

THE PEAK ALGEBRA AND THE DESCENT ALGEBRAS OF TYPES B AND D

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ABSTRACT. We show the existence of a unital subalgebra \mathfrak{P}_n of the symmetric group algebra linearly spanned by sums of permutations with a common peak set, which we call the peak algebra. We show that \mathfrak{P}_n is the image of the descent algebra of type B under the map to the descent algebra of type A which forgets the signs, and also the image of the descent algebra of type D. The algebra \mathfrak{P}_n contains a two-sided ideal $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$ which is defined in terms of *interior* peaks. This object was introduced in previous work by Nyman (2003); we find that it is the image of certain ideals of the descent algebras of types B and D. We derive an exact sequence of the form $0 \rightarrow \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n \rightarrow \mathfrak{P}_n \rightarrow \mathfrak{P}_{n-2} \rightarrow 0$. We obtain this and many other properties of the peak algebra and its peak ideal by first establishing analogous results for signed permutations and then forgetting the signs. In particular, we construct two new commutative semisimple subalgebras of the descent algebra (of dimensions n and $\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor + 1$) by grouping permutations according to their number of peaks or interior peaks. We discuss the Hopf algebraic structures that exist on the direct sums of the spaces \mathfrak{P}_n and $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$ over $n \geq 0$ and explain the connection with previous work of Stembridge (1997); we also obtain new properties of his *descents-to-peaks* map and construct a type B analog.

INTRODUCTION

A descent of a permutation $w \in \mathcal{S}_n$ is a position i for which $w_i > w_{i+1}$, while a peak is a position i for which $w_{i-1} < w_i > w_{i+1}$. The first in-depth study of the combinatorics of peaks was carried out by Stembridge [31], who developed an analog of Stanley's theory of poset partitions where the notion of descents (of linear extensions of posets) is replaced by the notion of peaks. More recent works uncovered connections between peaks and such disparate topics as the generalized Dehn-Sommerville equations [6, 10, 1] and the Schubert calculus of isotropic flag manifolds [11, 8, 7]. Additional interest in the study of peaks grew from Nyman's thesis [27, 28], which showed that summing permutations according to their peak sets leads to a non-unital subalgebra of the group algebra of the symmetric group,

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much as Solomon's descent algebra is constructed in terms of descent sets. Work that followed includes [29, 17] and the present paper.

Our work developed from the observation that peaks of ordinary permutations are closely related to descents of signed permutations (permutations of type B). This led us to the discovery of a new object: a unital subalgebra of the descent algebra of the symmetric group, which we call the *peak algebra*. This algebra is linearly spanned by sums of permutations with a common set of peaks. The object considered in [28, 29] is the linear span of the sums of permutations with a common set of *interior* peaks. We find that this is in fact a two-sided ideal of the peak algebra. We warn the reader that in [28, 29] the terminology "peak algebra" refers to our peak ideal, viewed as a non-unital algebra (and our peak algebra is not considered in those works).

We obtain several properties of the peak algebra and the peak ideal. Our approach consists of obtaining more general properties that hold at the level of signed permutations and then specializing by means of the canonical map that forgets the signs. This allows for simpler proofs of known results for the peak ideal, as well as many new properties for both the peak algebra and the peak ideal.

We next review the contents of the paper in more detail.

Let $Sol(A_{n-1})$, $Sol(B_n)$ and $Sol(D_n)$ denote Solomon's descent algebras of the Coxeter systems of types A, B and D (see Section 1 for the basic definitions). Let \mathcal{S}_n , \mathcal{B}_n and \mathcal{D}_n be the corresponding Coxeter groups. $Sol(A_{n-1})$ is thus the usual descent algebra of the symmetric group \mathcal{S}_n .

In Section 2 we introduce a commutative diagram of morphisms of algebras

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Sol(B_n) & \xrightarrow{\chi} & Sol(D_n) \\ & \searrow \varphi & \swarrow \psi \\ & Sol(A_{n-1}) & \end{array}$$

The map χ is due to Mahajan [23, 22]. These maps exist at the level of groups (for instance, $\varphi(w)$ is the permutation obtained by forgetting the signs of the signed permutation w), but it is not obvious that they restrict to descent algebras. We prove these facts in Propositions 2.1, 3.2 and 3.6. Central to this is the analysis of the transformation of descents of signed permutations under the map φ , which we carry out in Section 3. The principle that arises is: peaks are shadows of descents of type B and are not straightforwardly related to descents of type A.

We show that the images of φ and ψ coincide. This common image is a certain subalgebra of $Sol(A_{n-1})$ whose study is the main goal of this paper. One of our main results (Theorem 4.2) states that this subalgebra is linearly spanned by the elements

$$P_F := \sum_{\text{Peak}(w)=F} w,$$

where $\text{Peak}(w)$ denotes the set of peaks of a permutation w . We refer to this subalgebra as the peak algebra and denote it by \mathfrak{P}_n . It is important to note that we allow 1 as a possible peak (by making the convention that $w_0 = 0$).

Previous work of Nyman [27, 28] had shown the existence of a similar (but non-unital) subalgebra of $Sol(A_{n-1})$ —the difference stemming solely from the fact that peaks at 1 were not allowed in that work. We obtain a stronger result in this work: we show that Nyman's algebra is in fact a two-sided ideal of \mathfrak{P}_n (Theorem 5.7).

This ideal, that we denote by $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$, is the image under φ of the two-sided ideal I_n^0 of $Sol(B_n)$ introduced in [4], and also under ψ of a similar ideal of $Sol(D_n)$ introduced in [9]. We obtain these results in Theorems 5.9 and 5.12.

We describe an exact sequence of the form

$$0 \rightarrow \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n \rightarrow \mathfrak{P}_n \rightarrow \mathfrak{P}_{n-2} \rightarrow 0$$

and relate it to the exact sequences of [4] and [9] involving the descent algebras of types B and D (Corollary 5.10 and Theorem 5.12). This is an algebraic version of the Fibonacci recursion $f_n = f_{n-1} + f_{n-2}$.

It is well known that grouping permutations according to the number of descents leads to a commutative semisimple subalgebra of $Sol(A_{n-1})$ [21]. In Section 6 we derive an analogous result for the linear span of the sums of permutations with a given number of peaks. Once again, it is possible to easily derive this fact from results for type B, which are known from [5, 23]. We find (Theorem 6.8) in fact two commutative semisimple subalgebras \wp_n and $\widehat{\wp}_n$ of \mathfrak{P}_n and a two-sided ideal $\overset{\circ}{\wp}_n$ of $\widehat{\wp}_n$ such that

$$\widehat{\wp}_n = \wp_n + \overset{\circ}{\wp}_n.$$

In parallel with the situation for the peak algebra and its peak ideal, \wp_n and $\overset{\circ}{\wp}_n$ are obtained by grouping permutations according to the number of peaks and interior peaks, respectively. Thus, we see that $\overset{\circ}{\wp}_n$ coincides with the non-unital commutative subalgebra studied by Schocker [29]. Objects closely related to \wp_n and $\overset{\circ}{\wp}_n$ were first described by Doyle and Rockmore [13]. See Remarks 6.9 for more details about these connections.

In Corollary 6.12, we describe an exact sequence relating \wp_n and \wp_{n-2} and an analogous sequence at the level of type B. The corresponding objects at the level of type D are discussed in Section 6.5.

Mantaci and Reutenauer have defined a certain subalgebra of the group algebra of B_n which strictly contains the descent algebra [26]. We denote it by $Sol^\pm(B_n)$. We recall its definition in Section 7, and provide several new results that link $Sol^\pm(B_n)$ to $Sol(A_{n-1})$ by means of φ . The correspondence between types B and A is then summarized by the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} I_n^0 & \subseteq & Sol(B_n) & \subseteq & Sol^\pm(B_n) & \subseteq & \mathbb{Q}\mathcal{B}_n \\ \varphi \downarrow & & \varphi \downarrow & & \varphi \downarrow & & \varphi \downarrow \\ \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n & \subseteq & \mathfrak{P}_n & \subseteq & Sol(A_{n-1}) & \subseteq & \mathbb{Q}\mathcal{S}_n \end{array}$$

We show that I_n^0 is a right ideal of $Sol^\pm(B_n)$ and that it is in fact principal (Corollary 7.7). This allows us to recover a result of Shock: that $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$ is a principal right ideal of $Sol(A_{n-1})$ (Corollary 7.8). In addition, we obtain a new result that states that $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$ is principal as a right ideal of \mathfrak{P}_n (this result neither implies Shock's result nor is it implied by it), as well as the corresponding statement for type B (Proposition 7.14).

An important map $\Theta : Sol(A_{n-1}) \rightarrow \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$, which we call the *descents-to-peaks transform*, is discussed in Section 7.4. We construct a type B analog of Θ , which maps from $Sol^\pm(B_n)$ to I_n^0 , and from which the basic properties of Θ may be easily

derived. The descent-to-peaks transform is a special case of a map considered by Krob, Leclerc and Thibon [20] and is dual to a map considered by Stembridge [31]. See Remarks 7.11 for the precise details.

In Section 8 we consider the direct sum over all $n \geq 0$ of the group, descent and peak algebras discussed in previous sections. This leads to a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} I^0 & \subseteq & Sol(B) & \subseteq & Sol^\pm(B) & \subseteq & \mathbb{Q}\mathcal{B} \\ \varphi \downarrow & & \varphi \downarrow & & \varphi \downarrow & & \varphi \downarrow \\ \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}} & \subseteq & \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}} & \subseteq & Sol(A) & \subseteq & \mathbb{Q}\mathcal{S} \end{array}$$

It is known from work of Malvenuto and Reutenauer [25] that the space $\mathbb{Q}\mathcal{S}$ may be endowed with a new product (called the external product) and a coproduct that turn it into a graded Hopf algebra. Moreover, this structure restricts to $Sol(A)$, which results in the Hopf algebra of non-commutative symmetric functions. Using results from [2], we discuss type B analogs of these constructions and show that all objects in the above diagram are Hopf algebras, except for $Sol(B)$, which is an I^0 -module coalgebra, and $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}$, which is a $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}$ -module coalgebra. We also discuss the behavior with respect to the external structure of all maps from previous sections.

In Section 8.5 we clarify the connection between Stembridge's Hopf algebra of peaks and the objects discussed in this paper. The Hopf algebra $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}$ and the descents-to-peaks transform are dual to the objects considered by Stembridge in [31].

In Section 8.6 we recall the canonical action of permutations on words, and provide an explicit description for the action of the generators of the principal ideals I_n^0 and $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$ in terms of *symmetrizers* and *Jordan brackets* (Propositions 8.8 and 8.9). This complements a result of Krob, Leclerc and Thibon [20].

Most of the results in this paper were presented by one of us (Nyman) at the meeting of the American Mathematical Society in Montréal in May, 2002.

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1. DESCENT ALGEBRAS OF COXETER SYSTEMS

Let (W, S) be a finite Coxeter system [18]. That is, W is a finite group generated by the set S subject to the relations

$$(st)^{m_{st}} = 1 \text{ for all } s, t \in S,$$

where the m_{st} are positive integers and $m_{ss} = 1$ for all $s \in S$.

Given $w \in W$, its descent set is

$$\text{Des}(w) := \{s \in S \mid \ell(ws) < \ell(w)\},$$

where $\ell(w)$ denotes the length of a minimal expression for w as a product of elements of S .

Let $\mathbb{Q}W$ denote the group algebra of W . The subspace spanned by the elements

$$(1.1) \quad Y_J := \sum_{\text{Des}(w)=J} w$$

is closed under the product of $\mathbb{Q}W$ [30]. It is the descent algebra of (W, S) . The unit element is $Y_\emptyset = 1$.

The set $\{Y_J\}_{J \subseteq S}$ is a linear basis of the descent algebra. A second linear basis is defined by

$$(1.2) \quad X_J := \sum_{I \subseteq J} Y_I = \sum_{\text{Des}(w) \subseteq J} w.$$

Note that

$$(1.3) \quad Y_J = \sum_{I \subseteq J} (-1)^{\#J - \#I} X_I$$

so the set $\{X_J\}_{J \subseteq S}$ indeed forms a basis. This basis has proved useful in describing the structure of descent algebras [30, 14, 15, 4, 9] and will be useful in our work as well.

Warning: The notations Y_J and X_J do not make reference to the Coxeter system, which will have to be understood from the context. This is particularly relevant in our work in which we deal with descent algebras of various Coxeter systems at the same time.

From now on, we assume that the Coxeter system (W, S) is associated to a Coxeter graph G : S is the set of vertices and m_{st} is the label of the edge joining s and t (2 if there is no such edge and 3 if there is an edge with no label; see Figures 1, 2 and 3). We denote the descent algebra of this Coxeter system by $Sol(G)$.



FIGURE 1. The Coxeter graph A_{n-1}

For the Coxeter graph A_{n-1} , the Coxeter group is the symmetric group \mathcal{S}_n and the set of generators consists of the elementary transpositions $s_i = (i, i+1)$ for $i = 1, \dots, n-1$. We identify this set with the set $[n-1] := \{1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$ via $s_i \leftrightarrow i$. A permutation w is represented by a sequence $w = w_1 \dots w_n$ of distinct symbols from the set $[n]$, where $w_i = w(i)$ are the values of the permutation. A permutation $w \in \mathcal{S}_n$ has a descent at $i \in [n-1]$ if $w_i > w_{i+1}$.

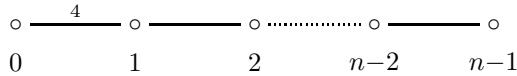


FIGURE 2. The Coxeter graph B_n

For the Coxeter graph B_n , the Coxeter group is the group of signed permutations $\mathcal{S}_n \ltimes \mathbb{Z}_2^n$, which we denote by \mathcal{B}_n . A signed permutation w is represented by a sequence $w = w_1 \dots w_n$ of symbols from 1 to n (the underlying permutation from \mathcal{S}_n), some of which may be barred (according to the sign from \mathbb{Z}_2^n). We order these symbols by

$$(1.4) \quad \dots < \bar{2} < \bar{1} < 1 < 2 < \dots$$

The set of generators consists of the elementary transpositions s_i as before (with no signs) plus the signed permutation

$$s_0 := \bar{1}2\dots n.$$

We identify this set with the set $\overline{[n-1]} := \{0\} \cup [n-1]$. A signed permutation $w \in \mathcal{B}_n$ has a descent at $i \in \overline{[n-1]}$ if $w_i > w_{i+1}$, with respect to the order (1.4), where we agree that $w_0 = 0$.

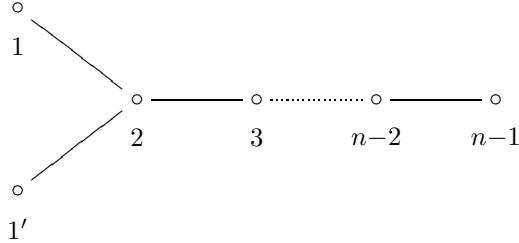


FIGURE 3. The Coxeter graph D_n

For the Coxeter graph D_n , the Coxeter group is the subgroup of \mathcal{B}_n consisting of those signed permutations with an even number of signs (bars). We denote it by \mathcal{D}_n .

The set of generators consists of the elementary transpositions s_i as before, from $i = 1$ to $n-1$, plus the signed permutation

$$s_{1'} := \bar{2}\bar{1}3\dots n.$$

We identify this set with the set $[n-1]' := \{1'\} \cup [n-1]$.

It is convenient to represent a signed permutation $w = w_1 \dots w_n \in \mathcal{D}_n$ by a fork-shaped sequence

$$w = \frac{w_1}{w_{1'}} w_2 w_3 \dots w_{n-1} w_n$$

of symbols from 1 to n , possibly barred, with the convention that $w_{1'} = \overline{w_1}$. It then turns out that an element $w \in \mathcal{D}_n$ has a descent at $i \in [n-1]'$ if $w_i > w_{i+1}$, with respect to the order (1.4), and where we understand that $1' + 1 = 2$. For instance,

$$s_{1'} = \frac{\bar{2}}{2}\bar{1}3\dots n-1n$$

has a descent at $1'$ because $2 > \bar{1}$, but not at 1, since $\bar{2} < \bar{1}$.

2. MORPHISMS BETWEEN DESCENT ALGEBRAS

There is a canonical morphism $\varphi : \mathcal{B}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_n$ from the group of signed permutations onto that of ordinary permutations, obtained by simply forgetting the signs (bars). Let $\psi : \mathcal{D}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_n$ be its restriction. Consider the linear extensions of these maps to the group algebras. We will show in Section 3 that these maps restrict to the corresponding descent algebras, yielding morphisms of algebras

$$\varphi : \text{Sol}(B_n) \rightarrow \text{Sol}(A_{n-1}) \quad \text{and} \quad \psi : \text{Sol}(D_n) \rightarrow \text{Sol}(A_{n-1}).$$

It turns out that there is also a morphism of algebras

$$\chi : \text{Sol}(B_n) \rightarrow \text{Sol}(D_n)$$

such that $\varphi = \psi\chi$. In this section we concentrate on this map.

The map χ is due to Mahajan. It is *not* the restriction of a morphism of groups $\mathcal{B}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{D}_n$, and its construction is better understood from the point of view of

hyperplane arrangements, as explained in [23, Section 6.1]. We will add a group-theoretic counterpart to Mahajan's geometric construction that makes the above commutativity evident (but does not explain why χ is a morphism of algebras).

We begin by defining a map $\chi : \mathcal{B}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{D}_n$ as

$$\chi(w) = \begin{cases} w & \text{if } w \in \mathcal{D}_n, \\ ws_0 & \text{if } w \notin \mathcal{D}_n. \end{cases}$$

In other words, χ changes the sign of the first entry if the number of signs is odd. Note that χ is not a morphism of groups. Nevertheless, we have the following

Proposition 2.1. *The map χ restricts to descent algebras and, at that level, it is a morphism of algebras $\chi : \text{Sol}(B_n) \rightarrow \text{Sol}(D_n)$. Moreover, it is explicitly given as follows: for $J \subseteq \{2, \dots, n-1\}$,*

$$(2.1) \quad \begin{aligned} Y_J &\mapsto Y_J, \\ Y_{\{1\} \cup J} &\mapsto Y_{\{1'\} \cup J} + Y_{\{1\} \cup J} + Y_{\{1', 1\} \cup J}, \\ Y_{\{0\} \cup J} &\mapsto Y_J + Y_{\{1'\} \cup J} + Y_{\{1\} \cup J}, \\ Y_{\{0, 1\} \cup J} &\mapsto Y_{\{1', 1\} \cup J} \end{aligned}$$

or, equivalently,

$$(2.2) \quad \begin{aligned} X_J &\mapsto X_J, \\ X_{\{1\} \cup J} &\mapsto X_{\{1', 1\} \cup J}, \\ X_{\{0\} \cup J} &\mapsto X_{\{1'\} \cup J} + X_{\{1\} \cup J}, \\ X_{\{0, 1\} \cup J} &\mapsto 2 \cdot X_{\{1', 1\} \cup J}. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Consider $Y_{\{1\} \cup J} \in \text{Sol}(B_n)$. Take $w \in \mathcal{B}_n$ such that $\text{Des}(w) = \{1\} \cup J$. There are exactly three possibilities for $\text{Des}(\chi(w))$:

- if $-w_1 > w_2$, then $\text{Des}(\chi(w)) = \{1', 1\} \cup J$,
- if $-w_1 < w_2$ and $w \in \mathcal{D}_n$, then $\text{Des}(\chi(w)) = \{1\} \cup J$, and
- if $-w_1 < w_2$ and $w \notin \mathcal{D}_n$, then $\text{Des}(\chi(w)) = \{1'\} \cup J$.

Conversely, given $v \in \mathcal{D}_n$ such that $\text{Des}(v) = \{1\} \cup J$, we must have $v_1 > 0$; so letting $w = v \in \mathcal{B}_n$ we obtain $\text{Des}(w) = \{1\} \cup J$ and $\chi(w) = v$. If, instead, $\text{Des}(v) = \{1'\} \cup J$, then we must have $v_1 < 0$, so letting $w = vs_0 \in \mathcal{B}_n$ we still obtain $\text{Des}(w) = \{1\} \cup J$ and $\chi(w) = v$. Finally, if $\text{Des}(v) = \{1', 1\} \cup J$, then we let $w = v \in \mathcal{B}_n$ if $v_1 > 0$ and $w = vs_0 \in \mathcal{B}_n$ if $v_1 < 0$, to obtain the same conclusion.

Therefore,

$$\chi(Y_{\{1\} \cup J}) = Y_{\{1'\} \cup J} + Y_{\{1\} \cup J} + Y_{\{1', 1\} \cup J}.$$

The remaining expressions in (2.1) may be similarly deduced. The expressions in (2.2) follow easily from (2.1).

Comparing (2.2) to [23, Section 6.1] we see that χ coincides with Mahajan's map. His construction guarantees that $\chi : \text{Sol}(B_n) \rightarrow \text{Sol}(D_n)$ is a morphism of algebras. \square

Remark 2.2. It is possible to give a direct proof of the fact that χ is a morphism of algebras by making use of the multiplication rules for the X -bases of $\text{Sol}(B_n)$ and $\text{Sol}(D_n)$ given in [4, Theorem 1] and [9, Theorem 1].

Corollary 2.3. *There is a commutative diagram of morphisms of algebras*

$$(2.3) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \text{Sol}(B_n) & \xrightarrow{\chi} & \text{Sol}(D_n) \\ & \searrow \varphi & \swarrow \psi \\ & \text{Sol}(A_{n-1}) & \end{array}$$

Proof. The commutativity $\varphi = \psi\chi$ already holds at the level of groups, clearly. \square

The descent algebras $\text{Sol}(B_n)$ and $\text{Sol}(D_n)$ have the same dimension 2^n , but the map χ is not an isomorphism: its image has codimension 2^{n-2} . In fact, the image of χ may be easily described. Consider the decomposition $D_n = D_n^{(1)} \coprod D_n^{(2)} \coprod D_n^{(3)}$, where the $D_n^{(i)}$ are respectively defined by the conditions

$$|w_1| < w_2, \quad |w_1| > |w_2| \quad \text{and} \quad |w_1| < -w_2.$$

In the group algebra of D_n , define elements

$$Y_J^{(i)} = \sum \{w \in D_n^{(i)} \mid \text{Des}(w) \cap \{2, \dots, n-1\} = J\},$$

for each $J \subseteq \{2, \dots, n-1\}$ and $i = 1, 2, 3$.

Corollary 2.4. *The image of $\chi : \text{Sol}(B_n) \rightarrow \text{Sol}(D_n)$ is linearly spanned by the elements $Y_J^{(i)}$. In particular, these elements span a subalgebra of $\text{Sol}(D_n)$ of dimension $3 \cdot 2^{n-2}$ (and codimension 2^{n-2}).*

Proof. It suffices to observe that

$$Y_J^{(1)} = Y_J, \quad Y_J^{(2)} = Y_{\{1'\} \cup J} + Y_{\{1\} \cup J} \quad \text{and} \quad Y_J^{(3)} = Y_{\{1', 1\} \cup J}$$

and to make use of (2.1). \square

The maps φ and ψ are harder to describe in terms of the Y or X bases. An explicit description is provided below (Propositions 3.2, 3.3 and 3.6). It turns out that these maps have the same image, even though χ is not surjective. The main goal of this paper is to describe this image, a certain subalgebra of $\text{Sol}(A_{n-1})$, in explicit combinatorial terms.

Remark 2.5. A similar commutative diagram to (2.3) is given in [23, Section 6]. In fact, the map χ is the same for both, but the maps $\text{Sol}(B_n) \rightarrow \text{Sol}(A_{n-1})$ and $\text{Sol}(D_n) \rightarrow \text{Sol}(A_{n-1})$ considered in [23] are different from ours.

3. PEAKS OF PERMUTATIONS AND DESCENTS OF SIGNED PERMUTATIONS

Definition 3.1. Let $w \in \mathcal{S}_n$. The set of *peaks* of w is

$$\text{Peak}(w) = \{i \in [n-1] \mid w_{i-1} < w_i > w_{i+1}\},$$

where we agree that $w_0 = 0$.

For instance, $\text{Peak}(42153) = \{1, 4\}$. Note that 1 is a peak of w if and only if it is a descent of w . Thus, our notion of peaks differs (slightly) from that of [31, 28, 29]. This turns out to be an important distinction, as is made clear throughout this work. We deal with both notions of peaks starting in Section 5.

Let \mathcal{Q}_n denote the collection of all subsets of $[n-1]$, and

$$\mathcal{F}_n = \{F \in \mathcal{Q}_n \mid \text{if } i \in F, \text{ then } i+1 \notin F\}.$$

Let

$$(3.1) \quad f_n := \#\mathcal{F}_n.$$

Thus, $f_0 = 1$, $f_1 = 1$, $f_2 = 2$ and $f_n = f_{n-1} + f_{n-2}$ (the Fibonacci numbers).

Clearly, the peak set of any permutation $w \in \mathcal{S}_n$ belongs to \mathcal{F}_n . It is easy to see that any element of \mathcal{F}_n is realized in this way.

Given $J \in \mathcal{Q}_n$, consider the set

$$\Lambda(J) := \{i \in J \mid i - 1 \notin J\}.$$

One immediately verifies that $\Lambda(J) \in \mathcal{F}_n$ and, moreover, that the diagram

$$(3.2) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} & \mathcal{S}_n & \\ \text{Des} \swarrow & & \searrow \text{Peak} \\ \mathcal{Q}_n & \xrightarrow{\Lambda} & \mathcal{F}_n \end{array}$$

commutes.

For each $F \in \mathcal{F}_n$, define an element of the group algebra of \mathcal{S}_n by

$$(3.3) \quad P_F := \sum_{\text{Peak}(w)=F} w.$$

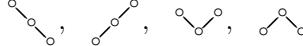
It follows from (1.1) and (3.2) that

$$(3.4) \quad P_F = \sum_{\Lambda(J)=F} Y_J;$$

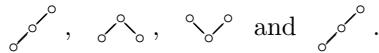
in particular, each P_F belongs to the descent algebra $Sol(A_{n-1})$.

It turns out that $\varphi : Sol(B_n) \rightarrow Sol(A_{n-1})$ maps a basis element Y_J to a certain sum of elements P_F . In order to derive an explicit expression for $\varphi(Y_J)$, we need to introduce some notation and make some basic observations.

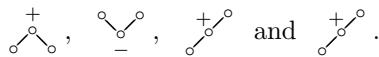
First, given a permutation $u \in \mathcal{S}_n$ and a position $i \in [n]$, we refer to one of the four diagrams



as the *local shape of u at i*, according to whether $u_{i-1} > u_i > u_{i+1}$, $u_{i-1} < u_i < u_{i+1}$, $u_{i-1} > u_i < u_{i+1}$ or $u_{i-1} < u_i > u_{i+1}$, respectively. Here, we make the conventions that $u_0 = 0$ and $u_{n+1} = +\infty$. A position i is a peak of u if the local shape at i is $\nearrow \circlearrowleft$; we also say that i is a *valley* if the local shape is $\circlearrowright \searrow$. Note that valleys may only occur in positions $2, \dots, n$, while peaks only in positions $1, \dots, n-1$. Note also that the total number of peaks equals the total number of valleys, since in listing them from left to right, peaks and valleys alternate, starting always with a peak and ending with a valley (except for the case of the identity permutation, which has no peaks or valleys). For instance, the four local shapes for $u = 2413$ are, from left to right,



Similarly, for a signed permutation $w \in \mathcal{B}_n$ and $i \in [n]$, we speak of its local shape at i , which is one of the previous diagrams decorated by the sign of the entry w_i , with the same conventions. For instance, the four local shapes of $w = 2\bar{4}13$ are (in order)



Clearly, the collection of all local shapes of $w \in \mathcal{B}_n$ determine its descent set, and conversely. More precisely, given a subset $J \subseteq \overline{[n-1]}$, we have that $\text{Des}(w) = J$ if and only if for each $i \in [n]$, the local shape of w at i is as follows:

$$(A) \quad \begin{array}{c} \circ \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \circ \end{array} \quad i \in J, i \in J+1 \quad \begin{array}{c} \pm \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \circ \end{array} \quad i \in J, i \notin J+1 \quad \begin{array}{c} \circ \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \pm \end{array} \quad i \notin J, i \in J+1 \quad \begin{array}{c} \pm \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \circ \end{array} \quad i \notin J, i \notin J+1$$

where $J+1$ denote the shifted set $J+1 = \{i+1 \mid i \in J\}$.

Now suppose that a permutation $u \in \mathcal{S}_n$ is given and we look for all 2^n signed permutations $w \in \mathcal{B}_n$ such that $\varphi(w) = u$. Given a local shape of u at $i \in [n]$, the possible local shapes of w at i are as follows:

$u \in \mathcal{S}_n$	$w \in \mathcal{B}_n, \varphi(w) = u$
$\begin{array}{c} \circ \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \circ \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} \circ \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \circ \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} - \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \circ \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} \circ \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ - \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} + \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \circ \end{array}$
$\begin{array}{c} \circ \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \circ \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} \circ \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \circ \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} + \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \circ \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} \circ \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ - \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} + \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \circ \end{array}$
$\begin{array}{c} \circ \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \circ \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} \circ \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \circ \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} \pm \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \circ \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} \pm \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \circ \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} \pm \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \circ \end{array}$
$\begin{array}{c} \circ \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \circ \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} \circ \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \circ \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} - \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \circ \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} \circ \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ - \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} + \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \circ \end{array}$

Let $I \Delta J = (I \cup J) \setminus (I \cap J)$ be the symmetric set difference.

Proposition 3.2. *The map $\varphi : \text{Sol}(B_n) \rightarrow \text{Sol}(A_{n-1})$ is explicitly given by*

$$(3.5) \quad Y_J \mapsto \sum_{\substack{F \in \mathcal{F}_n \\ F \subseteq J \Delta (J+1)}} 2^{\#F} \cdot P_F$$

for any $J \subseteq \overline{[n-1]}$.

Proof. We need to show that for each $u \in \mathcal{S}_n$,

(*)

$$\#\{w \in \mathcal{B}_n \mid \text{Des}(w) = J \text{ and } \varphi(w) = u\} = \begin{cases} 2^{\#\text{Peak}(u)} & \text{if } \text{Peak}(u) \subseteq J \Delta (J+1), \\ 0 & \text{if not.} \end{cases}$$

Note that this set is defined precisely by conditions (A) and (B) above.

Suppose there is at least one w in the above set and take $i \in \text{Peak}(u)$. By (B), the local shape of w at i is either $\begin{array}{c} \circ \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ - \end{array}$ or $\begin{array}{c} + \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \circ \end{array}$. Then, by (A), $i \in J \Delta (J+1)$. This proves the second half of (*).

Assume now that $\text{Peak}(u) \subseteq J \Delta (J+1)$. A signed permutation w in the above set is completely determined once the signs of its entries $|w_i| = u_i$ are chosen. We show that the signs at those positions i that are valleys of u can be freely chosen, while the signs at the remaining positions are uniquely determined. This proves the remaining half of (*), because as explained above, the number of valleys equals the number of peaks, so the number of such choices is $2^{\#\text{Peak}(u)}$.

Given a position i , it will fall into one of the four alternatives of (A) (according to J) and one of the four alternatives of (B) (according to u). Consider first the case of a position i that is not a valley of u . In this case, whatever the alternative in (A) is, there is exactly one possible local shape for w that satisfies (B). In particular, the sign of w_i is uniquely determined for all those positions i . On the other hand, if i is a valley of u , then whatever the alternative in (A) is, there are exactly two possible

local shapes for w that satisfy (B), each with the same underlying shape but with different signs. Thus, the choices of signs that lead to a signed permutation w that satisfies (A) and (B) is the same as the choices of signs on the set of valleys of u , as claimed. \square

We can derive a similar expression for φ on the X -basis of $Sol(B_n)$.

Proposition 3.3. *The map $\varphi : Sol(B_n) \rightarrow Sol(A_{n-1})$ is explicitly given by*

$$(3.6) \quad X_J \mapsto 2^{\#J} \cdot \sum_{\substack{F \in \mathcal{F}_n \\ F \subseteq J \cup (J+1)}} P_F$$

for any $J \subseteq \overline{[n-1]}$.

Proof. Since $X_J = \sum_{K \subseteq J} Y_K$, (3.6) will follow from (3.5), once we show that for any $F \in \mathcal{F}_n$ and $J \subseteq \overline{[n-1]}$ we have

$$\#\{K \subseteq \overline{[n-1]} \mid F \subseteq K \Delta (K+1), K \subseteq J\} = \begin{cases} 2^{\#J - \#F} & \text{if } F \subseteq J \cup (J+1), \\ 0 & \text{if not.} \end{cases}$$

If there is at least one subset K in the above family, then $F \subseteq K \cup (K+1) \subseteq J \cup (J+1)$. This proves the second case of the equality.

Suppose now that $F \subseteq J \cup (J+1)$. We decompose an arbitrary subset K of J into five pieces:

$$\begin{aligned} K^0 &:= K \cap \left(J \setminus (F \cup (F-1)) \right), \quad K^+ := K \cap F \quad \text{and} \quad K^- := K \cap (F-1), \\ K_1^+ &:= K \cap F \cap (J+1), \quad K_2^+ := K \cap F \cap (J+1)^c, \\ K_1^- &:= K \cap (F-1) \cap (J-1), \quad K_2^- := K \cap (F-1) \cap (J-1)^c. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, $K = K^0 \sqcup K_1^+ \sqcup K_2^+ \sqcup K_1^- \sqcup K_2^-$. One may check that, under the present assumptions ($F \in \mathcal{F}_n$ and $F \subseteq J \cup (J+1)$), a subset K of J satisfies $F \subseteq K \Delta (K+1)$ if and only if the following conditions hold:

$K_2^+ = J \cap F \cap (J+1)^c$, $K_2^- = J \cap (F-1) \cap (J-1)^c$ and $K_1^+ \sqcup (K_1^- + 1) = J \cap F \cap (J+1)$, while K^0 may be any subset of $J \setminus (F \cup (F-1))$ and K_1^+ any subset of $J \cap F \cap (J+1)$. The claim now follows from the fact that

$$\#J \setminus (F \cup (F-1)) + \#J \cap F \cap (J+1) = \#J - \#F$$

(this also makes use of the assumptions $F \in \mathcal{F}_n$ and $F \subseteq J \cup (J+1)$). \square

Remark 3.4. Formulas (3.5) and (3.6) are very similar to certain expressions for a map introduced by Stembridge [31, Propositions 2.2, 3.5]. This is in fact a consequence of a very non-trivial fact: the dual of Stembridge's map admits a *type B analog* and φ commutes with these maps. This connection will be clarified in Sections 7.4 and 8.5.

Remark 3.5. It is interesting to note that for any $J \subseteq \overline{[n-1]}$,

$$\varphi(Y_J) = \varphi(Y_{\overline{[n-1] \setminus J}}).$$

This can be deduced from the explicit formula (3.5), but it can also be understood as follows. Consider the map $\sigma : \mathcal{B}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{B}_n$ which reverses the sign of all the entries of a signed permutation (σ is both left and right multiplication by $\bar{1}\bar{2}\dots\bar{n}$). Clearly,

$$\text{Des}(\sigma(w)) = \overline{[n-1]} \setminus \text{Des}(w), \text{ and therefore } \sigma(Y_J) = Y_{\overline{[n-1] \setminus J}}.$$

On the other hand, since φ simply forgets the signs, we have

$$\varphi(w) = \varphi(\sigma(w)), \text{ and therefore } \varphi(Y_J) = \varphi(\sigma(Y_J)) = \varphi(Y_{\overline{[n-1] \setminus J}}).$$

The map $\psi : \text{Sol}(D_n) \rightarrow \text{Sol}(A_{n-1})$ also sends basis elements Y_J and X_J to sums of elements P_F . The next result provides explicit expressions.

We make use of the convention $1' + 1 = 2$ to give meaning to the shifted set $J + 1 = \{i + 1 \mid i \in J\}$, where J is any subset of $[n-1]'$.

Proposition 3.6. *The map $\psi : \text{Sol}(D_n) \rightarrow \text{Sol}(A_{n-1})$ is explicitly given by*

$$(3.7) \quad \begin{aligned} Y_J &\mapsto \sum_{\substack{F \in \mathcal{F}_n \\ F \subseteq J \Delta (J+1)}} 2^{\#F} \cdot P_F, \\ Y_{\{1\} \cup J} \text{ and } Y_{\{1'\} \cup J} &\mapsto \sum_{\substack{\{1\} \cup F \in \mathcal{F}_n \\ F \subseteq J \Delta (J+1)}} 2^{\#F} \cdot P_{\{1\} \cup F}, \\ Y_{\{1',1\} \cup J} &\mapsto \sum_{\substack{F \in \mathcal{F}_n \\ F \subseteq J \Delta (\{2\} \cup (J+1))}} 2^{\#F} \cdot P_F, \end{aligned}$$

and also

$$(3.8) \quad \begin{aligned} X_J &\mapsto 2^{\#J} \cdot \sum_{\substack{F \in \mathcal{F}_n \\ F \subseteq J \cup (J+1)}} P_F, \\ X_{\{1\} \cup J} \text{ and } X_{\{1'\} \cup J} &\mapsto 2^{\#J} \cdot \sum_{\substack{F \in \mathcal{F}_n \\ F \subseteq J \cup (J+1) \cup \{1\}}} P_F, \\ X_{\{1',1\} \cup J} &\mapsto 2^{\#J+1} \cdot \sum_{\substack{F \in \mathcal{F}_n \\ F \subseteq J \cup (J+1) \cup \{1,2\}}} P_F \end{aligned}$$

for any $J \subseteq \{2, \dots, n-1\}$.

Proof. It is possible to derive these expressions by a direct analysis of how the notion of descents of type D transforms after forgetting the signs, as we did for the type B case in Proposition 3.2. We find it much easier, however, to derive these from the analogous expressions for the type B case, by means of the commutativity of diagram (2.3).

If $J \subseteq \{2, \dots, n-1\}$, then by Proposition 2.1, the map $\chi : \text{Sol}(B_n) \rightarrow \text{Sol}(D_n)$ satisfies $\chi(Y_J) = Y_J$. Therefore, by Corollary 2.3 and Proposition 3.2,

$$\psi(Y_J) = \varphi(Y_J) = \sum_{\substack{F \in \mathcal{F}_n \\ F \subseteq J \Delta (J+1)}} 2^{\#F} \cdot P_F.$$

This is the first formula in (3.7). Similarly, the last formula in (3.7) follows from the facts that $\chi(Y_{\{0,1\}\cup J}) = Y_{\{1',1\}\cup J}$ and

$$(\{0,1\}\cup J) \Delta ((\{0,1\}\cup J)+1) = \{0\} \cup (J \Delta (\{2\}\cup (J+1)))$$

(note that $\{0\}$ does not affect the summation over subsets $F \in \mathcal{F}_n$).

The formulas for $Y_{\{1\}\cup J}$ and $Y_{\{1'\}\cup J}$ require a little extra work. First, from Proposition 2.1 we know that

$$\chi(Y_{\{0\}\cup J} - Y_J) = Y_{\{1'\}\cup J} + Y_{\{1\}\cup J};$$

hence, by Corollary 2.3,

$$\psi(Y_{\{1'\}\cup J} + Y_{\{1\}\cup J}) = \varphi(Y_{\{0\}\cup J} - Y_J).$$

Now, since $J \subseteq \{2, \dots, n-1\}$, $(\{0\}\cup J) \Delta ((\{0\}\cup J)+1) = \{0,1\}\cup (J \Delta (J+1))$. Therefore, by Proposition 3.2,

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi(Y_{\{0\}\cup J} - Y_J) &= \sum_{\substack{F \in \mathcal{F}_n \\ F \subseteq \{1\} \cup (J \Delta (J+1))}} 2^{\#F} \cdot P_F - \sum_{\substack{F \in \mathcal{F}_n \\ F \subseteq J \Delta (J+1)}} 2^{\#F} \cdot P_F \\ &= \sum_{\substack{\{1\} \cup F \in \mathcal{F}_n \\ F \subseteq J \Delta (J+1)}} 2^{1+\#F} \cdot P_{\{1\}\cup F}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, to obtain the expressions in (3.7) for $Y_{\{1\}\cup J}$ and $Y_{\{1'\}\cup J}$, we only need to show that

$$\psi(Y_{\{1\}\cup J}) = \psi(Y_{\{1'\}\cup J}).$$

This may be seen as follows. Consider the involution $\rho : \mathcal{D}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{D}_n$ given by right multiplication with the element $\bar{1}\bar{2}3\dots n$. In other words, $\rho(w)$ is obtained from w by reversing the sign of both w_1 and w_2 . Note that w has a descent at 1 but not at $1'$ if and only if $w_1 > |w_2|$, while w has a descent at $1'$ but not at 1 if and only if $-w_1 > |w_2|$. Therefore, ρ restricts to a bijection between $\{w \in \mathcal{D}_n \mid \text{Des}(w) = \{1\} \cup J\}$ and $\{w \in \mathcal{D}_n \mid \text{Des}(w) = \{1'\} \cup J\}$, for any $J \subseteq \{2, \dots, n-1\}$. Also, since ψ simply forgets the signs, $\psi\rho = \psi$. Therefore, $\psi(Y_{\{1\}\cup J}) = \psi(Y_{\{1'\}\cup J})$. This completes the proof of (3.7). Formulas (3.8) can be obtained similarly, by making use of Proposition 3.3. \square

4. THE PEAK ALGEBRA

Definition 4.1. The peak algebra \mathfrak{P}_n is the subspace of the descent algebra $Sol(A_{n-1})$ linearly spanned by the elements $\{P_F\}_{F \in \mathcal{F}_n}$ defined by (3.3) or (3.4).

We show below that \mathfrak{P}_n is indeed a unital subalgebra of $Sol(A_{n-1})$. As explained in the Introduction, this differs from the object considered in [28, 29]. The connection between the two is clarified in Section 5.

Since the elements P_F are sums over disjoint classes of permutations, they are linearly independent. Thus, they form a basis of \mathfrak{P}_n and

$$\dim \mathfrak{P}_n = f_n,$$

the n -th Fibonacci number as in (3.1).

The following is one of the main results of this paper.

Theorem 4.2. *\mathfrak{P}_n is a subalgebra of the descent algebra of the symmetric group S_n . Moreover, it coincides with the image of the map $\varphi : \text{Sol}(B_n) \rightarrow \text{Sol}(A_{n-1})$ and also with that of $\psi : \text{Sol}(D_n) \rightarrow \text{Sol}(A_{n-1})$.*

Proof. Since φ and ψ are morphisms of algebras, it is enough to show that their images coincide with \mathfrak{P}_n . We already know that

$$\text{Im}(\varphi) \subseteq \text{Im}(\psi) \subseteq \mathfrak{P}_n$$

from Proposition 3.6 and Corollary 2.3. We will show that $\varphi : \text{Sol}(B_n) \rightarrow \mathfrak{P}_n$ is in fact surjective.

Define an order on the subsets in \mathcal{F}_n by declaring that $E < F$ if the maximum element in the set $E \Delta F$ is an element of F . According to Lemma 4.3 (below), this a total order.

For each $E \in \mathcal{F}_n$ consider the shifted set $E - 1 \subseteq \overline{[n-1]}$. We first show that P_F does not appear in the sum $\varphi(X_{E-1})$ for any $E < F$. Let a be the maximum element in $E \Delta F$. By the choice of the total order, $a \in F$ and $a \notin E$. Suppose $a \in E - 1$. Then $a + 1 \in E$, and since a is the maximum element of $E \Delta F$, we would have $a + 1 \in F$. But then both a and $a + 1 \in F$, which contradicts the fact that $F \in \mathcal{F}_n$. Thus, $a \notin E - 1$, and hence $F \not\subseteq (E - 1) \cup E$. It follows from (3.6) that P_F does not appear in the sum $\varphi(X_{E-1})$ for any $E \in \mathcal{F}_n$, $E < F$, while it does appear in $\varphi(X_{F-1})$. In other words, the matrix of the restriction of φ to the subspace of $\text{Sol}(B_n)$ spanned by the elements $\{X_{F-1} \mid F \in \mathcal{F}_n\}$ is unitriangular (with respect to the chosen total order). In particular, φ is surjective. \square

Lemma 4.3. *The relation $E < F \iff \max(E \Delta F) \in F$ defines a total order on the finite subsets of any fixed totally ordered set.*

Proof. Let X be the totally ordered set. Encode subsets E of X as sequences $x_E \in \mathbb{Z}_2^X$ in the standard way. Then $x_{E \Delta F} = x_E + x_F$. Therefore, the relation $E < F$ corresponds to the right lexicographic order on \mathbb{Z}_2^X (defined from $0 < 1$ in \mathbb{Z}_2), which is clearly total. \square

Since the elements P_F consist of sums over disjoint classes of permutations, the structure constants for the multiplication of \mathfrak{P}_n on this basis are necessarily non-negative. Tables 1–4 describe the multiplication for the first peak algebras. The structure constants for the product $P_F \cdot P_G$ are found at the intersection of the row indexed by P_F and the column indexed by P_G , and they are given in the same order as the rows or columns. For instance, in \mathfrak{P}_4 ,

$$P_{\{2\}} \cdot P_{\{1\}} = 2P_\emptyset + 2P_{\{1\}} + 2P_{\{2\}} + 3P_{\{3\}} + 3P_{\{1,3\}}.$$

Note that the peak algebras are not commutative in general.

	P_\emptyset	$P_{\{1\}}$
P_\emptyset	(1, 0)	(0, 1)
$P_{\{1\}}$	(0, 1)	(1, 0)

TABLE 1. Multiplication table for \mathfrak{P}_2 .

	P_\emptyset	$P_{\{1\}}$	$P_{\{2\}}$
P_\emptyset	(1, 0, 0)	(0, 1, 0)	(0, 0, 1)
$P_{\{1\}}$	(0, 1, 0)	(2, 1, 2)	(1, 1, 1)
$P_{\{2\}}$	(0, 0, 1)	(1, 1, 1)	(1, 1, 0)

TABLE 2. Multiplication table for \mathfrak{P}_3 .

	P_\emptyset	$P_{\{1\}}$	$P_{\{2\}}$	$P_{\{3\}}$	$P_{\{1,3\}}$
P_\emptyset	(1, 0, 0, 0, 0)	(0, 1, 0, 0, 0)	(0, 0, 1, 0, 0)	(0, 0, 0, 1, 0)	(0, 0, 0, 0, 1)
$P_{\{1\}}$	(0, 1, 0, 0, 0)	(3, 2, 2, 2, 2)	(2, 2, 3, 2, 2)	(1, 1, 0, 1, 2)	(1, 1, 2, 2, 1)
$P_{\{2\}}$	(0, 0, 1, 0, 0)	(2, 2, 2, 3, 3)	(3, 3, 2, 3, 3)	(1, 1, 1, 1, 1)	(2, 2, 2, 1, 1)
$P_{\{3\}}$	(0, 0, 0, 1, 0)	(1, 1, 1, 0, 1)	(1, 1, 1, 1, 1)	(1, 0, 1, 0, 0)	(0, 1, 0, 1, 1)
$P_{\{1,3\}}$	(0, 0, 0, 0, 1)	(1, 1, 2, 2, 1)	(2, 2, 1, 2, 2)	(0, 1, 1, 0, 0)	(2, 1, 1, 1, 1)

TABLE 3. Multiplication table for \mathfrak{P}_4 .

Remark 4.4. The proof of Theorem 4.2 shows that the set $\{\varphi(X_{F-1})\}_{F \in \mathcal{F}_n}$ is a basis of \mathfrak{P}_n . The structure constants for the product of $Sol(B_n)$ on the basis $\{X_J\}_{J \subseteq \overline{[n-1]}}$ are non-negative and in fact admit an explicit combinatorial description [4]. However, this is no longer true for the basis $\{\varphi(X_{F-1})\}_{F \in \mathcal{F}_n}$ of \mathfrak{P}_n . The first counterexample occurs for $n = 5$:

$$\varphi(X_{\{2\}})^2 = 2\varphi(X_{\{2\}}) + 4\varphi(X_{\{3\}}) - 2\varphi(X_{\{0,3\}}) + 14\varphi(X_{\{1,3\}}).$$

We do not know of a basis of \mathfrak{P}_n for which the structure constants of the product admit an explicit combinatorial description.

5. INTERIOR PEAKS AND CANONICAL IDEALS IN TYPES B AND D

5.1. The canonical ideal in type B.

Definition 5.1. Let $\beta : Sol(B_n) \rightarrow Sol(B_{n-1})$ be defined by

$$(5.1) \quad X_J \mapsto \begin{cases} X_{J-1} & \text{if } 0 \notin J, \\ 0 & \text{if } 0 \in J \end{cases}$$

for any $J \subseteq \overline{[n-1]}$. The canonical ideal in type B is $I_n^0 = \ker(\beta)$.

Note that β may be equivalently defined by

$$(5.2) \quad Y_J \mapsto \begin{cases} Y_{J-1} & \text{if } 0 \notin J, \\ -Y_{(J \setminus \{0\})-1} & \text{if } 0 \in J. \end{cases}$$

It follows that

$$(5.3) \quad I_n^0 = \text{Span}\{X_J^0 \mid J \subseteq \overline{[n-1]}\} = \text{Span}\{Y_J^0 \mid J \subseteq \overline{[n-1]}\},$$

where we have set

$$(5.4) \quad X_J^0 = X_{\{0\} \cup J} \quad \text{and} \quad Y_J^0 = Y_{\{0\} \cup J} + Y_J.$$

Proposition 5.2. *The map $\beta : Sol(B_n) \rightarrow Sol(B_{n-1})$ is a surjective morphism of algebras. In particular, I_n^0 is a two-sided ideal of $Sol(B_n)$.*

Proof. The fact that I_n^0 is a two-sided ideal of $Sol(B_n)$ is proven in [4, Theorem 3] (we warn the reader that the proof of that theorem contains some misprints). The same argument, which is based on the multiplication rule for the descent algebra of type B given in [4, Theorem 1], yields the stronger assertion that β is a morphism of algebras. Surjectivity is obvious from (5.1). \square

5.2. The ideal of interior peaks.

Definition 5.3. Let $w \in S_n$. The set of *interior peaks* of w is

$$\overset{\circ}{\text{Peak}}(w) = \{i \in \{2, \dots, n-1\} \mid w_{i-1} < w_i > w_{i+1}\}.$$

Thus,

$$(5.5) \quad \text{Peak}(w) = \begin{cases} \{1\} \cup \overset{\circ}{\text{Peak}}(w) & \text{if } 1 \in \text{Des}(w), \\ \overset{\circ}{\text{Peak}}(w) & \text{if not.} \end{cases}$$

Let $\overset{\circ}{\mathcal{F}}_n$ be the collection of those $F \in \mathcal{F}_n$ for which $1 \notin F$. For any $w \in S_n$, $\overset{\circ}{\text{Peak}}(w) \in \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{F}}_n$, and it is easy to see that any $F \in \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{F}}_n$ can be realized in this way.

For each $F \in \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{F}}_n$, define an element of the group algebra of S_n by

$$(5.6) \quad \overset{\circ}{P}_F := \sum_{\overset{\circ}{\text{Peak}}(w)=F} w.$$

These are the elements considered in Nyman's work [28] and also in Schocker's [29]. The operator $\overset{\circ}{\Lambda}(J) := \{i \in J \mid i \neq 1, i-1 \notin J\}$ satisfies $\overset{\circ}{\Lambda}(\text{Des}(w)) = \overset{\circ}{\text{Peak}}(w)$; thus, we also have

$$(5.7) \quad \overset{\circ}{P}_F := \sum_{\overset{\circ}{\Lambda}(J)=F} Y_J.$$

Note that if $F \in \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{F}}_n$ and $2 \notin F$, then $\{1\} \cup F \in \mathcal{F}_n$.

Lemma 5.4. For any $F \in \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{F}}_n$,

$$(5.8) \quad \overset{\circ}{P}_F = \begin{cases} P_F & \text{if } 2 \in F, \\ P_F + P_{\{1\} \cup F} & \text{if } 2 \notin F. \end{cases}$$

Proof. Consider first the case when $2 \in F$. Then, for any $w \in S_n$ with $\overset{\circ}{\text{Peak}}(w) = F$, $w_1 < w_2 > w_3$; in particular, $1 \notin \text{Des}(w)$. Hence $\overset{\circ}{\text{Peak}}(w) = \text{Peak}(w)$ and it follows from (3.3) and (5.6) that $P_F = \overset{\circ}{P}_F$.

If $2 \notin F$, then the class of permutations $w \in S_n$ with $\overset{\circ}{\text{Peak}}(w) = F$ splits into two classes, according to whether they have a descent at 1 or not. In view of (5.5), the first class consists of all those w for which $\overset{\circ}{\text{Peak}}(w) = \{1\} \cup F$, and the second of those for which $\overset{\circ}{\text{Peak}}(w) = F$; whence $\overset{\circ}{P}_F = P_{\{1\} \cup F} + P_F$. \square

Definition 5.5. The peak ideal $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$ is the subspace of \mathfrak{P}_n linearly spanned by the elements $\{\overset{\circ}{P}_F\}_{F \in \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{F}}_n}$.

We show below that $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$ is indeed a two-sided ideal of \mathfrak{P}_n . In particular, it follows that $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$ is closed under the product of $Sol(A_{n-1})$. In [28, 29], $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$ is regarded as a non-unital subalgebra of $Sol(A_{n-1})$ (and it is referred to as the peak algebra). The present work reveals the existence of the larger unital subalgebra \mathfrak{P}_n of $Sol(A_{n-1})$, as well as the extra structure of $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$ as an ideal of \mathfrak{P}_n .

First, consider the map $\pi : \mathfrak{P}_n \rightarrow \mathfrak{P}_{n-2}$ defined by

$$(5.9) \quad P_F \mapsto \begin{cases} P_{F-2} & \text{if neither 1 nor 2 belong to } F, \\ -P_{F \setminus \{1\}-2} & \text{if } 1 \in F, \\ 0 & \text{if } 2 \in F \end{cases}$$

for any $F \in \mathcal{F}_n$. Note that (5.9) covers all possibilities, since 1 and 2 cannot belong to F simultaneously. For the same reason, if $1 \in F$, the set $F \setminus \{1\} - 2$ belongs to \mathcal{F}_{n-2} .

As explained below (Remark 5.11), the map $\beta : Sol(B_n) \rightarrow Sol(B_{n-1})$ does not descend to peak algebras. However, the composite

$$(5.10) \quad \beta^2 : Sol(B_n) \xrightarrow{\beta} Sol(B_{n-1}) \xrightarrow{\beta} Sol(B_{n-2}), \quad X_J \mapsto \begin{cases} X_{J-2} & \text{if } 0, 1 \notin J, \\ 0 & \text{if } 0 \text{ or } 1 \in J \end{cases}$$

does. Indeed, it descends precisely to the map π of (5.9).

Proposition 5.6. *The map $\pi : \mathfrak{P}_n \rightarrow \mathfrak{P}_{n-2}$ is a surjective morphism of algebras. Moreover, there is a commutative diagram*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Sol(B_n) & \xrightarrow{\beta^2} & Sol(B_{n-2}) \\ \varphi \downarrow & & \downarrow \varphi \\ \mathfrak{P}_n & \xrightarrow{\pi} & \mathfrak{P}_{n-2} \end{array}$$

Proof. It suffices to show that the diagram commutes. That π is a surjective morphism of algebras follows, since so are φ and β (Theorem 4.2 and Proposition 5.2).

Take $J \subseteq \overline{[n-1]}$. Suppose first that 0 or $1 \in J$, so that $\beta^2(X_J) = 0$. In this case, $1 \in J \cup (J+1)$ and hence

$$\begin{aligned} \pi\varphi(X_J) &\stackrel{(3.6)}{=} 2^{\#J} \cdot \sum_{\substack{F \in \mathcal{F}_n \\ F \subseteq J \cup (J+1)}} \pi(P_F) \\ &\stackrel{(5.9)}{=} 2^{\#J} \cdot \sum_{\substack{F \in \mathcal{F}_n \\ F \subseteq J \cup (J+1) \\ 1 \notin F, 2 \notin F}} P_{F-2} - 2^{\#J} \cdot \sum_{\substack{F \in \mathcal{F}_n \\ F \subseteq J \cup (J+1) \\ 1 \in F, 2 \notin F}} P_{F \setminus \{1\}-2} \\ &= 2^{\#J} \cdot \sum_{\substack{F \in \mathcal{F}_n \\ F \subseteq J \cup (J+1) \\ 1 \notin F, 2 \notin F}} P_{F-2} - 2^{\#J} \cdot \sum_{\substack{F' \in \mathcal{F}_n \\ F' \subseteq J \cup (J+1) \\ 1 \notin F', 2 \notin F'}} P_{F'-2} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Consider now the case when $0, 1 \notin J$. In this case,

$$\varphi\beta^2(X_J) = \varphi(X_{J-2}) \stackrel{(3.6)}{=} 2^{\#J} \cdot \sum_{\substack{F \in \mathcal{F}_n \\ F \subseteq (J-2) \cup (J-1)}} P_F,$$

since the cardinality of the shifted set $J-2$ coincides with that of J . On the other hand, since $1 \notin J \cup (J+1)$, we have

$$\pi\varphi(X_J) \stackrel{(3.6)}{=} 2^{\#J} \cdot \sum_{\substack{F \in \mathcal{F}_n \\ F \subseteq J \cup (J+1)}} \pi(P_F) \stackrel{(5.9)}{=} 2^{\#J} \cdot \sum_{\substack{F \in \mathcal{F}_n \\ F \subseteq J \cup (J+1) \\ 1, 2 \notin F}} P_{F-2} = 2^{\#J} \cdot \sum_{\substack{F \in \mathcal{F}_n \\ F \subseteq (J-2) \cup (J-1)}} P_F.$$

Thus, $\varphi\beta^2(X_J) = \pi\varphi(X_J)$ and the proof is complete. \square

Since the elements $\overset{\circ}{P}_F$ are sums over disjoint classes of permutations, they are linearly independent. Thus, they form a basis of $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$ and

$$\dim \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n = \#\overset{\circ}{\mathcal{F}}_n = \#\mathcal{F}_{n-1} = f_{n-1},$$

the $(n-1)$ -th Fibonacci number as in (3.1).

We can now derive the main result of the section. It may be viewed as an algebraic counterpart of the recursion $f_n = f_{n-1} + f_{n-2}$.

Theorem 5.7. $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$ is a two-sided ideal of \mathfrak{P}_n . Moreover, for $n \geq 2$,

$$\mathfrak{P}_n/\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n \cong \mathfrak{P}_{n-2}.$$

(For $n \leq 1$, we have $\mathfrak{P}_0 = \mathfrak{P}_1 = \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_1 = \mathbb{Q}$.)

Proof. We know from Proposition 5.6 that π is surjective. Therefore

$$\mathfrak{P}_n/\ker(\pi) \cong \mathfrak{P}_{n-2}.$$

To complete the proof of the theorem it suffices to show that

$$\ker(\pi) = \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n.$$

Since $\dim \mathfrak{P}_n = f_n$, we have

$$\dim \ker(\pi) = f_n - f_{n-2} = f_{n-1} = \dim \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n.$$

On the other hand, from (5.8) and (5.9) we immediately see that $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n \subseteq \ker(\pi)$. \square

5.3. From the canonical ideal to the peak ideal. Let $I_n^{0,1}$ denote the kernel of the map β^2 . Thus, $I_n^{0,1}$ is another ideal of $Sol(B_n)$ and $I_n^0 \subseteq I_n^{0,1}$. Moreover, from (5.1) and (5.10) we see that

$$(5.11) \quad I_n^{0,1} = \text{Span}\{X_J \mid 0 \text{ or } 1 \in J, J \subseteq \overline{[n-1]}\}.$$

We will show below that the ideal I_n^0 and the larger ideal $I_n^{0,1}$ both map onto $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$. First, we provide an explicit formula for the map φ in terms of the bases $\{X_J^0\}_{J \subseteq [n-1]}$ and $\{Y_J^0\}_{J \subseteq [n-1]}$ of I_n^0 and $\{\overset{\circ}{P}_F\}_{F \in \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{F}}_n}$ of $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$. These turn out to be completely analogous to the formulas in Propositions 3.2 and 3.3.

Proposition 5.8. *For any $J \in [n-1]$,*

$$(5.12) \quad \varphi(X_J^0) = 2^{1+\#J} \cdot \sum_{\substack{F \in \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{F}}_n \\ F \subseteq J \cup (J+1)}} \overset{\circ}{P}_F \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi(Y_J^0) = \sum_{\substack{F \in \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{F}}_n \\ F \subseteq J \Delta (J+1)}} 2^{1+\#F} \cdot \overset{\circ}{P}_F.$$

Proof. By Proposition 3.3 we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2^{1+\#J}} \cdot \varphi(X_{\{0\} \cup J}) &= \sum_{\substack{F \in \mathcal{F}_n \\ F \subseteq \{1\} \cup J \cup (J+1)}} P_F \\ &= \sum_{\substack{1 \notin F \in \mathcal{F}_n \\ 2 \in F \subseteq J \cup (J+1)}} P_F + \sum_{\substack{1 \in F \in \mathcal{F}_n \\ 2 \notin F \subseteq \{1\} \cup J \cup (J+1)}} P_F + \sum_{\substack{1 \notin F \in \mathcal{F}_n \\ 2 \notin F \subseteq \{1\} \cup J \cup (J+1)}} P_F \\ (5.8) \quad &= \sum_{\substack{F \in \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{F}}_n \\ 2 \in F \subseteq J \cup (J+1)}} \overset{\circ}{P}_F + \sum_{\substack{F' \in \mathcal{F}_n \\ 1, 2 \notin F' \subseteq J \cup (J+1)}} P_{\{1\} \cup F'} + \sum_{\substack{F \in \mathcal{F}_n \\ 1, 2 \notin F \subseteq J \cup (J+1)}} P_F \\ &= \sum_{\substack{F \in \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{F}}_n \\ 2 \in F \subseteq J \cup (J+1)}} \overset{\circ}{P}_F + \sum_{\substack{F \in \mathcal{F}_n \\ 1, 2 \notin F \subseteq J \cup (J+1)}} P_{\{1\} \cup F} + P_F \\ (5.8) \quad &= \sum_{\substack{F \in \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{F}}_n \\ 2 \in F \subseteq J \cup (J+1)}} \overset{\circ}{P}_F + \sum_{\substack{F \in \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{F}}_n \\ 2 \notin F \subseteq J \cup (J+1)}} \overset{\circ}{P}_F \\ &= \sum_{\substack{F \in \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{F}}_n \\ F \subseteq J \cup (J+1)}} \overset{\circ}{P}_F. \end{aligned}$$

The formula for Y_J^0 can be similarly deduced from Proposition 3.2, or from the formula for X_J^0 , as in the proof of Proposition 3.3. \square

Theorem 5.9. $\varphi(I_n^{0,1}) = \varphi(I_n^0) = \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$.

Proof. We already know that $\varphi(I_n^0) \subseteq \varphi(I_n^{0,1}) \subseteq \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$. In fact, the first inclusion is trivial and the second follows from Proposition 5.6, since $I_n^{0,1} = \ker(\beta^2)$ and $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n = \ker(\pi)$, as seen in the proof of Theorem 5.7.

To complete the proof, we show that $\varphi : I_n^0 \rightarrow \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$ is surjective. For each $E \in \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{F}}_n$, consider the element $X_{E-1}^0 \in I_n^0$. By Proposition 5.8,

$$\varphi(X_{E-1}^0) = 2^{1+\#E} \cdot \sum_{\substack{F \in \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{F}}_n \\ F \subseteq (E-1) \cup E}} \overset{\circ}{P}_F.$$

As in the proof of Theorem 4.2, it follows that $\overset{\circ}{P}_F$ does not appear in $\varphi(X_{E-1}^0)$ for any $E < F$, where $E < F$ denotes the total order of Lemma 4.3. On the other hand, $\overset{\circ}{P}_F$ does appear in $\varphi(X_{F-1}^0)$. Therefore, the matrix of the map φ restricted to the

subspace of I_n^0 spanned by the elements X_{E-1}^0 is unitriangular. Hence, $\varphi : I_n^0 \rightarrow \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$ is surjective. \square

The following corollary summarizes the results that relate the peak algebra and the peak ideal to the descent algebras of type B.

Corollary 5.10. *There is a commutative diagram*

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & I_n^{0,1} & \hookrightarrow & Sol(B_n) & \xrightarrow{\beta^2} & Sol(B_{n-2}) \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow \varphi & & \downarrow \varphi & & \downarrow \varphi \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n & \hookrightarrow & \mathfrak{P}_n & \xrightarrow{\pi} & \mathfrak{P}_{n-2} \longrightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

where the rows are exact and the vertical maps are surjective.

Proof. The surjectivity of the vertical maps was obtained in Theorems 4.2 and 5.9. The exactness of the first row is clear from the definitions of β and $I_n^{0,1}$. In the course of the proof of Theorem 5.7 we obtained that $\ker(\pi) = \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$. Finally, Proposition 5.6 gave the surjectivity of π and the commutativity of the square. \square

Remark 5.11. There is no morphism of algebras $\mathfrak{P}_n \rightarrow \mathfrak{P}_{n-1}$ fitting in a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Sol(B_n) & \xrightarrow{\beta} & Sol(B_{n-1}) \\ \varphi \downarrow & & \downarrow \varphi \\ \mathfrak{P}_n & \dashrightarrow & \mathfrak{P}_{n-1} \end{array}$$

For such a map would be surjective, since so are φ and β , and hence its kernel would have dimension $\dim \mathfrak{P}_n - \dim \mathfrak{P}_{n-1} = f_{n-2}$. But this kernel must contain

$$\varphi(\ker(\beta)) = \varphi(I_n^0) = \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n \text{ (by Theorem 5.9)}$$

which has dimension f_{n-1} , a contradiction.

5.4. The canonical ideal in type D. There are similar results relating peaks to the descent algebras of type D. We present them in this section.

Consider the map $\gamma : Sol(D_n) \rightarrow Sol(B_{n-2})$ defined by

$$(5.13) \quad X_J \mapsto \begin{cases} X_{J-2} & \text{if } 1, 1' \notin J, \\ 0 & \text{if } 1 \text{ or } 1' \in J. \end{cases}$$

It follows from the proof of Theorem 2 in [9] that γ is a morphism of algebras. Moreover, it is clear from equations (2.2), (5.1) and (5.13) that the diagram

$$(5.14) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} Sol(B_n) & \xrightarrow{\chi} & Sol(D_n) \\ & \searrow \beta^2 & \swarrow \gamma \\ & Sol(B_{n-2}) & \end{array}$$

commutes.

Let $I_n^{1',1}$ denote the kernel of the map γ , an ideal of $Sol(D_n)$. From (5.13) we see that

$$(5.15) \quad I_n^{1',1} = \text{Span}\{X_J \mid 1' \text{ or } 1 \in J, J \in [n-1]'\}.$$

The following theorem describes the relationship between the peak algebra and the peak ideal to the descent algebras of type D and B.

Theorem 5.12. *There is a commutative diagram*

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & I_n^{1',1} & \hookrightarrow & Sol(D_n) & \xrightarrow{\gamma} & Sol(B_{n-2}) \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow \psi & & \downarrow \psi & & \downarrow \varphi \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n & \hookrightarrow & \mathfrak{P}_n & \xrightarrow{\pi} & \mathfrak{P}_{n-2} \longrightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

where the rows are exact and the vertical maps are surjective.

Proof. The exactness of the first row is clear from the definitions of γ and $I_n^{1',1}$. The second row is exact according to Corollary 5.10.

The commutativity of the square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Sol(D_n) & \xrightarrow{\gamma} & Sol(B_{n-2}) \\ \downarrow \psi & & \downarrow \varphi \\ \mathfrak{P}_n & \xrightarrow{\pi} & \mathfrak{P}_{n-2} \end{array}$$

can be shown in the same way as in Proposition 5.6. Together with (5.14), this allows us to construct a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & I_n^{0,1} & \hookrightarrow & Sol(B_n) & & \\ & & \downarrow \chi & & \downarrow \chi & \searrow \beta^2 & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & I_n^{1',1} & \hookrightarrow & Sol(D_n) & \xrightarrow{\gamma} & Sol(B_{n-2}) \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow \psi & & \downarrow \psi & & \downarrow \varphi \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n & \hookrightarrow & \mathfrak{P}_n & \xrightarrow{\pi} & \mathfrak{P}_{n-2} \longrightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

Since by Theorem 5.9 the map $I_n^{0,1} \rightarrow \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$ is surjective, so must be the map $I_n^{1',1} \rightarrow \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$. This completes the proof. \square

6. COMMUTATIVE SUBALGEBRAS OF THE DESCENT AND PEAK ALGEBRAS

Grouping permutations according to the number of descents leads to the following elements of the descent algebra of type A:

$$y_j := \sum_{\substack{u \in S_n \\ \# \text{Des}(u)=j}} u = \sum_{\substack{J \subseteq [n-1] \\ \# J=j}} Y_J,$$

for $j = 0, \dots, n-1$. It was shown by Loday that the linear span of these elements forms a commutative subalgebra of $Sol(A_{n-1})$ [21, Section 1]; see also [15, Remark 4.2]. Moreover, this subalgebra is generated by y_1 and is semisimple. Let us denote it by $s(A_{n-1})$.

In this section we derive an analogous result for the linear span of the sums of permutations with a given number of peaks. Once again, it is possible to easily derive this fact from the analogous result for type B.

6.1. Commutative subalgebras of the descent algebra of type B. Consider the following elements of the descent algebra of type B:

$$(6.1) \quad y_j := \sum_{\substack{w \in B_n \\ \# \text{Des}(w)=j}} w = \sum_{\substack{J \subseteq [n-1] \\ \# J=j}} Y_J$$

for each $j = 0, \dots, n$. Let $s(B_n)$ denote the subspace of $\text{Sol}(B_n)$ linearly spanned by these $n+1$ elements.

Also let

$$(6.2) \quad x_j := \sum_{\substack{J \subseteq [n-1] \\ \# J=j}} X_J$$

for $j = 0, \dots, n$. These elements also span $s(B_n)$, since it is easy to see that

$$(6.3) \quad x_j = \sum_{i=0}^j \binom{n-i}{j-i} \cdot y_i.$$

Bergeron and Bergeron showed that $s(B_n)$ is a commutative semisimple subalgebra of $\text{Sol}(B_n)$ [5, Section 4]. Mahajan showed that one can actually do better [23]. Below, we will formulate his results in our notation (Mahajan's work is in the context of random walks on chambers of Coxeter complexes), together with a small extension. To this end, recall the bases $\{Y_J^0\}_{J \subseteq [n-1]}$ and $\{X_J^0\}_{J \subseteq [n-1]}$ of the ideal I_n^0 of $\text{Sol}(B_n)$ from (5.4), and consider the elements

$$(6.4) \quad y_j^0 := \sum_{\substack{J \subseteq [n-1] \\ \# J=j-1}} Y_J^0 \quad \text{and} \quad x_j^0 := \sum_{\substack{J \subseteq [n-1] \\ \# J=j-1}} X_J^0 = \sum_{i=1}^j \binom{n-i}{j-i} \cdot y_i^0$$

for $j = 1, \dots, n$. Let i_n^0 denote the subspace of I_n^0 linearly spanned by (either of) these two sets of n elements and set

$$\widehat{s}(B_n) := s(B_n) + i_n^0,$$

the subspace of $\text{Sol}(B_n)$ linearly spanned by $y_0, \dots, y_n, y_1^0, \dots, y_n^0$. It is easy to see that the only relation among these elements is

$$(6.5) \quad \sum_{j=0}^n y_j = \sum_{w \in B_n} w = \sum_{j=1}^n y_j^0, \quad \text{or in other words, } x_n = x_n^0;$$

thus, $s(B_n) \cap i_n^0 = \text{Span}\{x_n\}$ and $\dim \widehat{s}(B_n) = 2n$.

Theorem 6.1. *$\widehat{s}(B_n)$ is a commutative semisimple subalgebra of $\text{Sol}(B_n)$. Moreover,*

- (a) $\widehat{s}(B_n)$ is generated as an algebra by y_1 and y_1^0 ,
- (b) $s(B_n)$ is the subalgebra of $\widehat{s}(B_n)$ generated by y_1 , it is also semisimple,
- (c) i_n^0 is the two-sided ideal of $\widehat{s}(B_n)$ generated by y_1^0 ,
- (d) $\dim \widehat{s}(B_n) = 2n$, $\dim s(B_n) = n+1$, $\dim i_n^0 = n$.

Proof. All these assertions are due to Mahajan [23, Section 4.2], except for (c). Since $i_n^0 \subseteq I_n^0$ and $\widehat{s}(B_n) = s(B_n) + i_n^0$, we have

$$I_n^0 \cap \widehat{s}(B_n) = (I_n^0 \cap s(B_n)) + i_n^0.$$

By Definition 5.1, $I_n^0 = \ker(\beta)$. Hence, $I_n^0 \cap s(B_n) = \ker(\beta|_{s(B_n)})$. Now, from our analysis of β in Proposition 6.10 (below), this kernel is 1-dimensional, spanned by the element $\sum_{i=0}^n y_i$, which belongs to i_n^0 by (6.5). Therefore,

$$I_n^0 \cap \widehat{s}(B_n) = i_n^0.$$

Since I_n^0 is an ideal of $Sol(B_n)$, it follows that i_n^0 is an ideal of $\widehat{s}(B_n)$. Mahajan also shows that i_n^0 is generated by y_1^0 as a non-unital algebra, hence also as an ideal. \square

6.2. From number of descents to number of peaks. The maximum number of peaks of a permutation $u \in S_n$ is $\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$. For each $j = 0, \dots, \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$, define an element of the peak algebra \mathfrak{P}_n by

$$(6.6) \quad p_j := \sum_{\substack{w \in S_n \\ \#\text{Peak}(w)=j}} w = \sum_{\substack{F \in \mathcal{F}_n \\ \#F=j}} P_F.$$

It is somewhat surprising that this naive analog of (6.1) is indeed the right one, given that the expression for $\varphi(Y_J)$ in (3.5) involves subsets F of various cardinalities. However, we have:

Proposition 6.2. *The restriction of $\varphi : Sol(B_n) \rightarrow \mathfrak{P}_n$ to $s(B_n)$ is explicitly given by*

$$(6.7) \quad y_j \mapsto \sum_{i=0}^{\min(j, n-j)} 2^{2i} \binom{n-2i}{j-i} \cdot p_i$$

for $j = 0, \dots, n$.

Proof. Fix $j \in \{0, \dots, n\}$. By (6.1) and (3.5),

$$\varphi(y_j) = \sum_{\substack{J \subseteq [n-1] \\ \#J=j}} \sum_{\substack{F \in \mathcal{F}_n \\ F \subseteq J \Delta (J+1)}} 2^{\#F} \cdot P_F.$$

To derive (6.7) we have to show that, for each $i = 0, \dots, \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$ and $F \in \mathcal{F}_n$ with $\#F = i$, we have

$$\#\{J \subseteq \overline{[n-1]} \mid F \subseteq J \Delta (J+1) \text{ and } \#J = j\} = \begin{cases} 2^i \binom{n-2i}{j-i} & \text{if } i \leq j, n-j, \\ 0 & \text{if not.} \end{cases}$$

Let $F = \{s_1, s_2, \dots, s_i\}$ and consider the sets $\{s_h - 1, s_h\}$. These sets are disjoint since $F \in \mathcal{F}_n$. Now, $F \subseteq J \Delta (J+1)$ if and only if J contains exactly one of the elements $s_h - 1, s_h$ for each $h = 1, \dots, i$. In particular, there is no such set J unless $i \leq j$. In this case, J is determined by the choice of one element from each set $\{s_h - 1, s_h\}$ plus the choice of $j - i$ elements from the remaining $n - 2i$ elements in $\overline{[n-1]}$ not occurring in any of those sets (which is possible only if $i \leq n - j$). The total number of choices is thus $2^i \binom{n-2i}{j-i}$. \square

Remark 6.3. It follows immediately from (6.7) that $\varphi(y_j) = \varphi(y_{n-j})$ for each $j = 0, \dots, n$. This is also a consequence of Remark 3.5.

The maximum number of interior peaks of a permutation $u \in \mathcal{S}_n$ is $\lfloor \frac{n-1}{2} \rfloor$. For each $j = 1, \dots, \lfloor \frac{n+1}{2} \rfloor$ define an element of the peak ideal by

$$(6.8) \quad \overset{\circ}{p}_j := \sum_{\substack{w \in \mathcal{S}_n \\ \# \text{Peak}(w)=j-1}} w = \sum_{\substack{F \in \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{F}}_n \\ \# F=j-1}} \overset{\circ}{P}_F.$$

Proposition 6.4. *The restriction of φ to i_n^0 is given by*

$$(6.9) \quad y_j^0 \mapsto \sum_{i=1}^{\min(j, n+1-j)} 2^{2i-1} \binom{n-2i+1}{j-i} \cdot \overset{\circ}{p}_i$$

for each $j = 1, \dots, n$.

Proof. The same argument as in the proof of Proposition 6.2 allows us to deduce this result from (5.12). \square

Remark 6.5. We may rewrite the definition of the elements y_j^0 and $\overset{\circ}{p}_j$ as

$$y_j^0 = \sum_{\substack{J \subseteq [n-1] \\ \#(J \setminus \{0\})=j-1}} Y_J \quad \text{and} \quad \overset{\circ}{p}_j = \sum_{\substack{F \in \mathcal{F}_n \\ \#(F \setminus \{1\})=j-1}} P_F.$$

The former follows from (6.4) and (5.4), the latter from (6.8) and (5.8).

6.3. Commutative subalgebras of the peak algebra.

Definition 6.6. Let \wp_n denote the subspace of the peak algebra \mathfrak{P}_n linearly spanned by the elements $\{p_j\}_{j=0, \dots, \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor}$, let $\overset{\circ}{\wp}_n$ denote the subspace of the peak ideal $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$ linearly spanned by the elements $\{\overset{\circ}{p}_j\}_{j=1, \dots, \lfloor \frac{n+1}{2} \rfloor}$, and let

$$\widehat{\wp}_n := \wp_n + \overset{\circ}{\wp}_n.$$

Proposition 6.7. *The map $\varphi : \text{Sol}(B_n) \rightarrow \mathfrak{P}_n$ maps $\widehat{s}(B_n)$ onto $\widehat{\wp}_n$, $s(B_n)$ onto \wp_n and i_n^0 onto $\overset{\circ}{\wp}_n$.*

Proof. It is enough to prove the last two assertions. By Proposition 6.2, φ maps $s(B_n)$ into \wp_n . Moreover, (6.7) also shows that, for any $j = 0, \dots, \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$, p_j appears in $\varphi(y_j)$, but not in $\varphi(y_i)$ for $i < j$. Thus, the matrix of the restriction of φ to the subspace of $s(B_n)$ spanned by these elements p_j is unitriangular. Hence, φ maps $s(B_n)$ onto \wp_n . That it maps i_n^0 onto $\overset{\circ}{\wp}_n$ follows similarly from (6.9). \square

We can now derive our main result on commutative subalgebras of the peak algebra.

Theorem 6.8. *$\widehat{\wp}_n$ is a commutative semisimple subalgebra of \mathfrak{P}_n . Moreover,*

- (a) $\widehat{\wp}_n$ is generated as an algebra by p_1 and $\overset{\circ}{p}_1$,
- (b) \wp_n is the subalgebra of $\widehat{\wp}_n$ generated by p_1 , it is also semisimple,
- (c) $\overset{\circ}{\wp}_n$ is the two-sided ideal of $\widehat{\wp}_n$ generated by $\overset{\circ}{p}_1$,
- (d) $\dim \widehat{\wp}_n = n$, $\dim \wp_n = \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor + 1$, $\dim \overset{\circ}{\wp}_n = \lfloor \frac{n+1}{2} \rfloor$.

Proof. All these statements follow from the corresponding statements in Theorem 6.1, thanks to Proposition 6.7, except for (d). Now, it is clear that both sets $\{p_j\}_{j=0,\dots,\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor}$ and $\{\overset{\circ}{p}_j\}_{j=1,\dots,\lfloor \frac{n+1}{2} \rfloor}$ are linearly independent, and that the only relation among these elements is

$$\sum_{j=0}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} p_j = \sum_{u \in \mathcal{S}_n} u = \sum_{j=1}^{\lfloor \frac{n+1}{2} \rfloor} \overset{\circ}{p}_j.$$

(This also follows from Proposition 6.11 below.) The assertions follow, since $n = \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor + \lfloor \frac{n+1}{2} \rfloor$. \square

The first multiplication tables for the spanning set $\{p_0, \dots, p_{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor}, \overset{\circ}{p}_1, \dots, \overset{\circ}{p}_{\lfloor \frac{n+1}{2} \rfloor}\}$ of the algebra $\widehat{\wp}_n$ are provided below. The first block gives the multiplication within the subalgebra \wp_n and the others describe the multiplication with elements of the ideal $\overset{\circ}{\wp}_n$.

	p_0	p_1	$\overset{\circ}{p}_1$
p_0	(1, 0, 0)	(0, 1, 0)	(0, 0, 1)
p_1	(0, 1, 0)	(1, 0, 0)	(0, 0, 1)
$\overset{\circ}{p}_1$	(0, 0, 1)	(0, 0, 1)	(0, 0, 2)

TABLE 4. Multiplication table for $\widehat{\wp}_2$.

	p_0	p_1	$\overset{\circ}{p}_1$	$\overset{\circ}{p}_2$
p_0	(1, 0, 0, 0)	(0, 1, 0, 0)	(0, 0, 1, 0)	(0, 0, 0, 1)
p_1	(0, 1, 0, 0)	(5, 4, 0, 0)	(0, 0, 3, 4)	(0, 0, 2, 1)
$\overset{\circ}{p}_1$	(0, 0, 1, 0)	(0, 0, 3, 4)	(0, 0, 3, 2)	(0, 0, 1, 2)
$\overset{\circ}{p}_2$	(0, 0, 0, 1)	(0, 0, 2, 1)	(0, 0, 1, 2)	(0, 0, 1, 0)

TABLE 5. Multiplication table for $\widehat{\wp}_3$.

	p_0	p_1	p_2	$\overset{\circ}{p}_1$	$\overset{\circ}{p}_2$
p_0	(1, 0, 0, 0, 0)	(0, 1, 0, 0, 0)	(0, 0, 1, 0, 0)	(0, 0, 0, 1, 0)	(0, 0, 0, 0, 1)
p_1	(0, 1, 0, 0, 0)	(15, 13, 15, 0, 0)	(3, 4, 3, 0, 0)	(0, 0, 0, 6, 6)	(0, 0, 0, 12, 12)
p_2	(0, 0, 1, 0, 0)	(3, 4, 3, 0, 0)	(2, 1, 1, 0, 0)	(0, 0, 0, 1, 2)	(0, 0, 0, 4, 3)
$\overset{\circ}{p}_1$	(0, 0, 0, 1, 0)	(0, 0, 0, 6, 6)	(0, 0, 0, 1, 2)	(0, 0, 0, 4, 2)	(0, 0, 0, 4, 6)
$\overset{\circ}{p}_2$	(0, 0, 0, 0, 1)	(0, 0, 0, 12, 12)	(0, 0, 0, 4, 3)	(0, 0, 0, 4, 6)	(0, 0, 0, 12, 10)

TABLE 6. Multiplication table for $\widehat{\wp}_4$.

Remarks 6.9. (1) The elements $\overset{\circ}{p}_j$ are also considered in recent work of Schcker: in [29, Theorem 9], it is shown that they span a commutative non-unital subalgebra. Our results (Theorem 6.8) provide a more complete picture: these elements actually span a two-sided ideal of a larger commutative unital subalgebra, also defined by grouping permutations according to the number of (not necessarily interior) peaks.

(2) Doyle and Rockmore have considered two objects closely related to \wp_n and $\overset{\circ}{\wp}_n$ and related them to descents of signed permutations [13, Sections 5.3-5.5]. The difference stems from the fact that in their work permutations are grouped according to the number of peaks *and* valleys (since they do not consider n as a possible valley, this number is not just twice the number of peaks).

(3) The work of Mahajan [23] presents a powerful axiomatic construction of commutative semisimple subalgebras of descent algebras of Coxeter groups. In particular, several such subalgebras of $Sol(B_n)$ are described.

(4) More information on the commutative subalgebra $s(B_n)$ of Section 6.1 can be found in Chow's thesis [12, Sections 4.2, 4.3 and 5.1].

(5) Neither the commutative subalgebra \wp_n of \mathfrak{P}_n nor the ideal $\overset{\circ}{\wp}_n$ are contained in the commutative subalgebra $s(A_{n-1})$ of $Sol(A_{n-1})$ discussed in the introduction to Section 6 (counterexamples already exist for low values of n). There is, however, a "correct" type B analog of $s(A_{n-1})$: it is a commutative subalgebra of the algebra of Mantaci and Reutenauer (Section 7). We will not pursue this point in this paper.

6.4. Exact sequences for the commutative subalgebras. Next we consider the morphisms of algebras β and π (Section 5.2) restricted to the subalgebras $s(B_n)$ and \wp_n . Note that $i_n^0 \subseteq I_n^0 = \ker(\beta)$ and $\overset{\circ}{\wp}_n \subseteq \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n = \ker(\pi)$.

Proposition 6.10. *For any $j = 0, \dots, n$,*

$$(6.10) \quad \beta(y_j) = \begin{cases} y_0 & \text{if } j = 0, \\ y_j - y_{j-1} & \text{if } 0 < j < n, \\ -y_{n-1} & \text{if } j = n; \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad \beta(x_j) = \begin{cases} x_j & \text{if } 0 \leq j < n, \\ 0 & \text{if } j = n. \end{cases}$$

Therefore, β maps $s(B_n)$ onto $s(B_{n-1})$ with a 1-dimensional kernel spanned by

$$x_n = \sum_{j=0}^n y_j = \sum_{w \in \mathcal{B}_n} w.$$

Proof. Formulas (6.10) follow easily from (5.1) and (5.2); the rest of the assertions follow at once. \square

Even though $\varphi : s(B_n) \rightarrow \wp_n$ does not map the y_j basis onto the p_j basis, the behavior of the morphism π is completely analogous to that of β .

Proposition 6.11. *For any $j = 0, \dots, \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$,*

$$(6.11) \quad \pi(p_j) = \begin{cases} p_0 & \text{if } j = 0, \\ p_j - p_{j-1} & \text{if } 1 < j < \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor, \\ -p_{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor - 1} & \text{if } j = \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor. \end{cases}$$

Therefore, π maps \wp_n onto \wp_{n-2} with a 1-dimensional kernel spanned by

$$\sum_{j=0}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} p_j = \sum_{u \in \mathcal{S}_n} u.$$

Proof. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \pi(p_j) &= \pi\left(\sum_{\#F=j} P_F\right) = \pi\left(\sum_{\substack{1,2 \notin F \\ \#F=j}} P_F + \sum_{\substack{(2 \notin F) \\ \#F=j-1}} P_{F \cup \{1\}} + \sum_{\substack{2 \in F \\ \#F=j}} P_F\right) \\ &\stackrel{(5.9)}{=} \sum_{\substack{1,2 \notin F \\ \#F=j}} P_{F-2} - \sum_{\substack{1,2 \notin F \\ \#F=j-1}} P_{F-2} = p_j - p_{j-1}. \end{aligned}$$

The remaining assertions follow at once. \square

It follows from (6.10) that the kernel of $\beta^2 : s(B_n) \rightarrow s(B_{n-2})$ has dimension 2; in fact

$$\ker(\beta^2) = \text{Span}\left\{\sum_{j=0}^n y_j, \sum_{j=0}^n j \cdot y_j\right\} = \text{Span}\{x_n, x_{n-1}\}.$$

φ maps this kernel to the 1-dimensional space spanned by $\sum_{j=0}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} p_j$, since

$$\varphi\left(\sum_{j=0}^n y_j\right) = 2^n \cdot \sum_{j=0}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} p_j \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi\left(\sum_{j=0}^n j \cdot y_j\right) = n2^{n-1} \cdot \sum_{j=0}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} p_j.$$

These follow from (6.7) together with $\sum_{j=0}^n \binom{n}{j} = 2^n$ and $\sum_{j=0}^n j \binom{n}{j} = n2^{n-1}$.

Corollary 6.12. *There is a commutative diagram*

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{Span}\{x_n, x_{n-1}\} & \hookrightarrow & s(B_n) & \xrightarrow{\beta^2} & s(B_{n-2}) \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \varphi \downarrow & & \downarrow \varphi & & \downarrow \varphi \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{Span}\{\sum_{j=0}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} p_j\} & \hookrightarrow & \wp_n & \xrightarrow{\pi} & \wp_{n-2} \longrightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

where the rows are exact and the vertical maps are surjective.

Proof. This follows from Corollary 5.10, Propositions 6.7, 6.10 and 6.11 and the previous remarks. \square

6.5. Commutative subalgebras of the descent algebra of type D. Grouping permutations of type D according to the number of descents does not yield a subalgebra of $\text{Sol}(D_n)$, as one may easily see. On the other hand, one may obtain commutative subalgebras of $\text{Sol}(D_n)$ simply as the image of the commutative subalgebras of $s(B_n)$ under the map χ of Section 2. This leads to the subalgebras considered by Mahajan in [23, Section 5.2]. We describe the result next.

Let $s(D_n)$, $i_n^{1',1}$ and $\widehat{s}(D_n)$ be the images under χ of $s(B_n)$, i_n^0 and $\widehat{s}(B_n)$, respectively. Thus, $\widehat{s}(D_n)$ is a commutative semisimple subalgebra of $\text{Sol}(D_n)$, $s(D_n)$ is a (commutative) semisimple subalgebra of $\widehat{s}(D_n)$, $i_n^{1',1}$ is a two-sided ideal of $\widehat{s}(D_n)$ and $\widehat{s}(D_n) = s(D_n) + i_n^{1',1}$. In addition, Proposition 2.1 implies that for each $j = 1, \dots, n$,

$$\chi(x_j^0) = \sum_{\substack{J \subseteq [2,n-1] \\ \#J=j-1}} X_{\{1'\} \cup J} + \sum_{\substack{J \subseteq [2,n-1] \\ \#J=j-1}} X_{\{1\} \cup J} + \sum_{\substack{J \subseteq [2,n-1] \\ \#J=j-2}} X_{\{1',1\} \cup J} = \sum_{\substack{1' \in J \subseteq [n-1]' \\ \#J=j}} X_J + \sum_{\substack{1 \in J \subseteq [n-1]' \\ \#J=j}} X_J,$$

and

$$\chi(x_j) = \chi(x_j^0) + \sum_{\substack{J \subseteq [2, n-1] \\ \#J=j}} X_J + \sum_{\substack{J \subseteq [2, n-1] \\ \#J=j-1}} X_{\{1', 1\} \cup J}.$$

For instance, for $n = 3$ we have

$$\chi(x_1^0) = X_{\{1'\}} + X_{\{1\}}, \quad \chi(x_2^0) = X_{\{1', 2\}} + X_{\{1, 2\}} + 2 \cdot X_{\{1', 1\}}, \quad \chi(x_3^0) = 2 \cdot X_{\{1', 1, 2\}}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \chi(x_0) &= X_\emptyset, & \chi(x_1) &= \chi(x_1^0) + X_{\{2\}} + X_{\{1', 1\}}, \\ \chi(x_2) &= \chi(x_2^0) + X_{\{1', 1, 2\}}, & \chi(x_3) &= \chi(x_3^0). \end{aligned}$$

It turns out that both sets $\{\chi(x_j)\}_{j=0, \dots, n}$ and $\{\chi(x_j^0)\}_{j=1, \dots, n}$ are linearly independent and that the only linear relations among these $2n+1$ elements are

$$\chi(x_n) = \chi(x_n^0) \quad \text{and} \quad \chi(x_n) = 2(\chi(x_{n-1}) - \chi(x_{n-1}^0)).$$

To see this, note that if the basis element X_J of $Sol(D_n)$ appears in $\chi(x_i)$, then either $\#J = i$ or J contains 1 or $1'$. Also, if it appears in $\chi(x_i^0)$, then J contains 1 or $1'$. Therefore, if $J \subseteq [2, n-1]$ and $i := \#J$, then $i \leq n-2$ and the basis element X_J appears in $\chi(x_i)$ but does not appear in any other $\chi(x_j)$ or in any $\chi(x_j^0)$.

Therefore, χ induces isomorphisms

$$s(B_n) \cong s(D_n) \quad \text{and} \quad i_n^0 \cong i_n^{1', 1},$$

and $\widehat{s}(D_n)$ is the quotient of $\widehat{s}(B_n)$ by the one-dimensional subspace spanned by

$$x_n - 2(x_{n-1} - x_{n-1}^0) = X_{[0, n-1]} - 2X_{[n-1]}.$$

Thus $\widehat{s}(D_n)$ is a commutative semisimple subalgebra of $Sol(D_n)$ of dimension $2n-1$.

It follows from Corollary 2.3, diagram (5.14) and Corollary 6.12 that we have commutative diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccc} s(B_n) & \xrightarrow{\chi} & s(D_n) \\ \varphi \searrow & \swarrow \psi & \\ \wp_n & & \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} s(B_n) & \xrightarrow{\chi} & s(D_n) \\ \beta^2 \searrow & \swarrow \gamma & \\ s(B_{n-2}) & & \end{array}$$

and

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{Span}\{\chi(x_n), \chi(x_{n-1})\}^\subset & \longrightarrow & s(D_n) & \xrightarrow{\gamma} & s(B_{n-2}) \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow \psi & & \downarrow \psi & & \downarrow \varphi \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{Span}\{\sum_{j=0}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} p_j\}^\subset & \longrightarrow & \wp_n & \xrightarrow{\pi} & \wp_{n-2} \longrightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

where γ is the map of (5.13).

7. THE ALGEBRA OF MANTACI AND REUTENAUER. RIGHT IDEALS

7.1. Bases of the algebra of Mantaci and Reutenauer. In order to recall the construction of Mantaci and Reutenauer, we need to introduce some notation.

An (ordinary) *composition* of n is a sequence (a_1, \dots, a_k) of positive integers such that $a_1 + \dots + a_k = n$. We make use of the standard bijection between compositions of n and subsets of $[n-1]$

$$(a_1, \dots, a_k) \mapsto \{a_1, a_1 + a_2, \dots, a_1 + \dots + a_{k-1}\}$$

to identify the poset of subsets under inclusion with the poset of compositions under refinement.

A *pseudo composition* of n is a sequence (a_0, a_1, \dots, a_k) of integers such that $a_0 \geq 0$, $a_i > 0$ for $i \geq 1$, and $a_0 + a_1 + \dots + a_k = n$. Pseudo composition of n are in bijection with subsets of $\overline{[n-1]}$ by means of the same construction as above, and inclusion of subsets corresponds to refinement of compositions.

Below, we will use these identifications to index basis elements of $Sol(A_{n-1})$ or $Sol(B_n)$ by compositions instead of subsets. Thus, for instance, if $J \subseteq [n-1]$ is the subset corresponding to the ordinary composition $\alpha = (a_1, \dots, a_k)$, we will use X_α to denote the element $X_J \in Sol(A_{n-1})$ and X_α^0 or $X_{(0, a_1, \dots, a_k)}$ to denote the element $X_J^0 = X_{\{0\} \cup J} \in I_n^0$.

A *signed composition* of n is a sequence (a_1, \dots, a_k) of non-zero integers such that $|a_1| + \dots + |a_k| = n$. There are $2 \cdot 3^{n-1}$ signed compositions of n .

The *parts* of an (ordinary, pseudo or signed) composition are the integers a_i .

A *segment* of a signed composition $\alpha = (a_1, \dots, a_k)$ is a signed composition of the form $(a_i, a_{i+1}, \dots, a_j)$, where $[i, j]$ is a maximal interval of $[k]$ on which the sign of the parts of α is constant. For instance, the segments of $(\bar{2}, 1, \bar{1}, \bar{2}, 2, 2, 3)$ are

$$(\bar{2}), (1), (\bar{1}, \bar{2}), (2, 2, 3).$$

Following Mantaci and Reutenauer, we make the following:

Definition 7.1. Let $\alpha = (a_1, \dots, a_k)$ be a signed composition of n . Consider the successive subintervals of $[n]$ of cardinalities $|a_1|, \dots, |a_k|$. Define elements R_α , S_α and T_α of the group algebra of \mathcal{B}_n as follows:

- (1) R_α is the sum of all signed permutations w such that on each of those intervals the entries of w are increasing and have constant sign equal to the sign of the corresponding part of α .
- (2) S_α is the sum of all signed permutations w such that on each of those intervals the numbers $|w_j|$ are increasing and the entries w_j have constant sign equal to the sign of the corresponding part of α .
- (3) T_α is the sum of all signed permutations w satisfying the conditions in (2) and the extra requirement that those intervals are maximal with those two properties.

For instance, if $\alpha = (2, 2, \bar{3}, \bar{1}, 1)$, then these elements are the sum of all signed permutations of the form $w = w_1 w_2 w_3 w_4 \bar{w}_5 \bar{w}_6 \bar{w}_7 \bar{w}_8 w_9$ with $w_i > 0$ and such that, respectively,

$$\begin{aligned} R_\alpha : & w_1 < w_2, w_3 < w_4, \bar{w}_5 < \bar{w}_6 < \bar{w}_7, \\ S_\alpha : & w_1 < w_2, w_3 < w_4, w_5 < w_6 < w_7, \\ T_\alpha : & w_1 < w_2 > w_3 < w_4, w_5 < w_6 < w_7 > w_8. \end{aligned}$$

We will at times identify these elements with the classes of permutations that define them (and we will do the same for the elements X_α of $Sol(A_{n-1})$ or $Sol(B_n)$).

Definition 7.2. The algebra of Mantaci and Reutenauer is the subspace $Sol^\pm(B_n)$ of the group algebra of \mathcal{B}_n linearly spanned by the elements T_α , as α runs over the set of signed compositions of n .

Proposition 7.3. *$Sol^\pm(B_n)$ is a subalgebra of the group algebra of B_n containing the descent algebra $Sol(B_n)$.*

Proof. This is Theorem 3.9 in [26]. □

Given a signed permutation w in the class T_α , one may recover α as follows: $|a_i|$ is the cardinality of the i -th maximal interval of $[n]$ on which $|w_j|$ is increasing and $\text{sign}(w_j)$ is constant; $\text{sign}(a_i)$ is the sign of any w_j in this interval. For instance, if $w = \bar{3}4617\bar{5}\bar{2}\bar{8}$, then $\alpha = (\bar{1}, 2, 2, \bar{1}, \bar{2})$. Therefore, these classes are disjoint and the elements T_α form a basis of $Sol^\pm(B_n)$; in particular, $\dim Sol^\pm(B_n) = 2 \cdot 3^{n-1}$.

The elements S_α also form a basis of $Sol^\pm(B_n)$. In order to see this, partially order the set of signed compositions of n as follows: say that $\alpha \leq \beta$ if they have the same number of segments, these segments have the same signs, and the i -th segment of β refines the i -th segment of α , for every i . For instance,

$$(\bar{2}, 1, \bar{3}, 2, 5) \leq (\bar{2}, 1, \bar{1}, \bar{2}, 2, 2, 3).$$

It follows immediately from Definition 7.1 that

$$S_\alpha = \sum_{\beta \leq \alpha} T_\beta.$$

Thus, as α runs over the signed compositions of n , the elements S_α form another basis of $Sol^\pm(B_n)$.

The elements R_α do, too. This fact is not given in [26] (in fact, it is not evident that these elements belong to $Sol^\pm(B_n)$), but it may be deduced as follows.

Given an ordinary composition α of n , let α^c denote the composition of n that corresponds to the complement in $[n-1]$ of the subset corresponding to α . For instance, if $\alpha = (2, 1, 2)$, then $\alpha^c = (1, 3, 1)$. Given a signed composition of n α , let $\tilde{\alpha}$ denote the signed composition obtained by replacing each negative segment α_i of α by α_i^c (viewing it as an ordinary composition) and keeping its (negative) sign. For instance, if $\alpha = (3, \underbrace{\bar{2}, \bar{1}, \bar{2}}_{\alpha_1}, 4, 2, \underbrace{\bar{3}}_{\alpha_2}, 1)$, then $\tilde{\alpha} = (3, \underbrace{\bar{1}, \bar{3}, \bar{1}}_{\alpha_1^c}, 4, 2, \underbrace{\bar{1}, \bar{1}, \bar{1}}_{\alpha_2^c}, 1)$. Note

that $\alpha \mapsto \tilde{\alpha}$ is an involution on the set of signed compositions of n .

Introduce a new partial order on the set of signed compositions of n by declaring that $\alpha \preceq \beta$ if they have the same number of segments, these segments have the same signs, and the i -th segment of β refines the i -th segment of α if they are both positive and the i -th segment of α refines the i -th segment of β if they are both negative, for every i . For instance,

$$(\bar{2}, 1, \bar{1}, \bar{2}, 2, 2, 3) \preceq (\bar{2}, 1, \bar{3}, 2, 1, 1, 3).$$

Now, it is easy to see that with the above definitions

$$R_\alpha = \sum_{\beta \preceq \tilde{\alpha}} T_\beta.$$

This immediately implies that the elements R_α form a basis of $Sol^\pm(B_n)$.

We summarize these facts in the following lemma.

Lemma 7.4. *As α runs over the signed compositions of n , the sets $\{T_\alpha\}$, $\{S_\alpha\}$ and $\{R_\alpha\}$ are bases of $Sol^\pm(B_n)$.*

7.2. The image of the algebra of Mantaci and Reutenauer. We now consider the map $\varphi : \mathcal{B}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_n$ that forgets the signs, restricted to $Sol^\pm(B_n)$. To describe its action on the various bases of $Sol^\pm(B_n)$, we need to introduce some notation.

Given a signed composition $\alpha = (a_1, \dots, a_k)$ of n , we construct four ordinary compositions of n . First, $|\alpha| := (|a_1|, \dots, |a_k|)$ denotes the ordinary composition of n obtained by forgetting the signs of the parts of α . Another ordinary composition $\underline{\alpha}$ is constructed as follows. Split $[k]$ into maximal intervals $[i, j]$ with the property that the signs of the parts a_i, a_{i+1}, \dots, a_j alternate. The parts of $\underline{\alpha}$ are then $|a_i| + |a_{i+1}| + \dots + |a_j|$, one for each such interval, in the same order as the intervals appear. For instance, if $\alpha = (\bar{2}, 1, \bar{1}, \bar{2}, 2, \bar{2}, 3)$, then $\underline{\alpha} = (4, 4, 2, 3)$. Two other ordinary compositions $\widehat{\alpha}$ and $\underline{\alpha}$ are obtained by the following procedures. Consider the various segments α_i of α (Section 7.1) and let n_i be the sum of the parts of α_i . To obtain $\widehat{\alpha}$, simply replace each negative segment α_i by $(1, \dots, 1)$ (with n_i parts equal to 1) and drop the signs. To obtain $\underline{\alpha}$, replace each negative segment α_i by its complement α_i^c (keeping the negative signs), each positive segment α_j by (n_j) , and then apply the operation $\alpha \mapsto \underline{\alpha}$. For instance, if $\alpha = (\bar{2}, 1, \bar{1}, \bar{2}, 2, 2, 3)$, then $\widehat{\alpha} = (1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 2, 2, 3)$ and $\underline{\alpha} = (1, 4, 8)$.

With this notation, we have:

Proposition 7.5. *For any signed composition α we have*

$$(7.1) \quad \varphi(S_\alpha) = X_{|\alpha|}, \quad \varphi(T_\alpha) = \sum_{\underline{\alpha} \leq \beta \leq |\alpha|} Y_\beta \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi(R_\alpha) = \sum_{\alpha \leq \beta \leq \widehat{\alpha}} Y_\beta.$$

In particular, φ maps $Sol^\pm(B_n)$ onto $Sol(A_{n-1})$.

Proof. Write $\alpha = (a_1, \dots, a_k)$ and consider the successive subintervals of $[n]$ of cardinalities $|a_1|, \dots, |a_k|$ as in Definition 7.1. According to the definition of descents for ordinary permutations, $X_{|\alpha|}$ is the sum of those permutations $u \in \mathcal{S}_n$ such that the u_j are increasing on each such interval. Clearly, for each such u there is a unique $w \in \mathcal{B}_n$ satisfying condition (2) in Definition 7.1 and $\varphi(w) = u$. Hence, $\varphi(S_\alpha) = X_{|\alpha|}$. This implies that $\varphi(Sol^\pm(B_n)) = Sol(A_{n-1})$. The expressions for $\varphi(T_\alpha)$ and $\varphi(R_\alpha)$ follow from a similar analysis that we omit. \square

The previous result is of crucial importance. It entails that, from the point of view of this paper, the “correct” analog of the descent algebra of type A is the algebra $Sol^\pm(B_n)$ of Mantaci and Reutenauer. On the other hand, the descent algebra of type B is, one may say, the type B analog of the peak algebra. The precise meaning of these assertions is summarized by the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} I_n^0 & \subseteq & Sol(B_n) & \subseteq & Sol^\pm(B_n) & \subseteq & \mathbb{Q}\mathcal{B}_n \\ \varphi \downarrow & & \varphi \downarrow & & \varphi \downarrow & & \varphi \downarrow \\ \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n & \subseteq & \mathfrak{P}_n & \subseteq & Sol(A_{n-1}) & \subseteq & \mathbb{Q}\mathcal{S}_n \end{array}$$

7.3. The canonical ideal in type B and the peak ideal as principal right ideals. Consider the standard embedding

$$\mathcal{B}_p \times \mathcal{S}_q \hookrightarrow \mathcal{B}_{p+q}, \quad (w \times u)(i) = \begin{cases} w(i) & \text{if } 1 \leq i \leq p, \\ p + u(i-p) & \text{if } p+1 \leq i \leq p+q. \end{cases}$$

Let $\alpha = (a_1, \dots, a_k)$ be an ordinary composition of n . The obvious extension of the above embedding allows us to view $\mathcal{B}_0 \times \mathcal{S}_{a_1} \times \dots \times \mathcal{S}_{a_k}$ as a subgroup of \mathcal{B}_n . Consider the successive subintervals of $[n]$ of cardinalities a_1, \dots, a_k . Recall that X_α^0 denotes the element $X_{(0,a_1,\dots,a_k)} \in I_n^0$. This is the sum of all signed permutations $\xi \in \mathcal{B}_n$ such that, on each of those intervals, the entries ξ_j are increasing. These permutations are the $(0, a_1, \dots, a_k)$ -shuffles of type B. It is well known, and easy to see, that this is a set of left representatives for the cosets of $\mathcal{B}_0 \times \mathcal{S}_{a_1} \times \dots \times \mathcal{S}_{a_k}$ as a subgroup of \mathcal{B}_n .

In particular, the element $X_{(n)}^0 = X_{(0,n)} \in I_n^0$ is the sum of all signed permutations $\xi \in \mathcal{B}_n$ such that

$$(7.2) \quad \xi_1 < \xi_2 < \dots < \xi_n.$$

The basis R_α of $Sol^\pm(\mathcal{B}_n)$ is particularly useful for our purposes because of the following simple multiplication formula with $X_{(n)}^0$.

Proposition 7.6. *For any signed composition α of n we have*

$$(7.3) \quad X_{(n)}^0 \cdot R_\alpha = X_{|\alpha|}^0.$$

Proof. It is possible to deduce this result from the multiplication rule for the basis R_α given in [26, Corollary 5.3], but it seems simpler to provide a direct argument.

Write $\alpha = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k)$. Consider the three classes of signed permutations which define the elements X_n^0 , R_α and $X_{|\alpha|}^0$. If ξ is in the class X_n^0 and w is in the class R_α , then ξ is increasing on $[n]$ and w is (in particular) increasing on each of the successive subintervals of $[n]$ of cardinalities $|a_1|, \dots, |a_k|$, according to (7.2) and Definition 7.1. Therefore, $\xi \cdot w$ is also increasing on these intervals, i.e., $\xi \cdot w$ is a permutation in the class $X_{|\alpha|}^0$. Thus, to prove the result it suffices to check that all permutations in $X_{(n)}^0 \cdot R_\alpha$ are distinct and that the total number agrees with the number of permutations in the class $X_{|\alpha|}^0$.

According to the previous remarks, the number of permutations in $X_{(n)}^0$ and $X_{|\alpha|}^0$ are, respectively,

$$\frac{2^n \cdot n!}{n!} \text{ and } \frac{2^n \cdot n!}{|a_1|! \cdots |a_k|!}.$$

On the other hand, it follows from Definition 7.1 that, after reversing the order of the entries within each negative segment and dropping the signs, the permutations w which appear in the class R_α become precisely the permutations u in the class $X_{|\alpha|} \in Sol(A_{n-1})$. This is the class of $(|a_1|, \dots, |a_k|)$ -shuffles of type A, which is a set of representatives for the subgroup $\mathcal{S}_{|a_1|} \times \dots \times \mathcal{S}_{|a_k|}$ of \mathcal{S}_n . Hence, the number of permutations in this class is

$$\frac{n!}{|a_1|! \cdots |a_k|!}.$$

Comparing these quantities we see that the total number of permutations on both sides of (7.3) is the same.

It only remains to check that repetitions do not occur in the product $X_{(n)}^0 \cdot R_\alpha$. Suppose $\xi \cdot w = \xi' \cdot w'$ with $\xi, \xi' \in X_{(n)}^0$ and $w, w' \in R_\alpha$. Applying the morphism $\varphi : \mathcal{B}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_n$ we deduce that for each $i = 1, \dots, n$,

$$(A) \quad |\xi_{|w_i|}| = |\xi'_{|w'_i|}|.$$

On the other hand,

$$\text{sign}((\xi \cdot w)_i) = \text{sign}(\xi_{|w_i|}) \text{sign}(w_i) \quad \text{and} \quad \text{sign}((\xi' \cdot w')_i) = \text{sign}(\xi'_{|w'_i|}) \text{sign}(w'_i)$$

(this holds for any pair of signed permutations). Now, since $w, w' \in R_\alpha$, Definition 7.1 implies that $\text{sign}(w_i) = \text{sign}(w'_i)$. Hence,

$$(B) \quad \text{sign}(\xi_{|w_i|}) = \text{sign}(\xi'_{|w'_i|}).$$

Equations (A) and (B) imply that $\xi_{|w_i|} = \xi'_{|w'_i|}$ for every i . But ξ and ξ' are representatives for \mathcal{S}_n in \mathcal{B}_n , so we must have $\xi = \xi'$, and then $w = w'$. This completes the proof. \square

Corollary 7.7. I_n^0 is a right ideal of $\text{Sol}^\pm(B_n)$. Moreover, it is the principal right ideal generated by $X_{(n)}^0$.

Proof. As α runs over the signed compositions of n , the elements R_α form a basis of $\text{Sol}^\pm(B_n)$ (Lemma 7.4) and the elements $X_{|\alpha|}^0$ span I_n^0 . Thus, by Proposition 7.6,

$$X_{(n)}^0 \cdot \text{Sol}^\pm(B_n) = I_n^0.$$

\square

Now consider the element $\overset{\circ}{P}_\emptyset \in \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$. In order to make the dependence on n explicit, we will denote it by $\overset{\circ}{P}_{(n)}$. According to (5.6), $\overset{\circ}{P}_{(n)}$ is the sum of all permutations $u \in \mathcal{S}_n$ such that

$$(7.4) \quad u_1 > \dots > u_i < u_{i+1} < \dots < u_n \quad \text{for some } i = 1, \dots, n.$$

Comparing (7.2) with (7.4) (or using (5.12)) we see that

$$(7.5) \quad \varphi(X_{(n)}^0) = 2 \cdot \overset{\circ}{P}_{(n)}.$$

Corollary 7.8. $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$ is a right ideal of $\text{Sol}(A_{n-1})$. Moreover, it is the principal right ideal generated by $\overset{\circ}{P}_{(n)}$.

Proof. By Corollary 7.7, $I_n^0 = X_{(n)}^0 \cdot \text{Sol}^\pm(B_n)$. Applying φ and using Theorem 5.9, Proposition 7.5 and (7.5) we deduce that

$$\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n = \overset{\circ}{P}_{(n)} \cdot \text{Sol}(A_{n-1}).$$

\square

Remarks 7.9. (1) $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$ is not a left ideal of $\text{Sol}(A_{n-1})$. This occurs already for $n = 3$, as one may easily verify that $Y_{\{1\}} \cdot \overset{\circ}{P}_{\{2\}} \notin \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_3$. It follows that I_n^0 is not a left ideal of $\text{Sol}^\pm(B_n)$.

(2) Corollary 7.8 was first obtained by Schocker [29, Theorems 1 and 5], by other means. (Schocker endows the group algebra with the opposite product of the composition of permutations. His left ideals are therefore right ideals in our sense.)

(3) We will show below that I_n^0 is still generated by $X_{(n)}^0$ as a right ideal of the smaller algebra $\text{Sol}(B_n)$, and similarly that $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$ is generated by $\overset{\circ}{P}_{(n)}$ as a right ideal of $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$ (Proposition 7.14).

(4) We will say more about the elements $X_{(n)}^0$ and $\overset{\circ}{P}_{(n)}$ in Section 8.6.

7.4. The descents-to-peaks transform and its type B analog.

Definition 7.10. Let $\Theta : \text{Sol}(A_{n-1}) \rightarrow \text{Sol}(A_{n-1})$ be the unique morphism of right $\text{Sol}(A_{n-1})$ -modules such that

$$(7.6) \quad \Theta(1) = 2 \cdot \overset{\circ}{P}_{(n)}.$$

Let $\Theta^\pm : \text{Sol}^\pm(B_n) \rightarrow \text{Sol}^\pm(B_n)$ be the unique morphism of right $\text{Sol}^\pm(B_n)$ -modules such that

$$(7.7) \quad \Theta^\pm(1) = X_{(n)}^0.$$

We refer to Θ as the *descents-to-peaks transform* and to Θ^\pm as its type B analog.

Remarks 7.11. The descents-to-peaks transform should be attributed to Stembridge, and independently, to Krob, Leclerc and Thibon, as we now explain.

(1) Below (7.10) we will derive an expression for Θ which implies that this map is dual to a map previously considered by Stembridge [31] (the precise connection will be worked out in detail in Section 8.5).

(2) Krob, Leclerc and Thibon have considered a family of maps $\text{Sol}(A_{n-1}) \rightarrow \text{Sol}(A_{n-1})$ which depend on a parameter q [20, Section 5.4]. Comparing our Definition 7.10 with [20, Proposition 5.2] we see that our map Θ is the specialization of their map at $q = -1$. Many interesting results about Θ are given in this reference. In particular, it is easy to see that (the case $q = -1$ of) [20, Proposition 5.41] is equivalent to our (7.10). Our work adds the observation on the connection with the map of Stembridge, as well as the introduction of the type B analog.

It follows formally from the definitions, together with (7.5) and the fact that φ is a surjective morphism of algebras, that the diagram

$$(7.8) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \text{Sol}^\pm(B_n) & \xrightarrow{\Theta^\pm} & \text{Sol}^\pm(B_n) \\ \varphi \downarrow & & \varphi \downarrow \\ \text{Sol}(A_{n-1}) & \xrightarrow{\Theta} & \text{Sol}(A_{n-1}) \end{array}$$

commutes.

We may easily deduce the following explicit formulas for these maps.

Proposition 7.12. *For any signed composition α of n we have*

$$(7.9) \quad \Theta^\pm(R_\alpha) = X_{|\alpha|}^0,$$

and for any subset $J \subseteq [n-1]$ we have

$$(7.10) \quad \Theta(X_J) = 2^{1+\#J} \cdot \sum_{\substack{F \in \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{F}}_n \\ F \subseteq J \cup (J+1)}} \overset{\circ}{P}_F.$$

In particular, the image of Θ^\pm is I_n^0 and the image of Θ is $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$.

Proof. Since Θ^\pm is a map of right $\text{Sol}^\pm(B_n)$ -modules,

$$\Theta^\pm(R_\alpha) = \Theta^\pm(1) \cdot R_\alpha \stackrel{(7.7)}{=} X_{(n)}^0 \cdot R_\alpha \stackrel{(7.3)}{=} X_{|\alpha|}^0.$$

Let α be the ordinary composition of n corresponding to the subset J . We may also view it as a signed composition of n (with positive signs). For such compositions

we have $R_\alpha = S_\alpha$, according to Definition 7.1. Therefore, by (7.1), $\varphi(R_\alpha) = X_J$. Now, from the commutativity of (7.8) we deduce that

$$\Theta(X_J) = \Theta\varphi(R_\alpha) = \varphi\Theta^\pm(R_\alpha) \stackrel{(7.9)}{=} \varphi(X_J^0) \stackrel{(5.12)}{=} 2^{1+\#J} \cdot \sum_{\substack{F \in \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{F}}_n \\ F \subseteq J \cup (J+1)}} \overset{\circ}{P}_F,$$

as claimed in (7.10).

Since Θ^\pm maps a basis of $Sol^\pm(B_n)$ onto a basis of I_n^0 , the assertion about its image follows. The image of Θ is therefore $\varphi(I_n^0) = \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$ (Theorem 5.9). \square

Proposition 7.13. *The restriction of Θ^\pm to I_n^0 is a bijective map $I_n^0 \rightarrow I_n^0$. The restriction of Θ to $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$ is a bijective map $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n \rightarrow \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$.*

Proof. Let $\alpha = (a_1, \dots, a_k)$ be an ordinary composition of n and consider the class of signed permutations X_α^0 . A permutation w in this class is increasing on each of the successive subintervals of $[n]$ of cardinalities a_1, \dots, a_k . Let $[t_i + 1, t_i + a_i]$ be one such interval. There is an index $b_i = 0, \dots, a_i$ such that

$$w_{t_i+1} < \dots < w_{t_i+b_i} < 0 < w_{t_i+b_i+1} < \dots < w_{t_i+a_i}.$$

(The extreme cases $b_i = 0$ and $b_i = a_i$ correspond to $0 < w_{t_i+1}$ and $w_{t_i+a_i} < 0$, respectively.) Consider the signed composition

$$\alpha_b := (\bar{b}_1, a_1 - b_1, \bar{b}_2, a_2 - b_2, \dots, \bar{b}_k, a_k - b_k),$$

where we understand that any possible zero parts are omitted. For example, if $\alpha = (2, 1, 3)$ and $w = \bar{3}42\bar{6}\bar{1}5$, then $t_1 = 0, t_2 = 2, t_3 = 3, b_1 = 1, b_2 = 0, b_3 = 2$, and $\alpha_b = (1, 1, 1, 2, 1)$.

Definition 7.1 implies that w belongs to the class R_{α_b} . This shows that the class X_α^0 is the union of the classes R_{α_b} , over all possible choices of indices $b_i = 0, \dots, a_i$. This union is disjoint, since permutations in distinct classes R_{α_b} are distinguished by the signs of their entries. Thus, we may write

$$X_\alpha^0 = \sum_{b_i=0}^{a_i} R_{\alpha_b}.$$

Now, by (7.9),

$$\Theta^\pm(X_\alpha^0) = \sum_{b_i=0}^{a_i} X_{|\alpha_b|}^0.$$

The extreme choices $b_i = 0$ or $a_i \forall i$ yield $|\alpha_b| = \alpha$. These are 2^k choices. All other choices yield compositions α_b that are finer than α . Therefore,

$$\Theta^\pm(X_\alpha^0) = 2^k \cdot X_\alpha^0 + \sum_{\alpha < \beta} c_\beta \cdot X_\beta^0$$

for some non-negative integers c_β . This implies that $\Theta^\pm : I_n^0 \rightarrow I_n^0$ is bijective.

The assertion about Θ follows from the assertion about Θ^\pm and the surjectivity of φ , as usual. \square

We can now deduce that the canonical ideal in type B and the peak ideal are principal ideals of $Sol(B_n)$ and \mathfrak{P}_n . In fact, they are principal as right ideals. Note that these properties are neither stronger nor weaker than those in Corollaries 7.7 and 7.8.

Proposition 7.14. *As a right ideal of $Sol(B_n)$, I_n^0 is generated by $X_{(n)}^0$. As a right ideal of $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$, $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$ is generated by $\overset{\circ}{P}_{(n)}$.*

Proof. Since $I_n^0 \subseteq Sol(B_n) \subseteq Sol^\pm(B_n)$, Propositions 7.13 and 7.12 imply that

$$\Theta^\pm(Sol(B_n)) = I_n^0.$$

Hence,

$$I_n^0 = \Theta^\pm(Sol(B_n)) = \Theta^\pm(1) \cdot Sol(B_n) = X_{(n)}^0 \cdot Sol(B_n).$$

The assertion about $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$ follows similarly or by applying φ . \square

Remark 7.15. It is also possible to deduce the result about I_n^0 from the multiplication rule for the X -basis of $Sol(B_n)$ given in [4, Theorem 1].

8. HOPF ALGEBRAIC STRUCTURES

In this section we consider the direct sum over all $n \geq 0$ of the group, descent and peak algebras discussed elsewhere in the paper. These spaces may be endowed with a new product (called the external product) and a coproduct, so that in the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} I^0 & \subseteq & Sol(B) & \subseteq & Sol^\pm(B) & \subseteq & \mathbb{Q}\mathcal{B} \\ \varphi \downarrow & & \varphi \downarrow & & \varphi \downarrow & & \varphi \downarrow \\ \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}} & \subseteq & \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}} & \subseteq & Sol(A) & \subseteq & \mathbb{Q}\mathcal{S} \end{array}$$

all objects are Hopf algebras, except for $Sol(B)$, which is an I^0 -module coalgebra, and $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}$, which is a $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}$ -module coalgebra.

8.1. The Hopf algebras of permutations and signed permutations. Let p and q be non-negative integers and $n = p + q$. Consider the standard embedding

$$\mathcal{S}_p \times \mathcal{S}_q \hookrightarrow \mathcal{S}_{p+q}, \quad (u \times v)(i) = \begin{cases} u(i) & \text{if } 1 \leq i \leq p, \\ p + v(i-p) & \text{if } p+1 \leq i \leq p+q. \end{cases}$$

The set of (p, q) -shuffles is

$$\text{Sh}(p, q) = \{\xi \in \mathcal{S}_n \mid \xi_1 < \dots < \xi_p \text{ and } \xi_{p+1} < \dots < \xi_n\}.$$

This is a set of left representatives for the cosets of $\mathcal{S}_p \times \mathcal{S}_q$ as a subgroup of \mathcal{S}_n . In other words, given p and $w \in \mathcal{S}_n$, there is a unique triple $(\xi, w_{(p)}, w'_{(p)})$ such that $\xi \in \text{Sh}(p, n-p)$, $w_{(p)} \in \mathcal{S}_p$, $w'_{(p)} \in \mathcal{S}_{n-p}$ and

$$(8.1) \quad w = (w_{(p)} \times w'_{(p)}) \cdot \xi^{-1}.$$

Consider the direct sum of all group algebras of the symmetric groups

$$\mathbb{Q}\mathcal{S} := \mathbb{Q} \oplus \mathbb{Q}\mathcal{S}_1 \oplus \mathbb{Q}\mathcal{S}_2 \oplus \dots$$

This space carries a graded Hopf algebra structure defined as follows. Given $u \in \mathcal{S}_p$ and $v \in \mathcal{S}_q$, their product is

$$u * v := \sum_{\xi \in \text{Sh}(p, q)} \xi \cdot (u \times v).$$

The coproduct of $w \in \mathcal{S}_n$ is

$$\Delta(w) := \sum_{p=0}^n w_{(p)} \otimes w'_{(p)},$$

where $w_{(p)}$ and $w'_{(p)}$ are as in (8.1).

This is the Hopf algebra of Malvenuto and Reutenauer [25]. A detailed study of this Hopf algebra is given in [3] (the object denoted by $\mathfrak{S}\text{Sym}$ in this reference is the dual Hopf algebra to $\mathbb{Q}\mathcal{S}$).

Similar constructions exist for the groups of signed permutations. First, we have the embedding $\mathcal{B}_p \times \mathcal{B}_{n-p} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{B}_n$, $(u, v) \mapsto u \times v$, defined by the same formulas as before. The set of $(p, n-p)$ -shuffles of type A is still a set of left representatives for the cosets of $\mathcal{B}_p \times \mathcal{B}_{n-p}$ as a subgroup of \mathcal{B}_n , which allows us to associate signed permutations $w_{(p)} \in \mathcal{B}_p$ and $w'_{(p)} \in \mathcal{B}_{n-p}$ to a signed permutation $w \in \mathcal{B}_n$ by means of (8.1).

The space

$$\mathbb{Q}\mathcal{B} := \mathbb{Q} \oplus \mathbb{Q}\mathcal{B}_1 \oplus \mathbb{Q}\mathcal{B}_2 \oplus \dots$$

carries a graded Hopf algebra structure with product

$$u * v := \sum_{\xi \in \text{Sh}(p,q)} \xi \cdot (u \times v)$$

(for $u \in \mathcal{B}_p$ and $v \in \mathcal{B}_q$) and coproduct

$$\Delta(w) := \sum_{p=0}^n w_{(p)} \otimes w'_{(p)}$$

(for $w \in \mathcal{B}_n$). We refer the reader to [2] for a proof of this fact and for a detailed study of the Hopf algebra of signed permutations $\mathbb{Q}\mathcal{B}$.

When an explicit distinction is necessary, one refers to the product $u * v$ of $\mathbb{Q}\mathcal{S}$ (and $\mathbb{Q}\mathcal{B}$) as the *external* product, and to the product $u \cdot v$ in the group algebras $\mathbb{Q}\mathcal{S}_n$ (and $\mathbb{Q}\mathcal{B}_n$) as the *internal* product.

It is clear from the definitions that the map $\varphi : \mathbb{Q}\mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}\mathcal{S}$ that forgets the signs preserves all the structure; in particular, it is a morphism of graded Hopf algebras.

8.2. The Hopf algebra of non-commutative symmetric functions and its type B analog.

Consider the direct sum of all descent algebras of type A

$$\text{Sol}(A) := \mathbb{Q} \oplus \text{Sol}(A_0) \oplus \text{Sol}(A_1) \oplus \dots$$

As in Section 7, we index the X -basis of $\text{Sol}(A_{n-1})$ by compositions of n instead of subsets of $[n-1]$.

Since each $\text{Sol}(A_{n-1})$ is a subspace of $\mathbb{Q}\mathcal{S}_n$, we may view $\text{Sol}(A)$ as a graded subspace of $\mathbb{Q}\mathcal{S}$. It turns out that $\text{Sol}(A)$ is a graded Hopf subalgebra of $\mathbb{Q}\mathcal{S}$ [25, Theorem 3.3]. Moreover, the external product of X -basis elements is simply

$$(8.2) \quad X_{(a_1, \dots, a_k)} * X_{(b_1, \dots, b_h)} = X_{(a_1, \dots, a_k, b_1, \dots, b_h)},$$

which shows that $\text{Sol}(A)$ is freely generated as an algebra by the elements $\{X_{(n)}\}_{n \geq 1}$, and the coproduct is determined by

$$(8.3) \quad \Delta(X_{(n)}) = \sum_{i+j=n} X_{(i)} \otimes X_{(j)},$$

where we agree that $X_{(0)}$ denotes the unit element $1 \in \mathbb{Q}$. Thus, $Sol(A)$ is the Hopf algebra of *non-commutative symmetric functions* [16, 20].

While the coproduct Δ is not compatible with the internal product of \mathbb{QS} (in general, $\Delta(u \cdot v) \neq \Delta(u) \cdot \Delta(v)$), it is known that it is compatible with the internal product of $Sol(A)$ [24, Remarque 5.15].

Similarly, the subspace

$$Sol^\pm(B) := \mathbb{Q} \oplus Sol^\pm(B_1) \oplus Sol^\pm(B_2) \oplus \dots$$

is a graded Hopf subalgebra of \mathbb{QB} . We will describe this structure on the R -basis of Section 7.1. The external product is again given by concatenation (of signed compositions)

$$(8.4) \quad R_{(a_1, \dots, a_k)} * R_{(b_1, \dots, b_h)} = R_{(a_1, \dots, a_k, b_1, \dots, b_h)}.$$

Therefore, $Sol^\pm(B)$ is freely generated as an algebra by the elements $\{R_{(n)}, R_{(\bar{n})}\}_{n \geq 1}$. For this reason, $Sol^\pm(B_n)$ may be viewed as an algebra of *non-commutative symmetric functions of type B*. The coproduct is determined by

$$(8.5) \quad \Delta(R_{(n)}) = \sum_{i+j=n} R_{(i)} \otimes R_{(j)} \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta(R_{(\bar{n})}) = \sum_{i+j=\bar{n}} R_{(\bar{i})} \otimes R_{(\bar{j})}.$$

These facts are simple consequences of the definitions; more details will be found in [2].

8.3. The Hopf algebra of interior peaks and its type B analog. Consider the spaces

$$\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}} := \mathbb{Q} \oplus \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_1 \oplus \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_2 \oplus \dots \quad \text{and} \quad I^0 := \mathbb{Q} \oplus I_1^0 \oplus I_2^0 \oplus \dots.$$

$\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}$ is a graded subspace of $Sol(A)$ and I^0 is a graded subspace of $Sol^\pm(B)$. Recall the basis X_α^0 of I_n^0 , indexed by ordinary compositions of n as in Section 7.1. It follows easily from the definitions that

$$(8.6) \quad X_{(a_1, \dots, a_k)}^0 * X_{(b_1, \dots, b_h)}^0 = X_{(a_1, \dots, a_k, b_1, \dots, b_h)}^0$$

and

$$(8.7) \quad \Delta(X_{(n)}^0) = \sum_{i+j=n} X_{(i)}^0 \otimes X_{(j)}^0,$$

where we agree that $X_{(0)}^0 = 1 \in \mathbb{Q}$.

Proposition 8.1. *The space I^0 is a graded Hopf subalgebra of $Sol^\pm(B)$ and the space $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}$ is a graded Hopf subalgebra of the Hopf algebra of non-commutative symmetric functions $Sol(A)$.*

Proof. The preceding formulas show that I^0 is closed for the coproduct and the external product of $Sol^\pm(B)$. The assertion for $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}$ follows since $\varphi : Sol^\pm(B) \rightarrow Sol(A)$ is a morphism of graded Hopf algebras such that $\varphi(I^0) = \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}$ (Theorem 5.9). \square

In fact, formulas (8.2), (8.3), (8.6) and (8.7) show that I^0 and $Sol(A)$ are isomorphic as graded Hopf algebras. On the other hand, the internal products of I_n^0 and $Sol(A_{n-1})$ are of course distinct, and as is clear from the results of this paper, these two objects play very different roles and should be kept apart.

Recall the maps $\Theta^\pm : \text{Sol}^\pm(B_n) \rightarrow I_n^0$ and $\Theta : \text{Sol}(A_{n-1}) \rightarrow \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_n$ of Section 7.4. Summing over all $n \geq 0$ they give rise to maps $\text{Sol}^\pm(B) \rightarrow I^0$ and $\text{Sol}(A) \rightarrow \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}$ that we still denote by the same symbols.

Proposition 8.2. *The maps $\Theta^\pm : \text{Sol}^\pm(B) \rightarrow I^0$ and $\Theta : \text{Sol}(A) \rightarrow \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}$ are morphisms of graded Hopf algebras.*

Proof. By Proposition 7.12, $\Theta^\pm(R_\alpha) = X_{|\alpha|}^0$. Comparing (8.4) and (8.5) with (8.6) and (8.7) we immediately see that Θ^\pm is a morphism of Hopf algebras. The assertion for Θ follows from the commutativity of (7.8). \square

8.4. The module coalgebra of peaks and its type B analog. Consider, finally, the spaces

$$\mathfrak{P} := \mathbb{Q} \oplus \mathfrak{P}_1 \oplus \mathfrak{P}_2 \oplus \dots \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Sol}(B) := \mathbb{Q} \oplus \text{Sol}(B_1) \oplus \text{Sol}(B_2) \oplus \dots .$$

\mathfrak{P} is a graded subspace of $\text{Sol}(A)$ which contains $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}$ and $\text{Sol}(B)$ is a graded subspace of $\text{Sol}^\pm(B)$ which contains I^0 .

The first observation is that \mathfrak{P} is *not* closed under the product of $\text{Sol}(A)$ and $\text{Sol}(B)$ is not closed under the product of $\text{Sol}^\pm(B)$. For instance, the element $P_{\{1\}} \in \mathfrak{P}_2$ satisfies

$$P_{\{1\}} * P_{\{1\}} = Y_{\{1,2,3\}} + Y_{\{1,3\}} \notin \mathfrak{P}_4 .$$

However, it is easy to see that for any pseudo composition (a_0, a_1, \dots, a_k) and any ordinary composition (b_1, \dots, b_h) ,

$$(8.8) \quad X_{(a_0, a_1, \dots, a_k)} * X_{(b_1, \dots, b_h)}^0 = X_{(a_0, a_1, \dots, a_k, b_1, \dots, b_h)} .$$

Also, for any $n \geq 0$,

$$(8.9) \quad \Delta(X_{(n)}) = \sum_{i+j=n} X_{(i)} \otimes X_{(j)} .$$

For the notion of module coalgebra we refer to [19, Definition IX.2.1].

Proposition 8.3. *The space $\text{Sol}(B)$ is a right I^0 -module subcoalgebra of $\text{Sol}^\pm(B)$ and the space \mathfrak{P} is a right $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}$ -module subcoalgebra of $\text{Sol}(A)$.*

Proof. Since I^0 is a Hopf subalgebra of $\text{Sol}^\pm(B)$, one may view $\text{Sol}^\pm(B)$ as a right I^0 -module coalgebra, simply by right multiplication. Equation (8.8) shows that $\text{Sol}(B)$ is an I^0 -submodule, and moreover, that it is the free right I^0 -module generated by the elements $\{X_{(n)}\}_{n \geq 0}$. Together with (8.9), this guarantees that $\text{Sol}(B)$ is closed under Δ (since Δ is a morphism of algebras). Thus, $\text{Sol}(B)$ is a right I^0 -module subcoalgebra of $\text{Sol}^\pm(B)$. The assertion for \mathfrak{P} follows by applying the morphism φ , as usual. \square

Remark 8.4. The space $\text{Sol}(B)$, endowed with this coalgebra structure, has been considered in the recent thesis of Chow [12]. Chow also considers an equivalent of the module structure (over $\text{Sol}(A)$ instead of I^0).

Recall the map $\beta : \text{Sol}(B_n) \rightarrow \text{Sol}(B_{n-1})$ from Section 5.1. This is a morphism of algebras with respect to the internal structure. We use the same symbol to denote the map $\text{Sol}(B) \rightarrow \text{Sol}(B)$ that vanishes on the component of degree 0 and sends the component $\text{Sol}(B_n)$ of degree $n \geq 1$ to $\text{Sol}(B_{n-1})$. Thus, $\beta : \text{Sol}(B) \rightarrow \text{Sol}(B)$

is a homogeneous map of degree -1 . We now describe the behavior of this map with respect to the external structure. Recall that any coalgebra C can be viewed as a C -bicomodule with right and left coaction given by the coproduct (for the definition of comodules see [19, Definition III.6.1]).

Proposition 8.5. *The map $\beta : \text{Sol}(B) \rightarrow \text{Sol}(B)$ is a morphism of $\text{Sol}(B)$ -bicomodules and of right I^0 -modules.*

Proof. In terms of pseudo compositions, Definition 5.1 becomes

$$\beta(X_{(a_0, a_1, \dots, a_k)}) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } a_0 = 0, \\ X_{(a_0-1, a_1, \dots, a_k)} & \text{if } a_0 > 0. \end{cases}$$

Together with (8.8) this shows that β is a morphism of right I^0 -modules.

If A is a commutative algebra, any element $x \in A$ determines a morphism of bimodules $f : A \rightarrow A$ by $f(a) = xa$. Similarly, if C is a cocommutative coalgebra, any functional $\eta \in C^*$ determines a morphism of bicomodules $f : C \rightarrow C$ by $f = (\eta \otimes id) \circ \Delta$.

Let $C = \text{Sol}(B)$ (a cocommutative coalgebra) and let $\eta : C \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$ be

$$\eta(X_\alpha) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \alpha \neq (1), \\ 1 & \text{if } \alpha = (1). \end{cases}$$

It follows from (8.9), (8.8) and (5.1) that $\beta = (\eta \otimes id) \circ \Delta$. Thus, β is a morphism of bicomodules. \square

We similarly construct a map $\pi : \mathfrak{P} \rightarrow \mathfrak{P}$ homogeneous of degree -2 from the maps $\pi : \mathfrak{P}_n \rightarrow \mathfrak{P}_{n-2}$ of Section 5.2.

Corollary 8.6. *The map $\pi : \mathfrak{P} \rightarrow \mathfrak{P}$ is a morphism of \mathfrak{P} -bicomodules and of right $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}$ -modules.*

Proof. This follows from Propositions 8.5 and 5.6. \square

8.5. Duality. Stembridge's Hopf algebra. In this section we clarify the connection between Stembridge's Hopf algebra of peaks and the objects discussed in this paper.

The graded dual of $\text{Sol}(A)$ is the Hopf algebra \mathcal{QSym} of quasisymmetric functions. The dual bases to the bases $\{X_J\}$ and $\{Y_J\}$ of $\text{Sol}(A)$ are, respectively, the monomial basis $\{M_J\}$ and Gessel's basis $\{F_J\}$ of \mathcal{QSym} . This is [25, Theorem 3.2], but for the present purposes it may be taken as the definition of \mathcal{QSym} , M_J and F_J .

Consider the descents-to-peaks transform $\Theta : \text{Sol}(A) \rightarrow \text{Sol}(A)$ of Definition 7.10. The image of this map is $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}$ (Proposition 7.12). Let us denote the resulting map $\text{Sol}(A) \rightarrow \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}$ by j , and the inclusion $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}} \hookrightarrow \text{Sol}(A)$ by i , so that $\Theta = i \circ j$. According to Propositions 8.1 and 8.2, the following is a commutative diagram of morphisms of graded Hopf algebras:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Sol}(A) & \xrightarrow{\Theta} & \text{Sol}(A) \\ & \searrow j & \nearrow i \\ & \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}} & \end{array}$$

Dualizing we obtain another diagram of Hopf algebras

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{QSym} & \xrightarrow{\Theta^*} & \mathcal{QSym} \\ & \searrow i^* & \nearrow j^* \\ & (\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}})^* & \end{array}$$

Now, it follows from (7.10) that the injective map j^* sends

$$(\overset{\circ}{P}_F)^* \mapsto \sum_{\substack{J \in [n-1] \\ F \subseteq J \cup (J+1)}} 2^{1+\#J} \cdot M_J$$

for any $F \in \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{F}}_n$. This says precisely that j^* identifies the Hopf algebra $(\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}})^*$ with the Hopf algebra considered by Stembridge in [31, Theorem 3.1 and Proposition 2.2].

Also, equation (5.7) implies that i^* sends

$$F_J \mapsto (\overset{\circ}{P}_{\Lambda(J)})^*.$$

This says that $\Theta^* = j^* \circ i^*$ is the map introduced by Stembridge in [31, Theorem 3.1]. This provides the explanation announced in Remarks 7.11.

Remarks 8.7. (1) The fact that Stembridge's map $\Theta^* : \mathcal{QSym} \rightarrow \mathcal{QSym}$ is a morphism of Hopf algebras is known from [31, Theorem 3.1] and [7, page 66]. In this work we obtained this result from the fact that its type B analog Θ^\pm is (clearly) a morphism of Hopf algebras (Proposition 8.2).

(2) The Hopf algebra structure of $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}$ (or its dual) has been carefully studied in [29] and [17]. One of the important results obtained in these works is that the elements $\overset{\circ}{P}_{\{2,4,\dots,2k\}} \in \overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}_{2k+1}$, $k \geq 0$, freely generate $\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}}$ as an algebra (with respect to the external product).

(3) The graded dual of \mathfrak{P} is a comodule algebra over Stembridge's Hopf algebra $(\overset{\circ}{\mathfrak{P}})^*$, and a quotient algebra of \mathcal{QSym} . This object has not been considered before.

8.6. The action on words. In this section we recall the action of $\mathbb{Q}\mathcal{S}$ on words, discuss its type B analog, and provide explicit descriptions for the actions of the elements $\overset{\circ}{P}_{(n)}$ and $X_{(n)}^0$. These elements were central to the results of Sections 7.3 and 7.4.

Let \mathbf{X} be an arbitrary vector space and $\mathbf{TX} = \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} \mathbf{X}^{\otimes n}$ its tensor algebra. The group \mathcal{S}_n acts on $\mathbf{X}^{\otimes n}$ from the right by

$$(\mathbf{x}_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathbf{x}_n) \cdot u = \mathbf{x}_{u_1} \otimes \dots \otimes \mathbf{x}_{u_n}.$$

The resulting morphisms of algebras $\mathbb{Q}\mathcal{S}_n \rightarrow \text{End}(\mathbf{X}^{\otimes n})$, $n \geq 0$, may be assembled into a map

$$\mathbb{Q}\mathcal{S} \rightarrow \text{End}(\mathbf{TX})$$

which by construction sends the internal product of $\mathbb{Q}\mathcal{S}$ to the composition product of $\text{End}(\mathbf{TX})$. It is a basic observation of Malvenuto and Reutenauer that, on the other hand, the external product of $\mathbb{Q}\mathcal{S}$ corresponds under this map to the convolution product of $\text{End}(\mathbf{TX})$ [25, pages 977-978]. The convolution product is

defined from the canonical Hopf algebra structure of \mathbf{TX} , for which the elements of \mathbf{X} are primitive.

The type B analog of this construction starts from a vector space \mathbf{Y} endowed with an involution $\mathbf{y} \mapsto \bar{\mathbf{y}}$. There is then a right action of \mathcal{B}_n on $\mathbf{Y}^{\otimes n}$ given by

$$(\mathbf{y}_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathbf{y}_n) \cdot w = \mathbf{y}_{w_1} \otimes \dots \otimes \mathbf{y}_{w_n}, \quad \text{where } \mathbf{y}_{w_i} = \begin{cases} \mathbf{y}_{w_i} & \text{if } w_i > 0, \\ \bar{\mathbf{y}}_{-w_i} & \text{if } w_i < 0. \end{cases}$$

As before, the resulting map $\mathbb{Q}\mathcal{B} \rightarrow \text{End}(\mathbf{TY})$ sends the internal and external products to the composition and convolution products of $\text{End}(\mathbf{TY})$, respectively.

Consider the *symmetrizer* $\tau : \mathbf{TY} \rightarrow \mathbf{TY}$ defined by

$$\tau(\mathbf{y}_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathbf{y}_n) = \mathbf{y}_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathbf{y}_n + \bar{\mathbf{y}}_n \otimes \dots \otimes \bar{\mathbf{y}}_1.$$

In other words, τ acts on $\mathbf{Y}^{\otimes n}$ as the element $12\dots n + \bar{n}\dots\bar{2}\bar{1} \in \mathcal{B}_n$.

Proposition 8.8. *The action of $X_{(n)}^0 \in \mathbb{Q}\mathcal{B}$ on \mathbf{TY} is given by*

$$(8.10) \quad (\mathbf{y}_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathbf{y}_n) \cdot X_{(n)}^0 = \tau(\dots \tau(\tau(\mathbf{y}_1)\mathbf{y}_2)\mathbf{y}_3 \dots \mathbf{y}_n).$$

Proof. We argue by induction on n . For $n = 1$, $X_{(1)}^0 = 1 + \bar{1}$, so

$$\mathbf{y} \cdot X_{(1)}^0 = \mathbf{y} + \bar{\mathbf{y}} = \tau(\mathbf{y}).$$

Consider the class of signed permutations $X_{(n+1)}^0$, that is, the $(0, n+1)$ -shuffles (7.2). These split into two classes: those for which the last element is $n+1$ and those for which the first element is $\bar{n+1}$. Since in both cases the entries appear in increasing order, the permutations in the first class are precisely those of the form $\xi \times 1$ and the permutations in the second class are those of the form $(\xi \times 1) \cdot \bar{n+1} \dots \bar{2}\bar{1}$, with ξ in the class $X_{(n)}^0$ in both cases. Thus,

$$X_{(n+1)}^0 = (X_{(n)}^0 \times 1) \cdot (12\dots n+1 + \bar{n+1}\dots\bar{2}\bar{1}).$$

Therefore,

$$(\mathbf{y}_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathbf{y}_{n+1}) \cdot X_{(n+1)}^0 = \tau((\mathbf{y}_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathbf{y}_n) \cdot X_{(n)}^0 \otimes \mathbf{y}_{n+1}).$$

The induction hypothesis then yields the result. \square

We go back to the case of an arbitrary vector space \mathbf{X} . Consider the *Jordan bracket* on \mathbf{TX} . This is the operator $\mathbf{TX} \times \mathbf{TX} \rightarrow \mathbf{TX}$ defined by

$$[\eta, \theta] = \eta\theta + \theta\eta$$

for arbitrary elements η and θ of \mathbf{TX} .

Proposition 8.9. *The action of $\overset{\circ}{P}_{(n)} \in \mathbb{Q}\mathcal{S}$ on \mathbf{TX} is given by*

$$(8.11) \quad (\mathbf{x}_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathbf{x}_n) \cdot \overset{\circ}{P}_{(n)} = [\dots [[\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2], \mathbf{x}_3], \dots, \mathbf{x}_n].$$

We may view \mathbf{X} as endowed with the trivial involution $\bar{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{x}$ and then consider the corresponding action of $\mathbb{Q}\mathcal{B}$ on \mathbf{TX} . Clearly, this factors through the action of $\mathbb{Q}\mathcal{S}$ via the map $\varphi : \mathbb{Q}\mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}\mathcal{S}$: $\eta \cdot w = \eta \cdot \varphi(w)$. Since $\varphi(X_{(n)}^0) = 2 \cdot \overset{\circ}{P}_{(n)}$ (7.5), we have, using (8.10),

$$(\mathbf{x}_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathbf{x}_n) \cdot \overset{\circ}{P}_{(n)} = \frac{1}{2} \tau(\dots \tau(\tau(\mathbf{x}_1)\mathbf{x}_2)\mathbf{x}_3 \dots \mathbf{x}_n).$$

Thus, letting $\eta_n = \tau(\dots\tau(\tau(\mathbf{x}_1)\mathbf{x}_2)\mathbf{x}_3\dots\mathbf{x}_n)$ and $\theta_n = [\dots[[\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2], \mathbf{x}_3], \dots, \mathbf{x}_n]$, we only need to show that

$$\eta_n = 2\theta_n.$$

For $n = 1$ we have

$$\eta_1 = \tau(\mathbf{x}_1) = \mathbf{x}_1 + \bar{\mathbf{x}}_1 = 2\mathbf{x}_1 = [\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_1] = 2\theta_1,$$

so the result holds. If it does for n , then

$$\begin{aligned} \eta_{n+1} &= \tau(\eta_n \mathbf{x}_{n+1}) = \eta_n \mathbf{x}_{n+1} + \mathbf{x}_{n+1} \eta_n \\ &= 2\theta_n \mathbf{x}_{n+1} + \mathbf{x}_{n+1} 2\theta_n = 2[\theta_n, \mathbf{x}_{n+1}] = 2\theta_{n+1}, \end{aligned}$$

as needed.

Remark 8.10. Proposition 8.9 is due to Krob, Leclerc and Thibon [20, Section 5.3]. A more general operator of the form $[\eta, \theta]_q = \eta\theta - q\theta\eta$ is in fact considered in that reference.

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