

# Catalania

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# Root ideals

- Set of positive roots  $R_+ = R_+(\mathrm{GL}_n) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{(i, j) : 1 \leq i < j \leq n\}$ .
- A *root ideal*  $\Psi \subseteq R_+$  is an upper order ideal of positive roots.

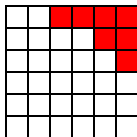
**Example.**  $\Psi = \{(1, 3), (1, 4), (1, 5), (1, 6), (2, 5), (2, 6), (3, 6)\}$

		(1, 3)	(1, 4)	(1, 5)	(1, 6)
				(2, 5)	(2, 6)
					(3, 6)

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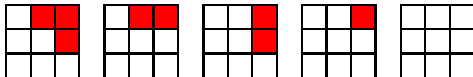
- Set of positive roots  $R_+ = R_+(\mathrm{GL}_n) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{(i, j) \mid 1 \leq i < j \leq n\}$ .
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# of root ideals of  $R_+(\mathrm{GL}_n) =$  the  $n$ -th Catalan number  $\frac{1}{n+1} \binom{2n}{n}$ .

**Example.** The 5 root ideals of  $R_+(\mathrm{GL}_3)$ :



# Can it Catalanify?

What happens if we replace a product over positive roots with one over a root ideal?

- Weyl character formula  $s_\mu(\mathbf{z}) = \sum_{w \in \mathcal{S}_n} w \left( \mathbf{z}^\mu \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (1 - z_j/z_i)^{-1} \right)$
- Modified Hall-Littlewoods  $H_\mu(X; q) = \sigma \left( \mathbf{z}^\mu \prod_{i < j} (1 - q z_i/z_j)^{-1} \right)$
- Hall-Littlewood polynomials
$$P_\mu(X; q) = \frac{1}{v_\mu(q)} \sigma \left( \mathbf{z}^\mu \prod_{i < j} (1 - q z_j/z_i) \right)$$

- Cauchy formula for Schubert polynomials

$$\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (x_i + y_j) = \sum_{w \in \mathcal{S}_n} \mathfrak{S}_w(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mathfrak{S}_{w^{-1}}(y_1, \dots, y_n)$$

- Cauchy formula for keys  $\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \frac{1}{1 - x_i/y_j} = \sum_{\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^n} K_\alpha(\mathbf{x}) \hat{K}_{-\alpha}(\mathbf{y})$
- Cauchy formula for nonsymmetric Macdonald polynomials of Mimachi and Noumi

$$\prod_{j < i} \frac{(qt x_i y_j; q)_\infty}{(q x_i y_j; q)_\infty} \prod_{i < j} \frac{(t x_i y_j; q)_\infty}{(x_i y_j; q)_\infty} \prod_i \frac{(qt x_i y_i; q)_\infty}{(x_i y_i; q)_\infty} = \sum_{\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^n} a_\alpha E_\alpha(\mathbf{x}; q, t) E_\alpha(\mathbf{y}; q^{-1}, t^{-1})$$

- Identity of Littlewood and Schur  $\sum_\lambda s_\lambda = \prod_i (1 - z_i)^{-1} \prod_{i < j} (1 - z_i z_j)^{-1}$

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$$\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (x_i + y_j) = \sum_{w \in \mathcal{S}_n} \mathfrak{S}_w(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mathfrak{S}_{ww_0}(y_n, \dots, y_1)$$

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# Schur function straightening

- $\Lambda(X)$  = ring of symmetric functions in  $X = x_1, x_2, \dots$ .
- $h_d(X) = \sum_{i_1 \leq \dots \leq i_d} x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_d}$  is the *homogeneous symmetric function*.
- Convention:  $h_0 = 1$  and  $h_d = 0$  for  $d < 0$ .

**Def.** Schur functions may be defined for any  $\gamma = (\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n) \in \mathbb{Z}^n$  by

$$s_\gamma(X) = \det (h_{\gamma_i+j-i}(X))_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \in \Lambda(X).$$

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## Proposition (Schur function straightening)

For  $\gamma \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ ,

$$s_\gamma(X) = \begin{cases} \operatorname{sgn}(\gamma + \rho) s_{\operatorname{sort}(\gamma + \rho) - \rho}(X) & \text{if } \gamma + \rho \text{ has distinct nonnegative parts,} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

- $\rho = (n - 1, n - 2, \dots, 0)$ ,
- $\operatorname{sort}(\beta) =$  weakly decreasing sequence obtained by sorting  $\beta$ ,
- $\operatorname{sgn}(\beta) =$  sign of the shortest permutation taking  $\beta$  to  $\operatorname{sort}(\beta)$ .

**Example.**  $n = 4$ ,  $\gamma = (3, 1, 2, 5)$ .

$\gamma + \rho = (3, 1, 2, 5) + (3, 2, 1, 0) = (6, 3, 3, 5)$  has a repeated part.

Hence  $s_{3125} = 0$ .

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**Example.**  $n = 4$ ,  $\gamma = (4, 7, 1, 6)$ .

$$\gamma + \rho = (4, 7, 1, 6) + (3, 2, 1, 0) = (7, 9, 2, 6)$$

$$\operatorname{sort}(\gamma + \rho) = (9, 7, 6, 2)$$

$$\operatorname{sort}(\gamma + \rho) - \rho = (6, 5, 5, 2)$$

Hence  $s_{4716} = s_{6552}$ .

# Catalan functions

**Def.** The *Weyl symmetrization operator* is the linear map determined by

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma: \mathbb{Q}[z_1^{\pm 1}, \dots, z_n^{\pm 1}] &\rightarrow \Lambda(X), \\ \mathbf{z}^\gamma &\mapsto s_\gamma(X),\end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathbf{z}^\gamma = z_1^{\gamma_1} \cdots z_n^{\gamma_n}$ . Extends to a map from  $\mathbb{Q}[z_1^{\pm 1}, \dots, z_n^{\pm 1}][[q]]$ .

**Def.** (Chen-Haiman 2008, Panyushev 2010) Given a root ideal  $\Psi \subseteq R_+$  and weight  $\gamma \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ , the associated *Catalan function* is

$$H_\gamma^\Psi(X; q) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sigma\left(\mathbf{z}^\gamma \prod_{(i,j) \in \Psi} (1 - qz_i/z_j)^{-1}\right).$$

**Example.** Let  $\mu = (\mu_1, \dots, \mu_n)$  be a partition.

- Empty root ideal:  $H_\mu^\emptyset(X; q) = s_\mu(X)$ .
- Full root ideal:  $H_\mu^{R_+}(X; q) = H_\mu(X; q) = \sum_\lambda K_{\lambda\mu}(q) s_\lambda(X)$ , the modified Hall-Littlewood polynomial.

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# Catalan functions

**Example.** For  $\mu = 3321$ ,  $\Psi = \{(1, 3), (1, 4), (2, 4)\}$ ,

3		1, 3	1, 4
	3		2, 4
		2	
			1

$$H_{\mu}^{\Psi}(X; q) = \sigma \left( \prod_{(i,j) \in \Psi} (1 - qz_i/z_j)^{-1} \mathbf{z}^{\mu} \right)$$

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$$\begin{aligned} H_{\mu}^{\Psi}(X; q) &= \sigma \left( \prod_{(i,j) \in \Psi} (1 - qz_i/z_j)^{-1} \mathbf{z}^{\mu} \right) \\ &= \sigma \left( (1 - qz_1/z_3)^{-1} (1 - qz_2/z_4)^{-1} (1 - qz_1/z_4)^{-1} \mathbf{z}^{3321} \right) \end{aligned}$$

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$$H_{\mu}^{\Psi}(X; q)$$

$$= \sigma \left( \prod_{(i,j) \in \Psi} (1 - qz_i/z_j)^{-1} \mathbf{z}^{\mu} \right)$$

$$= \sigma \left( (1 - qz_1/z_3)^{-1} (1 - qz_2/z_4)^{-1} (1 - qz_1/z_4)^{-1} \mathbf{z}^{3321} \right)$$

$$= \sigma \left( \mathbf{z}^{3321} + q(\mathbf{z}^{3420} + \mathbf{z}^{4311} + \mathbf{z}^{4320}) + q^2(\mathbf{z}^{4410} + \mathbf{z}^{5301} + \mathbf{z}^{5310}) \right. \\ \left. + q^3(\mathbf{z}^{63-11} + \mathbf{z}^{5400} + \mathbf{z}^{6300}) + q^4(\mathbf{z}^{64-10} + \mathbf{z}^{73-10}) \right)$$

$$= s_{3321} + q(s_{432} + s_{4311}) + q^2(s_{441} + s_{531}) + q^3 s_{54}.$$



# Modified Hall-Littlewood polynomials $H_\mu(X; q)$

$H_\mu(X; 1) = h_\mu(X)$ , the homogeneous symmetric function.

Schur expansion coefficients  $K_{\lambda, \mu}(q)$  are the *Kostka-Foulkes polynomials*:

$$H_\mu(X; q) = \sum_{\lambda} K_{\lambda, \mu}(q) s_{\lambda}(X).$$

- The  $K_{\lambda, \mu}(q)$  originated in the character theory of  $GL_n(\mathbb{F}_q)$ .
- The  $K_{\lambda, \mu}(q)$  are certain affine Kazhdan-Lusztig polynomials.
- The  $H_\mu(X; q)$  are the graded Frobenius series of certain quotients of the *ring of coinvariants*  $\mathbb{C}[y_1, \dots, y_n]/(e_1, \dots, e_n)$ .

Theorem (Lascoux-Schützenberger 1978)

For any partition  $\mu$ ,

$$H_\mu(X; t) = \sum_T t^{\text{charge}(T)} s_{\text{Shape}(T)}(X),$$

the sum over semistandard tableaux  $T$  of content  $\mu$ .

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# Modified Hall-Littlewood polynomials

$H_4$

1 1 1 1

$H_{31}$

1 1 1 2

2  
1 1 1

$H_{22}$

1 1 2 2

2  
1 1 2

2 2  
1 1

$H_{211}$

1 1 2 3

3  
1 1 2

2  
1 1 3

2 3  
1 1

3  
2  
1 1

$H_{1111}$

1 2 3 4

4  
1 2 3

3  
1 2 4

3 4  
1 2

2  
1 3 4

4  
3  
1 2

2 4  
1 3

4  
2  
1 3

3  
2  
1 4

4  
3  
2  
1

$$H_4 = s_4$$

# Modified Hall-Littlewood polynomials

 $H_4$ 

 $H_{31}$ 

 $H_{22}$ 

 $H_{211}$ 

 $H_{1111}$ 


$$H_{31} = s_{31} + qs_4$$

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 $H_4$ 

 $H_{31}$ 

 $H_{22}$ 

 $H_{211}$ 

 $H_{1111}$ 


$$H_{22} = s_{22} + q s_{31} + q^2 s_4$$

# Modified Hall-Littlewood polynomials

 $H_4$ 

1	1	1	1
---	---	---	---

 $H_{31}$ 

1	1	1	2
---	---	---	---

2			
1	1	1	

 $H_{22}$ 

1	1	2	2
---	---	---	---

2			
1	1	2	

2	2
1	1

 $H_{211}$ 

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

3			
1	1	2	

2			
1	1	3	

2	3
1	1

3	
2	
1	1

 $H_{1111}$ 

1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---

4			
1	2	3	

3			
1	2	4	

3	4
1	2

2			
1	3	4	

4	
3	
1	2

2	4
1	3

4	
2	
1	3

3	
2	
1	4

4
3
2
1

$$H_{211} = s_{211} + q(s_{22} + s_{31}) + q^2 s_{31} + q^3 s_4$$

# Modified Hall-Littlewood polynomials

 $H_4$ 
 $H_{31}$ 
 $H_{22}$ 
 $H_{211}$ 
 $H_{1111}$ 

$$H_{1111} = s_{1111} + q s_{211} + q^2 (s_{22} + s_{31}) + q^3 (s_{31} + s_{211}) + q^4 (s_{31} + s_{22}) + q^5 s_{31} + q^6 s_4$$

# Catalan functions

## Catalan functions

- contain the **modified Hall-Littlewood polynomials**  $H_\mu(X; q)$ .
- contain the **parabolic Hall-Littlewood polynomials** studied by A. N. Kirillov-Schilling-Shimozono, Schilling-Warnaar, Shimozono, Shimozono-Weyman, Shimozono-Zabrocki around 2000.
- contain the  **$k$ -Schur functions**  $s_\mu^{(k)}(X; q)$ .
- are graded Euler characteristics of vector bundles on the flag variety. Cohomology vanishing results proven by Broer (1994), Hague (2009), Panyushev (2010).
- are Schur positive for partition  $\mu$ , conjectured by Chen-Haiman (2008), proven by B.-Morse-Pun (2020).



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## $k$ -Schur functions

The  $k$ -Schur functions  $s_{\mu}^{(k)}(X; q)$  arose in the study of Lapointe-Lascoux-Morse (2000) on the Macdonald positivity conjecture.

$k$ -Schur functions  $\{s_{\mu}^{(k)}(X; 1)\}_{\mu_1 \leq k}$  form a basis for  $\mathbb{Q}[h_1, \dots, h_k] \subset \Lambda(X)$ .

Lam (2008) and Lapointe-Morse (2007) connected them to affine Schubert calculus. At  $q = 1$ , they represent Schubert classes in the homology of the affine Grassmannian  $\text{Gr}_{SL_{k+1}}$ .

# $k$ -Schur Catalan functions

**Def.** For a partition  $\mu$  of length  $\leq n$  and with  $\mu_1 \leq k$ , define the root ideal

$$\Delta^k(\mu) = \{(i, j) \in R_+(\mathrm{GL}_n) : k - \mu_i + i < j\}.$$

“(#non-roots in row  $i$ ) +  $\mu_i = k$ ”

**Theorem (B.-Morse-Pun-Summers 2018)**

*The  $k$ -Schur functions have the following description as Catalan functions:*

$$s_{\mu}^{(k)}(X; q) = H_{\mu}^{\Delta^k(\mu)}(X; q).$$

**Example.** For  $k = 6$  and  $\mu = 65532111$ ,

$$s_{\mu}^{(k)}(X; q) = H_{\mu}^{\Delta^k(\mu)} =$$

# Positive Branching

## Theorem (B.-Morse-Pun-Summers 2018)

The  $k$ -Schur functions  $s_\mu^{(k)}(X; q)$  satisfy

(shift invariance)  $e_n^\perp s_{\mu+1^n}^{(k+1)} = s_\mu^{(k)}$  for  $\ell(\mu) \leq n$ ,

(positive branching)  $s_\mu^{(k)} = \sum_\lambda a_{\lambda\mu}(q) s_\lambda^{(k+1)}$  with  $a_{\lambda\mu}(q) \in \mathbb{N}[q]$ ,

(Schur positivity)  $s_\mu^{(k)} = \sum_\lambda c_{\lambda\mu}(q) s_\lambda$  with  $c_{\lambda\mu}(q) \in \mathbb{N}[q]$ .

# Catalania

**Goal:** Given a class of symmetric functions, realize it as a subfamily of Catalan functions or variations of Catalan functions.

Realizing such a class as part of the larger set of Catalan functions provides stepping stones for an inductive approach to Schur positivity.

# Root expansion

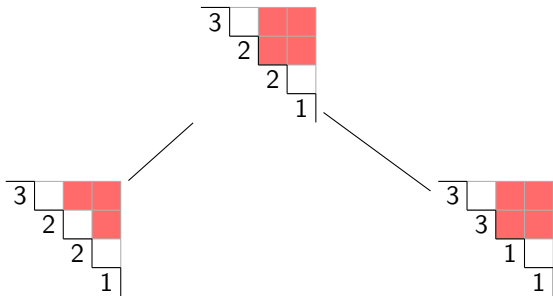
**Prop.** Suppose that  $\alpha \in \Psi$  with  $\Psi \setminus \alpha$  a root ideal. Then

$$H_{\mu}^{\Psi} = H_{\mu}^{\Psi \setminus \alpha} + q H_{\mu + \epsilon_i - \epsilon_j}^{\Psi}$$

**Example.** For  $\alpha = (2, 3)$ ,

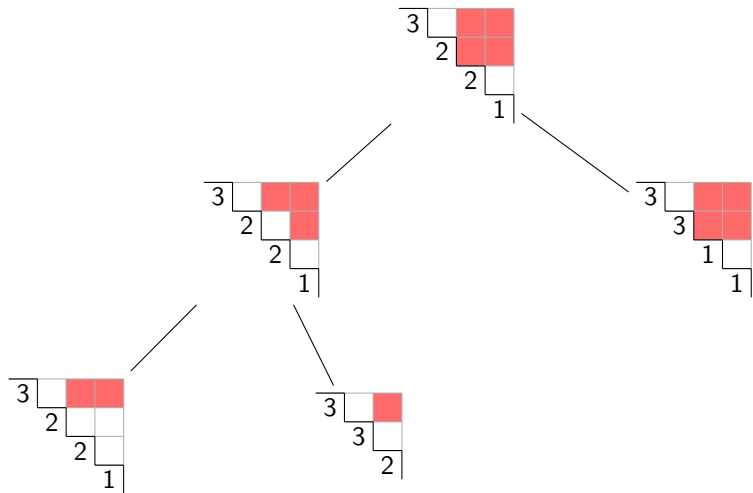
The diagrammatic equation illustrates the root expansion for  $\alpha = (2, 3)$ . The left side shows a Young diagram with a 2x2 red square in the top-right. The right side shows the sum of two diagrams: one with a 1x1 red square in the top-right, and another with a 1x1 red square in the bottom-right, multiplied by  $q$ .

# Root expansion tree

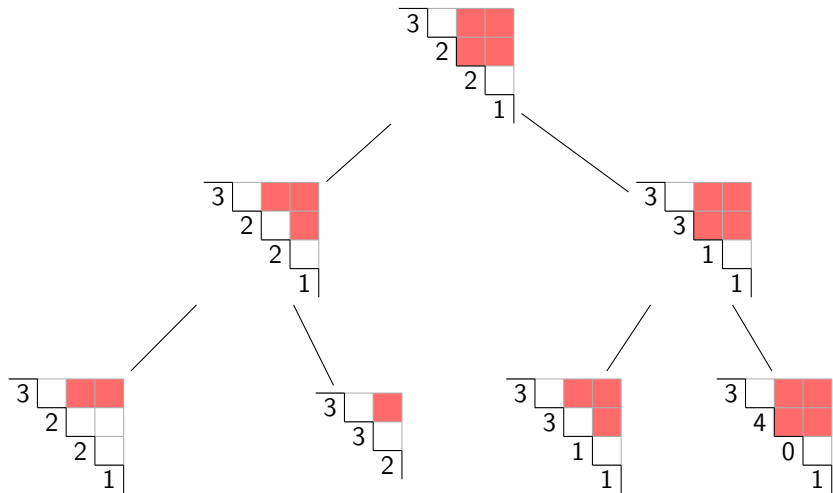




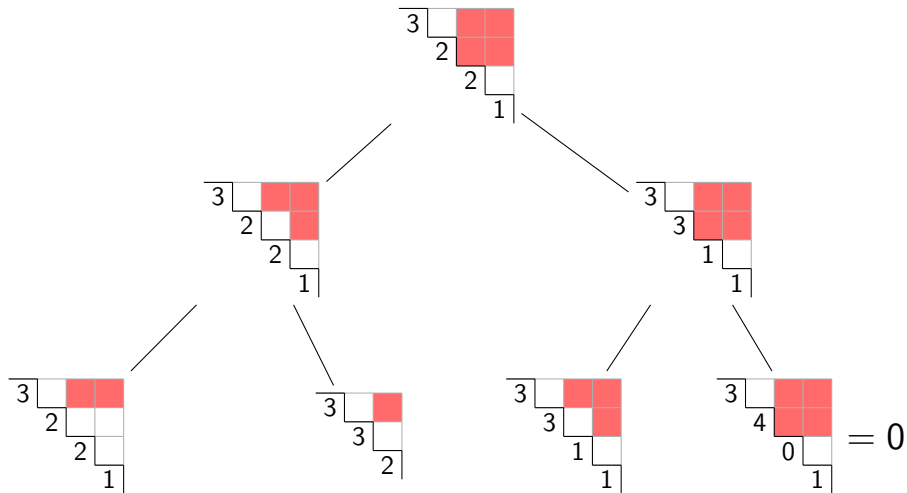
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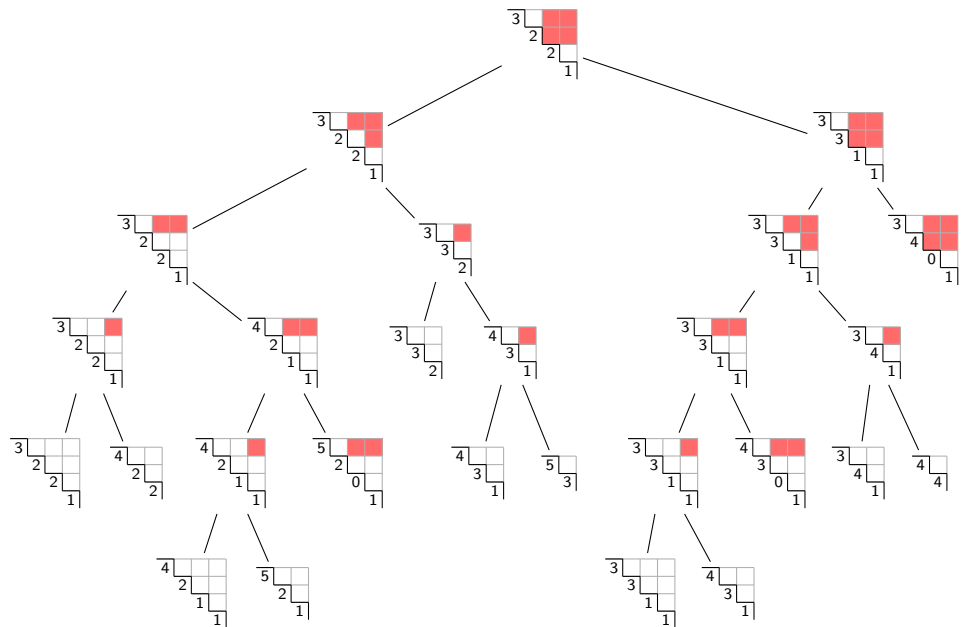
# Root expansion tree



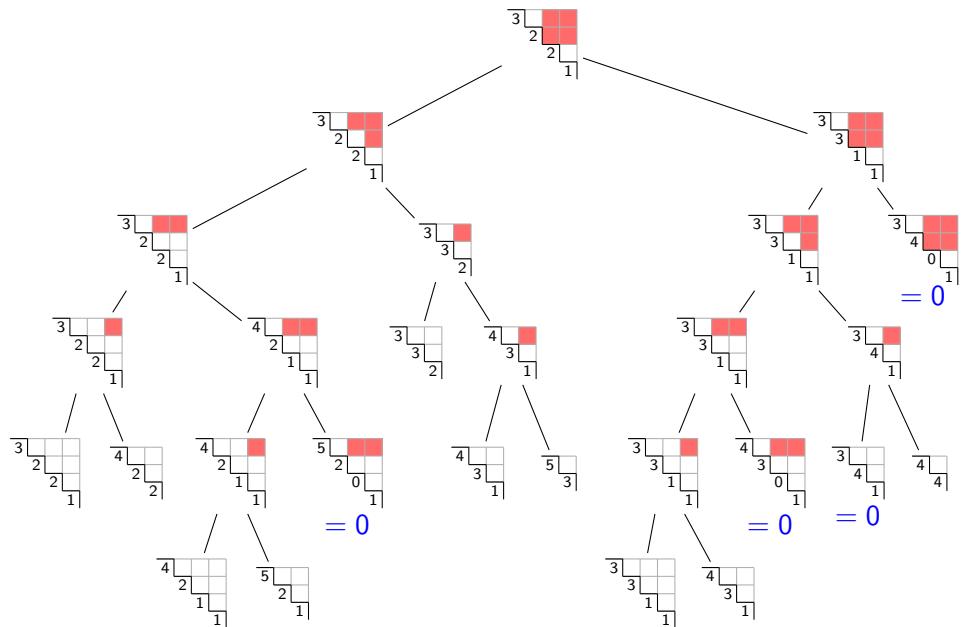
# Root expansion tree



# Root expansion tree



# Root expansion tree



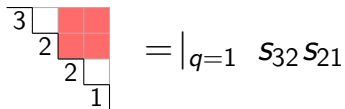
# A Littlewood-Richardson rule via root expansion

**Conjecture.** Any Catalan function of partition weight has a root expansion tree with leaves which are 0 or single Schur functions.

**Prop.** For a rectangular root ideal  $\Psi = \{(i, j) \in R_+ : i \leq d, j > d\}$ ,

$$H_{\mu}^{\Psi}(X; 1) = s_{(\mu_1, \dots, \mu_d)} s_{(\mu_{d+1}, \dots, \mu_n)}.$$

**Example.**


$$\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 3 & \\ \hline 2 & \\ \hline 2 & \\ \hline & 1 \\ \hline \end{array} = \Big|_{q=1} s_{32} s_{21}$$

Using root expansion, we can obtain a rule for  $s_{(\mu_1, \dots, \mu_d)} s_{(\mu_{d+1}, \dots, \mu_n)}$  when  $\mu$  is a partition.

# Root expansion and affine Bruhat order

## Theorem

*The  $k$ -Schur functions have the following description as Catalan functions:*

$$s_{\mu}^{(k)}(X; q) = H_{\mu}^{\Delta^k(\mu)}(X; q).$$

## Proof idea:

- Show that the  $k$ -Schur Catalan functions  $H_{\mu}^{\Delta^k(\mu)}(X; q)$  satisfy a dual Pieri rule.
- Show using root expansion that  $H_{\mu-\epsilon_i}^{\Delta^k(\mu-\epsilon_i)}(X; q)$  straightens to 0 or a single  $k$ -Schur Catalan function  $H_{\lambda}^{\Delta^k(\lambda)}(X; q)$  for partition  $\lambda$ .
- Expanding to the class of Catalan functions yields lots of intermediate objects!
- Combinatorics of the strong Bruhat order of the affine symmetric group is somehow encoded in the definition of  $\Delta^k(\mu)$ .

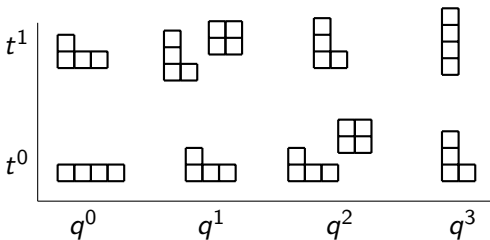
# Macdonald polynomials

The *modified Macdonald polynomials*  $\tilde{H}_\mu = \tilde{H}_\mu(X; q, t)$  are Schur positive symmetric functions over  $\mathbb{Q}(q, t)$ .

- Specialize to modified Hall-Littlewood polynomials:  
 $\tilde{H}_\mu(X; 0, t) = H_\mu(X; t)$  and  $\tilde{H}_\mu(X; q, 0) = H_{\mu'}(X; q)$ .
- Bigraded Frobenius series of  $\mathcal{S}_n$ -submodules of  $\mathbb{Q}[x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_n]$  called Garsia-Haiman modules.

## Example.

$$\tilde{H}_{31} = s_4 + (q + t + q^2)s_{31} + (qt + q^2)s_{22} + (qt + q^2t + q^3)s_{211} + q^3t s_{1111}$$





# Macdonald polynomials

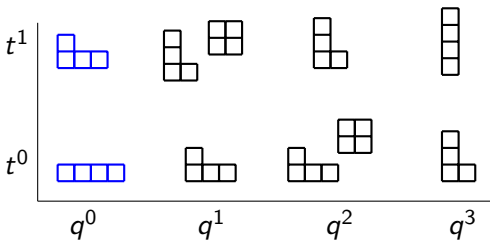
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$$\tilde{H}_{31}(X; 0, t) = H_{31}(X; t)$$



# Macdonald polynomials

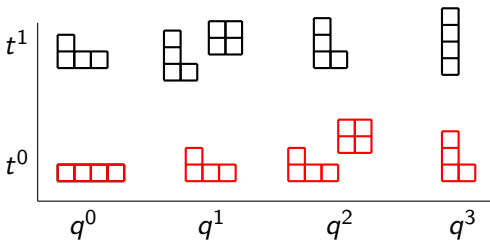
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# Macdonald polynomials

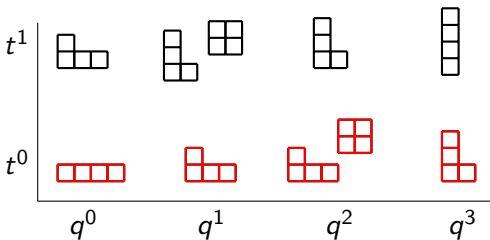
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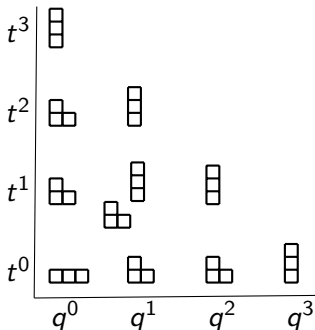
# The nabla operator

**Def.**  $\nabla$  is the linear operator on symmetric functions satisfying  $\nabla \tilde{H}_\mu = t^{n(\mu)} q^{n(\mu')} \tilde{H}_\mu$ , where  $n(\mu) = \sum_i (i-1)\mu_i$ .

- $\nabla e_n$  is the bigraded Frobenius series of the *ring of diagonal coinvariants*  $\mathbb{Q}[x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_n]/\mathcal{I}$ , where  $\mathcal{I}$  is the ideal generated by  $S_n$ -invariant polynomials with no constant term.

**Example.**

$$\nabla e_3 = s_3 + (q + t + q^2 + qt + t^2)s_{21} + (qt + q^3 + q^2t + qt^2 + t^3)s_{111}$$



# Positivity and representation theory related to nabla

	Schur positive	combinatorial formula Conjecture/Proved	representation theory
$\nabla e_k$ Shuffle conj/thm	✓	HHLRU 05 Carlsson-Mellit 15	Haiman 02
$\nabla^m e_k$	✓	HHLRU 05 Mellit 16	Haiman 02
$e_{m,n} \cdot (-1^{n+1})$	✓	Gorsky-Negut 13	Hikita 12
$e_{km, kn} \cdot (-1^{k(n+1)})$ $km, kn$ -shuffle	✓	Bergeron-Garsia-Leven-Xin 14 Mellit 16	
$\nabla H_\lambda$ compositional shuffle	✓	Haglund-Morse-Zabrocki 10 Carlsson-Mellit 15	
$\pm \nabla p_k$ square paths	✓	Loehr-Warrington 07 Sergel 16	
$\pm \nabla m_\lambda$	conj	Sergel 18 (hook $\lambda$ )	
$\pm \nabla s_\lambda$	✓	Loehr-Warrington 07 BHMPs 21	

Building off work by Armstrong, Can-Loehr, Egge-Haglund-Kremer-Killpatrick, Garsia-Haglund, Garsia-Xin-Zabrocki, Hicks, Lenart, Loehr-Remmel, and many others.

# Catalanimals

**Def.** The *Catalanimal* indexed by  $R_q, R_t, R_{qt} \subseteq R_+$  and  $\mu \in \mathbb{Z}^n$  is

$$H(R_q, R_t, R_{qt}, \mu) = \sigma \left( \frac{\mathbf{z}^\mu \prod_{(i,j) \in R_{qt}} (1 - qt z_i / z_j)}{\prod_{(i,j) \in R_q} (1 - q z_i / z_j) \prod_{(i,j) \in R_t} (1 - t z_i / z_j)} \right).$$

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**Example.** With  $n = 3$ ,

$$H(R_+, R_+, \{(1,3)\}, (111)) = \sigma \left( \frac{\mathbf{z}^{111} (1 - qt z_1/z_3)}{\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq 3} (1 - q z_i/z_j) (1 - t z_i/z_j)} \right)$$

# Catalanimals

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**Example.** With  $n = 3$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} H(R_+, R_+, \{(1,3)\}, (111)) &= \sigma \left( \frac{\mathbf{z}^{111} (1 - qt z_1/z_3)}{\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq 3} (1 - q z_i/z_j) (1 - t z_i/z_j)} \right) \\ &= s_{111} + (q + t + q^2 + qt + t^2) s_{21} + (qt + q^3 + q^2 t + qt^2 + t^3) s_3 \end{aligned}$$



# Catalanisms

**Def.** The *Catalanism* indexed by  $R_q, R_t, R_{qt} \subseteq R_+$  and  $\mu \in \mathbb{Z}^n$  is

$$H(R_q, R_t, R_{qt}, \mu) = \sigma \left( \frac{\mathbf{z}^\mu \prod_{(i,j) \in R_{qt}} (1 - qt z_i/z_j)}{\prod_{(i,j) \in R_q} (1 - q z_i/z_j) \prod_{(i,j) \in R_t} (1 - t z_i/z_j)} \right).$$

**Example.** With  $n = 3$ ,

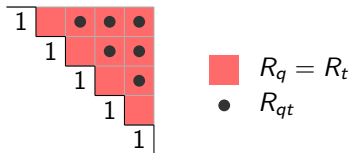
$$\begin{aligned} H(R_+, R_+, \{(1,3)\}, (111)) &= \sigma \left( \frac{\mathbf{z}^{111} (1 - qt z_1/z_3)}{\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq 3} (1 - q z_i/z_j) (1 - t z_i/z_j)} \right) \\ &= s_{111} + (q + t + q^2 + qt + t^2) s_{21} + (qt + q^3 + q^2 t + qt^2 + t^3) s_3 \\ &= \omega \nabla e_3. \end{aligned}$$

# The $\nabla e_n$ Catalanimal

**Def.** The  $\nabla e_n$  *Catalanimal*  $H(R_q, R_t, R_{qt}, \mu)$  is given by

- $R_q = R_t = R_+$ ,
- $R_{qt} = \{(i, j) \in R_+ : i < j - 1\}$ ,
- weight  $\mu = 1^n$ .

**Example.** The  $\nabla e_n$  Catalanimal for  $n = 5$ :



Building off work of Negut and Schiffmann-Vasserot on the shuffle algebra,

Theorem (B.-Haiman-Morse-Pun-Seelinger 2021)

$$\omega \nabla e_n = H(R_+, R_+, R_{qt}, 1^n) = \sigma \left( \frac{z_1 \cdots z_n \prod_{i < j-1} (1 - qt z_i / z_j)}{\prod_{i < j} (1 - q z_i / z_j) \prod_{i < j} (1 - t z_i / z_j)} \right).$$

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- $R_{qt} = \{(i, j) \in R_+ : i < j - 1\}$ ,
- weight  $\mu = 1^n$ .

**Example.** The  $\nabla e_n$  Catalanimal for  $n = 5$ :

$$\omega \nabla e_5 = \begin{array}{cccc} \overline{1} & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & 1 \\ & & & & 1 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \blacksquare R_q = R_t \\ \bullet R_{qt} \end{array}$$

Building off work of Negut and Schiffmann-Vasserot on the shuffle algebra,

**Theorem (B.-Haiman-Morse-Pun-Seelinger 2021)**

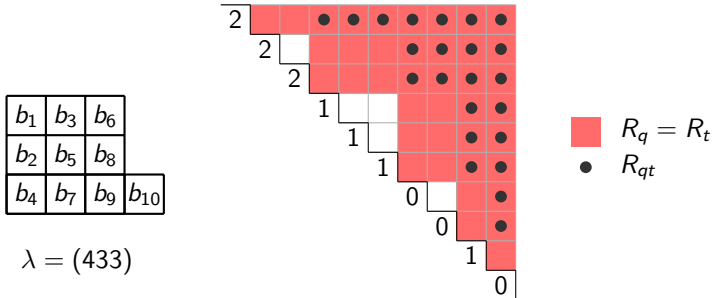
$$\omega \nabla e_n = H(R_+, R_+, R_{qt}, 1^n) = \sigma \left( \frac{z_1 \cdots z_n \prod_{i < j-1} (1 - qt z_i/z_j)}{\prod_{i < j} (1 - q z_i/z_j) \prod_{i < j} (1 - t z_i/z_j)} \right).$$

# The $\nabla_{s_\lambda}$ Catalanimal

**Def.** For partition  $\lambda$ , define the  $\nabla_{s_\lambda}$  *Catalanimal*  $H(R_q, R_t, R_{qt}, \mu)$  by

- $R_+ \supseteq R_q = R_t \supseteq R_{qt}$ ,
  - $R_+ \setminus R_q =$  pairs of boxes in the same diagonal,
  - $R_q \setminus R_{qt} =$  pairs going between adjacent diagonals,
  - $\mu$ : fill each diagonal  $D$  of  $\lambda$  with  $1 + \chi(D \text{ contains a row start}) - \chi(D \text{ contains a row end})$ .
- Listing this filling in diagonal reading order gives  $\mu$ .

**Example.** The  $\nabla_{s_\lambda}$  Catalanimal for  $\lambda = 433$ :



# The $\nabla_{s_\lambda}$ Catalanimal

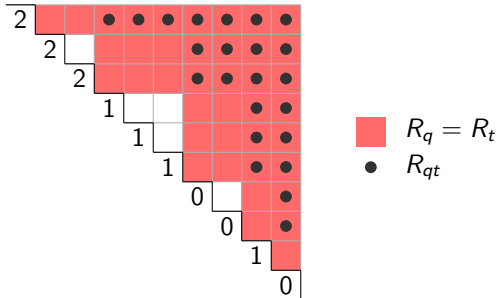
**Def.** For partition  $\lambda$ , define the  $\nabla_{s_\lambda}$  *Catalanimal*  $H(R_q, R_t, R_{qt}, \mu)$  by

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**Example.** The  $\nabla_{s_\lambda}$  Catalanimal for  $\lambda = 433$ :

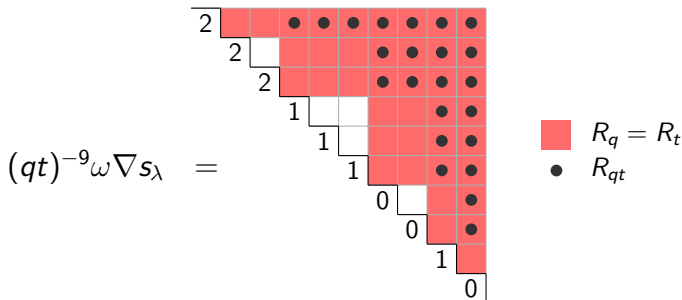
2	2	1	
2	1	0	
1	0	1	0

$\mu$ , as a filling of  $\lambda$



# The $\nabla s_\lambda$ Catalanimal

**Example.** The  $\nabla s_\lambda$  Catalanimal for  $\lambda = 433$ :



## Theorem (B.-Haiman-Morse-Pun-Seelinger 2021)

For a partition  $\lambda$ , let  $H(R_q, R_t, R_{qt}, \mu)$  be the Catalanimal constructed above. Then for some  $c_\lambda \in \pm q^{\mathbb{Z}} t^{\mathbb{Z}}$ ,

$$c_\lambda \omega \nabla s_\lambda = H(R_q, R_t, R_{qt}, \mu) = \sigma \left( \frac{\mathbf{z}^\mu \prod_{(i,j) \in R_{qt}} (1 - qt \frac{z_i}{z_j})}{\prod_{(i,j) \in R_q} (1 - q \frac{z_i}{z_j}) \prod_{(i,j) \in R_t} (1 - t \frac{z_i}{z_j})} \right).$$

# Results arising from Catalanimal formulas

- New proof of the shuffle theorem.
- A shuffle theorem for paths under any line.
- Proof of the Loehr-Warrington conjecture, a Schur positive formula for  $\nabla s_\lambda$ .
- Proof of the extended Delta conjecture of Haglund-Remmel-Wilson.
- A Catalan-style formula for the modified Macdonald polynomials.
- A connection between Catalanimals and the shuffle algebra.

# Catalan-style formulas

We have obtained Catalan-style formulas for

- $k$ -Schur functions  $s_{\mu}^{(k)}(X; q) = H_{\mu}^{\Delta^k(\mu)}(X; q)$ .
- $K$ -theoretic  $k$ -Schur functions.
- $\nabla e_n$ ,  $\nabla s_{\lambda}$ ,  $\nabla H_{\lambda}$ , and  $\nabla(\text{LLT polynomial})$ .
- $\Delta_{h_{\ell}} \Delta'_{e_k} e_n$  from the extended Delta conjecture.
- Modified Macdonald polynomials  $\tilde{H}_{\mu}(X; q, t)$ .



# Catalania

Research directions:

- (1) Find Catalan-style formulas for a known class of polynomials.
- (2) Study the broader class of functions uncovered in (1).
- (3) Use Catalan-style formulas to prove positivity.
  - Develop root expansion techniques.
  - Find Cauchy formulas for expanding Catalan-style formulas.

# Can it Catalanify?

What happens if we replace a product over positive roots with one over a root ideal?

- Weyl character formula  $s_\mu(\mathbf{z}) = \sum_{w \in \mathcal{S}_n} w \left( \mathbf{z}^\mu \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (1 - z_j/z_i)^{-1} \right)$
- Modified Hall-Littlewoods  $H_\mu(X; q) = \sigma \left( \mathbf{z}^\mu \prod_{i < j} (1 - q z_i/z_j)^{-1} \right)$
- Hall-Littlewood polynomials

$$P_\mu(X; q) = \frac{1}{v_\mu(q)} \sigma \left( \mathbf{z}^\mu \prod_{i < j} (1 - q z_j/z_i) \right)$$

- Cauchy formula for Schubert polynomials

$$\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (x_i + y_j) = \sum_{w \in \mathcal{S}_n} \mathfrak{S}_w(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mathfrak{S}_{ww_0}(y_n, \dots, y_1)$$

- Cauchy formula for keys  $\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \frac{1}{1 - x_i/y_j} = \sum_{\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^n} K_\alpha(\mathbf{x}) \hat{K}_{-\alpha}(\mathbf{y})$
- Cauchy formula for nonsymmetric Macdonald polynomials of Mimachi and Noumi

$$\prod_{j < i} \frac{(qt x_i y_j; q)_\infty}{(q x_i y_j; q)_\infty} \prod_{i < j} \frac{(t x_i y_j; q)_\infty}{(x_i y_j; q)_\infty} \prod_i \frac{(qt x_i y_i; q)_\infty}{(x_i y_i; q)_\infty} = \sum_{\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^n} a_\alpha E_\alpha(\mathbf{x}; q, t) E_\alpha(\mathbf{y}; q^{-1}, t^{-1})$$

- Identity of Littlewood and Schur  $\sum_\lambda s_\lambda = \prod_i (1 - z_i)^{-1} \prod_{i < j} (1 - z_i z_j)^{-1}$

# K-theory

**Def.** The *dual stable Grothendieck polynomials* indexed by  $\gamma \in \mathbb{Z}^n$  is

$$g_\gamma(X) = \det (h_{\gamma_i+j-i}^{(i-1)}(X))_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \in \Lambda(X),$$

where  $h_m^{(r)} = h_m(\underbrace{1, 1, \dots, 1}_{r \text{ 1's}}, x_1, x_2, \dots)$ .

- $g_\lambda = s_\lambda +$  lower degree terms.
- The basis  $\{g_\mu\}_{\text{partitions } \mu}$  is dual to the basis of stable Grothendieck polynomials  $\{G_\lambda\}_{\text{partitions } \lambda}$  under the Hall inner product.
- $G_\lambda$ 's represent Schubert classes in the K-theory of the Grassmannian.
- $G_\lambda$ 's have a formula in terms of set valued tableaux.

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- $G_\lambda$ 's have a formula in terms of set valued tableaux.

# K-theoretic Catalan functions

**Def.** (B.-Morse-Seelinger 2020) The *Katalan function* indexed by root ideals  $\Psi, \mathcal{L} \subseteq R_+$  and weight  $\gamma \in \mathbb{Z}^n$  is

$$K_{\gamma}^{\Psi, \mathcal{L}}(X) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sigma_g \left( \frac{\prod_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{L}} (1 - 1/z_j) \mathbf{z}^{\gamma}}{\prod_{(i,j) \in \Psi} (1 - z_i/z_j)} \right),$$

where  $\sigma_g: \mathbf{z}^{\alpha} \mapsto g_{\alpha}(X)$ .

**Example.** For  $\mu = 3321$  and  $\Psi, \mathcal{L}$  as shown,

$$K_{\mu}^{\Psi, \mathcal{L}} = \begin{array}{c} 3 \\ \square \\ 3 \\ \square \\ 2 \\ \square \\ 1 \\ \square \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \blacksquare \\ \bullet \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \blacksquare \\ \bullet \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \Psi \\ \mathcal{L} \end{array}$$

$$= \sigma_g \left( \frac{(1 - 1/z_4)^2 \mathbf{z}^{3321}}{(1 - z_1/z_3)(1 - z_1/z_4)(1 - z_2/z_4)} \right)$$

$$= g_{3321} + g_{432} + g_{4311} + g_{441} + g_{531} + g_{54} - (g_{332} + 2g_{431} + g_{53}).$$

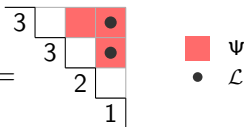
# K-theoretic Catalan functions

**Def.** (B.-Morse-Seelinger 2020) The *Katalan function* indexed by root ideals  $\Psi, \mathcal{L} \subseteq R_+$  and weight  $\gamma \in \mathbb{Z}^n$  is

$$K_{\gamma}^{\Psi, \mathcal{L}}(X) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sigma_g \left( \frac{\prod_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{L}} (1 - 1/z_j) \mathbf{z}^{\gamma}}{\prod_{(i,j) \in \Psi} (1 - z_i/z_j)} \right),$$

where  $\sigma_g: \mathbf{z}^{\alpha} \mapsto g_{\alpha}(X)$ .

**Example.** For  $\mu = 3321$  and  $\Psi, \mathcal{L}$  as shown,

$$K_{\mu}^{\Psi, \mathcal{L}} =$$


$$= \sigma_g \left( \frac{(1 - 1/z_4)^2 \mathbf{z}^{3321}}{(1 - z_1/z_3)(1 - z_1/z_4)(1 - z_2/z_4)} \right)$$

$$= g_{3321} + g_{432} + g_{4311} + g_{441} + g_{531} + g_{54} - (g_{332} + 2g_{431} + g_{53}).$$

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# $K$ -theoretic $k$ -Schur functions

**Def.** The  $K$ - $k$ -Schur functions  $g_{\mu}^{(k)}$  are Schubert representatives for the  $K$ -homology of the affine Grassmannian  $\text{Gr}_{SL_{k+1}}$ .

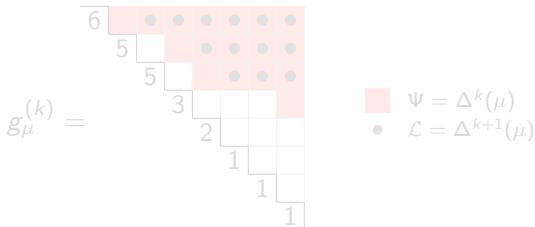
- Studied by Lam-Schilling-Shimozono (2010), Morse (2012), Ikeda-Iwao-Maeno (2018), Takigiku (2019).

Theorem (B.-Morse-Seelinger 2020)

The  $K$ - $k$ -Schur functions are a subfamily of Catalan functions:

$$g_{\mu}^{(k)} = K_{\mu}^{\Delta^k(\mu), \Delta^{k+1}(\mu)}.$$

**Example.** For  $k = 6$  and  $\mu = 65532111$ ,





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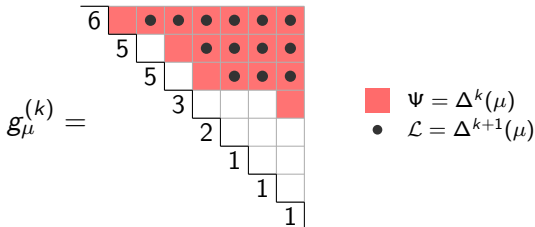
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# Branching Positivity

## Theorem (B.-Morse-Seelinger 2020)

The  $K$ - $k$ -Schur functions  $g_\mu^{(k)}(X)$  satisfy

(shift invariance)  $G_{1^n}^\perp g_{\mu+1^n}^{(k+1)} = g_\mu^{(k)}$  for  $\ell(\mu) \leq n$ ,

(alternating branching)  $g_\mu^{(k)} = \sum_\lambda a_{\lambda\mu} g_\lambda^{(k+1)}$  with  $(-1)^{|\mu|-|\lambda|} a_{\lambda\mu} \in \mathbb{N}$ .