

# The Jucys-Murphy method and fusion procedure for the Sergeev superalgebra

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(joint with Alexander Molev and Vera Serganova)

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The *Sergeev superalgebra*  $\mathcal{S}_n$  is the graded tensor product of two superalgebras

$$\mathcal{S}_n = \mathbb{C}\mathfrak{S}_n^- \otimes \mathcal{C}l_n,$$

where  $\mathbb{C}\mathfrak{S}_n^-$  is the *spin symmetric group algebra* generated by odd elements  $t_1, \dots, t_{n-1}$  subject to the relations

$$t_a^2 = 1, \quad t_a t_{a+1} t_a = t_{a+1} t_a t_{a+1}, \quad t_a t_b = -t_b t_a, \quad |a-b| > 1,$$

while  $\mathcal{C}l_n$  is the *Clifford super algebra* generated by odd elements  $c_1, \dots, c_n$  subject to the relations

$$c_a^2 = -1, \quad c_a c_b = -c_b c_a, \quad a \neq b.$$

The group algebra  $\mathbb{C}\mathfrak{S}_n$  of the symmetric group  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  is embedded in  $\mathcal{S}_n$  so that the adjacent transpositions  $s_a = (a, a+1) \in \mathfrak{S}_n$  are identified with the elements of  $\mathcal{S}_n$  by

$$s_a = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} t_a(c_{a+1} - c_a).$$

This leads to the alternative presentation of  $\mathcal{S}_n$  as the semidirect product  $\mathbb{C}\mathfrak{S}_n \ltimes \mathcal{C}I_n$  with the relations between elements of the symmetric group

$$s_a c_a = c_{a+1} s_a, \quad s_a c_{a+1} = c_a s_a, \quad s_a c_b = c_b s_a, \quad b \neq a, a+1.$$

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The Sergeev superalgebra was introduced in [Sergeev, 1985]:  $\mathcal{S}_n$  plays the role of the symmetric group for a supersversion of Schur-Weyl duality (known as *Sergeev duality*). If  $V = \mathbb{C}^{k|k}$  is the standard representation of the Lie superalgebra  $\mathfrak{q}(k)$ , then both  $\mathcal{S}_n$  and  $\mathfrak{q}(k)$  act on the tensor product  $V^{\otimes n}$  and each algebra is the commutant algebra of the other.

The algebra  $\mathcal{S}_n$  admits an affinization,  $\mathcal{H}_{Cl}^{aff}(n)$ , called the *degenerate affine Hecke-Clifford algebra (DAHCA)*:  $\mathcal{S}_n$  is a subalgebra of  $\mathcal{H}_{Cl}^{aff}(n)$ , there also exists a natural surjection  $\mathcal{H}_{Cl}^{aff}(n) \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_n$ , thus the representation theory of  $\mathcal{H}_{Cl}^{aff}(n)$  contains that of the Sergeev superalgebra.

The representations of  $\mathcal{S}_n$  were studied in the foundational work of [Nazarov, 1997] along with those of DAHCA.  $\mathcal{S}_n$  is known to be semisimple and its simple modules are parameterized by strict partitions of  $n$ .

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In the same paper Nazarov introduced the *Jucys–Murphy elements*  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  of  $\mathcal{S}_n$ , they generate a commutative subalgebra of  $\mathcal{S}_n$  and act semisimply on each simple module. We use them

- 1 to construct a complete set of primitive idempotents for  $\mathcal{S}_n$ ;
- 2 to get the seminormal basis of  $\mathcal{S}_n$  and explicit realizations of all its simple modules;
- 3 to give a new version of the *fusion procedure* for  $\mathcal{S}_n$  which yields the same primitive idempotents by evaluating a universal rational function with values in  $\mathcal{S}_n$

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# Representations of $\mathfrak{S}_n$

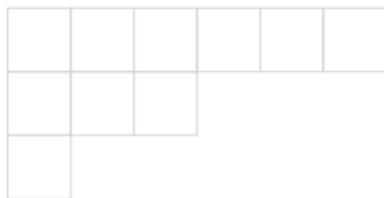
Follow [Okounkov and Vershik, 1996].

The *Jucys–Murphy elements* of  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  are given by

$$x_1 = 0, \quad x_a = (1, a) + \cdots + (a - 1, a), \quad a = 2, \dots, n.$$

Simple  $\mathfrak{S}_n$ -modules are parameterized by partitions  $\lambda \vdash n$ .

Identify  $\lambda$  with its *Young diagram*; e.g.  $\lambda = (6, 3, 1)$  is drawn as



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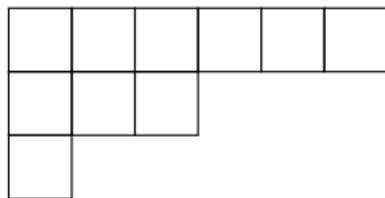
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The entries of a *standard  $\lambda$ -tableau* increase from left to right in each row and from top to bottom in each column.

For instance,

$$\mathcal{T} = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline 1 & 2 & 4 & 5 & 8 & 10 \\ \hline 3 & 6 & 9 & & & \\ \hline 7 & & & & & \\ \hline \end{array}$$

is a standard  $\lambda$ -tableau for  $\lambda = (6, 3, 1)$ .

The *content*  $\sigma_a(\mathcal{T})$  equals  $j - i$  if  $a$  occupies the box  $(i, j)$  in  $\mathcal{T}$ .

In the example,  $\sigma_6(\mathcal{T}) = 0$ ,  $\sigma_7(\mathcal{T}) = -2$  and  $\sigma_8(\mathcal{T}) = 4$ .

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For  $\lambda \vdash n$  the module  $V^\lambda$  over  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  is afforded by the vector space

$$V^\lambda = \bigoplus_{\text{sh}(\mathcal{T})=\lambda} \mathbb{C} v_{\mathcal{T}}$$

with the basis vectors  $v_{\mathcal{T}}$  labelled by the standard  $\lambda$ -tableaux  $\mathcal{T}$ .

The generators  $s_a = (a, a+1)$  and the JM elements  $x_a$  act by

$$s_a v_{\mathcal{T}} = \frac{1}{\sigma_{a+1}(\mathcal{T}) - \sigma_a(\mathcal{T})} v_{\mathcal{T}} + \chi_a(\mathcal{T}) v_{s_a \mathcal{T}},$$

$$x_a v_{\mathcal{T}} = \sigma_a(\mathcal{T}) v_{\mathcal{T}},$$

where  $v_{s_a \mathcal{T}} := 0$  if the tableau  $s_a \mathcal{T}$  is not standard, and

$$\chi_a(\mathcal{T}) = \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{(\sigma_{a+1}(\mathcal{T}) - \sigma_a(\mathcal{T}))^2}}.$$

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# Primitive idempotents

If  $\mathcal{U}$  is a standard  $\lambda$ -tableau, let  $\mathcal{V}$  be obtained from  $\mathcal{U}$  by deleting the box  $\alpha$  occupied by  $n$ . Let  $c$  be the content of  $\alpha$ .

Define by induction,

$$e_{\mathcal{U}} = e_{\mathcal{V}} \frac{(x_n - a_1) \dots (x_n - a_l)}{(c - a_1) \dots (c - a_l)},$$

where  $a_1, \dots, a_l$  are the contents of all addable boxes of  $\text{sh}(\mathcal{V})$  except for  $\alpha$ ; and  $e_{\boxed{1}} = 1$  for the one-box tableau.

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## Theorem (Jucys 1971, Murphy 1981)

The elements  $e_{\mathcal{U}}$  are primitive idempotents in  $\mathbb{C}\mathfrak{S}_n$ . They are pairwise orthogonal and form a decomposition of the identity:

$$e_{\mathcal{U}} e_{\mathcal{V}} = \delta_{\mathcal{UV}} e_{\mathcal{V}}, \quad 1 = \sum_{\lambda \vdash n} \sum_{\text{sh}(\mathcal{U})=\lambda} e_{\mathcal{U}}.$$

Moreover,

$$x_a e_{\mathcal{U}} = e_{\mathcal{U}} x_a = \sigma_a(\mathcal{U}) e_{\mathcal{U}}.$$

*Proof.* Observe that the  $\mathbb{C}\mathfrak{S}_n$ -module  $V = \bigoplus_{\lambda \vdash n} V^{\lambda}$  is faithful. All relations follow from the action:  $e_{\mathcal{U}} v_{\mathcal{T}} = \delta_{\mathcal{UT}} v_{\mathcal{T}}$ .

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Follow [Cherednik, 1986] to introduce the *intertwining elements*

$$\phi_a = s_a(x_a - x_{a+1}) + 1.$$

They satisfy the braid relations

$$\phi_a \phi_{a+1} \phi_a = \phi_{a+1} \phi_a \phi_{a+1}, \quad \phi_a \phi_b = \phi_b \phi_a, \quad |a - b| > 1,$$

and have the property

$$\phi_a^2 = 1 - (x_a - x_{a+1})^2.$$

For each  $w \in \mathfrak{S}_n$  there are well-defined elements

$$\phi_w = \phi_{a_1} \dots \phi_{a_r} \quad \text{and} \quad \phi_w^* = \phi_{w^{-1}} = \phi_{a_r} \dots \phi_{a_1},$$

where  $w = s_{a_1} \dots s_{a_r}$  is a reduced decomposition.

The intertwiners act in  $V^\lambda$  by

$$\phi_a v_{\mathcal{T}} = \left( \sigma_a(\mathcal{T}) - \sigma_{a+1}(\mathcal{T}) \right) \chi_a(\mathcal{T}) v_{s_a \mathcal{T}}.$$

Hence,

$$\phi_{d(\mathcal{T})} v_{\mathcal{R}^\lambda} = b_{\mathcal{T}} v_{\mathcal{T}}, \quad b_{\mathcal{T}} \neq 0,$$

where  $\mathcal{R}^\lambda$  is the *row-tableau* of shape  $\lambda$  and  $\mathcal{T} = d(\mathcal{T}) \mathcal{R}^\lambda$ .

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# Murphy's basis

For standard  $\lambda$ -tableaux  $\mathcal{T}$  and  $\mathcal{U}$  set

$$\zeta_{\mathcal{T}\mathcal{U}} = \phi_{d(\mathcal{T})} e_{\mathcal{R}^\lambda} \phi_{d(\mathcal{U})}^*.$$

Using the properties

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## Theorem (Murphy 1992)

As  $\lambda$  runs over the Young diagrams with  $n$  boxes, the elements  $\zeta_{\mathcal{T}\mathcal{U}}$  associated with standard  $\lambda$ -tableaux  $\mathcal{T}$  and  $\mathcal{U}$  form a basis of the group algebra  $\mathbb{C}\mathfrak{S}_n$ .

Corollary. We have the direct sum decomposition

$$\mathbb{C}\mathfrak{S}_n = \bigoplus_{\lambda \vdash n} \bigoplus_{\text{sh}(\mathcal{U})=\lambda} \mathbb{C}\mathfrak{S}_n e_{\mathcal{U}},$$

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**Corollary.** Fix a standard  $\lambda$ -tableau  $\mathcal{U}$ .

The mapping

$$\zeta_{\mathcal{T}\mathcal{U}} \mapsto b_{\mathcal{T}} v_{\mathcal{T}}, \quad \text{sh}(\mathcal{T}) = \lambda,$$

defines an  $\mathfrak{S}_n$ -module isomorphism

$$\mathbb{C}\mathfrak{S}_n e_{\mathcal{U}} \rightarrow V^{\lambda}.$$

*Proof.* Note that  $\zeta_{\mathcal{T}\mathcal{V}} e_{\mathcal{U}} = \delta_{\mathcal{V}\mathcal{U}} \zeta_{\mathcal{T}\mathcal{U}}$  so that the vectors  $\zeta_{\mathcal{T}\mathcal{U}}$  form a basis of  $\mathbb{C}\mathfrak{S}_n e_{\mathcal{U}}$ . The generators  $s_a$  act in the same way on the corresponding basis vectors.

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# Fusion procedure

Take  $n$  variables  $u_1, \dots, u_n$  and consider the rational function with values in  $\mathbb{C}\mathfrak{S}_n$  defined by

$$\Phi(u_1, \dots, u_n) = \prod_{1 \leq a < b \leq n} \left( 1 - \frac{(a, b)}{u_a - u_b} \right),$$

where the product is taken in the lexicographical order on the set of pairs  $(a, b)$ .

Given a standard  $\lambda$ -tableau  $\mathcal{U}$ , set  $\sigma_a = \sigma_a(\mathcal{U})$  for  $a = 1, \dots, n$ .

Theorem (Jucys 1966; Molev 2008)

*The consecutive evaluations are well-defined and we have*

$$\Phi(u_1, \dots, u_n) \Big|_{u_1=\sigma_1} \Big|_{u_2=\sigma_2} \cdots \Big|_{u_n=\sigma_n} = \frac{n!}{f_\lambda} e_{\mathcal{U}}.$$

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# Jucys–Murphy elements of $\mathcal{S}_n$

Introduce analogs of the transpositions in the Sergeev superalgebra

$$t_{ab} = (-1)^{b-a-1} t_{b-1} \dots t_{a+1} t_a t_{a+1} \dots t_{b-1}, \quad a < b, \quad t_{ba} = -t_{ab}.$$

The even Jucys–Murphy elements are

$$x_1 = 0, \quad x_a = \sqrt{2} (t_{1a} + \dots + t_{a-1,a}) c_a, \quad a = 2, \dots, n.$$

Note that the  $x_a$  pairwise commute.

The irreducible representations of  $\mathcal{S}_n$  and  $\mathbb{C}\mathfrak{S}_n^-$  are parameterized by strict partitions  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_\ell)$  of  $n$  ( $\lambda \vdash n$ ) with  $\lambda_1 > \dots > \lambda_\ell > 0$  and  $\lambda_1 + \dots + \lambda_\ell = n$ ;  $\ell(\lambda) = \ell$  the length of  $\lambda$ . An example of a (*shifted*)  $\lambda$ -tableau

1	2	4	5	8	10
	3	6	9		
		7			

is a standard  $\lambda$ -tableau for  $\lambda = (6, 3, 1)$  with the diagonal entries 1, 3 and 7.

# Jucys–Murphy elements of $\mathcal{S}_n$

Introduce analogs of the transpositions in the Sergeev superalgebra

$$t_{ab} = (-1)^{b-a-1} t_{b-1} \dots t_{a+1} t_a t_{a+1} \dots t_{b-1}, \quad a < b, \quad t_{ba} = -t_{ab}.$$

The even Jucys–Murphy elements are

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## Simple modules in $\mathcal{S}_n$

The respective dimensions of the simple  $\mathcal{S}_n$ -module  $U^\lambda$  and the simple  $\mathbb{C}\mathfrak{S}_n^-$ -module  $V^\lambda$  are given by

$$\dim U^\lambda = 2^{n - \lfloor \frac{\ell(\lambda)}{2} \rfloor} g_\lambda \quad \text{and} \quad \dim V^\lambda = 2^{\lceil \frac{n - \ell(\lambda)}{2} \rceil} g_\lambda,$$

where  $g_\lambda$  is the number of standard  $\lambda$ -tableaux, which is found by the *Schur formula* [1911]

$$g_\lambda = \frac{n!}{\lambda_1! \dots \lambda_\ell!} \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq \ell} \frac{\lambda_i - \lambda_j}{\lambda_i + \lambda_j}.$$

The dimension count in the decomposition yields the Schur identity analogous to  $\mathbb{C}\mathfrak{S}_n$  case:

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We need to extend the set of tableaux by allowing any non-diagonal entry to occur with a bar on it [Sagan 1987]:

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Given a strict partition  $\lambda \Vdash n$ , the number of the corresponding standard barred tableaux equals  $2^{n-\ell(\lambda)} g_\lambda$ .

Given a standard barred tableaux  $\mathcal{U}$ , introduce the *signed content*  $\kappa_a(\mathcal{U})$  of any barred or unbarred entry  $a$  of  $\mathcal{U}$  by the formula

$$\kappa_a(\mathcal{U}) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{\sigma_a(\sigma_a + 1)} & \text{if } a = a \text{ is unbarred,} \\ -\sqrt{\sigma_a(\sigma_a + 1)} & \text{if } a = \bar{a} \text{ is barred,} \end{cases}$$

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# Idempotents in $\mathcal{S}_n$

For any standard barred tableau  $\mathcal{U}$  set  $e_{\boxed{1}} = 1$  for the one-box tableau, and

$$e_{\mathcal{U}} = e_{\mathcal{V}} \frac{(x_n - b_1) \dots (x_n - b_p)}{(\kappa - b_1) \dots (\kappa - b_p)},$$

where  $\mathcal{V}$  is the barred tableau obtained from  $\mathcal{U}$  by removing the box  $\alpha$  occupied by  $n$  (resp.  $\bar{n}$ ). The shape of  $\mathcal{V}$  denote by  $\mu$ , then  $b_1, \dots, b_p$  are the signed contents in all addable boxes of  $\mu$  (barred and unbarred), except for the entry  $n$  (resp.  $\bar{n}$ ), while  $\kappa$  is the signed content of the entry  $n$  (resp.  $\bar{n}$ ).

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$$e_{\mathcal{U}} e_{\mathcal{V}} = \delta_{\mathcal{UV}} e_{\mathcal{V}}, \quad 1 = \sum_{\lambda \vdash n} \sum_{\text{sh}(\mathcal{U})=\lambda} e_{\mathcal{U}}.$$

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Use the faithful  $\mathcal{S}_n$ -module

$$\widehat{U} = \bigoplus_{\lambda \vdash n} \widehat{U}^\lambda \quad \widehat{U}^\lambda = \bigoplus_{\text{sh}(\mathcal{T})=\lambda} \mathcal{C}l_n v_{\mathcal{T}}$$

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The generators of  $\mathcal{S}_n$  act by

$$s_a v_{\mathcal{T}} = \left( \frac{1}{\kappa_{a+1}(\mathcal{T}) - \kappa_a(\mathcal{T})} + \frac{c_a c_{a+1}}{\kappa_{a+1}(\mathcal{T}) + \kappa_a(\mathcal{T})} \right) v_{\mathcal{T}} + \mathcal{Y}_a(\mathcal{T}) v_{s_a \mathcal{T}},$$

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# Example

For  $n = 3$  we have six barred tableaux  $\mathcal{U}$ :

1	2	3	1	2	$\bar{3}$	1	$\bar{2}$	3	1	$\bar{2}$	$\bar{3}$	1	2	1	$\bar{2}$
									3						3

The respective elements  $e_{\mathcal{U}} \in \mathcal{S}_3$  are

$$\frac{\sqrt{2} + x_2}{2\sqrt{2}} \cdot \frac{x_3(x_3 + \sqrt{6})}{12}, \quad \frac{\sqrt{2} + x_2}{2\sqrt{2}} \cdot \frac{x_3(x_3 - \sqrt{6})}{12}, \quad \frac{\sqrt{2} - x_2}{2\sqrt{2}} \cdot \frac{x_3(x_3 + \sqrt{6})}{12},$$
$$\frac{\sqrt{2} - x_2}{2\sqrt{2}} \cdot \frac{x_3(x_3 - \sqrt{6})}{12}, \quad \frac{\sqrt{2} + x_2}{2\sqrt{2}} \cdot \frac{6 - x_3^2}{6}, \quad \frac{\sqrt{2} - x_2}{2\sqrt{2}} \cdot \frac{6 - x_3^2}{6}.$$

Note that  $x_2^2 = 2$  and  $x_3^3 = 6x_3$  so that all these elements are idempotents in  $\mathcal{S}_3$ .

# Primitive idempotents

There are two orthogonal primitive idempotents in  $Cl_2$ :

$$\frac{1 + i c_1 c_2}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{1 - i c_1 c_2}{2}.$$

Since

$$Cl_{2m} \cong (Cl_2)^{\otimes m} \quad \text{and} \quad Cl_{2m+1} \cong (Cl_2)^{\otimes m} \otimes Cl_1,$$

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Let  $\mathcal{U}$  be a standard barred  $\lambda$ -tableau with diagonal entries  $d_1 < \dots < d_\ell$ , then  $e_{\mathcal{U}}$  commutes with  $c_{d_1}, \dots, c_{d_\ell}$ .

Consider the subalgebra  $Cl_\ell^{\mathcal{U}}$  of  $Cl_n$  generated by  $c_{d_1}, \dots, c_{d_\ell}$ .

Let  $\delta = (\delta_1, \dots, \delta_m)$  be an  $m$ -tuple with  $\delta_a \in \{1, -1\}$ , where  $m$  is defined by  $\ell = 2m$  or  $\ell = 2m + 1$ .

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### Theorem

*We have the direct sum decomposition of  $S_n$ -modules*

$$\widehat{U}^\lambda = \bigoplus_{\delta} U_\delta^\lambda,$$

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**Proof.** We verify that the submodule  $U_\delta^\lambda$  is spanned over  $\mathbb{C}$  by the vectors of the form

$$c_{d_{j_1}} \cdots c_{d_{j_s}} \mathcal{E}_\delta^\mathcal{U} v_\mathcal{U}, \quad s \geq 0, \quad (2)$$

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*Corollary.* Let  $\delta = (\delta_1, \dots, \delta_m)$  be an  $m$ -tuple with  $\delta_a \in \{1, -1\}$ . The vectors (2) form a  $\mathbb{C}$ -basis of the simple submodule  $U_\delta^\lambda$  of  $\hat{U}^\lambda$ .

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# Murphy-type basis in $\mathcal{S}_n$

Nazarov's intertwiners

$$\phi_a = s_a(x_a^2 - x_{a+1}^2) + x_a + x_{a+1} - c_a c_{a+1}(x_a - x_{a+1}).$$

They satisfy the braid relations

$$\phi_a \phi_{a+1} \phi_a = \phi_{a+1} \phi_a \phi_{a+1}, \quad \phi_a \phi_b = \phi_b \phi_a, \quad |a - b| > 1,$$

and have the properties

$$\phi_a^2 = 2(x_a^2 + x_{a+1}^2) - (x_a^2 - x_{a+1}^2)^2$$

together with

$$\phi_a c_a = c_{a+1} \phi_a, \quad \phi_a c_{a+1} = c_a \phi_a, \quad \phi_a c_b = c_b \phi_a, \quad b \neq a, a+1.$$

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Let  $\mathcal{R}^\lambda$  denote the *row-tableau* of shape  $\lambda$ .

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As  $\lambda$  runs over shifted Young diagrams with  $n$  boxes, the elements  $\zeta_{\mathcal{T}\mathcal{U}}^\beta$  associated with standard unbarred tableaux  $\mathcal{T}$  and  $\mathcal{U}$  of shape  $\lambda$  and sets  $\beta$  of non-diagonal boxes of  $\lambda$  form a basis of the Sergeev superalgebra  $\mathcal{S}_n$  over  $\mathcal{C}l_n$ .

Proof. The number of elements is

$$\sum_{\lambda \vdash n} 2^{n-\ell(\lambda)} g_\lambda^2 = n!,$$

and so coincides with the rank of  $\mathcal{S}_n$  as a  $\mathcal{C}l_n$ -module. It is enough to show that the elements are linearly independent over  $\mathcal{C}l_n$  by acting in  $\hat{U}$ .

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# Seminormal form for $\mathcal{S}_n$

Recall the  $\mathcal{S}_n$ -module

$$\widehat{U}^\lambda = \bigoplus_{\text{sh}(\mathcal{T})=\lambda} \mathcal{C}I_n v_{\mathcal{T}}$$

with the basis vectors  $v_{\mathcal{T}}$  labelled by standard  $\lambda$ -tableaux  $\mathcal{T}$ .

Given  $\mathcal{T}$ , let  $d_1 < \dots < d_\ell$  be the diagonal entries.

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*The simple module  $U^\lambda$  over  $\mathcal{S}_n$  is the quotient of  $\widehat{U}^\lambda$  by the relations*

$$c_{d_{2a}} v_{\mathcal{T}} = i c_{d_{2a-1}} v_{\mathcal{T}}, \quad a = 1, \dots, \left\lfloor \frac{\ell(\lambda)}{2} \right\rfloor.$$

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$$\Phi(u_1, \dots, u_n) = \prod_{1 \leq a < b \leq n} \left( 1 - \frac{(a, b)}{u_a - u_b} + \frac{(a, b) c_a c_b}{u_a + u_b} \right),$$

where the product is taken in the lexicographical order on the set of pairs  $(a, b)$ .

Let  $\mathcal{U}$  be a standard barred  $\lambda$ -tableau. For every  $a = 1, \dots, n$  set  $\kappa_a = \kappa_a(\mathcal{U})$  if  $a = a$  or  $a = \bar{a}$  is the entry of  $\mathcal{U}$ .

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