

# Representations of the partition algebra

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March 2013

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**Main idea:** Use the partition algebra to study the representation theory of the symmetric group.

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- 4 Modular representation theory of  $P_r(n)$ .

# 1. The partition algebra $P_r(n)$

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$P_r(n)$  :  $k$ -algebra with **basis** given by all set partitions of  $\{1, 2, \dots, r, 1', 2', \dots, r'\}$ .

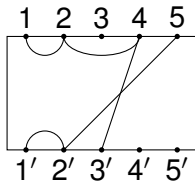
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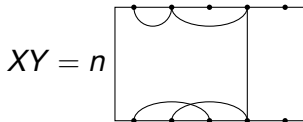
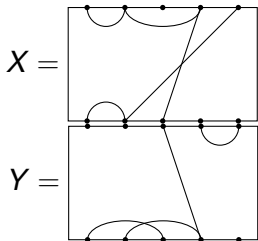
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$\{\{1, 2, 4, 3'\}, \{3\}, \{5, 1', 2'\}, \{4'\}, \{5'\}\}$   $\leftrightarrow$



and **multiplication** given by concatenation and scalar multiplication by  $n^t$  where  $t$  is the number of connected components consisting of middle vertices only.

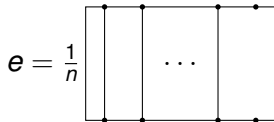
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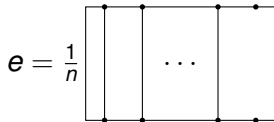
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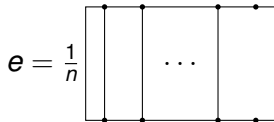
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$$e = \frac{1}{n} \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ \hline & & \dots & \\ \hline \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ \hline \end{array} \quad e^2 = e.$$

$$eP_re \cong P_{r-1}, \quad P_r/P_reP_r \cong k\mathfrak{S}_r.$$

Let  $L$  be a simple  $P_r$ -module. Then either  $eL = 0$  and so  $L$  is a simple  $k\mathfrak{S}_r$ -module, or  $eL \neq 0$  and so  $eL$  is a simple  $P_{r-1}$ -module.

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Thus if  $\text{char } k = p \geq 0$  we have that the **simple  $P_r$ -modules** are indexed by  **$p$ -regular partitions of degree  $\leq r$** .

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A complete set of non-isomorphic **simple  $P_r$ -modules** is given by

$$\{L_r(\lambda) := \text{hd } \Delta_r(\lambda), \quad \lambda \in \Lambda_{\leq r} \text{ } p\text{-regular}\}.$$

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**Example:**  $((2, 1), (4, 1))$  form a 6-pair (with  $6 - |\mu| = 3$ ).

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 0 & 1 \\ \hline -1 & \\ \hline \end{array} \subset \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ \hline -1 & & & \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$P_r(n)$ -blocks = maximal chains of  $n$ -pairs in  $\Lambda_{\leq r}$ .

$$\lambda^{(0)} \hookrightarrow_n \lambda^{(1)} \hookrightarrow_n \lambda^{(2)} \hookrightarrow_n \dots \hookrightarrow_n \lambda^{(t)}$$

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Each cell module  $\Delta_r(\lambda^{(i)})$  ( $0 \leq i \leq t - 1$ ) has Loewy structure

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In the Grothendieck group we have

$$[L_r(\lambda^{(i)})] = \sum_{j=i}^t (-1)^{j-i} [\Delta_r(\lambda^{(j)})].$$

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$$S(\lambda) \otimes S(\mu) = \sum_{\nu} g_{\lambda, \mu}^{\nu} S(\nu),$$

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Combinatorial description of  $g_{\lambda, \mu}^{\nu}$  ?

Back to **Schur-Weyl duality**: As a  $(\mathfrak{S}_n, P_r(n))$ -bimodule we have

$$V_n^{\otimes r} = \sum \mathcal{S}(\lambda) \otimes L_r(\lambda_{>1})$$

where the sum is over all  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \dots)$  partitions of  $n$  with  $\lambda_{>1} = (\lambda_2, \lambda_3, \dots) \in \Lambda_{\leq r}$ .

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**Theorem:** Let  $\lambda, \mu, \nu \vdash n$  with  $\lambda_{>1} \vdash r$  and  $\mu_{>1} \vdash s$  then we have

$$g_{\lambda, \mu}^{\nu} = \begin{cases} [L_{r+s}(\nu_{>1}) \downarrow_{P_r \otimes P_s}: L_r(\lambda_{>1}) \otimes L_s(\mu_{>1})] & \text{if } \nu_{>1} \in \Lambda_{\leq r+s} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$= \begin{cases} \sum_{i=0}^t (-1)^i [\Delta_{r+s}(\eta^{(i)}) \downarrow_{P_r \otimes P_s}: L_r(\lambda_{>1}) \otimes L_s(\mu_{>1})] & \text{if } \nu_{>1} \in \Lambda_{\leq r+s} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where  $\nu_{>1} = \eta^{(0)} \hookrightarrow_n \eta^{(1)} \hookrightarrow_n \eta^{(2)} \hookrightarrow_n \dots \hookrightarrow_n \eta^{(t)}$  is the  $P_r(n)$ -block containing  $\nu_{>1}$ .

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As we increase the length of the first row of the partitions we have

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### Example

$$S(1^2) \otimes S(1^2) = S(2)$$

$$S(2, 1) \otimes S(2, 1) = S(3) \oplus S(2, 1) \oplus S(1^3)$$

$$S(3, 1) \otimes S(3, 1) = S(4) \oplus S(3, 1) \oplus S(2, 1^2) \oplus S(2^2)$$

Then for all  $n \geq 4$  we have

$$S(n-1, 1) \otimes S(n-1, 1) = S(n) \oplus S(n-1, 1) \oplus S(n-2, 1^2) \oplus S(n-2, 2).$$

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Note: All proofs are very elementary.

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Define a shifted action of  $W$  on  $\mathbb{R}^{r+1}$  by

$$w \cdot_n x = w(x + \rho_n) - \rho_n,$$

where  $\rho_n = (n, -1, -2, \dots, -r)$ .

**Theorem:** Assume  $\text{char } k = 0$ . Let  $\lambda, \mu \in \Lambda_{\leq r}$ . Then  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$  are in the same  $P_r(n)$ -block if and only if  $\hat{\mu} \in W \cdot_n \hat{\lambda}$ .

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**Example:**  $\mu = (2, 1), \lambda = (4, 1) \in \Lambda_{\leq 5}$  then we have  $\mu \leftrightarrow_6 \lambda$ .

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$$\hat{\mu} = (-3, 2, 1, 0, 0, 0), \hat{\lambda} = (-5, 4, 1, 0, 0, 0), \rho_6 = (6, -1, -2, -3, -4, -5)$$

$$\hat{\mu} + \rho_6 = (3, 1, -1, -3, -4, -5), \hat{\lambda} + \rho_6 = (1, 3, -1, -3, -4, -5)$$

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THANK YOU