

# Kronecker coefficients – computation and bounds

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# The Kronecker coefficients overview

**Irreducible representations of the symmetric group  $S_n$ :**

( group homomorphisms  $S_n \rightarrow GL_N(\mathbb{C})$  )

— the **Specht modules**  $\mathbb{S}_\lambda$ , indexed by partitions  $\lambda \vdash n$

**Tensor product decomposition:**

$$\mathbb{S}_\lambda \otimes \mathbb{S}_\mu = \bigoplus_{\nu \vdash n} \mathbb{S}_\nu^{\oplus ??}$$

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$$\mathbb{S}_\lambda \otimes \mathbb{S}_\mu = \bigoplus_{\nu \vdash n} \mathbb{S}_\nu^{\oplus g(\lambda, \mu, \nu)}$$

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$$g(\lambda, \mu, \nu) = \dim \operatorname{Hom}_{S_n}(\mathbb{S}_\nu, \mathbb{S}_\lambda \otimes \mathbb{S}_\mu)$$

In terms of  $GL(\mathbb{C}^m)$  modules  $V_\lambda, V_\mu$  and  $GL(\mathbb{C}^{m^2})$  module  $V_\nu$ :

$$g(\lambda, \mu, \nu) = \dim \operatorname{Hom}_{GL(\mathbb{C}^m) \times GL(\mathbb{C}^m)}(V_\lambda \otimes V_\mu, V_\nu)$$

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**Littlewood-Richardson coefficients**  $c_{\mu\nu}^\lambda$ : Tensor products of  $GL_N$  representations:

$$V_\mu \otimes V_\nu = \bigoplus_{\lambda \vdash |\mu| + |\nu|} V_\lambda^{\oplus c_{\mu\nu}^\lambda}$$

# The combinatorial problem

## Problem (Murnaghan, 1938)

Find a positive combinatorial interpretation for  $g(\lambda, \mu, \nu)$ , i.e. a family of combinatorial objects  $\mathcal{O}_{\lambda, \mu, \nu}$ , s.t.  $g(\lambda, \mu, \nu) = \#\mathcal{O}_{\lambda, \mu, \nu}$ .

Motivation: Littlewood–Richardson

$c_{\mu, \nu}^{\lambda}$ ,  $\mathcal{O}_{\lambda, \mu, \nu} = \{ \text{LR tableaux of shape } \lambda/\mu, \text{ type } \nu \}$

$\lambda = (6, 4, 3), \mu = (3, 1), \nu = (4, 3, 2)$ :

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ \hline 1 & 2 & 2 \\ \hline 2 & 3 & 3 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ \hline 2 & 2 & 2 \\ \hline 1 & 3 & 3 \\ \hline \end{array} \Rightarrow c_{\mu\nu}^{\lambda} = 2.$$

## Theorem (Murnaghan)

If  $|\nu| + |\mu| = |\lambda|$  and  $n > |\nu|$ , then

$$g((n + |\mu|, \nu), (n + |\nu|, \mu), (n, \lambda)) = c_{\mu\nu}^{\lambda}.$$


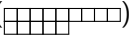

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### Results since then:

Combinatorial formulas for  $g(\lambda, \mu, \nu)$ , when:

- $\mu$  and  $\nu$  are hooks (  ), [Remmel, 1989]
- $\nu = (n - k, k)$  (  ) and  $\lambda_1 \geq 2k - 1$ , [Ballantine–Orellana, 2006]
- $\nu = (n - k, k)$ ,  $\lambda = (n - r, r)$  [Remmel–Whitehead, 1994; Blasiak–Mулmuley–Sohoni, 2013]
- $\nu = (n - k, 1^k)$  (  ), [Blasiak, 2012]

## Kronecker coefficients and GCT

**Input:** Integers  $N, \ell$ , partitions  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_\ell)$ ,  $\mu = (\mu_1, \dots, \mu_\ell)$ ,  $\nu = (\nu_1, \dots, \nu_\ell)$ , where  $0 \leq \lambda_i, \mu_i, \nu_i \leq N$ , and  $|\lambda| = |\mu| = |\nu|$ .

Size( Input ) =  $O(\ell \log N)$ .

POSITIVITY OF KRONECKER COEFFICIENTS (KP):

**Decide:** whether  $g(\lambda, \mu, \nu) > 0$

KRONECKER COEFFICIENTS (KRON):

**Compute:**  $g(\lambda, \mu, \nu)$ .



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Conjecture (Mulmuley)

KP is in P.

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**Theorem:** [Littlewood-Richardson rule/Narayanan + Knutson-Tao]

Conjectures hold for the Littlewood-Richardson coefficients

$c_{\bar{\mu}\bar{\nu}}^{\bar{\lambda}} = g(\lambda, \mu, \nu)$ , where  $\lambda = (n - |\bar{\lambda}|, \bar{\lambda})$ , etc, and  $|\bar{\lambda}| = |\bar{\mu}| + |\bar{\nu}|$ .

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**Theorem**[Bürgisser-Ikenmeyer]. KRON is in GapP.

(GapP =  $\{F : F = F_1 - F_2, F_1, F_2 \in \#P\}$ )

**Theorem**[Narayanan]. KRON is #P-hard.

## Bounds on the Kronecker coefficients

### A GCT approach to determinant vs permanent:

Find obstruction candidates:

a polynomial  $P \in S^d(S^n \mathbb{C}^{n^2})$ , s.t.  $P(\overline{GL_{n^2} \det_n}) = 0$  and

$P(\ell^{n-m} \text{perm}_m) \neq 0$

( after Bürgisser, Ikenmeyer, Landsberg...)

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### Plethysm:

Notation:  $W$  –  $\mathbb{C}$  vector space.  $S^\alpha W$  – irreducible  $GL(W)$  module of highest weight  $\alpha$ .

Let  $|\lambda| = |\mu| * |\nu|$ .

The *plethystic coefficients* are defined as (here  $V = \mathbb{C}^k$ ,  $k \geq \ell(\lambda)$  )

$$a_{\mu,\nu}^\lambda = \dim \text{Hom}_{GL(V)} (S^\mu(S^\nu V), S^\lambda V)$$

### Problem

Find  $\lambda$ , such that  $sg(\lambda, (n^d)) < a_{(d),(n)}^\lambda$ ?

(here  $sg(\lambda, \mu) = \dim \text{Hom}_{S_{|\lambda|}} (S^\lambda, S^2(S^\mu)) \leq g(\lambda, \mu, \mu)$  )

**Recipe for  $P$ :** look for  $P \in S^\lambda V$ , for  $\lambda$  found in Problem.

## Representations of $S_n$

$\lambda \vdash n$ ,  $T$  – SYT of shape  $\lambda$ .  $\sigma \in S_n$  acts on  $T$ :  $i \rightarrow \sigma(i)$

$R(T) := \{\sigma \in S_n : \text{row}_T(\sigma(i)) = \text{row}_T(i)\} \simeq S_{\lambda_1} \times S_{\lambda_2} \times \dots$

– **Young subgroup.**

$C(T) := \{\sigma \in S_n : \text{col}_T(\sigma(i)) = \text{col}_T(i)\}$

$$T = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline 1 & 4 & 6 & 5 \\ \hline 3 & 7 & 8 & \\ \hline 2 & 9 & & \\ \hline \end{array}, \quad R(T) = S_{1,4,5,6} \times S_{3,7,8} \times S_{2,9}$$

**Tabloid**  $\{T\} = \frac{\overline{1 \ 4 \ 6 \ 5}}{\overline{3 \ 7 \ 8}} \overline{2 \ 9}$  (equiv class:  $T \sim T'$  for  $R(T) = R(T')$ )

$$a_T = \sum_{\sigma \in R(T)} \sigma, \quad b_T = \sum_{\pi \in C(T)} \text{sgn}(\pi)\pi \in \mathbb{C}[S_n]$$

$c_T := a_T b_T$  : **Young symmetrizer**

**Young modules**  $M^\lambda := \text{Span}_{\mathbb{C}}\{\{T\} : \text{sh}(T) = \lambda\}$ , a (left)  $\mathbb{C}[S_n]$  module.

## Specht modules

$\mathbb{S}^\lambda := \text{Span}_{\mathbb{C}} \langle b_T \{T\} : sh(T) = \lambda \rangle - \mathbb{C}[S_n]\text{-module.}$

### Theorem

The **Specht modules**  $\mathbb{S}^\lambda$  for  $\lambda \vdash n$  form a complete set of irreducible representations of  $S_n$ . For each  $\lambda$ , the set

$$\left\{ \underbrace{\left( \sum_{\pi \in C(T)} \text{sgn}(\pi) \pi \right)}_{b_T} \{T\} : T - \text{SYT of shape } \lambda \right\}$$

forms a basis for  $\mathbb{S}^\lambda$ .

**Young's rule:**

$$M^\mu = \bigoplus_{\lambda \vdash n} \underbrace{K_{\lambda\mu}}_{\text{Kostka number}} \mathbb{S}^\lambda$$

# Characters of $S_n$

**characters:** Trace  $M_{\mathbb{S}^\lambda}(w) = \chi^\lambda[w] : S_n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$

$\chi^\lambda[\alpha]$  – character value at any permutation of cycle type  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots)$

$$g(\lambda, \mu, \nu) = \langle \chi^\lambda \otimes \chi^\mu, \chi^\nu \rangle$$



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**Murnaghan–Nakayama rule:**

$$\chi^\lambda[\alpha] = \sum_{T : \text{MN tableaux, shape } \lambda, \text{ content } \alpha} (-1)^{ht(T)}$$

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

— a M-N tableau  $T$  of shape  $\lambda = (7, 6, 5)$ ,

content  $\alpha = (4, 4, 5, 5)$ ,

$$ht(T) = (2-1) + (2-1) + (3-1) + (3-1) = 6.$$

**Examples:**  $\chi^{(n)}[\alpha] = 1$ ,  $\chi^{(1^n)}[\alpha] = (-1)^{n-\ell(\alpha)}$

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**A formula:**  $g(\lambda, \mu, \nu) = \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{w \in S_n} \chi^\lambda[w] \chi^\mu[w] \chi^\nu[w].$

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**Another “formula”:**

$$g(\lambda, \mu, \nu) = \dim \text{Hom}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{S}^\lambda \otimes \mathbb{S}^\mu \otimes \mathbb{S}^\nu) = \dim (\mathbb{S}^\lambda \otimes \mathbb{S}^\mu \otimes \mathbb{S}^\nu)^{S_n}$$

## The Schur-Weyl duality

Let  $V^\lambda$  be the irreducible representations of  $GL(V)$ .

$S_n$  and  $GL(V)$  act on  $V^{\otimes n} = \underbrace{V \otimes \cdots \otimes V}_n$ , where

$$\sigma(v_1 \otimes v_2 \otimes \cdots \otimes v_n) = v_{\sigma^{-1}(1)} \otimes v_{\sigma^{-1}(2)} \otimes \cdots \otimes v_{\sigma^{-1}(n)}.$$

$$A(v_1 \otimes v_2 \otimes \cdots \otimes v_n) = Av_1 \otimes Av_2 \otimes \cdots \otimes Av_n, \quad A \in GL(V).$$

### Theorem (Schur-Weyl duality)

*Under the joint action of the groups  $S_n$  and  $GL(V)$ , the tensor space decomposes into a direct sum of tensor products of irreducible modules for these two groups that determine each other:*

$$V \otimes V \otimes \cdots \otimes V = \sum_{\lambda \vdash n} S^\lambda \otimes V^\lambda.$$

# Representations of $GL(V)$

Let  $V = \mathbb{C}^k$ , then the irreducible rational representations of  $GL(V)$  are  $V^\lambda$ , where  $\ell(\lambda) \leq k$ .

Tensor products of  $GL(V)$  representations:

$$V_\mu \otimes V_\nu = \bigoplus_{\lambda \vdash |\mu| + |\nu|} V_\lambda^{\oplus c_{\mu\nu}^\lambda}$$

$c_{\mu\nu}^\lambda$  – **Littlewood-Richardson coefficients**

**The LR rule:**  $c_{\mu,\nu}^\lambda = \#\{\text{LR tableaux of shape } \lambda/\mu, \text{ type } \nu\}$

$\lambda = (6, 4, 3), \mu = (3, 1), \nu = (4, 3, 2)$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & 1 & 1 & 1 \\
 & 1 & 2 & 2 & \\
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 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{ccccc}
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 \end{array}
 \Rightarrow c_{\mu\nu}^\lambda = 2.$$

## Symmetric functions:

$\Lambda(x) = \{f \in \mathbb{Q}[[x_1, x_2, \dots]] , f(x_1, x_2, \dots) = f(x_{\sigma(1)}, x_{\sigma(2)}, \dots) \text{ for all permutations } \sigma\}$   
(class functions on  $GL_{\infty}$  )

**Schur functions**  $s_{\lambda}(x)$  – characters of  $V^{\lambda}$ :

$$s_{\lambda}(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \text{Trace} M_{V^{\lambda}}(A) , \text{ where } A = P \cdot \text{diag}(x_1, \dots, x_n) \cdot P^{-1}$$

– (orthonormal basis) for  $\Lambda$ :  $\langle s_{\lambda}, s_{\mu} \rangle = \langle V^{\lambda}, V^{\mu} \rangle = \delta_{\lambda\mu}$

**Weyl character formula:**

$$s_{\lambda}(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \frac{\det \left[ x_i^{\lambda_j + n - j} \right]_{i,j=1}^n}{\det \Delta(x_1, \dots, x_n)}$$

Combinatorial: **Semi-Standard Young tableaux** of shape  $\lambda$  :

$$s_{(2,2)}(x_1, x_2, x_3) = s_{\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline & \\ \hline & \\ \hline \end{array}}(x_1, x_2, x_3) =$$

$$= x_1^2 x_2^2 + x_1^2 x_3^2 + x_2^2 x_3^2 + x_1^2 x_2 x_3 + x_1 x_2^2 x_3 + x_1 x_2 x_3^2.$$

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 1 & 1 \\ \hline 2 & 2 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 1 & 1 \\ \hline 3 & 3 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 2 & 2 \\ \hline 3 & 3 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 1 & 1 \\ \hline 2 & 3 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 1 & 2 \\ \hline 2 & 3 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 1 & 2 \\ \hline 3 & 3 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

# Schur functions in action

**generalized Cauchy:**

$$\sum_{\lambda, \mu, \nu} g(\lambda, \mu, \nu) s_{\lambda}(x) s_{\mu}(y) s_{\nu}(z) = \prod_{i, j, k} \frac{1}{1 - x_i y_j z_k}$$

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**Classic Cauchy:**

$$\sum_{\alpha} s_{\alpha}(u) s_{\alpha}(v) = \prod_{i, j} \frac{1}{1 - u_i v_j}$$

**“plethystic” version:** coefficients in the expansion into Schur functions in  $x$  and  $y$ :

$$g(\lambda, \mu, \nu) = [s_{\lambda}(x) s_{\mu}(y)] s_{\nu}(xy) \quad \text{where } xy = (x_1 y_1, x_1 y_2, \dots, x_2 y_1, x_2 y_2, \dots)$$



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**Kronecker product**  $*$  on  $\Lambda$ , defined as:

$$\lambda, \mu \vdash n : \quad s_{\lambda} * s_{\mu} = \sum_{\nu \vdash n} g(\lambda, \mu, \nu) s_{\nu}$$

$$\langle f(xy), g(x)h(y) \rangle = \langle f, g * h \rangle$$

# Formulas for Kronecker coefficients I

Special cases:

$$g(\lambda, \mu, (n)) = \delta_{\lambda, \mu} \quad g(\lambda, \mu, (1^n)) = \delta_{\lambda, \mu'}$$

$$\implies h_n(xy) = \sum_{\alpha \vdash n} s_\alpha(x) s_\alpha(y); \quad e_n(xy) = \sum_{\alpha \vdash n} s_\alpha(x) s_{\alpha'}(y) \quad (\diamond)$$

Via (multi-) LR coefficients: <sup>1</sup>( $k = \ell(\nu)$ )

$$s_\nu(xy) = \sum_{\sigma \in S_k} \text{sgn}(\sigma) \prod_i h_{\nu_i - i + \sigma_i}(xy) = ..(\diamond)..$$

$$\implies g(\lambda, \mu, \nu) = \sum_{\sigma \in S_k} \text{sgn}(\sigma) \underbrace{\sum_{\alpha^i \vdash \nu_i - i + \sigma_i, i=1 \dots k} c_{\alpha^1, \dots, \alpha^k}^\lambda c_{\alpha^1, \dots, \alpha^k}^\mu}_{\#(P_{\nu - \delta + \sigma, \mu - \delta + \sigma} \cap \mathbb{N}^d)}$$

$P_{a,b}$  – polytope, a “product” of  $k$  LR–polytopes, dimension  
 $d = k^2(k - 1)/2$ .

<sup>1</sup>[Robinson-Taulbe, Vallejo, Ballantine, Orellana, Rosas etc]

## Formulas for Kronecker coefficients II

**Schur expansion via Weyl's character formula:**

$$\langle s_\lambda, f \rangle = [s_\lambda(x)]f(x) = [x_1^{\lambda_1+k-1} \cdots x_k^{\lambda_k}] \Delta(x_1, \dots, x_k) f(x_1, \dots, x_k)$$

Combine with generalized Cauchy:

$$\sum_{\lambda, \mu, \nu} g(\lambda, \mu, \nu) s_\lambda(x) s_\mu(y) s_\nu(z) = \prod_{i,j,k} \frac{1}{1 - x_i y_j z_k}$$

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<sup>2</sup>[Christandl-Doran-Walter, Pak-Panova]

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$$g(\lambda, \mu, \nu) = [x_1^{\lambda_1+k-1} \cdots y_1^{\mu_1+k-1} \cdots z_1^{\nu_1+k-1} \cdots] \Delta(x) \Delta(y) \Delta(z) \prod_{i,j,k} \frac{1}{1 - x_i y_j z_k}$$

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Combine with generalized Cauchy:

$$\sum_{\lambda, \mu, \nu} g(\lambda, \mu, \nu) s_\lambda(x) s_\mu(y) s_\nu(z) = \prod_{i,j,k} \frac{1}{1 - x_i y_j z_k}$$

$$g(\lambda, \mu, \nu) = [x_1^{\lambda_1+k-1} \cdots y_1^{\mu_1+k-1} \cdots z_1^{\nu_1+k-1} \cdots] \Delta(x) \Delta(y) \Delta(z) \prod_{i,j,k} \frac{1}{1 - x_i y_j z_k}$$

**Via Contingency Arrays:** <sup>2</sup>

$$g(\alpha, \beta, \gamma) = \sum_{\sigma^1, \sigma^2, \sigma^3 \in S_\ell} \text{sgn}(\sigma^1 \sigma^2 \sigma^3) CA(\alpha+1-\sigma^1, \beta+1-\sigma^2, \gamma+1-\sigma^3),$$

$CA(u, v, w) =$  is # of  $\ell \times \ell \times \ell$  contingency arrays  $[A_{i,j,k}] \in \mathbb{N}^{k \times k \times k}$ :

$$\sum_{j,k} A_{i,j,k} = u_i, \quad \sum_{i,k} A_{i,j,k} = v_j, \quad \sum_{i,j} A_{i,j,k} = w_k$$

<sup>2</sup>[Christandl-Doran-Walter, Pak-Panova]

## When $\nu = (n - k, k)$ – two rows

$\ell(\nu) = 2$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 g(\lambda, \mu, \nu) &= \sum_{\sigma \in S_2} \operatorname{sgn}(\sigma) \sum_{\alpha^i \vdash \nu_i - i + \sigma_i, i=1,2} c_{\alpha^1 \alpha^2}^\lambda c_{\alpha^1 \alpha^2}^\mu \\
 &= \underbrace{\sum_{\alpha \vdash k, \beta \vdash n-k} c_{\alpha \beta}^\lambda c_{\alpha \beta}^\mu}_{a_k(\lambda, \mu)} - \underbrace{\sum_{\alpha \vdash k-1, \beta \vdash n-k+1} c_{\alpha \beta}^\lambda c_{\alpha \beta}^\mu}_{a_{k-1}(\lambda, \mu)}
 \end{aligned}$$

### Corollary (Pak-P, Vallejo)

The sequence  $a_0(\lambda, \mu), a_1(\lambda, \mu), \dots, a_n(\lambda, \mu)$  is unimodal for all  $\lambda, \mu \vdash n$ , i.e.

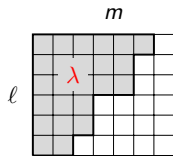
$$a_0(\lambda, \mu) \leq a_1(\lambda, \mu) \leq \dots \leq a_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}(\lambda, \mu) \geq \dots \geq a_n(\lambda, \mu).$$

When  $\nu = (n - k, k)$  – two rows II

$$g(\lambda, \mu, \nu) = \underbrace{\sum_{\alpha \vdash k, \beta \vdash n-k} c_{\alpha\beta}^{\lambda} c_{\alpha\beta}^{\mu}}_{a_k(\lambda, \mu)} - \underbrace{\sum_{\alpha \vdash k-1, \beta \vdash n-k+1} c_{\alpha\beta}^{\lambda} c_{\alpha\beta}^{\mu}}_{a_{k-1}(\lambda, \mu)}$$

$$p_n(\ell, m) = \#\{\lambda \vdash n, \ell(\lambda) \leq \ell, \lambda_1 \leq m\}$$

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} p_n(\ell, m) q^n = \prod_{i=1}^{\ell} \frac{1 - q^{m+i}}{1 - q^i} = \binom{m + \ell}{m}_q$$

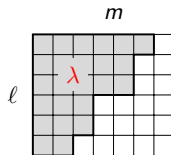


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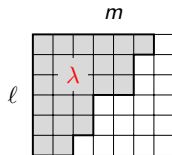


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### Proof via Kronecker: [Pak-P]

$$a_k(m^\ell, m^\ell) = \sum_{\beta} 1(\beta_i = m - \alpha_{\ell+1-i}, i = 1 \dots \ell) = p_k(\ell, m)$$

+Corollary –  $a_k(\lambda, \mu)$  unimodal

# Character Lemma and Stanley's theorem

## Lemma (Pak-P)

*If  $\mu = \mu'$ , then*

$$g(\lambda, \mu, \mu) \geq |\chi^\lambda [(2\mu_1 - 1, 2\mu_2 - 3, \dots)]|.$$

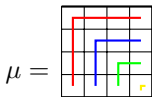
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$$\chi^\lambda = \chi^{(n^2-k) \circ (k)} - \chi^{(n^2-k+1) \circ (k-1)}$$

$$|\chi^\mu [(1, 3, 5, \dots)]| = |b_k(n) - b_{k-1}(n)|,$$

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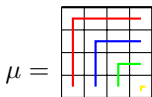
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Character Lemma+Corollary ♣:

$$p_k(n, n) - p_{k-1}(n, n) = g(\lambda, \mu, \mu) \geq |\chi^\lambda [\hat{\mu}]| = |b_k(n) - b_{k-1}(n)|$$

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## Theorem (Stanley, 1982)

The following polynomial in  $q$  is symmetric and unimodal

$$\binom{2n}{n}_q - \prod_{i=1}^n (1 + q^{2i-1}).$$

# Effective bounds on $p_k(m, \ell) - p_{k-1}(m, \ell)$

## Theorem (Pak-P, 2014+)

For all  $m \geq \ell \geq 8$  and  $2 \leq k \leq \ell m/2$ , we have:

$$p_k(\ell, m) - p_{k-1}(\ell, m) > A \frac{2\sqrt{s}}{s^{9/4}}, \quad \text{where } s = \min\{2k, \ell^2\},$$

and  $A = 0.00449$  is an universal constant.

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Part I – for  $m = \ell = n$

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Part II – for  $m \neq \ell$ :

**Semigroup/monotonicity property**[Manivel] : If  $g(\alpha, \beta, \gamma) > 0$ , then for all  $\lambda, \mu, \nu$ :

$$g(\lambda + \alpha, \mu + \beta, \nu + \gamma) \geq g(\lambda, \mu, \nu).$$

$$\implies g(m^\ell, m^\ell, (m\ell - k, k)) \geq g(\ell^\ell, \ell^\ell, (\ell^2 - s, s)), \quad (s = \min\{k, \ell^2/2\})$$



# NP and #P from combinatorics

## Theorem (Pak-P,2014+)

Let  $r$  be fixed and  $\lambda = (m^\ell, 1^r)$  and  $\mu = (m+r, m^{\ell-1})$ . Then  $g(\lambda, \mu, (m\ell + r - k, k))$  is equal to the number of certain trees with local conditions of depth  $O(\log \ell)$ , width  $O(\ell)$ , and entries  $O(m\ell)$ . Thus computing  $g(\lambda, \mu, (m\ell + r - k, k))$  is in #P (input size is  $O(\ell \log m)$ ).

Proof: formulas in terms of  $q$ -binomial coefficients (partitions inside rectangle) + O'Hara's combinatorial proof of Sylvester's theorem.

## Theorem (Pak-P, corollary of Blasiak's combinatorial interpretation)

When  $\nu$  is a hook,  $KP \in NP$  and  $KRON \in \#P$ .

# Complexity of KRON and KP

## Theorem (Pak-P)

Let  $\lambda, \mu, \nu \vdash n$  be partitions with lengths  $\ell(\lambda), \ell(\mu), \ell(\nu) \leq \ell$ , the largest parts  $\lambda_1, \mu_1, \nu_1 \leq N$ , and  $\nu_2 \leq M$ . Then the Kronecker coefficients  $g(\lambda, \mu, \nu)$  can be computed in time

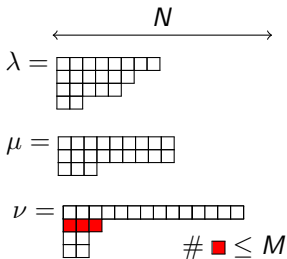
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**Corollary.** Suppose

$$\log M, \ell = O\left(\frac{(\log \log N)^{1/3}}{(\log \log \log N)^{2/3}}\right).$$

Then there is a **polynomial time algorithm** to compute  $g(\lambda, \mu, \nu)$ .

Example:  $\ell$  small and  $\nu =$

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## Corollary (Christandl-Doran-Walter)

When  $\ell$  is fixed, the Kronecker coefficients can be computed in polynomial time, i.e.  $\text{KRON} \in \text{FP}$  (this case: Mulmuley's conjecture  $\checkmark$ )

## Theorem (Pak-P)

When the number of parts ( $\ell$ ) is fixed, there exists a **linear time** algorithm to decide whether  $g(\lambda, \mu, \nu) > 0$  (i.e. solve KP).

# Proofs I: the Reduction Lemma

## Lemma (Pak-P)

Let  $\lambda, \mu, \nu \vdash n$  and  $\ell(\lambda), \ell(\mu), \ell(\nu) \leq \ell$ . Set  $s = n - \nu_1$ . Then:

- (i) If  $|\lambda_i - \mu_i| > s$  for some  $i$ , then  $g(\lambda, \mu, \nu) = 0$ ,
- (ii) If  $|\lambda_i - \mu_i| \leq s$  for all  $i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq \ell$ , there  $\exists$  an  $r \leq 2s\ell^2$ , s.t.

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## + Semigroup property [Manivel, Brion]:

$$g(\alpha, \beta, \gamma) > 0, g(\lambda, \mu, \nu) > 0 \Rightarrow g(\alpha + \lambda, \beta + \mu, \gamma + \nu) \geq g(\lambda, \mu, \nu)$$

## Corollary <sup>(3)</sup>

For any  $m$  and partition  $\alpha \vdash m$ , we have that

$$g(\lambda + n\alpha, \mu + n\alpha, \nu + (nm))$$

is bounded and increasing as a function of  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , i.e. **stable**.

<sup>3</sup>[Pak-P], indep in [Vallejo], [Stembridge]

## Proofs II: Explicit bounds on KRON complexity

**Lemma:** <sup>4</sup>

$$g(\alpha, \beta, \gamma) = \sum_{\sigma^1, \sigma^2, \sigma^3 \in S_\ell} \operatorname{sgn}(\sigma^1 \sigma^2 \sigma^3) C(\alpha+1-\sigma^1, \beta+1-\sigma^2, \gamma+1-\sigma^3),$$

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### Lemma

Let  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \vdash n$  be partitions of the same size, such that  $\alpha_1, \beta_1, \gamma_1 \leq m$

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# The analogous question for characters

**Input:** Integers  $N, \ell$ , partitions  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_\ell)$ ,  $\mu = (\mu_1, \dots, \mu_\ell)$ , where  $0 \leq \lambda_i, \mu_i \leq N$ , and  $|\lambda| = |\mu|$ .

**Decide:** whether  $\chi^\lambda[\mu] = 0$

## Proposition (Pak-P)

*This problem is NP-hard.*

