

A combinatorial characterization of tight fusion frames using Littlewood-Richardson coefficients

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- 1 Tight fusion frames
- 2 Littlewood-Richardson coefficients
- 3 Consequences and applications
- 4 Proof

A question from functional analysis

Definition: A sequence of $N \times N$ orthogonal projection matrices (P_1, \dots, P_K) is called a *tight fusion frame* if

$$P_1 + \dots + P_K = \alpha I_N$$

for some positive real number α .

Question: For which integer sequences $\mathbf{L} = (L_1, \dots, L_K)$ does there exist a tight fusion frame (P_1, \dots, P_K) such that $\text{rank}(P_i) = L_i$?

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Motivation: Sensor networks

Fusion frames are used to model sensor networks.



Sensors with limited range are placed through an area.

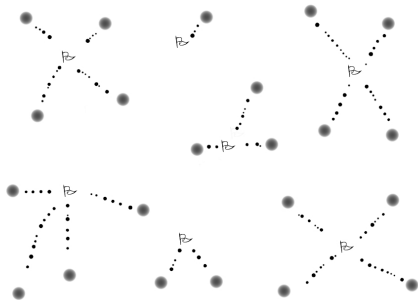
Local receivers are placed to record and package data (P_i).

A main processing center then combines the data. ($\alpha I_n = P_1 + \cdots + P_K$)

The eigenvalue α measures the “redundancy” in the system.

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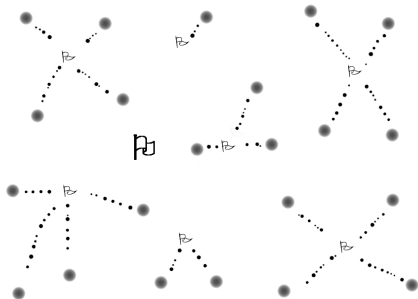
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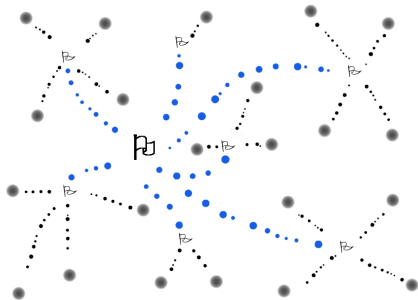
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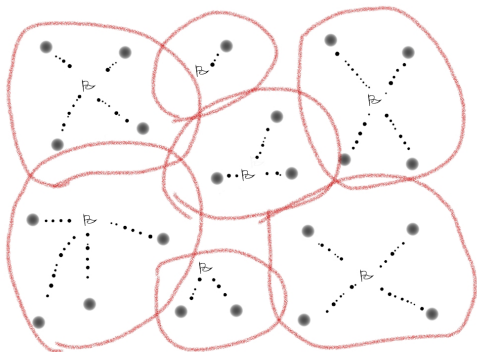
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The eigenvalue α measures the “redundancy” in the system.

Examples

Ex1. $N = 3$ and $\mathbf{L} = (2, 2, 1, 1)$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = 2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Ex2. $N = 3$ and $\mathbf{L} = (1, 1, 1, 1)$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ + \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{4}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

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Ex2. $N = 3$ and $\mathbf{L} = (1, 1, 1, 1)$

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Examples

Constructing tight fusion frames for the following sequences is not possible.

- $N = 5, \mathbf{L} = (2, 1, 1)$
- $N = 5, \mathbf{L} = (5, 2, 1, 1)$
- $N = 5, \mathbf{L} = (3, 3, 2, 1)$

Definition: Let $\text{TFF}(N)$ denote the set of integer sequences for which N -dimensional tight fusion frames exist.

By the examples, we have

$$(2, 2, 1, 1), (1, 1, 1, 1) \in \text{TFF}(3) \quad \text{and} \quad (5, 2, 1, 1) \notin \text{TFF}(5).$$

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A characterization in the uniform rank case

Suppose that $L_1 = \cdots = L_K$. We denote these sequences by (L^K) .

Theorem: Casazza, Fickus, Mixon, Wang, Zhou (2010)

Suppose L divides N . Then

$$(L^K) \in \text{TFF}(N) \quad \text{if and only if} \quad KL \geq N.$$

Otherwise, suppose $2L < N$. Then the following are true:

- If $(L^K) \in \text{TFF}(N)$, then $K \geq \lceil \frac{N}{L} \rceil + 1$.
- If $K \geq \lceil \frac{N}{L} \rceil + 2$, then $(L^K) \in \text{TFF}(N)$.

Moreover (Naimark and spatial duality),

$$(L^K) \in \text{TFF}(N) \quad \text{if and only if} \quad (L^K) \in \text{TFF}(LK - N)$$

$$(L^K) \in \text{TFF}(N) \quad \text{if and only if} \quad ((N - L)^K) \in \text{TFF}(N).$$

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Representations of $GL_N(\mathbb{C})$

Question: Can we characterize TFF sequences in general?

Let $G = GL_N(\mathbb{C})$ and define the *Littlewood-Richardson coefficients* $c_{\lambda, \nu}^{\mu}$ as the tensor product multiplicities

$$V_{\lambda} \otimes V_{\nu} = \bigoplus_{\mu} c_{\lambda, \nu}^{\mu} V_{\mu}$$

where V_{λ} denotes the fd. irr. representation of G with highest weight λ .

In general, for any collection of weights $\lambda^1, \dots, \lambda^K, \mu$, define the coefficients $c_{\lambda^1, \dots, \lambda^K}^{\mu}$ by the tensor product

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Statement of results for general sequences

Theorem: Bownik-Luoto-R

Let $\mathbf{L} = (L_1 \geq \dots \geq L_K)$ where $L_1 \leq N$ and let

$$M := \sum_{i=1}^K L_i.$$

The following are equivalent:

- 1 The sequence $\mathbf{L} \in \text{TFF}(N)$.
- 2 The Littlewood-Richardson coefficient

$$c_{(N^{L_1}), \dots, (N^{L_K})}^{(M^N)} \neq 0.$$

where (a^b) denotes the rectangular partition $\underbrace{(a, \dots, a)}_b$.

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Applying the LR-rule for skew tableau

Consider $N = 5$ and $\mathbf{L} = (2, 2, 2, 2)$.

1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2

1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2

1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2

1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2

Goal: Fill the rectangle below with skew diagrams according to the “rules”.

Rules: Each rectangle gives a skew diagram λ/μ where μ is the partition consisting of the union of previous rectangles.

(LR-skew tableau) In each skew diagram we have:

- Content across rows is weakly increasing.
- Content down columns is strictly increasing.
- The content is a Yamanouchi word.

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2	2	1					
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2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
1	1	2	2	1	1	2	2
2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

The existence of such tableaux implies that the Littlewood Richardson coefficient

$$c_{(5^2), (5^2), (5^2), (5^2)}^{(8^5)} \neq 0$$

and hence $(2, 2, 2, 2) \in \text{TFF}(5)$.

In fact, the number of such tableaux is equal to the corresponding LR coefficient.

Applying the LR-rule for skew tableau

1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
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More examples

 $N = 3$ $(2, 2, 1, 1)$

1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	1	1	1
2	2	2	1	1	1

 $(2, 1, 1, 1)$

1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	1	1
1	1	1	1	1

 $(1, 1, 1, 1)$

1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1
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 $N = 5$ $(2, 2, 2, 2)$

1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
1	1	2	2	1	1	2	2
2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

 $(3, 3, 3, 3)$

1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	3	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

More examples

 $N = 3$ $(2, 2, 1, 1)$

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 $(3, 3, 3, 3)$

1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	3	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

More examples

$N = 7$

$(4, 3, 3, 1, 1)$

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

$(3, 2, 2, 2, 1)$

1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Restrictions on tight fusion frames

Young tableaux can be used to prove non-existence of tight fusion frames as well.
 Consider $N = 4$ and $(3, 1, 1, 1)$.

1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	1	1
3	3	3	3		
1	1	1	1		

Last column cannot be completed with remaining partitions.

Consider $N = 5$ and $(3, 3, 2, 1)$.

1	1	1	1	1				
2	2	2	2	2				
3	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1
					2	2	2	2
					3	3	3	3

First two partitions are too large.

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Theorem: Bownik-Luoto-R

Let $\mathbf{L} = (L_1 \geq \dots \geq L_K)$ where $L_1 \leq N$ and let $M := \sum_{i=1}^K L_i$.

If $\mathbf{L} \in \text{TFF}(N)$ and $M < 2N$, then

- 1 $L_1 \leq M - N$
- 2 $L_1 + L_2 \leq N$
- 3 If $2M > 3N$, then $L_1 + L_2 + L_3 \leq 2(M - N)$
- 4 If $2M = 3N$, then $L_1 + L_2 + L_3 \leq 3N/2$
- 5 If $2M < 3N$, then $L_1 + L_2 + L_3 \leq N$

Conversely, if $L_4 = \dots = L_K = 1$ and L_1, L_2, L_3 satisfy the conditions above, then $\mathbf{L} \in \text{TFF}(N)$.

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Dominance partial order on TFFs

Using Okada's theorem (1998) on multiplying rectangular Schur functions, one can show that any integers $a > b$, we have the following Schur positive inequality:

$$c_{(N^a), (N^b)}^\lambda \leq c_{(N^{a-1}), (N^{b+1})}^\lambda.$$

Suppose that $\mathbf{L} = (L_1 \geq L_2 \geq \cdots \geq L_K)$ and $\mathbf{L}' = (L'_1 \geq L'_2 \geq \cdots \geq L'_K)$. We say that $\mathbf{L}' \succeq \mathbf{L}$ if

$$\sum_{i=1}^K L_i = \sum_{i=1}^K L'_i \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{i=1}^k L_i \leq \sum_{i=1}^k L'_i,$$

for all $k \leq K$.

Corollary: Bownik-Luoto-R

If $\mathbf{L}' \succeq \mathbf{L}$, then $\mathbf{L}' \in \text{TFF}(N) \Rightarrow \mathbf{L} \in \text{TFF}(N)$.

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If $\mathbf{L}' \succeq \mathbf{L}$, then $\mathbf{L}' \in \text{TFF}(N) \Rightarrow \mathbf{L} \in \text{TFF}(N)$.

Dominance partial order on TFFs

Consider $(4, 3, 3, 1, 1) \in \text{TFF}(7)$.

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

By the dominance order we have that

$(4, 3, 2, 2, 1)$, $(4, 3, 2, 1, 1, 1)$, $(4, 3, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$, $(4, 2, 2, 2, 2)$, $(4, 2, 2, 2, 1, 1)$,
 $(4, 2, 2, 1, 1, 1, 1)$, $(4, 2, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$, $(4, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$, $(3, 3, 3, 2, 1)$, $(3, 3, 3, 1, 1, 1)$,
 $(3, 3, 2, 2, 2)$, $(3, 3, 2, 2, 1, 1)$, $(3, 3, 2, 1, 1, 1, 1)$, $(3, 3, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$, $(3, 2, 2, 2, 2, 1)$,
 $(3, 2, 2, 2, 1, 1, 1)$, $(3, 2, 2, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$, $(3, 2, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$, $(3, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$,
 $(2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 1)$, $(2, 2, 2, 2, 1, 1, 1)$, $(2, 2, 2, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$, $(2, 2, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$,
 $(2, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$, $(1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$

are also elements of $\text{TFF}(7)$.

Dominance partial order on TFFs

Consider $(4, 3, 3, 1, 1) \in \text{TFF}(7)$.

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

By the dominance order we have that

$(4, 3, 2, 2, 1)$, $(4, 3, 2, 1, 1, 1)$, $(4, 3, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$, $(4, 2, 2, 2, 2)$, $(4, 2, 2, 2, 1, 1)$,
 $(4, 2, 2, 1, 1, 1, 1)$, $(4, 2, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$, $(4, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$, $(3, 3, 3, 2, 1)$, $(3, 3, 3, 1, 1, 1)$,
 $(3, 3, 2, 2, 2)$, $(3, 3, 2, 2, 1, 1)$, $(3, 3, 2, 1, 1, 1, 1)$, $(3, 3, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$, $(3, 2, 2, 2, 2, 1)$,
 $(3, 2, 2, 2, 1, 1, 1)$, $(3, 2, 2, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$, $(3, 2, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$, $(3, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$,
 $(2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 1)$, $(2, 2, 2, 2, 1, 1, 1)$, $(2, 2, 2, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$, $(2, 2, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$,
 $(2, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$, $(1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$

are also elements of $\text{TFF}(7)$.

Dominance partial order on TFFs

For classification, it suffices to find only the maximal elements under \succ .

$N = 7$	
α	maximal elements
1	(7)
8/7	(1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)
9/7	(2, 2, 2, 1, 1, 1)
10/7	(3, 3, 1, 1, 1, 1), (3, 2, 2, 2, 1)
11/7	(4, 3, 1, 1, 1, 1), (4, 2, 2, 2, 1)
12/7	(5, 2, 2, 1, 1, 1), (4, 3, 3, 1, 1), (3, 3, 3, 3)
13/7	(6, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1), (5, 2, 2, 2, 2), (4, 3, 3, 3)
2	(7, 7)
15/7	(7, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1), (6, 2, 2, 2, 2, 1), (5, 3, 3, 2, 2), (4, 4, 4, 3)
16/7	(7, 2, 2, 2, 1, 1, 1), (6, 3, 3, 3, 1), (5, 4, 4, 2, 1), (4, 4, 4, 4)

Dominance partial order on TFFs

For classification, it suffices to find only the maximal elements under \succ .

$N = 7$	
α	maximal elements
1	(7)
8/7	(1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)
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16/7	(7, 2, 2, 2, 1, 1, 1), (6, 3, 3, 3, 1), (5, 4, 4, 2, 1), (4, 4, 4, 4)

Identities between LR coefficients

In analysis, there are natural dualities between fusion frames. Let $\mathbf{L} = (L_1, \dots, L_K)$ and let $M := \sum_{i=1}^K L_i$.

$$\mathbf{L} \in \text{TFF}(N) \Leftrightarrow (N - L_1, \dots, N - L_K) \in \text{TFF}(N)$$

Ex.

$$(4, 2, 2, 1, 1) \in \text{TFF}(6) \Leftrightarrow (5, 5, 3, 3, 2) \in \text{TFF}(6).$$

$$\mathbf{L} \in \text{TFF}(N) \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{L} \in \text{TFF}(M - N)$$

Ex.

$$(4, 2, 2, 1, 1) \in \text{TFF}(6) \Leftrightarrow (4, 2, 2, 1, 1) \in \text{TFF}(4).$$

Identities between LR coefficients

In analysis, there are natural dualities between fusion frames. Let $\mathbf{L} = (L_1, \dots, L_K)$ and let $M := \sum_{i=1}^K L_i$.

Spatial duality

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Ex.

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Naimark duality

$$\mathbf{L} \in \text{TFF}(N) \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{L} \in \text{TFF}(M - N)$$

Ex.

$$(4, 2, 2, 1, 1) \in \text{TFF}(6) \Leftrightarrow (4, 2, 2, 1, 1) \in \text{TFF}(4).$$

Identities between LR coefficients

Corollary: Combinatorial spatial and Naimark dualities

Let $\mathbf{L} = (L_1 \geq \dots \geq L_K)$ where $L_1 \leq N$ and let $M := \sum_{i=1}^K L_i$.

Then the LR coefficients satisfy:

$$c_{(N^{L_1}), \dots, (N^{L_K})}^{(M^N)} \neq 0 \Leftrightarrow c_{(N^{N-L_1}), \dots, (N^{N-L_K})}^{((KN-M)^N)} \neq 0$$

and

$$c_{(N^{L_1}), \dots, (N^{L_K})}^{(M^N)} \neq 0 \Leftrightarrow c_{((M-N)^{L_1}), \dots, ((M-N)^{L_K})}^{(M^{(M-N)})} \neq 0.$$

These numbers are equal.

Proof: Construct a bijection between “unions” of LR-tableaux.

Identities between LR coefficients

Theorem (BLR): Combinatorial spatial and Naimark dualities

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Bijection for Naimark duality

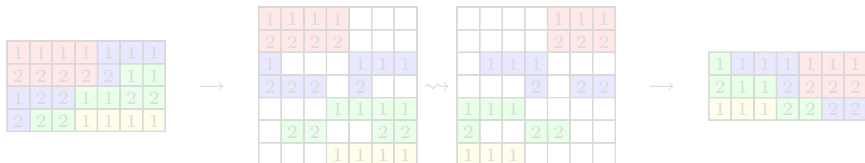
Consider $N = 4, M = 7$ and $\mathbf{L} = (2, 2, 2, 1)$.

1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2

1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2

1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2

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



Flipping the tableaux gives

1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	1	1	2
2	2	2	2	1	1	1

This is a tableau for $N = 3$ and $\mathbf{L} = (2, 2, 2, 1)$.

1	1	1
2	2	2

1	1	1
2	2	2

1	1	1
2	2	2

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

Bijection for Naimark duality

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1	1	1	1
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1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2

1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2

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

1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	1	1
1	2	2	1	1	2	2
2	2	2	1	1	1	1

→

1	1	1	1			
2	2	2	2			
1				1	1	1
2	2	2		2		
			1	1	1	1
	2	2			2	2
			1	1	1	1

↔

				1	1	1
				2	2	2
	1	1	1			
	2			2		2
1	1	1				
2				2	2	
1	1	1				

→

1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	1	1	2	2	2	2
1	1	1	2	2	2	2

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2	2	2	2	1	1	2
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1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2

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

1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	1	1
1	2	2	1	1	2	2
2	2	2	1	1	1	1

→

1	1	1	1			
2	2	2	2			
1				1	1	1
2	2	2		2		
			1	1	1	1
	2	2			2	2
			1	1	1	1

↔

			1	1	1	
			2	2	2	
	1	1	1			
			2		2	
1	1	1				
2			2	2		
1	1	1				

→

1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	1	1	2	2	2	2
1	1	1	2	2	2	2

Flipping the tableaux gives

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This is a tableaux for $N = 3$ and $\mathbf{L} = (2, 2, 2, 1)$.

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1	1	1
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2	2	2	2

1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2

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

1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	1	1
1	2	2	1	1	2	2
2	2	2	1	1	1	1

→

1	1	1	1			
2	2	2	2			
1				1	1	1
2	2	2		2		
			1	1	1	1
	2	2			2	2
			1	1	1	1

≈

				1	1	1
				2	2	2
	1	1	1			
	2			2		2
1	1	1				
2				2	2	
1	1	1				

→

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

1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	1	1
1	2	2	1	1	2	2
2	2	2	1	1	1	1

→

1	1	1	1			
2	2	2	2			
1				1	1	1
2	2	2		2		
			1	1	1	1
	2	2			2	2
			1	1	1	1

≈

				1	1	1
				2	2	2
	1	1	1			
	2			2		2
1	1	1				
2				2	2	
1	1	1				

→

1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	1	1	2	2	2	2
1	1	1	2	2	2	2

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1	1	1
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1	1	1
2	2	2

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---	---	---

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

1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	1	1
1	2	2	1	1	2	2
2	2	2	1	1	1	1

→

1	1	1	1			
2	2	2	2			
1				1	1	1
2	2	2		2		
			1	1	1	1
	2	2			2	2
			1	1	1	1

↔

				1	1	1
				2	2	2
	1	1	1			
	2			2		2
1	1	1				
2				2	2	
1	1	1				

→

1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	1	1	2	2	2	2
1	1	1	2	2	2	2

Flipping the tableaux gives

1	1	1	1	1	1	1
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1	1	1
2	2	2

1	1	1
2	2	2

1	1	1
2	2	2

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1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2

1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2

1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2

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

1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	1	1
1	2	2	1	1	2	2
2	2	2	1	1	1	1

→

1	1	1	1			
2	2	2	2			
1				1	1	1
2	2	2		2		
			1	1	1	1
	2	2			2	2
			1	1	1	1

≈

				1	1	1
				2	2	2
	1	1	1			
	2			2		2
1	1	1				
2				2	2	
1	1	1				

→

1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	1	1	2	2	2	2
1	1	1	2	2	2	2

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2	2	2	2	1	1	2
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1	1	1
2	2	2

1	1	1
2	2	2

1	1	1
2	2	2

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

Proof

Step1: Find a connection with representation theory.

Theorem (Mumford-Fogarty-Kirwan '94, Knutson '99, Kylachko '98):

Let $\lambda^1, \dots, \lambda^K$ be weakly decreasing sequences of integers. Then the following are equivalent:

- There exist $N \times N$ hermitian matrices B_1, \dots, B_K with spectra $\lambda^1, \dots, \lambda^K$ such that

$$\sum_{i=1}^K B_i = 0.$$

- There exists an integer $p > 0$ such that the G -invariant subspace

$$(V(p\lambda^1) \otimes \dots \otimes V(p\lambda^K))^G \neq 0.$$

The proof of this theorem requires techniques in symplectic geometry and geometric invariant theory.

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Proof

Step 2: Apply to TFFs. Suppose $\mathbf{L} = (L_1, \dots, L_K) \in \text{TFF}(N)$.

Then there exists orthogonal projections matrices P_1, \dots, P_K such that

$$P_1 + \dots + P_K - \alpha I_N = 0.$$

Note that $\alpha = M/N$ is rational and thus the matrices in the sum

$$NP_1 + \dots + NP_K - MI_N = 0.$$

have integral eigenvalues.

The previous theorem implies that there exists an integer $p > 0$ such that

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Hence $\mathbf{L} = (L_1, \dots, L_K) \in \text{TFF}(N) \Leftrightarrow c_{p(N^{L_1}), \dots, p(N^{L_K})}^{p(M^N)} > 0.$

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Step 3: Apply saturation.

Saturation theorem (Knutson-Tao 1999):

For any integer $p > 0$, the Littlewood-Richardson coefficients satisfy

$$c_{\lambda^1, \dots, \lambda^K}^{\mu} > 0 \Leftrightarrow c_{p\lambda^1, \dots, p\lambda^K}^{p\mu} > 0.$$

The proof of saturation uses the honeycomb model.

Hence $\mathbf{L} = (L_1, \dots, L_K) \in \text{TFF}(N)$ if and only if $c_{(N^{L_1}), \dots, (N^{L_K})}^{(M^N)} > 0$.

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