

# $K$ -theoretic Catalan functions

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

# 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.

## Geometric problem

Find  $c_{\lambda\mu}^\nu = \#$  of points in intersection of Schubert varieties  $\{X_\lambda\}_{\lambda \subseteq (n^m)}$  in variety  $X = \text{Gr}(m, n)$ .

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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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- $X = Fl_n(\mathbb{C}) = \{V_0 \subseteq V_1 \subseteq \cdots \subseteq V_n \mid \dim V_i = i\}$

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### Open Problem

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

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| Theory                                 | $f_\lambda$                  |
|--|------------------------------|
| (Co)homology of Grassmannian           | Schur functions              |
| (Co)homology of flag variety           | Schubert polynomials         |
| 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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$$\begin{aligned}\Phi: QH^*(Fl_{k+1}) &\rightarrow H_*(Gr_{SL_{k+1}})_{loc} \\ \mathfrak{S}_w^Q &\mapsto \frac{s_\lambda^{(k)}}{\prod_{i \in Des(w)} \tau_i}\end{aligned}$$

where  $s_\lambda^{(k)}$  is a  $k$ -Schur function.

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## Upshot

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

# $k$ -Schur functions

- $s_{\lambda}^{(k)}$  for  $\lambda_1 \leq k$  a basis for  $\mathbb{Z}[s_1, s_2, \dots, s_k]$  (Lapointe et al., 2003).

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

$$s_{(2)}^{(2)} = s_{(2)}^{(3)} + s_{(3)}^{(3)} + s_{(4)}^{(3)}$$

The diagram shows the branching of the Schur function  $s_{(2)}^{(2)}$  into three terms. On the left is a 2x2 square Young diagram labeled  $s_{(2)}^{(2)}$ . This is equal to the sum of three terms: a 2x2 square Young diagram labeled  $s_{(2)}^{(3)}$ , a Young diagram with two rows (1, 3) labeled  $s_{(3)}^{(3)}$ , and a Young diagram with one row of length 4 labeled  $s_{(4)}^{(3)}$ . Brackets are used to group the three terms on the right as a single sum.

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The diagram shows the equation  $s_{\lambda^{(2)}} = s_{\lambda^{(3)}} + s_{\mu^{(3)}} + s_{\nu^{(3)}}$ . On the left is a 2x2 square representing  $s_{\lambda^{(2)}}$ . On the right are three terms: a 2x2 square representing  $s_{\lambda^{(3)}}$ , a 2x2 square with a 1x1 square attached to the right representing  $s_{\mu^{(3)}}$ , and a 1x4 horizontal row representing  $s_{\nu^{(3)}}$ . A bracket below the second and third terms is labeled  $s_{\lambda^{(3)}}$ . A label  $s_{\lambda^{(3)}}$  is also placed below the first term.

- Has geometric interpretation.

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$$s_{\begin{smallmatrix} \square & \square \\ \square & \square \end{smallmatrix}}^{(2)} = s_{\begin{smallmatrix} \square & \square \\ \square & \square \end{smallmatrix}} + s_{\begin{smallmatrix} \square & \square & \square \\ \square & \square & \square \end{smallmatrix}} + s_{\begin{smallmatrix} \square & \square & \square & \square \end{smallmatrix}}$$

$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{s_{\begin{smallmatrix} \square & \square \\ \square & \square \end{smallmatrix}}^{(3)}} \quad \underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{s_{\begin{smallmatrix} \square & \square & \square \\ \square & \square & \square \end{smallmatrix}}^{(3)}}$

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- No combinatorial interpretation of branching coefficients.

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$s_{(3)}^{(3)}$                        $s_{(3)}$

- Has geometric interpretation.
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- Definition with  $t$  important for Macdonald polynomials.

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

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

# Raising Operators on Symmetric Functions

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

$$R_{1,3} \left( \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline \color{red}{\square} & & & \\ \hline \square & & & \\ \hline \square & \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \right) = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline \square & & & \\ \hline \square & \square & \square & \color{red}{\square} \\ \hline \square & \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \quad R_{2,3} \left( \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \color{red}{\square} \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array} \right) = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \color{red}{\square} \\ \hline \square & \\ \hline \square & \\ \hline \square & \\ \hline \end{array}$$

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- Extend action to a symmetric function  $f_\lambda$  by  $R_{i,j}(f_\lambda) = f_{\lambda+\epsilon_i-\epsilon_j}$ .



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

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

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

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

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

some terms cancel

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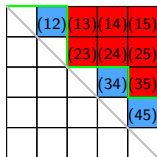
For  $\langle s_{1^r}^\perp s_\lambda, s_\mu \rangle = \langle s_\lambda, s_{1^r} s_\mu \rangle$ ,

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

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

# Root Ideals

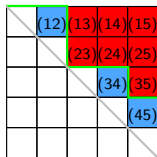
A root ideal  $\Psi$  of type  $A_{\ell-1}$  positive roots: given by Dyck path (lattice path above diagonal).



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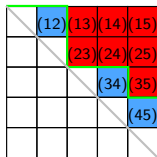
Catalan Function (Chen, 2010; Panyushev, 2010; Blasiak et al., 2019)

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

$$H(\Psi; \gamma)(x) = \prod_{(i,j) \in \Delta_{\ell}^+ \setminus \Psi} (1 - R_{ij}) h_{\gamma}(x)$$

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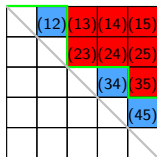
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- $\Psi = \text{all roots} \implies H(\Psi; \gamma) = h_{\gamma}$

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

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

# Catalan functions

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

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | 3 |   |   |   |   |
|   |   | 2 |   |   |   |
|   |   |   | 2 |   |   |
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← row  $i$  has  $4 - \lambda_i$  non-roots

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

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

$$s_{1^\ell}^\perp s_{\lambda+1^\ell}^{(k+1)} = s_\lambda^{(k)}.$$

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

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

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

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

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | 4 |   |   |   |   |
|   |   | 3 |   |   |   |
|   |   |   | 3 |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | 2 |   |
|   |   |   |   |   | 2 |



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Branching is a special case of Pieri:

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

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



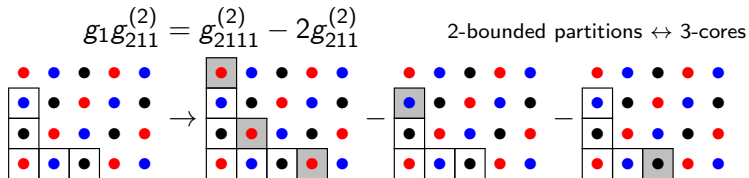
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$$g_{1\bar{2}11}^{(2)} = g_{2111}^{(2)} - 2g_{211}^{(2)} \quad \text{2-bounded partitions} \leftrightarrow \text{3-cores}$$

The diagram illustrates the Pieri rule for  $K$ - $k$ -Schur functions. It shows the decomposition of the product of a 2-bounded partition (1-bar 2 1 1) and a 2-bounded partition (1) into two 3-cores (2 1 1 1 and 2 1 1). The diagram uses colored dots (red, blue, black) to represent the partitions and shaded boxes to indicate the decomposition.

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

$$L_3 \left( \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline \color{red}\square & & & \\ \hline \square & & & \\ \hline \square & \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \right) = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline \square & & \\ \hline \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}, \quad L_1 \left( \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline \square & & & \\ \hline \square & & & \\ \hline \square & \square & \square & \color{red}\square \\ \hline \end{array} \right) = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}$$

## $K$ -theoretic Catalan function

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

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

# Affine $K$ -Theory Representatives with Raising Operators

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## Example

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

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

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



Answer (Blasiak-Morse-S., 2020)

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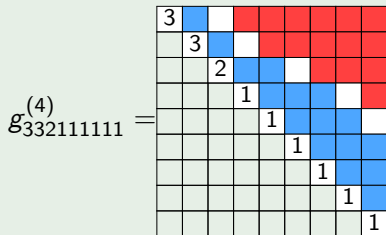
For  $K$ -homology of affine Grassmannian,  $g_\lambda^{(k)} = K(\Delta^k(\lambda); \Delta^{k+1}(\lambda); \lambda)$  since this family satisfies the Pieri rule.

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Example



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

Theorem (Blasiak-Morse-S., 2020)

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

For  $G_\lambda^{(k)}$  an affine Grothendieck polynomial (dual to  $g_\lambda^{(k)}$ ),

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## Thank you!

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