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Double Schubert polynomials for the classical Lie groups

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Abstract. For each infinite series of the classical Lie groups of type B , C or D , we introduce a family of polynomials parametrized by the elements of the corresponding Weyl group of infinite rank. These polynomials represent the Schubert classes in the equivariant cohomology of the corresponding flag variety. They satisfy a stability property, and are a natural extension of the (single) Schubert polynomials of Billey and Haiman, which represent non-equivariant Schubert classes. When indexed by maximal Grassmannian elements of the Weyl group, these polynomials are equal to the factorial analogues of Schur Q - or P -functions defined earlier by Ivanov.

Résumé Pour chaque série infinie des groupes de Lie classiques de type B , C ou D , nous présentons une famille de polynômes indexés par des éléments de groupe de Weyl correspondant de rang infini. Ces polynômes représentent des classes de Schubert dans la cohomologie équivariante des variétés de drapeaux. Ils ont une certaine propriété de stabilité, et ils étendent naturellement des polynômes Schubert (simples) de Billey et Haiman, qui représentent des classes de Schubert dans la cohomologie non-équivariante. Quand ils sont indexés par des éléments Grassmanniennes de groupes de Weyl, ces polynômes sont égaux avec des analogues factoriels de fonctions Q et P de Schur, qui ont été étudiés en avant d'Ivanov.

Keywords: Schubert polynomial, flag variety, factorial Q -function

1 Introduction

This article is an extended abstract of (IMN). Details of proofs and some results are omitted.

We are concerned with the problem of finding natural polynomials that represent the cohomology classes of Schubert varieties in generalized flag varieties. This problem goes back at least to the 1970s, when Bernstein, Gelfand, and Gelfand (BGG) and Demazure (D) showed that, for general G/B 's, one can construct polynomial representatives of the Schubert classes by using the so-called divided difference operators ∂_i . For the general linear group, Lascoux and Schützenberger (LS) discovered a particularly important family of polynomials defined by applying the divided difference operators to a special monomial of top degree, which represents the point class. These polynomials are called *Schubert polynomials* and have many nice properties.

It is a natural problem to extend this theory to the other classical Lie types. Fomin and Kirillov (FK) listed up five important properties that characterize the Schubert polynomials. Moreover they showed it is

impossible to construct a theory of ‘Schubert polynomials’ in types B_n, C_n and D_n satisfying the same properties. For type B_n , they constructed several families of polynomials which satisfy all but one of these properties. On the other hand, for each classical Lie types, Billey and Haiman (BH) constructed a family of ‘polynomials’ which are identified with elements in an inverse system of cohomology ring of flag variety when n goes to infinity. Here we should be careful that the meaning of ‘polynomial’ is a bit different from those in (FK) (for the precise meaning, see below). These polynomials satisfy an infinite system of divided difference equations and are stable under inclusion into an infinite union of Weyl groups. In (FK) they notice that the limit of a stable version of their polynomials coincide with the ones in (BH).

Our goal is to construct and study a *double* version of Billey and Haiman’s polynomials. Type A double Schubert polynomials of Lascoux and Schützenberger (LS), (L) admit at least two (related) geometric interpretations. Firstly, a theorem of Fulton (F1) states that a *degeneracy loci* of morphisms between vector bundles coincides with the double Schubert polynomials. Secondly one can identify the double Schubert polynomials with the Schubert classes in *equivariant cohomology* ring of the flag variety of type A . Such geometric interpretations for the double Schubert polynomials were obtained in the context of *Thom polynomials* by Fehér and Rimányi (FR). In (B2) (§8) Billey noticed that specializing double Schubert polynomials yields the equivariant localization properties (cf. (2)).

The first point of view, degeneracy loci formulas, has been used by Fulton (F2) and also by Kresch and Tamvakis (KT) to construct candidates for double Schubert polynomials in types B_n, C_n and D_n . The main difficulty in these approaches lie in the choice of “top” polynomials, the representative for the diagonal class of the flag bundle, that produce arbitrary double Schubert polynomials when we apply divided difference operators successively.

In this paper, we adopt the equivariant cohomology approach to construct three families of double Schubert polynomials in types B, C and D . In particular, we will make full use of *localization* technique in equivariant cohomology theory, which do not exist in the non-equivariant case. The obtained polynomials have desired properties that inherits from the single (non-equivariant) Schubert polynomials of Billey and Haiman. One of the main feature of our polynomials is the *stability* property mentioned above. This is not the case for the previously known candidates in (F2) and (KT).

Now let us review the results of Billey and Haiman in more detail. For the sake of simplicity, we mainly consider type C case. The main ingredient of their constructions is the ring of Schur Q -functions. For a good reference on the theory of Schur Q -functions consult (M). Let $Q_\lambda(x)$ be Schur’s Q -functions corresponding to a strict partition λ . They form a distinguished \mathbb{Z} -basis of the ring Γ , a subring of the ring of ‘symmetric functions’. These functions first appeared in the context of Schubert calculus when Pragacz (P) identified $Q_\lambda(x)$ ’s with the Schubert classes for the Lagrangian Grassmannians. Billey and Haiman’s polynomials live in the following extended ring of Γ :

$$R_\infty^{BH} := \mathbb{Z}[z_1, z_2, \dots] \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \Gamma.$$

They identified R_∞^{BH} with a subring of the inverse limit of $H^*(\mathcal{F}_n)$ where \mathcal{F}_n is the flag variety of order n in type C_n . The Billey-Haiman polynomials $\mathfrak{C}_w(z; x)$ are indexed by the elements w in the infinite Weyl group $W_\infty = \bigcup_{n \geq 1} W_n$, where W_n is the Weyl group of type C_n . By the construction $\mathfrak{C}_w(z; x)$ has the stability properties. More precisely $\mathfrak{C}_w(z; x)$ is identified with the inverse limit of Schubert classes corresponding to $w \in W_\infty$. Another important feature of these polynomials is that if w is a maximal Grassmannian element in W_∞ that corresponds to a strict partition λ , then $\mathfrak{C}_w(z; x)$ coincides with $Q_\lambda(x)$ (there are analogous results for types B, D). This recovers the theorem of Pragacz.

The first result of this paper is the existence and uniqueness of our polynomials (Theorem 3.1). Consider the ring $R_\infty = \mathbb{Z}[t_1, t_2, \dots] \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} R_\infty^{BH}$. We construct two commuting actions of W_∞ on R_∞ which give rise to two commuting families of divided difference operators $\{\partial_i\}_i, \{\delta_i\}_i$ where $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ (see §3.1 for the definition). Here we just remark that ∂_0, δ_0 act on Γ in a nontrivial way. Our polynomials $\{\mathfrak{C}_w(z, t; x)\}_w, w \in W_\infty$ are defined to be the unique solution of the following equations:

$$\partial_i \mathfrak{C}_w = \begin{cases} \mathfrak{C}_{ws_i} & \text{if } \ell(ws_i) = \ell(w) - 1 \\ 0 & \text{if } \ell(ws_i) = \ell(w) + 1 \end{cases}, \quad \delta_i \mathfrak{C}_w = \begin{cases} \mathfrak{C}_{s_i w} & \text{if } \ell(s_i w) = \ell(w) - 1 \\ 0 & \text{if } \ell(s_i w) = \ell(w) + 1 \end{cases}, \quad (1)$$

combined with a normalization property, where s_i are the simple reflections. By the construction, it is clear that $\mathfrak{C}_w(z, t; x)$ specialize (when $t = 0$) to Billey and Haiman’s polynomials $\mathfrak{C}_w(z; x)$. Moreover, for maximal Grassmannian elements of Weyl group, $\mathfrak{C}_w(z, t; x)$ agree with the *factorial Q-functions* introduced by Ivanov (Iv). This result is a natural T -equivariant analogue of the theorem of Pragacz. Note that the fact has been established in (I) and (IN) by a different method.

The main technical feature of this paper is the systematic use of *localization maps*. Let \mathcal{F}_n^T denotes the set of T -fixed points, which is naturally indexed by Weyl group W_n . By the pullback morphism induced by the inclusion $\mathcal{F}_n^T \hookrightarrow \mathcal{F}_n$, the equivariant cohomology $H_T^*(\mathcal{F}_n)$ is considered to be a subring of $H_T^*(\mathcal{F}_n^T) = \prod_{v \in W_n} H_T^*(e_v) = \prod_{v \in W_n} \mathbb{Z}[t_1, \dots, t_n]$, where e_v is the T -fixed point corresponding to $v \in W_n$. Therefore a class η in $H_T^*(\mathcal{F}_n)$ can be determined by giving their restriction $\eta|_{e_v}$ to any T -fixed point $e_v, v \in W_n$. To describe the restriction we introduce ring homomorphisms (§4.2)

$$\Phi_v : R_\infty \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z}[t_1, t_2, \dots]$$

associated with v in W_∞ . The equivariant Schubert class σ_w^T (see §4.1) is calculated from our polynomial as

$$\Phi_v(\mathfrak{C}_w(z, t; x)) = \sigma_w^T|_{e_v}, \quad (2)$$

where σ_w^T in the right hand side can be thought as an element in $H_T^*(\mathcal{F}_n)$ for all n such that $w, v \in W_n$. In this sense, our polynomials represent the equivariant Schubert classes. Note that as Arabia (A) showed $\sigma_w^T|_{e_v}$ are nothing but ξ -functions of Kostant and Kumar (KK).

Our method to prove the existence of the double Schubert polynomials relies on the Goresky-Kottwitz-MacPherson description of the equivariant cohomology (GKM). The main idea is to consider a ring H_∞ as a subring of $\prod_{v \in W_\infty} \mathbb{Z}[t_1, t_2, \dots]$ which consists of elements satisfying the GKM conditions. We have a natural $\mathbb{Z}[t_1, t_2, \dots]$ -basis $\sigma_w^{(\infty)}$ indexed by the elements of W_∞ . These element behave in the similar way as $\mathfrak{C}_w(z, t; x)$ do under the naturally defined operators ∂_i, δ_i on H_∞ (cf. (1)). We will show that the *localization map* $\Phi = (\Phi_v)_{v \in W_\infty}$ gives the isomorphism of rings from R_∞ onto H_∞ . The injectivity and the fact that $\text{Im}(R_\infty) \subset H_\infty$ are rather easy to prove. To prove the surjectivity we first show that the image of $Q_\lambda(x|t)$ under Φ is $\sigma_{w_\lambda}^{(\infty)}$, where w_λ is the maximal Grassmannian element corresponding to λ . This can be shown by using a *vanishing* property that characterizes the factorial Schur functions and also the equivariant Schubert classes. Then we solve a recursive formula, the equivariant version of *transition equations* of Billey (B1), to get $\Phi^{-1}(\sigma_w^{(\infty)})$ in R_∞ for arbitrary $w \in W_\infty$. Set $\mathfrak{C}_w(z, t; x) = \Phi^{-1}(\sigma_w^{(\infty)})$. Then the defining equation for $\mathfrak{C}_w(z, t; x)$ is satisfied thanks to a commutativity property of the divided differences and Φ .

The main combinatorial upshot is the following explicit formula. Let $w_0^{(n)}$ be the longest element in the Weyl group W_n of type C_n . Then the double Schubert polynomial corresponding to $w_0^{(n)}$ is given by

$$\mathfrak{C}_{w_0^{(n)}}(z, t; x) = Q_{2n-1, 2n-3, \dots, 3, 1}(x | -z_1, t_1, -z_2, t_2, \dots, -z_{n-1}, t_{n-1}). \tag{3}$$

For type D case, we have

$$\mathfrak{D}_{w_0^{(n)}}(z, t; x) = P_{2n-2, 2n-4, \dots, 4, 2}(x | -z_1, t_1, -z_2, t_2, \dots, -z_{n-1}, t_{n-1}),$$

where $w_0^{(n)}$ denotes the longest element in $W(D_n)$ and we use the same convention of the factorial P -function $P_\lambda(x|t)$ as in (IN). We prove these formulas using the behavior of $Q_\lambda(x|t)$ or $P_\lambda(x|t)$ under the action of δ_i . In fact if we denote the function in right hand side of (3) by $\Delta_n = \Delta_n(z, t; x)$, then we can show

$$\delta_{n-1} \cdots \delta_1 \delta_0 \delta_1 \cdots \delta_{n-1} \Delta_n = \Delta_{n-1}.$$

Moreover we can directly verify $\Phi_v(\Delta_n) = \sigma_{w_0^{(n)}}^T|_{e_v}$ for $v \in W_n$. Combined with these two facts we can prove that if $w \in W_n$ then $F_w = \partial_{w^{-1}w_0^{(n)}} \Delta_n$ does not depend on n and $\{F_w\}_{w \in W_\infty}$ satisfies the divided difference equations. Then by the uniqueness of solution we have $F_w = \mathfrak{C}_w(z, t; x)$ for all $w \in W_\infty$. In particular we have $\mathfrak{C}_{w_0^{(n)}} = \Delta_n$.

One motivation of the present paper was to give a geometric interpretation to the factorial Schur Q -function by means of degeneracy loci formulas. For type A case this problem was treated in (Mi), where Kempf-Laksov formula for degeneracy loci is identified with the Jacobi-Trudi type formula for the factorial (ordinary) Schur function. We also have a formula that express the factorial Q -function as a multi Schur Pfaffian. This comes from a Lagrangian degeneracy loci formula of Kazarian (Ka) as an analogy of Kempf-Laksov formula. This matter will be discussed in the full paper.

While our results generalize to all classical Lie types, we will restrict ourselves mainly to type C for the remainder of this article.

2 Preliminaries

2.1 Infinite hyperoctahedral groups

The infinite hyperoctahedral group W_∞ consists of all permutations w of the set $\{1, 2, \dots\} \cup \{\bar{1}, \bar{2}, \dots\}$ such that $w(i) \neq i$ for only finitely many i , and $w(i) = w(\bar{i})$ for all i . Each $w \in W_\infty$ is considered to be a signed (barred) permutation of $\{1, 2, \dots\}$. We often use one-line notation $w = (w(1), w(2), \dots)$ to denote an element $w \in W_\infty$. The transpositions

$$s_0 = (1, \bar{1}), \quad s_i = (i + 1, i) \quad (i > 0)$$

are standard generators satisfying the relations:

$$s_i^2 = e \quad \text{for all } i, \quad s_0 s_1 s_0 s_1 = s_1 s_0 s_1 s_0, \quad s_i s_{i+1} s_i = s_{i+1} s_i s_{i+1} \quad \text{for } i > 0.$$

By this set of generators we can think of (W_∞, S) as a Coxeter system, where $S = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$. In particular we have the Bruhat-Chevalley order on W_∞ . The subgroup $W_n = \langle s_0, s_1, \dots, s_{n-1} \rangle$ is isomorphic to the Weyl group of type C_n . We have $W_\infty = \bigcup_{n \geq 1} W_n$. The Bruhat-Chevalley order of W_n makes it a sub-poset of W_∞ .

2.2 The ring of Q -functions

Our main reference for symmetric function is (M). Let Λ denote the ring of symmetric functions in infinitely many indeterminates $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots)$. The Schur's Q -function $Q_\lambda(x)$ is an element of Λ indexed by a strict partition $\lambda = (\lambda_1 > \dots > \lambda_r > 0)$. Define $Q_i(x)$ as the coefficient of u^i in the generating function

$$f(u) = \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 + x_i u}{1 - x_i u} = \sum_{k \geq 0} Q_k(x) u^k.$$

Note that $Q_0 = 1$. The identity $f(u)f(-u) = 1$ yields

$$Q_i(x)^2 + 2 \sum_{j=1}^i (-1)^j Q_{i+j}(x) Q_{i-j}(x) = 0 \quad \text{for } i > 0.$$

It is known that the ideal of relations among the functions $Q_k(x)$ is generated by the previous relations. For $i \geq j \geq 0$, define elements

$$Q_{i,j}(x) := Q_i(x)Q_j(x) + 2 \sum_{k=1}^j (-1)^k Q_{i+k}(x)Q_{j-k}(x).$$

Note that $Q_{i,0}(x) = Q_i(x)$ and $Q_{i,i}(x)$ ($i > 0$) is identically zero. Let \mathcal{SP} denote the set of all strict partitions. For λ in \mathcal{SP} we write $\lambda = (\lambda_1 > \lambda_2 > \dots > \lambda_r \geq 0)$ with r even. Then the corresponding Schur's Q -function $Q_\lambda = Q_\lambda(x)$ is defined by

$$Q_\lambda(x) = \text{Pf}(Q_{\lambda_i, \lambda_j}(x))_{1 \leq i < j \leq r},$$

where Pf denote the Pfaffian.

Set Γ to be the subring of Λ defined by $\Gamma := \mathbb{Z}[Q_1(x), Q_2(x), \dots]$. It is known then that the functions $Q_\lambda(x)$ for $\lambda \in \mathcal{SP}$ form a \mathbb{Z} -basis of Γ .

3 Double Schubert polynomials of type C

3.1 Divided difference operators

Set

$$R_\infty := \mathbb{Z}[t_1, t_2, \dots] \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Z}[z_1, z_2, \dots] \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \Gamma.$$

We make W_∞ act on R_∞ by letting s_i^z interchange z_i and z_{i+1} , for $i > 0$, and letting s_0^z replace z_1 and $-z_1$, and also

$$s_0^z Q_k(x) = Q_k(x) + 2 \sum_{j=1}^k z_1^j Q_{k-j}(x).$$

We use another action of W_∞ given by letting s_i^t interchange t_i and t_{i+1} , for $i > 0$, and letting s_0^t replace t_1 and $-t_1$, and also

$$s_0^t Q_k(x) = Q_k(x) + 2 \sum_{j=1}^k (-t_1)^j Q_{k-j}(x).$$

We define *divided difference operators* on R_∞

$$\partial_0 f = \frac{f - s_0^z f}{-2z_1}, \quad \partial_i f = \frac{f - s_i^z f}{-(z_{i+1} - z_i)}, \quad \delta_0 f = \frac{f - s_0^t f}{2t_1}, \quad \delta_i f = \frac{f - s_i^t f}{t_{i+1} - t_i} \quad \text{for } i > 0.$$

Define also

$$\partial_1 f = \frac{f - s_1^z f}{-(z_2 + z_1)}, \quad \delta_1 f = \frac{f - s_1^t f}{t_2 + t_1},$$

where $s_1^z = s_0^z s_1^z s_0^z$ and $s_1^t = s_0^t s_1^t s_0^t$.

Remark. We introduced $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots)$ as algebraically independent variables from $z = (z_1, z_2, \dots)$ and $t = (t_1, t_2, \dots)$. However it is natural to impose the following relation (cf (BH)):

$$p_i(x) = \frac{1}{2}p_i(t) - \frac{1}{2}p_i(z) \quad \text{for odd } i > 0,$$

where p_i denote the powersum symmetric function. Recall that the ring $\mathbb{Q} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \Gamma$ is generated by algebraically independent elements $p_1(x), p_3(x), \dots$. Our formulas of the action of s_0^z and s_0^t above are consistent with these relations.

3.2 Definition and first properties

We state the existence and uniqueness for the double Schubert polynomials of type C .

Theorem 3.1 *There exist a unique family of elements $\{\mathfrak{C}_w\}_w \subset R_\infty$, $w \in W_\infty$, satisfying the equations*

$$\partial_i \mathfrak{C}_w = \begin{cases} \mathfrak{C}_{ws_i} & \text{if } \ell(ws_i) < \ell(w) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}, \quad \delta_i \mathfrak{C}_w = \begin{cases} \mathfrak{C}_{s_i w} & \text{if } \ell(s_i w) < \ell(w) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases},$$

for all $i \geq 0$, together with the condition that the constant term of \mathfrak{C}_w is zero except for $w = e$, and that $\mathfrak{C}_e = 1$.

Example. The double Schubert polynomials \mathfrak{C}_w for $w \in W_2$ are

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{C}_e &= 1, & \mathfrak{C}_{s_0} &= Q_1(x), & \mathfrak{C}_{s_1} &= Q_1(x) + z_1 - t_1, \\ \mathfrak{C}_{s_1 s_0} &= Q_2(x) - t_1 Q_1(x), & \mathfrak{C}_{s_0 s_1} &= Q_2(x) + z_1 Q_1(x), \\ \mathfrak{C}_{s_0 s_1 s_0} &= Q_{2,1}(x), & \mathfrak{C}_{s_1 s_0 s_1} &= Q_3(x) + (z_1 - t_1)Q_2(x) - t_1 z_1 Q_1(x), \\ \mathfrak{C}_{s_0 s_1 s_0 s_1} &= Q_{3,1}(x) + (z_1 - t_1)Q_{2,1}(x). \end{aligned}$$

We collect here some basic properties of $\mathfrak{C}_w = \mathfrak{C}_w(z, t; x)$.

Theorem 3.2 1. *The double Schubert polynomials $\{\mathfrak{C}_w\}_w$ form a $\mathbb{Z}[t]$ -basis of R_∞ .*

2. *For all $w \in W_\infty$ we have*

$$\mathfrak{C}_w(z, 0; x) = \mathfrak{C}_w(z; x),$$

where $\mathfrak{C}_w(z; x)$ denotes Billey-Haiman's polynomial.

3. (Symmetry) We have $\mathfrak{C}_w(-t, -z; x) = \mathfrak{C}_{w^{-1}}(z, t; x)$.

4. (Positivity) When we write

$$\mathfrak{C}_w(z, t; x) = \sum_{\lambda \in \mathcal{SP}} f_{w,\lambda}(z, t) Q_\lambda(x),$$

we have $f_{w,\lambda}(z, t) \in \mathbb{N}[-t_1, \dots, -t_{n-1}, z_1, \dots, z_{n-1}]$ if $w \in W_n$.

Set $P_k(x) = \frac{1}{2}Q_k(x)$ ($k \geq 1$). Define $\Gamma' = \mathbb{Z}[P_1(x), P_2(x), \dots]$ and $R'_\infty = \mathbb{Z}[t_1, t_2, \dots] \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \Gamma \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Z}[z_1, z_2, \dots]$. Let $W'_\infty = \langle s_{\hat{1}}, s_1, s_2, \dots \rangle$ be the infinite Weyl group of type D , where $s_{\hat{1}} = s_0 s_1 s_0$.

Theorem 3.3 *There exist a unique family of elements $\{\mathfrak{D}_w\}_w \subset R'_\infty$, $w \in W'_\infty$, satisfying the equations*

$$\partial_i \mathfrak{D}_w = \begin{cases} \mathfrak{D}_{ws_i} & \text{if } \ell(ws_i) < \ell(w) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}, \quad \delta_i \mathfrak{D}_w = \begin{cases} \mathfrak{D}_{s_i w} & \text{if } \ell(s_i w) < \ell(w) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases},$$

for all $i \geq 1$ and $i = \hat{1}$, together with the condition that the constant term of \mathfrak{D}_w is zero except for $w = e$, and that $\mathfrak{D}_e = 1$.

Type B polynomials \mathfrak{B}_w ($w \in W_n$) are defined to be $2^{-s(w)}\mathfrak{C}_w$, where $s(w)$ denotes the number of sign changes in w . There are also elements in R'_∞ .

3.3 Maximal Grassmannian elements

An element $w \in W_\infty$ is a *maximal Grassmannian element* if $w(1) < w(2) < \dots < w(i) < \dots$ in the order $\dots < \bar{3} < \bar{2} < \bar{1} < 1 < 2 < 3 < \dots$. Let W_∞^{max} denote the set of all maximal Grassmannian elements in W_∞ . For $w \in W_\infty^{max}$ let r be such that

$$w(1) < \dots < w(r) < 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{1} < w(r+1) < w(r+2) < \dots.$$

Set

$$\lambda_i = \overline{w(i)} \quad \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq r.$$

Then $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_r)$ is a *strict partition* i.e., $\lambda_1 > \dots > \lambda_r > 0$. Let \mathcal{SP} denote the set of all strict partitions. The correspondence gives a bijection

$$W_\infty^{max} \longrightarrow \mathcal{SP}.$$

Note that this bijection preserves the partial order when \mathcal{SP} is considered to be a partially ordered set given by the inclusion $\lambda \subset \mu$ of strict partitions. Moreover if $v \in W_\infty^{max}$ corresponds to $\lambda \in \mathcal{SP}$ we have $\ell(w) = |\lambda|$.

Theorem 3.4 *If $w \in W_\infty$ is a maximal Grassmannian element corresponding to λ in \mathcal{SP} then*

$$\mathfrak{C}_w(z, t; x) = Q_\lambda(x|t),$$

where $Q_\lambda(x|t)$ is the factorial Q -function defined by Ivanov.

Remark. We have analogous result for types B, D in terms of factorial P -functions (cf. (IN)).

Remark. The fact that factorial Q -function represents the equivariant Schubert class of the Lagrangian Grassmannian LG_n was established in (I). Note that the subring $\mathbb{Z}[t] \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \Gamma$ of R_∞ has a $\mathbb{Z}[t]$ -basis consisting of $Q_\lambda(x|t), \lambda \in \mathcal{SP}$.

3.4 Longest elements of W_n

Let λ, μ be partitions of length less than or equal to r . For sequences $c^{(i)} = (c_0^{(i)}, c_1^{(i)}, \dots)$ ($1 \leq i \leq r$) of commutative elements, the *multi-Schur determinant* is defined by

$$s_{\lambda/\mu}(c^{(1)}, \dots, c^{(r)}) = \det \left(c_{\lambda_i - \mu_j + j - i}^{(i)} \right)_{1 \leq i, j \leq r},$$

where $c_k^{(i)} = 0$ for $k < 0$. Let h_k denote the complete symmetric function of degree k . Set $\rho_k = (k, k - 1, \dots, 1)$.

Theorem 3.5 *Let $w_0^{(n)}$ denote the longest element in W_n . We have*

$$\mathfrak{C}_{w_0^{(n)}}(z, t; x) = \sum_{\lambda \subset \rho_{n-1}} Q_{\rho_n + \lambda}(x) s_{\rho_{n-1}/\lambda'}(c^{(1)}, \dots, c^{(n-1)}),$$

where $c_k^{(i)} = h_k(z_1, \dots, z_i, -t_1, \dots, -t_i)$ and λ' is the conjugate partition of λ .

We have an alternative expression for $\mathfrak{C}_{w_0^{(n)}}(z, t; x)$ in terms of a factorial Q -function, i.e.

$$\mathfrak{C}_{w_0^{(n)}}(z, t; x) = Q_{\rho_n + \rho_{n-1}}(x | -z_1, t_1, -z_2, t_2, \dots, -z_{n-1}, t_{n-1}). \tag{4}$$

4 Geometric interpretation

In this section we explain the geometric meaning of our polynomials.

4.1 Flag variety of type C

Let G_n denote the (complex) symplectic group of rank n and $T_n \subset B_n$ be a maximal torus and a Borel subgroup. The flag variety is defined by $\mathcal{F}_n = G_n/B_n$. The Weyl group of (G_n, T_n) is identified with W_n . For each $w \in W_n$, let $e_w \in \mathcal{F}_n$ denote the corresponding T_n -fixed point. Let B_n^- denote the opposite Borel subgroup of B_n . Define $\Omega_w = B_n^- e_w$. The Schubert variety is defined to be the closure $\overline{\Omega}_w$. Since $\overline{\Omega}_w$ is a T_n -stable closed subvariety we have the class $\sigma_w^{T_n} = [\overline{\Omega}_w]_{T_n} \in H_{T_n}^{2\ell(w)}(\mathcal{F}_n)$, the *equivariant Schubert class*, where $\ell(w)$ is the length of $w \in W$.

4.2 Localization maps

Let $v \in W_\infty$. We make W_∞ act on $\mathbb{Z}[t_1, t_2, \dots]$ as signed permutations of the variables t_1, t_2, \dots . We define a ring homomorphism Φ_v from R_∞ to $\mathbb{Z}[t_1, t_2, \dots]$ by

$$\Phi_v(f(z, t; x)) = f(v(t), t; t_v),$$

where $v(t) = (v(t_1), v(t_2), \dots)$ and t_v is defined by

$$(t_v)_i = \begin{cases} t_{v(i)} & \text{if } v(i) < 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}.$$

The ring $H_{T_n}^*(pt)$ is identified with $\mathbb{Z}[t_1, \dots, t_n]$ where $\{t_1, \dots, t_n\}$ is a basis of the character group of T_n . Let $\iota_v : e_v \hookrightarrow \mathcal{F}_n$ denote the embedding. This induces $\iota_v^* : H_{T_n}^*(\mathcal{F}_n) \rightarrow H_{T_n}^*(e_v) = \mathbb{Z}[t_1, \dots, t_n]$.

Theorem 4.1 *Let $w \in W_\infty$. Take the smallest n such that $w \in W_n$. Then for all $m \geq n$ and $v \in W_m$ we have*

$$\Phi_v(\mathfrak{C}_w) = \iota_v^*(\sigma_w^{T_m}).$$

Moreover we have $\Phi_v(\mathfrak{C}_w) = 0$ if $v \notin W_n$.

This result says that the right hand side have a good stability property and the element \mathfrak{C}_w represents the local datum simultaneously for all v .

Remark. Here we give just a very brief account of the proof of existence of $\{\mathfrak{C}_w\}_w$. At the heart of the construction there is a ring homomorphism

$$\Phi = (\Phi_v)_v : R_\infty \longrightarrow \prod_{v \in W_\infty} \mathbb{Z}[t_1, t_2, \dots],$$

which is proved to be injective. We can describe the image H_∞ of the map Φ . The characterization conditions for the subring H_∞ are a certain finiteness and a Goresky-Kottwitz-MacPherson type conditions. H_∞ inherits a basis $\{\sigma_w^{(\infty)}\}$ parametrized by the elements in the infinite Weyl group W_∞ . The element $\sigma_w^{(\infty)}$ is a natural stable limit of ξ -functions of Kostant and Kumar (KK) for $H_{T_n}^*(\mathcal{F}_n)$. We have natural actions of left and right divided operators on H_∞ which are compatible under the localization map Φ . Then we can prove that the elements $\Phi^{-1}(\sigma_w^{(\infty)}) \in R_\infty$ solves the defining divided difference equations.

4.3 Homomorphism π_n and the classes β_i

We introduce here a natural projection from the ring R_∞ to equivariant cohomology of \mathcal{F}_n .

Proposition 4.2 *The equivariant cohomology $H_{T_n}^*(\mathcal{F}_n)$ is canonically isomorphic to the ring*

$$R_n := \mathbb{Z}[t_1, \dots, t_n, z_1, \dots, z_n]/I_n,$$

where I_n is the ideal generated by the homogeneous parts of the relation

$$\prod_{i=1}^n (1 + z_i)(1 - z_i) = \prod_{i=1}^n (1 + t_i)(1 - t_i).$$

Define the classes $\beta_i \in H_{T_n}^{2i}(\mathcal{F}_n)$ by

$$1 + \beta_1 + \beta_2 + \dots = \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{1 - z_i}{1 - t_i} = \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{1 + t_i}{1 + z_i}.$$

It is easy to see that the classes β_i satisfy the same relations of $Q_i(x)$'s. Thus we have the next proposition.

Proposition 4.3 *There is a surjective ring homomorphism $\pi_n : R_\infty \longrightarrow H_{T_n}^*(\mathcal{F}_n)$ such that*

$$\pi_n(Q_i(x)) = \beta_i, \quad \pi_n(z_i) = \begin{cases} z_i & \text{if } i \leq n \\ 0 & \text{if } i > n \end{cases}, \quad \pi_n(t_i) = \begin{cases} t_i & \text{if } i \leq n \\ 0 & \text{if } i > n \end{cases}.$$

Remark. By the forgetful homomorphism $H_{T_n}^*(\mathcal{F}_n) \rightarrow H^*(\mathcal{F}_n)$ the classes β_i ($1 \leq i \leq n$) are mapped to the special Schubert classes in $H^*(LG_n) \subset H^*(\mathcal{F}_n)$ while β_i ($i > n$) are mapped to zero. Note that β_i ($1 \leq i \leq n$) in $H_{T_n}^*(\mathcal{F}_n)$ are not equal to the special (equivariant) Schubert classes.

By a direct calculation we have the following result.

Proposition 4.4 *Let $v \in W_n$. The composition*

$$R_\infty \xrightarrow{\pi_n} R_n \xrightarrow{t_v^*} H_{T_n}^*(e_v) = \mathbb{Z}[t_1, \dots, t_n] \hookrightarrow \mathbb{Z}[t_1, t_2, \dots]$$

is equal to Φ_v .

Combined with this proposition and Theorem 4.1 we have the following.

Corollary 4.5 *We have*

$$\pi_n(\mathfrak{C}_w) = \begin{cases} \sigma_w^{T_n} & \text{if } w \in W_n \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} .$$

5 Appendix

For reader's convenience we present some basic results on Ivanov's Q -functions. We use slightly different notation from that of (Iv). Let $t = (t_1, t_2, \dots)$ be indeterminates. Note that the parameters a_i used in (Iv) are related to our convention by $a_{i+1} = t_i$ with $a_1 = 0$. Consider the ring $\mathbb{Z}[t] \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \Gamma$ where $\mathbb{Z}[t] = \mathbb{Z}[t_1, t_2, \dots]$. Let $\lambda = (\lambda_1 > \dots > \lambda_r > 0)$ be a strict partition. Define

$$t_\lambda = (t_{\lambda_1}, \dots, t_{\lambda_r}, 0, 0, \dots).$$

Let $v \in W_\infty$ be the maximal Grassmannian element corresponding to $\lambda \in \mathcal{SP}$. Define

$$H_\lambda(t) = \prod_{(i,j) \in \lambda} (t_{v(i)} + t_{v(j)}).$$

Proposition 5.1 ((Iv)) *For any strict partition λ , the factorial Q -function $Q_\lambda(x|t)$ is a unique element of $\mathbb{Z}[t] \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \Gamma$ that satisfies following conditions:*

1. $Q_\lambda(x|t)$ is homogeneous of degree $|\lambda| = \sum_{i=1}^r \lambda_i$,
2. $Q_\lambda(x|t) = Q_\lambda(x) + \text{lower order terms in } x$,
3. $Q_\lambda(t_\mu|t) = 0$ unless $\lambda \subset \mu$,
4. $Q_\lambda(t_\lambda|t) = H_\lambda(t)$.

Remark. In (IN) a combinatorial expression in terms of 'excited Young diagrams' for $Q_\lambda(t_\mu|t)$ was obtained.

Proposition 5.2 ((Iv)) *The factorial Q -functions $Q_\lambda(x|t)$ ($\lambda \in \mathcal{SP}$) form a $\mathbb{Z}[t]$ -basis of $\mathbb{Z}[t] \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \Gamma$.*

Proposition 5.3 ((Iv)) For any strict partition $\lambda = (\lambda_1 > \cdots > \lambda_r \geq 0)$ with r even, we have

$$Q_\lambda(x|t) = \text{Pf} \left(Q_{\lambda_i, \lambda_j}(x|t) \right)_{1 \leq i < j \leq r}.$$

Note. After the present work was completed we were informed that A. Kirillov (K) had introduced double Schubert polynomials of type B (and C) in 1994 by using Yang-Baxter operators (cf. (FK)), independently to us, although the geometric interpretation as in the present article had not been known. The approach is quite different from ours, nevertheless the polynomials seem to be essentially the same as ours; after a suitable identification of variables (see remark in 3.1).

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