

# A $q$ -weighted Robinson-Schensted Algorithm

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Random polymers and algebraic combinatorics,  
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## Main references

This talk is mainly based on the following two papers:

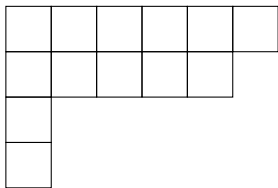
- ▶ Neil O'Connell and Yuchen Pei. [A  \$q\$ -weighted version of the Robinson-Schensted algorithm.](#)  
*Electronic Journal of Probability*, 18(0), October 2013
- ▶ Yuchen Pei. [A symmetry property for  \$q\$ -weighted Robinson-Schensted and other branching insertion algorithms.](#)  
*Journal of Algebraic Combinatorics*, 40(3):743–770,  
November 2014

# Outline

- ▶ The (classical) Robinson-Schensted (RS) algorithm
- ▶ A  $q$ -weighted Robinson-Schensted ( $qRS$ ) algorithm
- ▶ A symmetry property for the  $qRS$  algorithm

## Young diagrams and tableaux

- ▶ Fix a positive integer  $\ell$ .
- ▶ A partition / Young diagram:  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_\ell) \in \mathbb{N}_{\geq 0}^\ell$  such that  $\lambda_i \geq \lambda_{i+1} \forall i$ .
- ▶ Size of a diagram: the number of boxes  $|\lambda| := \lambda_1 + \dots + \lambda_\ell$ .
- ▶ A tableau: a Young diagram filled with numbers of  $[\ell]$  non-decreasing along the rows and increasing along the columns.
- ▶ Shape of a tableau: the corresponding Young diagram.



$$\ell = 5, \lambda = (6, 5, 1, 1, 0), |\lambda| = 13.$$

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- ▶ Shape of a tableau: the corresponding Young diagram.

1	2	2	2	3	5
2	3	4	4	5	
3					
5					

$\ell = 5$ , a tableau with shape  $\lambda = (6, 5, 1, 1, 0)$ .

## Young diagrams and tableaux

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- ▶ A partition / Young diagram:  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_\ell) \in \mathbb{N}_{\geq 0}^\ell$  such that  $\lambda_i \geq \lambda_{i+1} \forall i$ .
- ▶ Size of a diagram: the number of boxes  $|\lambda| := \lambda_1 + \dots + \lambda_\ell$ .
- ▶ A standard tableau: a Young diagram of size  $n$  filled with numbers exactly from  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  increasing along the rows and increasing along the columns.
- ▶ Shape of a tableau: the corresponding Young diagram.

1	3	5	6	8	10
2	4	7	11	12	
9					
13					

$\ell = 5$ , a standard tableau with shape  $\lambda = (6, 5, 1, 1, 0)$ .

## Background of the RS algorithm

- ▶ Let  $d_\lambda$  be the number of standard tableaux of shape  $\lambda$ .
- ▶ Initial motivation:

$$\sum_{\lambda \vdash n} d_\lambda^2 = n!.$$

- ▶ This asks for a correspondence between permutations and pairs of standard tableaux of the same shape.

## The rule of insertion

To insert  $k$  into tableau  $T$ , which has  $\lambda_j^i$  number of letters no greater than  $i$  in the  $j$ th row:

1. If  $\lambda_{j-1}^{k-1} = \lambda_j^k$  and  $j > 1$  then set  $j \leftarrow j - 1$ ; otherwise  $k$  displaces the first number  $s$  in  $j$ th row of the tableau that is greater than  $k$  ( $s = \infty$  and  $k$  is appended at the end of the row if no such number exists) and set  $k \leftarrow s$ .
2. If  $k = \infty$  then we are done; otherwise go to step 1.



## Robinson-Schensted algorithm: an example

1. If  $\lambda_{j-1}^{k-1} = \lambda_j^k$  and  $j > 1$  then set  $j \leftarrow j - 1$ ; otherwise  $k$  displaces the first number  $s$  in  $j$ th row of the tableau that is greater than  $k$  ( $s = \infty$  and  $k$  is appended at the end of the row if no such number exists) and set  $k \leftarrow s$ .
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$k = 3 \longrightarrow$

Figure:  $j = 3, \lambda_2^2 = \lambda_3^3 = 1$

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Figure:  $j = 2, \lambda_1^2 > \lambda_2^3$

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2. If  $k = \infty$  then we are done; otherwise go to step 1.

$k = 4 \longrightarrow$

1	2	2	2	3	5
2	3	3	4	5	
3					
5					

Figure:  $j = 2, \lambda_1^3 > \lambda_2^4$

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2. If  $k = \infty$  then we are done; otherwise go to step 1.

$k = 5 \longrightarrow$

1	2	2	2	3	5
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5					

Figure:  $j = 2, \lambda_1^4 = \lambda_2^5$

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Figure:  $j = 1$

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$k = \infty$

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Figure:  $j = 1$

## The Markov chain in the rank- $(\ell - 1)$ case

- ▶ Take a random word  $w$ : given  $a_i \geq 0$  and  $a_1 + \cdots + a_\ell = 1$ , let  $w_i$  be i.i.d. with  $\mathbb{P}(w_i = j) = a_j$ .
- ▶ Denote by  $\mathcal{T}_\lambda$  the set of all the tableaux of shape  $\lambda$ . Define the Schur polynomial  $s_\lambda$  to be

$$s_\lambda(a) := \sum_{P \in \mathcal{T}_\lambda} a^P = \frac{\det(a_i^{\lambda_j + \ell - j})_{1 \leq i, j \leq \ell}}{\det(a_i^{\ell - j})_{1 \leq i, j \leq \ell}}.$$

Here  $a^P := a_1^{\#1s \text{ in } P} a_2^{\#2s \text{ in } P} \cdots a_\ell^{\#\ell s \text{ in } P}$ .

- ▶ Starting with the empty tableau, the shape of the tableau is an  $\ell$ -dimensional Markov chain, with transition kernel (O'Connell'03):

$$p(\mu, \lambda) = \frac{s_\lambda(a)}{s_\mu(a)} \mathbb{I}_{\mu \nearrow \lambda}.$$



## Remarks

- ▶ Greene's Theorem + matrix input (RSK)  $\rightarrow$  directed percolation, (Schur functions)
- ▶  $(\max, +) \rightarrow (+, \times)$ : geometric RSK and directed polymer model (O'Connell'12, Corwin-O'Connell-Seppäläinen-Zygouras'14), (Whittaker functions)
- ▶  $q$ -Whittaker functions interpolate between the Schur and the Whittaker functions  $\rightarrow$  motivation for a  $q$ -RS algorithm.

A  $q$ -weighted RS algorithm

## Higher-rank $q$ case

- ▶ In general, given a tableau  $T$  associated with  $(\lambda_j^i)$ , for  $0 \leq q \leq 1$  define probabilities

$$f_0(P, k, j) = 1 - q^{\lambda_{j-1}^{k-1} - \lambda_j^k}; \quad f_1(P, k, j) = \frac{1 - q^{\lambda_{j-1}^{k-1} - \lambda_j^k}}{1 - q^{\lambda_{j-1}^{k-1} - \lambda_j^{k-1}}}; \quad k \geq 1$$

$$f_0(P, 1, j) = f_1(P, 1, j) = 1.$$

- ▶ The algorithm of  $q$ -inserting a  $k \in [\ell]$  into a tableau  $P$  (O'Connell-Pei'13) is described as follows (initialise  $j = k$ ,  $b = 0$ ):
  1. With probability  $1 - f_b(P, k, j)$  set  $j \leftarrow j - 1$  and  $b = 0$ ; otherwise  $k$  displaces the first number  $s$  in  $j$ th row of the tableau that is greater than  $k$  ( $s = \infty$  and  $k$  is appended at the end of the row if no such number exists) and set  $k \leftarrow s$  and  $b = 1$ .
  2. If  $k = \infty$  then we are done; otherwise go to step 1.

## $q$ RS: an example

Suppose we  $q$ -insert a 3 into

$$P = \begin{array}{cccccc} & 1 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 3 & 5 \\ & 2 & 3 & 4 & 4 & 5 & \\ 3 & & & & & & \\ 5 & & & & & & \end{array}$$

What's the probability of getting the same tableau

$$\tilde{P} = \begin{array}{ccccccc} & 1 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 3 & 5 & 5 \\ & 2 & 3 & 3 & 4 & 4 & & \\ 3 & & & & & & & \\ 5 & & & & & & & \end{array}$$

produced by the classical Robinson-Schensted algorithm?

## qRS: an example

1. With probability  $1 - f_b(P, k, j)$  set  $j \leftarrow j - 1$  and  $b = 0$ ; otherwise  $k$  displaces the first number  $s$  in  $j$ th row of the tableau that is greater than  $k$  ( $s = \infty$  and  $k$  is appended at the end of the row if no such number exists) and set  $k \leftarrow s$  and  $b = 1$ .
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$k = 3 \longrightarrow$

Figure:  $j = 3, \lambda_2^2 - \lambda_3^3 = 0, 1 - f_0(P, 3, 3) = 1$ .

## $q$ RS: an example

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$k = 3 \longrightarrow$

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2	3	4	4	5	
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Figure:  $j = 2, f_0(P, 3, 2) = 1 - q^{\lambda_1^2 - \lambda_2^3} = 1 - q^2$ .

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$k = 4 \longrightarrow$

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Figure:  $j = 2, f_1(P, 4, 2) = \frac{1 - q^{\lambda_1^3 - \lambda_2^4}}{1 - q^{\lambda_1^3 - \lambda_2^3}} = \frac{1 - q}{1 - q^3}$ .

## qRS: an example

1. With probability  $1 - f_b(P, k, j)$  set  $j \leftarrow j - 1$  and  $b = 0$ ; otherwise  $k$  displaces the first number  $s$  in  $j$ th row of the tableau that is greater than  $k$  ( $s = \infty$  and  $k$  is appended at the end of the row if no such number exists) and set  $k \leftarrow s$  and  $b = 1$ .
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$k = 5 \longrightarrow$

1	2	2	2	3	5
2	3	3	4	4	
3					
5					

Figure:  $j = 2, 1 - f_1(P, 5, 2) = 1 - \frac{1 - q^{\lambda_1^4 - \lambda_2^5}}{1 - q^{\lambda_1^4 - \lambda_2^4}} = 1.$



## qRS: an example

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$k = 5 \longrightarrow$

1	2	2	2	3	5
2	3	3	4	4	
3					
5					

Figure:  $j = 1, f_0(P, 5, 1) = 1$

## qRS: an example

1. If  $\lambda_{j-1}^{k-1} = \lambda_j^k$  and  $j > 1$  then set  $j \leftarrow j - 1$ ; otherwise  $k$  displaces the first number  $s$  in  $j$ th row of the tableau that is greater than  $k$  ( $s = \infty$  and  $k$  is appended at the end of the row if no such number exists) and set  $k \leftarrow s$ .
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$k = \infty$

1	2	2	2	3	5	5
2	3	3	4	4		
3						
5						

Figure:  $j = 1$

$$\mathbb{P}(\text{obtaining } \tilde{P} \text{ after inserting } 3 \text{ into } P) = 1 \cdot (1 - q^2) \cdot \frac{1 - q}{1 - q^3} \cdot 1 \cdot 1.$$

## $q$ RS: an example

All possible outputs of  $q$ -inserting a 3 into  $P$ :

1 2 2 2 3 5 5  
2 3 3 4 4  
3  
5

$$(1 - q^2) \frac{1 - q}{1 - q^3};$$

1 2 2 2 3 4 5  
2 3 3 4 5  
3  
5

$$(1 - q^2) \left( 1 - \frac{1 - q}{1 - q^3} \right);$$

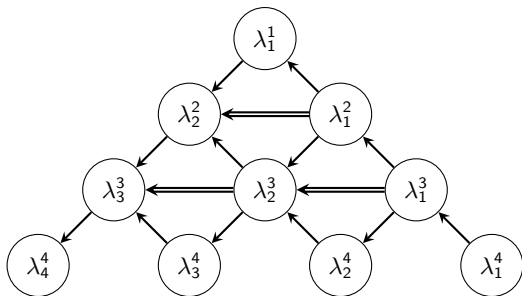
1 2 2 2 3 3 5  
2 3 4 4 5  
3  
5

$$q^2.$$

## The $q$ -Whittaker functions

Define  $(n)_q = (1 - q)(1 - q^2) \dots (1 - q^n)$ . Define a function  $\kappa$  on  $\mathcal{T}_\lambda$  by

$$\kappa(P) = \frac{\prod_{\textcircled{a} \Rightarrow \textcircled{b}} (a - b)_q}{\prod_{\textcircled{c} \rightarrow \textcircled{d}} (c - d)_q}.$$



# The $q$ -Whittaker functions

- ▶ Define the  $q$ -binomial coefficients

$$\begin{bmatrix} m+n \\ n \end{bmatrix}_q := \frac{(m+n)_q}{(n)_q(m)_q}.$$

- ▶ The explicit formula for  $\kappa$ :

$$\kappa(P) = \frac{1}{\prod_{1 \leq i \leq \ell-1} (\lambda_i - \lambda_{i+1})_q} \prod_{1 \leq j < k \leq \ell} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_j^k - \lambda_{j+1}^k \\ \lambda_j^{k-1} - \lambda_{j+1}^k \end{bmatrix}_q.$$

- ▶ Then the  $q$ -Whittaker function parameterised by partition  $\lambda$  is defined as (Gerasimov-Lebedev-Oblezin'10)

$$\Psi_\lambda(a) = \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}_\lambda} \kappa(P) a^P.$$

## The $q$ -Whittaker functions as eigenfunctions

The  $q$ -Whittaker functions  $\Psi_a$  are also eigenfunctions of the Hamiltonian  $L$  of  $q$ -deformed  $\mathfrak{gl}(\ell; \mathbb{C})$ -Toda chain (Ruijsenaars'90, Gerasimov-Lebedev-Oblezin'11):

$$L\Psi_a(\lambda) = \left( \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} a_i \right) \Psi_a(\lambda),$$

where the integral operator  $L$  has kernel

$$K(\lambda, \mu) = \begin{cases} 1 - q^{\lambda_i - \lambda_{i+1} + 1}, & \text{if } \mu = \lambda + e_i \text{ for some } 1 \leq i \leq \ell - 1; \\ 1, & \text{if } \mu = \lambda + e_\ell; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

# The $q$ -Whittaker functions as the Macdonald polynomials

Define  $(a, q)_n := (1 - a)(1 - aq) \dots (1 - aq^{n-1})$ .

The (type A) Macdonald polynomial (Macdonald'95) is

$$P_\lambda(a; q, t) = \sum_{P \in T_\lambda} a^P \prod_{\substack{2 \leq i \leq \ell \\ 1 \leq \bar{j} \leq \bar{i}-1 \\ 1 \leq k \leq i-j}} \frac{\left( q^{\lambda_k^{i-1} - \lambda_{k+j-1}^{i-1}} t^j; q \right)_{\lambda_{k+j-1}^{i-1} - \lambda_{k+j}^i}}{\left( q^{\lambda_k^{i-1} - \lambda_{k+j-1}^{i-1} + 1} t^{j-1}; q \right)_{\lambda_{k+j-1}^{i-1} - \lambda_{k+j}^i}} \frac{\left( q^{\lambda_k^i - \lambda_{k+j-1}^{i-1}} t^j; q \right)_{\lambda_{k+j-1}^{i-1} - \lambda_{k+j}^i}}{\left( q^{\lambda_k^i - \lambda_{k+j-1}^{i-1} + 1} t^{j-1}; q \right)_{\lambda_{k+j-1}^{i-1} - \lambda_{k+j}^i}},$$

and

$$\Psi_a(\lambda) = \prod_{i=1}^{\ell-1} (\lambda_i - \lambda_{i+1})_q^{-1} P_\lambda(a; t=0).$$

## Coupling two randomnesses

- ▶ We apply the  $q$ RS algorithm to the random word  $w$ .
- ▶ (O'Connell-Pei'13) The shape evolves as a Markov chain with transition kernel

$$P(\mu, \lambda) = \frac{\Psi_a(\lambda)}{\Psi_a(\mu)} K(\mu, \lambda) \mathbb{I}_{\mu \nearrow \lambda}.$$

- ▶ This interpolates between the classical case ( $q = 0$ ) and the directed polymer case ( $q \rightarrow 1$ ).
- ▶ Part of the stochastic tableau also evolves as  $q$ -TASEP with the wedge initial condition.



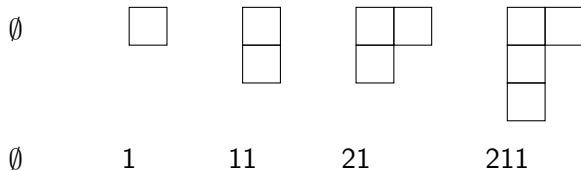
The symmetry property

## The growth partitions

- ▶ A tableau  $T$  is identified with the shapes  $\lambda^i$  of its subtableaux with entries no greater than  $i$ .
- ▶ For a standard tableau,  $\lambda^{i+1}$  is obtained from  $\lambda^i$  by adding a box.
- ▶ An example:

$$T = \begin{array}{cc} & 1 & 3 \\ 1 & & \\ & 2 & \\ & & 4 \end{array}$$

can be identified by the growing partitions



$$T = (1 \nearrow 11 \nearrow 21 \nearrow 211).$$

## Permutation words

- ▶ Let  $P(m)$  be the  $P$ -tableau after inserting  $(w_1, w_2, \dots, w_m)$ .
- ▶ The RS algorithm also produces a recording tableau  $Q$ , identified with the growth of  $P$  over time:

$$Q = (\text{sh}P(0) \nearrow \text{sh}P(1) \nearrow \dots \nearrow \text{sh}P(n)).$$

- ▶ Given a permutation  $\sigma$  of length  $n$ , we identify it with its permutation word  $(\sigma(1), \sigma(2), \dots, \sigma(n))$ .
- ▶ Applying the RS algorithm to a permutation, the output  $(P, Q)$  is a pair of standard tableaux.

## RS correspondence: An example

Inserting (1, 4, 2, 3):

$$P(0) = \emptyset \qquad Q(0) = \emptyset$$

$$P(1) = 1 \qquad Q(1) = 1$$

$$P(2) = \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 4 \end{array} \qquad Q(2) = \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 2 \end{array}$$

$$P(3) = \begin{array}{c} 1 \quad 4 \\ 2 \end{array} \qquad Q(3) = \begin{array}{c} 1 \quad 3 \\ 2 \end{array}$$

$$P(4) = \begin{array}{c} 1 \quad 4 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{array} \qquad Q(4) = \begin{array}{c} 1 \quad 3 \\ 2 \\ 4 \end{array}$$

## The symmetry property for the classical RS algorithm

If we denote by  $P(\sigma)$  and  $Q(\sigma)$  the pair of tableaux obtained by applying the RS algorithm to  $\sigma$ , then

$$(P(\sigma^{-1}), Q(\sigma^{-1})) = (Q(\sigma), P(\sigma)).$$

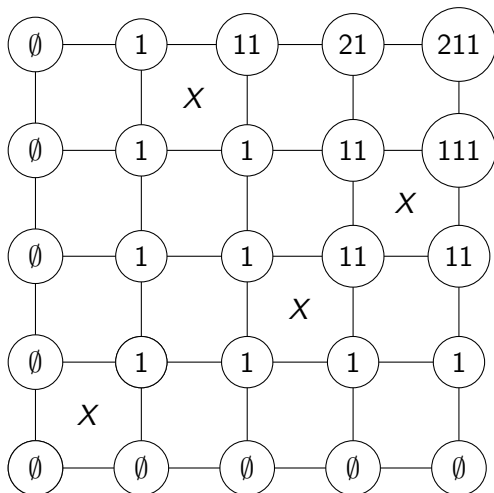
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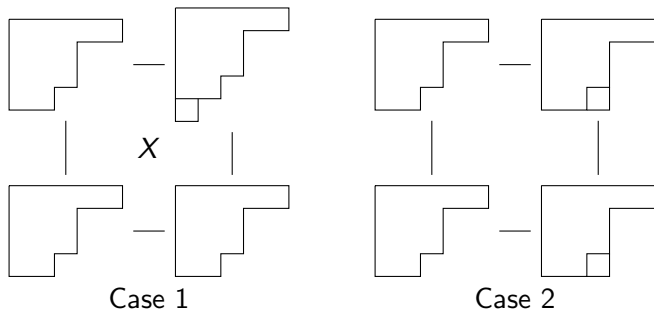
$$(P(\sigma^{-1}), Q(\sigma^{-1})) = (Q(\sigma), P(\sigma)).$$

This can be proved using the growth diagram technique introduced by Sergey Fomin (Fomin'94).

# Proof of the symmetry property for $\sigma = (1, 4, 2, 3)$

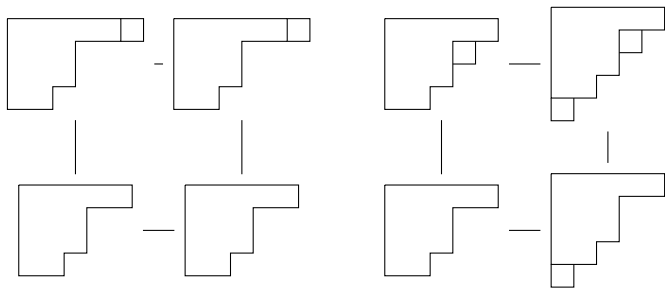


## The growth diagram local rules





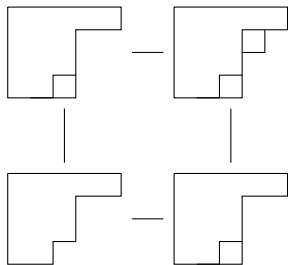
## The growth diagram local rules (cont'd)



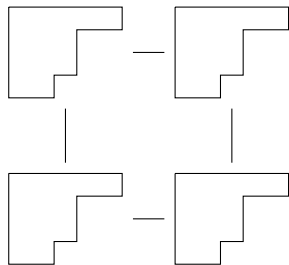
Case 3

Case 4

## The growth diagram local rules (cont'd)

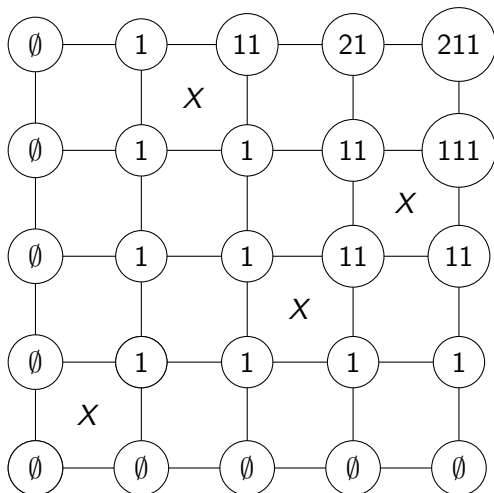


Case 5

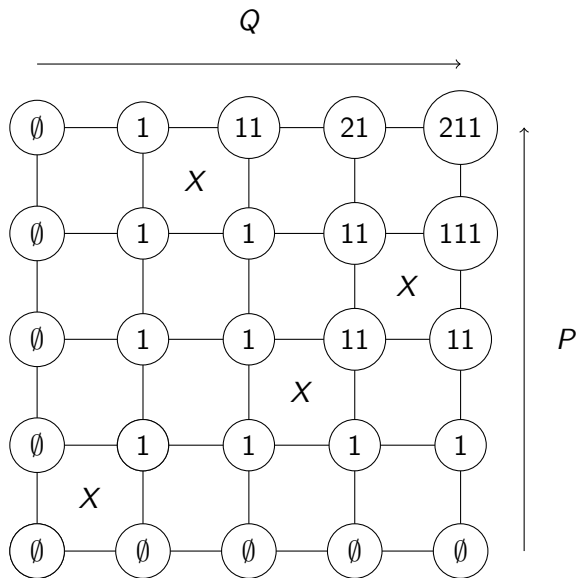


"Boring" intersection  
of Case 2 and Case 3

# Proof of the symmetry property for $\sigma = (1, 4, 2, 3)$



# Proof of the symmetry property for $\sigma = (1, 4, 2, 3)$

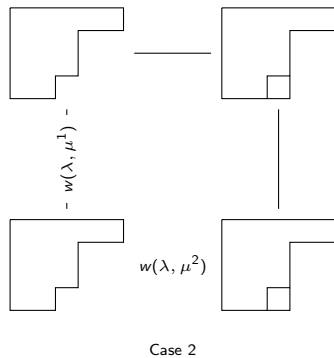
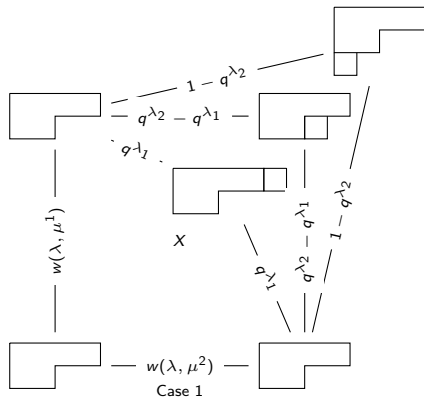


## Symmetry property for the $q$ RS

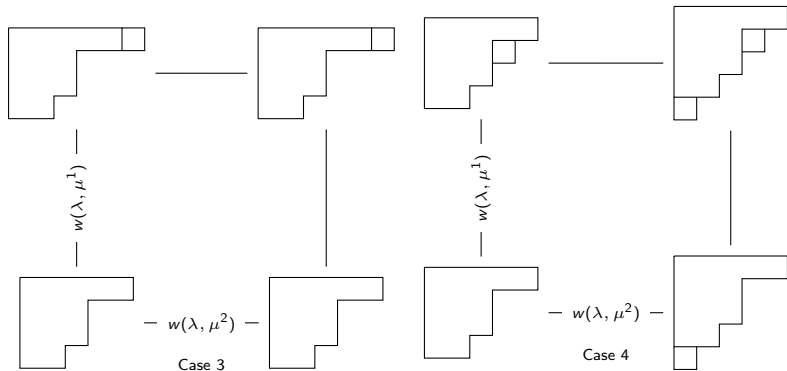
- ▶ Similarly we can pair the output tableaux of the  $q$ RS with recording  $Q$  tableaux.
- ▶ (Pei'14) The symmetry property states: if we denote by  $\phi_\sigma(P, Q)$  probability of obtaining pair  $(P, Q)$ , then

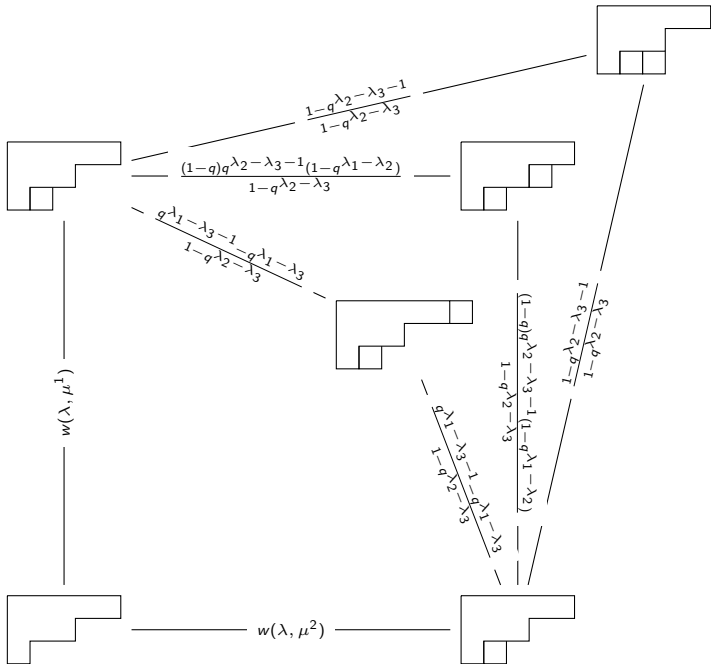
$$\phi_{\sigma^{-1}}(P, Q) = \phi_\sigma(Q, P).$$

# Branching growth diagram local rules



# Branching growth diagram local rules (cont'd)

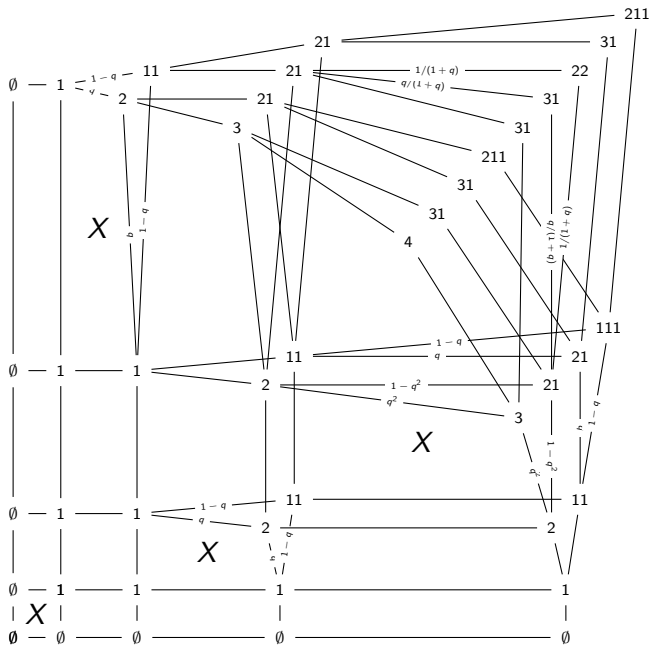




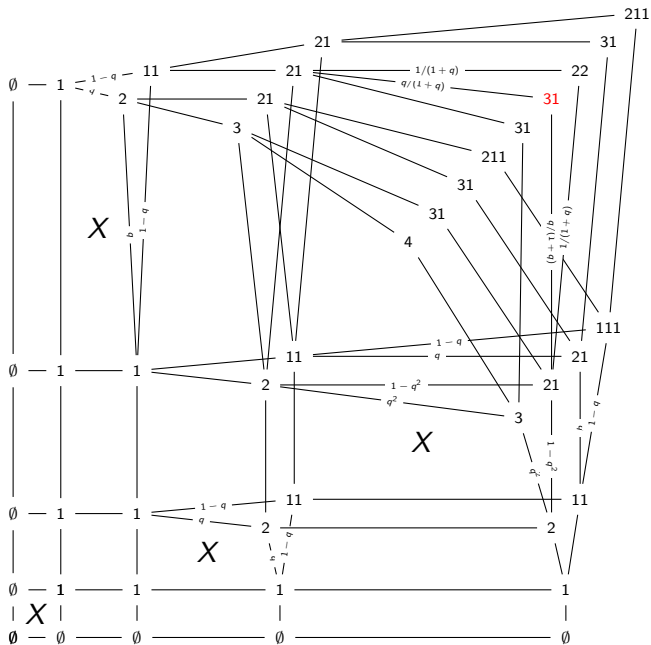
Case 5



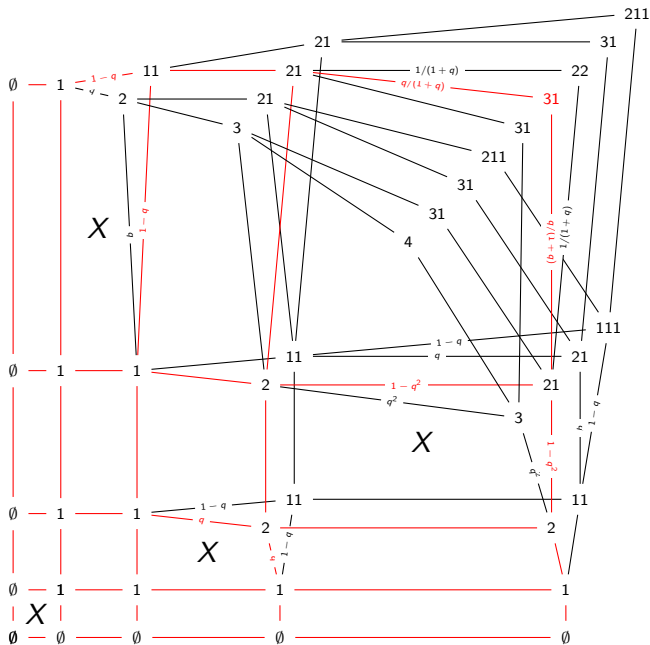
# Proof of the symmetry property for permutation (1, 4, 2, 3)



# Proof of the symmetry property for permutation (1, 4, 2, 3)



# Proof of the symmetry property for permutation (1, 4, 2, 3)



## Proof of the symmetry property for permutation (1, 4, 2, 3)

This contributes the probability

$q \cdot (1 - q^2) \cdot (1 - q) \cdot q / (1 + q) = q^2(1 - q)^2$  to the pair

$$(P, Q) = \left( \begin{array}{ccc} 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 3 & & \end{array}, \begin{array}{ccc} 1 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & & \end{array} \right)$$

## Recent development

- ▶ Borodin-Petrov'13: The row insertion version.
- ▶ Matveev-Petrov'15: The next talk - no spoiler :)

Thank you for your attention!



Neil O'Connell and Yuchen Pei.

A  $q$ -weighted version of the Robinson-Schensted algorithm.

*Electronic Journal of Probability*, 18(0), October 2013.



Yuchen Pei.

A symmetry property for  $q$ -weighted Robinson-Schensted and other branching insertion algorithms.

*Journal of Algebraic Combinatorics*, 40(3):743–770, November 2014.