Jack characters as generating series of bipartite maps and proof of Lassalle’s conjecture

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joint work with

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Symmetric functions

We consider the space of symmetric functions on an alphabet $x := x_1, x_2, \ldots$.

For $k \geq 0$, the power sum function $p_k$ is defined

$$p_k(x) := \sum_{i \geq 1} x_i^k,$$

and if $\lambda = [\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \ldots, \lambda_\ell]$ then

$$p_\lambda(x) = p_{\lambda_1}(x)p_{\lambda_2}(x) \cdots p_{\lambda_\ell}(x).$$
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The expansion of Schur functions on the power-sum basis is given by

$$s_\lambda(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{\mu \vdash n} \frac{\chi_\lambda(\mu)}{z_\mu} p_\mu(\mathbf{x})$$

where $z_\lambda := \frac{|\lambda|!}{|C_\lambda|}$. 

Houcine Ben Dali, Jack polynomials as maps series, 2 / 11
Jack polynomials

Jack polynomials $J^{(\alpha)}_{\lambda}$ are symmetric functions which depend on a deformation parameter $\alpha$.

- They can be obtained from Macdonald polynomials $J^{(q,t)}_{\lambda}$ by taking $q = t^{\alpha}$ and the limit $t \rightarrow 1$.
- When we take $\alpha = 1$ we obtain Schur functions.
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**Main result**

A combinatorial interpretation of the power-sum expansion of Jack polynomials in terms of bipartite maps (oriented or not).
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- answers a positivity conjecture of Lassalle 2008.
- gives an answer in some sense to a conjecture of Hanlon 1988.
Maps

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A non-oriented bipartite map on the Klein bottle.
Maps

- A *connected map* is a connected graph embedded into a surface, oriented or not. A map is a collection of connected maps.
- A map is *oriented* if its all the connected components are embedded into orientable surfaces.
- A map is bipartite if its vertices are colored in white and black, and each white vertex has only black neighbors.

A non-oriented bipartite map on the Klein bottle.
The **face-type** of a bipartite map $M$, denoted by $\diamond(M)$, is the partition given by the face degrees, divided by 2.

A non-oriented map of face-type $[4, 4, 2, 2]$. 
Layered maps
Let $k$ be a positive integer. A map $M$ is $k$-layered if

- each black vertex has a label in $1, 2, \ldots, k$.

A 3-layered map on the Klein bottle
Layered maps

Let $k$ be a positive integer. A map $M$ is $k$-layered if

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**Definition (Goulden–Jackson ’96)**

A statistic of non-orientability (on $k$-layered maps) is a statistic which associates to each $k$-layered map $M$ a non-negative integer such that $\vartheta(M) = 0$ if and only if $M$ is oriented.
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Maps will be counted with a weight $b^{\vartheta(M)}$, where $b := \alpha - 1$ is the shifted Jack parameter.
Theorem (BD–Dołęga ’23)

There exists an explicit statistic of non-orientability \( \vartheta \), such that

\[
J_\lambda^{(\alpha)} = (-1)^{|\lambda|} \sum_{\ell(\lambda)\text{-layered maps } M} \frac{p_\diamond(M) b^{\vartheta(M)}}{2|\mathcal{V}_\bullet(M)| - cc(M) \alpha^{cc(M)}} \prod_{1 \leq i \leq \ell(\lambda)} \frac{(-\alpha \lambda_i)|\mathcal{V}_\diamond^{(i)}(M)|}{z_{\nu^{(i)}(M)}},
\]

- \( p_\diamond(M) \) is the power-sum function associated to the partition \( \diamond(M) \)
- \( |\mathcal{V}_\bullet(M)| \) is the number of black vertices of \( M \).
- \( |\mathcal{V}_\diamond^{(i)}(M)| \) is the number of white vertices of \( M \) labelled by \( i \).
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- $p_\vartheta(M)$ is the power-sum function associated to the partition $\vartheta(M)$
- $|\mathcal{V}^\bullet(M)|$ is the number of black vertices of $M$.
- $|\mathcal{V}^{(i)}_\circ(M)|$ is the number of white vertices of $M$ labelled by $i$.
- $cc(M)$ is the number of connected components of $M$.

- a face-weight $p_\vartheta(M)$
- a non-orientability weight $b^{\vartheta(M)}$
- a weight related to layers structure $(-\alpha \lambda_i)|\mathcal{V}^{(i)}_\circ(M)|$
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There exists an explicit statistic of non-orientability \( \vartheta \), such that

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J_{\lambda}^{(\alpha)} = (-1)^{|\lambda|} \sum_{\ell(\lambda) - \text{layered maps} \, M} \frac{p_{\triangleleft(M)} b^{\vartheta(M)}}{2|V_\bullet(M)| - cc(M) \alpha \, cc(M)} \prod_{1 \leq i \leq \ell(\lambda)} \frac{(-\alpha \lambda_i)|V_{\circ}^{(i)}(M)|}{z_{V_\circ^{(i)}(M)}}
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Well known for \( \alpha = 1 \) (Young symmetrizers) and for \( \alpha = 2 \) (Féray–Śniady’s 2010).
Jack characters (a dual approach)

Fix a partition $\mu$.

$$
\theta_{\mu}^{(\alpha)}(\lambda) := \begin{cases} 
0, & \text{if } |\lambda| < |\mu|.
\end{cases}
$$

$$
\left( |\lambda| - |\mu| + m_1(\mu) \right) \cdot \left[ p_{\mu,1|\lambda| - |\mu|} J_{\lambda}^{(\alpha)} \right],
$$

if $|\lambda| \geq |\mu|$.

where $m_1(\mu)$ is the number of parts of size 1 in $\mu$. 
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where $m_1(\mu)$ is the number of parts of size 1 in $\mu$.

**Theorem (BD–Dołęga ’23)**

There exists a statistic of non-orientability $\vartheta$ on layered maps, such that

$$\theta^{(\alpha)}_{\mu}(\lambda) = (-1)^{|\mu|} \sum_{\text{layered maps } M \text{ of face-type } \mu} \theta^\vartheta(M) \frac{\mathcal{b}^\vartheta(M)}{2|\mathcal{V}(M)|-\alpha \mathcal{cc}(M)} \prod_{i \geq 1} \frac{(-\alpha \lambda_i)|\mathcal{V}^{(i)}(M)|}{\mathcal{Z}^{\mathcal{V}^{(i)}(M)}} \left( -\alpha \lambda_i \right), \quad (1)$$

- For $\alpha = 1$: Stanley-Féray formula 2010.
- For $\alpha = 2$: Féray–Śniady formula for zonal characters 2010.
Idea of the proof

**Known:** There exists a unique $\alpha$-shifted symmetric function $f_{\mu}(u_1, u_2, \ldots)$ (i.e symmetric in the variables $u_1 - 1/\alpha, u_2 - 2/\alpha, \ldots$) such that

$$\theta_{\mu}^{(\alpha)}(\lambda) = f_{\mu}(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \ldots, \lambda_\ell, 0, \ldots)$$
for every $\lambda$. 
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Theorem (Féray ’19)

Fix a partition $\mu$. The Jack character $\theta_{\mu}^{(\alpha)}$ is the unique $\alpha$-shifted symmetric function of degree $|\mu|$ with top homogeneous part $\alpha^{|\mu| - \ell(\mu)} z_{\mu} \cdot p_\mu$, such that $\theta_{\mu}^{(\alpha)}(\lambda) = 0$ for any partition $|\lambda| < |\mu|$.
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Theorem (Féray ‘19)

Fix a partition $\mu$. The Jack character $\theta^{(\alpha)}_\mu$ is the unique $\alpha$-shifted symmetric function of degree $|\mu|$ with top homogeneous part $\alpha^{|\mu| - \ell(\mu)}/z_\mu \cdot p_\mu$, such that $\theta^{(\alpha)}_\mu(\lambda) = 0$ for any partition $|\lambda| < |\mu|$.

We introduce the generating series of $k$-layered maps

$$F^{(k)}(t, p, s_1, \ldots, s_k) :=$$

$$\sum_{k\text{-layered maps } M} (-t)^{\vdash(M)} p^{\vdash(M)} \frac{b^{\theta(M)}}{2|\nabla(M)| - cc(M)\alpha cc(M)} \prod_{1 \leq i \leq k} \frac{(-\alpha s_i)^{|\nu^{(i)}_\bullet(M)|}}{z_{\nu^{(i)}_\bullet}(M)}.$$
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F^{(k)}(t, p, s_1, \ldots, s_k) :=
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\sum_{k\text{-layered maps } M} (-t)^{|\diamondsuit(M)|} p^{\diamondsuit(M)} \frac{b^{\partial(M)}}{2|\nabla \bullet(M)| - \alpha cc(M) \cdot \alpha cc(M)} \cdot \prod_{1 \leq i \leq k} \frac{(-\alpha s_i)^{|\nabla \circ(i)(M)|}}{z_{\nabla \circ(i)(M)}}.
$$

We prove that this generating series satisfies the three conditions of the characterization theorem.
Idea of the proof

- For a well-chosen statistic of non-orientability $\vartheta$, this generating series can be constructed inductively using differential operators (Tutte decomposition):

$$F^{(k)}(t, p, s_1, \ldots, s_k) = \exp \left( \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{(-t)^n}{n} B_n(p, -\alpha s_1) \right) \cdot F^{(k-1)}(t, p, s_2, \ldots, s_k),$$

A key step of the proof: Two commutation relations

$$[B_n(p, u), B_m(p, u)] = 0, \quad \text{for } n, m \geq 1,$$

where

$$B_n^>(p, u) := B_n(p, u) - B_n(p, 0).$$
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where

$$B_n(p, -\alpha s_1) := \Theta_Y (\Gamma_Y - \alpha s_1 Y_+)^n \frac{y_0}{1 + b}$$

is an operator which adds a black vertex of degree $n$ with label 1. $Y := (y_0, y_1, y_2, \ldots,)$ is a catalytic variable, and

$$\Theta_Y := \sum_{i \geq 1} p_i \frac{\partial}{\partial y_i}, \quad Y_+ = \sum_{i \geq 0} y_{i+1} \frac{\partial}{\partial y_i},$$

$$\Gamma_Y = (1 + b) \cdot \sum_{i, j \geq 1} y_{i+j} \frac{i \partial^2}{\partial p_i \partial y_{j-1}}$$

$$+ \sum_{i, j \geq 1} y_{i} p_j \frac{\partial}{\partial y_{i+j-1}} + b \cdot \sum_{i \geq 1} y_{i+1} \frac{i \partial}{\partial y_i}. \quad \left\{ \text{Chapuy–Dołęga operators.} \right\}$$
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A key step of the proof: Two commutation relations

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$$\left[ \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{t^n}{n} B_n^>(p, u), \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{t^n}{n} B_n^>(p, v) \right] = 0,$$

where

$$B_n^>(p, u) := B_n(p, u) - B_n(p, 0).$$
Application 1: Creation operators for Jack polynomials

**Theorem**

\[
J^{(\alpha)}_{(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \ldots, \lambda_\ell)} = B^{(+)}_{\lambda_1} \cdot B^{(+)}_{\lambda_2} \cdots B^{(+)}_{\lambda_\ell} \cdot 1,
\]

where

\[
B^{(+)}_n := [t^n] \exp \left( \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{(-t)^n}{n} B_n(p, -\alpha n) \right)
\]
The Young diagram of the partition \([4, 3, 3, 3, 1]\), with \(s = (4, 3, 3, 1)\) and \(r = (1, 1, 2, 1)\) as Stanley coordinates.

**Theorem (Lassalle’s conjecture on Jack characters)**

The normalized Jack character \((-1)^{|\mu|} z_{\mu} \theta_{\mu}^{(\alpha)}\) is a polynomial in Stanley’s coordinates \(r_1, r_2, \ldots, -s_1, -s_2, \ldots\), and \(b\) with non-negative integer coefficients.

**Proof:**

- **Non-negativity:** the combinatorial interpretation in terms of maps.
- **Integrality:** (a different approach) the integrable system of Nazarov–Sklyanin.