \langle \hat{\rho}(m_\lambda), \hat{\rho}(e_\mu) \rangle h_\lambda && \text{(by (3) and (5))} \\
&= \mathbf{u}! \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \left\langle \frac{1}{(\lambda)|\lambda|} \sum_{\pi: \text{type}_\mathbf{u}(\pi)=\lambda} m_\pi, \frac{1}{(\mu)|\mu|} \sum_{\sigma: \text{type}_\mathbf{u}(\sigma)=\mu} e_\sigma \right\rangle h_\lambda && \text{(by (4a) and (4c))} \\
&= \frac{\mathbf{u}!}{(\mu)|\mu|} \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \frac{1}{(\lambda)|\lambda|} \sum_{\substack{\pi: \text{type}_\mathbf{u}(\pi)=\lambda \\ \sigma: \text{type}_\mathbf{u}(\sigma)=\mu}} \langle m_\pi, e_\sigma \rangle h_\lambda && \text{(by bilinearity)} \\
&= \frac{\mathbf{u}!}{(\mu)|\mu|} \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \frac{1}{(\lambda)|\lambda|} \sum_{\substack{\pi: \text{type}_\mathbf{u}(\pi)=\lambda \\ \sigma: \text{type}_\mathbf{u}(\sigma)=\mu \\ \pi \leq \sigma}} \text{sign}(\pi) \lambda(\pi, \sigma)! h_\lambda && \text{(by Doubilet formula #8)}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
f_\mu &= \mathbf{u}! \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \langle \hat{\rho}(m_\lambda), \hat{\rho}(f_\mu) \rangle h_\lambda && \text{(by (3) and (5))} \\
&= \mathbf{u}! \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \left\langle \frac{1}{(\lambda)|\lambda|} \sum_{\pi: \text{type}_\mathbf{u}(\pi)=\lambda} m_\pi, \frac{1}{(\mu)|\mu|} \sum_{\sigma: \text{type}_\mathbf{u}(\sigma)=\mu} f_\sigma \right\rangle h_\lambda && \text{(by (4a) and (4e))} \\
&= \frac{\mathbf{u}!}{(\mu)|\mu|} \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \frac{1}{(\lambda)|\lambda|} \sum_{\substack{\pi: \text{type}_\mathbf{u}(\pi)=\lambda \\ \sigma: \text{type}_\mathbf{u}(\sigma)=\mu}} \langle m_\pi, f_\sigma \rangle h_\lambda && \text{(by bilinearity)} \\
&= \frac{\mathbf{u}!}{(\mu)|\mu|} \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \frac{1}{(\lambda)|\lambda|} \sum_{\pi: \text{type}_\mathbf{u}(\pi)=\lambda} \sum_{\tau \geq \sigma \vee \pi} \frac{|\mu(\sigma, \tau)| \cdot \mu(\pi, \tau)}{\mu(\hat{\mathbf{0}}, \tau)} h_\lambda && \text{(by Doubilet formula #11)}
\end{aligned}$$

## 4 Expansions in the $p$ -basis

Rosas [Ros01, p.333] states that for  $\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}$ ,

$$\langle p_\lambda, p_\mu \rangle = \frac{\delta_{\lambda, \mu} |\lambda| \lambda!}{|\mu(\hat{\mathbf{0}}, \lambda)|} \quad (7)$$

where  $\mu(\hat{\mathbf{0}}, \lambda)$  means  $\mu(\hat{\mathbf{0}}, \pi)$  for any set partition  $\pi$  such that  $\text{type}_\mathbf{u}(\pi) = \lambda$ . This can be verified using the lifting maps and Doubilet's formula.

Therefore, Proposition 1 says that for every  $F \in \mathfrak{M}$ ,

$$F = \sum_{\lambda} \frac{\langle p_\lambda, F \rangle |\mu(\hat{\mathbf{0}}, \lambda)|}{|\lambda| \lambda!} p_\lambda = \sum_{\lambda} \frac{\langle p_\lambda, F \rangle |\mu(\hat{\mathbf{0}}, \lambda)| (\mathbf{u})}{\mathbf{u}!} p_\lambda \quad (8)$$

So, as before:

$$\begin{aligned}
m_\mu &= \sum_{\lambda} \left\langle \binom{\mathbf{u}}{\lambda} \hat{\rho}(p_\lambda), \hat{\rho}(m_\mu) \right\rangle |\mu(\hat{\mathbf{0}}, \lambda)| p_\lambda && \text{(by (8) and (5))} \\
&= \frac{1}{\binom{\mathbf{u}}{\mu} |\mu|} \sum_{\lambda} |\mu(\hat{\mathbf{0}}, \lambda)| \sum_{\substack{\sigma: \text{ type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma)=\lambda \\ \pi: \text{ type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi)=\mu}} \langle p_\sigma, m_\pi \rangle p_\lambda && \text{(by (4d) and (4a) and bilinearity)} \\
&= \frac{1}{\binom{\mathbf{u}}{\mu} |\mu|} \sum_{\lambda} \left[ |\mu(\hat{\mathbf{0}}, \lambda)| \sum_{\substack{\sigma: \text{ type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma)=\lambda \\ \pi: \text{ type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi)=\mu \\ \pi \leq \sigma}} \frac{\mu(\pi, \sigma)}{|\mu(\hat{\mathbf{0}}, \sigma)|} \right] p_\lambda && \text{(by Doubilet formula #10)}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
h_\mu &= \sum_{\lambda} \langle \hat{\rho}(p_\lambda), \hat{\rho}(h_\mu) \rangle |\mu(\hat{\mathbf{0}}, \lambda)| \binom{\mathbf{u}}{\lambda} p_\lambda && \text{(by (8) and (5))} \\
&= \frac{1}{\binom{\mathbf{u}}{\mu} \mu!} \sum_{\lambda} |\mu(\hat{\mathbf{0}}, \lambda)| \sum_{\substack{\sigma: \text{ type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma)=\lambda \\ \pi: \text{ type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi)=\mu}} \langle p_\sigma, h_\pi \rangle p_\lambda && \text{(by (4d) and (4b) and bilinearity)} \\
&= \frac{1}{\binom{\mathbf{u}}{\mu} \mu!} \sum_{\lambda} \left[ |\mu(\hat{\mathbf{0}}, \lambda)| \sum_{\substack{\sigma: \text{ type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma)=\lambda \\ \pi: \text{ type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi)=\mu \\ \sigma \leq \pi}} \right] p_\lambda && \text{(by Doubilet formula #3)}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
e_\mu &= \sum_{\lambda} \langle \hat{\rho}(p_\lambda), \hat{\rho}(e_\mu) \rangle |\mu(\hat{\mathbf{0}}, \lambda)| \binom{\mathbf{u}}{\lambda} p_\lambda && \text{(by (8) and (5))} \\
&= \frac{1}{\binom{\mathbf{u}}{\mu} \mu!} \sum_{\lambda} |\mu(\hat{\mathbf{0}}, \lambda)| \sum_{\substack{\sigma: \text{ type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma)=\lambda \\ \pi: \text{ type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi)=\mu}} \langle p_\sigma, e_\pi \rangle p_\lambda && \text{(by (4d) and (4c) and bilinearity)} \\
&= \frac{1}{\binom{\mathbf{u}}{\mu} \mu!} \sum_{\lambda} \left[ |\mu(\hat{\mathbf{0}}, \lambda)| \sum_{\substack{\sigma: \text{ type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma)=\lambda \\ \pi: \text{ type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi)=\mu \\ \sigma \leq \pi}} \text{sign}(\sigma) \right] p_\lambda && \text{(by Doubilet formula #4)}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
f_\mu &= \sum_{\lambda} \langle \hat{\rho}(p_\lambda), \hat{\rho}(f_\mu) \rangle |\mu(\hat{\mathbf{0}}, \lambda)| \binom{\mathbf{u}}{\lambda} p_\lambda && \text{(by (8) and (5))} \\
&= \frac{1}{\binom{\mathbf{u}}{\mu} |\mu|} \sum_{\lambda} |\mu(\hat{\mathbf{0}}, \lambda)| \sum_{\substack{\sigma: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma)=\lambda \\ \pi: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi)=\mu}} \langle p_\sigma, f_\pi \rangle p_\lambda && \text{(by (4d) and (4e) and bilinearity)} \\
&= \frac{1}{\binom{\mathbf{u}}{\mu} |\mu|} \sum_{\lambda} \left[ |\mu(\hat{\mathbf{0}}, \lambda)| \sum_{\substack{\sigma: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma)=\lambda \\ \pi: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi)=\mu \\ \pi \leq \sigma}} \text{sign}(\pi) \text{sign}(\sigma) \frac{\mu(\pi, \sigma)}{|\mu(\hat{\mathbf{0}}, \sigma)|} \right] p_\lambda && \text{(by Doubilet formula #14)}
\end{aligned}$$

## 5 The omega involution, and expansions in the $e$ - and $f$ -bases

There is an automorphism  $\omega: \mathfrak{M} \rightarrow \mathfrak{M}$  (called  $\theta$  in [Dou72]) defined by

$$\omega(e_\lambda) = h_\lambda$$

This is defined in [Ros01, p.328] (and used to define the forgotten basis  $f_\lambda = \text{sign}(\lambda)\omega(m_\lambda)$ ). I would like to know what  $\omega$  does to  $p_\lambda$ . For symmetric functions, we have  $\omega(p_\lambda) = \text{sign}(\lambda)p_\lambda$  (where  $\lambda$  is a partition), and for unitary MacMahon functions, we have  $\omega(p_\pi) = \text{sign}(\pi)p_\pi$  (where  $\pi$  is a set partition). It would be natural to hope that  $\omega(p_\lambda) = \text{sign}(\lambda)p_\lambda$  in general, though Rosas does not state that. Can we prove it? And can we prove that  $\omega$  is an isometry?

Or should we just assume all of these things? If so, then applying  $\omega$  to the conversions to the  $h$ -basis gives

$$f_\mu = \text{sign}(\mu) \frac{\mathbf{u}!}{\binom{\mathbf{u}}{\mu} |\mu|} \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \frac{1}{\binom{\mathbf{u}}{\lambda} |\lambda|} \sum_{\substack{\pi: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi)=\lambda \\ \sigma: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma)=\mu}} \sum_{\tau \geq \pi \vee \sigma} \frac{\mu(\pi, \tau) \mu(\sigma, \tau)}{\mu(\hat{\mathbf{0}}, \tau)} e_\lambda$$

$$p_\mu = \text{sign}(\mu) \frac{\mathbf{u}!}{\binom{\mathbf{u}}{\mu} |\mu|} \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \frac{1}{\binom{\mathbf{u}}{\lambda} |\lambda|} \sum_{\substack{\pi: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi)=\lambda \\ \sigma: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma)=\mu \\ \pi \leq \sigma}} \frac{\mu(\pi, \sigma)}{|\mu(\hat{\mathbf{0}}, \sigma)|} e_\lambda$$

$$h_\mu = \frac{\mathbf{u}!}{\binom{\mathbf{u}}{\mu} \mu!} \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \frac{1}{\binom{\mathbf{u}}{\lambda} |\lambda|} \sum_{\substack{\pi: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi)=\lambda \\ \sigma: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma)=\mu \\ \pi \leq \sigma}} \text{sign}(\pi) \lambda(\pi, \sigma)! e_\lambda$$

$$m_\mu = \text{sign}(\mu) \frac{\mathbf{u}!}{\binom{\mathbf{u}}{\mu} |\mu|} \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \frac{1}{\binom{\mathbf{u}}{\lambda} |\lambda|} \sum_{\substack{\pi: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi)=\lambda \\ \sigma: \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma)=\mu}} \sum_{\tau \geq \sigma \vee \pi} \frac{|\mu(\sigma, \tau)| \cdot \mu(\pi, \tau)}{\mu(\hat{\mathbf{0}}, \tau)} e_\lambda$$

and likewise applying  $\omega$  to the conversions to the  $m$ -basis gives

$$p_\mu = \text{sign}(\mu) \frac{\mathbf{u}!}{\binom{\mathbf{u}}{\mu}} \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \text{sign}(\lambda) \frac{\#\{(\pi, \sigma) \mid \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi) = \lambda, \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma) = \mu, \sigma \leq \pi\}}{\binom{\mathbf{u}}{\lambda} \lambda!} f_\lambda$$

$$e_\mu = \frac{\mathbf{u}!}{\binom{\mathbf{u}}{\mu} \mu!} \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \text{sign}(\lambda) \frac{1}{\binom{\mathbf{u}}{\lambda} \lambda!} \sum_{\substack{\pi: \text{ type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi) = \lambda \\ \sigma: \text{ type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma) = \mu}} \lambda(\sigma \wedge \pi)! f_\lambda$$

$$h_\mu = \frac{\mathbf{u}!}{\binom{\mathbf{u}}{\mu} \mu!} \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \text{sign}(\lambda) \frac{\#\{(\pi, \sigma) \mid \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi) = \lambda, \text{type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma) = \mu, \pi \wedge \sigma = \hat{0}\}}{\binom{\mathbf{u}}{\lambda} \lambda!} f_\lambda$$

$$m_\mu = \text{sign}(\mu) \frac{\mathbf{u}!}{\binom{\mathbf{u}}{\mu} |\mu|} \sum_{\lambda \vdash \mathbf{u}} \text{sign}(\lambda) \frac{1}{\binom{\mathbf{u}}{\lambda} \lambda!} \sum_{\substack{\pi: \text{ type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\pi) = \lambda \\ \sigma: \text{ type}_{\mathbf{u}}(\sigma) = \mu \\ \sigma \leq \pi}} \lambda(\sigma, \pi)! f_\lambda$$

## References

- [Dou72] Peter Doubilet, *On the foundations of combinatorial theory. VII. Symmetric functions through the theory of distribution and occupancy*, Studies in Appl. Math. **51** (1972), 377–396. MR 429577 [2](#), [3](#), [8](#)
- [Ros01] Mercedes H. Rosas, *MacMahon symmetric functions, the partition lattice, and Young subgroups*, J. Combin. Theory Ser. A **96** (2001), no. 2, 326–340. MR 1864127 [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [6](#), [8](#)