

Schubert puzzles as exactly solvable models

P. Zinn-Justin

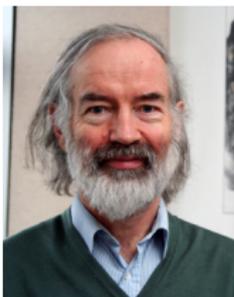
The University of Melbourne



- A. Knutson, P. Zinn-Justin, Schubert puzzles and integrability I: invariant trilinear forms, arXiv:1706.10019
- A. Knutson, P. Zinn-Justin, Schubert puzzles and integrability II: multiplying motivic Segre classes, arXiv:2102.00563
- A. Knutson, P. Zinn-Justin, Schubert puzzles and integrability III: separated descents, arXiv:2306.13855
- P. Zinn-Justin, The *CotangentSchubert* Macaulay2 package

Introduction

Schubert polynomials were introduced by Lascoux and Schützenberger to represent cohomology classes of Schubert cycles in flag varieties.



Alain Lascoux
(1944–2013)



Marcel-Paul Schützenberger
(1920–1996)

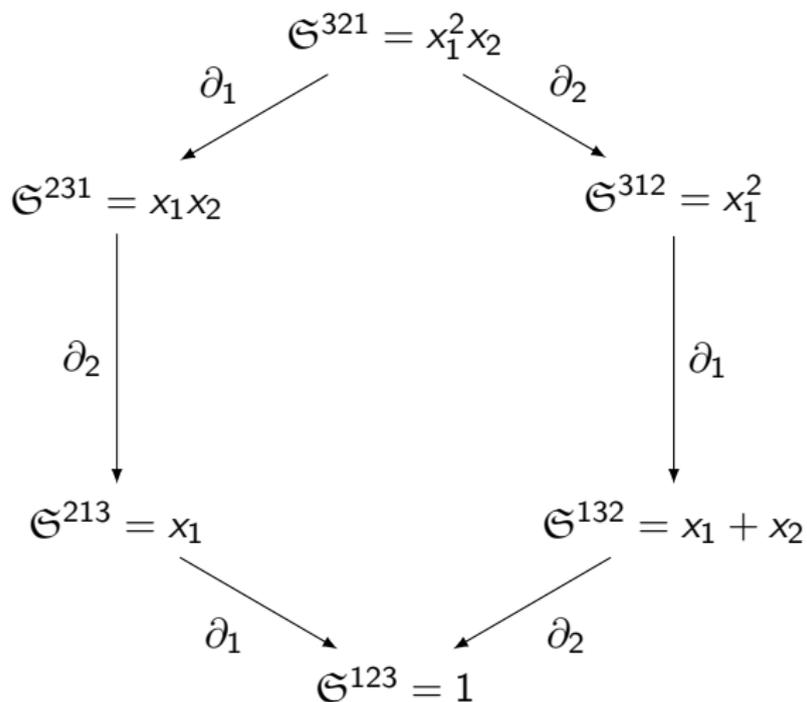
Definition

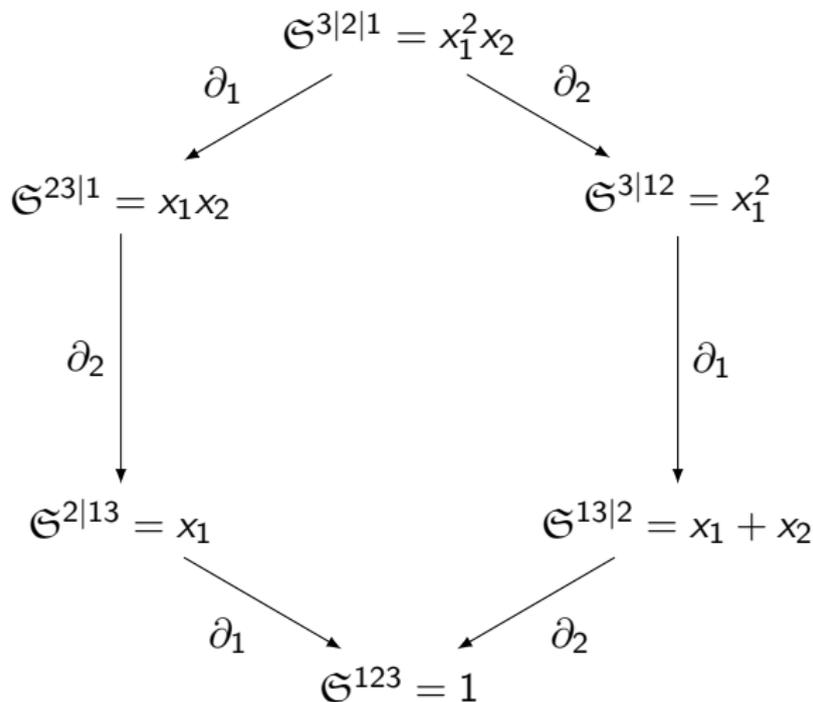
Given $\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_\infty = \bigcup_{n \geq 1} \mathcal{S}_n$, define $\mathfrak{S}^\sigma \in R := \mathbb{Z}[x_1, x_2, \dots]$ inductively by

$$\begin{aligned}\mathfrak{S}^\sigma &= \partial_i \mathfrak{S}^{\sigma s_i} && \text{for } \sigma(i) < \sigma(i+1) \\ \mathfrak{S}^{n \dots 21} &= \prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{n-i}\end{aligned}$$

where s_i is the elementary transposition $i \leftrightarrow i+1$
and ∂_i is the corresponding **divided difference operator**

$$\partial_i f := \frac{f - f|_{x_i \leftrightarrow x_{i+1}}}{x_i - x_{i+1}} \quad f \in R$$

Example: $n = 3$ 

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Descents

Define the descent set of a permutation

$$D(\sigma) := \{i \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0} : \sigma_i > \sigma_{i+1}\} \quad \sigma \in \mathcal{S}_\infty$$

Then it is obvious from their definition that Schubert polynomials are symmetric in variables between two descents, and do not depend on variables after the last descent.

Important example: **Grassmannian permutations**. If σ has no descent outside $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, then \mathfrak{S}_σ is a symmetric polynomial in x_1, \dots, x_k – in fact, a **Schur polynomial**.

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The structure constants

The $\{\mathfrak{S}^\sigma, \sigma \in \mathcal{S}_\infty\}$ form a basis of $R \Rightarrow$ one can expand products:

$$\mathfrak{S}^\pi \mathfrak{S}^\rho = \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_\infty} c_\sigma^{\pi\rho} \mathfrak{S}^\sigma \quad \pi, \rho \in \mathcal{S}_\infty$$

It is well-known that $c_\sigma^{\pi\rho} \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$.

Each $\langle \mathfrak{S}^\sigma, D(\sigma) \subseteq \mathcal{D} \rangle$ is a subring, i.e.,

$$c_\sigma^{\pi\rho} \neq 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad D(\sigma) \subseteq D(\pi) \cup D(\rho)$$

For example, within the subring $\langle \mathfrak{S}^\sigma, D(\sigma) \subseteq \{k\} \rangle$, the $c_\sigma^{\pi\rho}$ are the famous Littlewood–Richardson coefficients, for which numerous combinatorial formulae are known.

More generally, we'll be interested in computing $c_\sigma^{\pi\rho}$ when we put various restrictions on $D(\pi)$ and $D(\rho)$.

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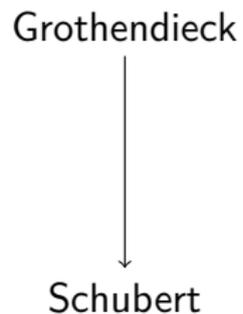
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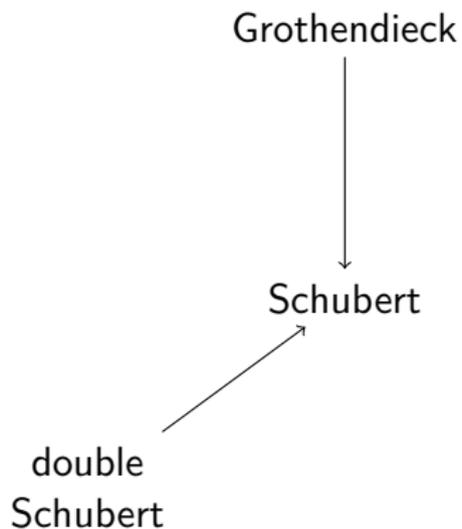
The generalisations [II]

Schubert

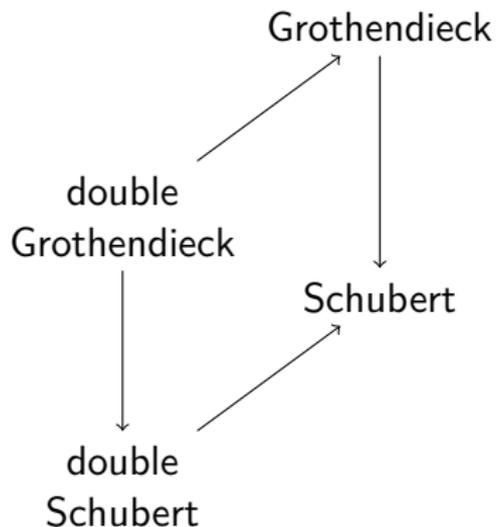
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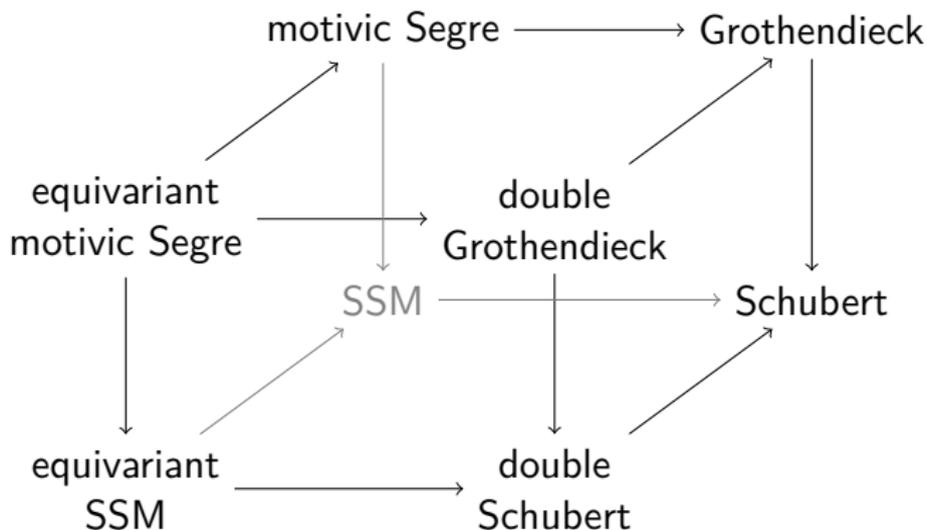
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Where does exactly solvability come into play?

- My interest is in applying methods from **exactly solvable models** (a.k.a. **quantum integrable systems**), an area of mathematical physics, to the study of such families of polynomials.
- Circa 2008–2014, I discovered that many families of (symmetric/not) polynomials can be expressed as partition functions of exactly solvable models (Schur, Schur-Q, LLT, Schubert, Grothendieck, ...)
- In the case of Schubert/Grothendieck, this is closely related to the work of [Bergeron and Billey '93, Fomin and Kirillov '94].
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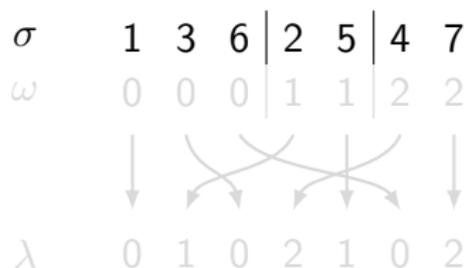
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Permutations and strings

We encode permutations using **strings**:



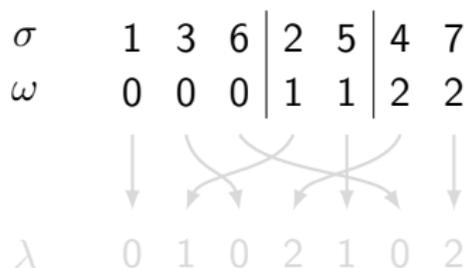
There is freedom to add gratuitous nondescents, and to increase the size.

Conversely, given λ , σ is the inverse of its standardisation.

Permutations and strings

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alphabet is some arbitrary
totally ordered set

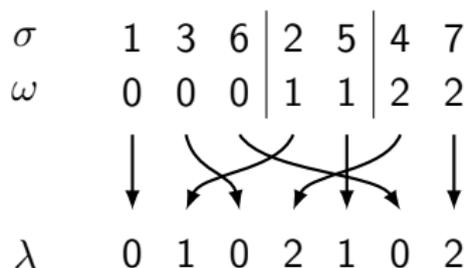


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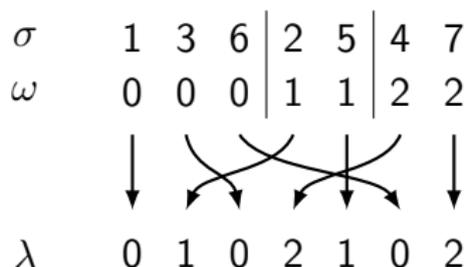


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$$\begin{array}{cccccc}
 \sigma & 1 & 3 & 6 & | & 2 & 5 & | & 4 & 7 \\
 \omega & 0 & 0 & 0 & | & 1 & 1 & | & 2 & 2 \\
 & \downarrow & \swarrow & \searrow & & \swarrow & \searrow & & \downarrow & \\
 \lambda & 0 & 1 & 0 & & 2 & 1 & & 0 & 2
 \end{array}$$

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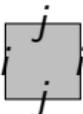
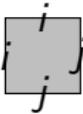
Conversely, given λ , σ is the inverse of its standardisation.

Schubert polynomials as an exactly solvable model

We have the following “partition function” identity, given any string λ corresponding to σ , with $\omega = \text{sort}(\lambda)$:

$$\mathfrak{S}^\sigma = \begin{array}{c} \lambda_1 \quad \lambda_2 \quad \cdots \quad \lambda_n \\ \omega_1 \quad \square \quad \square \quad \square \quad \square \\ \omega_2 \quad \square \quad \square \quad \square \quad \square \\ \vdots \quad \square \quad \square \quad \square \quad \square \\ \omega_n \quad \square \quad \square \quad \square \quad \square \end{array}$$

a sum over labellings of internal edges, such that each plaquette is

-  , $i < j$, each of which on the r^{th} row contributes a x_r .
- .

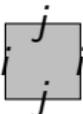
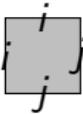
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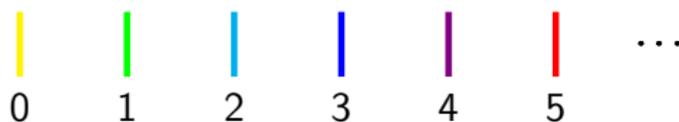
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Schubert computation example

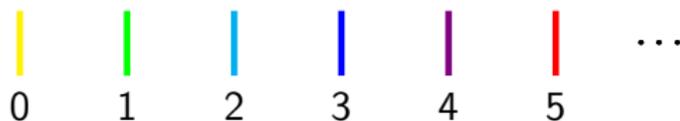
We represent the string digits as colours:



so that plaquettes look like  and .

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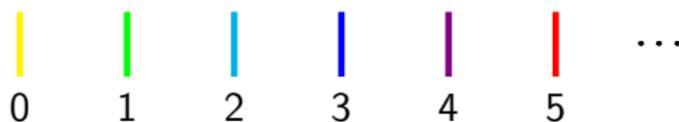
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For example, if $\sigma = 132$, $\lambda = 010$ and

$$\mathfrak{G}^\sigma = \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{ccc} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ 0 & & \\ 0 & & \\ 1 & & \end{array} \\ = \\ \begin{array}{ccc} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \text{yellow} & \text{green} & \text{yellow} \\ 0 & & \\ 0 & & \\ 1 & & \end{array} + \begin{array}{ccc} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \text{yellow} & \text{green} & \text{yellow} \\ 0 & & \\ 0 & & \\ 1 & & \end{array} = x_1 + x_2 \end{array}$$

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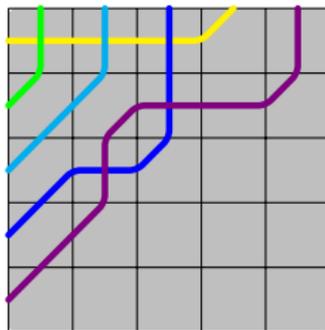
For example, if $\sigma = 231$, $\lambda = 100$ and

$$\mathfrak{S}^\sigma = \begin{array}{c} 1 \quad 0 \quad 0 \\ 0 \quad \bullet \quad \bullet \quad \bullet \\ 0 \quad \bullet \quad \bullet \quad \bullet \\ 1 \quad \bullet \quad \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} 1 \quad 0 \quad 0 \\ 0 \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \\ 0 \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \\ 1 \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---} \end{array} = x_1 x_2$$

Digression: Generic Pipe Dreams

If one relaxes the constraint on i and j in the crossing $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline j \\ \hline i \\ \hline \end{array}$, then

one gets what we call **Generic Pipe Dreams**:

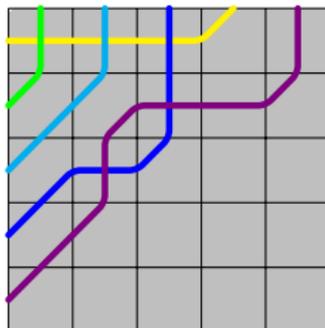


These are relevant to the computation of the motivic Segre class rational functions; in the limit to Grothendieck polynomials, one recovers either ordinary pipe dreams or bumpless pipe dreams [Lam Lee Shimozono '18, Weigandt '18].

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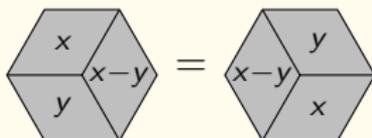


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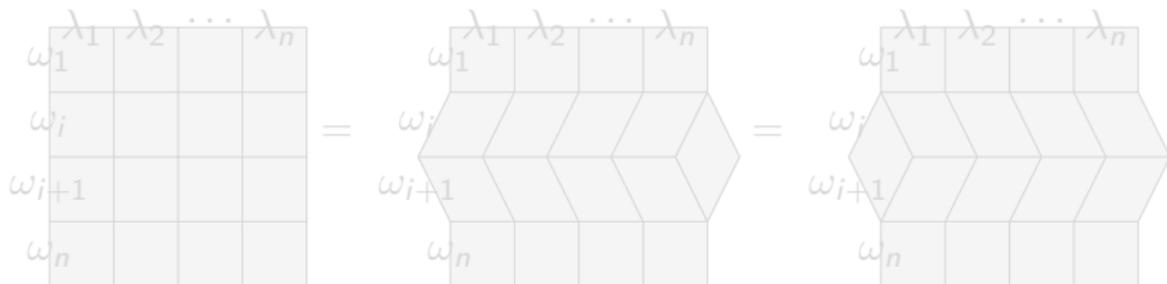
The Yang–Baxter equation

The Yang–Baxter equation [Brézin and Zinn-Justin, '66; Yang, '67] is the signature of exact solvability.
[Baxter, '70s]

Lemma



Apply it repeatedly to our partition function ($x = x_i, y = x_{i+1}$)

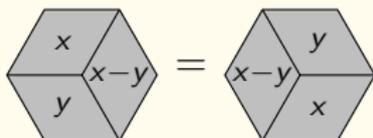


we obtain, for $\omega_j = \omega_{j+1}$ the symmetry under $x_j \leftrightarrow x_{j+1}$, or for $\omega_j < \omega_{j+1}$, the induction formula for Schubert polynomials.

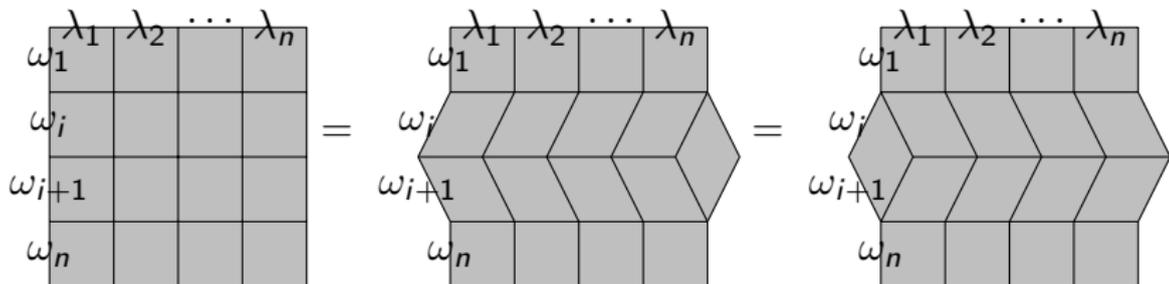
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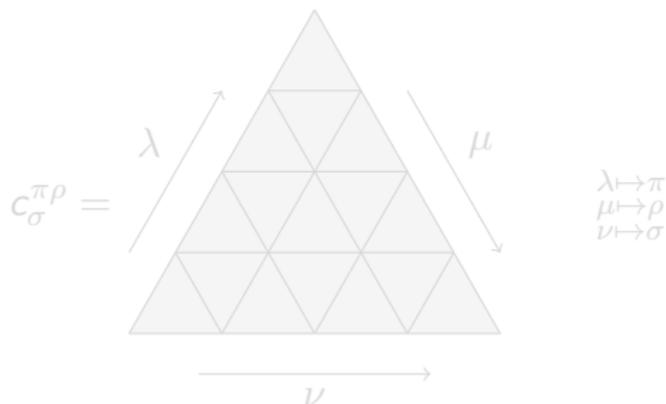
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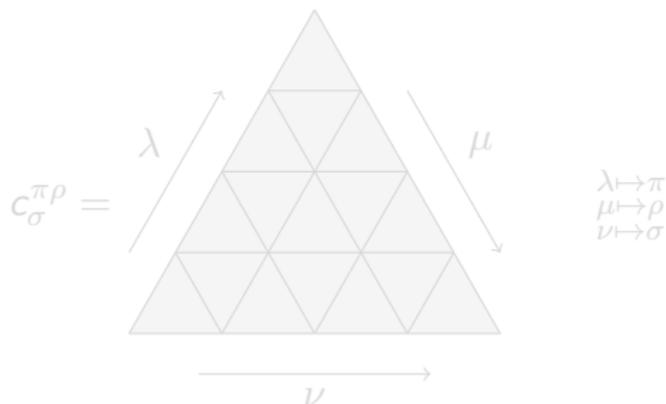
Structure constants as an exactly solvable model

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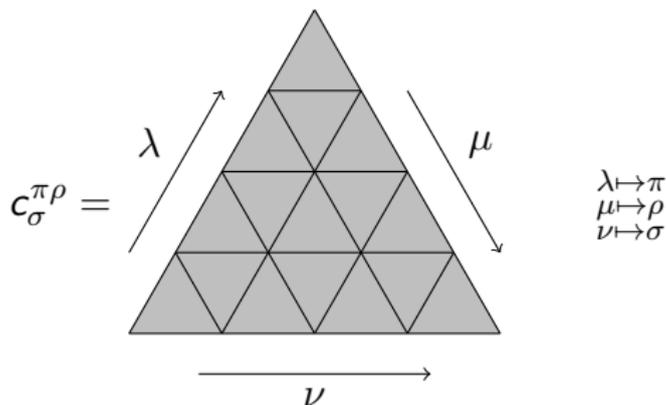
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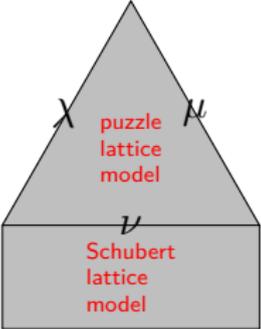
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The main theorem of I-II-III

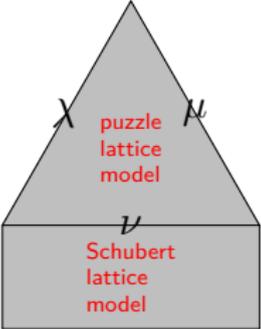
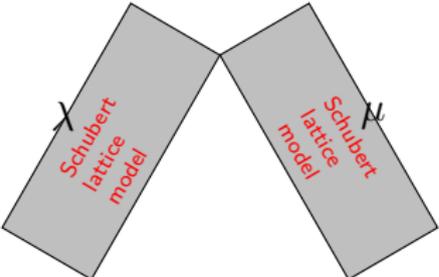
For the purposes of this slide, we index \mathfrak{S} and c with strings rather than permutations.

$$\sum_{\nu} c_{\nu}^{\lambda\mu} \mathfrak{S}^{\nu} =$$


The diagram consists of a gray triangle on top of a gray rectangle. The triangle's left side is labeled with the Greek letter λ , and its right side is labeled with the Greek letter μ . Inside the triangle, the text "puzzle lattice model" is written in red. The rectangle's top side is labeled with the Greek letter ν . Inside the rectangle, the text "Schubert lattice model" is written in red.

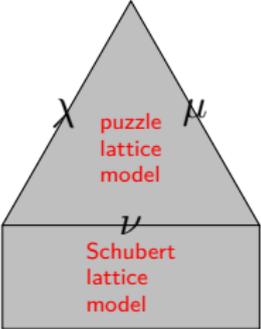
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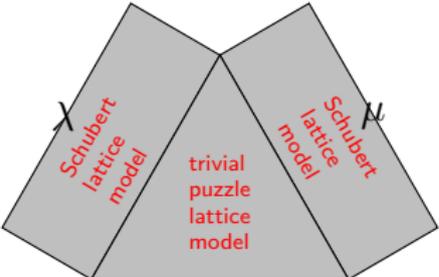
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The main theorem of I-II-III

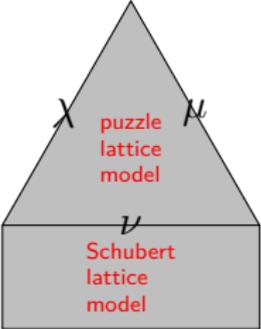
For the purposes of this slide, we index \mathfrak{S} and c with strings rather than permutations.

$$\sum_{\nu} c_{\nu}^{\lambda\mu} \mathfrak{S}^{\nu} =$$


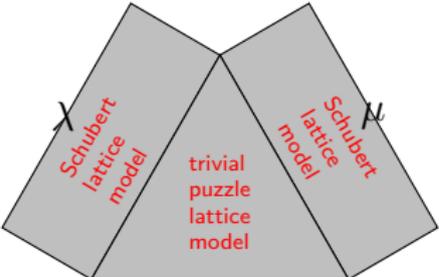
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|| YBE-like moves



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Separated descents

We say that $\pi, \rho \in \mathcal{S}_\infty$ have **separated descents** if

$$\min D(\pi) \geq \max D(\rho)$$

π 2 4 5 7 | 6 | 3 | 1 8

seemingly
gratuitous

ρ 4 | 3 | 1 5 | 2 6 7 8

Separated descents

We say that $\pi, \rho \in \mathcal{S}_\infty$ have **separated descents** if

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π	2	4	5	7		6		3		1	8
ω_1	-	-	-	-		3		4		5	5
ω_2	0		1		2	2		-	-	-	-
ρ	4		3		1	5		2	6	7	8

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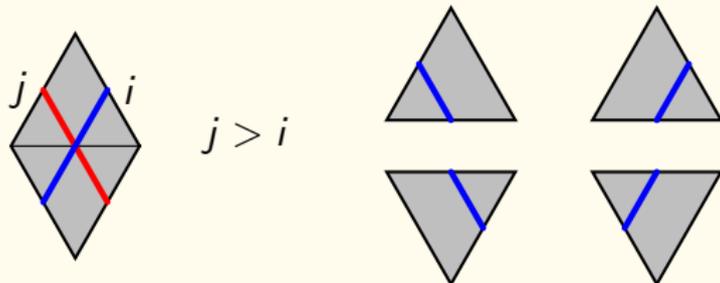
We use ω_1 to encode π , ω_2 to encode ρ , and ω_3 to encode σ :

$$\lambda = 5_4_3_5 \quad \mu = 2_102_$$

Separated descent rule

Theorem (A. Knutson, P. Z-J, '20, III)

Let π and ρ have separated descents. The coefficient of \mathfrak{S}_σ in the expansion of $\mathfrak{S}_\pi \mathfrak{S}_\rho$ is the number of puzzles made of paths going SW/SE, such that no triangle is empty, and paths can only cross at horizontal edges, with the additional constraint:

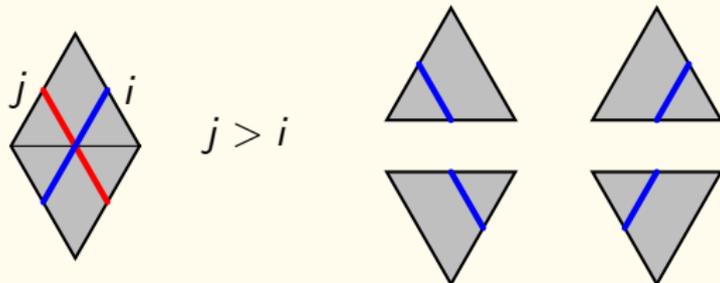


- The size n of the puzzle must be chosen so that $\pi, \rho, \sigma \in \mathcal{S}_n$.
- See also [Huang, '21].

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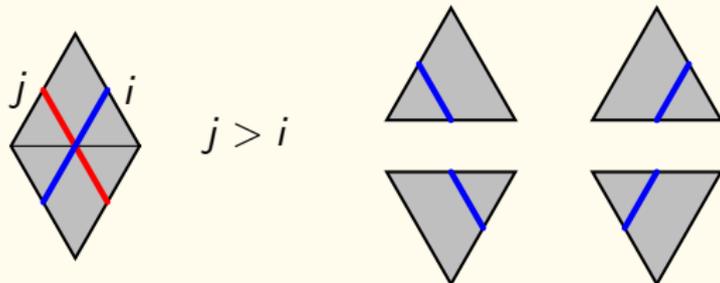


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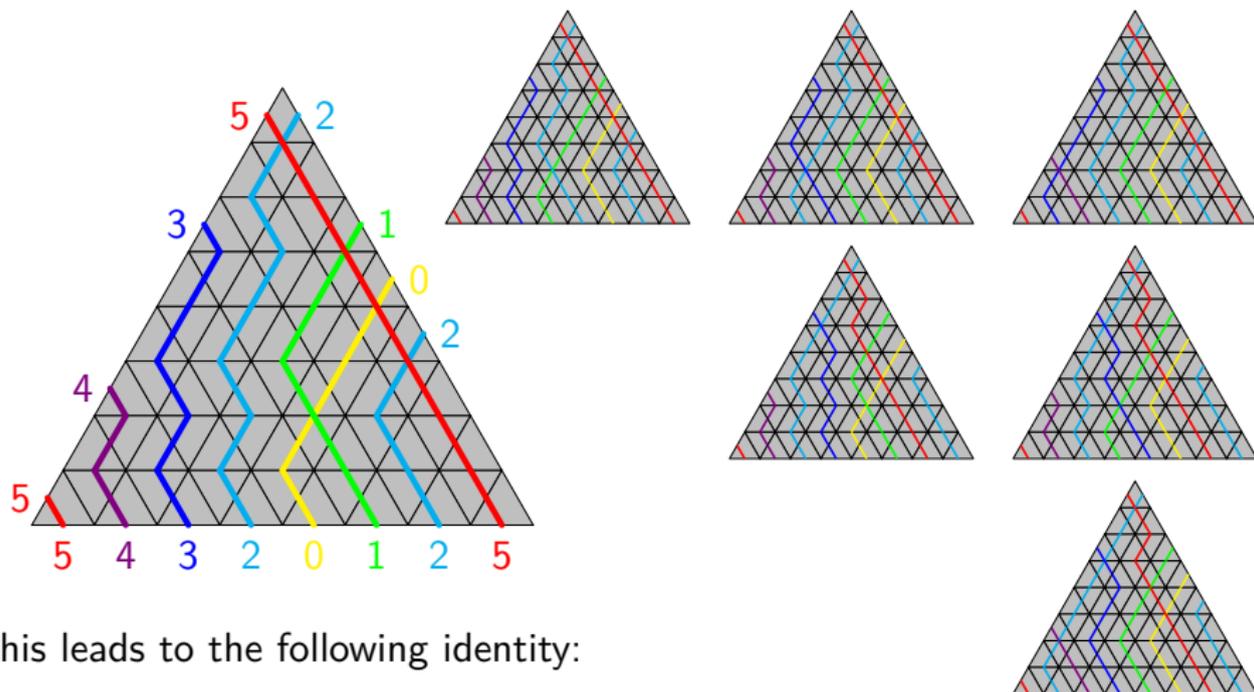
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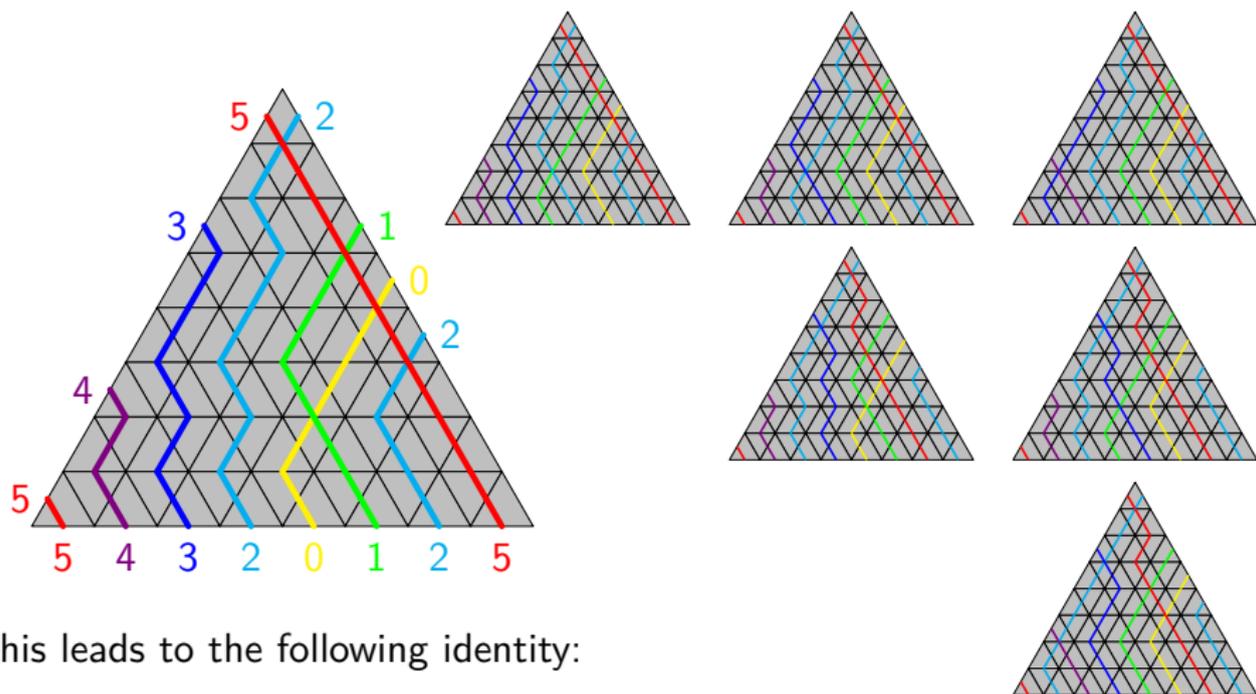
Separated descent example



This leads to the following identity:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathfrak{S}^{24576318} \mathfrak{S}^{43152678} &= \mathfrak{S}^{56473218} + \mathfrak{S}^{64573218} \\
 &+ \mathfrak{S}^{65374218} + \mathfrak{S}^{65472318} + \mathfrak{S}^{56384217} + \mathfrak{S}^{64385217} + \mathfrak{S}^{65284317}
 \end{aligned}$$

Separated descent example



This leads to the following identity:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathfrak{S}^{2457|6|3|18} \mathfrak{S}^{4|3|15|2678} &= \mathfrak{S}^{56|47|3|2|18} + \mathfrak{S}^{6|457|3|2|18} \\
 + \mathfrak{S}^{6|5|37|4|2|18} + \mathfrak{S}^{6|5|47|23|18} &+ \mathfrak{S}^{56|38|4|2|17} + \mathfrak{S}^{6|4|38|5|2|17} + \mathfrak{S}^{6|5|28|4|3|17}
 \end{aligned}$$

Almost separated descents

We say that $\pi, \rho \in \mathcal{S}_\infty$ have **almost separated descents** if the last two descents of π occur at (or before) the first two descents of ρ :

$$\pi \quad 4 \mid 1 \mid 3 \mid 2 \quad 5 \quad 6 \quad 7$$

$$\rho \quad 2 \quad 5 \mid 4 \mid 3 \mid 1 \quad 6 \quad 7$$

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π	4		1		3		2	5	6	7
ω_1	0		1		2		-	-	-	-
ω_2	-	-		2		3		4	4	4
ρ	2	5		4		3		1	6	7

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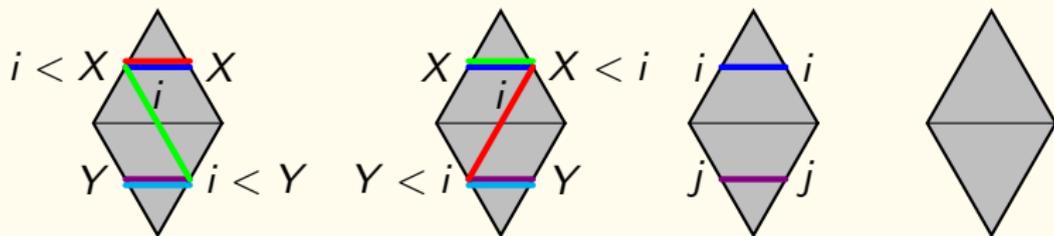
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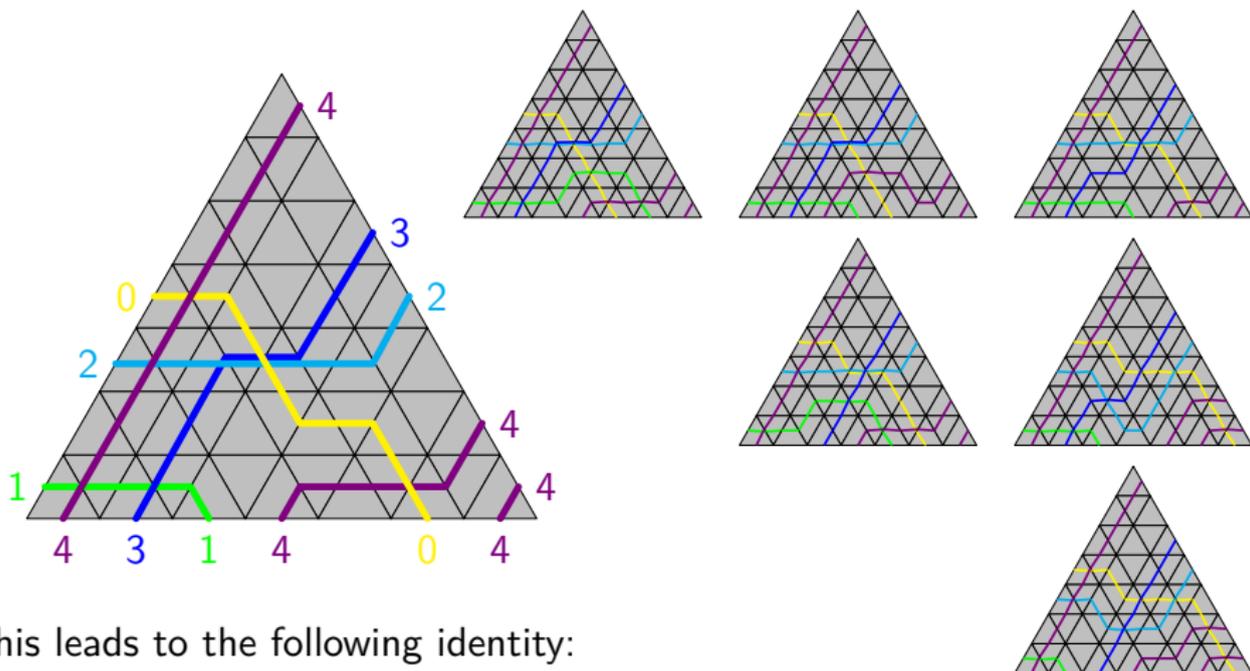
Almost separated descent rule

Theorem (A. Knutson, P. Z-J, 2023, III)

Let π and ρ have almost separated descents. The coefficient of \mathfrak{S}_σ in the expansion of $\mathfrak{S}_\pi \mathfrak{S}_\rho$ is the number of puzzles made of paths going E/NE/SE, such that multiple paths of distinct colours can cross NW/NE edges (i.e., a subset $X \subseteq \{0, \dots, d\}$), but at most one path deviates from the horizontal in any given triangle, with the further restriction on allowed triangles: (for the bottom row, use only top halves)



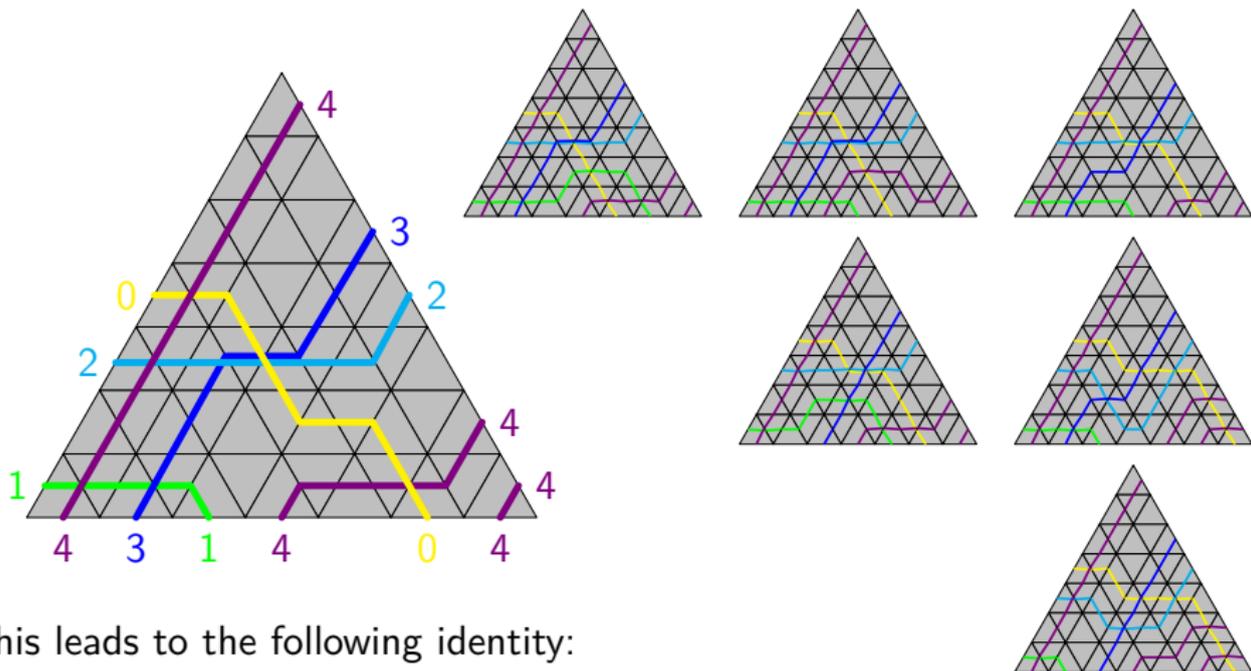
Almost separated descent example



This leads to the following identity:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathfrak{S}^{4132567} \mathfrak{S}^{2543167} &= \mathfrak{S}^{6352147} + \mathfrak{S}^{5632147} \\
 &+ \mathfrak{S}^{5462137} + \mathfrak{S}^{6432157} + \mathfrak{S}^{6523147} + \mathfrak{S}^{7342156} + \mathfrak{S}^{7253146}
 \end{aligned}$$

Almost separated descent example



This leads to the following identity:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathfrak{S}^{4|13|2567} \mathfrak{S}^{25|4|3|167} &= \mathfrak{S}^{6|35|2|147} + \mathfrak{S}^{56|3|2|147} \\
 + \mathfrak{S}^{5|46|2|137} + \mathfrak{S}^{6|4|3|2|157} + \mathfrak{S}^{6|5|23|147} + \mathfrak{S}^{7|34|2|156} + \mathfrak{S}^{7|25|3|146}
 \end{aligned}$$

The representation theory

- In general, one builds solutions of YBE (and from there, an exactly solvable model) out of the representation theory of **Yangians** (or quantized loop algebras).
- The Schubert model (pipe dreams) is based on $\mathcal{Y}(\mathfrak{a}_d)$ where $d = |D(\sigma)|$.
- One could reformulate the search for Schubert puzzles as: finding a Yangian containing $\mathcal{Y}(\mathfrak{a}_d)$ as a subalgebra, with various combinatorial constraints coming from the geometry of root systems.
- For example, the separated descent model is also based on $\mathcal{Y}(\mathfrak{a}_n)$ with $n = |D(\pi)| + |D(\rho)|$.
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- For technical reasons, we've (so far) restricted the search to simply laced Lie algebras.

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3-step to 5-step

Let $\pi, \rho \in \mathcal{S}_\infty$ with $\#D(\pi) = \#D(\rho) = 3$,
common middle descent:

π | | |

ρ | | |

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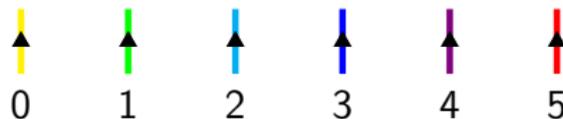
π	2		1	5		4		3	6	7
ω_1	0		1	1		2		3	3	3
ω_3	0		1	2		3		4	5	5
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We represent the ω_3 digits as oriented coloured paths:



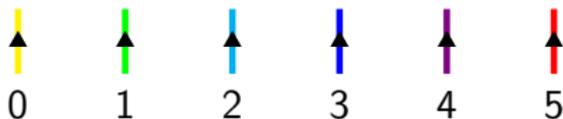
We also have unoriented paths made of two colours, e.g., .

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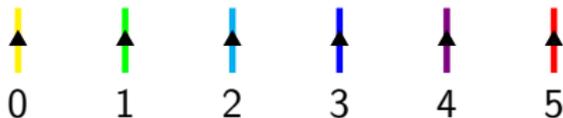
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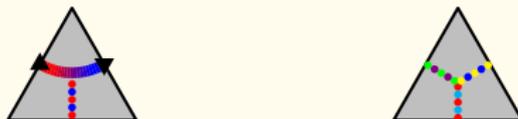
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3-step to 5-step rule

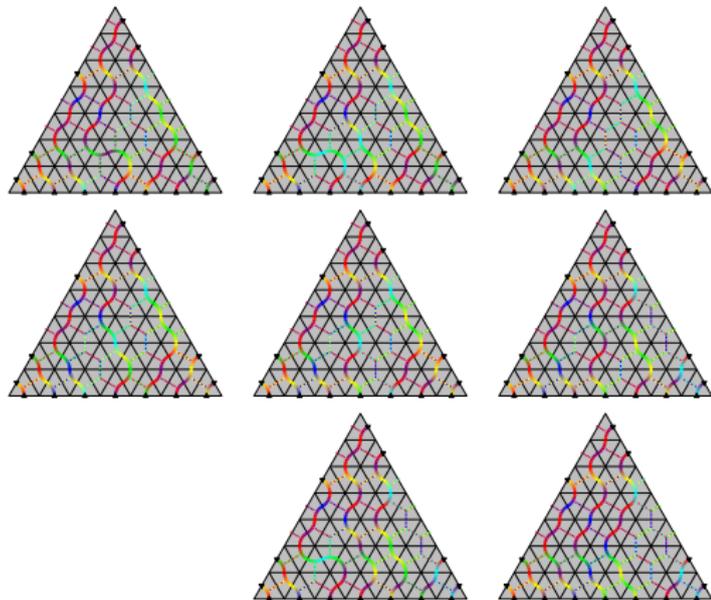
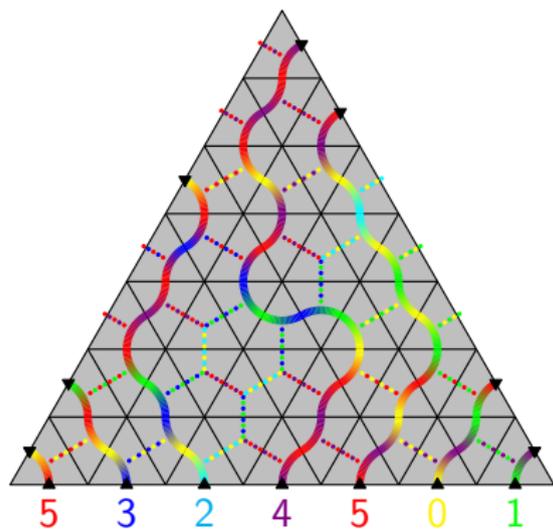
Theorem

Let $\pi, \rho \in \mathcal{S}_\infty$ as above, and $\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_\infty$ such that $\ell(\sigma) = \ell(\pi) + \ell(\rho)$. The coefficient of \mathfrak{S}_σ in the expansion of $\mathfrak{S}_\pi \mathfrak{S}_\rho$ is the number of puzzles made of oriented colored paths and unoriented bicolored paths with the following two types of triangles:



and their 180 degree rotations,
where in the first, the three paths can be freely permuted,
and in the second, all colors must be present.

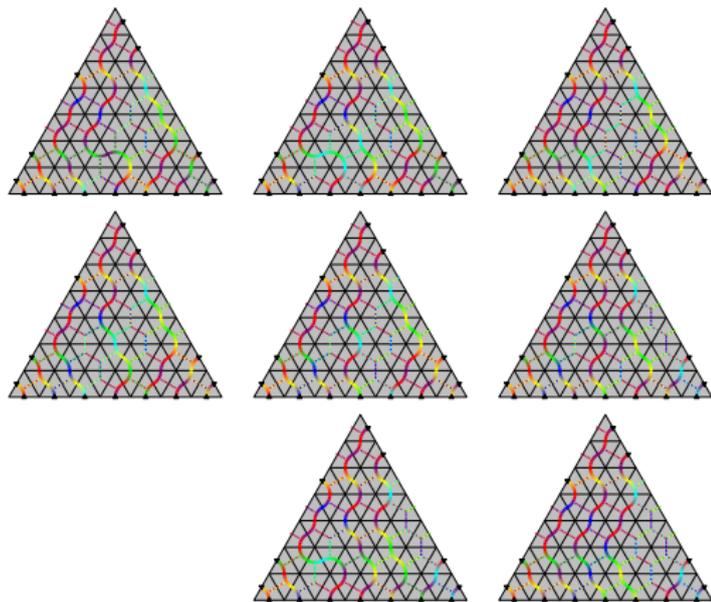
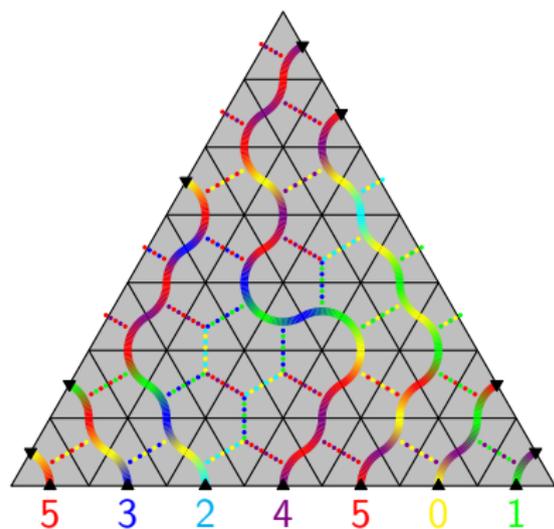
3-step to 5-step example



This leads to the following identity:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{S}^{2154367} \mathfrak{S}^{4532617} &= \mathfrak{S}^{6732415} + \mathfrak{S}^{5734216} + \mathfrak{S}^{5742316} \\ &+ \mathfrak{S}^{7435216} + \mathfrak{S}^{7532416} + \mathfrak{S}^{7452316} + \mathfrak{S}^{6472315} + \mathfrak{S}^{5672314} + \mathfrak{S}^{5473216} \end{aligned}$$

3-step to 5-step example



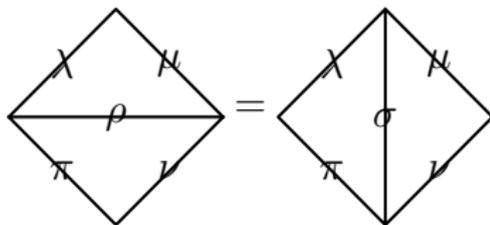
This leads to the following identity:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{S}^{2|15|4|367} \mathfrak{S}^{45|3|26|17} &= \mathfrak{S}^{67|3|24|15} + \mathfrak{S}^{57|34|2|16} + \mathfrak{S}^{57|4|23|16} \\ &+ \mathfrak{S}^{7|4|35|2|16} + \mathfrak{S}^{7|5|3|24|16} + \mathfrak{S}^{7|45|23|16} + \mathfrak{S}^{6|47|23|15} + \mathfrak{S}^{567|23|14} + \mathfrak{S}^{5|47|3|2|16} \end{aligned}$$

Further result. Associativity

Imposing associativity $(\mathfrak{S}^\lambda \mathfrak{S}^\mu) \mathfrak{S}^\nu = \mathfrak{S}^\lambda (\mathfrak{S}^\mu \mathfrak{S}^\nu)$ leads to quadratic constraints for the structure constants $c_\nu^{\lambda\mu}$:

$$\sum_{\rho} c_{\rho}^{\lambda\mu} c_{\pi}^{\rho\nu} = \sum_{\sigma} c_{\pi}^{\lambda\sigma} c_{\sigma}^{\mu\nu}$$



Is there a natural bijection?

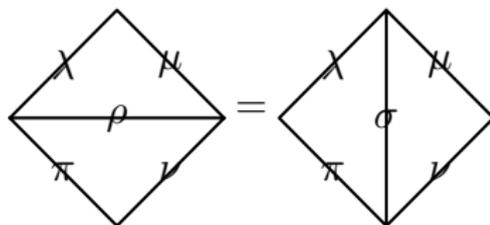
Integrability provides a linear algebraic answer:

Assoc

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