

Clustering properties of rectangular Macdonald polynomials

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Abstract. The clustering properties of Jack polynomials are relevant in the theoretical study of the fractional Hall states. In this context, some factorization properties have been conjectured for the (q, t) -deformed problem involving Macdonald polynomials (which are also the quantum eigenfunctions of a family of commuting difference operators with significance in the relativistic Ruijsenaars-Schneider model). The present paper is devoted to the proof of this formula. To this aim we use four families of Jack/Macdonald polynomials: symmetric homogeneous, nonsymmetric homogeneous, shifted symmetric and shifted nonsymmetric.

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1. Introduction

The symmetric (homogeneous) Jack polynomials are relevant in the study of the quantum many-body wave functions. In particular, fractional quantum Hall states of particles in the lowest Landau levels are described by such polynomials [3, 4, 5, 6]. Pioneered by Laughlin [24], the theoretical study of the fractional quantum Hall states use multi-variable polynomials [14] describing the full many-body state of the interacting electrons on a plane or on a sphere (In the case of the sphere, the polynomials appear after stereographic projection). The special polynomials that are relevant in this context are not general solutions of the true eigenvalue problem involving the Coulomb interaction but they are constructed to be adiabatically related to the true eigenstates. The most famous example is the Laughlin wave function which is the cube of the Vandermonde determinant $\prod_{i<j}(x_i - x_j)^3$ in the variables representing the particles. It is known to be a good approximation of the true state of electrons for the lowest Landau level with filling factor $\frac{1}{3}$. Another interesting and celebrated example is the Moore-Read Pfaffian [26, 28]

$$\Psi_{MR} := \text{Pf}\left(\frac{1}{x_k - x_\ell}\right) \prod_{i<j}(x_i - x_j)$$

which is one of the candidates to approximate the system for the filling factor $\frac{5}{2}$ and is the polynomial of smallest degree belonging to the kernel of the operator which forbids three particles to be in the same place

$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{i<j<k} \delta^2(x_i - x_j)\delta^2(x_j - x_k).$$

This operator can be naturally generalized to operators which forbid k particles in the same place, the lowest degree polynomials in its kernel provide other examples of wave functions called *Read-Rezayi* [29, 30] *states*:

$$\Psi_{RR}^k = \text{Sym} \prod_{\ell=1}^k \prod_{1 \leq i_\ell < j_\ell \leq N} (x_{i_\ell} - x_{j_\ell})^2.$$

This family of wave functions is composed with multivariate symmetric polynomials with some additional vanishing conditions, namely wheel conditions. These polynomials, whose study was pioneered by Feigin, Jimbo, Miwa and Mukhin, are proved to belong to a family of Jack polynomials with negative rational parameter [12, 13]. Following the notations of Bernevig and Haldane [3, 4, 5, 6, 7], these polynomials depend upon a parameter α and a configuration of occupation numbers $[n_0, n_1, \dots]$. To recover the standard notation of symmetric functions [25],

the set of occupations defines a decreasing partition $\lambda = [\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \cdots \geq \lambda_N]$ of the number N of particles. The partition λ corresponding to the vector $[n_0, n_1, \dots]$ is such that n_i is the multiplicity of the number i in λ . The relevant wave functions belong to the kernel of the differential operators

$$L_+ := \sum_i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \quad \text{and} \quad L_- := N_\phi \sum_i x_i - \sum_i x_i^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}$$

where N_ϕ denotes the number of flux quanta. In the case of the sphere, through the stereographic projection, the natural action of the $SU(2)$ rotations on the quantum states is translated in an action of L_+ , L_- and $L_z = \frac{1}{2} N N_\phi - \sum_i x_i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}$. One of the authors (J.-G.L.) with Th. Jolicœur [15] described a family of Jack polynomials belonging in the kernel of L_+ . More precisely, they investigate a (q, t) -deformation of the problem involving Macdonald polynomials [25].

Bernevig and Haldane [4] identified (k, r) -clustering properties of some wave functions which relate the functions with Nk variables with those with $N(k - 1)$ by a factorization formula of the kind

$$\Psi^{(k,r)}(x_1, \dots, x_{(N-1)k}, \underbrace{y, \dots, y}_{\times k}) = \prod_{\ell=1}^{N-k} (x_\ell - y)^r \Psi^{(k,r)}(x_1, \dots, x_{(N-1)k}).$$

In particular, this is the case for the Read–Rezayi states:

$$\Psi_{RR}^k(x_1, \dots, x_{(N-1)k}, \underbrace{y, \dots, y}_{\times k}) = \prod_{\ell=1}^{N-k} (x_\ell - y)^2 \Psi^{(k,r)}(x_1, \dots, x_{(N-1)k}).$$

Furthermore, Bernevig and Haldane [3] showed the connection between the Read–Rezayi states and staircase Jack polynomials $P_\lambda^{(\alpha)}$:

$$\Psi_{RR}^k(x) = P_{[(2(N-1))^k, \dots, 2^k, 0^k]}^{(-k-1)}(x).$$

The link between Jack polynomials and quantum Hall states was proven by B. Estienne *et al.* [10, 11]. Recently, Baratta and Forrester [2] proved that staircase Jack polynomials for some negative rational parameter satisfy the clustering conditions. More specifically, they stated the result in terms of Macdonald polynomials and recovered the property as a limit case. In the same paper, they conjectured very interesting identities for rectangular partitions (the initial case of staircase with only one step):

$$P_{r,g}(y, yq^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}, \dots, yq^{\frac{(N-k-1)}{\alpha}}, x_{N-g}, \dots, x_N) = \prod_{\ell=N-g+1}^N \prod_{j=0}^{r-1} (x_\ell - q^{\frac{j}{\alpha}} y),$$

where α is a certain negative rational number. The aim of our paper is to prove this conjecture by using some other families of Macdonald polynomials. Indeed, we will use four families of Jack/Macdonald polynomials: symmetric homogeneous, nonsymmetric homogeneous, shifted symmetric, shifted nonsymmetric. The Macdonald polynomials are a two-parameter deformation of the Jack polynomials which can be used to finely understand relations involving Jack polynomials. This is due to the fact that they appear in the representation theory of the double affine Hecke algebra (the Jack polynomials are a degenerated version and involve the algebra of the symmetric group). Furthermore they admit a physical interpretation as the eigenfunctions of the Macdonald–Ruijsenaars operator

$$H = \sum_{i=1}^N \prod_{\substack{j=1 \\ i \neq j}}^N \frac{e^{x_i} - e^{x_j + \eta}}{e^{x_i} - e^{x_j}} e^{\hbar \partial_{x_i}},$$

which is a relativistic version of the quantum Calogero–Moser system (see [31, 32]). The parameters q and t are related to the parameters \hbar and η by $q = e^{\hbar/2}$ and $t = e^{\eta/2}$.

One approach to developing a theory of orthogonal polynomials of several variables of classical type led to symmetric and nonsymmetric Jack polynomials. The associated mechanism involves the symmetric group and Young tableaux. Just as the theory of hypergeometric series is extended to basic hypergeometric series, the theory of Jack polynomials is extended by the Macdonald polynomials. Here the symmetric group is replaced by its Hecke algebra. The orthogonality of the polynomials comes from their realization as eigenfunctions of a certain set of commuting operators. Generally these polynomials have coefficients which are rational functions of the parameters (q, t) , assumed not to be roots of unity. Later a further generalization was developed, namely the theory of shifted Macdonald polynomials, which are nonhomogeneous polynomials defined by the property of vanishing on certain points, corresponding to so-called spectral vectors. This vanishing property leads to expressions of the polynomials as products of linear factors in various special cases.

It turns out that for special values of the form $q^a t^b = 1$ for positive integers a, b , a shifted Macdonald polynomial collapses to its highest degree term, in which case, it agrees with an ordinary homogeneous Macdonald polynomial. The label of the polynomial has to satisfy certain restrictions for this to be possible. These parameter values result in the polynomials being of “singular” type. In this paper we concentrate on the rectangular polynomials, meaning those whose leading term is of the form $(x_1 x_2 \dots x_k)^m$. Our results provide factorizations which are interpreted as clustering properties.

The paper itself starts with an overview of the four different types of Macdonald polynomials (shifted, ordinary, symmetric, nonsymmetric) and the algebraic structure of the associated operations. The technical machinery comprises tableaux, adjacent transpositions, raising operators, and the Yang-Baxter graph. Then there is a presentation of the binomial formulae of Knop and Sahi which show how to expand nonhomogeneous Macdonald polynomials in terms of homogeneous ones. These series are then specialized to the rectangular versions and this leads to the proofs of our main results. These all concern the case of N variables with $k \leq N/2$ and the parameters satisfying $q^a t^{N-k+1} = 1$ (with $a = m - 1$ for the symmetric type and $a = m$ for the nonsymmetric type) but no such relation with smaller exponents. In closing there is a discussion of future research in the direction of polynomials of staircase type; this phrase refers to the pictorial representation of the label of the polynomial, for example $(4, 4, 2, 2, 0, 0)$.

2. Macdonald polynomials

Macdonald polynomials are special functions which are involved in the representation theory of the affine Hecke algebra. Readers wishing to deepen their knowledge of Macdonald polynomials may refer to [20, 21, 25, 35]. This paper is devoted to the case of the symmetric group (type A_{N-1}). Up to normalization Macdonald polynomials are defined to be the simultaneous eigenfunctions of some operators which are a (q, t) -deformation of the Cherednik operators. We study four variants of these polynomials: symmetric, nonsymmetric, shifted symmetric and shifted nonsymmetric. Symmetric Macdonald polynomials are indexed by decreasing partitions λ whilst the nonsymmetric ones are indexed by vectors $v \in \mathbb{N}^N$. In the aim to simplify the expression arising in the computation, we use the notion of legs and arms of a cell in the Ferrers diagram of a vector. These numbers are (classically) defined by

$$\ell_v(i, j) := v[i] - j$$

and

$$\mathcal{J}_v(i, j) := \#\{k < i : j \leq v[k] + 1 \leq v[i]\} + \#\{i < k : j \leq v[k] \leq v[i]\}.$$

Note that if $v = \lambda$ is a partition then \mathcal{J} is the classical leg-length:

$$\mathcal{J}_\lambda(i, j) = \lambda'_i - j$$

where λ' denotes the conjugate of λ .

The leg-length and arm-length are used to define the (q, t) -hook product of v with argument z :

$$h_{q,t}(v, z) = \prod_{(i,j) \in v} (1 - zq^{\text{hook}_{v(i,j)}^t}).$$

We need also the arm-colength and the leg-colength

$$\text{arm}_{v(j)} = j - 1$$

and

$$\text{leg}_{v(i)} := \#\{k < i : v[i] \leq v[k]\} + \#\{i < k : v[i] < v[k]\}.$$

Note that the rank function of v :

$$r_v = [1 + \text{leg}_{v(1)}, \dots, 1 + \text{leg}_{v(N)}]$$

is a permutation of \mathfrak{S}_N .

2.1. Affine Hecke algebra. We use the notation of Lascoux, Rains and Warnaar [22]. Let us recall it here. Let $N \geq 2$ be an integer and $\mathbb{X} = \{x_1, \dots, x_N\}$ be an alphabet of formal variables. We consider the operators T_i acting on Laurent polynomials in the variables x_j by

$$T_i = t + (s_i - 1) \frac{tx_{i+1} - x_i}{x_{i+1} - x_i}, \tag{1}$$

where s_i is the elementary transposition permuting the variables x_i and x_{i+1} . These operators act on the right and in particular we have

$$1T_i = t \text{ and } x_{i+1}T_i = x_i. \tag{2}$$

More precisely, T_i is the unique operator that commutes with symmetric functions in x_i and x_{i+1} satisfying (2). The operators T_i satisfy the relations of the Hecke algebra of the symmetric group:

$$\begin{aligned} T_i T_{i+1} T_i &= T_{i+1} T_i T_{i+1}, \\ T_i T_j &= T_j T_i \quad \text{for } |i - j| > 1, \\ (T_i - t)(T_i + 1) &= 0 \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

Together with multiplication by the variables x_i and the affine operator τ defined by $f(x)\tau = f(x_N/q, x_1, \dots, x_{N-1})$, they generate the affine Hecke algebra of the symmetric group. More precisely,

$$\mathcal{H}_N(q, t) = \mathbb{C}(q, t)[x_1^\pm, \dots, x_N^\pm, T_1^\pm, \dots, T_{N-1}^\pm, \tau]. \tag{4}$$

2.2. Nonsymmetric Macdonald polynomials. The nonsymmetric Macdonald polynomials $(E_v)_{v \in \mathbb{N}^N}$ are defined as the unique basis of simultaneous eigenfunctions of the (q, t) -version of the Cherednik operators defined by

$$\xi_i := t^{1-i} T_{i-1} \dots T_1 \tau T_{N-1}^{-1} \dots T_i^{-1}. \tag{5}$$

such that $E_v = x^v + \sum_{u < v} \alpha_{u,v} x^u$ with $x^v = x^{v[1]} \dots x^{v[N]}$ if $v = [v[1], \dots, v[N]]$ and \leq denotes the dominance order on vectors which is based on the dominance order \leq_D for partitions:

$$\lambda \leq_D \mu \iff \text{for all } i, \lambda_1 + \dots + \lambda_i \leq \mu_1 + \dots + \mu_i.$$

This order is naturally extended to vectors with the same definition. The dominance order \leq for vectors is

$$u \leq v \iff \text{either } u^+ \leq_D v^+ \text{ or } (u^+ = v^+ \text{ and } u \leq_D v)$$

where u^+ denotes the unique nonincreasing partition which is a permutation of u .

Note that Cherednik operators commute with each other and generate a maximal commutative subalgebra of $\mathcal{H}_N(q, t)$.

The corresponding spectral vectors are given by $\text{Spec}_v[i] = \frac{1}{\langle v | i \rangle}$ with

$$\langle v \rangle = [q^{v[1]} t^{N-r_v[1]}, \dots, q^{v[N]} t^{N-r_v[N]}].$$

We recall also the (q, t) -Dunkl operators

$$D_N = (1 - \xi_N) x_N^{-1}, \quad D_i = t T_i^{-1} D_{i+1} T_i^{-1}.$$

Set $c'_v(q, t) = h_{q,t}(v, q)$. We will use another normalization which is useful when symmetrizing:

$$E_v = \frac{t^{n(v)}}{c'_v(q, t)} E_v \tag{6}$$

where $n(v) = \sum_{(i,j) \in v} \mathbb{1}_v(i, j)$.

Knop [17] defined and studied the polynomials

$$\mathcal{E}_v = c''_v(q, t) E_v \tag{7}$$

with $c''_v(q, t) = h_{q,t}(v, qt)$. The expansion of \mathcal{E}_v on the monomial basis is known to have integral coefficients in $\mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}, t, t^{-1}]$, see [17].

2.3. Nonsymmetric shifted Macdonald polynomials. The definition of nonsymmetric shifted Macdonald polynomials M_v is quite similar to those of the Macdonald polynomials E_v . This is the unique basis of simultaneous eigenfunctions of the Knop-Cherednik operators defined by

$$\Xi_i := t^{1-i} T_{i-1} \dots T_1 \tau \left(1 - \frac{1}{x_N} \right) T_{N-1}^{-1} \dots T_i^{-1} + \frac{1}{x_i}. \tag{8}$$

such that

$$M_v = q^{-n'(v)} x^v + \sum_{u < v} \alpha_{u,v} x^u$$

with $x^v = x^{v[1]} \dots x^{v[N]}$ if $v = [v[1], \dots, v[N]]$,

$$n'(v) = \sum_{(i,j) \in v} \alpha_{\leftarrow v}(i, j).$$

and \preceq again denotes the dominance order on vectors.

Note that, initially, the dominance order is defined only for vectors with the same norm. We can straightforwardly extend it for any vectors by adding the condition $u < v$ when $|u| < |v|$. We remark that the Sahi binomial formula [33], more precisely one of its consequences [22] (Corollary 4.3), together with a theorem of Knop [18] (see also equation (26)) imply that if $|u| < |v|$ then x^u has a non-null coefficient in the expansion of M_v only if $u^+ \subset v^+$. It follows that the natural extension of the dominance order for any pairs of vectors, *i.e.*:

$$u \preceq v \iff \text{either } u^+ \preceq_D v^+ \text{ or } (u^+ = v^+ \text{ and } u \preceq_D v),$$

matches with the order appearing in the expansion of M_v . The reader can refer to Appendix A for a discussion about the notations.

Note operators ξ_i and Ξ_i can be constructed in a similar way, as shown in the following proposition.

Proposition 1. For $1 \leq i < N$,

$$\xi_i = t T_i^{-1} \xi_{i+1} T_i^{-1}$$

and

$$\Xi_i = t T_i^{-1} \Xi_{i+1} T_i^{-1}.$$

Proof. The first part is obvious. For the second part we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & p t T_i^{-1} \Xi_{i+1} T_i^{-1} \\
 &= t^{1-i} p T_{i-1} \dots T_1 \tau \left(1 - \frac{1}{x_N} \right) T_{N-1}^{-1} \dots T_i^{-1} + t \left(\frac{p T_i^{-1}}{x_{i+1}} \right) T_i^{-1},
 \end{aligned}$$

for any polynomial p , and

$$\left(\frac{p T_i^{-1}}{x_{i+1}} \right) T_i^{-1} = \frac{p}{t x_i}$$

thus $t T_i^{-1} \Xi_{i+1} T_i^{-1} = \Xi_i$. □

Also we have

Proposition 2. $\Xi_i = \xi_i + D_i$ for $1 \leq i \leq N$.

Proof. Start with $i = N$. For any polynomial p

$$\begin{aligned}
 p \Xi_N &= t^{1-N} p T_{N-1} \dots T_1 \tau \left(1 - \frac{1}{x_N} \right) + \frac{p}{x_N} \\
 &= p \xi_N + \left(p - p \xi_N \right) / x_N \\
 &= p \xi_N + p D_N.
 \end{aligned}$$

The claim follows by downward induction from the relations $D_i = t T_i^{-1} D_{i+1} T_i^{-1}$, $\xi_i = t T_i^{-1} \xi_{i+1} T_i^{-1}$, and $\Xi_i = t T_i^{-1} \Xi_{i+1} T_i^{-1}$. □

Polynomials M_v can be computed by induction from M_{0^N} , by the help of the Yang–Baxter graph [20]:

$$M_{v.s_i} = M_v \left(T_i + \frac{1-t}{1 - \frac{\langle v \rangle [i+1]}{\langle v \rangle [i]}} \right) \quad \text{if } v[i] < v[i+1] \tag{9}$$

and

$$M_{v\Phi} = M_v \tau(x_N - 1), \tag{10}$$

where $[v[1], \dots, v[N]]\Phi = [v[2], \dots, v[N], v[1] + 1]$ is the raising operator.

Note that these polynomials are nonhomogeneous and the spectral vector associated to M_v equals Spec_v . We will consider also the specialization $M_v = q^{n'(v)} t^{n(v)} M_v$. Alternatively, the Macdonald polynomial M_v can be defined (up a normalization) by interpolation:

$$M_v(\langle u \rangle) = 0 \quad \text{for } |v| \leq |u|, u \neq v \tag{11}$$

and the coefficient of x^v is $q^{-n'(v)}$.

The polynomial E_v can be recovered as a limit form from M_v :

$$E_v(x_1, \dots, x_N) = \lim_{a \rightarrow 0} a^{|v|} M_v(x_1/a, \dots, x_N/a). \tag{12}$$

2.4. Symmetric Macdonald polynomials. Symmetric Macdonald polynomials are defined as the eigenfunctions of the symmetric polynomials in the variables ξ_i . They can be obtained by applying the symmetrizing operator

$$\mathcal{S}_N = \sum_{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_N} T_\sigma \tag{13}$$

on the Macdonald polynomial E_{λ^-} where λ^- is an increasing vector and $T_\sigma = T_{i_1} \dots T_{i_k}$ if $\sigma = s_{i_1} \dots s_{i_k}$ is a shortest decomposition of σ in elementary transpositions. The coefficient of x^λ in the expansion of $E_{\lambda^-} \mathcal{S}_N$ is the Poincaré polynomial $\phi_t(\mathfrak{S}_\lambda)$ where \mathfrak{S}_λ denotes the stabilizer of λ in \mathfrak{S}_N .

We will consider several normalizations of the symmetric Macdonald polynomial. First P_λ is such that the coefficient of x^λ is 1. The normalization $\mathbb{P}_\lambda = \frac{t^{n(\lambda)}}{c'_\lambda(q,t)} P_\lambda$ is interesting since the normalization reads

$$\mathbb{P}_\lambda := \sum_{u^+ = \lambda} E_u \tag{14}$$

where u^+ denotes the unique nonincreasing vector which is a permutation of u . Finally, we will also use the specialization $J_\lambda = c_\lambda(q, t) P_\lambda$ with $c_v(q, t) = h_{q,t}(v, t)$ which has integral coefficients when expanded in terms of monomials [17].

For an infinite alphabet, symmetric Macdonald polynomials can be defined, up to multiplication by a scalar, as the only basis having dominance properties which is orthogonal with respect to the scalar product

$$\langle p_\lambda, p_\mu \rangle_{q,t} = z_\lambda \prod_{i=1}^{\ell(\lambda)} \frac{1 - q^{\lambda_i}}{1 - t^{\lambda_i}} \delta_{\lambda,\mu}, \tag{15}$$

where $p_\lambda = p_{\lambda_1} \dots p_{\lambda_n}$, $p_k = \sum_{x \in \mathbb{X}} x^k$ is a power sum symmetric function for $k \geq 1$, $\delta_{\lambda,\mu} = 1$ if $\lambda = \mu$ and 0 otherwise and $z_\lambda = \prod_{i=1}^\infty m_i! i^{m_i}$ where m_i denotes the multiplicity of i in λ .

The dual basis of P_λ is another normalization of Macdonald polynomials usually denoted by Q_λ ,

$$\langle P_\lambda, Q_\mu \rangle_{q,t} = \delta_{\lambda,\mu}.$$

The reproducing kernel

$$K_{q,t}(\mathbb{X}, \mathbb{Y}) = \sum_{\lambda} P_{\lambda}(\mathbb{X}) Q_{\lambda}(\mathbb{Y}) = \sum_{\lambda} z_{\lambda}^{-1} \prod_{i=1}^{\ell(\lambda)} \frac{1 - t^{\lambda_i}}{1 - q^{\lambda_i}} p_{\lambda}(\mathbb{X}) p_{\lambda}(\mathbb{Y}),$$

admits a nice expression when stated in terms of the Cauchy function

$$\sigma_1(\mathbb{X}) = \prod_{x \in \mathbb{X}} \frac{1}{1 - x}$$

and λ -ring [19]:

$$K(\mathbb{X}, \mathbb{Y}) = \sigma_1\left(\frac{1-t}{1-q} \mathbb{X}\mathbb{Y}\right) = \frac{\sigma_1\left(\frac{1}{1-q} \mathbb{X}\mathbb{Y}\right)}{\sigma_1\left(\frac{t}{1-q} \mathbb{X}\mathbb{Y}\right)}, \tag{16}$$

where the alphabet $\frac{1}{1-q} \mathbb{X}\mathbb{Y}$ means $\{q^i x y : i \in \mathbb{N}, x \in \mathbb{X}, y \in \mathbb{Y}\}$ and $\frac{t}{1-q} \mathbb{X}\mathbb{Y}$ means $\{t q^i x y : i \in \mathbb{N}, x \in \mathbb{X}, y \in \mathbb{Y}\}$.

Note that formula (16) remains valid for finite alphabets.

Denote $c_{\lambda}(\mathbb{X}; q, t) = \prod_i \frac{1-t^{\lambda_i}}{1-q^{\lambda_i}} p_{\lambda}(\mathbb{X})$ the dual basis of p_{λ} . We have

$$c_{\lambda}(\mathbb{X}; q, t) = \prod_i \frac{1-t^{-\lambda_i}}{1-q^{-\lambda_i}} p_{\lambda}(\mathbb{X}) = \left(\frac{t}{q}\right)^{|\lambda|} \prod_i \frac{t^{-\lambda_i} - 1}{q^{-\lambda_i} - 1} p_{\lambda}(\mathbb{X}).$$

For homogeneous polynomials R and S of global degree d we have

$$\langle R, S \rangle_{q^{-1}, t^{-1}} = \frac{q^d}{t^d} \langle R, S \rangle_{q, t}.$$

Hence,

$$P_{\lambda}(\mathbb{X}; q^{-1}, t^{-1}) = \frac{t^{|\lambda|}}{q^{|\lambda|}} P_{\lambda}(\mathbb{X}; q, t). \tag{17}$$

For the normalization P_{λ} we have

$$P_{\lambda}(\mathbb{X}; q^{-1}, t^{-1}) = \frac{t^{-n(\lambda)}}{c'_{\lambda}(q^{-1}, t^{-1})} P_{\lambda}(\mathbb{X}; q^{-1}, t^{-1}).$$

From

$$\begin{aligned} c'_{\lambda}(q^{-1}, t^{-1}) &= \prod_{(i,j) \in \lambda} (1 - q^{-1 - a_{\lambda}(i,j)} t^{-b_{\lambda}(i,j)}) \\ &= (-1)^{|\lambda|} q^{-|\lambda| - n'(\lambda)} t^{-n(\lambda)} c'_{\lambda}(q, t) \end{aligned}$$

we obtain

$$P_\lambda(\mathbb{X}; q^{-1}, t^{-1}) = \frac{(-1)^{|\lambda|} t^{|\lambda|} q^{n'(\lambda)}}{c'_\lambda(q, t)} P_\lambda(\mathbb{X}; q, t) = \tau_\lambda P_\lambda(\mathbb{X}; q, t), \tag{18}$$

with

$$\tau_v = (-1)^{|v|} q^{n'(v)} t^{-n'(v^+)}$$

(using the notation of Lascoux *et al.* [22]).

2.5. Symmetric shifted Macdonald polynomials. Following the previous subsection, we define the symmetric shifted Macdonald polynomials MS_λ as the symmetrization of M_{λ^-} , where v^- denotes the unique nondecreasing vector which is a permutation of v , such that the coefficient of x^λ equals $q^{n'(\lambda)}$. More precisely,

$$M_{\lambda^-} \mathcal{S}_N = \phi_t(\mathfrak{S}_\lambda) MS_\lambda, \tag{19}$$

recall \mathcal{S}_N is the symmetrizing operator (13).

We will use also the normalization

$$\overline{MS}_\lambda = \frac{q^{n'(\lambda)} t^{n(\lambda)}}{c'_\lambda(q, t)} MS_\lambda.$$

With such a normalization we have

$$\overline{MS}_\lambda := \sum_{u^+ = \lambda} M_u. \tag{20}$$

Alternatively, the polynomials M_λ are defined by interpolation

$$MS_\lambda(\langle \mu \rangle) = 0 \quad \text{for } |\lambda| \leq |\mu|, \lambda \neq \mu. \tag{21}$$

Note that $q^{-n'(\lambda)} P_\lambda$ is the homogeneous component of maximal degree in MS_λ , that is

$$\lim_{a \rightarrow 0} a^{|\lambda|} MS_\lambda(x_1/a, \dots, x_N/a) = q^{-n'(\lambda)} P_\lambda. \tag{22}$$

Equivalently, from equalitions (12), (14) and (20), we obtain

$$P_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_N) = \lim_{a \rightarrow 0} a^{|\lambda|} \overline{MS}_\lambda(x_1/a, \dots, x_N/a). \tag{23}$$

That is, $P_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_N)$ is the homogeneous component of maximal degree in \overline{MS}_λ .

3. Generalized binomial coefficients

3.1. Definitions. Sahi [33] generalized binomial coefficients:

$$\begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} := \frac{M_v(\langle u \rangle)}{M_v(\langle v \rangle)} \tag{24}$$

From the vanishing properties we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = 0 \quad \text{if } |u| \leq |v| \text{ and } u \neq v. \tag{25}$$

More generally, a theorem of Knop [18] implies

$$\begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = 0 \quad \text{if } v^+ \not\subseteq u^+, \tag{26}$$

and in particular $\begin{bmatrix} u \\ 0^N \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} u \\ u \end{bmatrix} = 1$.

Okounkov [27] and Lassalle [23] independently introduced the symmetric analogue of this coefficient:

$$\binom{u}{v} := \frac{\overline{MS}_v(\langle u \rangle)}{\overline{MS}_v(\langle v \rangle)} \tag{27}$$

3.2. Okounkov binomial formula and consequences. Symmetric binomial coefficients appear in Okounkov’s binomial formula.

Define

$$\overline{MS}'_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_N) = \frac{q^{|\lambda|}}{\tau_\lambda t^{(N-1)|\lambda|}} \overline{MS}_\lambda(t^{1-N}x_1, \dots, t^{1-N}x_N; q^{-1}, t^{-1}).$$

Theorem 3. (*Okounkov*)

$$\overline{MS}_\lambda(ax_1, \dots, ax_N) = \sum_\mu a^{|\mu|} \binom{\lambda}{\mu}_{q^{-1}, t^{-1}} \frac{\overline{MS}_\lambda(a\langle 0 \rangle)}{\overline{MS}_\mu(a\langle 0 \rangle)} \overline{MS}'_\mu(x_1, \dots, x_N)$$

Note that from eq. (23) and (18), we obtain

$$\lim_{a \rightarrow 0} a^{|\lambda|} \overline{MS}'_\lambda(x_1/a, \dots, x_N/a) = q^{n'(\lambda)} P_\lambda. \tag{28}$$

Hence, if we apply Theorem 3 to the alphabet $\{x_1/a, \dots, x_N/a\}$ and we take the limit when a tends to 0 on the right hand side, we obtain

$$\overline{MS}_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_N) = \sum_\mu q^{n'(\mu)} \binom{\lambda}{\mu}_{q^{-1}, t^{-1}} \frac{\overline{MS}_\lambda(0, \dots, 0)}{\overline{MS}_\mu(0, \dots, 0)} P_\mu(x_1, \dots, x_N). \tag{29}$$

The constant term $M_v(0, \dots, 0)$ is related to the principal specialization of E_v , see [22]:

$$M_v(0, \dots, 0) = \tau_v E_v(\langle 0 \rangle). \tag{30}$$

Note that $\tau_v = \tau_{v+}$ hence from eq. (14) and (20) we obtain

$$\overline{MS}_\lambda(0, \dots, 0) = \tau_\lambda P_\lambda(\langle 0 \rangle) = \tau_\lambda \frac{t^{n(\lambda)}}{c'_\lambda(q, t)} P_\lambda(\langle 0 \rangle). \tag{31}$$

Hence,

$$\overline{MS}_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_N) = q^{n'(\lambda)} \sum_\mu \frac{\tau_\lambda t^{n(\lambda)} c'_\mu}{\tau_\mu t^{n(\mu)} c'_\lambda} \binom{\lambda}{\mu}_{q^{-1}, t^{-1}} \frac{P_\lambda(\langle 0 \rangle)}{P_\mu(\langle 0 \rangle)} P_\mu(x_1, \dots, x_N). \tag{32}$$

Or equivalently:

Lemma 4.

$$MS_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_N) = \sum_\mu \frac{\tau_\lambda}{\tau_\mu} \binom{\lambda}{\mu}_{q^{-1}, t^{-1}} \frac{P_\lambda(\langle 0 \rangle)}{P_\mu(\langle 0 \rangle)} P_\mu(x_1, \dots, x_N). \tag{33}$$

4. Principal specializations

4.1. Principal specialization of E_v . From eq. (30) the specialization $E_v(\langle 0 \rangle)$ is obtained (up to a multiplicative constant $(-1)^* q^* t^\circ$) from the constant term $M_v(0, \dots, 0)$. For simplicity, we sometimes neglect the multiplication by (-1) , q and t of our polynomials and denote it by (\star) .

We introduce the classical q -Pochhammer symbol

$$(a, q)_N = \prod_{i=1}^N (1 - aq^{i-1})$$

and its generalization for a partition λ :

$$(a; q, t)_\lambda = \prod_{i=1}^N (at^{1-i}, q)_{\lambda[i]}.$$

Since $1T_i = t$, we obtain

$$M_{v, s_i}(0) = M_v(0) \left(\frac{1 - t \frac{\langle v \rangle[i+1]}{\langle v \rangle[i]}}{1 - \frac{\langle v \rangle[i+1]}{\langle v \rangle[i]}} \right), \quad \text{if } v[i] < v[i+1] \tag{34}$$

from (9). From (10) we have also

$$M_{v\Phi}(0) = -M_v(0). \tag{35}$$

We have:

Proposition 5. For any vector $v \in \mathbb{N}^N$:

$$M_v(0) = (-1)^{|v|} \frac{(t^N q; q, t)_{v+}}{h_{q,t}(v, qt)}$$

Proof. It suffices to prove that the right hand side

$$P(v) = \frac{(t^N q; q, t)_{v+}}{h_{q,t}(v, qt)}$$

satisfies the recurrence relations (34) and (35).

Let us first prove that if $v[i] < v[i + 1]$

$$\frac{P(v.s_i)}{P(v)} = \left(\frac{1 - t \frac{\langle v \rangle [i + 1]}{\langle v \rangle [i]}}{1 - \frac{\langle v \rangle [i + 1]}{\langle v \rangle [i]}} \right). \tag{36}$$

Note then the only change in $P(v)$ occurs in $h_{q,t}(v, qt)$:

$$\frac{P(v.s_i)}{P(v)} = \frac{h_{q,t}(v.s_i, qt)}{h_{q,t}(v, qt)}.$$

The only factor in $h_{q,t}(v, qt)$ that changes is the factor for the cell $(i + 1, v[i] + 1)$.

So

$$\frac{h_{q,t}(v.s_i, qt)}{h_{q,t}(v, qt)} = \frac{1 - q^{v[i+1]-v[i]} t^{a+1}}{1 - q^{v[i+1]-v[i]} t^a},$$

where

$$a = \downarrow_v(i + 1, v[i] + 1) = \downarrow_{v.s_i}(i + 1, v[i] + 1) + 1.$$

Let

$$A_1 = \{l : l < i, v[l] \geq v[i]\} \cup \{l : l > i + 1, v[i] < v[l]\},$$

$$A_2 = \{l : l < i, v[l] \geq v[i + 1]\} \cup \{l : l > i + 1, v[i + 1] < v[l]\},$$

then $A_2 \subset A_1$ and

$$A_1 \setminus A_2 = \{l : l < i, v[i] \leq v[l] < v[i + 1]\} \\ \cup \{l : l > i + 1, v[i] < v[l] \leq v[i + 1]\};$$

thus

$$a = \#A_1 \setminus A_2 + 1.$$

Also

$$r_v [i] = \#A_1 + 2$$

and

$$r_v [i + 1] = \#A_2 + 1,$$

and so

$$a = r_v [i] - r_v [i + 1].$$

This finishes the proof of (36) since

$$\frac{\langle v \rangle [i + 1]}{\langle v \rangle [i]} = q^{v[i+1]-v[i]} t^{r_v[i]-r_v[i+1]}. \quad \square$$

To prove the second part we need the following lemma

Lemma 6. *Let λ be a decreasing partition and $m \leq N$ the biggest integer such that $\lambda[m] > 0$. Let*

$$\gamma = [\lambda[1], \dots, \lambda[m - 1], \lambda[m] - 1, 0^{N-m}].$$

If $M_\gamma(0) = P(\gamma)$ then $M_\lambda(0) = P(\lambda)$.

Proof. Let

$$\beta = [\lambda[m] - 1, \lambda[1], \dots, \lambda[m - 1], 0, \dots]$$

$$\alpha = [\lambda[1], \dots, \lambda[m - 1], 0, \dots, 0, \lambda[m]].$$

We evaluate $M_\beta(0) / M_\gamma(0)$, $M_\lambda(0) / M_\alpha(0)$ and use $M_\alpha(0) = -M_\beta(0)$ to prove $M_\lambda(0) / M_\gamma(0) = P(\lambda) / P(\gamma)$. The formula (34) is used repeatedly in the following calculations. First we have

$$\frac{M_\lambda(0)}{M_\alpha(0)} = \frac{1 - q^{\lambda[m]} t^{N-m+1}}{1 - q^{\lambda[m]} t}.$$

Since $\lambda[m - 1] \geq \lambda[m]$ it follows that $\gamma[i] > \gamma[m]$ for $1 \leq i < m$. Then

$$\frac{M_\beta(0)}{M_\gamma(0)} = \prod_{i=1}^{m-1} \frac{1 - q^{\lambda[i]-\lambda[m]+1} t^{m-i}}{1 - q^{\lambda[i]-\lambda[m]+1} t^{m-i+1}}.$$

Next

$$\frac{(qt^N; q, t)_\lambda}{(qt^N; q, t)_\gamma} = (1 - q^{\lambda[m]} t^{N+1-m})$$

and we evaluate

$$\frac{h_{q,t}(\gamma, qt)}{h_{q,t}(\lambda, qt)}$$

In this ratio the only cells that have a changed factor are those in column $\lambda[m]$ and in row m . So $\Downarrow_\lambda(i, \lambda[m]) = m - i$ and $\Downarrow_\gamma(i, \lambda[m]) = m - i - 1$ for $1 \leq i < m$. The cells in $\{(1, \lambda[m]), \dots, (m - 1, \lambda[m])\}$ contribute

$$\prod_{i=1}^{m-1} \frac{1 - q^{\lambda[i] - \lambda[m] + 1} t^{m-i}}{1 - q^{\lambda[i] - \lambda[m] + 1} t^{m-i+1}}$$

to the ratio and the cells in row m contribute

$$\frac{\prod_{i=1}^{\lambda[m]-1} (1 - tq^{\lambda[m]-i})}{\prod_{i=1}^{\lambda[m]} (1 - tq^{\lambda[m]+1-i})} = \frac{1}{1 - tq^{\lambda[m]}}$$

Thus

$$\frac{(qt^N; q, t)_\lambda h_{q,t}(\gamma, qt)}{(qt^N; q, t)_\gamma h_{q,t}(\lambda, qt)} = \frac{1 - t^{N-m+1} q^{\lambda[m]}}{1 - tq^{\lambda[m]}} \prod_{i=1}^{m-1} \frac{1 - q^{\lambda[i] - \lambda[m] + 1} t^{m-i}}{1 - q^{\lambda[i] - \lambda[m] + 1} t^{m-i+1}}$$

This agrees with $-M_\lambda(0) / M_\gamma(0)$ and proves the lemma. □

End of the proof of Proposition 5. Any vector v can be obtained from 0^N by adding 1 to a null part or to a minimal nonzero part. We will denote this operation by $\xrightarrow{+}$. For instance,

$$[0, 0, 0] \xrightarrow{+} [0, 1, 0] \xrightarrow{+} [0, 2, 0] \xrightarrow{+} [0, 3, 0] \xrightarrow{+} [1, 3, 0].$$

Let $v \xrightarrow{+} v'$. Suppose $v'^+ = [\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m, 0, \dots, 0]$ then

$$v^+ = [\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_{m-1}, \lambda_m - 1, 0, \dots, 0].$$

Hence, if $M_{v^+}(0, \dots, 0) = P(v^+)$ then by lemma 6 $M_{v'^+}(0) = P(v'^+)$. And using repeatedly eq. (36), we obtain $M_v(0) = P(v)$ implies $M_{v'}(0) = P(v')$.

Since $M_{0^N}(0) = P(0^N)$ the result is shown by a straightforward induction. □

As a direct consequence:

Corollary 7. *We have*

$$E_v(\langle 0 \rangle) = (\star) \frac{(t^N q; q, t)_{v+}}{h_{q,t}(v, qt)}.$$

Lascoux [21] gave an equivalent expression using infinite vectors

$$v^\infty = [v[1], \dots, v[N], v[1] + 1, \dots, v[N] + 1, \dots]$$

and

$$\langle v \rangle^\infty = [\langle v \rangle[1], \dots, \langle v \rangle[N], q \langle v \rangle[1], \dots, q \langle v \rangle[N], \dots].$$

Note that $\langle v \rangle^\infty \neq \langle v^\infty \rangle$.

Lascoux showed

$$P(v) = (-1)^{|v|} \prod_{i=1}^N \prod_{\substack{j>i \\ v^\infty[i]>v^\infty[j]}} \frac{t \frac{\langle v \rangle^\infty[i]}{\langle v \rangle^\infty[j]} - 1}{\frac{\langle v \rangle^\infty[i]}{\langle v \rangle^\infty[j]} - 1}. \tag{37}$$

4.2. Principal specialization of P_λ . From eq. (31) and (19) one has

$$P_\lambda(\langle 0 \rangle) = (\star) MS_\lambda(0) = (\star) \frac{\phi_t(\mathfrak{S}_N)}{\phi_t(\mathfrak{S}_\lambda)} M_{\lambda^-}(0). \tag{38}$$

So one has to determine the value of the constant term $M_{\lambda^-}(0)$.

The t -multinomial coefficient is defined as follows: for any partition $\lambda \in \mathbb{N}_0^N$ let

$$m_\lambda(i) = \#\{j : \lambda[j] = i\}$$

(defined for $0 \leq i \leq \lambda[1]$) and let

$$\binom{N}{m_\lambda}_t = (t, t)_N / \prod_{i=0}^{\lambda[1]} (t, t)_{m_\lambda(i)}$$

(note that $(t, t)_n = \prod_{i=1}^n (1 - t^i)$). In fact, the Poincaré series for λ , denoted $\phi(\mathfrak{S}_\lambda)$, equals $\prod_{i=0}^{\lambda[1]} (t, t)_{m_\lambda(i)} / (1 - t)^N$ where \mathfrak{S}_λ is the stabilizer subgroup of λ in \mathfrak{S}_N (the symmetric group on N letters), and $\phi(\mathfrak{S}_N) = (t, t)_N / (1 - t)^N$.

For application of proposition 5, we find a convenient formula for $M_{\lambda^-}(0)$ for partitions λ .

Proposition 8. *For a partition $\lambda \in \mathbb{N}_0^N$*

$$M_{\lambda^-}(0) = (-1)^{|\lambda|} \frac{(t^N; q, t)_\lambda \phi(\mathfrak{S}_\lambda)}{h_{q,t}(\lambda, t) \phi(\mathfrak{S}_N)}.$$

Proof. From Proposition 5,

$$M_{\lambda^-}(0) = (-1)^{|\lambda|} \frac{(t^N q; q, t)_\lambda}{h_{q,t}(\lambda^-, qt)}$$

so we need to evaluate the ratios

$$\frac{(t^N q; q, t)_\lambda}{(t^N; q, t)_\lambda} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{h_{q,t}(\lambda^-, qt)}{h_{q,t}(\lambda, t)}.$$

It is easy to see that

$$\frac{(t^N q; q, t)_\lambda}{(t^N; q, t)_\lambda} = \prod_{i=1}^N \frac{1 - t^{N+1-i} q^{\lambda[i]}}{1 - t^{N+1-i}}.$$

If the multiplicity of a particular $\lambda[i]$ is 1 (in λ) then the leg-length of cell $(N + 1 - i, j + 1)$ in λ^- is the same as that of the cell (i, j) in λ for $1 \leq j < \lambda[i]$. To account for multiplicities let c be the inverse of r_{λ^-} , that is $r_{\lambda^-}[c_i] = i$ for $1 \leq i \leq N$. Then $\lambda^-[c_i] = \lambda[i]$ (for example suppose $\lambda[1] > \lambda[2] = \lambda[3] > \lambda[4]$, then $c_1 = N, c_2 = N - 2, c_3 = N - 1$). As before

$$\Downarrow_{\lambda^-}(c_i, j + 1) = \Downarrow_{\lambda}(i, j), \quad 1 \leq j < \lambda[i].$$

The factor in $h_{q,t}(\lambda^-, qt)$ at the cell $(c_i, j + 1)$ is $(1 - t^{\Downarrow_{\lambda}(i,j)+1} q^{\lambda[i]-j})$ which is the same as the factor at the cell (i, j) in $h_{q,t}(\lambda, t)$. Thus

$$\frac{h_{q,t}(\lambda^-, qt)}{h_{q,t}(\lambda, t)}$$

is the product of the factors at the cells $(c_i, 1)$ in $h_{q,t}(\lambda^-, qt)$ divided by the product of the factors at the cells $(i, \lambda[i])$ in $h_{q,t}(\lambda, t)$, for $1 \leq i \leq \ell(\lambda)$, since there are no cells for the zero parts. The factor at $(c_i, 1)$ is $(1 - t^{N+1-i} q^{\lambda[i]})$. Suppose $\lambda[i]$ has multiplicity k (that is, $\lambda[i - 1] > \lambda[i] = \dots = \lambda[i + k - 1] > \lambda[i + k]$) then

$$\Downarrow_{\lambda}(i + l - 1, \lambda[i]) = k - l \quad \text{for } 1 \leq l \leq k,$$

and the cells $(i, \lambda[i]), \dots, (i + k - 1, \lambda[i])$ contribute $\prod_{l=1}^k (1 - t^l) = (t, t)_k$. Thus

$$\frac{h_{q,t}(\lambda^-, qt)}{h_{q,t}(\lambda, t)} = \frac{\prod_{i=1}^{\ell(\lambda)} (1 - t^{N+1-i} q^{\lambda[i]})}{\prod_{i=1}^{\lambda[1]} (t, t)_{m_{\lambda}(i)}}.$$

Combining the ratios we find that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{(t^N; q, t)_\lambda}{h_{q,t}(\lambda, t)} &= \frac{(t^N q; q, t)_\lambda}{h_{q,t}(\lambda^-, qt)} \prod_{i=1}^N \frac{1 - t^{N+1-i}}{1 - t^{N+1-i} q^{\lambda[i]}} \frac{\prod_{i=1}^{\ell(\lambda)} (1 - t^{N+1-i} q^{\lambda[i]})}{\prod_{i=1}^{\lambda[1]} (t, t)_{m_\lambda(i)}} \\ &= \frac{(t^N q; q, t)_\lambda}{h_{q,t}(\lambda^-, qt)} \frac{(t, t)_N}{\prod_{i=1}^{\lambda[1]} (t, t)_{m_\lambda(i)} \prod_{i=\ell(\lambda)+1}^N (1 - t^{N+1-i})} \\ &= \frac{(t^N q; q, t)_\lambda}{h_{q,t}(\lambda^-, qt)} \binom{N}{m_\lambda}_t, \end{aligned}$$

since $m_\lambda(0) = N - \ell(\lambda)$. □

As a direct consequence of Proposition 8 and equality (38), we obtain

Corollary 9.

$$P_\lambda(\langle 0 \rangle) = (\star) \frac{(t^N; q, t)_\lambda}{h_{q,t}(\lambda, t)}.$$

5. Subrectangular Macdonald polynomials

5.1. The denominator of subrectangular Macdonald polynomials. The following lemma shows that if $\lambda \subseteq [m^k, 0^{N-k}]$ with $2k \leq N$ then P_λ does not have a pole at $q^{m-1} t^{N-k+1} = 1$ and $q^{\frac{m-1}{d}} t^{\frac{N-k+1}{d}} \neq 1$ where $d > 1$ is a common factor of $m - 1$ and $N - k + 1$:

Lemma 10. *Let $\lambda \subseteq [m^k, 0^{N-k}]$ be a partition with $2k \leq N$. Then*

$$(1 - q^{m-1} t^{N-k+1})$$

is not a factor of any the denominators of coefficients of x^v in P_λ .

Proof. It suffices to prove that the integral version J_λ does not vanish when $1 - q^{m-1} t^{N-k+1} = 0$ and $1 - q^{\frac{m-1}{d}} t^{\frac{N-k+1}{d}} \neq 0$ where $d > 1$ divides $m - 1$ and $N - k + 1$. In other words, we have to show that $c_\lambda(q, t)$ does not have $1 - q^{m-1} t^{N-k+1}$ as a factor. Suppose $\lambda = [m^{k'}, \lambda_{k'+1}, \dots, \lambda_{k''}, 0^{N-k''}]$ with $k' \leq k'' \leq k$ and $\lambda_{k''} > 0$. Then the only factors with the relevant power of q that occur in c_λ are $(1 - q^{\lambda_i - j} t^{\lambda'_j - i + 1})$ for $\lambda_i = m$ (so $i = 1..k'$) and $j = 1$ (so $\lambda'_j = k''$). Hence, for such a pair (i, j) one has $\lambda'_j - i + 1 \leq k \leq N - k$. This proves the result. □

5.2. The (q, t) -binomial $\binom{m^k}{\lambda}$. Lassalle [23] gave an explicit formula for the (q, t) -binomial $\binom{m^k}{\lambda}$ for $\lambda \subseteq m^k$:

$$\binom{m^k}{\lambda} = \prod_{(i,j) \in \lambda} t^{i-k} \frac{(t^{i-1} - q^{j-1}t^k)(1 - q^{m-j+1}t^{i-1})}{(1 - q^{\leftarrow \lambda(i,j)} t^{1+\downarrow \lambda(i,j)})(1 - q^{1+\leftarrow \lambda(i,j)} t^{\downarrow \lambda(i,j)})} \tag{39}$$

Using (q, t) -hook products, the formula reads

$$\binom{m^k}{\lambda} = (-1)^{|\lambda|} t^{3n(\lambda) - (k-1)|\lambda|} q^{m|\lambda| - n(\lambda')} \frac{(t^k; q, t)_\lambda (q^{-m}; q, t)_\lambda}{h_{q,t}(\lambda, q) h_{q,t}(\lambda, t)}. \tag{40}$$

We deduce

Lemma 11. *Let $\lambda \subsetneq m^k$ be a strict subrectangular partition with $2k \leq N$. The denominator of the reduced fraction $\binom{m^k}{\lambda}$ has no factor $1 - q^{m-1}t^{N-k+1}$.*

Proof. We examine the factor of the denominator of equality (39):

$$D_\lambda := \prod_{(i,j) \in \lambda} (1 - q^{\leftarrow \lambda(i,j)} t^{1+\downarrow \lambda(i,j)})(1 - q^{1+\leftarrow \lambda(i,j)} t^{\downarrow \lambda(i,j)}).$$

Since λ is a partition, there are only terms of the type $1 - q^* t^{\lambda'_j - i + 1}$ and $1 - q^* t^{\lambda'_j - i}$ in D_λ . When $\lambda \subsetneq m^k$, we have $\lambda'_j - i + 1 < \lambda'_j + 1 \leq k + 1$. And so $k \leq N - k$ implies $\lambda'_j - i + 1 < N - k + 1$. This proves the result. \square

Note that

$$\binom{m^k}{m^k} = \binom{m^k}{0} = 1. \tag{41}$$

5.3. Principal specialization for subrectangular partitions. We consider certain poles of $M_{\lambda^-}(0)$ for $\lambda \subseteq [m^k, 0^{N-k}]$ with $2k \leq N$. In particular, we examine the occurrences of $(1 - q^{m-1}t^{N-k+1})$ in $(t^N; q, t)_\lambda$ and $h_{q,t}(\lambda, t)$. Since the maximum leg-length of any cell in $\lambda \subseteq [m^k, 0^{N-k}]$ is $k - 1$ only factors of the form $(1 - t^a q^b)$ with $1 \leq a \leq k < N - k + 1$ and $0 \leq b \leq m - 1$ can appear in $h_{q,t}(\lambda, t)$. Further

$$(t^N; q, t)_\lambda = \prod_{i=1}^k \prod_{j=1}^{\lambda[i]} (1 - t^{N-i+1} q^{j-1}).$$

The factor $(1 - q^{m-1}t^{N-k+1})$ appears in this product exactly when $\lambda[k] = m$, that is, $\lambda = [m^k, 0^{N-k}]$. Thus $M_{\lambda^-}(0)$ has a zero at $q^{m-1}t^{N-k+1} = 1$ for $\lambda = [m^k, 0^{N-k}]$ and no zeros or poles there when $\lambda \not\subseteq [m^k, 0^{N-k}]$. We summarize this in the following lemma

Lemma 12. *Let $\lambda \subseteq [m^k, 0^{N-k}]$ with $2k \leq N$ then the reduced fractions $M_{\lambda^-}(0)$ and $P_{\lambda}(\langle 0 \rangle)$ have $(1 - q^{m-1}t^{N-k+1})$ as a factor if and only if $\lambda = [m^k, 0^{N-k}]$.*

Equivalently, if $(1 - q^{m-1}t^{N-k+1}) = 0$ and for any $d > 1$ dividing $m - 1$ and $N - k + 1$, $(1 - q^{\frac{m-1}{d}}t^{\frac{N-k+1}{d}}) \neq 0$ then

$$\frac{P_{m^k}(\langle 0 \rangle)}{P_{\lambda}(\langle 0 \rangle)} = 0.$$

There is an alternative proof using eq. (37) (see Appendix B).

6. Rectangular Macdonald polynomials

6.1. Clustering properties of MS_{m^k} . In this section, we will use finite alphabets with different sizes.

Notations 13. *For simplicity, when we use a partition $\lambda \in \mathbb{N}^N$, we mean that the underlying alphabet is $\{x_1, \dots, x_N\}$ and the symmetric shifted monic Macdonald polynomial will be denoted by $MS_{\lambda}^{(N)} = MS_{\lambda}(x_1, \dots, x_N)$. In the same way, for $v \in \mathbb{N}^N$ the nonsymmetric shifted monic Macdonald polynomial will be denoted $M_v^{(N)}$.*

The length of $v \in \mathbb{N}^N$ is

$$\ell(v) := \max \{i : v[i] > 0\}.$$

For $k \geq \ell(v)$ we will denote also

$$v^{(k)} := [v_1, \dots, v_k].$$

The following proposition shows that if $v \in \mathbb{N}^N$ with $\ell(v) \leq k$ then the Macdonald polynomials $M_v^{(N)}$ and $M_{v^{(k)}}^{(k)}$ are closely related.

Proposition 14. *The following assertions hold.*

(1) *Suppose $v \in \mathbb{N}_0^N$ satisfies $\ell(v) \leq k$ for some $k < N$, then*

$$M_v(x_1 t^{N-k}, \dots, x_k t^{N-k}, t^{N-k-1}, \dots, t, 1) = t^{(N-k)|v|} M_{v^{(k)}}^{(k)}.$$

(2) *Suppose a partition $\lambda \in \mathbb{N}_0^N$ satisfies $\ell(\lambda) \leq k$ for some $k < N$, then*

$$MS_\lambda^{(N)}(x_1 t^{N-k}, \dots, x_k t^{N-k}, t^{N-k-1}, \dots, t, 1) = t^{(N-k)|v|} MS_\lambda^{(k)}(x).$$

Proof. We prove first (1): Both sides have the same coefficient of x^v and satisfy the same vanishing conditions. More precisely, both sides vanish for $x = \langle u \rangle$, $u \in \mathbb{N}_0^k$, $|u| \leq |v|$, $u \neq v$, and $\langle u \rangle [j] = q^{u[j]} t^{k-r_u[i]}$, for $1 \leq j \leq k$; and the multiplicative coefficient is obtained considering the coefficient of the dominant term in the left hand side and the right hand side.

To prove (2) observe that the left-hand side is symmetric in (x_1, \dots, x_k) . Hence an obvious modification of the above argument applies. □

Example 15. For instance consider $v = [2, 0]$. The polynomial $M_{[2,0]}(x_1, x_2)$ vanishes for $[x_1, x_2] = \langle 00 \rangle = [t, 1]$, $[x_1, x_2] = \langle 10 \rangle = [qt, 1]$, $[x_1, x_2] = \langle 01 \rangle = [1, qt]$, $[x_1, x_2] = \langle 11 \rangle = [qt, q]$, $[x_1, x_2] = \langle 02 \rangle = [1, q^2 t]$ whilst $M_{[20]}(\langle 20 \rangle) \neq 0$ (recall that $\langle 20 \rangle = [q^2 t, 1]$).

Hence, the polynomial $P(x_1) = M_{[2,0]}(x_1 t, 1)$ vanishes for $[x_1] = [1] = \langle 0 \rangle$ and $[x_1] = [q] = \langle 1 \rangle$ whilst $P(\langle 2 \rangle) = M_{[2,0]}(q^2 t, 1) \neq 0$. This agrees with the definition of $M_{[2]}(x_1)$ up to a multiplicative factor.

For almost rectangular vector

$$v_{m,k} := [m^{N-k}, (m+1)^k]$$

we prove that the corresponding Macdonald polynomials nicely factorize:

Proposition 16. *For $m \geq 0$ and $0 \leq k < N$ we have*

$$M_{v_{m,k}}^{(N)} = (-1)^{Nm+k} q^{m(k+(m-1)N/2)} \prod_{i=1}^{N-k} (x_i, q^{-1})_m \prod_{i=N-k+1}^N (x_i, q^{-1})_{m+1}.$$

Proof. Recall $u \cdot \Phi = [u [2], \dots, u [N - 1], u [1] + 1]$, thus $v_{m,k} \cdot \Phi = v_{m,k+1}$ for $0 \leq k < N$ and $v_{m,N-1} \cdot \Phi = v_{m+1,0}$. The claim is obvious for $v_{0,0}$. Suppose the claim is true for some (m, k) , then

$$M_{v_{m,k}}^{(N)} \tau = q^{m(k+(m-1)N/2)} (-1)^{Nm+k} \prod_{i=1}^{N-k-1} (x_i, q^{-1})_m \prod_{i=N-k}^{N-1} (x_i, q^{-1})_{m+1} (q^{-1}x_N, q^{-1})_m.$$

Multiply both sides by $(x_N - 1)$ to get an expression for $M_{v_{m,k+1}}^{(N)}$ (or $v_{m+1,0}$); observe $(x_N - 1)(q^{-1}x_N, q^{-1})_m = -(x_N, q^{-1})_{m+1}$. This completes the inductive proof. \square

As a straightforward consequence, setting $k = 0$ in the previous proposition, $M_{v_{m,0}}$ is symmetric in x_1, \dots, x_N and then we find:

Corollary 17. For $n \geq 1$,

$$MS_{v_{m,0}}^{(N)} = q^{Nm(m-1)/2} (-1)^{Nm} \prod_{i=1}^N (x_i, q^{-1})_m;$$

note that $v_{m,0} = [m^N]$.

Let $\mathbb{X} = \{x_1, \dots, x_N\}$ and $\mathbb{Y} = \{y_1, \dots, y_k\}$ be two alphabets. We will denote by

$$R(\mathbb{X}, \mathbb{Y}) = \prod_{i=1}^N \prod_{j=1}^k (x_i - y_j)$$

the resultant of \mathbb{X} with respect to \mathbb{Y} .

Let also

$$\mathcal{D}_{N,k,m}^y(x_1, \dots, x_k) := R([x_1, \dots, x_k], [yt^{N-k}q^0, \dots, yt^{N-k}q^{m-1}]).$$

We have:

Proposition 18. Let $\lambda = [m^k, 0^{N-k}]$ for some $1 \leq k < N$ and $m \geq 1$, and $y \neq 0$ then

$$MS_{\lambda}^{(N)}\left(\frac{x_1}{y}, \dots, \frac{x_k}{y}, t^{N-k-1}, \dots, 1\right) = y^{-km} \mathcal{D}_{N,k,m}^y(x_1, \dots, x_k).$$

Proof. By the previous propositions

$$\begin{aligned} \text{MS}_\lambda^{(N)}\left(\frac{x_1}{y}, \dots, \frac{x_k}{y}, t^{N-k-1}, \dots, 1\right) \\ = t^{k(N-k)m} q^{\frac{m}{2}k(m-1)} (-1)^{km} \prod_{i=1}^k \left(\frac{x_i}{yt^{N-k}}, q^{-1}\right)_m, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{x_i}{yt^{N-k}}, q^{-1}\right)_m &= \prod_{j=0}^{m-1} \left(1 - \frac{x_i}{yt^{N-k}q^j}\right) \\ &= (-1)^m q^{-m(m-1)/2} t^{-m(N-k)} y^{-m} \prod_{j=0}^{m-1} (x_i - yt^{N-k}q^j), \end{aligned}$$

for $1 \leq i \leq k$. □

6.2. Homogeneity of MS_{mk} at $1 - q^{m-1}t^{N-k+1} = 0$. Let us describe first the solution set Z of the conditions

$$q^{m-1}t^{N-k+1} = 1 \text{ and } q^{(m-1)/a}t^{(N-k+1)/a} \neq 1$$

for any common divisor a of $m - 1$ and $N - k + 1$ with $a > 1$.

Let

$$d := \text{gcd}(m - 1, N - k + 1), \quad m_0 = \frac{m - 1}{d}, \quad n_0 = \frac{N - k + 1}{d}.$$

Recall the Euler ϕ -function, $\phi(d) = \#K_d$ where

$$K_d := \{k : 1 \leq k < d, \text{gcd}(k, d) = 1\}.$$

We claim that Z has $\phi(d)$ disjoint connected components as a subset of \mathbb{C}^2 . Let $z = re^{2\pi i\theta} \in \mathbb{C}$ with $r > 0$ and $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$, and set

$$\begin{aligned} q &= z^{n_0}, t = \omega z^{-m_0}, \\ \omega &= e^{2i\pi\psi}, \end{aligned}$$

then $q^{m_0}t^{n_0} = \omega^{n_0}$ and it is required that $\omega^{n_0d} = 1$ and $(\omega^{n_0})^j \neq 1$ for $1 \leq j < d$. (if $d = 1$ the latter restriction becomes void). For determining connected components it suffices to let $r = 1$ and project onto the 2-torus realized as the unit square $\{(\alpha, \beta) : 0 \leq \alpha, \beta \leq 1\}$ with identifications $(\alpha + 1, \beta) \equiv (\alpha, \beta)$ and $(\alpha, \beta + 1) \equiv (\alpha, \beta)$, with the mapping

$$(\alpha, \beta) \mapsto (e^{2\pi i\alpha}, e^{2\pi i\beta}).$$

The pre-image of (q, t) is

$$\{(n_0\theta, -m_0\theta + \psi) : \theta \in \mathbb{R}\}.$$

We require $\psi n_0 d \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $\psi n_0 j \notin \mathbb{Z}$ for $1 \leq j < d$, that is $\psi = \frac{k}{n_0 d}$ for some k and $\frac{kj}{d} \notin \mathbb{Z}$ (when $d = 1$ the value $k = 0$ is permissible). This is equivalent to $\gcd(k, d) = 1$. By the identification assume $0 \leq \psi < 1$. So there are $\#\tilde{K}$ solutions for ψ where

$$\tilde{K} := \{k : 1 \leq k \leq n_0 d, \gcd(k, d) = 1\},$$

and $\#\tilde{K} = n_0 \phi(d)$. For $k \in \tilde{K}$ let

$$Z_k = \left\{ \left(n_0\theta, -m_0\theta + \frac{k}{n_0 d} \right) : 0 \leq \theta < \frac{1}{n_0} \right\}.$$

Then Z_k meets $Z_{k'}$ where $k' = (k - m_0 d) \bmod (n_0 d)$ (the first coordinate is periodic for $\theta \mapsto \theta + \frac{1}{n_0}$; and where $0 \leq a \bmod b < b$ for $a \in \mathbb{Z}, b \geq 1$). This is continued to show that Z_k is connected to $Z_{k'}$ with $k' = (k - m_0 d j) \bmod (n_0 d), 1 \leq j < n_0$. Consider the set

$$\tilde{K}' := \{(k - m_0 d j) \bmod (n_0 d), 0 \leq j < n_0, k \in K_d\}.$$

We claim this set coincides with \tilde{K} . If $k, k' \in K_d$ and $k \neq k'$ then $(k - m_0 d j) \neq (k' - m_0 d j') \bmod (n_0 d)$ for any j, j' (else $k = k' \bmod d$); suppose $0 \leq j < j' < n_0$ then $(k - m_0 d j) \neq (k - m_0 d j') \bmod (n_0 d)$ or else $m_0 d (j - j') = n_0 d l$ for some l , which is impossible for $1 \leq j - j' < n_0$. Thus $\tilde{K}' \subset \tilde{K}$ and $\#\tilde{K}' = \#\tilde{K}$ and hence $\tilde{K}' = \tilde{K}$. Thus Z is the disjoint union of the connected sets $\bigcup \{Z_{k+jd} : 0 \leq j < n_0\} \times \{r : r > 0\}$ for $k \in K_d$.

Example 19. (1) First examine the solution of $q^a t^b = 1$ where $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ on the example $a = 4$ and $b = 7$. Topologically we can collapse the problem to the torus $[q = \exp(2i\pi\alpha), t = \exp(2i\pi\beta)]$, $0 \leq \alpha, \beta \leq 1$. On the unit square this becomes $7\alpha + 4\beta = 0 \bmod 1$, or $\beta = -\frac{7}{4}\alpha$, interpreted periodically, period 1 see fig.1. (2) When $\gcd(a, b) > 1$, for instance $a = 8$ and $b = 12$, there are several connected solutions. In the example given in fig.2, there are two solutions $2\alpha + 3\beta = \frac{1}{4}$ and $2\alpha + 3\beta = \frac{3}{4}$.

Proposition 20. Consider $q = z^a$ and $t = \omega z^b$ a specialization of the parameters such that $1 - q^{m-1} t^{N-k+1} = 0$ and $1 - q^{\frac{m-1}{d}} t^{\frac{N-k+1}{d}} \neq 0$ if $d > 1$ divides $m - 1$ and $N - k + 1$. Then,

$$MS_{m^k} = P_{m^k}$$

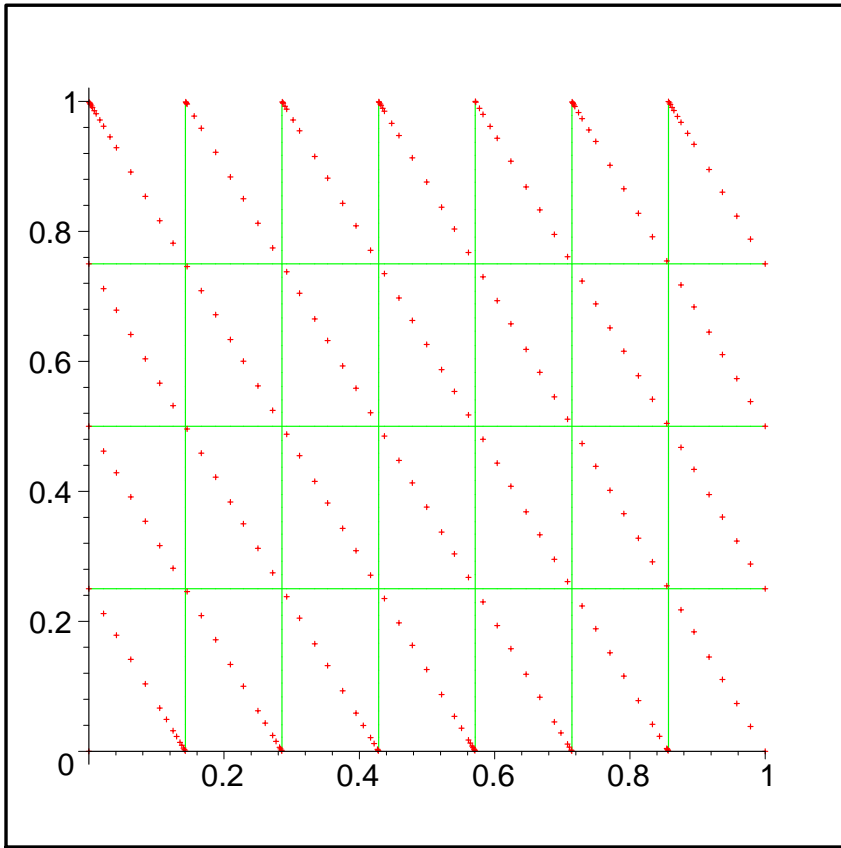


Figure 1. Solution of $q^a t^b = 1$ for $a = 4$ and $b = 7$.

Proof. From Lemma 4, one has

$$MS_{m^k} = P_{m^k} + \sum_{\mu \subsetneq m^k} \frac{\tau_\mu}{\tau_{m^k}} \binom{m^k}{\mu}_{q^{-1}, t^{-1}} \frac{P_{m^k}((0))}{P_\mu((0))} P_\mu.$$

From Lemma 12, $\frac{P_{m^k}((0))}{P_\mu((0))} = 0$ for $\mu \subsetneq m^k$. Furthermore, from Lemmas 10 and 11 there are no poles at $q = z^a$ and $t = \omega z^b$ in P_μ and $\binom{m^k}{\mu}_{q^{-1}, t^{-1}}$ (otherwise the denominators of the two polynomials have $(1 - q^{m-1} t^{N-k+1})$ as a factor which contradicts the lemmas). The result follows. \square

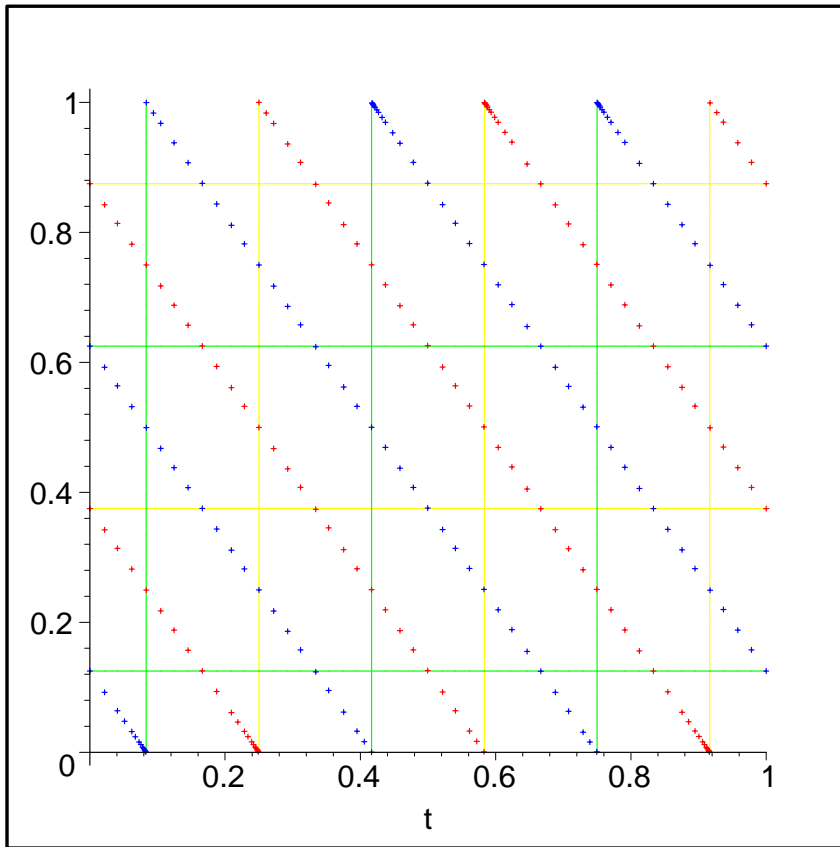


Figure 2. Solution of $q^{at^b} = 1$ for $a = 12$ and $b = 8$.

7. Proof of a conjecture of Forrester

7.1. Clustering properties of P_{m^k} . In the study of fractional quantum Hall states, Bernevig and Haldane [4] identified certain clustering conditions on rectangular Jack polynomials. These can be interpreted as factorization properties under certain specialization of the variables. In this context, Baratta and Forrester conjectured [2] a more general identity involving a rectangular Macdonald polynomial:

$$P_{m^k}(y, yq^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}, \dots, yq^{\frac{N-k-1}{\alpha}}, x_{N-k}, \dots, x_N) = \mathcal{D}_{N,k,m}^y(x_1, \dots, x_k), \quad (42)$$

where $N \geq 2k$, $\alpha = -\frac{N-k+1}{m-1}$ and $\gcd(N - k + 1, m - 1) = 1$.

Propositions 20 and 18 allow us to write a more general formula.

Theorem 21. Let $y \in \mathbb{N}$. Consider $q = z^a$ and $t = \omega z^b$ a specialization of the parameters such that $1 - q^{m-1}t^{N-k+1} = 0$ and $1 - q^{\frac{m-1}{d}}t^{\frac{N-k+1}{d}} \neq 0$ if $d > 1$ divides $m - 1$ and $N - k + 1$. Then,

$$P_{m^k}(x_1, \dots, x_k, yt^{N-k-1}, \dots, yt, y) = \mathcal{D}_{N,k,m}^y(x_1, \dots, x_k).$$

Proof. Propositions 20 and 18 show the formula for $y \neq 0$. Since the coefficients of x^v in the left hand side and right hand side are polynomial in y , the result remains true for $y = 0$. □

Example 22. Let us illustrate this result with a few examples.

(1) Set $q = t^{-3}$ then

$$P_{[2,2,0,0]}(x_1, x_2, yt, y) = \left(x_1 - \frac{y}{t}\right)\left(x_2 - \frac{y}{t}\right)(x_1 - yt^2)(x_2 - yt^2)$$

(2) Let $t = -q^{-1}$, one has

$$P_{[3,0]}(x_1, y) = \left(x_1 + \frac{y}{q}\right)(x_1 + y)(x_1 + qy).$$

whilst the result does not hold for $t = q^{-1}$:

$$P_{[3,0]}(x_1, y) = \left(x_1^2 - \left(1 + \frac{1}{q}\right)^2 yx_1 + y^2\right)(x_1 + y).$$

(3) Let $\omega = \exp\left\{\frac{2\pi i}{3}\right\}$ and $t = \omega q^{-1}$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} P_{[4,4,0,0]}(x_1, x_2, ty, y) &= (x_1 - \omega^2 y q^{-2})(x_2 - \omega^2 y q^{-2})(x_1 - \omega^2 y q^{-1})(x_2 - \omega^2 y q^{-1}) \\ &\quad (x_1 - \omega^2 y)(x_2 - \omega^2 y)(x_1 - \omega^2 y q)(x_2 - \omega^2 y q), \end{aligned}$$

whilst the result does not hold for $t = q^{-1}$, since there is a pole in $P_{[4,4,0,0]}$:

$$\text{Numer}(P_{[4,4,0,0]}(x_1, x_2, ty, y))|_{t=q^{-1}} = 3 \frac{y^4}{q^6} (1 - q^2)(1 - q^3)^2 (1 - q^4) x_1^2 x_2^2,$$

where Numer denotes the numerator of the reduced fraction.

7.2. The Jack polynomial $P_{m^k}^{\left(\frac{N-k+1}{1-m}\right)}$. The Jack polynomial $P_\lambda^{(\alpha)}$ is usually recovered from the Macdonald polynomial $P_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_N; q, t)$ by setting $q = t^\alpha$ and taking the limit $t \rightarrow 1$.

So as a consequence of Theorem 21 we obtain

Corollary 23. *Let $N, k \geq 1$ and $m \geq 2$ verifying $N \geq 2k$ and*

$$\gcd(N - k + 1, m - 1) = 1.$$

Then we have

$$P_{m^k}^{\binom{N-k+1}{1-m}}(x_1, \dots, x_k, \overbrace{y, \dots, y}^{\times N-k}) = \prod_{i=1}^k (x_i - y)^m.$$

See Kakei *et al.* [16] for related results on shifted Jack polynomials.

7.3. Clustering properties of nonsymmetric Macdonald polynomials. As before we use $(*)$ to indicate a term $q^a t^b$ with $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ when its value can be ignored in the context of analyzing zeros and poles. We restate a result of Lascoux *et al.* [22, Corollary 4.3 from Sahi’s binomial formula]. For $u \in \mathbb{N}_0^N$ let $B_u := \{v \in \mathbb{N}_0^N : [v] \neq 0, v \neq u\}$. As stated before $v \in B_u$ implies $v^+ \subset u^+$ and $|v| < |u|$, but there are important additional consequences as we will show.

Theorem 24. *For $u \in \mathbb{N}_0^N$*

$$M_u(x) = E_u(x) + \sum_{v \in B_u} (*) \left[v \right]_{q^{-1}, t^{-1}} \frac{E_u(\langle 0 \rangle)}{E_v(\langle 0 \rangle)} E_v(x).$$

We need to use this formula for $u = [m^k, 0^{N-k}]$ with $2k \leq N$ and (q, t) in a neighborhood Ω of the set of solutions of $q^m t^{N-k+1} = 1$ and $q^a t^b \neq 1$ for $1 \leq a \leq m$ and $0 \leq b \leq N - k + 1$, except for $a = m$ and $b = N - k + 1$. (We note here that if $q, t \in \mathbb{C}$ and neither q nor t are roots of unity then $q^m t^{N-k+1} = 1$ and $q^a t^b = 1$ imply that $a = \frac{n}{d}m, b = \frac{n}{d}(N - k + 1)$ where $d = \gcd(m, N - k + 1)$ and $n \in \mathbb{Z}$; roughly the equations imply $q^{am} t^{bm} = 1 = q^{am} t^{a(N-k+1)}$, etc.) From Knop [18, Proposition 5.3] the coefficients of $h_{q,t}(v, qt) M_v(x)$ are in $\mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}, t, t^{-1}]$ for any $v \in \mathbb{N}_0^N$ (the same multiplier works for $E_v(x)$). Furthermore $M_v(\langle v \rangle) = (*) h_{q,t}(v, q)$ (from Lascoux *et al.* [22, p. 8]), and

$$E_v(\langle 0 \rangle) = (*) \frac{(t^N q, q, t)_{v^+}}{h_{q,t}(v, qt)}$$

by Proposition 5. Thus we consider $h_{q,t}(v, qt)$ and $h_{q,t}(v, q)$ for $v \in B_u$. We showed that $v^+ \subset u$ and $|v| < |u|$ implies $(t^N q, q, t)_{v^+} \neq 0$ for $(q, t) \in \Omega$.

Proposition 25. *Suppose $u \in \mathbb{N}_0^N$ and $\ell(u) \leq k < N$ then $v \in B_u$ implies $\ell(v) \leq k$.*

Proof. We use the “extra-vanishing” theorem of Knop [18, Theorem 4.5] applied to v with $M_v(\langle u \rangle) \neq 0$. This implies that there is a permutation $w \in \mathfrak{S}_N$ such that for any i with $1 \leq i \leq N$ the inequality $i \geq w(i)$ implies $v[i] \leq u[w(i)]$ otherwise $v[i] < u[w(i)]$. By hypothesis $u[j] = 0$ for any $j > k$ hence $w^{-1}(j) \geq j$ (since $v[w^{-1}(j)] < 0$ is impossible). Thus $w^{-1}(j) \geq j$ for each $j > k$ and by downward induction $w(j) = j$ for $k < j \leq N$. By applying Knop’s condition it follows that $v[j] \leq u[w(j)] = u[j] = 0$ for $j > k$. \square

Corollary 26. *If $u = [m^k, 0^{N-k}]$ and $v \in B_u$ then*

$$h_{q,t}(v, qt) \neq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad h_{q,t}(v, q) \neq 0$$

for $(q, t) \in \Omega$.

Proof. The factors in the hook products are of the form $1 - q^a t^b$ with $1 \leq a \leq m$ and $0 \leq b \leq k < N - k + 1$ (the leg-lengths are bounded by $k - 1$). \square

This shows that $\left[\begin{smallmatrix} m^k \\ v \end{smallmatrix} \right]_{q^{-1}, t^{-1}}$ has no poles for $v \in B_{m^k}$ and $(q, t) \in \Omega$. The last step is to show $E_{m^k}(\langle 0 \rangle) = 0$ for $q^m t^{N-k+1} = 1$ and $(q, t) \in \Omega$, and indeed

$$(t^N q; q, t)_{m^k} = \prod_{i=1}^k \prod_{j=1}^m (1 - q^j t^{N-i+1});$$

the factor with $i = k, j = m$ is $(1 - q^m t^{N-k+1})$.

Proposition 27. *Suppose*

$$u = [m^k, 0^{N-k}], \quad 2k \leq N,$$

$$q^m t^{N-k+1} = 1,$$

and

$$q^{m/a} t^{(N-k+1)/a} \neq 1$$

for $a > 1$ being a common divisor of m and $N - k + 1$, then

$$M_u(x) = E_u(x),$$

$$E_u(x_1, \dots, x_k, y t^{N-k+1}, \dots, y t, y) = \mathcal{D}_{N,k,m}^y(x_1, \dots, x_k).$$

Proof. The proof is essentially the same as that of Proposition 21. \square

We find that the polynomial $E_u(x)$ is singular for certain values of (q, t) exactly when it coincides with $M_u(x)$, and in that case there is a factorization result of clustering type.

7.4. Highest weight and singular Macdonald polynomials. In the case of special parameter values when $MS_\lambda = P_\lambda$ by Proposition 2 it follows that

$$MS_\lambda \sum_{i=1}^N \Xi_i = P_\lambda \sum_{i=1}^N \Xi_i = P_\lambda \sum_{i=1}^N \xi_i$$

and thus $P_\lambda \sum_{i=1}^N D_i = 0$. For rectangular partitions, this matches with a result of one of the authors (J.-G. Luque) with Th. Joliceur [15] which involves the kernel of the operator

$$L_+ := \sum_{i=1}^N \prod_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \frac{tx_i - x_j}{x_i - x_j} \frac{\partial}{\partial q x_i}$$

with

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial q x_i} f(x_1, \dots, x_N) = \frac{f(x_1, \dots, x_N) - f(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, qx_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_N)}{x_i - qx_i}.$$

Note that from a result of Baker and Forrester [1, eq. (5.9), p. 12], the operator L_+ satisfies

$$(1 - q)L_+ = \sum_{i=1}^N D_i.$$

Theorem 28 (Joliceur and Luque [15]). *If $N \geq 2k$ then the Macdonald polynomial $P_{m^k}(x_1, \dots, x_N; q, t)$ belongs to the kernel of L_+ for the specialization*

$$(q, t) = (z^{\frac{k-1-N}{d}}, \omega z^{\frac{m-1}{d}})$$

where $d = \gcd(m - 1, N - k - 1)$ and $\omega = \exp\left\{\frac{2i\pi(1+dn)}{m-1}\right\}$ with $n \in \mathbb{Z}$.

We observe similar phenomena for nonsymmetric Macdonald polynomials. Note that E_u, M_u have the same eigenvalues under the action of $\xi_i, \bar{\Xi}_i$ respectively. If for certain parameters (q, t) $M_u = E_u$ then $E_u D_i = 0$ for $1 \leq i \leq N$ (since $M_u \bar{\Xi}_i = E_u \bar{\Xi}_i = E_u \xi_i + E_u D_i$).

According to Proposition 27, suppose that $u = [m^k, 0^{N-k}]$, $2k \leq N$, and $q^m t^{N-k+1} = 1$, and $q^{m/a} t^{(N-k+1)/a} \neq 1$ for $a > 1$ being a common divisor of m and $N - k + 1$, then $E_{m^k 0^{N-k}} D_i = 0$ for each $1 \leq i \leq N$.

8. Conclusion and perspectives

One of the authors (J.-G. Luque) with Thierry Jolicoeur [15] investigated other families of symmetric Macdonald polynomials belonging to the kernel of L_+ for certain specializations of the parameters. These polynomials are indexed by staircase partitions and numerical evidence shows that they have nice factorization properties. A staircase partition

$$\lambda = [((\beta + 1)s + r)^k, (\beta s + r)^\ell, \dots, (s + r)^\ell, 0^{\frac{\ell+1}{s-1}}]$$

is defined by five integer parameters β, s, r, k and ℓ such that $k \leq \ell$ and

$$N = \frac{\ell + 1}{s - 1}r + \ell(\beta + 1) + k \in \mathbb{N}.$$

The corresponding specialization is

$$(t, q) = (z^{\frac{s-1}{g}}, z^{-\frac{\ell+1}{g}} \omega)$$

where $g = \gcd(\ell + 1, s - 1)$ and $\omega = \exp\left\{\frac{2i\pi(1+dg)}{s-1}\right\}$. The simplest polynomials ($r = k = 0$) can be factorized for any variables x_1, \dots, x_N as a (q, t) -discriminant. When $g = 1$, this is a consequence of a theorem proved by one of the authors (J.-G.L) with A. Boussicault [8, Theorem 3.2]. For instance,

$$\begin{aligned} P_{420}(x_1, x_2, x_3; q = t^{-2}, t) \\ = (-)_t(x_1 - tx_2)(x_1 - tx_3)(x_2 - tx_1)(x_2 - tx_3)(x_3 - tx_1)(x_3 - tx_1), \end{aligned}$$

where $(-)_t$ denotes a factor depending only on t . But it seems that a factorization holds also for the other cases (for special values of the variables and the parameters). Let us give a few examples:

$$\begin{aligned} P_{630}(x_1, x_2, x_3; q = -t^{-1}, t) \\ = (-)_t(x_1 + x_2)(x_1 + x_3)(x_2 + x_3)(x_1 - tx_2)(x_1 - tx_3) \\ (x_2 - tx_1)(x_2 - tx_3)(x_3 - tx_1)(x_3 - tx_1), \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P_{53000}(x_1, x_2, y, yt, yt^2; q = t^{-2}, t) \\ = (-)_t(x_1 - yt^3)(x_1 - yt)(x_1 - yt^{-1}) \\ (x_2 - yt^3)(x_2 - yt)(x_2 - yt^{-1}), \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P_{42200}(x_1, y_1, y_1t, y_2, y_2t; q = t^{-3}, t) \\ = (-)_t(x_1 - y_1t^2)(x_1 - y_2t^2)(x_1 - y_1t)(x_1 - y_2t) \\ (y_1 - ty_2)(y_1 - t^2y_2)(y_2 - ty_1)(y_2 - t^2y_1), \end{aligned}$$

$$P_{6400000}(x_1, y_1, y_1 t, y_1 t^2, y_2, y_2 t, y_2 t^2; q = t^{-2}, t)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= (-)_t (x_1 - y_1 t^3)(x_1 - y_1 t^3)(x_1 - y_1 t^{-1}) \\ &\quad (x_1 - y_2 t^3)(x_1 - y_2 t^3)(x_1 - y_2 t^{-1})(y_1 - t y_2) \\ &\quad (y_1 - t^3 y_2)(y_2 - t y_1)(y_2 - t^3 y_1), \end{aligned}$$

$$P_{7507}(x_1, y_1, \dots, y_1 t^4, y_2, \dots, y_2 t^2; q = t^2, t)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= (-)_t (y_1 - x_1 t^3)(y_1 - y_2 t^3)(y_1 - x_1 t^5) \\ &\quad (y_1 - y_2 t^5)(y_2 - x_1 t^3)(y_2 - y_1 t^3) P_{420}(x_1, y_1, y_2; q = t^{-2}, t), \dots \end{aligned}$$

A correct formula (and of course a proof) remains to be found.

Note that there are also analogous formulas for singular nonsymmetric Macdonald polynomials indexed by staircase partitions. Consider the following examples:

$$E_{210}(x_1, x_2, x_3; q = z^{-2}, t = z)$$

$$= (-)_t (t x_2 - x_1)(t x_3 - x_1)(t x_3 - x_2)$$

$$E_{630}(x_1, x_2, x_3; q = z^{-2}, t = z^3)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= (-)_z (x_2 z - x_3)(-z x_3 + x_2)(x_2 - z^3 x_3)(x_1 z - x_3) \\ &\quad (-z x_3 + x_1)(x_1 - z^3 x_3)(x_1 z - x_2)(x_1 - x_2 z)(x_1 - x_2 z^3), \end{aligned}$$

$$E_{420}(x_1, x_2, x_3; q = -t, t)$$

$$= (-)_t (x_2 + x_3)(-t x_3 + x_2)(x_3 + x_1)(-t x_3 + x_1)(x_1 + x_2)(x_1 - x_2 t),$$

$$E_{221100}(x_1, x_2, y_1, t y_1, y_2, t y_2; q = t^{-3}, t)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= (-)_t (y_1 - y_2 t^2)(y_1 - y_2 t)(x_2 - y_2 t^2) \\ &\quad (x_2 - t^2 y_1)(x_1 - y_2 t^2)(x_1 - t^2 y_1), \end{aligned}$$

$$E_{442200}(x_1, y_1, y_1 z^2, y_2, y_2 z^2; q = z^{-3}, t = z^2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= (-)_z (y_1 - y_2 z^4)(y_1 - y_2 z)(y_1 z - y_2) \\ &\quad (y_1 - y_2 z^2)(x_1 - y_2 z^4)(x_1 - y_2 z)(x_1 - y_1 z^4)(x_1 - y_1 z). \end{aligned}$$

There are also equations involving permutations of $(m^k, 0^{N-k})$. For instance,

$$E_{0022}(t, 1, x_3, x_4; q = t^{-3}, t) = (-)_t (t x_4 - y)(t x_3 - y) x_4 x_3.$$

In Appendix C we show a factorization formula for permutations of $m^k 0^{N-k}$.

The connections with singular properties remain to be investigated. In particular, if E_u is singular then it has the same spectral vector for $\{\Xi_i\}$ as M_u . If the spectral vector is nondegenerate (multiplicity = 1) then $M_u = E_u$.

A. Notations

For parameters a, b, c , we consider the operator $G_{a,b,c}^i$ acting on polynomials (or Laurent polynomials) by

$$G_{a,b,c}^i = a + \frac{bx_i - cx_{i+1}}{x_i - x_{i+1}}(1 - s_i), \quad 1 \leq i < N.$$

The braid relations $G^i G^{i+1} G^i = G^{i+1} G^i G^{i+1}$ hold for two families of solutions: $(a, b, c) = (t_1, -t_1, t_2)$ and $(a, b, c) = (t_1, t_2, -t_1)$. In both cases the quadratic relation

$$(G_{a,b,c}^i - t_1)(G_{a,b,c}^i - t_2) = 0$$

holds. The inverses are

$$(G_{t_1, -t_1, t_2}^i)^{-1} = G_{1/t_1, 1/t_2, -1/t_1}^i,$$

$$(G_{t_1, t_2, -t_1}^i)^{-1} = G_{1/t_1, -1/t_1, 1/t_2}^i.$$

Some pertinent evaluations are

$$1G_{a,b,c}^i = a,$$

$$x_i G_{t_1, -t_1, t_2}^i = -t_2 x_{i+1},$$

and

$$x_{i+1} G_{t_1, t_2, -t_1}^i = -t_2 x_i.$$

In our applications we require the quadratic relation

$$(G_{a,b,c}^i - t)(G_{a,b,c}^i + 1) = 0,$$

and the evaluation $1G_{a,b,c}^i = t$, because 1 is (trivially) symmetric, thus $a = t$, $b = -1$. The version of T_i used in one of our previous papers [9] is $G_{t, -t, -1}^i$, but Lascoux *et al.* [22] uses $G_{t, -1, -t}^i$ which equals $(G_{1/t, -1/t, -1}^i)^{-1}$ (that is, $T_i(1/t)^{-1}$ from our notations[9]).

With parameters $\frac{1}{t}, \frac{1}{q}$ in relation to our notations [9] the following hold for the Lascoux *et al.* [22] versions (and $T_i = G_{t,-1,-t}^i, T_i^{-1} = G_{1/t,-1/t,-1}$):

- (1) $\xi_i = t^{1-i} T_{i-1} \dots T_1 \tau T_{N-1}^{-1} \dots T_i^{-1}$ (Cherednik operator);
- (2) $p\tau(x) = p(x_N/q, x_1, \dots, x_{N-1})$;
- (3) $D_N = (1 - \xi_N)x_N^{-1}$; a simple check for the coefficient of ξ_N : apply the operator to the constant polynomial 1, since $1T_i = t$ we have $1\xi_i = t^{i-N}$ and it is necessary that $1D_N = 0$;
- (4) $D_i = tT_i^{-1}D_{i+1}T_i^{-1}$;
- (5) $\Xi_i = t^{1-i} T_{i-1} \dots T_1 \tau (1 - \frac{1}{x_N}) T_{N-1}^{-1} \dots T_i^{-1} + \frac{1}{x_i}$; similarly check the constants by verifying $1\Xi_i = t^{i-N}$; note that $(\frac{1}{x_{i+1}})T_i^{-1} = \frac{1}{x_i}$.

B. Alternative proof of Lemma 12

Let $\lambda \in [m^k, 0^{N-k}]$ with $2k \leq N$. We have

$$\lambda = [m^{k'}, \lambda_{k'+1}, \dots, \lambda_{k''}, 0^{N-k''}],$$

with $k' \leq k'' \leq k$ and $\lambda_{k'+1} < m$.

The vector $\langle \lambda^- \rangle^\infty$ with $\lambda \subsetneq m^k$ is

$$[t^{N-k''-1}, \dots, t, 1, *, \dots, *, q^m t^{N-1}, \dots, q^m t^{N-k'}, q t^{N-k''-1}, \dots, q t, q, \dots].$$

So we have to enumerate the pairs (i, j) with $i = 1, \dots, k'$ and $j = 1, \dots, N - k''$ verifying

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \lambda^- \rangle_{N-k'+i}^\infty &= q^m t^{N-i}, \\ \langle \lambda^- \rangle_{N+j}^\infty &= q t^{N-k''-j}, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\frac{\langle \lambda^- \rangle_{N-k'+i}^\infty}{\langle \lambda^- \rangle_{N+j}^\infty} = q^{m-1} t^{N-k+1}.$$

Then, we have to enumerate the pairs (i, j) with $i = 1, \dots, k', j = 1, \dots, N - k''$ such that

$$N - i - (N - k'' - j) = N - k + 1.$$

Equivalently,

$$j = N - k - k'' + 1 + i.$$

Hence, when i ranges $1, \dots, k'$, j ranges $N - k - k'' + 2, \dots, N - k + k' - k'' + 1$. But since $k \leq N - k$ and $k'' \leq k$ we have

$$2 \leq k - k'' + 2 \leq N - k - k'' + 2.$$

If $\lambda \not\subseteq [m^k, 0^{N-k}]$ then $k' < k$ and we have

$$N - k + k' - k'' \leq N - k''.$$

To resume: when $\lambda \subseteq [m^k, 0^{N-k}]$, j ranges

$$N - k - k'' + 2, \dots, N - k + k' - k'' + 1 \subset 1, \dots, N - k''.$$

So there are

$$N - k + k' - k'' + 1 - (N - k - k'' + 2) + 1 = k'$$

pairs (i, j) satisfying the property. It follows that the maximal power of $(1 - q^{m-1}t^{N-k+1})$ in the denominator of equality (37) is k' .

But if $\lambda = [m^k, 0^{N-k}]$ then j ranges

$$N - 2k + 2, \dots, N - k \quad (k = k' = k'');$$

so the maximal power is $k' - 1 = k - 1$.

Similarly, we study the numerator: we have to enumerate the pair (i, j) with $i = 1, \dots, k'$, $j = 1, \dots, N - k''$ such that

$$N - i - (N - k'' - j) + 1 = N - k + 1.$$

Equivalently,

$$j = N - k - k'' + i.$$

Hence, when i ranges $1 \dots k'$, j ranges

$$N - k - k'' + 1, \dots, N - k + k' - k''.$$

Again

$$N - k - k'' + 1, \dots, N - k + k' - k'' \subset 1, \dots, N - k''.$$

So there are

$$N - k + k' - k'' - (N - k - k'' + 1) + 1 = k'$$

pairs (i, j) satisfying the property. As a consequence the maximal power of $(1 - q^{m-1}t^{N-k+1})$ in the numerator of (37) equals k' .

If $\lambda \not\subseteq [m^k, 0^{N-k}]$, the numerator and the denominator simplify and we have no factor of the form $(1 - q^{m-1}t^{N-k+1})$ in (37). On the other hand, when $\lambda = [m^k, 0^{N-k}]$, after simplification it remains a factor $(1 - q^{m-1}t^{N-k+1})$ in (37). This completes the proof.

C. Expressions for M_u where u is a permutation of $[m^k 0^{N-k}]$

Fix $m \geq 1$ and k with $1 \leq k \leq N$. As before we neglect scalar multipliers $(*)$ of the form $q^a t^b$, and then adjust the formulae using the monic properties. Define

$$\Omega_{N,k} := \{\beta \in \mathbb{N}^k : 1 \leq \beta[1] < \beta[2] < \dots < \beta[k] \leq N\}$$

For $\beta \in \Omega_{N,k}$ define $u(\beta) \in \mathbb{N}^N$ by $u(\beta)[\beta[i]] = m$ for $1 \leq i \leq k$ otherwise $u(\beta)[j] = 0$. Let $\sigma(\beta)$ denote the set $\{\beta[i] : 1 \leq i \leq k\}$. For $1 \leq i \leq k$ define ε_i by $\varepsilon_i[j] = \delta_{ij}$.

Remark 29. Note that if $i = \beta[j] - 1 \notin \sigma(\beta)$ for some j then $u(\beta).s_i = u(\beta - \varepsilon_j)$. For instance, if $N = 7$ and $\beta = [1, 4, 5, 7]$ then $u(\beta) = [m, 0, 0, m, m, 0, m]$ and

$$u(\beta).s_6 = [m, 0, 0, m, m, m, 0] = u([1, 4, 5, 6]) = u(\beta - \varepsilon_4).$$

Definition 30. For $1 \leq i \leq N$ let $\chi_\beta(i) = N - i - \#\{l : \beta[l] > i\}$, (if $i = \beta[l]$) then $\chi_\beta(i) = N - i - k + l$. Also let $x^{(\beta)}$ be the point given by

$$x_i^{(\beta)} = \begin{cases} x_i & \text{for } i \in \sigma(\beta), \\ t^{\chi_\beta(i)} & \text{for } i \notin \sigma(\beta). \end{cases}$$

The meaning of χ_β is simply that $\chi_\beta(i) = N - r_{u(\beta)}[i]$ and $x_i^{(\beta)} = \langle u(\beta) \rangle [i]$ for $i \notin \sigma(\beta)$. The following is one of the main results of this section. The proof consists of several lemmas.

Theorem 31. For $\beta \in \Omega_{N,k}$

$$M_{u(\beta)}(x^{(\beta)}) = \prod_{j=1}^k (x_{\beta[j]} - t^{N+j-k-\beta[j]}) \prod_{i=1}^{m-1} (x_{\beta[j]} - t^{N-k} q^i).$$

Lemma 32. *Suppose $v \in \mathbb{N}^N$, $v[i] < v[i + 1]$ for some $i < N$ and y is a point such that $M_v(y) = 0$, then*

$$M_{v.s_i}(y) = \left(\frac{y_i - ty_{i+1}}{y_i - y_{i+1}} \right) M_v(y.s_i).$$

Proof. This follows from Definition 1 of T_i . □

Lemma 33. *Suppose $\beta \in \Omega_{N,k}$ and $\beta[j] - 1 \notin \sigma(\beta)$ for some j . Set $i = \beta[j] - 1$ so that $u(\beta)[i] = 0$, $u(\beta)[i + 1] = m$ and $u(\beta).s_i = u(\beta - \varepsilon_j)$ (see Remark 29). Then*

$$M_{u(\beta)}(x^{(\beta)}.s_i) = 0.$$

Proof. Let $v \in \mathbb{N}^N$ satisfy $v[l] \geq 1$ for $l \in \sigma(\beta - \varepsilon_j)$ and $v[l] = 0$ for $l \notin \sigma(\beta - \varepsilon_j)$ (in particular $v[i] \geq 1$ and $v[i + 1] = 0$). By Knop’s “extravagant” theorem [18, Theorem 4.5] $M_{u(\beta)}(\langle v \rangle) = 0$. To prove by contradiction suppose $M_{u(\beta)}(\langle v \rangle) \neq 0$ then there is a permutation $w \in \mathfrak{S}_N$ such that for any i with $1 \leq i \leq N$ either $i \geq w(i)$ and $u(\beta)[i] \leq v[w(i)]$ or $i < w(i)$ and $u(\beta)[i] < v[w(i)]$. Let $S_1 = \{1, \dots, N\} \setminus \sigma(\beta)$ and $S_2 = \{1, \dots, N\} \setminus \sigma(\beta - \varepsilon_j)$. The sets S_1 and S_2 agree with the exception $i \in S_1 \setminus S_2$ and $i + 1 \in S_2 \setminus S_1$. By construction $w(l) \in S_2$ implies $l \in S_1$ and $l \geq w(l)$. Thus w maps S_1 onto S_2 and by induction (using $l \geq w(l)$) we see that $w(l) = l$ for each $l \in S_1$ with $l < i$. But then $w(i) \geq i + 1$, which is impossible.

Consider the vector $\langle v \rangle$; by construction

$$\langle v \rangle[l] = \begin{cases} q^{v[l]} t^{N-r_v[l]}, & l \in \sigma(\beta - \varepsilon_j), \\ t^{x_{\beta(l)}}, & l \notin \sigma(\beta - \varepsilon_j). \end{cases}$$

Note that $1 \leq r_v[l] \leq k$ for $l \in \sigma(\beta - \varepsilon_j)$, and $\langle v \rangle = x^{(\beta)}.s_i$ where each x_l is of the form $q^a t^b$ with $a \geq 1$ and $N - k + 1 \leq b \leq N$. Now $M_u(x^{(\beta)}.s_i)$ is a polynomial in k variables of degree mk which vanishes at infinitely many points of this form; by the uniqueness of the vanishing property of shifted Macdonald polynomials $M_u(x^{(\beta)}.s_i) = 0$ for all $x^{(\beta)}$. □

Lemma 34. *Suppose $\beta = [N - k + 1, \dots, N]$ then*

$$x^{(\beta)} = (t^{N-k+1}, \dots, t, 1, x_{N-k+1}, \dots, x_N)$$

and

$$M_{u(\beta)}(x^{(\beta)}) = \prod_{i=N-k+1}^N (x_i - 1) \prod_{j=1}^{m-1} (x_i - t^{N-k} q^j).$$

Proof. Let $v = [(m-1)^k, 0^{N-k}]$. By the results of Section 6.1

$$M_v(x_1, \dots, x_k, t^{N-k-1}, \dots, 1) = \prod_{i=1}^k \prod_{j=0}^{m-2} (x_i - t^{N-k} q^j);$$

if $m = 1$ the product equals 1. From $v \cdot \Phi^k = u(\beta)$ it follows that

$$M_{u(\beta)}(x) = (*) M_v(x_{N-k+1}/q, \dots, x_N/q, x_1, \dots, x_{N-k}) \prod_{i=N-k+1}^N (x_i - 1).$$

Set $x_i = t^{N-k-i}$ for $1 \leq i \leq N-k$, then

$$\begin{aligned} M_{u(\beta)}(x) &= (*) M_v(x_{N-k+1}/q, \dots, x_N/q, t^{N-k-1}, \dots, 1) \prod_{i=N-k+1}^N (x_i - 1) \\ &= (*) \prod_{i=N-k+1}^N (x_i - 1) \prod_{j=0}^{m-2} (x_i/q - t^{N-k} q^j). \end{aligned}$$

This proves the Lemma. □

For $\beta \in \Omega_{N,k}$ define

$$F_\beta(x) := \prod_{j=1}^k (x_{\beta[j]} - t^{N+j-k-\beta[j]}).$$

The special cases are $\beta = [N-k+1, \dots, N]$, $F_\beta = \prod_{i=N-k+1}^N (x_i - 1)$ and $\beta = [1, 2, \dots, k]$, $F_\beta = \prod_{i=1}^k (x_i - t^{N-k})$.

Proof. (of Theorem 31): We use induction for steps of the form $u(\beta) \rightarrow u(\beta) \cdot s_i$ applied to $u(\beta)$ with $u(\beta)[i] = 0$ and $u(\beta)[i+1] = m$. The previous Lemma provides the starting point. Suppose for some j, i that $\beta[j] = i+1$ and $i \notin \sigma(\beta)$, then with the identification $x_i = x_{i+1}$ we have $x^{(\beta)} \cdot s_i = x^{(\beta')}$, where $\beta' = \beta - \varepsilon_j$. Then

$$F_{\beta'}(x^{(\beta')}) = \frac{x_i - t^{N+j-k-i}}{x_i - t^{N+j-k-i-1}} F_\beta(x^{(\beta)}),$$

because only the factor involving x_i changes. Suppose that the claimed formula holds for β , that is,

$$M_{u(\beta)}(x^{(\beta)}) = F_\beta(x^{(\beta)}) \prod_{j=1}^{m-1} (x_{\beta[j]} - t^{N-k} q^j).$$

By Lemma 33 $M_{u(\beta)}(x^{(\beta)}.s_i) = 0$ and by Lemma 32

$$M_{u(\beta).s_i}(x^{(\beta')}) = \left(\frac{x_i^{(\beta')} - tx_{i+1}^{(\beta')}}{x_i^{(\beta')} - x_{i+1}^{(\beta')}} \right) M_{u(\beta)}(x^{(\beta)}),$$

because

$$x^{(\beta')}.s_i = x^{(\beta)}.$$

Also

$$x_{i+1}^{(\beta')} = x_i^{(\beta)} = t^{\chi_{\beta}(i)}$$

where

$$\chi_{\beta}(i) = N - i - \#\{l : \beta[l] > i\} = N - i - (k - j + 1).$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} M_{u(\beta).s_i}(x^{(\beta')}) &= \left(\frac{x_i - t^{N+j-i-k}}{x_i - t^{N+j-i-k-1}} \right) M_{u(\beta)}(x^{(\beta)}) \\ &= \frac{F_{\beta'}(x^{(\beta')})}{F_{\beta}(x^{(\beta)})} M_{u(\beta)}(x^{(\beta)}), \end{aligned}$$

and this proves the formula for $\beta - \varepsilon_j$. □

Example 35. Let $\beta = [2, 5, 6, 9] \in \Omega_{10,4}$, then $u(\beta) = [0m00mm00m0]$,

$$x^{(\beta)} = (t^5, x_2, t^4, t^3, x_5, x_6, t^2, t, x_9, 1),$$

$$M_{u(\beta)}(x^{(\beta)}) = (x_2 - t^5)(x_5 - t^3)(x_6 - t^3)(x_9 - t) \prod_{j \in \{2,5,6,9\}} \prod_{i=1}^{m-1} (x_j - t^6 q^i).$$

The factorization result for rectangular E_u can be adapted to this situation. Start with $u = [m^k, 0^{N-k}]$ with $2k \leq N$.

For the rest of this section assume $q^m t^{N-k+1} = 1$ and no relation $q^a t^b = 1$ with $a < m$ or $b < N - k + 1$ holds (for details see Section 6.2).

Then by Proposition 27 $M_u(x) = E_u(x)$. We claim this equality can be extended to $u(\beta)$ provided that $u(\beta)$ is a reverse lattice permutation; this means that any substring $[u(\beta)[j], u(\beta)[j+1], \dots, u(\beta)[N]]$ contains at least as many 0's as m 's [34, p.313]. This condition is equivalent to

$$\beta[j] \leq N - 2k + 2j - 1, 1 \leq j \leq k. \tag{43}$$

As above suppose $\beta[j] = i + 1, \beta[j - 1] < i$ and $v = u(\beta), v.s_i = u(\beta - \varepsilon_j)$. The inverse relation is

$$M_v = \frac{(1 - \zeta)^2}{(t\zeta - 1)(\zeta - t)} M_{v.s_i} \left(T_i - \zeta \frac{1 - t}{1 - \zeta} \right),$$

where $\zeta = q^m t^{k+1+i-2j}$. The same transformation takes E_{v,s_i} to E_v . We use induction. Suppose $M_{u(\beta-\varepsilon_j)} = E_{u(\beta-\varepsilon_j)}$ when $q^m t^{N-k+1} = 1$ and both polynomials are defined (that is, the coefficients have no poles at $q^m t^{N-k+1} = 1$). Then the same properties hold for $M_{u(\beta)}$ and $E_{u(\beta)}$ if $\zeta \neq t^{-1}, 1, t$. Set $q^m = t^{-(N-k+1)}$ then $\zeta = t^a$ with $a = 2k + i - 2j - N$. But $i = \beta[j] - 1$ thus by condition (43) we have

$$a \leq 2k - 2j - N + (N - 2k + 2j - 1) - 1 = -2.$$

The induction starts with $\beta = [1, 2, \dots, k]$. We have shown

Proposition 36. *Suppose $2k \leq N$, $\beta \in \Omega_{N,k}$, β satisfies (43), (and $q^m = t^{-(N-k+1)}$) then*

$$E_{u(\beta)}(x) = M_{u(\beta)}(x).$$

For the specialization result, let $z^{(\beta)}$ be defined by $z_i^{(\beta)} = x_i$ if $i \in \sigma(\beta)$, and $z_i^{(\beta)} = yt^{\alpha_{\beta}(i)}$ if $i \notin \sigma(\beta)$, for variables x_i and y .

Proposition 37. *Suppose $2k \leq N$, $\beta \in \Omega_{N,k}$, β satisfies (43), (and $q^m = t^{-(N-k+1)}$), then*

$$E_{u(\beta)}(z^{(\beta)}) = \prod_{j=1}^k (x_{\beta[j]} - t^{N+j-k-\beta[j]}y) \prod_{i=1}^{m-1} (x_{\beta[j]} - t^{N-k}q^i y).$$

Proof. With the notation of Definition 30,

$$\begin{aligned} E_{u(\beta)}(y x^{(\beta)}) &= y^{mk} E_{u(\beta)}(x^{(\beta)}) \\ &= y^{mk} M_{u(\beta)}(x^{(\beta)}) \\ &= y^{mk} \prod_{j=1}^k (x_{\beta[j]} - t^{N+j-k-\beta[j]}y) \prod_{i=1}^{m-1} (x_{\beta[j]} - t^{N-k}q^i y). \end{aligned}$$

Replace x_i by x_i/y to finish the proof. □

Example 38. *Let $\beta = [2, 5, 6, 9] \in \Omega_{10,4}$, $q^m t^7 = 1$ then*

$$z^{(\beta)} = (yt^5, x_2, yt^4, yt^3, x_5, x_6, yt^2, yt, x_9, y),$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} E_{u(\beta)}(z^{(\beta)}) &= (x_2 - yt^5)(x_5 - yt^3)(x_6 - yt^3)(x_9 - yt) \prod_{j \in \{2,5,6,9\}} \prod_{i=1}^{m-1} (x_j - t^6 q^i y). \end{aligned}$$

One expects a generalization of this result for permutations of staircase partitions.

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