

Local Properties of Richardson Varieties in the Grassmannian via a Bounded Robinson-Schensted-Knuth Correspondence

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Abstract

The Richardson variety X_α^γ in the Grassmannian is defined to be the intersection of the Schubert variety X^γ and opposite Schubert variety X_α . We give an explicit Gröbner basis for the ideal of the tangent cone at any T -fixed point of X_α^γ , thus generalizing a result of Kodiyalam-Raghavan [7] and Kreiman-Lakshmibai [11]. Our proof is based on a generalization of the Robinson-Schensted-Knuth (RSK) correspondence, which we call the bounded RSK (BRSK). We use the Gröbner basis result to deduce a formula which computes the multiplicity of X_α^γ at any T -fixed point by counting families of nonintersecting lattice paths, thus generalizing a result first proved by Krattenthaler [8, 9].

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1 Introduction

The Richardson variety X_α^γ in the Grassmannian¹ is defined to be the intersection of the Schubert variety X^γ and opposite Schubert variety X_α . In particular, Schubert and opposite Schubert varieties are special cases of Richardson varieties. We derive local properties of X_α^γ at any T -fixed point e_β . It should be noted that the local properties of Schubert varieties at T -fixed points determine their local properties at all other points, because of the B -action; but this does not extend to Richardson varieties, since Richardson varieties only have a T -action.

In Kodiyalam-Raghavan [7] and Kreiman-Lakshmibai [11], an explicit Gröbner basis for the ideal of the tangent cone of the Schubert variety X^γ at e_β is obtained. The Gröbner basis is used to derive a formula for the multiplicity of X^γ at e_β . In this paper, we generalize the results of [7] and [11] to the case of Richardson varieties. The results of [7] and [11] were conjectured by Kreiman-Lakshmibai [12], although in a different, group-theoretic form. The multiplicity formula (in both forms) was first proved by Krattenthaler [8, 9] by showing its equivalence to the Rosenthal-Zelevinsky determinantal multiplicity formula [18].

Sturmfels [21] and Herzog-Trung [5] proved results on a class of determinantal varieties which are equivalent to the results of [7], [11], and this paper for the case of Schubert varieties at the T -fixed point e_{id} . The key to their proofs was to use a version of the Robinson-Schensted-Knuth correspondence (which we shall call the ‘ordinary’ RSK) in order to establish a degree-preserving bijection between a set of monomials defined by an initial ideal and a ‘standard monomial basis’.

The difficulty in generalizing this method of proof to the case of Schubert varieties at an arbitrary T -fixed point e_β lies in generalizing this bijection. All three of [7], [11], and this paper obtain generalizations of this bijection. The three generalizations, when restricted to Schubert varieties, are in fact the same bijection², although this is not immediately apparent. Although the formulations of the bijection in [7] and [11] are similar to each other, our formulation is in terms of different combinatorial indexing sets, and thus most of our combinatorial definitions and proofs are of a different nature than those of [7] and [11]. The relationship between our formulation and the formulations in [7] and [11] is analogous to the relationship between the Robinson-Schensted correspondence and Viennot’s version of the Robinson-Schensted correspondence [19, 22].

We formulate the bijection by introducing a generalization of the ordinary RSK, which we call the bounded RSK. Because the definition of the bounded RSK is built from that of the ordinary RSK, many properties of the bounded RSK are immediate consequences of analogous properties for the ordinary RSK (see [3, 19]). This simplifies our proofs.

¹Richardson varieties in the Grassmannian are also studied by Stanley in [20], where these varieties are called *skew Schubert varieties*. Discussion of these varieties also appears in [6].

²This supports the conviction of the authors in [7] that this bijection is natural and that it is in some sense the only natural bijection satisfying the required geometric conditions.

Results analogous to those of [7] and [11] have now been obtained for the symplectic and orthogonal Grassmannians (see [4], [16]). We believe it is possible that the methods of this paper can be adapted to these varieties as well. The results of [7], [11], and this paper have been used to study the equivariant cohomology and equivariant K-theory of the Grassmannian (see [10], [15]).

Acknowledgements. I would like to thank A. Conca, V. Lakshmibai, P. Magyar, B. Sagan, and M. Shimozono for valuable discussions, suggestions, and corrections. I am also grateful to the referees for their careful readings and for pointing out a number of improvements and corrections.

2 Statement of Results

Let K be an algebraically closed field, and let d, n be fixed positive integers, $0 < d < n$. The **Grassmannian** $Gr_{d,n}$ is the set of all d -dimensional subspaces of K^n . The **Plücker map** $\text{pl} : Gr_{d,n} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}(\wedge^d K^n)$ is given by $\text{pl}(W) = [w_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge w_d]$, where $\{w_1, \dots, w_d\}$ is any basis for W . It is well known that pl is a bijection onto a closed subset of $\mathbb{P}(\wedge^d K^n)$. Thus $Gr_{d,n}$ inherits the structure of a projective variety.

Define $I_{d,n}$ to be the set of d -element subsets of $\{1, \dots, n\}$. Let $\alpha = \{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_d\} \in I_{d,n}$, $\alpha_1 < \cdots < \alpha_d$. Define the **complement** of α by $\bar{\alpha} = \{1, \dots, n\} \setminus \alpha$, and the **length** of α by $l(\alpha) = \alpha_1 + \cdots + \alpha_d - \binom{d+1}{2}$. If $\beta = \{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_d\} \in I_{d,n}$, $\beta_1 < \cdots < \beta_d$, then we say that $\alpha \leq \beta$ if $\alpha_i \leq \beta_i$, $i = 1, \dots, d$.

Let $\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$ be the standard basis for K^n . For $\alpha \in I_{d,n}$, define $e_\alpha = \text{Span}\{e_{\alpha_1}, \dots, e_{\alpha_d}\} \in Gr_{d,n}$. Let

$$\begin{aligned} G &= GL_n(K) \\ B &= \{g \in G \mid g \text{ is upper triangular}\} \\ B^- &= \{g \in G \mid g \text{ is lower triangular}\} \\ T &= \{g \in G \mid g \text{ is diagonal}\} \end{aligned}$$

The group G acts transitively on $Gr_{d,n}$ with T -fixed points $\{e_\alpha \mid \alpha \in I_{d,n}\}$. The Zariski closure of the B (resp. B^-) orbit through e_α , with canonical reduced scheme structure, is called a **Schubert variety** (resp. **opposite Schubert variety**), and denoted by X^α (resp. X_α). For $\alpha, \gamma \in I_{d,n}$, the scheme-theoretic intersection $X_\alpha^\gamma = X_\alpha \cap X^\gamma$ is called a **Richardson variety**. It can be shown that X_α^γ is nonempty if and only if $\alpha \leq \gamma$; that $e_\beta \in X_\alpha^\gamma$ if and only if $\alpha \leq \beta \leq \gamma$; and that if X_α^γ is nonempty, it is reduced and irreducible of dimension $l(\gamma) - l(\alpha)$ (see [1, 13, 14, 17]).

For $\beta \in I_{d,n}$ define p_β to be homogeneous (**Plücker**) coordinate $[e_{\beta_1} \wedge \cdots \wedge e_{\beta_d}]^*$ of $\mathbb{P}(\wedge^d K^n)$. Let \mathcal{O}_β be the distinguished open set of $Gr_{d,n}$ defined by $p_\beta \neq 0$. Its coordinate ring $K[\mathcal{O}_\beta]$ is isomorphic to the homogeneous localization $K[Gr_{d,n}]_{(p_\beta)}$. Define $f_{\theta,\beta}$ to be $p_\theta/p_\beta \in K[\mathcal{O}_\beta]$.

The open set \mathcal{O}_β is isomorphic to the affine space $K^{d(n-d)}$. Indeed, it can be identified with the space of matrices in $M_{n \times d}$ in which rows β_1, \dots, β_d are the rows of the $d \times d$ identity matrix, and rows $\bar{\beta}_1, \dots, \bar{\beta}_{n-d}$ contain arbitrary elements of K . The rows of \mathcal{O}_β are indexed by $\{1, \dots, n\}$, and the columns by β . Note that the affine coordinates of $K[\mathcal{O}_\beta]$ are indexed by $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$. The coordinate $f_{\theta, \beta}$, $\theta \in I_{d, n}$, is identified with plus or minus the $d \times d$ minor of \mathcal{O}_β with row-set $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_d$.

Example 2.1. Let $d = 3$, $n = 7$, $\beta = \{2, 5, 7\}$. Then

$$\mathcal{O}_\beta = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} x_{12} & x_{15} & x_{17} \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ x_{32} & x_{35} & x_{37} \\ x_{42} & x_{45} & x_{47} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ x_{62} & x_{65} & x_{67} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, x_{ij} \in K \right\},$$

and

$$f_{\{1,4,5\}, \beta} = \begin{vmatrix} x_{12} & x_{15} & x_{17} \\ x_{42} & x_{45} & x_{47} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = - \begin{vmatrix} x_{12} & x_{17} \\ x_{42} & x_{47} \end{vmatrix}.$$

In order to better understand the local properties of X_α^γ near e_β , we analyze $Y_{\alpha, \beta}^\gamma = X_\alpha^\gamma \cap \mathcal{O}_\beta$, an open subset of X_α^γ centered at e_β , and a closed affine subvariety of \mathcal{O}_β . Let $G_{\alpha, \beta}^\gamma = \{f_{\theta, \beta} \mid \alpha \not\prec \theta \text{ or } \theta \not\prec \gamma\} \subset K[\mathcal{O}_\beta]$, and let $\langle G_{\alpha, \beta}^\gamma \rangle$ be the ideal of $K[\mathcal{O}_\beta]$ generated by $G_{\alpha, \beta}^\gamma$. The following is a well known result (see [1, 14], for instance).

Theorem 2.2. $K[Y_{\alpha, \beta}^\gamma] = K[\mathcal{O}_\beta] / \langle G_{\alpha, \beta}^\gamma \rangle$.

As a consequence of Theorem 2.2, $Y_{\alpha, \beta}^\gamma$ is isomorphic to the tangent cone of X_α^γ at e_β , and thus $\deg Y_{\alpha, \beta}^\gamma = \text{Mult}_{e_\beta} X_\alpha^\gamma$, the multiplicity of X_α^γ at e_β . Indeed, since $Y_{\alpha, \beta}^\gamma$ is an affine variety in \mathcal{O}_β defined by a homogeneous ideal, with e_β the origin of \mathcal{O}_β , $Y_{\alpha, \beta}^\gamma$ is isomorphic to the tangent cone of $Y_{\alpha, \beta}^\gamma$ at e_β ; since $Y_{\alpha, \beta}^\gamma$ is open in X_α^γ , the tangent cone of $Y_{\alpha, \beta}^\gamma$ at e_β is isomorphic to the tangent cone of X_α^γ at e_β .

Any minor $f_{\theta, \beta}$ can be expressed naturally as plus or minus a determinant all of whose entries are x_{ij} 's. Choose a monomial order on $K[\mathcal{O}_\beta]$ such that the initial term of any minor $f_{\theta, \beta}$, $\text{in}(f_{\theta, \beta})$, is the Southwest-Northeast diagonal of this determinant. The main result of this paper, which is also proven in [7] and [11], is the following.

Proposition 2.3. $G_{\alpha, \beta}^\gamma$ is a Gröbner basis for $\langle G_{\alpha, \beta}^\gamma \rangle$.

If S is any subset of $K[\mathcal{O}_\beta]$, define $\text{in } S$ to be the ideal $\langle \text{in}(s) \mid s \in S \rangle$.

Corollary 2.4. $\deg Y_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma (= \text{Mult}_{e_\beta} X_\alpha^\gamma)$ is the number of square-free monomials of degree $l(\gamma) - l(\alpha)$ in $K[\mathcal{O}_\beta] \setminus \text{in } G_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma$.

We now briefly sketch the proof of Proposition 2.3 (omitting the details, which can be found in Section 8), in order to introduce the main combinatorial objects of interest and outline the structure of this paper. We wish to show that in any degree, the number of monomials of $\text{in } G_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma$ is at least as great as the number of monomials of $\text{in } \langle G_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma \rangle$ (the other inequality being trivial), or equivalently, that in any degree, the number of monomials of $K[\mathcal{O}_\beta] \setminus \text{in } G_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma$ is no greater than the number of monomials of $K[\mathcal{O}_\beta] \setminus \text{in } \langle G_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma \rangle$. Both the monomials of $K[\mathcal{O}_\beta] \setminus \text{in } \langle G_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma \rangle$ and the standard monomials on $Y_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma$ form a basis for $K[\mathcal{O}_\beta] / \langle G_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma \rangle$, and thus agree in cardinality in any degree. Therefore, it suffices to give a degree-preserving injection from the monomials of $K[\mathcal{O}_\beta] \setminus \text{in } G_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma$ to the standard monomials on $Y_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma$. We construct such an injection, the bounded RSK (BRSK), from an indexing set of the former to an indexing set of the latter. These indexing sets are given in the following table.

Set of elements in $K[\mathcal{O}_\beta]$	Indexing set
monomials of $K[\mathcal{O}_\beta] \setminus \text{in } G_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma$	nonvanishing multisets on $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$ bounded by T_α, W_γ
standard monomials on $Y_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma$	nonvanishing semistandard notched bitableaux on $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$ bounded by T_α, W_γ

Figure 1: Two subsets of $K[\mathcal{O}_\beta]$ and their indexing sets

In Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, we define nonvanishing multisets on $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$ bounded by T_α, W_γ , nonvanishing semistandard notched bitableaux on $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$ bounded by T_α, W_γ , and the injection BRSK from the former to the latter. In Section 8, we prove that these two combinatorial objects are indeed indexing sets for the monomials of $K[\mathcal{O}_\beta] \setminus \text{in } G_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma$ and the standard monomials on $Y_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma$ respectively, and use this to prove Proposition 2.3 and Corollary 2.4. In Sections 9 and 10, we show how using Corollary 2.4, $\text{Mult}_{e_\beta} X_\alpha^\gamma$ can be interpreted as counting certain families of nonintersecting paths in the lattice $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$. In Section 11, we give two of the more detailed proofs.

3 Notched Tableaux and Bounded Insertion

A **Young diagram** (resp. **notched diagram**) is a collection of boxes arranged into a left and top justified array (resp. into left justified rows). The **empty Young diagram** is the Young diagram with no boxes. A notched diagram may contain rows with no boxes; however, a Young diagram may not, unless it is

the empty Young diagram. A **Young tableau** (resp. **notched tableau**) is a filling of the boxes of a Young diagram (resp. notched diagram) with positive integers. The **empty Young tableau** is the Young tableau with no boxes. Let P be either a notched tableau or a Young tableau. We denote by P_i the i -th row of P from the top, and by $P_{i,j}$ the j -th entry from the left of P_i . We say that P is **row strict** if the entries of any row of P strictly increase as you move to the right. If P is a Young tableau, then we say that P is **semistandard** if it is row strict and the entries of any column weakly increase as you move down. By definition, the empty Young tableau is considered semistandard.

Example 3.1. A row strict notched tableau P , and a semistandard Young tableau R .

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

Let P be a row strict notched tableau, and b a positive integer. Since P is row strict, its entries which are greater than or equal to b are right justified in each row. Thus if we remove these entries (and their boxes) from P then we are left with a row strict notched tableau, which we denote by $P^{<b}$. We say that P is **semistandard on b** if $P^{<b}$ is a semistandard Young tableau (note that if P is semistandard on b and the first row of $P^{<b}$ has no boxes, then $P^{<b}$ must be the empty Young tableau). It is clear that if P is semistandard on b , then it is semistandard on b' for any positive integer $b' < b$.

Example 3.2. Let $P = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline 1 & 2 & 4 & 6 \\ \hline 2 & 3 & 6 & \\ \hline 2 & 4 & 5 & 7 & 8 \\ \hline 3 & & & & \\ \hline 4 & 5 & & & \\ \hline \end{array}$. Then

$$P^{<5} = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline 1 & 2 & 4 \\ \hline 2 & 3 & \\ \hline 2 & 4 & \\ \hline 3 & & \\ \hline 4 & & \\ \hline \end{array}, \quad P^{<6} = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline 1 & 2 & 4 \\ \hline 2 & 3 & \\ \hline 2 & 4 & 5 \\ \hline 3 & & \\ \hline 4 & 5 & \\ \hline \end{array}.$$

Thus P is semistandard on 5 but not on 6.

We next review the transpose of Schensted's column insertion process, which we shall call simply 'ordinary' Schensted insertion. It is an algorithm which takes as input a semistandard Young tableau P and a positive integer a , and produces as output a new semistandard Young tableau with the same shape as P plus one extra box, and with the same entries as P (possibly in different locations) plus one additional entry, namely a . To begin, insert a into the first

row of R , as follows. If a is greater than all entries in the first row of R , then place a in a new box on the right end of the first row, and ordinary Schensted insertion terminates. Otherwise, find the smallest entry of the first row of R which is greater than or equal to a , and replace that number with a . We say that the number which was replaced was “bumped” from the first row. Insert the bumped number into the second row in precisely the same fashion that a was inserted into the first row. This process continues down the rows until, at some point, a number is placed in a new box on the right end of some row, at which point ordinary Schensted insertion terminates.

We next describe the **bounded insertion algorithm**, which takes as input a positive integer b , a notched tableau P which is semistandard on b , and a positive integer $a < b$, and produces as output a notched tableau which is semistandard on b , which we denote by $P \stackrel{b}{\leftarrow} a$.

Bounded Insertion

- Step 1.** Remove all entries of P which are greater than or equal to b from P , resulting in the semistandard Young tableau $P^{<b}$.
- Step 2.** Insert a into $P^{<b}$ using the ordinary Schensted insertion process.
- Step 3.** Place the entries of P which were removed when forming $P^{<b}$ in Step 1 back into the Young tableau resulting from Step 2, in the same rows from which they were removed.

This insertion process is effectively the ordinary Schensted insertion of a into P , but acting only on the part of P which is “bounded” by b . The fact that bounded insertion preserves the property of being semistandard on b follows immediately from the fact that ordinary Schensted insertion preserves the property of being semistandard.

Example 3.3. Let $P = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline 1 & 2 & 4 & 7 \\ \hline 1 & 5 & 8 & \\ \hline 3 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 \\ \hline 4 & 6 & & & \\ \hline \end{array}$, $a = 3$, $b = 6$. We compute $P \stackrel{b}{\leftarrow} a$.

Step 1. Remove all entries of P which are greater than or equal than b , resulting in

$$P^{<b} = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline 1 & 2 & 4 \\ \hline 1 & 5 & \\ \hline 3 & & \\ \hline 4 & & \\ \hline \end{array}.$$

Step 2. Insert a into $P^{<b}$ using the ordinary Schensted insertion process: a bumps 4 from the first row, which bumps 5 from the second row, which is placed

in a new box on the right end of the third row, to form

1	2	3
1	4	
3	5	
4		

Step 3. Place the entries removed from P in Step 1 back into the Young tableau resulting from Step 2, in the same rows from which they were removed, to obtain

$$P \stackrel{b}{\leftarrow} a = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline 1 & 2 & 3 & 7 \\ \hline 1 & 4 & 8 & \\ \hline 3 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 \\ \hline 4 & 6 & & & & \\ \hline \end{array} .$$

We define the **bumping route** of the bounded insertion algorithm to be the sequence of boxes in P from which entries are bumped in Step 2, together with the **new box** which is added at the end of Step 2.

Example 3.4. The bumping route in Example 3.3 is the set of boxes with \bullet 's in the following Young diagram:

		\bullet			
	\bullet				
	\bullet				

The new box is the lowest box containing a \bullet .

The bounded insertion algorithm is reversible: if $P \stackrel{b}{\leftarrow} a$ is computed, and we know b and the location of the new box, then we can retrieve P and a by running the bounded insertion algorithm in reverse. Note that the reverse of Step 2 is the ordinary Schensted reverse insertion process.

Suppose that P is semistandard on b , that $a, a' < b$, and that bounded insertion is performed twice in succession, resulting in $(P \stackrel{b}{\leftarrow} a) \stackrel{b}{\leftarrow} a'$. Let R and B be the bumping route and new box of the first insertion, and let R' and B' be the bumping route and new box of the second insertion. We say that R' is **weakly left** of R if for every box of R , there is a box of R' to the left of or equal to it; we say that R is **strictly left** of R' if for every box of R' , there is a box of R to the left of it. We say that B' is **strictly below** B if B' lies in a lower row than B ; we say that B is **weakly below** B' if B lies in either the same row as B' or a lower row than B' . The following Lemma is an immediate consequence of the analogous result for ordinary Schensted insertion (see [3]).

Lemma 3.5. (i) If $a \geq a'$, then R' is weakly left of R and B' is strictly below B .

(ii) If $a < a'$, then R is strictly left of R' and B is weakly below B' .

4 Multisets on \mathbb{N} and on \mathbb{N}^2

Let S be any set. A multiset E on S is defined to be a function $E : S \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$. One should think of E as consisting of the set S of elements, but with each $s \in S$ occurring $E(s)$ times. Note that a set is a special type of multiset in which each element occurs exactly once. Define the **underlying set of E** to be $\{s \in S \mid E(s) \neq 0\}$, a subset of S . If T is a subset of S , then we write $E \subset T$ if the underlying set of E is a subset of T . We often write a multiset E by listing its elements, $E = \{e_1, e_2, e_3, \dots\}$, where the e_i 's may not be distinct (in fact, each e_i occurs $E(e_i)$ times in the list).

We call $E(s)$ the **degree** or **multiplicity** of s in E . The multiset E is said to be **finite** if $E(s)$ is nonzero for only finitely many $s \in S$. If E is finite, then define the **degree** of E , denoted by $|E|$, to be the sum of $E(s)$ over all $s \in S$. If E is not finite, then define the degree of E to be ∞ . Define the multisets $E \dot{\cup} F$ and $E \setminus F$ as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}(E \dot{\cup} F)(s) &= E(s) + F(s), \quad s \in S \\ (E \setminus F)(s) &= \max\{E(s) - F(s), 0\}, \quad s \in S\end{aligned}$$

Example 4.1. Let $E = \{a, b, b, b, c, c, c\}$, $F = \{b, b, c, d\}$. Then $|E| = 7$, $E \dot{\cup} F = \{a, b, b, b, b, b, c, c, c, c, d\}$, and $E \setminus F = \{a, b, c, c\}$.

Multisets on \mathbb{N}

Let \mathbb{N} denote the positive integers. Let $E = \{e_1, e_2, \dots\}$ be a multiset on \mathbb{N} , and let $z \in \mathbb{N}$. Define the multiset $E^{\leq z} := \{e_j \in E \mid e_j \leq z\}$.

Let $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots\}$ and $B = \{b_1, b_2, \dots\}$ be two multisets on \mathbb{N} of the same degree, with $a_i \leq a_{i+1}$, $b_i \leq b_{i+1}$, for all i . We say that A is less than or equal to B in the **termwise order** if $a_i \leq b_i$ for all i , or equivalently if $|A^{\leq z}| \geq |B^{\leq z}|$ for all $z \in \mathbb{N}$. We denote this by $A \leq B$. We say that A is less than B in the **strict termwise order** if $a_i < b_i$ for all i . We denote this by $A < B$. Note that \leq is a finer order than $<$.

If A, B, C , and D are multisets on \mathbb{N} such that $|A \dot{\cup} D| = |B \dot{\cup} C|$, then we write

$$A - C \leq B - D \text{ to indicate that } A \dot{\cup} D \leq B \dot{\cup} C. \quad (1)$$

Note that $A - B \leq C - D$ is a transitive relation.

In general no meaning is attached to the expression $A - C$ by itself. However, if A and C are both sets, then we may define $A - C := A \dot{\cup} (\mathbb{N} \setminus C)$. If in addition $A \subset \bar{\beta}$ and $C \subset \beta$, then we may define $A - C := A \dot{\cup} (\beta \setminus C)$. It is an easy check that both of these definitions are consistent with (1) (e.g., $A \dot{\cup} (\mathbb{N} \setminus C) \leq B \dot{\cup} (\mathbb{N} \setminus D)$ if and only if $A \dot{\cup} D \leq B \dot{\cup} C$).

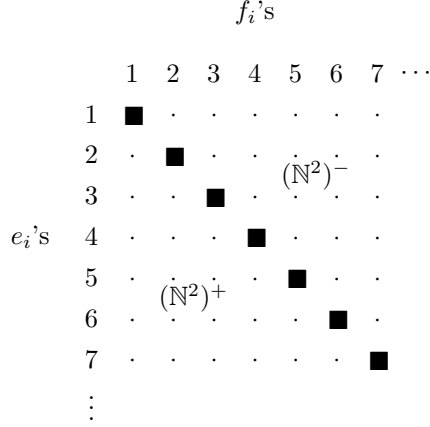
Multisets on \mathbb{N}^2

Let $U = \{(e_1, f_1), (e_2, f_2), \dots\}$ be a multiset on \mathbb{N}^2 . Define $U_{(1)}$ and $U_{(2)}$ to be the multisets $\{e_1, e_2, \dots\}$ and $\{f_1, f_2, \dots\}$ respectively on \mathbb{N} . Define the **nonva-**

nishing, negative, and positive parts of U to be the following multisets:

$$\begin{aligned} U^{\neq 0} &= \{(e_i, f_i) \in U \mid e_i - f_i \neq 0\}, \\ U^- &= \{(e_i, f_i) \in U \mid e_i - f_i < 0\}, \\ U^+ &= \{(e_i, f_i) \in U \mid e_i - f_i > 0\}. \end{aligned}$$

It is useful to visualize the e -axis pointing downward and the f -axis pointing to the right, as illustrated below (the large squares cover the points of $\mathbb{N}^2 \setminus (\mathbb{N}^2)^{\neq 0}$):



We say that U is **nonvanishing** if $U \subset (\mathbb{N}^2)^{\neq 0}$, **negative** if $U \subset (\mathbb{N}^2)^-$, and **positive** if $U \subset (\mathbb{N}^2)^+$. Impose the following transitive relation on multisets on \mathbb{N}^2 :

$$U \leq V \iff U_{(1)} - U_{(2)} \leq V_{(1)} - V_{(2)}. \quad (2)$$

Let ι be the map on multisets on \mathbb{N}^2 defined by $\iota(\{(e_1, f_1), (e_2, f_2), \dots\}) = \{(f_1, e_1), (f_2, e_2), \dots\}$. Then ι is an involution, and it maps negative multisets on \mathbb{N}^2 to positive ones and visa-versa. Thus ι is a bijective pairing between the sets of negative and positive multisets on \mathbb{N}^2 . Note also that $U \leq V \iff \iota(V) \leq \iota(U)$.

In this paper, all sets and multisets other than \mathbb{N} , \mathbb{N}^2 , and multisets expressed explicitly as $A \dot{\cup} (\mathbb{N} \setminus C)$ where A and C are finite subsets of \mathbb{N} , are assumed to be finite.

5 Semistandard Notched Bitableaux

A **notched bitableau** is a pair (P, Q) of notched tableaux of the same shape (i.e., the same number of rows and the same number of boxes in each row). The **degree** of (P, Q) is the number of boxes in P (or Q). A notched bitableau (P, Q) is said to be **row strict** if both P and Q are row strict. A row strict notched bitableau (P, Q) is said to be **semistandard** if

$$P_1 - Q_1 \leq \dots \leq P_r - Q_r. \quad (3)$$

A row strict notched bitableau (P, Q) is said to be **negative** if $P_i < Q_i$, $i = 1, \dots, r$, **positive** if $P_i > Q_i$, $i = 1, \dots, r$, and **nonvanishing** if either

$$P_i < Q_i \quad \text{or} \quad P_i > Q_i, \quad (4)$$

for each $i = 1, \dots, r$.

Example 5.1. Consider the notched bitableau

$$(P, Q) = \left(\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 1 & 3 \\ \hline \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline 2 & 3 & 5 & 7 \\ \hline \end{array} \\ 2 \\ \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline 3 & 4 & 6 \\ \hline \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 4 & 5 \\ \hline \end{array} \\ 6 \\ \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline 4 & 6 & 7 \\ \hline \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 7 & 9 \\ \hline \end{array} \end{array} , \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 5 & 9 \\ \hline \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline 4 & 5 & 7 & 9 \\ \hline \end{array} \\ 8 \\ \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline 4 & 6 & 7 \\ \hline \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 5 & 7 \\ \hline \end{array} \\ 5 \\ \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline 3 & 5 & 6 \\ \hline \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 2 & 7 \\ \hline \end{array} \end{array} \right).$$

We have that

1. (P, Q) is row strict.
2. $P_1 \dot{\cup} Q_2 = \{1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9\} \leq \{2, 3, 5, 5, 7, 9\} = P_2 \dot{\cup} Q_1$. Therefore, $P_1 - Q_1 \leq P_2 - Q_2$. Similarly, one checks that $P_i - Q_i \leq P_{i+1} - Q_{i+1}$, $i = 2, \dots, 7$. Thus (P, Q) is semistandard.
3. $P_i < Q_i$, $i = 1, \dots, 5$, and $P_i > Q_i$, $i = 6, \dots, 8$. Thus (P, Q) is nonvanishing.

Let (P, Q) be a semistandard notched bitableau. If, for subsets T and W of \mathbb{N}^2 ,

$$T_{(1)} - T_{(2)} \leq P_1 - Q_1 \quad \text{and} \quad P_r - Q_r \leq W_{(1)} - W_{(2)}, \quad (5)$$

then we say that (P, Q) is **bounded by \mathbf{T}, \mathbf{W}** . Note that (5) combined with (3) implies

$$T_{(1)} - T_{(2)} \leq P_1 - Q_1 \leq \dots \leq P_r - Q_r \leq W_{(1)} - W_{(2)}.$$

Thus (5) means that if $T_{(1)}$ and $T_{(2)}$ are placed above the top rows of P and Q respectively, and $W_{(1)}$ and $W_{(2)}$ are placed below the bottom rows of P and Q respectively, the the resulting bitableau still satisfies (3).

Let (P, Q) be a nonvanishing semistandard notched bitableau. Then all rows (P_i, Q_i) of (P, Q) for which $P_i < Q_i$ must lie above all rows (P_j, Q_j) of (P, Q) such that $P_j > Q_j$. Let $0 \leq i \leq r$ be maximal such that $P_i < Q_i$. Then the top i rows of P and Q form a negative semistandard notched bitableau and the bottom $r - i$ rows of P and Q form a positive semistandard notched bitableau. These two bitableaux are called respectively the **negative** and **positive parts** of (P, Q) .

If (P, Q) is a nonvanishing semistandard notched bitableau, define $\iota(P, Q)$ to be the notched bitableau obtained by reversing the order of the rows of (Q, P) .

One checks that $\iota(P, Q)$ is a nonvanishing semistandard notched bitableau. The map ι is an involution, and it maps negative semistandard notched bitableaux to positive ones and visa-versa. Thus ι gives a bijective pairing between the sets of negative and positive semistandard notched bitableaux.

The definitions for semistandard notched tableaux and semistandard notched bitableaux appear to be quite different. The following Lemma gives a relationship between these two objects.

Lemma 5.2. *Let (P, Q) be a negative semistandard notched bitableau, and let b be the minimum value of all entries of Q . Then P is semistandard on b .*

Proof. Let r be the number of rows of P . Suppose that, for some i , $1 \leq i \leq r-1$, P_{i+1} has exactly x entries which are less than b , with $x > 0$. We must show that (i) P_i has at least x entries which are less than b , and (ii) $\{P_{i,1}, \dots, P_{i,x}\} \leq \{P_{i+1,1}, \dots, P_{i+1,x}\}$.

By (3),

$$P_i \dot{\cup} Q_{i+1} \leq P_{i+1} \dot{\cup} Q_i. \quad (6)$$

Therefore, since $P_{i+1} \dot{\cup} Q_i$ has (exactly) x entries less than b , $P_i \dot{\cup} Q_{i+1}$ must have at least x entries less than b , which must all be in P_i , since b is the smallest entry of Q . This proves (i). The x smallest entries of the left hand side and right hand side of (6) are $\{P_{i,1}, \dots, P_{i,x}\}$ and $\{P_{i+1,1}, \dots, P_{i+1,x}\}$ respectively. Thus (6) implies (ii). \square

6 The Bounded RSK Correspondence

We next define the **bounded RSK correspondence**, BRSK, a function which maps negative multisets on \mathbb{N}^2 to negative semistandard notched bitableaux. Let $U = \{(a_1, b_1), \dots, (a_t, b_t)\}$ be a negative multiset on \mathbb{N}^2 , whose entries we assume are listed in **lexicographic order**: (i) $b_1 \geq \dots \geq b_t$, and (ii) if for any $i \in \{1, \dots, t-1\}$, $b_i = b_{i+1}$, then $a_i \geq a_{i+1}$. We inductively form a sequence of notched bitableaux $(P^{(0)}, Q^{(0)})$, $(P^{(1)}, Q^{(1)})$, \dots , $(P^{(t)}, Q^{(t)})$, such that $P^{(i)}$ is semistandard on b_i , $i = 1, \dots, t$, as follows:

Let $(P^{(0)}, Q^{(0)}) = (\emptyset, \emptyset)$, and let $b_0 = b_1$. Assume inductively that we have formed $(P^{(i)}, Q^{(i)})$, such that $P^{(i)}$ is semistandard on b_i , and thus on b_{i+1} , since $b_{i+1} \leq b_i$. Define $P^{(i+1)} = P^{(i)} \stackrel{b_{i+1}}{\leftarrow} a_{i+1}$. Since bounded insertion preserves semistandardness on b_{i+1} , $P^{(i+1)}$ is also semistandard on b_{i+1} . Let j be the row number of the new box of this bounded insertion. Define $Q^{(i+1)}$ to be the notched tableau obtained by placing b_{i+1} on the *left* end of row j of $Q^{(i)}$ (and shifting all other entries of $Q^{(i)}$ to the right one box). Clearly $P^{(i+1)}$ and $Q^{(i+1)}$ have the same shape.

Then $\text{BRSK}(U)$ is defined to be $(P^{(t)}, Q^{(t)})$. In the process above, we write $(P^{(i+1)}, Q^{(i+1)}) = (P^{(i)}, Q^{(i)}) \stackrel{b_{i+1}}{\leftarrow} a_{i+1}$. In terms of this notation,

$$\text{BRSK}(U) = ((\emptyset, \emptyset) \stackrel{b_1}{\leftarrow} a_1) \cdots \stackrel{b_t}{\leftarrow} a_t.$$

Example 6.1. Let $U = \{(7, 8), (2, 8), (6, 7), (4, 7), (1, 7), (3, 6), (2, 4)\}$. Then

$$\begin{array}{ll}
P^{(0)} = \emptyset & Q^{(0)} = \emptyset \\
P^{(1)} = \emptyset \stackrel{8}{\leftarrow} 7 = \boxed{7} & Q^{(1)} = \boxed{8} \\
P^{(2)} = \boxed{7} \stackrel{8}{\leftarrow} 2 = \boxed{\begin{array}{c} 2 \\ 7 \end{array}} & Q^{(2)} = \boxed{\begin{array}{c} 8 \\ 8 \end{array}} \\
P^{(3)} = \boxed{\begin{array}{c} 2 \\ 7 \end{array}} \stackrel{7}{\leftarrow} 6 = \boxed{\begin{array}{cc} 2 & 6 \\ 7 & \end{array}} & Q^{(3)} = \boxed{\begin{array}{cc} 7 & 8 \\ 8 & \end{array}} \\
P^{(4)} = \boxed{\begin{array}{cc} 2 & 6 \\ 7 & \end{array}} \stackrel{7}{\leftarrow} 4 = \boxed{\begin{array}{cc} 2 & 4 \\ 6 & 7 \end{array}} & Q^{(4)} = \boxed{\begin{array}{cc} 7 & 8 \\ 7 & 8 \end{array}} \\
P^{(5)} = \boxed{\begin{array}{cc} 2 & 4 \\ 6 & 7 \end{array}} \stackrel{7}{\leftarrow} 1 = \boxed{\begin{array}{cc} 1 & 4 \\ 2 & 7 \\ 6 & \end{array}} & Q^{(5)} = \boxed{\begin{array}{cc} 7 & 8 \\ 7 & 8 \\ 7 & \end{array}} \\
P^{(6)} = \boxed{\begin{array}{cc} 1 & 4 \\ 2 & 7 \\ 6 & \end{array}} \stackrel{6}{\leftarrow} 3 = \boxed{\begin{array}{ccc} 1 & 3 & \\ 2 & 4 & 7 \\ 6 & & \end{array}} & Q^{(6)} = \boxed{\begin{array}{ccc} 7 & 8 & \\ 6 & 7 & 8 \\ 7 & & \end{array}} \\
P^{(7)} = \boxed{\begin{array}{ccc} 1 & 3 & \\ 2 & 4 & 7 \\ 6 & & \end{array}} \stackrel{4}{\leftarrow} 2 = \boxed{\begin{array}{cccc} 1 & 2 & & \\ 2 & 3 & 4 & 7 \\ 6 & & & \end{array}} & Q^{(7)} = \boxed{\begin{array}{cccc} 7 & 8 & & \\ 4 & 6 & 7 & 8 \\ 7 & & & \end{array}}
\end{array}$$

$$\text{Therefore } \text{BRSK}(U) = \left(\boxed{\begin{array}{cccc} 1 & 2 & & \\ 2 & 3 & 4 & 7 \\ 6 & & & \end{array}}, \boxed{\begin{array}{cccc} 7 & 8 & & \\ 4 & 6 & 7 & 8 \\ 7 & & & \end{array}} \right).$$

Lemma 6.2. If U is a negative multiset on \mathbb{N}^2 , then $\text{BRSK}(U)$ is a negative semistandard notched bitableau.

Proof. We use notation as in the definition of BRSK above. That $Q^{(i)}$ is row-strict for all i follows from Lemma 3.5(i) and the fact that the entries of U are listed in lexicographical order: if $b_{i+1} = b_i$ for some i , then since $a_{i+1} \leq a_i$, the new box of the $(i+1)$ st insertion must be strictly below the new box of i th insertion. That $P^{(i)}$ is row strict and $(P^{(i)}, Q^{(i)})$ is negative for all i follows easily from the definition of BRSK, using induction. It remains to prove that $(P^{(i)}, Q^{(i)})$ is semistandard for all i .

Let $P = P^{(i)}$, $Q = Q^{(i)}$, $P' = P^{(i+1)}$, $Q' = Q^{(i+1)}$, $a = a_{i+1}$, $b = b_{i+1}$, and assume inductively that (P, Q) is a negative semistandard notched bitableau. Let s be the number of rows of P' (and Q'). We show that (P', Q') satisfies (3), or equivalently, for any positive integer z ,

$$|(P'_j \dot{\cup} Q'_{j+1})^{<z}| \geq |(P'_{j+1} \dot{\cup} Q'_j)^{<z}|, \quad j = 1, \dots, s-1.$$

By Lemma 5.2, P is semistandard on b ; hence so is P' . Thus for $z \leq b$,

$$|(P'_j \dot{\cup} Q'_{j+1})^{<z}| = |(P'_j)^{<z}| \geq |(P'_{j+1})^{<z}| = |(P'_{j+1} \dot{\cup} Q'_j)^{<z}|, \quad j = 1, \dots, s-1.$$

Let k be the row number of the new box (both in P' and Q') of this bounded insertion. Since (P, Q) is semistandard, for $z > b$, $j \neq k-1$, and $j \neq k$,

$$|(P'_j \dot{\cup} Q'_{j+1})^{<z}| = |(P_j \dot{\cup} Q_{j+1})^{<z}| \geq |(P_{j+1} \dot{\cup} Q_j)^{<z}| = |(P'_{j+1} \dot{\cup} Q'_j)^{<z}|.$$

For $(z > b)$ and $(j = k-1 \text{ or } j = k)$,

$$|(P'_j \dot{\cup} Q'_{j+1})^{<z}| = |(P_j \dot{\cup} Q_{j+1})^{<z}| + 1 \geq |(P_{j+1} \dot{\cup} Q_j)^{<z}| + 1 = |(P'_{j+1} \dot{\cup} Q'_j)^{<z}|.$$

□

Lemma 6.3. *The map BRSK is a degree-preserving bijection from the set of negative multisets on \mathbb{N}^2 to the set of negative semistandard notched bitableaux.*

Proof. That BRSK is degree-preserving is obvious.

To show that BRSK is a bijection, we define its inverse, which we call the **reverse** of BRSK, or RBRSK.

Note that the bounded insertion used to form $(P^{(i+1)}, Q^{(i+1)})$ from $(P^{(i)}, Q^{(i)})$, $i = 1, \dots, t-1$, is reversible. In other words, by knowing only $(P^{(i+1)}, Q^{(i+1)})$, we can retrieve $(P^{(i)}, Q^{(i)})$, a_{i+1} , and b_{i+1} . First, we obtain b_{i+1} ; it is the minimum entry of $Q^{(i+1)}$. Then, in the lowest row in which b_{i+1} appears in $Q^{(i+1)}$, select the greatest entry of $P^{(i+1)}$ which is less than b_{i+1} . This entry was the new box of the bounded insertion. If we begin reverse bounded insertion with this entry, we retrieve $P^{(i)}$ and a_{i+1} . Finally, $Q^{(i)}$ is retrieved from $Q^{(i+1)}$ by removing the lowest occurrence of b_{i+1} appearing in $Q^{(i+1)}$. This occurrence must be on the left end of some row. All other entries of that row should be moved one box to the left, thus eliminating the empty box vacated by b_{i+1} .

It follows that we can reverse the entire sequence used to define BRSK by reversing each step in the sequence. If we generate $(P^{(t)}, Q^{(t)})$ via BRSK, we can retrieve U using this procedure. We will call the process of obtaining $(P^{(i-1)}, Q^{(i-1)})$, a_i , and b_i from $(P^{(i)}, Q^{(i)})$ described in the paragraph above a **reverse step** and denote it by $(P^{(i-1)}, Q^{(i-1)}) = (P^{(i)}, Q^{(i)}) \xrightarrow{b_i} a_i$. We will call the process of applying all the reverse steps sequentially to retrieve U from $(P^{(t)}, Q^{(t)})$ the **reverse of BRSK**, or RBRSK. For example, if one applies RBRSK to the negative semistandard notched bitableau appearing on the bottom line of Example 6.1, one obtains the negative multiset U from that example.

If $(P^{(t)}, Q^{(t)})$ is an arbitrary semistandard notched bitableau (which we do not assume to be BRSK(U), for some U), then we can still apply a sequence of reverse steps to $(P^{(t)}, Q^{(t)})$, to sequentially obtain $(P^{(i)}, Q^{(i)})$, a_i , b_i , $i = t, \dots, 1$. For this process to be well-defined, however, it must first be checked that the successive $(P^{(i)}, Q^{(i)})$ are negative semistandard notched bitableaux. It suffices to prove a statement very similar to that proved in Lemma 6.2: if (P, Q) is

a negative semistandard notched bitableau, then $(P', Q') := (P, Q) \xrightarrow{b} a$ is a negative semistandard notched bitableau, $a < b$ are positive integers, and b is less than or equal to all entries of Q . That $a < b$ are positive integers and b is less than or equal to all entries of Q follow immediately from the definition of a reverse step. That (P', Q') is a negative semistandard notched bitableau follows in much the same manner as the proof of Lemma 6.2; we omit the details.

It remains to show that the elements $\{(a_1, b_1), \dots, (a_t, b_t)\}$ of the negative multiset on \mathbb{N}^2 produced by applying this sequence of reverse steps to the arbitrary semistandard notched bitableau $(P^{(t)}, Q^{(t)})$ are listed in lexicographic order. That $b_i \geq b_{i+1}$ follows from the definition of RBRSK: b_{i+1} is the minimum entry of $Q^{(i+1)}$, which also has b_i as an entry. If $b_i = b_{i+1}$, then $a_i \geq a_{i+1}$ is a consequence of Lemma 3.5(i) and (ii).

At each step, BRSK and the reverse of RBRSK are inverse to each other. Thus they are inverse maps. □

The map BRSK can be extended to all nonvanishing multisets on \mathbb{N}^2 . If U is a positive multisets on \mathbb{N}^2 , then define $\text{BRSK}(U)$ to be $\iota(\text{BRSK}(\iota(U)))$. If U is a nonvanishing multisets on \mathbb{N}^2 , with negative and positive parts U^- and U^+ , then define $\text{BRSK}(U)$ to be the semistandard notched bitableau whose negative and positive parts are $\text{BRSK}(U^-)$ and $\text{BRSK}(U^+)$ (see Figure 2). As

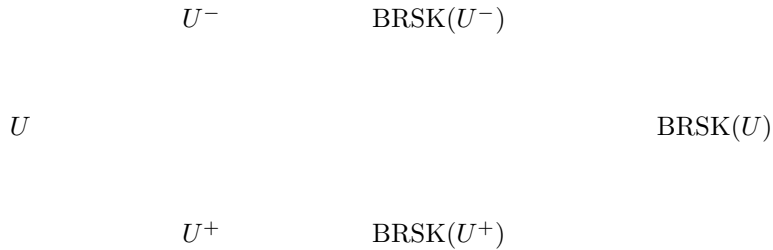


Figure 2: The map BRSK

a consequence of Lemma 6.3, we obtain

Proposition 6.4. *The map BRSK is a degree-preserving bijection from the set of nonvanishing (resp. negative, positive) multisets on \mathbb{N}^2 to the set of nonvanishing (resp. negative, positive) semistandard notched bitableaux.*

The ordinary RSK correspondence is a degree-preserving bijection from the set of multisets on \mathbb{N}^2 to the set of semistandard bitableaux. The process used to define the bijection is similar to the process described above to define the BRSK. There are two essential differences between the two processes. First, in the ordinary RSK, the multiset is not first separated into its positive and negative parts. Indeed, the ordinary RSK is oblivious as to whether elements of the multiset are positive or negative. Secondly, in the ordinary RSK, ordinary

Schensted insertion is used rather than bounded insertion. See [3] or [19] for more details on the ordinary RSK.

7 Restricting the Bounded RSK Correspondence

Thus far, there has been no reference to α , β , or γ in our definition or discussion of the bounded RSK. In fact, each of α , β , and γ is used to impose restrictions on the domain and codomain of the bounded RSK. It is the bounded RSK, with domain and codomain restricted according to α , β , and γ , which is used in Section 8 to give geometrical information about $Y_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma$.

In this section, we first show how β restricts the domain and codomain of the bounded RSK. We then show how two subsets T and W of \mathbb{N}^2 , T negative and W positive, restrict the domain and codomain of the bounded RSK. In Section 8, these two subsets will be replaced by T_α and W_γ , subsets of \mathbb{N}^2 determined by α and γ respectively.

Restricting by β

Let $\beta \in I_{d,n}$. We say that a notched bitableau (P, Q) is **on** $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$ if all entries of P are in $\bar{\beta}$ and all entries of Q are in β . It is clear from the construction of BRSK that if U is a nonvanishing multiset on $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$, then $\text{BRSK}(U)$ is a nonvanishing semistandard notched bitableau on $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$, and visa-versa. Thus, as a consequence of Corollary 6.4, we obtain

Corollary 7.1. *The map BRSK restricts to a degree-preserving bijection from the set of nonvanishing (resp. negative, positive) multisets on $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$ to the set of nonvanishing (resp. negative, positive) notched bitableaux on $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$.*

We remark that if β is the largest or smallest element of $I_{d,n}$ ($\{n-d+1, \dots, n\}$ or $\{1, \dots, d\}$ respectively), then the bounded RSK restricted to $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$ is the same algorithm as the ordinary RSK restricted to $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$.

Restricting by T and W

A **chain** in \mathbb{N}^2 is a subset $C = \{(e_1, f_1), \dots, (e_m, f_m)\}$ of \mathbb{N}^2 such that $e_1 < \dots < e_m$ and $f_1 > \dots > f_m$. Let T and W be negative and positive subsets of \mathbb{N}^2 respectively. A nonempty multiset U on \mathbb{N}^2 is said to be **bounded by T, W** if for every chain C which is contained in the underlying set of U ,

$$T \leq C \leq W \tag{7}$$

(where we use the order on multisets on \mathbb{N}^2 defined in Section 4). We note that, in general, this condition neither implies nor is implied by the condition $T \leq U \leq W$. For special cases, a geometric interpretation in terms of a *chain order* for U being bounded by T, W appears in Section 9 (this interpretation is not necessary for our discussion here).

With this definition, the bounded RSK correspondence is a bounded function, in the sense that it maps bounded sets to bounded sets. More precisely, we have the following Lemma, whose proof appears in Section 11.

Lemma 7.2. *If a nonvanishing multiset U on \mathbb{N}^2 is bounded by T, W , then $\text{BRSK}(U)$ is bounded by T, W .*

Let T and W be negative and positive subsets of $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$, respectively. Combining Corollary 7.1 and Lemma 7.2, we obtain

Corollary 7.3. *For any positive integer m , the number of degree m nonvanishing multisets on $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$ bounded by T, W is less than or equal to the number of degree m nonvanishing semistandard notched bitableaux on $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$ bounded by T, W .*

We mention that the converse of Lemma 7.2 is not a priori true, i.e., the reverse BRSK is not a priori bounded. Otherwise, we could state here that the two numbers in Corollary 7.3 are equal. In fact, the reverse BRSK is indeed bounded, but since we do not need this result for our purposes we omit the proof.

8 A Gröbner Basis

We call $f = f_{\theta_1, \beta} \cdots f_{\theta_r, \beta} \in K[\mathcal{O}_\beta]$ a **standard monomial** if

$$\theta_1 \leq \cdots \leq \theta_r \tag{8}$$

and for each $i \in \{1, \dots, r\}$, either

$$\theta_i < \beta \quad \text{or} \quad \theta_i > \beta. \tag{9}$$

If in addition, for $\alpha, \gamma \in I_{d,n}$,

$$\alpha \leq \theta_1 \quad \text{and} \quad \theta_r \leq \gamma, \tag{10}$$

then we say that f is **standard on $Y_{\alpha, \beta}^\gamma$** .

We remark that, in general, a standard monomial is not a monomial in the affine coordinates of \mathcal{O}_β (the x_{ij} 's); rather, it is a polynomial. It is only a monomial in the $f_{\theta, \beta}$'s. Recall the following result (see [13]).

Theorem 8.1. *The standard monomials on $Y_{\alpha, \beta}^\gamma$ form a basis for $K[Y_{\alpha, \beta}^\gamma]$.*

We wish to give a different indexing set for the standard monomials on $Y_{\alpha, \beta}^\gamma$. Let I_β be the pairs (R, S) such that $R \subset \bar{\beta}$, $S \subset \beta$, and $|R| = |S|$. Defining $R - S := R \dot{\cup} (\beta \setminus S)$ (see Section 4), we have the following fact, which is easily verified:

The map $(R, S) \mapsto R - S$ is a bijection from I_β to $I_{d,n}$,

(Indeed, the inverse map is given by $\theta \mapsto (\theta \setminus \beta, \beta \setminus \theta)$). Thus, for instance, we may write a Plucker coordinate in $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{O}_\beta]$ as f_{R-S} instead of $f_{\theta, \beta}$. (In fact, f_{R-S}

is just plus or minus the minor of $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{O}_\beta]$ with row set R and column set S ; in Example 2.1, $f_{\{1,4\}-\{2,7\}} = f_{\{1,4,5\},\beta}$.

Note that under this bijection, (\emptyset, \emptyset) maps to β . Let (R_α, S_α) and (R_γ, S_γ) be the preimages of α and γ respectively. Define T_α and W_γ to be any subsets of $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$ such that $(T_\alpha)_{(1)} = R_\alpha$, $(T_\alpha)_{(2)} = S_\alpha$, $(W_\gamma)_{(1)} = R_\gamma$, $(W_\gamma)_{(2)} = S_\gamma$.

Given any notched bitableau (P, Q) which is on $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$, we can form the monomial $f = f_{P_1-Q_1} \cdots f_{P_r-Q_r} \in K[\mathcal{O}_\beta]$, where P_1, \dots, P_r are the rows of P and Q_1, \dots, Q_r the rows of Q . Conversely, given any monomial of the form $f = f_{P_1-Q_1} \cdots f_{P_r-Q_r} \in K[\mathcal{O}_\beta]$, where P_i and Q_i are subsets of $\bar{\beta}$ and β respectively of the same cardinality, $i = 1, \dots, r$, we can form the notched bitableau (P, Q) on $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$ whose rows are $(P_1, Q_1), \dots, (P_r, Q_r)$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} (P, Q) \text{ is semistandard, nonvanishing, and bounded by } T_\alpha, W_\gamma & \\ \iff (P, Q) \text{ satisfies (3), (4), and (5)} & \\ \iff (P_1, Q_1), \dots, (P_r, Q_r) \text{ satisfy (3), (4), and (5)} & \\ \iff P_1 - Q_1, \dots, P_r - Q_r \text{ satisfy (8), (9), and (10)} & \\ \iff f_{P_1-Q_1} \cdots f_{P_r-Q_r} \text{ is standard on } Y_{\alpha, \beta}^\gamma & \end{aligned}$$

When we write above that $(P_1, Q_1), \dots, (P_r, Q_r)$ satisfy (3) and (5), we use (1) to describe the order. When we write that $P_1 - Q_1, \dots, P_r - Q_r$ satisfy (8) and (10), we use the termwise order on the $P_i \dot{\cup} (\beta \setminus Q_i)$. The equivalence of these orders is discussed in Section 4. To see that (P_i, Q_i) satisfying (4) is equivalent to $P_i - Q_i$ satisfying (9), note that since $\bar{\beta} \cap \beta = \emptyset$, $P_i \cap Q_i = \emptyset$, and therefore $P_i \prec Q_i \iff P_i - Q_i = P_i \dot{\cup} (\beta \setminus Q_i) \prec \beta$.

This proves the following lemma.

Lemma 8.2. *The degree m nonvanishing semistandard notched bitableaux on $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$ bounded by T_α, W_γ form an indexing set for the degree m standard monomials on $Y_{\alpha, \beta}^\gamma$.*

As discussed in Section 2, the affine coordinates of $K[\mathcal{O}_\beta]$ are indexed by $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$. Thus monomials in the affine coordinates of $K[\mathcal{O}_\beta]$ are naturally indexed by multisets on $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$: the monomial $x_{i_1 j_1} \cdots x_{i_t j_t} \in K[\mathcal{O}_\beta]$ is indexed by the multiset $\{(i_1, j_1), \dots, (i_t, j_t)\} \subset \bar{\beta} \times \beta$. Letting $U = \{(i_1, j_1), \dots, (i_t, j_t)\} \subset \bar{\beta} \times \beta$, we shall denote $x_{i_1 j_1} \cdots x_{i_t j_t}$ by x_U . Note that x_U is square-free if and only if the multiset U is in fact a set. We define a monomial order on $K[\mathcal{O}_\beta]$ as follows: first declare $x_{ij} < x_{i'j'}$ if $(i < i')$ or $(i = i' \text{ and } j > j')$, then impose the lexicographic order on monomials. For our purposes, the critical feature of this monomial order is that the initial term of any minor f_{R-S} is the Southwest-Northeast monomial of f_{R-S} (when f_{R-S} is written naturally as plus or minus a determinant all of whose entries are x_{ij} 's). In other words, in $f_{R-S} = x_C$, where C is the chain in $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$ with $C_{(1)} = R$, $C_{(2)} = S$ (in Example 2.1, in $f_{\{1,4\}-\{2,7\}} = x_{17}x_{42} = x_{\{(1,7), (4,2)\}}$). Any other monomial order with this property would also suit our purposes.

Lemma 8.3. *The degree m multisets on $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$ bounded by T_α, W_γ form an indexing set for the degree m monomials of $K[\mathcal{O}_\beta] \setminus \text{in } G_{\alpha, \beta}^\gamma$.*

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{in } G_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma &= \langle \text{in } f_{\theta,\beta} \mid \alpha \not\leq \theta \text{ or } \theta \not\leq \gamma \rangle \\
&= \langle \text{in } f_{R-S} \mid R_\alpha - S_\alpha \not\leq R - S \text{ or } R - S \not\leq R_\gamma - S_\gamma \rangle \\
&= \langle x_C \mid C \text{ a chain, } R_\alpha - S_\alpha \not\leq C_{(1)} - C_{(2)} \text{ or } C_{(1)} - C_{(2)} \not\leq R_\gamma - S_\gamma \rangle \\
&= \langle x_C \mid C \text{ a chain, } T_\alpha \not\leq C \text{ or } C \not\leq W_\gamma \rangle.
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
&x_U \text{ is a monomial in } K[\mathcal{O}_\beta] \setminus \text{in } G_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma \\
\iff &x_U \text{ is not divisible by any } x_C, C \text{ a chain such that } T_\alpha \not\leq C \text{ or } C \not\leq W_\gamma \\
\iff &U \text{ contains no chains } C \text{ such that } T_\alpha \not\leq C \text{ or } C \not\leq W_\gamma \\
\iff &T_\alpha \leq C \leq W_\gamma, \text{ for any chain } C \text{ in } U \\
\iff &U \text{ is bounded by } T_\alpha, W_\gamma.
\end{aligned}$$

□

We are now ready to prove the main result of the paper.

Proof of Proposition 2.3. We wish to show that $\text{in } G_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma = \text{in} \langle G_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma \rangle$. Since $G_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma \subset \langle G_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma \rangle$, $\text{in } G_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma \subset \text{in} \langle G_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma \rangle$. For any $m \geq 1$,

$$\begin{aligned}
&\# \text{ of degree } m \text{ monomials in } K[\mathcal{O}_\beta] \setminus \text{in } G_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma \\
&\stackrel{a}{=} \# \text{ of degree } m \text{ multisets on } \bar{\beta} \times \beta \text{ bounded by } T_\alpha, W_\gamma \\
&\stackrel{b}{\leq} \# \text{ of degree } m \text{ semistandard notched bitableaux on } \bar{\beta} \times \beta \text{ bounded by } \\
&\quad T_\alpha, W_\gamma \\
&\stackrel{c}{=} \# \text{ of degree } m \text{ standard monomials on } Y_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma \\
&\stackrel{d}{=} \# \text{ of degree } m \text{ monomials in } K[\mathcal{O}_\beta] \setminus \text{in} \langle G_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma \rangle,
\end{aligned}$$

where a follows from Lemma 8.3, b from Corollary 7.3, c from Lemma 8.2, and d from the fact that standard monomials on $Y_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma$ and the monomials in $K[\mathcal{O}_\beta] \setminus \text{in} \langle G_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma \rangle$ both induce homogeneous bases for $K[\mathcal{O}_\beta] / \langle G_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma \rangle$. Thus $\text{in } G_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma \supset \text{in} \langle G_{\alpha,\beta}^\gamma \rangle$.

We point out that, as a consequence of this proof, inequality b is actually an equality. □

Example 8.4. Let $n = 6$, $d = 3$, $\beta = \{3, 5, 6\}$. Then

$$\mathcal{O}_\beta = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} x_{13} & x_{15} & x_{16} \\ x_{23} & x_{25} & x_{26} \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ x_{43} & x_{45} & x_{46} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, x_{ij} \in K \right\}$$

Let $\alpha = \{1, 2, 4\}$, $\gamma = \{4, 5, 6\}$. We list all objects identified with the monomial $x_{26} x_{45}^2 x_{15} x_{13} x_{43} \in K[\mathcal{O}_\beta] \setminus \text{in } G_{\alpha, \beta}^\gamma$ in the preceding discussion: (a) monomial in $K[\mathcal{O}_\beta] \setminus \text{in } G_{\alpha, \beta}^\gamma$, (b) multiset on $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$ bounded by T_α, W_γ , (c) semistandard notched bitableau on $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$ bounded by T_α, W_γ , (d) standard monomial on $Y_{\alpha, \beta}^\gamma$, and (e) standard monomial on $Y_{\alpha, \beta}^\gamma$ (different indices).

(a) $x_{26} x_{45}^2 x_{15} x_{13} x_{43}$

(b) $\{(2, 6), (4, 5), (4, 5), (1, 5), (1, 3), (4, 3)\}$

(c) $\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 1 & 4 \\ \hline 1 & \\ \hline 2 & 4 \\ \hline 4 & \\ \hline \end{array}, \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 5 & 6 \\ \hline 5 & \\ \hline 3 & 5 \\ \hline 3 & \\ \hline \end{array} \right)$

(d) $f_{\{1,4\}-\{5,6\}} f_{\{1\}-\{5\}} f_{\{2,4\}-\{3,5\}} f_{\{4\}-\{3\}}$

(e) $f_{\{1,3,4\},\beta} f_{\{1,3,6\},\beta} f_{\{2,4,6\},\beta} f_{\{4,5,6\},\beta}$.

Note that the semistandard notched tableau in (c) is obtained from the multiset in (b) by applying the BRSK.

Consider the following general Lemma on Gröbner Bases (see [2]).

Lemma 8.5. Let $R = K[x_1, \dots, x_m]$ be a polynomial ring, let $I \subset R$ be a homogeneous ideal, and let $G = \{g_1, \dots, g_k\}$ be a Gröbner basis for I , such that $\text{in}(g_i)$ is square-free, $i = 1, \dots, k$. Let M be the maximum degree of a square-free monomial in $R \setminus \text{in}(G)$. Then $\dim(R/I) = M$, and $\deg(R/I)$ is the number of square-free monomials of degree M in $R \setminus \text{in}(G)$.

Since the initial term of f_{R-S} is square-free for any $(R, S) \in I_\beta$, Lemma 8.5 may be applied to our situation in order to obtain Corollary 2.4. Indeed, by Lemma 8.5, $\deg(Y_{\alpha, \beta}^\gamma)$ is the number of square-free monomials of degree M in $K[\mathcal{O}_\beta] \setminus \text{in } G_{\alpha, \beta}^\gamma$, where $M = \dim(Y_{\alpha, \beta}^\gamma) = l(\gamma) - l(\alpha)$. We remark that, in Lemma 8.5, we use the convention that 1 is the only square-free monomial of degree zero.

9 Twisted Chains and Multiplicities

The goal of this section and the next one is to establish Proposition 10.6, which also appears in [7], [8], [9], and [11]. Proposition 10.6 gives a combinatorial formula for multiplicities which involves counting families of nonintersecting lattice paths. Proposition 10.6 is essentially a reformulation of Corollary 2.4 in more combinatorial language. We establish Proposition 10.6 in two steps. In this section, we show that Corollary 2.4 implies Lemma 9.6; in Section 10, we show that Lemma 9.6 implies Proposition 10.6.

We begin by introducing *twisted chains* and *chain boundedness*, notions which allow us to place earlier results on combinatorial footing. We define the following partial orders on the negative elements of \mathbb{N}^2 : if $(e, f), (g, h) \in \mathbb{N}^2$, both negative, then

$$\begin{aligned} (e, f) \prec (g, h) & \text{ if } f < h \text{ and } e > g, \\ (e, f) \trianglelefteq (g, h) & \text{ if } f \leq h \text{ and } e \geq g. \end{aligned}$$

Note that \trianglelefteq is a finer order than \prec . If $(c, d), (e, f) \in (\mathbb{N}^2)^-$, then define

$$(c, d) \wedge (e, f) = (\max(c, e), \min(d, f)) \in \mathbb{N}^2.$$

If $T = \{(e_1, e_2), \dots, (e_m, e_{m+1})\}$ is a subset of \mathbb{N}^2 , then we say that T is **completely disjointed** if $e_i \neq e_j$ when $i \neq j$. A **negative twisted chain** is a completely disjointed negative subset of \mathbb{N}^2 such that for any $u, v \in T$, $u \neq v$, either $u \prec v$, $v \prec u$, or $u \wedge v \notin (\mathbb{N}^2)^-$.

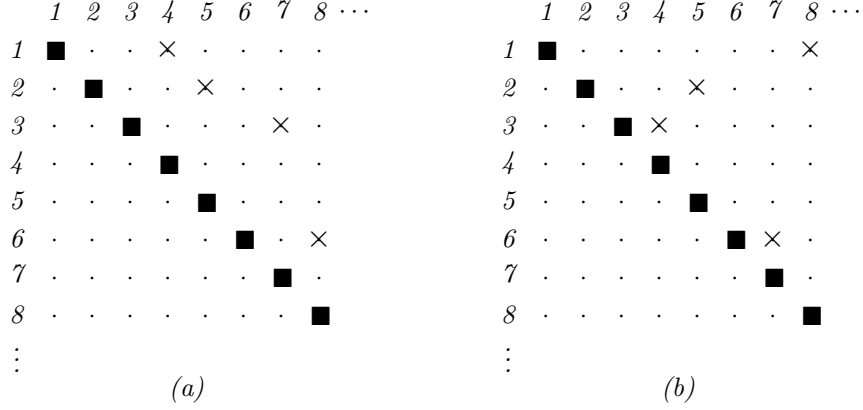
Example 9.1. A negative chain in \mathbb{N}^2 , defined in Section 7, can alternatively be described as a negative subset $\{u_1, \dots, u_m\}$ of \mathbb{N}^2 such that $u_1 \prec \dots \prec u_m$. A negative chain is a negative twisted chain.

Let $T = \{(e_1, f_1), \dots, (e_m, f_m)\}$ be a completely disjointed negative subset of \mathbb{N}^2 such that $f_1 < \dots < f_t$. For $\sigma \in S_m$, the permutation group on m elements, we define $\sigma(T) = \{(e_{\sigma(1)}, f_1), \dots, (e_{\sigma(m)}, f_m)\}$. Let $\mathcal{T} = \{\sigma(T) \mid \sigma \in S_m, \sigma(T) \text{ negative}\}$. Impose the following total order on \mathcal{T} : if $R = \{(a_1, f_1), \dots, (a_t, f_t)\}$, $S = \{(b_1, f_1), \dots, (b_t, f_t)\} \in \mathcal{T}$, then $R \stackrel{\text{lex}}{<} S$ if, for the smallest i for which $a_i \neq b_i$, $a_i > b_i$. Since $\stackrel{\text{lex}}{<}$ is a total order, \mathcal{T} has a unique minimal element, which we denote by \tilde{T} .

Lemma 9.2. \tilde{T} is a negative twisted chain.

Proof. Suppose that $\tilde{T} = \{(c_1, f_1), \dots, (c_m, f_m)\}$ is not a negative twisted chain. Then there exists $i < j$ such that $(c_i, f_i) \not\prec (c_j, f_j)$, $(c_j, f_j) \not\prec (c_i, f_i)$, and $(c_i, f_i) \wedge (c_j, f_j) \in (\mathbb{N}^2)^-$. This implies that $c_i < c_j < f_i < f_j$. Letting $\sigma_{i,j}$ be the transposition which switches i and j , we have that $\sigma_{i,j}(\tilde{T}) = \{(c_1, f_1), \dots, (c_j, f_i), \dots, (c_i, f_j), \dots, (c_m, f_m)\}$. Since $c_j < f_i$ and $c_i < f_j$, $\sigma_{i,j}(\tilde{T})$ is negative, and hence $\sigma_{i,j}(\tilde{T}) \in \mathcal{T}$. The fact that $c_i < c_j$ implies that $\sigma_{i,j}(\tilde{T}) \stackrel{\text{lex}}{<} \tilde{T}$, which contradicts the minimality of \tilde{T} . \square

Example 9.3. The set \mathbb{N}^2 is plotted in both (a) and (b) below. The large squares cover the points of $\mathbb{N}^2 \setminus (\mathbb{N}^2)^{\neq 0}$, and thus separate the points of $(\mathbb{N}^2)^-$ from those of $(\mathbb{N}^2)^+$. In (a), the \times 's form a completely disjointed negative subset T of \mathbb{N}^2 . In (b), the \times 's form \tilde{T} . Note that \tilde{T} is a negative twisted chain, as required by Lemma 9.2.



If T is a positive subset of \mathbb{N}^2 , then we say that T is a **positive twisted chain** if $\iota(T)$ is a negative twisted chain. A **twisted chain** is a subset of \mathbb{N}^2 which is either a positive or a negative twisted chain.

For R a negative subset of \mathbb{N}^2 and $x \in \mathbb{N}^2$ negative, define $\mathbf{depth}_R(\mathbf{x})$ to be the maximum r such that there exists a chain $u_1 \prec \dots \prec u_r$ in R with $u_r \preceq x$. We extend \preceq to a transitive relation on subsets of \mathbb{N}^2 as follows. If R, S are negative subsets of \mathbb{N}^2 , then $R \preceq S$ (or $S \succeq R$) if $\mathbf{depth}_R(x) \geq \mathbf{depth}_S(x)$ for every negative $x \in \mathbb{N}^2$. Note that this is equivalent to $\mathbf{depth}_R(x) \geq \mathbf{depth}_S(x)$ for every $x \in S$. If R, S are positive subsets of \mathbb{N}^2 , then we say that $S \succeq R$ if $\iota(S) \preceq \iota(R)$. If R is a negative subset of \mathbb{N}^2 and S is a positive subset, then we say that $R \preceq S$.

Recall the relation \leq on multisets on \mathbb{N}^2 defined in Section 4. The following Lemma, whose proof appears in Section 11, provides the key step in the proof of Lemma 9.6.

Lemma 9.4. *Let R and S be twisted chains. Then $R \preceq S \iff R \leq S$.*

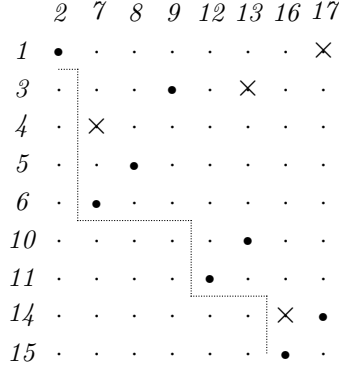
Let R and S be negative and positive twisted chains respectively. We say that a multiset U on \mathbb{N}^2 is **chain-bounded by R, S** if $R \preceq U^-$ and $U^+ \preceq S$, or equivalently, if for every chain C in U ,

$$R \preceq C^- \quad \text{and} \quad C^+ \preceq S.$$

In (7), one can replace $R \leq C \leq S$ by $R \leq C^-$ and $C^+ \leq S$. Thus, by Lemma 9.4, U is chain-bounded by R, S if and only if U is bounded by R, S .

For the remainder of this section and the next one, we will be interested in twisted chains which are contained in $\overline{\beta} \times \beta$, a subset of \mathbb{N}^2 . Example 9.5 illustrates two negative twisted chains in $\overline{\beta} \times \beta$.

Example 9.5. The set $\bar{\beta} \times \beta \subset \mathbb{N}^2$, for $d = 8$, $n = 17$, $\beta = \{2, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, 17\}$, is plotted below. The dotted line separates the negative from positive elements of $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$. The \times 's form a negative twisted chain R in $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$; the \bullet 's form a negative twisted chain S in $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$; and $R \trianglelefteq S$.



Lemma 9.6. $\text{Mult}_{e_\beta} X_\alpha^\gamma$ is the number of subsets U of $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$ which are of maximal degree among those which are chain-bounded by $\widetilde{T}_\alpha, \widetilde{W}_\gamma$.

Proof. Recall that if U is a multiset on $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$, then the monomial x_U is square-free if and only if U is a subset of $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$, i.e., each of its elements has degree 1. By Corollary 2.4, $\text{Mult}_{e_\beta} X_\alpha^\gamma$ is the number of square-free monomials of maximal degree in $K[\mathcal{O}_\beta] \setminus G_{\alpha, \beta}^\gamma$. By Lemma 8.3, this equals the number of subsets U of $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$ which are of maximal degree among those bounded by T_α, W_γ . However, a subset of $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$ is bounded by T_α, W_γ if and only if it is bounded by $\widetilde{T}_\alpha, \widetilde{W}_\gamma$ if and only if it is chain-bounded by $\widetilde{T}_\alpha, \widetilde{W}_\gamma$, where the last equivalence is due to Lemma 9.4. \square

10 Path Families and Multiplicities

For this section, we let R and S be fixed negative and positive twisted chains contained in $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$ respectively. Let

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M}_R &= \max\{U \subset (\bar{\beta} \times \beta)^- \mid R \trianglelefteq U\} \\ \mathcal{M}^S &= \max\{V \subset (\bar{\beta} \times \beta)^+ \mid V \trianglelefteq S\} \\ \mathcal{M}_R^S &= \max\{W \subset \bar{\beta} \times \beta \mid R \trianglelefteq W^- \text{ and } W^+ \trianglelefteq S\}. \end{aligned}$$

where in each case by ‘max’ we mean the subsets U , V , or W respectively of maximal degree. For example, \mathcal{M}_R^S consists of the collection of subsets W of $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$ which are of maximal degree among those which are chain-bounded by R, S . When $R = \widetilde{T}_\alpha$ and $S = \widetilde{W}_\gamma$, \mathcal{M}_R^S consists precisely of the subsets U of Lemma 9.6. In this section, in order to give a better formulation of Lemma

9.6 (see Proposition 10.6), we study the combinatorics of \mathcal{M}_R^S . Many of the definitions and ideas in this section are illustrated in Examples 10.7, 10.8, and 10.9.

Note that

$$\mathcal{M}_R^S = \{U \dot{\cup} V \mid U \in \mathcal{M}_R, V \in \mathcal{M}^S\}. \quad (11)$$

To study \mathcal{M}_R^S , we begin by considering \mathcal{M}_R , and thus restricting attention to negative subsets of $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$. We say that a subset $P \subset (\bar{\beta} \times \beta)^-$ is **depth-one** if it contains no two-element chains. If P is depth-one, then we say that it is a **negative-path** if the consecutive points are ‘as close as possible’ to each other, so that the points form a contiguous path on $(\bar{\beta} \times \beta)^-$ which moves only down or to the right.

For $r = (e, f) \in (\bar{\beta} \times \beta)^-$, define

$$\begin{aligned} \lfloor r \rfloor &= (e, f'), \text{ where } f' = \min\{y \in \beta \mid (e, y) \in (\bar{\beta} \times \beta)^-\} \\ \lceil r \rceil &= (e', f), \text{ where } e' = \max\{x \in \bar{\beta} \mid (x, f) \in (\bar{\beta} \times \beta)^-\} \end{aligned}$$

We form the path P_r , which begins at $\lfloor r \rfloor$, moves horizontally to r , then vertically to $\lceil r \rceil$. Note that since R is a twisted chain, if $r' \neq r$ then $P_{r'} \cap P_r = \emptyset$. Furthermore, $R \trianglelefteq \dot{\bigcup}_{r \in R} P_r$. Define $d_R = \sum_{r \in R} |P_r|$. The following lemma is a straightforward consequence of the definitions.

Lemma 10.1. *Let Q be a depth-one negative subset of $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$ such that $P_r \trianglelefteq Q$. Then $|Q| \leq |P_r|$, with equality if and only if Q is a negative-path from $\lfloor r \rfloor$ to $\lceil r \rceil$.*

If $U \subset (\bar{\beta} \times \beta)^-$, $R \trianglelefteq U$, and $r \in R$, then define

$$U_{R,r} := \{u \in U \mid r \trianglelefteq u, \text{depth}_U(u) = \text{depth}_R(r)\}.$$

It follows from this definition that $U_{R,r}$ is depth-one. Indeed, if u and u' are two elements of U which form a chain, then without loss of generality $u \prec u'$. Thus $\text{depth}_U(u) < \text{depth}_U(u')$, and in particular $\text{depth}_U(u) \neq \text{depth}_U(u')$. Thus u and u' cannot both lie in $U_{R,r}$.

Lemma 10.2. *Let $U \subset (\bar{\beta} \times \beta)^-$.*

(i) *If $R \trianglelefteq U$, then $U = \dot{\bigcup}_{r \in R} U_{R,r}$.*

(ii) *If $R \trianglelefteq U$, then $|U| \leq d_R$, with equality if and only if $U = \dot{\bigcup}_{r \in R} Q_r$, where Q_r is a negative-path from $\lfloor r \rfloor$ to $\lceil r \rceil$.*

(iii) *Let $U = \dot{\bigcup}_{r \in R} Q_r \subset (\bar{\beta} \times \beta)^-$, where Q_r is a negative-path from $\lfloor r \rfloor$ to $\lceil r \rceil$. Then $R \trianglelefteq U$.*

Proof. (i) Let $u \in U$. Then since $R \trianglelefteq U$, $\text{depth}_U(u) \leq \text{depth}_R(u)$. Thus $\text{depth}_U(u) = \text{depth}_R(r)$ for some $r \trianglelefteq u$. This proves that $U = \dot{\bigcup}_{r \in R} U_{R,r}$. To prove that the union is disjoint, let $r, r' \in R$, $r \neq r'$, and let $v \in U_{R,r} \cap U_{R,r'}$. By definition of $U_{R,r}$ and $U_{R,r'}$, $\text{depth}_R(r) = \text{depth}_U(v) = \text{depth}_R(r')$. Thus $r \not\prec r'$ and $r' \not\prec r$. Since R is a twisted chain, $r \wedge r' \notin (\mathbb{N}^2)^-$. But this implies

that $v \notin (\mathbb{N}^2)^-$, a contradiction.

(ii) For each $u \in U_{R,r}$, $r \leq u$; thus since $U_{R,r}$ is depth-one, $P_r \leq U_{R,r}$. By Lemmas 10.1 and 10.2(i), $|U| = |\dot{\bigcup}_{r \in R} U_{R,r}| = \sum_{r \in R} |U_{R,r}| \leq \sum_{r \in R} |P_r| = d_R$, with equality if and only if for all $r \in R$, $U_{R,r}$ is a negative-path from $\lfloor r \rfloor$ to $\lceil r \rceil$. We denote $U_{R,r}$ by Q_r .

(iii) For each $r \in R$, $\{r\} \leq Q_r$. Thus $R \leq \dot{\bigcup}_{r \in R} r \leq \dot{\bigcup}_{r \in R} Q_r = U$. \square

Lemma 10.2(ii) implies that any $U \in \mathcal{M}_R$ is a disjoint union $U = \dot{\bigcup}_{r \in R} Q_r$, where Q_r is a negative-path from $\lfloor r \rfloor$ to $\lceil r \rceil$. Lemma 10.2(iii) implies that any disjoint union $U = \dot{\bigcup}_{r \in R} Q_r$, where Q_r is a negative-path from $\lfloor r \rfloor$ to $\lceil r \rceil$, is an element of \mathcal{M}_R . Consequently we have

Corollary 10.3. *\mathcal{M}_R consists of the set of all possible disjoint unions $U = \dot{\bigcup}_{r \in R} Q_r$, where Q_r is a negative-path from $\lfloor r \rfloor$ to $\lceil r \rceil$.*

Similar analysis can be done on positive subsets of $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$. Here the notion of a **positive-path** is identical to that of a negative-path, except that it is contained in $(\bar{\beta} \times \beta)^+$ instead of $(\bar{\beta} \times \beta)^-$. Likewise, the notions of $\lfloor s \rfloor$ and $\lceil s \rceil$ for $s \in (\bar{\beta} \times \beta)^+$ are defined analogously as for $s \in (\bar{\beta} \times \beta)^-$ (see Example 10.7). We obtain

Corollary 10.4. *\mathcal{M}^S consists of the set of all possible disjoint unions $V = \dot{\bigcup}_{s \in S} Q_s$, where Q_s is a positive-path from $\lfloor s \rfloor$ to $\lceil s \rceil$.*

The preceding two corollaries and (11) imply

Corollary 10.5. *\mathcal{M}_R^S consists of the set of all possible disjoint unions $W = \dot{\bigcup}_{r \in R \cup S} Q_r$, where Q_r is either a negative-path or a positive-path from $\lfloor r \rfloor$ to $\lceil r \rceil$, depending on whether r is negative or positive.*

The subsets U of Lemma 9.6 are precisely the elements of \mathcal{M}_R^S , when $R = \widetilde{T}_\alpha$ and $S = \widetilde{W}_\gamma$. Therefore combining Lemma 9.6 and Corollary 10.5, we obtain

Proposition 10.6. *$\text{Mult}_{e_\beta} X_\alpha^\gamma$ is the number of disjoint unions $\dot{\bigcup}_{r \in \widetilde{T}_\alpha \cup \widetilde{W}_\beta} P_r$, where P_r is either a negative-path or a positive-path from $\lfloor r \rfloor$ to $\lceil r \rceil$, depending on whether r is negative or positive.*

We call a disjoint union as in Proposition 10.6 a family of nonintersecting paths in $\bar{\beta} \times \beta$. Proposition 10.6 also appears in [7], [8], [9], and [11].

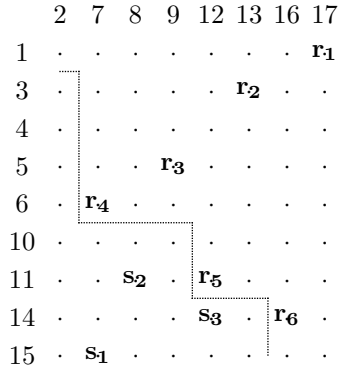
Example 10.7. Let $d = 8$, $n = 17$, $\alpha = \{1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 11, 14\}$,

$\beta = \{2, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, 17\}$, $\gamma = \{8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17\}$.

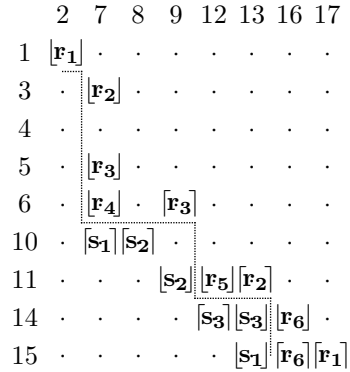
(a) The negative and positive twisted chains $\widetilde{T}_\alpha = \{r_1, \dots, r_6\}$ and $\widetilde{W}_\gamma = \{s_1, \dots, s_3\}$ in $\overline{\beta} \times \beta$.

(b) The set of $\lfloor r \rfloor$'s and $\lceil r \rceil$'s, for all $r \in \widetilde{T}_\alpha \cup \widetilde{W}_\gamma$. Note that $\lfloor r_4 \rfloor = \lceil r_4 \rceil = r_4$ and $\lfloor r_5 \rfloor = \lceil r_5 \rceil = r_5$.

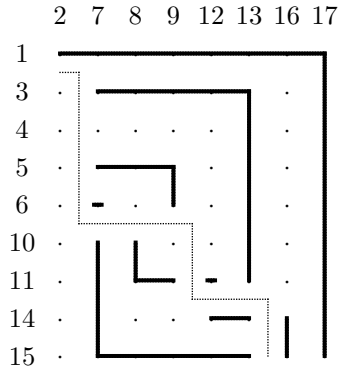
(c), (d) Two families of nonintersecting paths from $\lfloor r \rfloor$ to $\lceil r \rceil$, $r \in \widetilde{T}_\alpha \cup \widetilde{W}_\gamma$. $\text{Mult}_{e_\beta} X_\alpha^\gamma$ is the number of such families. Note that the path family in (c) consists of the paths $\{P_r \mid r \in \widetilde{T}_\alpha \cup \widetilde{W}_\gamma\}$.



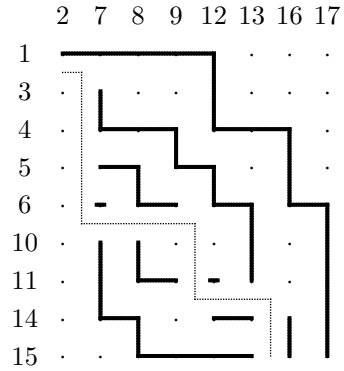
(a)



(b)

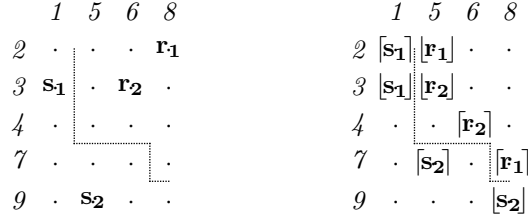


(c)

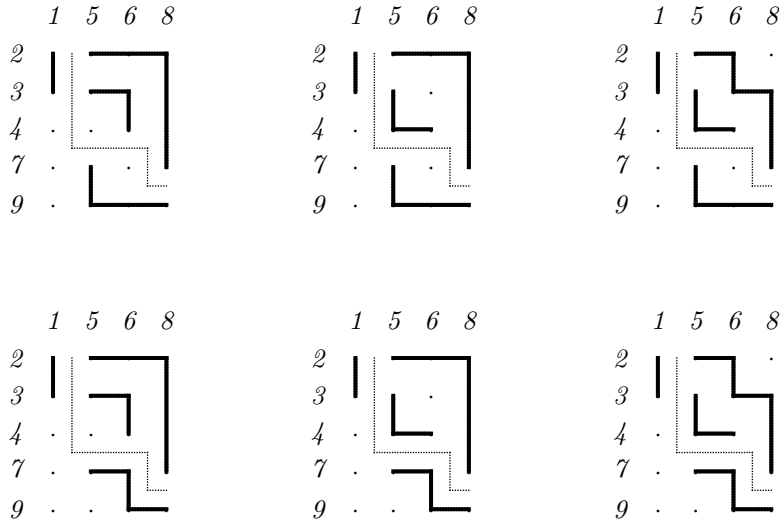


(d)

Example 10.8. Let $d = 4$, $n = 9$, $\alpha = \{1, 2, 3, 5\}$, $\beta = \{1, 5, 6, 8\}$, $\gamma = \{3, 6, 8, 9\}$. We compute $\text{Mult}_{e_\beta} X_\alpha^\gamma$. The following two diagrams show the negative and positive twisted chains $\widetilde{T}_\alpha = \{r_1, r_2\}$ and $\widetilde{W}_\gamma = \{s_1, s_2\}$ in $\overline{\beta} \times \beta$; and the set of $[r]$'s and $[\overline{r}]$'s, for all $r \in \widetilde{T}_\alpha \cup \widetilde{W}_\gamma$.



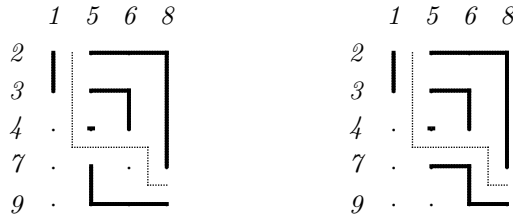
There are six nonintersecting path families from $[r]$ to $[\overline{r}]$, $r \in \widetilde{T}_\alpha \cup \widetilde{W}_\gamma$, as shown below. Thus $\text{Mult}_{e_\beta} X_\alpha^\gamma = 6$.



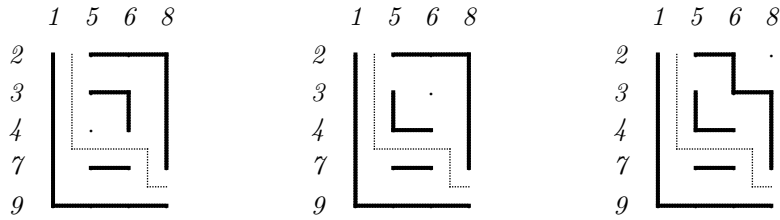
Example 10.9. Let $d = 4$, $n = 9$, $\alpha = \{1, 2, 3, 5\}$, $\beta = \{1, 5, 6, 8\}$, $\gamma = \{3, 6, 8, 9\}$. We compute multiplicities at e_β of the Schubert variety X^γ and the opposite Schubert variety X_α . Note that α , β , and γ are the same as in the previous example.

Observe that $X^\gamma = X_{id}^\gamma$ and $X_\alpha = X_{\alpha^0}$, where $id = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ and $\omega_0 = \{6, 7, 8, 9\}$. We have that $\widetilde{T}_{id} = \{\sigma_{2,8}, \sigma_{3,6}, \sigma_{4,5}\}$ and $\widetilde{W}_{\omega_0} = \{\sigma_{9,1}, \sigma_{7,5}\}$, where $\sigma_{i,j}$ is the transposition exchanging i and j . (Both \widetilde{T}_{id} and \widetilde{W}_{ω_0} are in fact chains.)

There are two nonintersecting path families from $[r]$ to $[r]$, $r \in \widetilde{T}_{id} \cup \widetilde{W}_\gamma$, as shown below. Thus $\text{Mult}_{e_\beta} X^\gamma = \text{Mult}_{e_\beta} X_{id}^\gamma = 2$.



There are three nonintersecting path families from $[r]$ to $[r]$, $r \in \widetilde{T}_\alpha \cup \widetilde{W}_{\omega_0}$, as shown below. Thus $\text{Mult}_{e_\beta} X_\alpha = \text{Mult}_{e_\beta} X_{\alpha^0} = 3$.



From this example and the previous one, we see that $\text{Mult}_{e_\beta} X_\alpha^\gamma$ equals the product $\text{Mult}_{e_\beta} X^\gamma \cdot \text{Mult}_{e_\beta} X_\alpha$. It is not difficult to show that this equality holds in general. This fact is also proven in [13], using different methods.

11 Proofs

In this section, we give proofs of Lemmas 7.2 and 9.4.

Proof of Lemma 7.2

Let U be a nonvanishing multiset on \mathbb{N}^2 , and let T and W be negative and positive subsets of \mathbb{N}^2 respectively with the property that $T_{(1)}, T_{(2)}, W_{(1)}$, and $W_{(2)}$ are both subsets of \mathbb{N} , i.e., multisets such that each value has cardinality one. Lemma 7.2 is part (v) of the following.

Lemma 11.1. (i) Suppose that $U = \{(a_1, b_1), \dots, (a_t, b_t)\}$ is a negative multiset on \mathbb{N}^2 whose entries are listed in lexicographic order. For $k = 1, \dots, t$, let $U^{(k)} := \{(a_1, b_1), \dots, (a_k, b_k)\}$, and let $(P^{(k)}, Q^{(k)}) = \text{BRSK}(U^{(k)})$ (note that $(P^{(t)}, Q^{(t)}) = \text{BRSK}(U)$). Define $\{p_1^{(k)}, \dots, p_{c_k}^{(k)}\}$ to be the first row of $P^{(k)}$ and $\{q_1^{(k)}, \dots, q_{c_k}^{(k)}\}$ the first row of $Q^{(k)}$, both listed in increasing order. Let $m(k) := \max\{m \in \{1, \dots, c_k\} \mid p_m^{(k)} < q_1^{(k)}\} = |(P_1^{(k)})^{< q_1^{(k)}}|$. Then for $1 \leq j \leq m(k)$, there exists a chain $C_{k,j}$ in $U^{(k)}$ which has j elements, the last of which has first component $p_j^{(k)}$.

(ii) If U is bounded by T, \emptyset , then $(P^{(k)}, Q^{(k)})$ is bounded by T, \emptyset , $k = 1, \dots, t$.

(iii) If U is bounded by T, \emptyset , then $\text{BRSK}(U)$ is bounded by T, \emptyset .

(iv) If U is bounded by \emptyset, W , then $\text{BRSK}(U)$ is bounded by \emptyset, W .

(v) If U is bounded by T, W , then $\text{BRSK}(U)$ is bounded by T, W .

Proof. We prove (i) and (ii) together by induction on k , with $k = 1$ the starting point for the induction. This case is technically covered by Case 2 below, although it can be checked quite easily: $U^{(1)} = \{(a_1, b_1)\}$, $P^{(1)}$ contains the sole entry a_1 , and $Q^{(1)}$ contains the sole entry b_1 . For (i), $m(1) = 1$, $C_{1,1} = (a_1, b_1)$. For (ii), U bounded by T, \emptyset implies $U^{(1)}$ bounded by T, \emptyset , which is clearly equivalent to $(P^{(1)}, Q^{(1)})$ bounded by T, \emptyset .

Let $k \in 2, \dots, t-1$. Let $(P, Q) = (P^{(k)}, Q^{(k)})$, $a = a_{k+1}$, $b = b_{k+1}$, $(P', Q') = (P^{(k+1)}, Q^{(k+1)})$, $U = U^{(k)}$, $U' = U^{(k+1)}$, $\{p_1, \dots, p_c\} = \{p_1^{(k)}, \dots, p_{c_k}^{(k)}\}$, $\{q_1, \dots, q_c\} = \{q_1^{(k)}, \dots, q_{c_k}^{(k)}\}$. Note that $\{p_1, \dots, p_c\} \subset \{a_1, \dots, a_k\}$, $\{q_1, \dots, q_c\} \subset \{b_1, \dots, b_k\}$. Thus since b is less than or equal to all elements of $\{b_1, \dots, b_k\}$, $a < b \leq q_1$. We assume inductively that

$$T_{(1)} - T_{(2)} \leq P_1 - Q_1,$$

and prove that

$$T_{(1)} - T_{(2)} \leq P'_1 - Q'_1.$$

Equivalently, we prove that for all positive integers z ,

$$|(T_{(1)} - T_{(2)})^{\leq z}| \geq |(P'_1 - Q'_1)^{\leq z}|,$$

where we use the definition $A - B := A \dot{\cup} (\mathbb{N} \setminus B)$, where A and B are both subsets of \mathbb{N} (see Section 4).

We consider two cases, corresponding to the two ways in which (P'_1, Q'_1) can be obtained from (P_1, Q_1) .

Case 1. P'_1 is obtained by a bumping p_l in P_1 , for some $1 \leq l \leq c$, i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned} P'_1 &= P_1 \setminus \{p_l\} \dot{\cup} \{a\} \\ Q'_1 &= Q_1 \end{aligned}$$

(i) The fact that a bumps p_l implies both $a \leq p_l$ and $p_l < b$. Hence $a \leq p_l < b \leq q_1$, which implies $(P'_1)^{< q_1} = (P_1)^{< q_1} \setminus \{p_l\} \cup \{a\}$. Thus $m(k+1) = m(k)$. For $j \in \{1, \dots, m(k)\} \setminus \{l\}$, set $C_{k+1,j} = C_{k,j}$. If $l = 1$ then set $C_{k+1,l} = \{(a, b)\}$. Otherwise, consider the chain $C_{k,l-1} = \{(g_1, h_1), \dots, (p_{l-1}, h_{l-1})\}$. Since a bumps p_l , $a > p_{l-1}$. Thus $b < h_{l-1}$, since (a, b) comes after (p_{l-1}, h_{l-1}) in the ordered list of elements of U' . Therefore $C := C_{k,l-1} \cup \{(a, b)\}$ is a chain in U' . We let $C_{k+1,l}$ be this chain.

(ii) For $z < a$ or $z \geq p_l$,

$$|(T_{(1)} - T_{(2)})^{\leq z}| \geq |(P_1 - Q_1)^{\leq z}| = |(P'_1 - Q'_1)^{\leq z}|. \quad (12)$$

If $a = p_l$ then we are done. Thus we assume that $a < p_l$. We claim that for $a \leq z < p_l$, $|(C_{(1)} - C_{(2)})^{\leq z}| = |(P'_1 - Q'_1)^{\leq z}|$. Assuming the claim (and using the fact that $T \leq C \leq \emptyset$, since U is bounded by T, \emptyset) we have that for $a \leq z < p_l$,

$$|(T_{(1)} - T_{(2)})^{\leq z}| \geq |(C_{(1)} - C_{(2)})^{\leq z}| = |(P'_1 - Q'_1)^{\leq z}|. \quad (13)$$

Now (12) and (13) prove the inductive step of (ii).

We now prove the claim. From the proof of (i), we have that $C = C_{k+1,l} = \{(g_1, h_1), \dots, (g_{l-1}, h_{l-1}), (a, b)\}$, where $g_1 < \dots < g_{l-1} < a < p_l < b < h_{l-1} < \dots < h_1$. Thus for $a \leq z < p_l$,

$$|(C_{(1)} - C_{(2)})^{\leq z}| = |(C_{(1)} \dot{\cup} (\mathbb{N} \setminus C_{(2)}))^{\leq z}| = |(C_{(1)} \dot{\cup} \mathbb{N})^{\leq z}| = l + z.$$

Also, $p_1 < \dots < p_{l-1} < a < p_l < b \leq q_1 < \dots < q_c$. Thus for $a \leq z < p_l$,

$$|(P'_1 - Q'_1)^{\leq z}| = |(P'_1 \dot{\cup} (\mathbb{N} \setminus Q'_1))^{\leq z}| = |(P'_1 \dot{\cup} \mathbb{N})^{\leq z}| = l + z.$$

Case 2. P'_1 is obtained by adding a to P_1 in position l from the left and Q'_1 is obtained by adding b to the left end of Q_1 (and shifting all other entries of Q_1 to the right by one box), i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned} P'_1 &= P_1 \dot{\cup} \{a\} \\ Q'_1 &= Q_1 \dot{\cup} \{b\} \end{aligned}$$

(i) We have that $P'_1 = \{p_1, \dots, p_{l-1}, a, p_l, \dots, p_c\}$, $Q'_1 = \{b, q_1, \dots, q_c\}$, where the elements of both sets are listed in strictly increasing order (note that $b < q_1$ follows from the fact that Q' is row-strict, which is proven in Lemma 6.2). Now $p_{l-1} < a < b < q_1$ implies that $m(k) \geq l - 1$. Note that $a < b \leq p_l$

(since $b > p_l$ would require that a bump p_l in the bounded insertion process). Thus $m(k+1) = l$. For $j \in \{1, \dots, l-1\}$, set $C_{k+1,j} = C_{k,j}$. Consider the chain $C_{k,l-1} = \{(g_1, h_1), \dots, (g_{l-2}, h_{l-2}), (p_{l-1}, h_{l-1})\}$. Now $a > p_{l-1}$, and this implies that $b < h_{l-1}$, since (a, b) comes after (p_{l-1}, h_{l-1}) in the ordered list of elements of U' . Therefore $C := C_{k,l-1} \cup \{(a, b)\}$ is a chain in U' . We let $C_{k+1,l}$ be this chain.

(ii) For $z < a$,

$$|(T_{(1)} - T_{(2)})^{\leq z}| \geq |(P_1 - Q_1)^{\leq z}| = |(P'_1 - Q'_1)^{\leq z}|. \quad (14)$$

In fact, (14) holds for $z \geq b$ as well, since for such z ,

$$\begin{aligned} |(P'_1 - Q'_1)^{\leq z}| &= |(P'_1 \dot{\cup} (\mathbb{N} \setminus Q'_1))^{\leq z}| \\ &= |(P'_1)^{\leq z}| + |(\mathbb{N} \setminus Q'_1)^{\leq z}| \\ &= (|(P_1)^{\leq z}| + 1) + (|\mathbb{N} \setminus Q_1|^{\leq z} - 1) \\ &= |(P_1)^{\leq z}| + |(\mathbb{N} \setminus Q_1)^{\leq z}| \\ &= |(P_1 - Q_1)^{\leq z}|. \end{aligned}$$

We claim that for $a \leq z < b$, $|(C_{(1)} - C_{(2)})^{\leq z}| = |(P'_1 - Q'_1)^{\leq z}|$. Assuming the claim (and using the fact that $T \leq C \leq \emptyset$, since U is bounded by T, \emptyset) we have that for $a \leq z < b$,

$$|(T_{(1)} - T_{(2)})^{\leq z}| \geq |(C_{(1)} - C_{(2)})^{\leq z}| = |(P'_1 - Q'_1)^{\leq z}|. \quad (15)$$

Now (14) and (15) prove the inductive step of (ii).

We now prove the claim. From the proof of (i), we have that $C = C_{k+1,l} = \{(g_1, h_1), \dots, (g_{l-1}, h_{l-1}), (a, b)\}$, where $g_1 < \dots < g_{l-1} < a < b < h_{l-1} < \dots < h_1$. Thus for $a \leq z < b$,

$$|(C_{(1)} - C_{(2)})^{\leq z}| = |(C_{(1)} \dot{\cup} (\mathbb{N} \setminus C_{(2)}))^{\leq z}| = |(C_{(1)} \dot{\cup} \mathbb{N})^{\leq z}| = l + z.$$

Also, $p_1 < \dots < p_{l-1} < a < b \leq p_l$, $b < q_1 < \dots < q_c$. Thus for $a \leq z < b$,

$$|(P'_1 - Q'_1)^{\leq z}| = |(P'_1 \dot{\cup} (\mathbb{N} \setminus Q'_1))^{\leq z}| = |(P'_1 \dot{\cup} \mathbb{N})^{\leq z}| = l + z.$$

(iii) Set $k = t$ in (ii).

(iv) Use arguments similar to (i), (ii), and (iii), but for U positive. Alternatively, one could apply the involution ι to (iii).

(v) Use (iii), (iv), and the fact that U is bounded by T, W if and only if U^- is bounded by T, \emptyset and U^+ is bounded by \emptyset, W ; and similarly for $\text{BRSK}(U)$. \square

Proof of Lemma 9.4

Parts (iii) and (iv) of the Lemma below imply Lemma 9.4. In this proof, for R a subset of \mathbb{N}^2 , we define $R_{(1)} - R_{(2)}$ to be the (infinite) multiset $R_{(1)} \dot{\cup} \mathbb{N} \setminus R_{(2)}$ (see Section 4).

Lemma 11.2. (i) Let R, S be negative twisted chains. Then $R \trianglelefteq S$ if and only if $\text{depth}_R((z, z+1)) \geq \text{depth}_S((z, z+1))$ for all $z \in \mathbb{N}$.

(ii) Let R be a negative twisted chain, and let $z \in \mathbb{N}$. Then $\text{depth}_R(z, z+1) = |(R_{(1)} - R_{(2)})^{\leq z}| - z$.

(iii) Let R, S be negative twisted chains. Then $R \trianglelefteq S \iff R \leq S$.

(iv) Let R, S be positive twisted chains. Then $R \trianglelefteq S \iff R \leq S$.

Proof. (i) The “only if” direction is obvious. For $(e, f) \in (\mathbb{N}^2)^-$, define $D((e, f)) = \text{depth}_R((e, f)) - \text{depth}_S((e, f))$. Suppose that $D((e, f)) < 0$ for some $(e, f) \in (\mathbb{N}^2)^-$. We must show that $D((z, z+1)) < 0$ for some $z \in \mathbb{N}$. Suppose that $D((e, e+1)) \geq 0$. Then $\text{depth}_R((e, e+1)) > \text{depth}_R((e, f))$. Thus, there exists $(e', f') \in R$ such that $e' \leq e$ and $e+1 \leq f' < f$. Let (g, h) be the one such with maximal f' .

We claim that $\text{depth}_R((h, h+1)) = \text{depth}_R((e, f))$. If not, then there exists $(p, q) \in R$ such that either (a) $e < p < h$, $h+1 \leq q$, (b) $p = h$, $h+1 \leq q$, or (c) $p \leq e$, $h+1 \leq q < f$. In case (a), $(p, q) \not\leq (g, h)$, $(g, h) \not\leq (p, q)$, and $(g, h) \wedge (p, q) = (p, h) \in (\mathbb{N}^2)^-$ (since $p < h$), contradicting the fact that R is a negative twisted chain. In case (b), $p = h$, and thus $(g, h), (h, q) \in R$ contradicts the fact that R is completely disjointed. In case (c), the maximality of h is violated.

Since $(e, f) \trianglelefteq (h, h+1)$, $\text{depth}_S((h, h+1)) \geq \text{depth}_S((e, f))$. Thus $D((h, h+1)) \leq D((e, f)) < 0$.

(ii) Let $R = \{(e_1, f_1), \dots, (e_m, f_m)\}$, with $e_1 < \dots < e_m$. Note that $\{(e_i, f_i) \in R \mid e_i \leq z < z+1 \leq f_i\}$ consists of all the $(e_i, f_i) \in R$ such that $(e_i, f_i) \trianglelefteq (z, z+1)$. Thus, since R is a twisted chain, $\{(e_i, f_i) \in R \mid e_i \leq z < z+1 \leq f_i\}$ must form a chain. Hence $\text{depth}_R(z, z+1) = |\{(e_i, f_i) \in R \mid e_i \leq z < z+1 \leq f_i\}|$.

Recall that $R_{(1)} - R_{(2)} = \{e_1, \dots, e_m\} \dot{\cup} (\mathbb{N} \setminus \{f_1, \dots, f_m\})$. The result now follows from the fact that

$$|\{(e_i, f_i) \in R \mid e_i \leq z < z+1 \leq f_i\}| = |(R_{(1)} - R_{(2)})^{\leq z} \setminus \mathbb{N}^{\leq z}|.$$

To see why this equality holds, observe that $R_{(1)} - R_{(2)}$ can be obtained by starting with \mathbb{N} and then successively replacing f_i by e_i , $i = 1, \dots, m$. Such a replacement adds 1 to the number of elements less than or equal to z if and only if $e_i \leq z$ and $f_i \geq z+1$ (and never subtracts 1 from the number of elements less than or equal to z , since $e_i < f_i$).

(iii)

$$\begin{aligned} R \trianglelefteq S &\iff \text{depth}_R((z, z+1)) \geq \text{depth}_S((z, z+1)), \quad z \in \mathbb{N} \\ &\iff |(R_{(1)} - R_{(2)})^{\leq z}| \geq |(S_{(1)} - S_{(2)})^{\leq z}|, \quad z \in \mathbb{N} \\ &\iff R_{(1)} - R_{(2)} \leq S_{(1)} - S_{(2)} \\ &\iff R \leq S, \end{aligned}$$

where the first and second equivalences follow from (i) and (ii) respectively.

(iv) is obtained by applying ι to both sides of (iii). □

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 May 18, 2007