

# Free Resolutions and Hilbert Series for Skew Specht Ideals

2024 Twin Cities REU in Combinatorics & Algebra

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# Background

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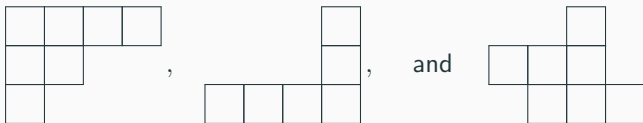
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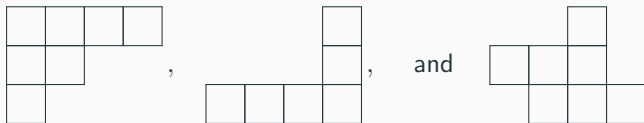
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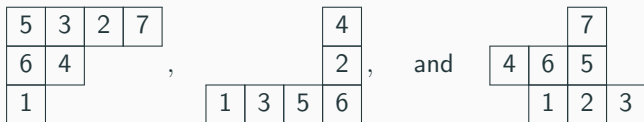
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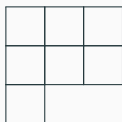
A **tableau** of a diagram  $D$  with  $n$  boxes is a filling of the boxes of  $D$  with numbers  $1, \dots, n$ , such that each number appears only once:



are tableaux of the above diagrams.

## Diagrams and Tableaux

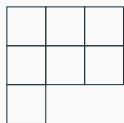
For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , a **partition**  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_\ell)$  is a sequence of integers such that  $\lambda_1 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_\ell \geq 0$  and  $\lambda_1 + \dots + \lambda_\ell = n$ . A partition corresponds to a Young diagram in which the  $i^{\text{th}}$  row has  $\lambda_i$  boxes, aligned to the left.



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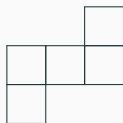
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A **skew partition**  $\lambda/\mu$  is the diagram obtained by removing boxes of  $\mu$  from the diagram of  $\lambda$ .



corresponds to  $s = (3, 3, 1)/(2)$ .



# Specht Polynomials

For a polynomial ring  $R = \mathbf{k}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  and a tableau  $T$  of size  $n$ , we define the **Specht polynomial**  $f_T \in R$ :

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In general, the Specht polynomial of  $T$  is

$$f_T = \prod_{\substack{1 \leq i, j \leq n \\ i \text{ above } j \text{ in } T}} (x_i - x_j) \cdot \prod_{1 \leq i \leq n} x_i^{p_i},$$

where  $p_i$  is the number of empty spaces above  $i$  in  $T$ .

# Specht Polynomials

For a diagram  $D$  with  $n$  boxes, the symmetric group  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  acts on the tableau of  $D$  by permuting the labels  $1, \dots, n$ :

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

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The **Specht module** of  $D$  is the  $\mathbf{k}$ -linear span of the Specht polynomials of  $D$ :

$$S_D = \text{span}_{\mathbf{k}} \{ f_T \mid T \text{ is a tableau of shape } D \}$$

The Specht modules of partitions  $\lambda$  of  $n$  are precisely the *irreducible representations* of  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  over  $\mathbb{C}$ .

**Question:** What happens if, instead, we take the  $R$ -span of the Specht polynomials, *i.e.* the *ideal* they generate?

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For a diagram  $D$  with  $n$  boxes, the **Specht ideal** of  $D$  is

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Specht ideals have appeared in work related to **subspace arrangements** [ZGS14; Bro+16; BPS05], **graph theory** [LL81; Lov94; Loe95], **combinatorial Hilbert schemes** [Woo05; DK24], and **symmetric systems of equations** [MRV21].

**Our research:** What can we say about the homological structure of a Specht ideal  $I_D$  in terms of the combinatorics of the diagram  $D$ ?

Let  $M$  be a finitely generated graded module over a graded  $\mathbf{k}$ -algebra  $R$ , and suppose that we have a finite group  $G$  acting on  $R$  by graded  $k$ -algebra automorphisms and on  $M$  so that  $g(rm) = g(r)g(m)$ .

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1. Goal: Understand the structure of  $M$ .

## Generators and Relations

We can't find a basis for  $M$ , but we can do the next best thing: find a (finite) collection  $g_1, \dots, g_{n_0} \in M$  of elements of  $M$  that generate  $M$  as an  $R$ -module.

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If we can find suitable  $g_1, \dots, g_{n_0}$ , then we will have reduced the problem of understanding  $M$  to understanding the relations between the  $g_1, \dots, g_{n_0}$ .

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1. So we can repeat this strategy recursively!
2. Under a few technical conditions, we are guaranteed to end up with the 0 module after finitely many steps.



# Free Resolutions

If we do this, we end up with a sequence of maps,

$$\mathcal{F}_\bullet : 0 \longrightarrow F_d \xrightarrow{\partial_d} \cdots \xrightarrow{\partial_2} F_1 \xrightarrow{\partial_1} F_0 \xrightarrow{\partial_0} M \longrightarrow 0$$

Such that

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- If our generators are all **Homogenous**, then we can introduce degree shifts  $d_i$  for each  $F_i$  so that the  $\partial_i$  preserve the grading.
- If our choices of generators each have  $k$ -spans that are **Representations of  $G$** , then we can give each  $F_i$  a  **$G$ -module structure** so that the  $\partial_i$  are  **$G$ -equivariant**.
- If we have all of the above, then we've got a  **$G$ -equivariant (graded) minimal free resolution** on our hands!

## Example: The Koszul Complex

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$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \rightarrow & \mathcal{S}_{\square} \otimes R(-3) & \rightarrow & \mathcal{S}_{\square} \otimes R(-2) & & \\ & & & & \downarrow & & \\ & & & & \mathcal{S}_{\square\square} \otimes R(-1) & \rightarrow & \mathcal{S}_{\square\square} \otimes R \rightarrow \mathbf{k} \rightarrow 0. \end{array}$$

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- Maps:

$$\partial_2 \left( \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline & 3 \\ \hline 1 & \\ \hline 2 & \\ \hline \end{array} \right) = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline & 3 & 1 \\ \hline 2 & & \\ \hline \end{array} \otimes x_1 - \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline & 3 & 2 \\ \hline 1 & & \\ \hline \end{array} \otimes x_2$$

# Hilbert Series

Given a graded module  $M$  over a graded  $k$ -algebra  $R$ , one can define a generating function called the **Hilbert Series** of  $M$  which turns the homological algebraic structure of  $M$  into the arithmetic structure of a power series.

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## Definition

Let  $M$  be a graded  $R$ -module. The *Hilbert series* of  $M$  over  $R$  is the formal power series

$$\text{HS}_R(M, t) = \sum_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \dim_k M_j t^j.$$

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Let  $M$  be a graded  $R$ -module with a grading preserving action of  $G$ . The  *$G$ -equivariant Hilbert series* of  $M$  over  $R$  is the formal power series

$$\mathrm{HS}_{eq,R}(M, t, \mathfrak{g}) = \sum_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \chi_{M_j}(\mathfrak{g}) t^j.$$

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## Example

$$\text{HS}_{eq, \mathbf{k}[x_1, x_2, x_3]}(I_{\square}, t) = \frac{\chi_{\square} t - \chi_{\square} t^2}{(1-t)^3}$$

## Two-row ribbons

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- In [SY23b], Shibata and Yanagawa found the minimal free resolution for  $I_{(n-d,d)}$ .

## Two row shapes

- In [SY23b], Shibata and Yanagawa found the minimal free resolution for  $I_{(n-d,d)}$ .
- Can we generalize the resolution for two-row skew shapes?

## Definition

A *ribbon* is a connected skew shape containing no  $2 \times 2$  boxes.

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## Notation

Given a composition  $(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k)$ , let  $\text{Ribb}(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k)$  denote the unique ribbon having  $\alpha_j$  boxes in row  $i$ .

# The Free Modules, an example

## Example

Consider the ribbon  $\text{Ribb}(3, 3) = \begin{array}{cccc} & & \square & \square & \square \\ & & \square & & \\ \square & \square & \square & & \end{array}$  and let  $R = \mathbf{k}[x_1, \dots, x_6]$ .  
The free  $R$ -modules in the resolution are:

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$$\mathcal{S}_{\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \square \\ \square \\ \hline \end{array}} \otimes R(-8) \longrightarrow \mathcal{S}_{\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \square \\ \square \square \\ \hline \end{array}} \otimes R(-7)$$



$$\mathcal{S}_{\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \square \\ \square \square \\ \hline \end{array}} \otimes R(-5) \longrightarrow \mathcal{S}_{\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \square \square \\ \square \square \\ \hline \end{array}} \otimes R(-4) \longrightarrow \mathcal{S}_{\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \square \square \\ \square \square \square \\ \hline \end{array}} \otimes R(-3)$$

## Definition

More generally, for  $\text{Ribb}(k, \ell)$ , we have

$$\mathcal{F}_{\bullet}^{\text{Ribb}(k, \ell)} : 0 \longrightarrow F_{k+\ell-2} \xrightarrow{\partial_{k+\ell-2}} \cdots \xrightarrow{\partial_2} F_1 \xrightarrow{\partial_1} F_0 \longrightarrow 0,$$



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where if  $0 \leq i \leq k-1$

$$F_i = \mathcal{S}_{\text{Ribb}(k-i, \ell, 1^i)} \otimes R(-\ell - i),$$

and if  $k \leq i \leq k + \ell - 2$

$$F_i = \mathcal{S}_{\text{Ribb}(k+\ell-i-1, 1^{i+1})} \otimes R(-\ell - i - 1).$$

# Boundary Maps

## Example

For  $\text{Ribb}(2, 2)$ , we have

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathcal{S}_{\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array}} \otimes R(-5) \xrightarrow{\partial_2} \mathcal{S}_{\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}} \otimes R(-3) \xrightarrow{\partial_1} \mathcal{S}_{\begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}} \otimes R(-2) \longrightarrow I_{\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}} \longrightarrow 0.$$

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Then

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_2 \left( \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \otimes 1 \right) &= \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 3 & 1 \\ \hline 4 & 2 \\ \hline \end{array} \otimes x_1 x_2 - \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 2 & 1 \\ \hline 4 & 3 \\ \hline \end{array} \otimes x_1 x_3 + \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 2 & 1 \\ \hline 3 & 4 \\ \hline \end{array} \otimes x_1 x_4 \\ &+ \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 1 & 2 \\ \hline 4 & 3 \\ \hline \end{array} \otimes x_2 x_3 - \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 1 & 2 \\ \hline 3 & 4 \\ \hline \end{array} \otimes x_2 x_4 + \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 1 & 3 \\ \hline 4 & 2 \\ \hline \end{array} \otimes x_3 x_4, \end{aligned}$$

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and

$$\partial_1 \left( \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 2 & 1 \\ \hline 4 & 3 \\ \hline \end{array} \otimes 1 \right) = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline 4 & 1 & 2 \\ \hline & 3 & \\ \hline \end{array} \otimes x_2 - \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline 2 & 1 & 4 \\ \hline & 3 & \\ \hline \end{array} \otimes x_4.$$

## Conjecture

$\mathcal{F}_{\bullet}^{\text{Ribb}(k,\ell)}$  is a minimal free resolution for  $I_{\text{Ribb}(k,\ell)}$

We make partial progress towards proving the conjecture above.

## **Theorem**

*The maps  $\partial_i$  are well-defined.*

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$\mathcal{F}_{\bullet}^{\text{Ribb}(k,\ell)}$  is a chain complex, i.e.  $\partial_{i-1}\partial_i = 0$ .



In the direction of proving exactness, we proved the prime decomposition of two-row ribbon Specht ideals.

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## Theorem

*A two-row ribbon Specht ideal has the following prime decomposition:*

$$I_{\text{Ribbon}(k,\ell)} = \langle x_i - x_j \mid 1 \leq i < j \leq k + \ell \rangle \cap \left( \bigcap_{\substack{\#F=d-1 \\ F \subseteq [k+\ell]}} P_F \right),$$

where  $P_F = \langle x_i \mid i \notin F \rangle$  for  $F \subseteq \{1, \dots, k + \ell\}$ .

# $\mathfrak{S}_n$ -equivariant Hilbert series

0			
1	+	+	+
2	+ 2 + 2	+ 2 + 2	+ 2 + 2
3	+ 2 + 4 + 4	+ 2 + 4 + 4	+ 2 + 4 + 4

**Table 1:** Stabilization of  $R/I_{\text{Ribb}(n,3)}$

# $\mathfrak{S}_n$ -equivariant Hilbert series

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1	+	+	+
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**Table 1:** Stabilization of  $R/I_{\text{Ribb}(n,3)}$

0			
1	+	+	+
2	+ 2 + 2	+ 2 + 2	+ 2 + 2
3	+ 2 + 4 + 3	+  + 2 + 4 + 2	+  + 2 + 4 + 2

**Table 2:** Stabilization of  $R/I_{\text{Ribb}(n,4)}$

## Definition

The phenomenon described above is known as *representation stability*

## Conjecture

Let  $k$  be a fixed positive integer. For each  $n \geq 1$ , let

$$V_n^i = (R/I_{\text{Ribb}(n-k,k)})_i,$$

considered as a  $\mathfrak{S}_n$ -representation. Then,  $\{V_n^i\}$  is representation stable for all  $i \geq 0$ . Moreover, it stabilizes at  $n \geq 2(k-1)$ .

# Generalized Hooks

---

# $\mathfrak{S}_n$ Equivariant Resolutions of Hooks






The Eagon-Northcott complex can be used to construct the minimal free  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  equivariant resolutions of hooks.

## Example

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & S_{\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array}} \otimes (R(-5) \oplus R(-6) \oplus R(-7)) & & & & \\ & & \downarrow \partial_3 & & & & \\ & & S_{\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array}} \otimes (R(-4) \oplus R(-5)) & & & & \\ & & \downarrow \partial_2 & & & & \\ & & S_{\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array}} \otimes R(-3) & \xrightarrow{\partial_1} & & & I_{(3,1,1)} \end{array}$$

## 2-Column Generalized Hooks

We also investigated generalizations of hooks, and spotted clear patterns in their Betti tables.

					
	5 4 0 0	5 4 0	5 4 0	5 4 0	5 4 0
$\binom{5}{2}$	5 1	$\binom{5}{2}+1$ 5 1	$\binom{5}{2}+2$ 5 1	$\binom{5}{2}+3$ 5 1	$\binom{5}{2}-1$ 5 0
$\binom{5}{2}+1$	· 1	$\binom{5}{2}+2$ · 1	$\binom{5}{2}+3$ · 1	$\binom{5}{2}-1$ · 0	$\binom{5}{2}$ · 1
$\binom{5}{2}+2$	· 1	$\binom{5}{2}+3$ · 1	$\binom{5}{2}-1$ · 0	$\binom{5}{2}$ · 1	$\binom{5}{2}+1$ · 1
$\binom{5}{2}+3$	· 1	$\binom{5}{2}-1$ · 0	$\binom{5}{2}$ · 1	$\binom{5}{2}+1$ · 1	$\binom{5}{2}+2$ · 1
$\binom{5}{2}+4-\binom{5}{2}-1$	· 0	$\binom{5}{2}$ · 1	$\binom{5}{2}+1$ · 1	$\binom{5}{2}+2$ · 1	$\binom{5}{2}+3$ · 1

In the 2 column case, we were able to find explicit conjectural minimal free resolutions which explain the pattern in their Betti Tables.



# Vandermonde Determinants and the Jacobi Bialternant Formula

Given variables  $z_1, \dots, z_n$ , we let

$$\text{VD}(z_1, \dots, z_n) := \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ z_1 & z_2 & \cdots & z_i & \cdots & z_n \\ z_1^2 & z_2^2 & \cdots & z_i^2 & \cdots & z_n^2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots & & \vdots \\ z_1^{n-1} & z_2^{n-1} & \cdots & z_i^{n-1} & \cdots & z_n^{n-1} \end{vmatrix}$$

## Theorem (Jacobi Bialternant formula)

Let  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$ , with  $\lambda_1 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n \geq 0$ . Then we have

$$\begin{vmatrix} z_1^{\lambda_n} & z_2^{\lambda_n} & \cdots & z_i^{\lambda_n} & \cdots & z_n^{\lambda_n} \\ z_1^{\lambda_{n-1}+1} & z_2^{\lambda_{n-1}+1} & \cdots & z_i^{\lambda_{n-1}+1} & \cdots & z_n^{\lambda_{n-1}+1} \\ z_1^{\lambda_{n-2}+2} & z_2^{\lambda_{n-2}+2} & \cdots & z_i^{\lambda_{n-2}+2} & \cdots & z_n^{\lambda_{n-2}+2} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots & & \vdots \\ z_1^{\lambda_1+n-1} & z_2^{\lambda_1+n-1} & \cdots & z_i^{\lambda_1+n-1} & \cdots & z_n^{\lambda_1+n-1} \end{vmatrix} = \text{VD}(z_1, \dots, z_n) s_{\lambda}(z_1, \dots, z_n)$$

## 2-Column Hooks: Jacobi Bialternant Relations

The  $g_i$ 's are equal to the Specht polynomials of 2-column generalized hooks with row  $d + 1$  of the diagram being the 2-box row

$$g_i = x_i^d \cdot \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & \cdots & \hat{1} & \cdots & 1 \\ x_1 & x_2 & \cdots & x_i & \cdots & x_n \\ x_1^2 & x_2^2 & \cdots & x_i^2 & \cdots & x_n^2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots & & \vdots \\ x_1^{n-2} & x_2^{n-2} & \cdots & x_i^{n-2} & \cdots & x_n^{n-2} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (-1)^{i-1} g_i \cdot x_i^j = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ x_1 & x_2 & \cdots & x_i & \cdots & x_n \\ x_1^2 & x_2^2 & \cdots & x_i^2 & \cdots & x_n^2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots & & \vdots \\ x_1^{n-2} & x_2^{n-2} & \cdots & x_i^{n-2} & \cdots & x_n^{n-2} \\ x_1^{d+j} & x_2^{d+j} & \cdots & x_i^{d+j} & \cdots & x_n^{d+j} \end{vmatrix}$$

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$$\sum_{i=1}^n (-1)^{i-1} g_i \cdot x_i^j = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & & 1 & & \cdots & & 1 & & \cdots \\ x_1 & & x_2 & & \cdots & & x_i & & \cdots \\ x_1^2 & & x_2^2 & & \cdots & & x_i^2 & & \cdots \\ \vdots & & \vdots & & & & \vdots & & \\ x_1^{n-2} & & x_2^{n-2} & & \cdots & & x_i^{n-2} & & \cdots \\ x_1^{n-1+(d+j-n+1)} & & x_2^{n-1+(d+j-n+1)} & & \cdots & & x_i^{n-1+(d+j-n+1)} & & \cdots \end{vmatrix}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^n (-1)^{i-1} g_i \cdot x_i^j &= \text{VD}(x_1, \dots, x_n) s_{(d+j-n+1)}(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ &= \text{VD}(x_1, \dots, x_n) h_{d+j-n+1}(x_1, \dots, x_n) \end{aligned}$$

## J.B. relations example

- $D = \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array}$

- $f_1 := x_1 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ x_2 & x_3 & x_4 \\ x_2^2 & x_3^2 & x_4^2 \end{vmatrix} = x_1 \text{VD}(x_2, x_3, x_4)$

- $f_2 := x_2 \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ x_1 & x_3 & x_4 \\ x_1^2 & x_3^2 & x_4^2 \end{vmatrix} = x_2 \text{VD}(x_1, x_3, x_4)$

- ...

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 \\ x_1 & -x_2 & x_3 & -x_4 \\ x_1^2 & -x_2^2 & x_3^2 & -x_4^2 \\ x_1^3 & -x_2^3 & x_3^3 & -x_4^3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \\ f_3 \\ f_4 \end{bmatrix} = \text{VD}(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Further directions

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1. Proving the Betti numbers for MFR of  $\text{Ribb}(k, \ell)$ .
2. Approach representation stability conjecture.
3. Generalizations of  $(d, d, 1)$ 
  - Skew shape  $(d, d, 1)/(a)$
  - $(d_1, d_2, 1)$
4. MFR for two-column generalized hooks.

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**Example**

Consider  $(3, 3, 1)/(2) = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline & & \square \\ \hline \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \square & & \square \\ \hline \end{array}$ . The MFR for  $R/I$  is

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathcal{S}_{\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array}} \otimes R(-7) \xrightarrow{\partial_3} \mathcal{S}_{\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}} \otimes R(-6) \xrightarrow{\partial_2} \mathcal{S}_{\begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}} \otimes R(-5) \xrightarrow{\partial_1} R \longrightarrow 0.$$

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### Conjecture

The minimal free resolution of  $R/I_{(d,d,1)/(a)}$  for  $a < d$  has free modules  $F_0 = R$  and

$$F_i = \mathcal{S}_{(d,d-i+1,1^i)/(a)} \otimes R(-d-i-1)$$

for  $1 \leq i \leq d$ . Furthermore, the maps  $\partial_i$  are defined the same way as in [SY23a].

$(d_1, d_2, 1)$ 

Here is the MFR for the partition :

$$0 \longrightarrow S_{\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \square \\ \square \\ \hline \end{array}} \otimes R(-9)$$



$$S_{\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \square \\ \square \\ \hline \end{array}} \otimes (R(-6) \oplus R(-7)) \longrightarrow (S_{\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \square \\ \square \\ \hline \end{array}} \oplus S_{\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \square \\ \hline \end{array}} \oplus S_{\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array}}) \otimes R(-5)$$



$$S_{\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \square \\ \square \\ \hline \end{array}} \otimes R(-4) \longrightarrow I_{\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \square \\ \square \\ \hline \end{array}}$$



0.

There is *almost* a pattern in these partitions in terms of moving boxes, but it fails in an interesting way.



