

# Applications of Hall-Littlewood polynomials (I)

Rui Xiong

February 27, 2025

## -1 Introduction

"Macdonald theory"

Combinatorial representation theory

Macdonald. Symmetric functions

rep theory of

$S_n, U_n, GL_n, sl_n$

↔ Schur functions

semi-simple

(character theory)

affine Hecke algebras ↔ Hall-Littlewood function

Kazhdan-Lusztig theory

Haiman theory:

Double affine

Hecke algebra

↔ Hilbert schemes

(Macdonald sym)

algebra variety

## 0 Recall

$$P_\lambda = \frac{1}{W_\lambda(t)} \sum_{w \in S_n} w \left( x^\lambda \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \frac{x_i - tx_j}{x_i - x_j} \right)$$

partition

Kostka-Foulkes polynomials

For  $\lambda$  a partition  $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n$ ,

$$W_\lambda = S_{\lambda_1} \times S_{\lambda_2} \times \dots \times S_{\lambda_m}$$

e.g.  $\lambda = (5, 5, 3, 2, 2, 0)$

$$\alpha = (2, 1, 3, 1)$$

$$W_\lambda = S_5 \times S_5 \times S_3 \times S_2$$

$$W_\lambda = (1+t) \cdot 1 \cdot (1+t+t^2) \cdot 1$$

Last time:

$$P_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_n; t) \in S_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

$$+ \sum_{\substack{\mu < \lambda \\ \text{dom}}} t \mathbb{Z}[t] S_\mu(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

Kostka-Foulkes polynomials

does not depend on  $n$ .

$$S_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{\mu} K_{\lambda\mu}(t) P_\mu(x_1, \dots, x_n, t)$$

Fact:  $K_{\lambda\mu}(t) \in \mathbb{N}[t]$  (KL theory)

$$t=0, P_\lambda = S_\lambda$$

$$t=1, P_\lambda = m_\lambda$$

3.12. Example. One can compute Hall-Littlewood function in SageMath

```
Sym = SymmetricFunctions(FractionField(QQ["t"]))
HLP = Sym.hall_littlewood().P();
HLP([3,1,1]).expand(3)
```

The expansion to Schur functions (similar to other basis)

```
Sym = SymmetricFunctions(FractionField(QQ["t"]))
HLP = Sym.hall_littlewood().P();
s = Sym.Schur();
s(HLP([3,1,1]))
```

See the [documentation](#).

$$\tilde{P}_\lambda = t^{<P, \lambda>} P_\lambda |_{t \leftrightarrow t^{-1}} \quad \text{modified version, (all types)}$$

$$\tilde{P}_\lambda = t^{n(\lambda)} P_\lambda |_{t \leftrightarrow t^{-1}} \quad \text{(Type A)}$$

(still a polynomial in  $t$ ).

$$n(\lambda) = \sum_{\square \in \lambda} (\text{row}(\square) - 1) \quad \text{e.g. } n\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline \square & \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square & & \\ \hline \square & & & \\ \hline \end{array}\right) = 4$$

# 1 The question

finite p-groups

Fix prime # p. Assume we have 3 finite abelian p-groups A, B, C.

$$C_{A,B}^C = \# \{ M \leq C : \begin{matrix} M \cong B \\ C/M \cong A \end{matrix} \}$$

# subgroups  $\cong B$  with quotient  $\cong A$

Recall a finite abelian p-group

$$A_\lambda = \mathbb{Z}/p^{\lambda_1}\mathbb{Z} \oplus \dots \oplus \mathbb{Z}/p^{\lambda_n}\mathbb{Z}$$

for a partition  $\lambda$ . We say

$$M \text{ of type } \lambda \iff M \cong A_\lambda.$$

$$\{ \text{finite abelian p-groups} \} / \cong = \{ \text{partitions} \}$$

Let  $A = A_\lambda$ ,  $B = A_\mu$ ,  $C = A_\nu$

$$C_{\lambda,\mu}^\nu(p) = C_{AB}^C$$

$$C_{\lambda',\mu'}^{\nu'}(p)$$

#

Question: How to compute  $C_{\lambda,\mu}^\nu(p)$ ?

$$= 0 \text{ unless } |\lambda| + |\mu| = |\nu|.$$

## Example

$$\nu = (2,1) = \square \oplus \square \quad A_\nu = \mathbb{Z}/p^2\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z} \quad \lambda = (2,1)$$

Let us classify  $M \leq A_{(2,1)}$  s.t.

$$\mu = (1) = \square \quad M \cong A_{(1)} \cong \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$$

$(p\mathbb{Z}/p^2\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})$  (so)

Exercise:

$$\{ \text{order p elements} \} = \{ (ap, b) : a \neq 0 \text{ or } b \neq 0 \}$$

M = the subgroup generated by  $(ap, b)$

Case A. If  $b \neq 0$ .

$A_{(2,1)}/M$  is generated by  $(1,0)$ .

$(ap, b) \in M \implies (a'p, 1) \in M$  for some  $a'$

$\implies (0,1)$  can be generated by  $(1,0) \text{ mod } M$ .

$$\square \quad A_{(2,1)}/M \cong A_{(2)} \cong \mathbb{Z}/p^2\mathbb{Z}$$

Case B. If  $b = 0$ ,  $M = p\mathbb{Z}/p^2\mathbb{Z} \oplus \{0\}$ .

$$\square \quad A_{(2,1)}/M \cong A_{(1,1)} = \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$$

Summary:

$$C_{\square, \square}^{\square}(p) = p, \quad C_{\square, \square}^{\square}(p) = 1.$$

## Examples

$$\textcircled{1} \quad \square \oplus \square \quad A_{(3)} = \mathbb{Z}/p^3\mathbb{Z} \quad \lambda = (3) \text{ and } \lambda = (1,1,1)$$

Classify  $M \leq A_{(3)}$ ,  $M \cong A_{(1)} = \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$

$$C_{\square, \square}^{\square}(p) = 1.$$

$$C_{\square, \square}^{\square}(p) = 0$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad \square \quad A_{(1,1,1)} = \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$$

Classify  $M \leq A_{(1,1,1)}$ ,  $M \cong A_{(1)} = \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$

$A_{(1,1,1)}$  is a  $\mathbb{F}_p$ -vector space.

$M \cong \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z} \iff M$  is a one-dim subspace.

Choice of basis of M  $\rightarrow \frac{p^3-1}{p-1} = 1+p+p^2$ .

different choice for one M  $\rightarrow p-1$

$$C_{\square, \square}^{\square}(p) = \#(\mathbb{F}_p^2) = 1+p+p^2.$$

$$C_{\square, \square}^{\square}(p) = 0.$$

## 2 Hall algebras

Consider

$$H = \left\{ \begin{matrix} \{ \text{finite abelian} \\ \text{p-groups} \} \end{matrix} \xrightarrow{f} \mathbb{Q} : \begin{matrix} A \cong B \\ f(A) = f(B) \end{matrix} \right\}$$

We define Hall product

$$(f * g)(A) = \sum_{M \leq A} f(A/M) g(M)$$

Exercise:  $(H, *)$  is a ring.

$$((f * g) * h)(A) \stackrel{?}{=} (f * (g * h))(A)$$

$$\sum_{M \leq A} (f * g)(A/M) h(M) \quad \sum_{N \leq A} f(A/N) (g * h)(N)$$

$$\sum_{M \leq A} f(A/M) g(M) h(M) = \sum_{M \leq A} f(A/M) g(M) h(M)$$

Let  $P_\lambda$  = characteristic function of  $A_\lambda$  up to  $\cong$ .

By definition:

$$P_\lambda * P_\mu = \sum_{\nu} C_{\lambda,\mu}^\nu(p) P_\nu.$$

Formally, we are using

$$\mathcal{H} = \bigoplus_{\lambda} \mathbb{Q} \cdot P_\lambda \subseteq H$$

the subalgebra of finite support.

**Theorem** The linear map

$$\mathcal{H} \rightarrow \Lambda, \quad \mathbb{P}_\lambda \mapsto \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_\lambda$$

is a ring isomorphism.

$$t^{n(\lambda)} \mathbb{P}_\lambda \mapsto t^{-n(\lambda)} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_\lambda$$

**Example**

① From 3 examples above

$$\mathbb{P}_\square \mathbb{P}_\square = (1+p+p^2) \mathbb{P}_\square + \mathbb{P}_\square + 0$$

$$\mathbb{P}_\square \mathbb{P}_\square = 0 + p \mathbb{P}_\square + \mathbb{P}_\square$$

② Compare:

$$\mathbb{P}_\square \mathbb{P}_\square = (t^2+t+1) \mathbb{P}_\square + \mathbb{P}_\square$$

$$\mathbb{P}_\square \mathbb{P}_\square = \mathbb{P}_\square + \mathbb{P}_\square$$

$\lambda$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$
$n(\lambda)$	0	1	0	3	1	0

$$\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_\square \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_\square = t^2(t^2+t+1) \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_\square + 1 \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_\square$$

$$\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_\square \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_\square = t \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_\square + \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_\square$$

$$\mathbb{P}_\lambda = s_\lambda + \dots + t^{n(\lambda)} h_{|\lambda|}$$

**Remark**

Why it is commutative?

$$\mathcal{H} \text{ is commutative } c_{\lambda\mu}^\nu(p) = c_{\mu\lambda}^\nu(p)$$

Exercise: prove it directly. (Hint:  $\text{Hom}(-, \mathbb{Q}^x)$ )  
(Gelfand pair)

**Example**

A proof can be found in [Mac, chap II, chap II]

The proof on the right is also in Macdonald's book. Chap V.

### 3 Why?

$G = GL_n$  Affine Grassmannian; convolutions

$\mathcal{K} = \text{local field } \mathbb{Q}_p \text{ or } \mathbb{F}_p((t))$  Affine Hecke algebras

$\mathcal{O} = \text{ring of integers } \mathbb{Z}_p \text{ or } \mathbb{F}_p[[t]]$  Satake isomorphism

Spherical Hecke algebra  $G(\mathcal{K}) = GL(\mathbb{Q}_p) \text{ or } GL(\mathbb{F}_p((t)))$

$$C_c(G_{\mathcal{O}} \backslash G_{\mathcal{K}} / G_{\mathcal{O}}) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} G_{\mathcal{K}} \xrightarrow{f} \mathbb{Q} \text{ of compact support} \\ g_1, g_2 \in G_{\mathcal{O}} \\ f(g_1 x g_2) = f(x) \end{array} \right\}$$

under convolution

$$(f * g)(x) = \int_{G_{\mathcal{K}}} f(xy^{-1}) g(y) dy \quad \text{vol}(G_{\mathcal{O}}) = 1$$

$$G_{\mathcal{K}} \cong \bigsqcup_{\lambda \text{ dom}} G_{\mathcal{O}} \omega^\lambda G_{\mathcal{O}} \quad \omega^\lambda = \begin{bmatrix} p^{\lambda_1} & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & p^{\lambda_n} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathcal{C}_c(G_{\mathcal{O}} \backslash G_{\mathcal{K}} / G_{\mathcal{O}}) = \bigoplus_{\lambda \text{ dom}} \mathbb{1}_\lambda$$

For  $G = GL_n$ ,  $L \subseteq \mathcal{K}^{\oplus n}$   $\mathcal{O}$ -submodule free of rank  $n$ .

$$G_{\mathcal{K}} / G_{\mathcal{O}} = \{ \mathcal{O}\text{-lattices } L \text{ in } \mathcal{K}^{\oplus n} \}$$

$$\omega^\lambda G_{\mathcal{O}} \leftrightarrow p^{\lambda_1} \mathcal{O} \oplus \dots \oplus p^{\lambda_n} \mathcal{O} \subseteq \mathcal{K}^{\oplus n}$$

$$\text{We have } L_0 = \mathcal{O} \oplus \dots \oplus \mathcal{O} \subseteq \mathcal{K}^{\oplus n}$$

Then  $\lambda$  a partition  $\lambda_1 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n \geq 0$

$$G_{\mathcal{O}}\text{-orbit of } \omega^\lambda G_{\mathcal{O}} \quad \mathcal{O} / p^{\lambda_1} \mathcal{O} \oplus \dots \oplus \mathcal{O} / p^{\lambda_n} \mathcal{O}$$

$$= \{ \text{lattice } L \supseteq L_0 : L / L_0 \cong \mathbb{A}_\lambda \}$$

$$\mathbb{1}_\lambda * \mathbb{1}_\mu = \sum_{\nu} \# \left\{ L : \begin{array}{l} L_0 \subseteq L \subseteq L_\nu \\ L / L_0 \cong \mathbb{A}_\lambda \\ L_\nu / L \cong \mathbb{A}_\mu \end{array} \right\} \mathbb{1}_\nu$$

|| not hard

$$C_{\lambda\mu}^\nu$$

1-param subgroup of a max torus  $T \subseteq G$   
cocharacter lattice

Classical Satake isomorphism

$$C_c(G_{\mathcal{O}} \backslash G_{\mathcal{K}} / G_{\mathcal{O}}) \cong \mathbb{Q}[\Lambda]^W$$

$$\mathbb{1}_\lambda \mapsto \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_\lambda$$

Due to Macdonald

Macdonald's Spherical function



Learning seminar  
Macdonald

link



notes