ON SOME NONCOMMUTATIVE SYMMETRIC FUNCTIONS ANALOGOUS TO HALL-LITTLEWOOD AND MACDONALD POLYNOMIALS

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To Christophe Reutenauer, on the occasion of his 60th birthday

Abstract. We investigate the connections between various noncommutative analogues of Hall-Littlewood and Macdonald polynomials, and define some new families of noncommutative symmetric functions depending on two sequences of parameters.

1. Introduction

There have been several attempts to define analogues of Hall-Littlewood and Macdonald polynomials in the algebras of noncommutative symmetric functions (Sym) and of quasi-symmetric functions (QSym). The first analogues of Hall-Littlewood functions were defined by Hivert [4], who replaced symmetrization by a new operation of quasi-symmetrization in Littlewood’s original definition. This provided first an interpolation between the monomial and fundamental bases of quasisymmetric functions (which are analogues of the monomial and Schur bases of symmetric functions), by means of a quasi-symmetrizing action of the Hecke algebra. The construction was then further explored on the dual side by combinatorial methods.

It was then shown by Hivert, Lascoux and the third author [5] that these functions admitted a simple and direct combinatorial definition, in which a second parameter could be introduced so as to give analogues of Macdonald polynomials. It was also observed that \( q \) and \( t \) could be replaced by sequences of indeterminates \( q_i \) and \( t_i \) in such a way that \( q_i = q^i \) and \( t_i = t^i \) give back the original version.

Almost simultaneously, similar but different analogues were defined by Bergeron and Zabrocki [1]. Their approach was to obtain Macdonald-like functions from an analogue of the Nabla operator, of which the original Macdonald functions are the eigenvectors.

More recently [10], it has been shown that many more parameters could be introduced in the definition of such bases. Actually, one can have a pair of \( n \times n \) matrices \((Q_n, T_n)\) for each degree \( n \). The main properties established in [1] and [5] remain true in this general context, and one recovers the polynomials introduced in these two papers for appropriate specializations of the matrices.
In the meantime, very different analogues of Hall-Littlewood functions had been defined by Novelli-Thibon-Williams [14]. These analogues, which were based on the monomial functions introduced by the second author [15], had the interesting property that contrary to the other versions, the elements of the \((q,t)\)-Kostka matrices were not monomials, but non-trivial polynomials with an interesting combinatorial interpretation. The approach of [14] was to build \(q\)-analogues of product of complete functions (similar to the \(Q'\)-version of Hall-Littlewood functions), such that their expansions on some simple \(q\)-analogue of the noncommutative fundamental basis of [15] provided combinatorial information on permutation tableaux.

Finally, the Hall-Littlewood basis of [16] was apparently of a different nature. It was defined so as to interpolate between the noncommutative monomial basis introduced in [15] and the ribbon (Schur-like) basis of noncommutative symmetric functions. Introducing certain natural constraints led to a definition involving the special inversion statistic defined in [14]. However, the relation between both approaches was unclear.

The aim of this paper is to clarify the relations between all these different approaches.

We shall uncover the relations between the constructions of [14] and of [16] by first introducing a new multivariate analogue of a classical automorphism of noncommutative symmetric functions, which will allow us to apply the methods of [10] to find a recurrence for the matrices of [16], leading to a natural multiparameter analogue, preserving a factorization property of the Kostka-like matrices.

The present paper started with the observation that the Hall-Littlewood basis of [16] could be obtained from one of the bases defined in [14] by applying a version of the so-called \((1-t)\)-transform of noncommutative symmetric functions. A second observation was that the matrices expressing these functions in a suitably modified ribbon basis satisfied a recurrence relation of the same type as those of [10]. Since it has been shown in [10] that such matrices could be defined with many more parameters, we were naturally led to look for a multiparameter version of the functions of [16]. To this aim, we had to find a multiparameter analogue of the \((1-t)\)-transform. It turns out that such a map does exist. It is a morphism of algebras, though not of coalgebras, which may be the reason for which it had been overlooked for a long time, despite its simplicity. Its inverse, applied to a complete symmetric function, yields the multiparameter Klyachko element of [9], which, as shown by McNamara and Reutenauer [12] does indeed reduce to a Lie idempotent under an appropriate specialization (see also [2, 13]).

The new recurrence for the (multivariate version of the) Kostka matrices of [16] allows us to provide a proof of a generalization of the product formula announced in this reference, as well as closed formulas for various other transition matrices. All these results are easily proved by means of the Grassmann algebra formalism of [10]. The techniques of [10] also allow us to introduce a second family of parameters, so as to obtain Macdonald-like bases. For those, we only describe some transition matrices.

Our results do not provide multiparameter analogues of all the constructions of [14], in particular, they do not seem to be related to the combinatorics of permutation
tableaux. So, we conclude with an appendix sketching another approach to introducing more parameters in the constructions of [14], by refining the special inversion statistic with a code in the sense of [9].

Acknowledgements. – Lenny Tevlin would like to thank his co-authors for their warm hospitality at Marne-la-Vallée, where this work was initiated.

2. Notations

Our notations for noncommutative symmetric functions will be as in [3, 9]. Here is a brief reminder.

The Hopf algebra of noncommutative symmetric functions is denoted by $\text{Sym}$, or $\text{Sym}_n$ if we consider the realization in terms of an auxiliary alphabet. Bases of $\text{Sym}_n$ are labelled by compositions $I$ of $n$. The noncommutative complete and elementary functions are denoted by $S_n$ and $\Lambda_n$, and the notation $S^I$ means $S_{i_1} \ldots S_{i_r}$. The ribbon basis is denoted by $R^I$. The notation $I \triangleright n$ means that $I$ is a composition of $n$. The conjugate composition is denoted by $I^\sim$. The length of $I$ is denoted by $\ell(I)$ and its weight by $|I|$. The mirror image of $I$ is denoted by $\overline{I}$. If $I = (i_1, \ldots, i_r)$ is finer than $J = (j_1, \ldots, j_s)$, the refining composition $I_J$ is the composition of $r = \ell(I)$ whose $k$th part is the number of parts of $I$ composing $j_k$. For example, if $I = (11122311)$ and $J = (3325)$, $I_J = (3213)$.

The product $R^I R^J = R^I_J + R^I J$ of two ribbon Schur functions is the sum of the two terms given by $I \triangleright J = (i_1, \ldots, i_r + j_1, \ldots, j_s)$ and $IJ = (i_1, \ldots, i_r, j_1, \ldots, j_s)$.

The graded dual of $\text{Sym}$ is $Q\text{Sym}$ (quasi-symmetric functions). The dual basis of $(S^I)$ is $(M^I)$ (monomial), and that of $(R^I)$ is $(F^I)$. The descent set of $I = (i_1, \ldots, i_r)$ is $\text{Des}(I) = \{i_1, i_1 + i_2, \ldots, i_1 + \cdots + i_{r-1}\}$.

The monomial basis of [15] is denoted here by $\Psi_I$ (instead of $M^I$), as in [7]. This basis should not be confused with the basis $\Psi^I$ of [3]. An important convention, followed in all the papers of the NCSF series, is that an upper index denotes a multiplicative basis built on a sequence of generators $Z_n$: $Z^I = Z_{i_1} \cdots Z_{i_r}$. For a one-part composition $I = (n)$, $Z^{(n)} = Z_n$, and the notation $Z_I$ is used only to denote a non-multiplicative basis such that $Z^{(n)} = Z_n$.

3. Noncommutative Hall-Littlewood functions

This section provides background on some constructions which will be simplified and generalized in the sequel.

3.1. The Hall-Littlewood functions of [16]. The functions $P_I(t)$ of [16] are, for $I = (n)$,

$$P_n(t; A) = \frac{S_n((1-t)A)}{1-t}$$
and for \( I = (i_1, \ldots, i_r) \), given by the quasideterminant

\[
(2) \quad P_I(t; A) = \frac{(-1)^{r-1}}{[r]_t} \begin{vmatrix}
P_{i_r} & [1]_t & 0 & \ldots & 0 & 0 \\
P_{i_r^{-1}+i_r} & P_{i_r^{-1}} & [2]_t & \ldots & 0 & 0 \\
& & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\
& & & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\
P_{i_2+\ldots+i_r} & \cdots & \cdots & P_{i_2} & [r-1]_t \\
P_{i_1+i_2} & \cdots & \cdots & P_{i_1} & P_{i_1}
\end{vmatrix}
\]

where \([k]_t = 1 + t + \cdots + t^{k-1}\).

This is not the definition given in [16], but this expression is equivalent to the recurrence

\[
(3) \quad [r]_t P_I = P_{i_1} P_{i_2, \ldots, i_r} - P_{i_1+i_2} P_{i_3, \ldots, i_r} + \cdots + (-1)^{r-1} P_{i_1+\ldots+i_r}.
\]

which is satisfied by the \( P_I \) of [16].

The \( Q \)-basis is just [16]

\[
(4) \quad Q_I = (t; t)_r P_I.
\]

As already mentioned, the definition of the basis \( P_I(t) \) in [16] is equivalent to [11] and [2]. This formulation is natural, as it amounts to replacing each \( \Psi_k \) in the quasideterminant definition of the monomial basis \( \Psi_I \) by its natural \( t \)-analogue, and the integers on the superdiagonal by the corresponding \( t \)-integers. Then, by definition, \( P_I(1) = \Psi_I \), and it is immediate that \( P_I(0) = R_I \), which is the exact analogue of the monomial/Schur specializations of the ordinary Hall-Littlewood \( P \)-functions [11].

The main results of [16] are (1) the product rule for \( P_I P_J \) (Eq. (6) below), and (2) a combinatorial expression for the analogues of the Kostka polynomials, expressing in the classical case the \( P \)-expansion of Schur functions. If we define \( K_{I,J}(t) \) by

\[
(5) \quad R_{J}(A) = \sum_{I} K_{I,J}(t)P_I(t; A)
\]

then, the result of [16] is

\[
(6) \quad K_{I,J}(t) = \tilde{D}_I^J(t) = t^{\text{maj}(I)} D_I^J(t^{-1})
\]

where \( D_I^J(q) \) is the matrix defined in [14] Prop. 3.7 (see the Appendix of the present paper).

3.2. Comparison with the Hall-Littlewood functions of [14]. In [14], the parameter \( q \) plays the role of \( t^{-1} \) here. In this reference, a deformation \( R_I(q) \) of the ribbon basis is introduced by means of a nonassociative \( q \)-product on \( \text{Sym} \), itself obtained by a linear projection of an associative \( q \)-product on the Hopf algebra \( \text{WQSym} \) (based on packed word, or equivalently, set compositions, or surjections, see, e.g., [7] [14]). The \( R_I(q) \) are then expanded on a deformation \( L_I(q) \) of the fundamental basis \( L_I \) (see [15] [7]). The matrix \( D_I^J(q) \) is defined by

\[
(7) \quad R_{J}(q) = \sum_{I} D_I^J(q)\Psi_I(A).
\]
Let us define
\begin{align*}
\tilde{R}_J(t) &= \sum I \tilde{D}_J^I(t)\Psi_I(A) \\
\tilde{L}_I(t) &= \sum I k_{IJ}(t)\Psi_I(A) \\
\tilde{R}_J(t) &= \sum I \tilde{F}_J^I(t)\tilde{L}_I(t)
\end{align*}
where \( k_{IJ}(t) \) is the coefficient of \( R_I(A) \) in Hivert’s Hall-Littlewood function \( H_J(t; A) \), and \( F_J^I(t) \) is defined in [14, Eq. (92)].

Then, the relations between the constructions of [14] and [16] can be summarized as follows:

**Proposition 3.1.** Let \( \phi_t \) be the \( \mathcal{K}[t] \)-linear endomorphism of \( \text{Sym} \) defined by \( \phi_t(P_I(t)) = \Psi_I. \) Then, \( \phi_t(R_J) = \tilde{R}_J(t). \)

It is not clear whether all these families of noncommutative symmetric functions admit compatible multiparameter analogues. A multivariate analogue of \( k_{IJ}(t) \) is defined in [5]. But to obtain multivariate versions of all the matrices of [14], we would need a multivariate analogue of \( R_I(t) \) compatible with these multivariate \( k_{IJ} \) (which is not the case of \( \mathcal{R}(t) \) defined below). Numerical experiments indicate that it is unlikely that such an analogue with good compatibility properties with the present multiparameter \( \mathcal{P} \)-functions could be defined.

However, interesting multivariate analogues of the matrices \( D_J^I \) can be defined by a different method, see Section 8.

### 4. A Multivariate Analogue of the \((1 - t)\)-Transform

The \((1 - t)\)-transform is an important automorphism of the algebra of symmetric functions. On power sums, it is defined by \( p_n((1 - t)X) = (1 - t^n)p_n(X). \) This transformation appears for example in the character formula for Hecke algebras, and it is an essential ingredient of the theory of Hall-Littlewood functions [11], where a \( t \)-deformed scalar product is defined by

\[ \langle f(X), g(X) \rangle_t = \langle f(X), g((1 - t)X) \rangle. \]

The classical Hall-Littlewood functions come in several flavors. One first defines the functions \( P_\lambda(t; X) \). Then, the functions \( Q_\lambda(t; X) \) (which are scalar multiples of the \( P_\lambda \)) are defined as their adjoint basis for the \( t \)-deformed scalar product. The \( Q'_\lambda(t; X) \) are defined as dual to the \( P_\lambda \) for the undeformed scalar product (admitting the Schur functions as an orthonormal basis). The relation between \( Q \) and \( Q' \) is thus

\[ Q_\lambda(t; X) = Q'_\lambda(t; (1 - t)X). \]

Most of the known noncommutative analogues of Hall-Littlewood or Macdonald functions admit multiparameter versions [5,10]. It is known that the \((1 - t)\) transform can be defined in \( \text{Sym} \) [9]. If we want to work with multiparameter analogues of the Hall-Littlewood functions, we need a multiparameter version of the \((1 - t)\)-transform. This can be done as follows.
Recall from [8] the expansion
\[ R_I((1-t)A)) = (-1)^{\ell(I)} \sum_{|J|=|I|, r=\ell(J)} (-1)^r (1-t^j) \prod_{k \in A(I,J)} j_k S^J(A) \]
where
\[ A(I, J) = \{ s < \ell(J) | j_1 + \cdots + j_s \not\in \text{Des}(I) \}. \]
Let \( t = (t_i)_{i \geq 1} \). We introduce the following multivariate version by “lowering the exponents”:
\[ R_I(t; A) = (-1)^{\ell(I)} \sum_{|J|=|I|, r=\ell(J)} (-1)^r \left( (1-t_{j_r}) \prod_{k \in A(I,J)} t_j \right) S^J(A) \]
For example,
\[ R_3 = (1-t_3)S^3 - (1-t_1)t_2S^{21} - (1-t_2)t_1S^{12} + (1-t_1)t_2S^{111}, \]
\[ R_{21} = -(1-t_3)S^3 + (1-t_1)t_2S^{21} - (1-t_2)t_1S^{12} - (1-t_1)t_1S^{111}. \]
We can also define
\[ S^I(t; A) = \sum_{J \leq I} R_J(t; A). \]

**Theorem 4.1.** The \( S \)-basis is multiplicative:
\[ S^I(t; A) S^J(t) = S^{IJ}(t). \]
Thus, \( R_I \) is the image of \( R_I \) by the automorphism
\[ \theta_t : S_n(A) \rightarrow S_n(t; A). \]

**Proof.** Let \( I \vdash m \) and \( J \vdash n \). It is sufficient to prove that \( R_I R_J = R_{I \triangleright J} + R_{IJ} \).
Substituting the expressions given by (15) in this product, we get on the one hand
\[ R_I R_J = \sum_{I', J'} (-1)^{\ell(I') + \ell(J') - r - s} \prod_{k \in A(I', J') \cap A(J, J')} t_{i_k} t_{j_l} (1-t_{i_k'}) (1-t_{j_l'}) S^{I' J'} \]
(where \( r = \ell(I') \) and \( s = \ell(J') \)), and distributing the factor \( (1-t_{i_k'}) \), this can be rewritten as
\[ \sum_{K} (-1)^{\ell(I)+\ell(J)-r-1} (1-t_{k_r}) \prod_{p \in A(I J, K)} t_{k_p} S^K \]
\[ + \sum_{K} (-1)^{\ell(I)+\ell(J)-r-1} (1-t_{k_r}) \prod_{p \in A(I \triangleright J, K)} t_{k_p} S^K, \]
where \( K \) runs over compositions of \( m+n \) such that \( m \in \text{Des}(K) \). On the other hand, we see on (15) that \( R_{I \triangleright J} + R_{IJ} \) is given by the same expression, where this time \( K \) runs over all compositions of \( m+n \). But these extra terms cancel, since if \( m \not\in \text{Des}(K) \), then \( A(I J, K) = A(I \triangleright J, K) \). \( \square \)
Theorem 4.2. The inverse of the automorphism $\theta_t : S_n \mapsto S_n(t)$ is

$$\theta_t^{-1} : S_n \mapsto K_n(t; A) = \sum_{I \vdash n} \prod_{d \in \Des(I)} t_d \left(1 - t_1\right) \left(1 - t_2\right) \cdots \left(1 - t_n\right) R_I(A),$$

(the multiparameter Klyachko element already encountered in [9] [12] [2] [13]).

Proof – Let $((t))_n := (1 - t_1) \cdots (1 - t_n).$ Substituting (15) in the expression of $K_n,$ we get

$$\frac{1}{((t))_n} \sum_{I, J \vdash n} (-1)^{n} \prod_{I \vdash n} t_d \prod_{k \in A(I, J)} t_{j_k} (1 - t_{j_k}) S^J$$

so that the coefficient of $S^J$ is

$$\frac{(-1)^{s - 1}}{((t))_n} \left(\sum_{I \vdash n} \prod_{d \in \Des(I)} (-t_d) \prod_{k \in A(I, J)} t_{j_k} (1 - t_{j_k})\right).$$

For $J = (n),$ the sum in the parentheses is $((t))_n,$ and for $s = \ell(J) > 1,$ the sum vanishes since its terms cancel pairwise as follows. If $p$ is a descent of $J,$ and $D$ is a subset of $[n - 1]$ not containing $p,$ there are exactly two compositions $I$ such that Des$(I) \setminus \{p\} = D,$ and they have opposite coefficients in the sum.

Note that if we set $t_i = t$ for all $i$, then $K_n$ becomes the noncommutative Eulerian polynomial $A_n^*(t; A)$ of [3].

Example 4.3. The entry $(I, J)$ in the following matrices is the coefficient of $S^J$ in $R_{J}(t)$:

$$\begin{pmatrix}
1 - t_2 & t_2 - 1 \\
(1 - t_1)(t_1 - 1) & 1 - t_1
\end{pmatrix}$$

The inverse matrices are

$$\begin{pmatrix}
\frac{1}{(1 - t_1)(1 - t_2)} & \frac{1}{(1 - t_1)^2} \\
\frac{1}{(1 - t_1)(1 - t_2)} & \frac{1}{(1 - t_1)^2}
\end{pmatrix}$$

5. Some sequences of matrices

We shall now introduce some simple sequences of matrices, which will allow us to obtain directly a multiparameter version of the noncommutative Hall-Littlewood functions of [16], as well as their multiparameter Macdonald-like extension.

Let $q = (q_n)_{n \geq 1}$ and $t = (t_n)_{n \geq 1}$ be two sequences of commuting indeterminates. For $n \geq 1,$ we define three square matrices $A_n, B_n, T_n$ of size $2^{n - 1},$ indexed by compositions of $n$ arranged in reverse lexicographic order, e.g., for $n = 3,$ by $3, 21, 12, 111$ in this order.
Definition 5.1. For two compositions $I, J$ of $n$, let $A(I, J)$ be defined by (14). We define the matrix $A_n$ by

\[ A_n(I, J) = \prod_{k \in A(I, J)} t_k \times \prod_{i \in A(I^\top, J^\top)} q_i. \]

The matrix $T_n = \text{diag} \,(t_i)_{i \in I}$ is diagonal. In particular, $T_1 = (t_1)$. We set $A_1 = (1)$, and define $B_n$ as the result of substituting $q_{i+1}$ to $q_i$ in $A_n$. Thus, $B_1 = (1)$.

Proposition 5.2. The matrices $A_n$ satisfy the recursion $A_1 = (1)$ and for $n > 1$,

\[ A_n = \begin{pmatrix} B_{n-1} & A_{n-1}T_n-1 \\ q_1B_{n-1} & A_{n-1} \end{pmatrix} \]

Proof – Let us cut the matrix $A_n$ into four blocks. Each block is now indexed by pairs of compositions of $n$ which can be represented by compositions of $n - 1$.

For example, the top-left corner corresponds to compositions of the form $(1 \triangleright I, 1 \triangleright J)$. In that case, we have $A(I \triangleright I, 1 \triangleright J) = A(I, J)$ and $A(I \triangleright J^\top, 1 \triangleright J^\top) = A(I^\top, J^\top) + 1$ since, for all compositions $K, 1 \triangleright K^\top = K^\top \cdot 1$. So the matrix in the top-left corner of $A_n$ is obtained from $A_{n-1}$ by substituting $q_{i+1}$ to $q_i$.

The same reasoning applies to the other blocks of $A_n$.

For example,

\[ A_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & t_1 \\ q_1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad A_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & t_1 & t_1 & t_1t_2 \\ q_2 & 1 & q_1t_1 & t_2 \\ q_1t_1 & 1 & q_1t_1t_2 & t_2 \\ q_1q_2q_3 & q_1q_2 & q_1 & q_1q_2 \end{pmatrix} \]

\[ A_4 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & t_1 & t_1 & t_1t_2 & t_1 & t_1t_2 & t_1t_2 & t_1t_2t_3 \\ q_3 & 1 & q_2t_1 & t_2 & q_2t_1 & t_2 & q_1t_1t_2 & t_2t_3 \\ q_2 & 1 & q_2t_1 & t_2 & q_2t_1 & t_2 & q_1t_1t_2 & t_2t_3 \\ q_3 & q_2 & q_2 & 1 & q_1q_2t_1 & q_1t_2 & q_1t_2 & t_3 \\ q_4 & q_2 & q_2 & 1 & q_1q_2t_1 & q_1t_2 & q_1t_2 & t_3 \\ q_1 & q_1t_1 & q_1t_1t_2 & t_2 & q_1t_1 & q_1t_1 & q_1t_1 & q_1t_1 & t_1 \\ q_1 & q_1t_1 & q_1t_1t_2 & t_2 & q_1t_1 & q_1t_1 & q_1t_1 & q_1t_1 & t_1 \\ q_1 & q_1t_1 & q_1t_1t_2 & t_2 & q_1t_1 & q_1t_1 & q_1t_1 & q_1t_1 & q_1t_1 & q_1t_1 & t_1 \end{pmatrix} \]

As for all known analogues of the $(q,t)$-Kostka matrices, we have:

Proposition 5.3. The determinants of the $A_n$ are products of linear factors:

\[ \det A_n = \prod_{k=2}^{n} \prod_{i=1}^{n-k} (1 - q_it_{k-i})^{(n-1)} \]

Proof – Subtracting $q_1$ times the upper half of the matrix to its lower half, we have

\[ |A_n| = \begin{vmatrix} B_{n-1} & A_{n-1}T_{n-1} \\ q_1B_{n-1} & A_{n-1} \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} B_{n-1} & A_{n-1}T_{n-1} \\ 0 & A_{n-1} - q_1A_{n-1}T_{n-1} \end{vmatrix} = |B_{n-1}|A_{n-1}|I_{n-1} - q_1T_{n-1}|. \]
For example,
\[(34) \quad |A_4| = (1 - q_1 t_1)^3(1 - q_2 t_2)^3(1 - q_3 t_3)(1 - q_2 t_2)(1 - q_3 t_3).\]

6. MACDONALD-LIKE POLYNOMIALS

6.1. An analogue of the $J$-basis. We can now define a basis $\mathcal{J}_K(q, t; A)$ by interpreting the columns of $A_n$ as their expansion on the $\mathcal{R}$-basis:
\[(35) \quad \mathcal{J}_K(q, t; A) := \sum_{|I|=n} A_n(I, K) R_I(t; A).\]
We regard it as an analogue of Macdonald’s $J$-basis.

For example,
\[(36) \quad \mathcal{J}_{31}(q, t) = t_1 R_4 + R_{31} + q t_1 R_{22} + q_2 R_{211} + q t_1 R_{13} + q_1 R_{121} + q_1 q_2 R_{112} + q_1 q_2 R_{1111}.\]

6.2. Factorized expressions in the Grassmann algebra. In [10], a general method for constructing multiparameter bases of noncommutative symmetric functions with a Macdonald-like behaviour has been described. The basic idea is to identify $\text{Sym}_n$ with a Grassmann algebra on $n-1$ variables $\eta_1, \ldots, \eta_{n-1}$, a ribbon $R_I$ being encoded by the product $\eta_{d_1} \cdots \eta_{d_k}$, where $\text{Des}(I) = \{d_1, \ldots, d_k\}$.

We need only a slight modification of the definitions of [10]. Let $U = (u_1, \ldots, u_{n-1})$ and $V = (v_1, \ldots, v_{n-1})$ be two sequences of parameters. We set
\[(37) \quad K_n(U, V) = (u_1 + v_1 \eta_1) \cdots (u_{n-1} + v_{n-1} \eta_{n-1})
\quad \times \sum_{I \vdash n} \prod_{d \in \text{Des}(I)} v_d \prod_{e \not\in \text{Des}(I)} u_e R_I.\]

For each composition $I$ of $n$, build the pair of sequences $(U_I, V_I) = ((u^I_j), (v^I_j))_{j=1}^{n-1}$ as follows from the ribbon diagram of $I$. First, write $(1, q_1), \ldots, (1, q_k)$ in this order, starting from the top left cell, in all cells which are non-descents of $I$. Then, write $(t_1, 1), \ldots, (t_l, 1)$, in this order, in all cells which are descents of $I$, starting from the bottom right cell, as in the example below.

\[(38) \quad (U_{4121}, V_{4121}) =
\begin{array}{c}
(1, q_1) (1, q_2) (1, q_3) (t_3, 1) \\
(t_2, 1) \\
(1, q_4) (t_1, 1)
\end{array}
\times
\]

**Theorem 6.1.** Let $\mathcal{J}_I'(q, t; A) = K_n(U_I, V_I)$. Then,
\[(39) \quad \mathcal{J}_I(q, t; A) = \theta_t(\mathcal{J}_I'(q, t; A)).\]
Proof – By definition, the coefficient of $R_I$ in $J'_J$ is

\[ \prod_{d \in \text{Des}(I)} v_d^J \prod_{e \not\in \text{Des}(I)} u_e^J = \prod_{k \in A(I,J)} t_k \times \prod_{l \in A(I,J)} q_l = A_n(I,J). \]

As in [10], we also identify $QSym_n$ with a Grassmann algebra on dual variables $\xi_i$, and set

\[ \langle \xi_D, \eta_E \rangle = \delta_{DE}. \]

Then, if

\[ L_n(X, Y) = (y_1 - x_1 \xi_1) \cdots (y_{n-1} - x_{n-1} \xi_{n-1}), \]

we have

\[ \langle L_n(X, Y), K_n(U, V) \rangle = \prod_{i=0}^{n-1} (u_i y_i - v_i x_i). \]

6.3. Specialization $q = 0$. As announced, under the specialization $q = 0$, the $J$-functions reduce to a multivariate version of the Hall-Littlewood functions of [16], which as we shall see, are simply related to those of [14]. Indeed, Definition 5 of [16] reduces to (13) for $J = (n)$, and expanding the quasideterminant gives back the general case.

If we regard the $J$-functions as analogues of the Macdonald $J$-functions, we can define natural analogues of the classical $P$ and $Q$-functions by

\[ \prod_{i=1}^l (1 - t_i) P_I(t; A) = Q_I(t; A) = J_I(0, t; A) \]

Note that $Q_n(t; A) = R_n(t; A)$.

**Theorem 6.2.** The $P$-functions satisfy the recurrence

\[ \frac{1 - t_r}{1 - t_1} P_I = P_{i_1} P_{i_2, \ldots, i_r} - P_{i_1+i_2} P_{i_3, \ldots, i_r} + \cdots + (-1)^{r-1} P_{i_1+\cdots+i_r}. \]

Equivalently, we have the quasideterminantal expression

\[ P_I(t; A) = (-1)^{r-1} \frac{1 - t_1}{1 - t_r} \begin{vmatrix} P_{i_r} & 1 - t_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ P_{i_{r-1}+i_r} & P_{i_{r-1}} & 1 - t_2 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ P_{i_2+\cdots+i_r} & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & P_{i_2} & 1 - t_{r-1} \\ P_{i_1+\cdots+i_r} & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & P_{i_1+i_2} & P_{i_1} \end{vmatrix} \]

Proof – By definition,

\[ Q'_I := \theta_t^{-1}(Q_I) = K_n(U_I, 0^{n-1}). \]

For example,

\[ Q'_{4121} = (t_3 + \eta_4)(t_2 + \eta_5)(t_1 + \eta_7). \]
Thus, the product of a one-part \( Q'_i \) by an arbitrary \( Q'_J \) is
\[
Q'_i Q'_J = 1 \cdot (1 + \eta_i) \cdot K^{[i]}_n(U_J, 0^{n-1})
\]
where \( K^{[i]}_n \) is obtained from \( K_n \) by replacing each \( \eta_k \) by \( \eta_{k+i} \). Writing
\[
1 + \eta_i = 1 - t_{\ell(J)} + t_{\ell(J)} + \eta_i,
\]
we obtain
\[
Q'_i Q'_J = (1 - t_{\ell(J)}) Q'_{i\ell(J)} + Q'_{i,J}.
\]
This implies that the \( Q'_i \) and hence also the \( Q_I \) satisfy the recursion
\[
Q_I = Q_{i_1} Q_{i_2} \ldots Q_{i_r} - (1 - t_{r-1}) Q_{i_1+i_2} Q_{i_3} \ldots Q_{i_r} + (1 - t_{r-2}) Q_{i_1+i_2+i_3} Q_{i_4} \ldots Q_{i_r} + \cdots + (-1)^{r-1}((t))_{r-1} Q_{i_1+i_2+\cdots+i_r},
\]
which is equivalent to (44).

For example,
\[
Q'_{4121} = 1 \cdot (1 + \eta_4) \cdot (t_2 + \eta_7) - (1 - t_3) \cdot 1 \cdot (1 + \eta_5) \cdot (t_1 + \eta_7) + (1 - t_2)(1 - t_3) \cdot 1 \cdot (1 + \eta_7) + (1 - t_1)(1 - t_2)(1 - t_3) \cdot 1 = (t_3 + \eta_4)(t_2 + \eta_5)(t_1 + \eta_7).
\]
Thus, we have:

**Corollary 6.3.** For \( t = (t, t^2, t^3, \ldots) \),
\[
J_I(0, t) = Q_I(t).
\]

For example,
\[
Q_{21}(t) = S^{21}((1 - t)A) - (1 - t)S^3((1 - t)A) = R_{21}(t) + tR_3(t).
\]

6.4. \( J(q,t) \) on \( S \). A first remarkable property of the \( J \)-basis is its \( S \)-expansion. Indeed, as for the \( Q \)-functions of [16], the coefficients of the transition matrices are simple products of linear factors and can be explicitly described. For \( n = 2, 3 \), these are
\[
\begin{pmatrix}
(1 - t_2)(1 - q_1) & -(1 - t_1)(1 - t_2)

-(1 - t_1)(t_1 - q_1) & (1 - t_1)(1 - t_2^2)
\end{pmatrix}
\]
\[
\begin{pmatrix}
(1 - q_1)(1 - q_2)(1 - t_3) & -(1 - q_1)(1 - t_1)(1 - t_3)

-(t_2 - q_2)(1 - q_1)(1 - t_1) & (1 - t_1 t_2)(1 - q_1)(1 - t_1)

-(t_1 - q_1)(1 - q_2)(1 - t_2) & (t_1 - q_1)(1 - t_1)(1 - t_2)

(t_1 - q_1)(t_1 - q_2)(1 - t_1) & -(t_1 - q_1)(1 - t_1^2)(1 - t_1)
\end{pmatrix}
\]
Equivalently, these matrices describe the expansion of $\mathcal{J}^f$ on the basis $\theta^{-1}_I(S^I)$. In the Grassmann formalism,

$$\theta^{-1}_I(S^I) = \frac{1}{((t))_I} K_n(1^{n-1}, T_I)$$

where $T_I = (t^{(I)}_j)_{j=1}^{n-1}$ is such that $t^{(I)}_j = t_j - \sum_{k<j} i_k$ if $j$ is not a descent of $I$, and $t^{(I)}_j = 1$ otherwise.

Recall the following construction from [10].

We encode a composition $I$ with descent set $D$ by the boolean word $u = (u_1, \ldots, u_{n-1})$ such that $u_i = 1$ if $i \in D$ and $u_i = 0$ otherwise.

Let $y = \{y_u\}$ be a family of indeterminates indexed by all boolean words of length $\leq n - 1$. For example, for $n = 3$, we have the six parameters $y_0, y_1, y_00, y_01, y_10, y_11$.

Let $u_{m\ldots p}$ be the sequence $u_m u_{m+1} \ldots u_p$ and define

$$P_I := (1 + y_{u_1} \eta_1)(1 + y_{u_1\ldots 2} \eta_2) \cdots (1 + y_{u_1\ldots n-1} \eta_{n-1})$$

or, equivalently,

$$P_I := K_n(1^{n-1} Y_I) \quad \text{with} \quad Y_I = (y_{u_1}, y_{u_1\ldots 2}, \ldots, y_u) =: (y_k(I)).$$

Similarly, let

$$Q_I := (y_{w_1} - \xi_1)(y_{w_1\ldots 2} - \xi_2) \cdots (y_{w_1\ldots n-1} - \xi_{n-1}) =: L_n(Y^I, 1^{n-1})$$

where $w_{1\ldots k} = u_1 \ldots u_{k-1} \overline{u}_k$ where $\overline{u}_k = 1 - u_k$, so that

$$Y^I = (y_{w_1}, y_{w_1\ldots 2}, \ldots, y_{w_1\ldots n-1}) = (y^k(I)).$$

Then [10] Prop. 4.1], the bases $(P_I)$ and $(Q_I)$ are dual to each other, up to normalization:

$$\langle Q_I, P_J \rangle = \langle L_n(Y^I, 1^{n-1}), K_n(1^{n-1}, Y_J) \rangle = \prod_{k=1}^{n-1} (y_k(I) - y_k(J)),$$

which is indeed zero unless $I = J$.

Thus, in the notation of [10] Eq. (31)]

$$\theta^{-1}_I(S^I) = \frac{1}{((t))_I} P_I,$$

where the parameters $y_u$ of the binary tree are defined by

$$y_u = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } u = u', \\ t_j & \text{if } u = u'0j. \end{cases}$$

Since $\mathcal{J}^f = K_n(U_J, V_J)$, it is sufficient to expand a generic $K_n(U, V)$ on this basis. We have clearly

$$\langle L_n(Y^I, 1^{n-1}), K_n(1^{n-1}, Y_I) \rangle = \delta_{IJ} \prod_{k=1}^{n-1} (y^k(I) - y_k(I)).$$

Thus, the dual basis of $\tilde{P}_I = \theta^{-1}_I(S^I)$ is

$$\tilde{Q}_I = (1 - t_{iv}) L_n(Y^I, 1^{n-1}),$$
so that the coefficient of $S^I$ in $\mathcal{J}_I$ is
\begin{equation}
(1 - t_{i_r}) \prod_{k=1}^{n-1} (u_k^I - y^k(I)v_k^I).
\end{equation}

6.5. $\mathcal{J}$ on $S$ with more parameters. Although formula (68) is completely explicit, we can better visualize the structure of these matrices by introducing more parameters. Let
\begin{equation}
(69)
\mathcal{R}_I(w, x) := \sum_{J=\ell} (-1)^{\ell(I)} - r (1 - w_x) \prod_{k \in A(I, J)} x_j S^J(A).
\end{equation}
(two sequences of parameters).
If we interpret the above matrices as describing a basis $\mathcal{J}'(q, t)$ on $\mathcal{R}(w, x)$, then $\mathcal{J}'(q, t)$ on $S$ still factorizes in the same manner:
\begin{equation}
(70)
\begin{pmatrix}
(1 - w_2)(1 - q_1) & -(1 - t_1)(1 - w_2) \\
-(1 - w_1)(x_1 - q_1) & (1 - w_1)(1 - t_1 x_1)
\end{pmatrix}
\end{equation}
\begin{equation}
(71)
\begin{pmatrix}
(1 - q_1)(1 - q_2)(1 - w_3) & -(1 - q_1)(1 - t_1)(1 - w_3) & -(1 - q_1)(1 - t_1)(1 - w_3) & (1 - t_1)(1 - t_2)(1 - t_3) \\
-(x_2 - q_2)(1 - q_1)(1 - w_1) & (1 - t_1 x_2)(1 - q_1)(1 - w_1) & (x_2 - q_1)(1 - t_1)(1 - w_1) & -(1 - t_1 x_2)(1 - t_2)(1 - w_1) \\
-(x_1 - q_1)(1 - q_2)(1 - t_2) & (x_1 - q_1)(1 - t_1)(1 - w_2) & -(x_1 - q_1)(1 - q_2)(1 - t_2) & -(1 - t_2 x_1)(1 - t_1)(1 - w_2) \\
(x_1 - q_1)(x_1 - q_2)(1 - w_1) & -(x_1 - q_1)(1 - t_1 x_1)(1 - w_1) & -(x_1 - q_1)(1 - t_1 x_1)(1 - w_1) & (1 - t_1 x_2)(1 - t_1 x_1)(1 - w_1)
\end{pmatrix}
\end{equation}

Let us now describe the coefficient $g_{J'I}$ of $S^I$ in $\mathcal{J}_I$.
Let $K = I \land J$ be the composition whose descent set is $\text{Des}(I) \cap \text{Des}(J)$. Let $\ell(I) = l$, $\ell(J) = m$ and $\ell(K) = n$. Denote by $D$ and $D'$ the descent sets of $K_I$ and $K_J$. Define
\begin{equation}
(72)
Z_1 = (1 - w_{j_m}) \prod_{k=1}^{n-1} (1 - t_{l-d_k} x_{j_k'}^I) \prod_{s \in [1, l-1] \setminus D} (1 - t_{l-s}).
\end{equation}
The conjugate mirror compositions $I' = \overline{T}$ and $J' = \overline{T}$ encode the complementary descent sets. Set $K' = I' \land J'$, $D'' = \text{Des}(K'_{I'})$, and
\begin{equation}
(73)
Z_2 = \prod_{k=1}^{\ell(K'} - 1} (1 - q_{d_k'}^I)
\end{equation}
Define also $E = [1, m - 1] \setminus D'$ and $E' = [1, \ell(I') - 1] \setminus D''$. Observe that $E$ and $E'$ have the same cardinality, which we denote by $e$. Finally, set
\begin{equation}
(74)
Z_3 = \prod_{k=1}^{e} (x_{j_k'} - q_{e_k}^I).
\end{equation}

**Theorem 6.4.** The coefficient $g_{J'I}$ of $S^I$ in $\mathcal{J}_I$ is
\begin{equation}
(75)
g_{J'I} = Z = (-1)^{\ell(I) - \ell(J)} Z_1 Z_2 Z_3.
\end{equation}
For example, with $I = (13122)$ and $J = (221112)$, we have $K = (4122)$, so that $D = \{2, 3, 4\}$ and $D' = \{2, 3, 5\}$.

Thus, $Z_1 = (1 - w_2)(1 - t_3 x_2)(1 - t_2 x_1)(1 - t_1 x_1)(1 - t_4)$.

Next, $I' = (21321), J' = (1251)$ and $K' = (351)$. Hence, $D'' = \{2, 4\}$ and $Z_2 = (1 - q_2)(1 - q_4)$.

Finally, $E = [1, 4]$ et $E' = [1, 3]$, thus $Z_3 = (x_2 - q_1)(x_1 - q_3)$.

The final result is then

\[ Z = -(1 - w_2)(1 - t_3 x_2)(1 - t_2 x_1)(1 - t_1 x_1)(1 - t_4)(1 - q_2)(1 - q_4)(x_2 - q_1)(x_1 - q_3) . \]

7. The Hall-Littlewood specialization

Let us now continue the investigation of the specialization $q = 0$.

7.1. Transition matrices $S$ to $Q$. The matrices $M(S, Q)$ have a simple structure. For example,

\[
\begin{pmatrix}
1 & 1 - t_1 \\
1 - t_1 & 1
\end{pmatrix}
\]

\[
\begin{pmatrix}
1 & 1 - t_1 & 1 - t_1 (1 - t_1)^2 \\
1 - t_1 & 1 & 1 - t_2 \\
1 - t_1 & 1 - t_1 & 1
\end{pmatrix}
\]

\[
\begin{pmatrix}
1 & 1 - t_1 & 1 - t_1 (1 - t_1)^2 & 1 - t_1 (1 - t_1)^2 & 1 - t_1 (1 - t_1)^2 & (1 - t_1)^3 \\
1 - t_1 & 1 & 1 - t_2 & 1 - t_2 & 1 - t_2 & (1 - t_2)^2 \\
1 - t_1 & 1 - t_2 & 1 & 1 - t_2 & (1 - t_1)(1 - t_2) & 1 - t_3 \\
1 - t_1 & 1 - t_2 & 1 & 1 - t_2 & (1 - t_1)^2 & 1 - t_2 \\
1 - t_1 & 1 - t_2 & 1 & 1 - t_2 & 1 - t_1 & 1 - t_2 \\
1 - t_1 & 1 - t_2 & 1 & 1 - t_2 & 1 - t_1 & 1
\end{pmatrix}
\]

As usual, column $J$ gives $S^J(t)$ as a linear combination of $Q_I(t)$. These matrices can also be interpreted as giving the expansion of $S^J$ on the $Q'_I$.

The $S$-functions are given by

\[
S^J = K_n(1^{n-1}, X_J) \quad \text{where} \quad x_i(J) = \begin{cases} 
1 & \text{if } i \in \Des(J), \\
0 & \text{otherwise}.
\end{cases}
\]

The dual basis of $Q'_I$ has a simple description:
Theorem 7.1. In terms of dual Grassmann variables, the dual basis of $Q'_I$ is

$$G_I = L_n(A_I, B_I) = (b_1(I) - a_1(I)\xi_1) \cdots (b_{n-1}(I) - a_{n-1}(I)\xi_{n-1})$$

where

$$(a_j(I), b_j(I)) = \begin{cases} (t_{c(j)}, 1) & \text{if } j \in \text{Des}(I), \\ (-1, 0) & \text{otherwise}, \end{cases}$$

where $c(j) = \ell(I) + 1 - r(j)$, $r(j)$ being the index of the row containing the cell $j$ in the ribbon diagram.

Proof – It is clear that $\langle G_I, Q'_J \rangle = 1$, since the only contribution comes from the term of highest degree in $Q'_J$. It is also clear that $\langle G_I, Q'_J \rangle = 0$ if $\text{Des}(J) \not\supset \text{Des}(I)$. In the remaining cases, the greatest descent of $J$ which is not a descent of $I$ will contribute a factor $t_k - t_k$, so that the result is indeed zero.

The coefficient of $Q_I(t)$ in $S^J(t)$ is thus

$$\langle G_I, S^J \rangle = \prod_k (b_k(I)x_k(J) - a_k(I)).$$

For example, the dual basis element corresponding to

$$Q'_{3122} = (t_3 + \eta_3)(t_2 + \eta_4)(t_1 + \eta_6)$$

is

$$G_{3122} = (1 - t_4\xi_1)(1 - t_4\xi_2)\xi_3\xi_4(1 - t_2\xi_5)\xi_6(1 - t_1\xi_7)$$

so that the coefficient of $Q' =_{3122}$ in $S^{11312} = (1 + \eta_1)(1 + \eta_2)(1 + \eta_3)(1 + \eta_6)$ is

$$1 - t_2(1 - t_1^2).$$

7.2. Multiplicative structure. An interesting feature of most noncommutative analogues of the $P, Q$-functions is that their product can be explicitly described. This is again the case here.

Let us recall the product of the $P_I(t)$ is, as stated (along with a few typos) in [15]:

$$P_I(t)P_J(t) = \sum_{K \leq I} t^{\left\lfloor \ell(K) + \ell(J) \right\rfloor - \ell(I)} K.J \left( P_{K.J}(t) + \left[ \frac{\ell(K) + \ell(J) - 1}{\ell(I)} \right] P_{K\bowtie J}(t) \right),$$

so that the product of the $Q_I$ is

$$Q_I(t)Q_J(t) = \sum_{K \leq I} t^{\left\lfloor \ell(J) ! \right\rfloor - \ell(I) !} \frac{[\ell(J)] !}{[\ell(J) + \ell(K) - \ell(I)] !} Q_{K.J}(t)$$

$$\left( + \frac{[\ell(J)] !}{[\ell(J) + \ell(K) - \ell(I) - 1] !} Q_{K\bowtie J}(t) \right),$$

with the convention that $t$-factorials of negative numbers are zero. Note that this amounts to removing the terms $Q_C$ such that $\ell(C) < \ell(I)$. 
Now, in the case of multiple $t_i$, we have a more complicated but still elegant formula.

Let us first define a sequence $S(I, K)$ associated with two compositions, $I$ finer than $K$. Let $D = \{d_1 < d_2 < \ldots < d_p\}$ be the descent set of $I_K$. Then, $S(I, K) = (d_p, d_{p-1}, \ldots, d_1)$.

For example, with $I = (111122311)$ and $J = (3325)$, $I_K = (3213)$, $I_K = (113211)$ and $D = \{1, 2, 5, 7, 8\}$ so that $S(I, K)$ is $[8, 7, 5, 2, 1]$. The $j$-th element of this sequence will be denoted by $s_j^{I, K}$.

Now, thanks to (47), it follows from Theorem 7.1 that

\begin{equation}
Q_I(t)Q_J(t) = \sum_{K \leq I} \left( \prod_{j=1}^{\ell(I) - \ell(K)} (t_{s_j^{I, K}} - t_{j + s_j^{I, K} + (\ell(J) + \ell(K) - \ell(I))}) Q_{K'}(t) \right)
\end{equation}

with the convention that terms containing a $t_i$ with $i < 0$ are zero. Again, this amounts to removing the terms $Q_C$ such that $\ell(C) < \ell(I)$.

For example,

\begin{equation}
Q_{211}(t)Q_{21}(t) = (t_1 - t_3)(t_2 - t_3)Q_{421}(t)
+ (t_2 - t_4)Q_{3121}(t) + (1 - t_2)(t_2 - t_3)Q_{331}(t)
+ (t_1 - t_3)Q_{2221}(t) + (1 - t_2)(t_1 - t_2)Q_{241}(t)
+ Q_{21121}(t) + (1 - t_2)Q_{2131}(t).
\end{equation}

\begin{equation}
Q_{111}(t)Q_{111}(t) = (t_1 - t_4)(t_2 - t_4)Q_{3111}(t) + (1 - t_3)(t_2 - t_3)(t_1 - t_3)Q_{411}(t)
+ (t_2 - t_5)Q_{21111}(t) + (1 - t_3)(t_2 - t_4)Q_{2211}(t)
+ (t_1 - t_4)Q_{12111}(t) + (1 - t_3)(t_1 - t_3)Q_{1311}(t)
+ Q_{111111}(t) + (1 - t_3)Q_{11211}(t).
\end{equation}

\begin{equation}
Q_{1211}(t)Q_{21}(t) = (t_2 - t_4)(t_3 - t_4)Q_{4121}(t)
+ (1 - t_3)(t_3 - t_4)Q_{3221}(t)
+ (t_1 - t_3)(t_2 - t_3)Q_{1421}(t)
+ (t_3 - t_5)Q_{31121}(t) + (1 - t_2)(t_3 - t_4)Q_{3131}(t)
+ (t_2 - t_4)Q_{13121}(t) + (1 - t_2)(t_2 - t_3)Q_{1331}(t)
+ (t_1 - t_3)Q_{12221}(t) + (1 - t_2)(t_1 - t_2)Q_{1241}(t)
+ Q_{111111}(t) + (1 - t_2)Q_{11211}(t).
\end{equation}
7.3. **Limit cases.** Since $P_I(t)$ of [16] interpolate between ribbon Schur (at $t = 0$) and monomial (at $t = 1$) bases, it is interesting to investigate these limits in the multivariate version.

Let $b = (b_n)_{n \geq 1}$ be a sequence of commuting indeterminates. For $I = (i_1, \ldots, i_r)$, define a multivariate deformation of the monomial function $\Psi_I$ by

$$
(92) \quad \Psi_I(b; A) = (-1)^{r-1} \frac{b_1}{b_r} \begin{vmatrix}
\Psi_{i_r} & 1 & 0 & \ldots & 0 & 0 \\
\Psi_{i_{r-1}+i_r} & \Psi_{i_{r-1}} & \frac{b_2}{b_1} & \ldots & 0 & 0 \\
\vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\
\Psi_{i_2+\ldots+i_r} & \ldots & \ldots & \Psi_{i_2} & \frac{b_{r-1}}{b_1} & \\
\Psi_{i_1+\ldots+i_r} & \ldots & \ldots & \Psi_{i_1+i_2} & \Psi_{i_1} \\
\end{vmatrix}
$$

and a deformation of the complete functions by

$$
(93) \quad S_r(b; A) = \frac{b_1}{b_r} \begin{vmatrix}
\Psi_1 & -\frac{b_{r-1}}{b_1} & 0 & \ldots & 0 & 0 \\
\Psi_2 & \Psi_2 & \frac{b_{r-2}}{b_1} & \ldots & 0 & 0 \\
\vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\
\Psi_{r-1} & \ldots & \ldots & \Psi_1 & -1 & \\
\Psi_r & \ldots & \ldots & \Psi_2 & \Psi_1 \\
\end{vmatrix},
$$

where $\Psi_n$ is a powers sum (of the first kind) as in [3].

**Theorem 7.3.** Consider the specialization $t = (t^{b_1}, t^{b_2}, \ldots)$. Then, for $t \to 1$, we have

$$
(94) \quad P_I(1) = \Psi_I(b) \quad \text{and}
$$

$$
(95) \quad P_I(0) = R_I(b),
$$

where $R_I(b) = \sum_{J \leq I} (-1)^{\ell(I)-\ell(J)} S^J(b)$ as usual.

**Proof –** This follows from (46).

---

8. **Appendix: another way to introduce multiple parameters in the functions of [14]**

The constructions of the present paper do not lead to nice multiparameter analogues of all the matrices defined in [14]. We shall briefly describe here another approach to refining the constructions of [14].

The transition matrices of [14] admit a combinatorial description in terms of a statistic on words called *special inversions*.

This statistic is defined on packed words, *i.e.*, words over the positive integers whose support is an initial interval. Let $u = u_1 \cdots u_n$ be a packed word. We say that an inversion $u_i = b > u_j = a$ (where $i < j$ and $a < b$) is *special* if $u_j$ is the *rightmost* occurrence of $a$ in $u$. Let $\text{sinv}(u)$ denote the number of special inversions in $u$. Note that if $u$ is a permutation, this coincides with its ordinary inversion number.
The word composition $\text{WC}(w)$ of a packed word $w$ is the composition whose descent set is given by the positions of the last occurrences of each letter in $w$. Let $\text{DC}(w)$ be the usual descent composition of $w$.

For two compositions $I$ and $J$ of the same integer $n$, let $W(I,J)$ be the set of packed words $w$ such that
\begin{equation}
\text{WC}(w) = I \quad \text{and} \quad \text{DC}(w) \leq J.
\end{equation}
Then, the coefficients $C^J_I(q)$ of [14] are
\begin{equation}
C^J_I(q) = \sum_{w \in W(I,J)} q^{\text{inv}(w)}
\end{equation}
and the $D^J_I(q)$ are
\begin{equation}
D^J_I(q) = \sum_{w \in W'(I,J)} q^{\text{inv}(w)}.
\end{equation}
where $W'(I,J)$ is the set of packed words $w$ such that
\begin{equation}
\text{WC}(w) = I \quad \text{and} \quad \text{DC}(w) = J.
\end{equation}

The usual inversion number of a permutation can be refined into a list of integers (the Lehmer code) of which it is the sum. Something analogous can be done for special inversions. As in [6], noncommutative generating functions for such codes can be given in the form of flagged ribbon Schur functions.

If $A = (A_{n_1} \supseteq A_{n_2} \supseteq \ldots \supseteq A_{n_r})$ is a flag of $r$ alphabets, the flagged ribbon Schur function $R_I(A)$, for a composition $I$ of length $r$, is the sum of all semistandard fillings of the ribbon diagram of $I$ such that only letters of $A_{n_i}$ appear in the $i$th row.

Let $A_i$ be the ordered alphabet $\{a_0, \ldots, a_i\}$.

Then, (53) (Formula (53) of [14]) can be rewritten as
\begin{equation}
D^J_I(q) = \sum_{w \in W'(I,J)} \left( \prod_{i \in \text{inv}(w)} a_i \right) \bigg|_{a_i = q^i}.
\end{equation}

Thus,
\begin{equation}
D^J_I(q) = R_J(A_{I,J})\big|_{a_i = q^i}
\end{equation}
where the flag of alphabets $A_{I,J}$ is defined in the following way. Let $I = (i_1, \ldots, i_r)$ and $J = (j_1, \ldots, j_s)$. Then draw the ribbon diagram of $I$ and put dots into the cells corresponding to the descents of $J$, and also into the last cell of $I$. Then $A_{I,J}$ is the sequence of $s$ alphabets $A_{k_1}, \ldots, A_{k_s}$ where $k_l$ is $r$ minus the row number of the $l$-th dotted cell of $I$.

For example, with $I = (3, 1)$ and $J = (1, 2, 1)$, the sequence of alphabets is $A_1, A_1, A_0$ since there are two dotted cells in the first row and one in the second row:
Here are all the sequences of alphabets (where \((A_{k_1}, \ldots, A_{k_s})\) has been replaced by \(k_1 \ldots k_s\) to enhance readability) corresponding to all pairs of compositions of size 3 and 4.

\[
\begin{pmatrix}
0 & . & . & . \\
0 & 10 & 10 & . \\
0 & . & 10 & . \\
0 & 10 & 20 & 210
\end{pmatrix}
\]

(103)

Note that all coefficients of the previous matrix are defined as the flagged ribbon \(R_I^J(A_I)\), and that some of them vanish: first, the ribbons such that \(\ell(J) > \ell(I)\) but also other ribbons, e.g., \(R_{21}(A_{12,21}) = R_{21}(A_0, A_0)\) which has to be zero since the word 000 does not have a descent in position 2.

Let now \(I\) be a composition and define

\[
S_J^I(A_{I,J}) := \sum_{J' \leq J} R_{J'}^I(A_{I,J'}),
\]

then the \(S_J^I\) are multiplicative (as the usual ones).

This implies in particular that the equivalent of the \(C_J^I(q)\) (see (29) of [14]) satisfy an induction similar to (50) of [14]: the whole matrix \(S P_n\) (see Section 3.5.1 of the same paper) has as analog the matrix of the \(S_J^I(A_{I,J})\). This explains in a satisfactory way why all its coefficients are products of binomial coefficients. Indeed, if one sends \(a_i\) to \(q_i\),

\[
S_n(1, q, \ldots, q^s) = \left[ \begin{array}{c}
s + n \\ n \end{array} \right]_q.
\]

One can also see the picture the other way round:

\[
S_n(1, a_1, \ldots, a_s)
\]

is the natural multivariate analog of the binomial \(\binom{n+s}{n} = S_n^a(s + 1)\) (in \(\lambda\)-ring notation). Indeed, the induction on the \(S_n\) is the natural analog of the classical induction on binomials:

\[
S_n(1, a_1, \ldots, a_s) = S_n(1, a_1, \ldots, a_{s-1}) + S_{n-1}(1, a_1, \ldots, a_s)a_s.
\]

Setting \(a_i = q_i\) (commuting parameters), we obtain multiparameter versions of the Hall-Littlewood functions of [14]. Their Macdonald-like extensions are not known.
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