

A generating function for left keys and its  
associated representation theory  
*“Ti esrever dna ti pilf, nwod gniht ym tup”*

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## Objects of study

$$\text{Sym} \subset \text{QSym} \subset \mathbb{Q}[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n]$$

- ▶ Sym: polynomials s.t. the coefficient of  $x_1^{\alpha_1} x_2^{\alpha_2} \cdots x_k^{\alpha_k}$  equals the coefficient of  $x_{\sigma(1)}^{\alpha_1} x_{\sigma(2)}^{\alpha_2} \cdots x_{\sigma(k)}^{\alpha_k}$  for  $\sigma \in S_n$

$$f_1(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = x_1^3 x_2^5 + x_1^5 x_2^3 + x_1^3 x_3^5 + x_1^5 x_3^3 + \dots$$

- ▶ QSym: polynomials s.t. the coefficient of  $x_1^{\alpha_1} x_2^{\alpha_2} \cdots x_k^{\alpha_k}$  equals the coefficient of  $x_{i_1}^{\alpha_1} x_{i_2}^{\alpha_2} \cdots x_{i_k}^{\alpha_k}$  for  $i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_k$ .

$$f_2(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = x_1^3 x_2^5 x_3^0 + x_1^3 x_2^0 x_3^5 + \dots + x_1^0 x_2^3 x_3^5 + \dots$$

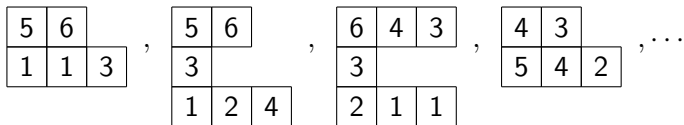
- ▶  $\mathbb{Q}[x_1, x_2, \dots]$ : polynomials in  $n$  variables

$$f_3(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = x_1 x_4^2 + 2x_3^7 x_8^2 + \dots$$

## Bases

- ▶ **Bases for Sym:** (indexed by partitions)  
monomial, power sum, elementary, homogeneous, Schur, ...
- ▶ **Bases for QSym:** (indexed by compositions)  
monomial, fundamental (Gessel), quasisymmetric Schur (HLMvW), dual immaculate (BBSSZ), ...
- ▶ **Bases for  $\mathbb{Q}[x_1, x_2, \dots]$ :** (indexed by weak compositions)  
monomials, key polynomials (Lascoux-Schützenberger), Demazure atoms (M), slide polynomials (Assaf-Searles), ...

★ Many of these have combinatorial descriptions in terms of tableaux-like diagrams.



# What happens when you flip the variables?

Symmetric functions (such as Schur functions) stay the same.

$$s_{\lambda}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = s_{\lambda}(x_n, x_{n-1}, \dots, x_2, x_1)$$

Decreasing

4			
7	5	5	
8	7	6	3

Increasing

5			
2	4	4	
1	2	3	6

“Plays” well together

Nonsymmetric Macdonald

Quasisymmetric Schur

Demazure atoms

key polynomials

“Plays” well together

Young quasisymmetric Schur

dual immaculate

$\leftrightarrow$

## Macdonald polynomials $P_\lambda(X; q, t)$ (I.G. Macdonald, 1988)

1. (Triangular).  $P_\lambda = m_\lambda +$  lower terms in dominance order.
2. (Orthonormal).  $\langle P_\lambda, P_\mu \rangle_{q,t} = 0$  if  $\lambda \neq \mu$ , where

$$\langle p_\lambda, p_\mu \rangle_{q,t} = \delta_{\lambda\mu} z_\lambda \prod_{i=1}^{\ell(\lambda)} \frac{1 - q^{\lambda_i}}{1 - t^{\lambda_i}}.$$

- ▶ Schur positivity conjecture
- ▶ Connection to symmetric function bases (specializations)
- ▶ All Lie types - alcove walks (Ram-Yip)
- ▶ Geometry of Hilbert Schemes (Mark Haiman)

## Theorem (Haglund, Haiman, Loehr (2008))

$$\tilde{H}_\mu(X; q, t) = \sum_{\sigma: \mu \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^+} x^\sigma q^{\text{inv}(\sigma, \mu)} t^{\text{maj}(\sigma, \mu)}.$$

5	8		
2	6	1	
3	3	8	1



$$\text{weight} = x_1^2 x_2 x_3^2 x_5 x_6 x_8^2 q^5 t^4$$

## Nonsymmetric Macdonald polynomials (Cherednik, Macdonald, Opdam-Heckman)

- ▶ triangularity and orthogonality
- ▶ Eigenfunctions
- ▶ Symmetrize to Macdonald polynomials

# Specializations of nonsymmetric Macdonald polynomials

$$P_\lambda(X; q, t) = \prod_u (1 - q^{l(u)+1} t^{a(u)}) \sum_{inc(a)=\lambda} \frac{E_\mu(X; q^{-1}, t^{-1})}{\prod_u (1 - q^{l(u)+1} t^{a(u)})}$$

specializes to:

$$s_\lambda(X) = \sum_{inc(a)=\lambda} E_a(X; \infty, \infty),$$

where the  $E_a(X; \infty, \infty) = \mathcal{A}_a(X)$  are the “Demazure atoms”.

## Definition

The quasisymmetric Schur function  $QS_\alpha$  is the sum of Demazure atoms over all weak compositions collapsing to  $\alpha$ :

$$QS_\alpha = \sum_{a^+=\alpha} \mathcal{A}_a.$$

$$QS_{12} = \mathcal{A}_{120} + \mathcal{A}_{102} + \mathcal{A}_{012}$$

## Combinatorial description

A semi-standard reverse composition tableau (SSRCT) of shape  $\alpha$  is a filling of  $\alpha$  (French notation) such that:

1. Row entries weakly decrease from left to right.
2. Entries in the leftmost column strictly increase bottom to top.
3. (Triple Rule) For a triple of entries as shown below,

$$a \leq b \Rightarrow c < b:$$

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline a & c \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{|c|} \hline b \\ \hline \end{array}$$

### Definition

The quasisymmetric Schur function  $QS_\alpha$  is defined by

$$QS_\alpha(X) = \sum_{T \in SSRCT(\alpha)} X^T$$



## Quasisymmetric Schur functions refine Schur functions

$$s_\lambda = \sum_{inc(\alpha)=\lambda} QS_\alpha$$

$$s_{322} = QS_{322} + QS_{232} + QS_{232}$$

1	1	
4	2	
5	4	3

*RSSYT*(3, 2, 2)

1	1	
4	4	3
5	2	

*SSRCT*(2, 3, 2)

(★) If a symmetric function is quasisymmetric Schur-positive, then it is Schur positive!

# Young quasisymmetric Schur functions (flip and reverse)

A semi-standard composition tableau (SSCT) of shape  $\alpha$  is a filling of  $\alpha$  (French notation) such that:

1. Row entries weakly increase from left to right.
2. Entries in the leftmost column strictly increase bottom to top.
3. (Triple Rule)

**Definition (Luoto, Mykytiuk, van Willigenburg)**

The Young quasisymmetric Schur function  $\mathcal{YS}_\alpha$  is defined by

$$\mathcal{YS}_\alpha(X) = \sum_{T \in SSCT(\alpha)} X^T.$$

$$\mathcal{YS}_\alpha(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = QS_{rev(\alpha)}(x_n, x_{n-1}, \dots, x_2, x_1)$$

## Creation operators $\leftrightarrow$ NSym $\leftrightarrow$ dual immaculates

A semi-standard immaculate tableau (SSIT) of shape  $\alpha$  is a filling of  $\alpha$  (French notation) such that:

1. Row entries weakly increase from left to right.
2. Entries in the leftmost column strictly increase bottom to top.

**Definition** (Berg, Bergeron, Saliola, Serrano, Zabrocki)

The dual immaculate quasisymmetric function is defined by:

$$\mathcal{D}_\alpha = \sum_{F \in SSIT(\alpha)} x^F.$$

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

$$\mathcal{D}_{212}(x_1, x_2, x_3) = x_1^2 x_2 x_3^2 + x_1 x_2^2 x_3^2 + x_1 x_2 x_3^3$$

## Theorem (Allen-Hallam-M)

*The dual immaculate quasisymmetric functions expand positively into the **Young** quasisymmetric Schur basis.*

### A polynomial analogue of dual immaculates...

- ▶ Looking for a polynomial analogue of the dual immaculate quasisymmetric functions
- ▶ Nothing we tried “played nicely” with the other polynomial bases
- ▶ Had to look to the flipped and reversed picture!  
(Quasisymmetric Schurs play well with key polynomials, Demazure atoms, etc...Young quasisymmetric Schurs do not.)

## Definition (M-Searles)

The reverse dual immaculate quasisymmetric function is defined by:

$$\hat{\mathcal{D}}_\alpha = \sum_{F \in \text{RSSIT}(\alpha)} x^F,$$

where  $\text{RSSIT}(\alpha)$  is the fillings of  $\alpha$  whose entries:

1. weakly **decrease** from left to right
2. leftmost column entries strictly increase from bottom to top.

$$\hat{\mathcal{D}}_\alpha(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = \mathcal{D}_{\text{rev}(\alpha)}(x_n, \dots, x_2, x_1)$$

## Proposition (M-Searles)

*The reverse dual immaculate quasisymmetric functions expand positively into the quasisymmetric Schur basis.*

## Key polynomials (Demazure characters)

Let  $a$  be a weak (allowing zeros) composition. Then the key polynomial  $\kappa_a$  is given by:

$$\kappa_a = \sum_{b \leq a} \mathcal{A}_b,$$

under the Bruhat order.

### Definition

A key is a semi-standard Young tableau whose entries in the  $(j+1)^{th}$  column are a subset of the entries in the  $j^{th}$  column.

$$\text{key}(1, 0, 3, 2) = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline 4 & & \\ \hline 3 & 4 & \\ \hline 1 & 3 & 3 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$K_+ \left( \begin{array}{cccc} 5 & 7 & & \\ 3 & 6 & 8 & \\ 2 & 4 & 5 & \\ 1 & 1 & 3 & 4 \end{array} \right) = \begin{array}{cccc} 8 & 8 & & \\ 6 & 6 & 8 & \\ 5 & 5 & 5 & \\ 4 & 4 & 4 & 4 \end{array} \quad K_- \left( \begin{array}{cccc} 5 & 7 & & \\ 3 & 6 & 8 & \\ 2 & 4 & 5 & \\ 1 & 1 & 3 & 4 \end{array} \right) = \begin{array}{cccc} 5 & 5 & & \\ 3 & 3 & 5 & \\ 2 & 2 & 3 & \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{array}$$

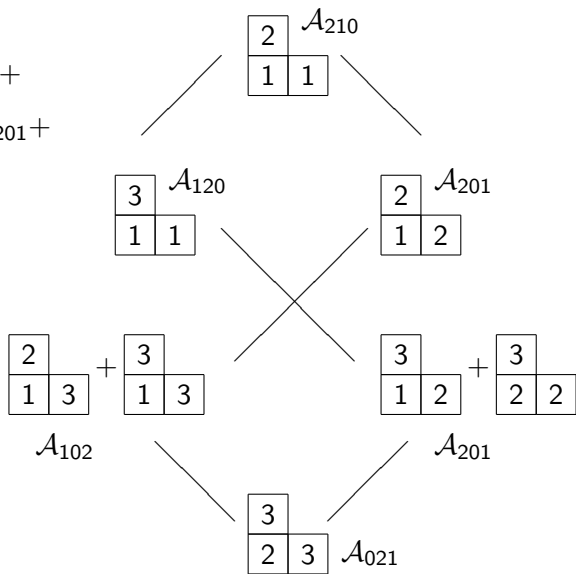
Theorem (Lascoux-Schützenberger)

$$k_a = \sum_{\substack{T \in \text{SSYT}(a) \\ K_+(T) \leq \text{key}(a)}} x^T$$

$$\kappa_{102} = \mathcal{A}_{210} +$$

$$\mathcal{A}_{120} + \mathcal{A}_{201} +$$

$$\mathcal{A}_{102}$$





## Young key polynomials

Let  $a$  be a weak (allowing zeros) composition. Then the Young key polynomial  $\hat{\kappa}_a$  is given by:

$$\hat{\kappa}_a(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = \kappa_{\text{rev}(a)}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n).$$

Theorem (M-Searles)

$$\hat{\kappa}_a = \sum_{\substack{T \in \text{SSYT}(a) \\ K_-(T) \geq \text{key}(a)}} x^T$$

★ The roles of left  $K_-(T)$  and right  $K_+(T)$  keys are switched when the variables are reversed.

## Young key module

- ▶  $\hat{B} = \{\text{lower triangular matrices}\}$

- ▶  $x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & x_2 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & & & & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & x_{n-1} & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & x_n \end{bmatrix}$

- ▶  $x$  acts on  $\hat{B}$  by left multiplication
- ▶ Young key module  $\hat{\mathcal{K}}_a$ :  $\hat{\kappa}_a = \text{trace of the action of } x \text{ on } \hat{\mathcal{K}}_a$ .
- ▶ Parallels the generalized flagged Schur module and key module construction in “Key polynomials and a flagged Littlewood-Richardson Rule” by Reiner and Shimozono.

## Young key module

- ▶ diagram  $D$  - finite subset of  $\mathbb{P} \times \mathbb{P}$
- ▶ row group  $R(D)$  - permutations fixing row entries
- ▶ column group  $C(D)$  - permutations fixing column entries

$$e_T = \sum_{\substack{\alpha \in R(D) \\ \beta \in C(D)}} \text{sgn}(\beta) T_{\alpha\beta},$$

where  $T_{\alpha\beta}$  means apply  $\alpha$  to  $T$  and then apply  $\beta$  to the result.

$$T = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 2 & 2 \\ \hline \end{array}, \quad e_T = \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 2 \\ \hline \end{array} + \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 2 \\ \hline \end{array} - \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 2 \\ \hline \end{array} + \dots$$

4	2
3	

4	2
3	

2	4
3	

3	2
4	

The Young key module  $\hat{\mathcal{K}}_a$  is the  $\hat{B}$ -module with basis

$$\{e_{\mathcal{T}(u)}\}_{u \in \hat{\mathcal{W}}(a)},$$

where  $\hat{\mathcal{W}}(a)$  is the set of all words  $u = \dots u^{(2)}u^{(1)}$  such that:

- ▶  $|u^{(i)}| = a_i$
- ▶  $u \leftrightarrow (P, \text{std}(\text{key}(a)))$  under RSK
- ▶ Each entry in  $u^{(i)}$  is greater than or equal to  $i$

### Theorem (M-Searles)

*The Young key polynomial  $\hat{\kappa}_a$  is the trace of  $x$  acting on the Young key module  $\hat{\mathcal{K}}_a$ .*

## Further directions

- ▶ Fill out the picture of flipping and reversing for other families of polynomials
- ▶ Connection to nonsymmetric Macdonald polynomials, Schubert polynomials
- ▶ Understand the creation operator picture in the dual of the reverse dual immaculates

*“Is it worth it? Let me work it.  
Put my thing down, flip it and reverse it.  
Ti esrever dna ti pilf, nwod gniht ym tup.”*

- Missy Elliot