

Stirling numbers and

Koszul algebras with symmetry

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Symmetry, Stability, and Interactions with Computation

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1. Stirling numbers $c(n, k)$, $S(n, k)$
1st kind 2nd kind
2. Algebras, Hilbert functions/series
3. Koszul algebras & duality
4. Representation theory results

1. Stirling numbers

k cycle permutations in $S_n =: c(n, k)$ (signless) Stirling # of 1st kind

$c(4,4)$ = 1	$c(4,3)$ = 6	$c(4,2)$ = 11	$c(4,1)$ = 6
(1)(2)(3)(4)	(12)(3)(4) (13)(2)(4) (14)(2)(3) (23)(1)(4) (24)(1)(3) (34)(1)(2)	(123)(4) (12)(34) (132)(4) (13)(24) (124)(3) (14)(23) (142)(3) (134)(2) (143)(2) (234)(1) (243)(1)	(1234) (1243) (1324) (1342) (1423) (1432)

k block set partitions of $\{1, 2, \dots, n\} =: S(n, k)$ Stirling # of 2nd kind

$S(4,4)$ = 1	$S(4,3)$ = 6	$S(4,2)$ = 7	$S(4,1)$ = 1
1 2 3 4	12 3 4 23 1 4 13 2 4 24 1 3 14 2 3 34 1 2	123 4 12 34 124 3 13 24 134 2 234 1 14 23	1234

Triangle recurrences

$$c(n, k) = c(n-1, k-1) + (n-1) \cdot c(n-1, k)$$

k cycle permutations of $\{1, 2, \dots, n-1, n\}$

n is a singleton cycle

n is not a singleton cycle

	$k=0$	1	2	3	4	5
$n=0$	1					
1	0	1				
2	0	1	1			
3	0	2	3	1		
4	0	6	11	6	1	
5	0	24	50	35	10	1
	⋮					⋮

$$S(n, k) = S(n-1, k-1) + k \cdot S(n-1, k)$$

k block partitions of $\{1, 2, \dots, n-1, n\}$

n is a singleton block

n is not a singleton block

	$k=0$	1	2	3	4	5
$n=0$	1					
1	0	1				
2	0	1	1			
3	0	1	3	1		
4	0	1	7	6	1	
5	0	1	15	25	10	1
	⋮					⋮

Generating functions

$$1 + 6t + 11t^2 + 6t^3 = (1+t)(1+2t)(1+3t)$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n c(n, n-i) t^i = (1+t)(1+2t) \dots (1+(n-1)t)$$

	k					
	0	1	2	3	4	5
n=0	1					
1	0	1				
2	0	1	1			
3	0	2	3	1		
4	0	6	11	6	1	
5	0	24	50	35	10	1
⋮						⋮

$c(n, k)$

$$1 + 6t + 25t^2 + \dots = \frac{1}{(1-t)(1-2t)(1-3t)}$$

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} S(n-1+i, n-1) t^i = \frac{1}{(1-t)(1-2t) \dots (1+(n-1)t)}$$

	k					
	0	1	2	3	4	5
n=0	1					
1	0	1				
2	0	1	1			
3	0	1	3	1		
4	0	1	7	6	1	
5	0	1	15	25	10	1
⋮						⋮

$S(n, k)$

2. Algebras, Hilbert functions/series

$$A = \bigoplus_{i=0}^{\infty} A_i = A_0 \oplus A_1 \oplus A_2 \oplus \dots \quad \text{with } A_i \cdot A_j = A_{i+j}$$

a graded associative k -algebra

has Hilbert series

$$\text{Hilb}(A, t) := \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \underbrace{\dim_k(A_i)}_{\text{called Hilbert function } h(A, i)} \cdot t^i$$

k a field

e.g. $\text{Hilb}(\bigwedge_k \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}, t) = \sum_{i=0}^n \binom{n}{i} t^i = (1+t)^n$

$= \bigwedge^i V$ where $V = \text{span}_k \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$

exterior algebra $x_i x_j = -x_j x_i, x_i^2 = 0$

e.g. $\text{Hilb}(k[y_1, \dots, y_n], t) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \binom{n+i-1}{i} t^i = \frac{1}{(1-t)^n}$

$= \text{Sym}^i(V^*)$ where $V^* = \text{span}_k \{y_1, \dots, y_n\}$

polynomial algebra (commutative) $y_i y_j = y_j y_i$

$c(n,k)$ are also a Hilbert function ...

... for two algebras A with $\text{Hilb}(A,t) = \sum_{i=1}^n c(n,n-i)t^i = (1+t)(1+2t) \dots (1+(n-1)t)$

exterior algebra

$$A = \bigwedge_{\mathbb{k}} \{x_{ij} \mid 1 \leq i < j \leq n\} / (x_{ij}x_{ik} - x_{ij}x_{jk} + x_{ik}x_{jk}) \mid 1 \leq i < j < k \leq n$$

v.I. Arnold 1968 $\cong H^0(\text{Conf}_n(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{k}) \rightarrow \{(z_1, \dots, z_n) \in \mathbb{C}^n : z_i \neq z_j \text{ for } i \neq j\}$

configuration space of n labeled points in \mathbb{C} (or in \mathbb{R}^d , for $d=2,4,6,\dots$ even)

\cong group cohomology of pure braid group PB_n

(= Orlik-Solomon algebra of type A_{n-1} braid arrangement)

OR

NOTE:
deg(x_{ij}) = $d-1$

(commutative) polynomial algebra

$$A = \mathbb{k}[x_{ij}] \mid 1 \leq i < j \leq n / (x_{ij}^2, x_{ij}x_{ik} - x_{ij}x_{jk} + x_{ik}x_{jk}) \mid 1 \leq i < j < k \leq n$$

$\cong H^0(\text{Conf}_n(\mathbb{R}^d), \mathbb{k})$ for $d=3,5,7,\dots$ odd

F. Cohen 1972

(= graded Varchenko-Gelfand ring of type A_{n-1} braid arrangement)

Why do they have $\text{Hilb}(A, t) = (1+t)(1+2t)\cdots(1+(n-1)t) = \sum_{i=1}^n c(n, n-i) t^i$?

F. Cohen's proof shows these presentations

$$A = \begin{cases} \bigwedge_{\mathbb{k}} \{x_{ij}\}_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} / (x_{ij}x_{ik} - x_{ij}x_{jk} + \underline{x_{ik}x_{jk}})_{1 \leq i < j < k \leq n} \\ \mathbb{k}[x_{ij}]_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} / (\underline{x_{ij}^2}, x_{ij}x_{ik} - x_{ij}x_{jk} + \underline{x_{ik}x_{jk}})_{1 \leq i < j < k \leq n} \end{cases}$$

are Gröbner basis presentations
(exterior, commutative)

with initial terms underlined in green, giving

standard monomial \mathbb{k} -bases for A

= squarefree products of at most one variable from these sets:

$$\{x_{12}\}, \{x_{13}, x_{23}\}, \{x_{14}, x_{24}, x_{34}\}, \dots, \{x_{1n}, x_{2n}, \dots, x_{n-1,n}\}$$
$$(1+t) \cdot (1+2t) \cdot (1+3t) \cdot \dots \cdot (1+(n-1)t)$$

Are the $S(n, k)$ also a Hilbert function?

$$\text{Yes, } \frac{1}{(1-t)(1-2t)\cdots(1-nt)} = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} S(n-i, n-i) t^i = \text{Hilb}(A^!, t)$$

where $A^!$ is the Koszul dual algebra

for either of the quadratic algebras

$$A = H^0(\text{Conf}_n(\mathbb{R}^d), k)$$

$$\cong \begin{cases} \Lambda_k \{x_{ij}\}_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} / (x_{ij}x_{ik} - x_{ij}x_{jk} + x_{ik}x_{jk})_{1 \leq i < j < k \leq n} \\ k[x_{ij}]_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} / (x_{ij}^2, x_{ij}x_{ik} - x_{ij}x_{jk} + x_{ik}x_{jk})_{1 \leq i < j < k \leq n} \end{cases}$$

$$d = 2, 4, 6, \dots$$

$$d = 3, 5, 7, \dots$$

3. Koszul algebras & their Koszul duals

DEFINITION: $A = \bigoplus_{i=0}^{\infty} A_i = \underbrace{A_0}_{=k} \oplus A_1 \oplus A_2 \oplus \dots$

a standard graded unconnected associative k -algebra

means

$$A = \underbrace{k\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle}_{\text{free associative algebra on } x_1, \dots, x_n} / I$$

or
tensor algebra $T(V)$
on $V = \text{span}_k \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$

for a two-sided ideal
 $I \subset k\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle$
which is homogeneous:

$$I = \bigoplus_{i=2}^{\infty} I_i$$

where $\underline{I}_i := T^i(V) \cap I$

(Priddy 1970)

DEFINITION:

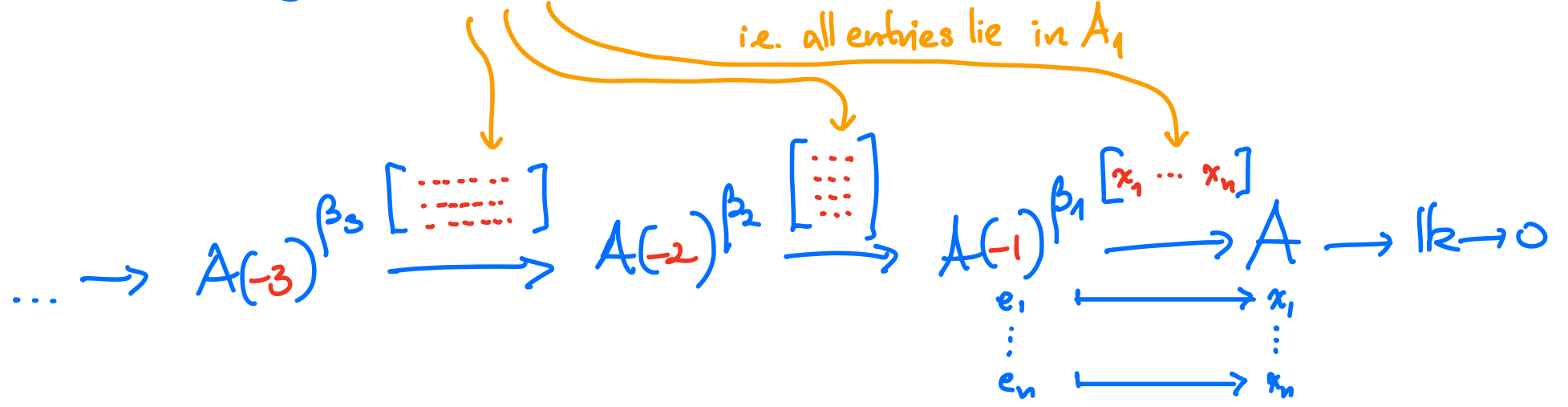
A is a Koszul algebra if there exists a

free A -resolution of $k = A/A_+$

$$A_1 \oplus A_2 \oplus A_3 \oplus \dots$$

having all linear maps:

i.e. all entries lie in A_1



$A = k\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle / I$ Koszul

$\implies I$ is quadratic:

$$I = (I_2)$$

is generated by $I_2 = I \cap T^2(V)$

THEOREM (Priddy 1970) When A is Koszul, its quadratic dual algebra $A^!$

defined by $A^! := \underbrace{k\langle y_1, \dots, y_n \rangle}_{T^0(V^*)} / J$ where $J = (J_2)$

with
 for $V^* = \text{span}_k \{y_1, \dots, y_n\}$
 with $(y_i, x_j) = \delta_{ij}$

with
 $J_2 := I_2^\perp \subset T^2(V^*)$
 $V^* \otimes V^*$

gives an explicit linear free A -resolution of k built on $A \otimes_k (A^!)^*$:

$$\dots \rightarrow A \otimes_k (A^!)^*_3 \rightarrow A \otimes_k (A^!)^*_2 \rightarrow A \otimes_k (A^!)^*_1 \rightarrow A \otimes_k (A^!)^*_0 \rightarrow k \rightarrow 0$$

(now called Priddy's complex)

COROLLARY: $\text{Hilb}(A, t) \cdot \text{Hilb}(A^!, -t) = 1$ when A is Koszul.

i.e. $\text{Hilb}(A^!, t) = \frac{1}{\text{Hilb}(A, -t)}$

More generally, a group G of graded symmetries of A also acts on $A^!$,

and has virtual G -character identities, recurrences:
(equivariant)

$$\text{Hilb}_{\text{eq}}(A, t) \cdot \text{Hilb}_{\text{eq}}((A^!)^*, -t) = 1 \quad \text{in } \underbrace{R(G)[[t]]}_{\text{ring of complex } G\text{-characters}}$$

or equivalently

$$(A_i^!)^* = A_1 \otimes (A_{i-1}^!)^* - A_2 \otimes (A_{i-2}^!)^* + A_3 \otimes (A_{i-3}^!)^* - \dots \pm A_i \quad \text{in } R(G)$$

EXAMPLE

$$A = \underbrace{\bigwedge_{\mathbb{k}} \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}}_{\wedge^2 V} \cong \mathbb{k}\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle / \underbrace{(x_i^2, x_i x_j + x_j x_i)}_{I = (I_2)} \quad \text{is Koszul}$$

$$A^\dagger = \underbrace{\mathbb{k}[y_1, \dots, y_n]}_{\text{Sym}(V^*)} \cong \mathbb{k}\langle y_1, \dots, y_n \rangle / \underbrace{(y_i y_j - y_j y_i)}_{J = (J_2)} \quad \text{is its Koszul dual}$$

where $J_2 = I_2^\perp \subset T^2(V^*)$

and Priddy's complex = (usual) Koszul complex resolving \mathbb{k} over $\mathbb{k}[\underline{y}]$:

$$0 \rightarrow \wedge^n V \otimes_{\mathbb{k}} \text{Sym}(V^*) \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \wedge^2 V \otimes_{\mathbb{k}} \text{Sym}(V^*) \rightarrow V \otimes_{\mathbb{k}} \text{Sym}(V^*) \rightarrow \text{Sym}(V^*) \rightarrow \mathbb{k} \rightarrow 0$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} x_1 & \longrightarrow & y_1 & \longrightarrow & 0 & & \\ & & \vdots & & & & \\ x_n & \longrightarrow & y_n & \longrightarrow & 0 & & \end{array}$$

$$x_i \wedge x_j \longrightarrow y_i x_j - y_j x_i$$

How to prove an algebra A is Koszul?

THEOREM: When A is commutative or anti commutative
(Folklore + Fröberg 1975 for monomial case) and I has a quadratic Gröbner basis for some monomial order on $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ or $\Lambda_k\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$, then A is Koszul.

e.g. $A = H^0(\text{Conf}_n(\mathbb{R}^d), k)$ is Koszul

$$\cong \begin{cases} \Lambda_k\{x_{ij}\}_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} / (x_{ij}x_{ik} - x_{ij}x_{jk} + \underline{x_{ik}x_{jk}})_{1 \leq i < j < k \leq n} & d=2,4,6,\dots \\ k[x_{ij}]_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} / (\underline{x_{ij}^2}, x_{ij}x_{ik} - x_{ij}x_{jk} + \underline{x_{ik}x_{jk}})_{1 \leq i < j < k \leq n} & d=3,5,7,\dots \end{cases}$$

$$A^! = k\langle y_{ij} \rangle_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} / \left([y_{ij}, y_{kl}]_{\{i,j\} \cap \{k,l\} = \emptyset} \right) + \left([y_{ij}, y_{ik} + y_{jk}]_{1 \leq i < j < k \leq n} \right)$$

is its Koszul dual where $[a,b] := \begin{cases} ab - ba & \text{if } d \text{ even} \\ ab + ba & \text{if } d \text{ odd} \end{cases}$

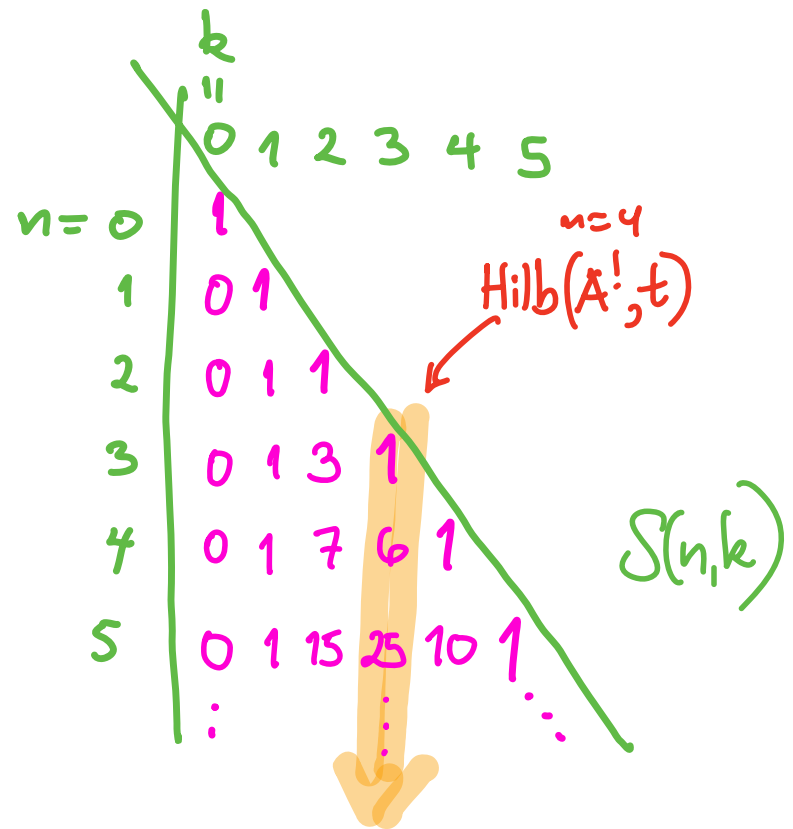
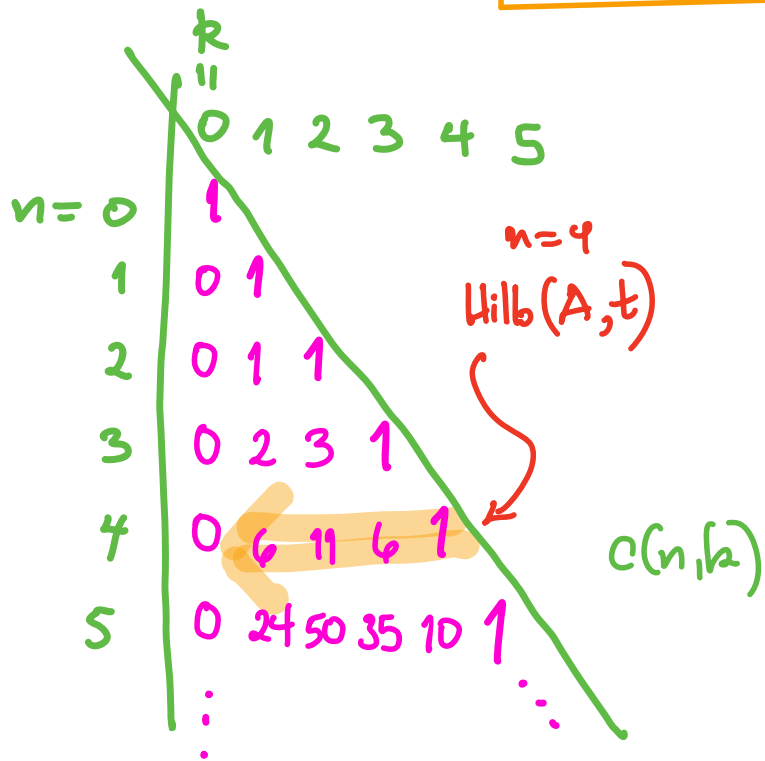
REMARK: Supersolvable hyperplane arrangements are lurking here!

COROLLARY: $A = H^*(\text{Conf}_n(\mathbb{R}^d), k)$ (for d even or odd) have

$$\text{Hilb}(A^!, t) = \frac{1}{\text{Hilb}(A, t)}$$

$$= \frac{1}{(1-t)(1-2t)\dots(1-(n-1)t)} = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} S((n-1)+i, n-1) t^i$$

i.e. $\dim_{\mathbb{k}}(A^!_i) = S((n-1)+i, n-1)$



Topological
REMARK:

$$A = H^*(\text{Conf}_n(\mathbb{R}^d), \mathbb{k}) \text{ for } d \geq 3$$

has

$$A^! \cong H_*(\Omega \text{Conf}_n(\mathbb{R}^d), \mathbb{k})$$

↑
(base pointed
loop space)

Studied, e.g., by Cohen-Gitler 2002

who called its presentation infinitesimal braid relations

$$[y_{ij}, y_{kl}] = 0 \text{ for } \{i, j\} \cap \{k, l\} = \emptyset$$

$$[y_{ij}, y_{ik} + y_{jk}] = 0 \text{ for } 1 \leq i < j < k \leq n$$

4. Representation theory

$A = H^*(\text{Conf}_n(\mathbb{R}^d), k)$ carry actions of the symmetric group \mathfrak{S}_n on $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$.

Q: What do the \mathfrak{S}_n -representations on the graded components of A , $A^!$ look like?

Can one decompose them into the

\mathfrak{S}_n -irreducible representations $\{\mathfrak{S}^\lambda\}$,

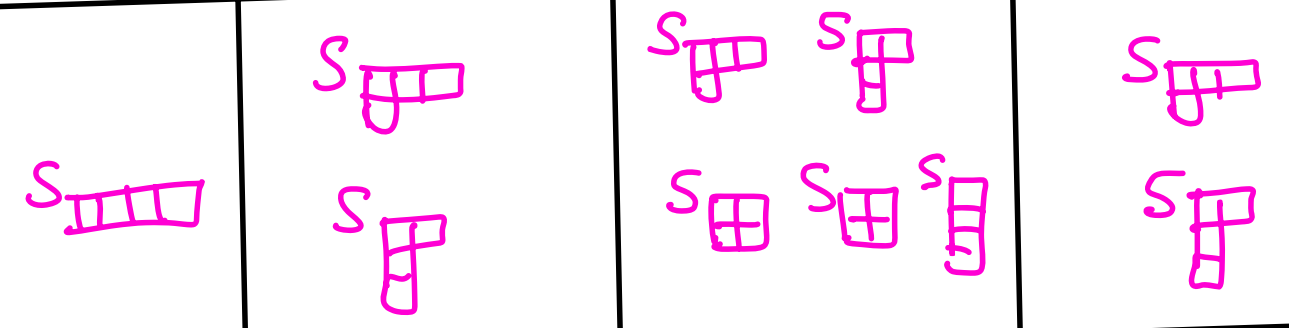
indexed by partitions $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_\ell)$ of n ?

$A = H^*\text{Conf}_n(\mathbb{R}^d)$ = Stirling reps of 1st kind have generating function formulas involving plethysms (Sundaram & Welker 1997)

- implemented in SAGE/cocalc by T. Kam

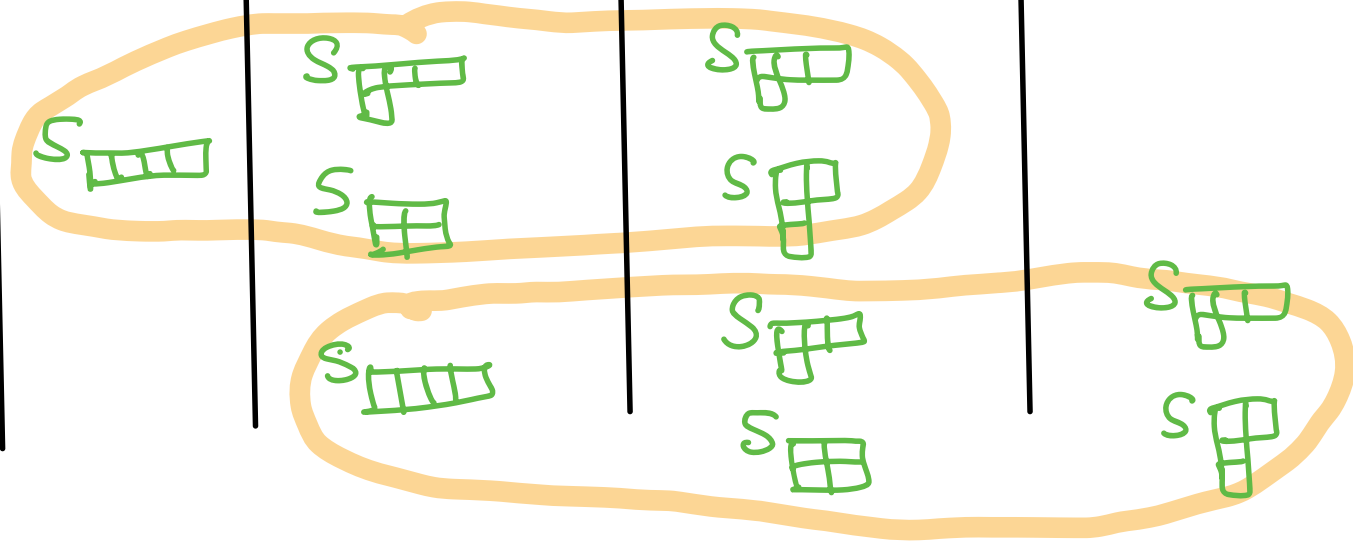
$n=4$ 1 $+$ $6t$ $+$ $11t^2$ $+$ $6t^3$ $+$ $total\ rep'n$
 A_0 A_1 A_2 A_3 (ungraded)

$d=3,5,7,\dots$
odd



$k[G_4]$
= regular rep.

$d=2,4,6,\dots$
even



2 copies of
 $k[G_4 / (\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_1 \times \mathbb{Z}_1)]$

What about $A(n)!$ for $A(n) = H \text{ Conf}_n(\mathbb{R}^d)$?

$S(n,k)$

$n \backslash k =$	1	2	3	4	5
1	1				
2	1	1			
3	1	3	1		
4	1	7	6	1	
5	1	15	25	10	1

$$\dim A(n)! = S((n-1)+i, n-1)$$

$d=2, 4, 6, \dots$ even

	1	2	3	4	5
1	□				
2	□	□			
3	□	□	□		
4	□	□	□	□	
5	□	□	□	□	□

$n=4$

$d=3, 5, 7, \dots$ odd

	1	2	3	4	5
1	□				
2	□	□			
3	□	□	□		
4	□	□	□	□	
5	□	□	□	□	□

$n=4$

Computed via Koszul recurrence s.

THEOREM: The triangular Stirling recurrences

(Atmouss-R.-Sundaram 2023⁺)

$$c(n, k) = c(n-1, k-1) + (n-1) \cdot c(n-1, k)$$

$$S(n, k) = S(n-1, k-1) + k \cdot S(n-1, k)$$

lift to short exact sequences of graded \mathfrak{S}_{n-1} -representations
describing how $A(n)_i$ and $A(n)_i!$ branch/restrict from \mathfrak{S}_n to \mathfrak{S}_{n-1} :

$$0 \rightarrow A(n-1) \rightarrow A(n) \downarrow_{\mathfrak{S}_{n-1}}^{\mathfrak{S}_n} \rightarrow \chi_{\text{def}}^{(n-1)} \otimes A(n-1)(-1) \rightarrow 0$$

defining permutation rep of \mathfrak{S}_{n-1}

$$0 \rightarrow \chi_{\text{def}}^{(n-1)} \otimes \left(A(n) \downarrow_{\mathfrak{S}_{n-1}}^{\mathfrak{S}_n} \right) (-1) \rightarrow A(n)! \downarrow_{\mathfrak{S}_{n-1}}^{\mathfrak{S}_n} \rightarrow A(n-1)! \rightarrow 0$$

This reflects a general Koszul algebra branching relation ...

PROPOSITION: (ARS 2023⁺)

Given Koszul algebras $B \subset A$ (e.g. $H\text{Conf}_{n-1}(\mathbb{R}^d) \subset H\text{Conf}_n(\mathbb{R}^d)$)
 with symmetries $H < G$ ($G_{n-1} < G_n$)

and a $\mathbb{k}H$ -module U ,

one has a sequence of character identities in $\mathbb{R}(H)$

$$\boxed{A_i \downarrow_H^G = B_i + U \otimes B_{i-1}} \quad \text{for } A$$



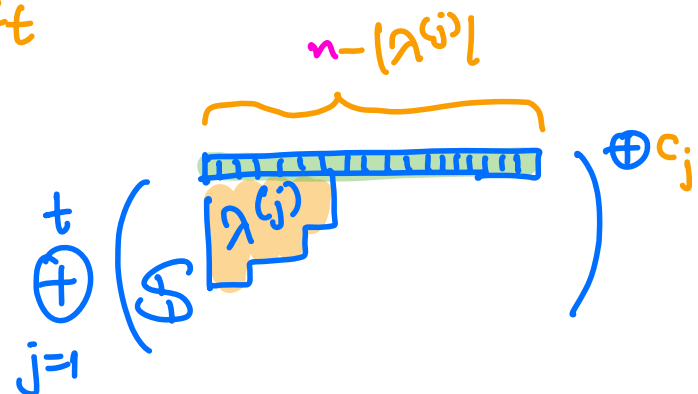
$$\boxed{A_i^! \downarrow_H^G = B_i^! + U^* \otimes A_{i-1}^! \downarrow_H^G} \quad \text{for } A^!$$

Representation Stability

DEFINITION: (Church & Farb 2013) A sequence of \mathfrak{S}_n -representations $\{V_n\}_{n=1,2,3,\dots}$ are called **representation-stable** if

\exists some N , and partitions $\lambda^{(1)}, \lambda^{(2)}, \dots, \lambda^{(t)}$ and multiplicities c_1, c_2, \dots, c_t

such that $\forall n \geq N$, one has $V_n \cong \bigoplus_{j=1}^t \left(\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda^{(j)}} \right)^{\oplus c_j}$



e.g. **THEOREM:** (Church & Farb 2013) Fixing $i \geq 0$, $\left\{ H^{i(d-1)} \text{Conf}_n(\mathbb{R}^d) \right\}_{n=1,2,\dots}$ is representation-stable.

THEOREM: (Hersh & R. 2016) The above stability starts at $n = \begin{cases} 3i & \text{for } d=3,5,7,\dots \text{ odd} \\ 4i & \text{for } d=2,4,6,\dots \text{ even} \end{cases}$

THEOREM:
(ARS
2023⁺)

Assuming $\{A(n)\}_{n=1,2,\dots}$ are Koszul, then

$\{A(n)_i\}_{n=1,2,\dots}$ rep-stable past $n = c \cdot i \Rightarrow$ same for $\{A(n)_i^!\}_{n=1,2,\dots}$

COROLLARY:
(ARS
2023⁺) For $A(n) := H^* \text{Conf}_n(\mathbb{R}^d)$,

the $\{A(n)_i^!\}_{n=1,2,\dots}$ are rep-stable past $n = \begin{cases} 3i & \text{for } d=3,5,7,\dots \text{ odd} \\ 4i & \text{for } d=2,4,6,\dots \text{ even} \end{cases}$

OS

$i=2$	$i=1$	$i=0$	1	2	3	4	5
1			□				
2	□		□	□			
3	□	□	□	□	□		
4	□	□	□	□	□	□	
5	□	□	□	□	□	□	□

Diagonal arrows from top-left to bottom-right indicate the rep-stable region.

VG

$i=2$	$i=1$	$i=0$	1	2	3	4	5
1			□				
2	□		□	□			
3	□	□	□	□	□		
4	□	□	□	□	□	□	
5	□	□	□	□	□	□	□

Diagonal arrows from top-left to bottom-right indicate the rep-stable region.

THEOREM:
(ARS 2023[†])

- $\text{Hilb}_{\text{eq}}(\text{HCont}_n(\mathbb{R}^d), t)$ is divisible by $1+t$ for $d=2,4,6,\dots$ even because multiplication by $x_1+x_2+\dots+x_n$ makes $\text{HCont}_n(\mathbb{R}^d) =: A$ a G -equivariant exact cochain complex
$$0 \rightarrow H^0 \rightarrow H^1 \rightarrow H^2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow H^{n-1} \rightarrow 0$$

(Yuzvinsky 2001)

- $\text{Hilb}_{\text{eq}}(A^!, t)$ is divisible by $1+t+t^2+\dots = \frac{1}{1-t}$ for $d=2,4,6,\dots$ even because multiplication on the right by $y_1+y_2+\dots+y_n$ gives G -equivariant injective maps
$$A_0^! \hookrightarrow A_1^! \hookrightarrow A_2^! \hookrightarrow \dots$$

Permutation representations

The G_n -representations on $A_i = H^{i(d-1)} \text{Conf}_n(\mathbb{R}^d)$ are
not permutation representations.

But when $d=2,4,6,\dots$ even,

A_i turned out to be permutation representations surprisingly often:

- for $i=0,1$ (and $\frac{1}{2}$ a perm rep for $i=2$!)

- for $n=1,2,3,4,5$

(but failed for $n=9$ with $i=3$,
 $n=6$ with $i=5$)

checked with T. Karn's
Burnside Solver

We really don't understand why !

Thanks for your attention!

$S(n,k)$

$k=$		1	2	3	4	5	
$n=$		1	1	3	7	15	25
1	1						
2	1	1					
3	1	3	1				
4	1	7	6	1			
5	1	15	25	10	1		

$$A = H \cdot \text{Conf}_n(\mathbb{R}^d)$$

$$\dim A_i = S((n-1)+i, n-1)$$

d
even

	1	2	3	4	5
1	□				
2	□	□□			
3	□	□□□	□□□		
4	□	□□□□ 2	□□□□□ 2	□□□□□□ 1	□□□□□□□ 2
5	□	□□□□□ 3	□□□□□□□ 3	□□□□□□□□ 3	□□□□□□□□□ 2

d
odd

	1	2	3	4	5
1	□				
2	□	□□			
3	□	□□□	□□□□		
4	□	□□□□ 2	□□□□□□ 2	□□□□□□□ 1	□□□□□□□□ 2
5	□	□□□□□ 3	□□□□□□□ 3	□□□□□□□□ 3	□□□□□□□□□ 2