

# RSK bases in invariant theory

Preena Samuel

Chennai Mathematical Institute

## Group action: Examples

Group action:  $G \rightarrow \text{Aut}(X)$ .

Orbit:  $x \in X$ ,  $\mathcal{O}_x = G.x$

## Group action: Examples

Group action:  $G \rightarrow \text{Aut}(X)$ .

Orbit:  $x \in X$ ,  $\mathcal{O}_x = G.x$

Example 1:  $\mathbb{R} \curvearrowright \mathbb{R}$       $a.x = x + a$ .

## Group action: Examples

Group action:  $G \rightarrow \text{Aut}(X)$ .

Orbit:  $x \in X$ ,  $\mathcal{O}_x = G.x$

Example 1:  $\mathbb{R} \curvearrowright \mathbb{R}$       $a.x = x + a$ .

There is only one orbit.  $(x, y \in \mathbb{R}, (y - x).x = y)$ .

## Group action: Examples

Group action:  $G \rightarrow \text{Aut}(X)$ .

Orbit:  $x \in X$ ,  $\mathcal{O}_x = G.x$

Example 1:  $\mathbb{R} \curvearrowright \mathbb{R}$       $a.x = x + a$ .

There is only one orbit.  $(x, y \in \mathbb{R}, (y - x).x = y)$ .

Example 2:  $\text{GL}_n(\mathbb{R}) \curvearrowright \mathbb{R}^n$

# Group action: Examples

Group action:  $G \rightarrow \text{Aut}(X)$ .

Orbit:  $x \in X$ ,  $\mathcal{O}_x = G.x$

Example 1:  $\mathbb{R} \curvearrowright \mathbb{R}$       $a.x = x + a$ .

There is only one orbit.  $(x, y \in \mathbb{R}, (y - x).x = y)$ .

Example 2:  $\text{GL}_n(\mathbb{R}) \curvearrowright \mathbb{R}^n$

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & \cdots & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11}x_1 + \cdots + a_{1n}x_n \\ \vdots \\ a_{n1}x_1 + \cdots + a_{nn}x_n \end{pmatrix}$$

## Group action: Examples

Group action:  $G \rightarrow \text{Aut}(X)$ .

Orbit:  $x \in X$ ,  $\mathcal{O}_x = G.x$

Example 1:  $\mathbb{R} \curvearrowright \mathbb{R}$       $a.x = x + a$ .

There is only one orbit.  $(x, y \in \mathbb{R}, (y - x).x = y)$ .

Example 2:  $\text{GL}_n(\mathbb{R}) \curvearrowright \mathbb{R}^n$

There are 2 orbits:  $\{\mathbf{0}\}$ ,  $\{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n | \mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}\}$

## Group action: Examples

**Another example:**  $GL_n(\mathbb{C}) \curvearrowright M_n(\mathbb{C})$

$$A.X := AXA^{-1}$$



## Group action: Examples

**Another example:**  $GL_n(\mathbb{C}) \curvearrowright M_n(\mathbb{C})$

$$A.X := AXA^{-1}$$

Every matrix can be conjugated to a Jordan Canonical Form!

# Group action: Examples

**Another example:**  $GL_n(\mathbb{C}) \curvearrowright M_n(\mathbb{C})$

$$A.X := AXA^{-1}$$

Every matrix can be conjugated to a Jordan Canonical Form!

$$\left( \begin{array}{cc} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 1 & \lambda & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \\ \cdots & 0 & 1 & \lambda \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} \mu & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 1 & \mu & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \\ \cdots & 0 & 1 & \mu \end{bmatrix} \\ 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

# Group actions on varieties

*Variety in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ :* Solutions to a set of polynomials in  $n$ -variables in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ .

*Zariski topology on  $\mathbb{C}^n$ :* Varieties are the closed sets!  
 $\mathbb{C}^n$  **itself is a variety.**

*Morphisms:* Maps between varieties given by polynomials.  
 $f : \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$   
 $f$  is a polynomial in  $n$ -variables.

# Group actions on varieties

*Variety in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ :* Solutions to a set of polynomials in  $n$ -variables in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ .

*Zariski topology on  $\mathbb{C}^n$ :* Varieties are the closed sets!  
 $\mathbb{C}^n$  **itself is a variety.**

*Morphisms:* Maps between varieties given by polynomials.  
 $f : \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$   
 $f$  is a polynomial in  $n$ -variables.

**Earlier example:**

$M_n(\mathbb{C}) = \mathbb{C}^{n^2}$  **with Zariski topology.**

$\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{C}) \curvearrowright M_n(\mathbb{C})$

Each  $A \in \mathrm{GL}_n$  gives a morphism.  $X \mapsto AXA^{-1}$

## Algebraic setting

Corresponding to a variety there is a ring called its *co-ordinate ring*.

*The co-ordinate ring of a variety: Ring of morphisms from that variety to  $\mathbb{C}$  (also called regular maps).*

$$\mathbb{C}^n \leftrightarrow \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n].$$

# Algebraic setting

Corresponding to a variety there is a ring called its *co-ordinate ring*.

*The co-ordinate ring of a variety: Ring of morphisms from that variety to  $\mathbb{C}$  (also called regular maps).*

$$\mathbb{C}^n \leftrightarrow \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n].$$

Variety	$\leftrightarrow$	Ideal in $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . Co-ordinate ring of a variety in $\mathbb{C}^n$ is $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]/I$ .
Morphism between varieties	$\leftrightarrow$	Homomorphism of co-ordinate rings.

# Group actions on varieties

Example revisited:

$$M_n(\mathbb{C}) \leftrightarrow \mathbb{C}[x_{11}, \dots, x_{nn}]$$

# Group actions on varieties

Example revisited:

$$M_n(\mathbb{C}) \leftrightarrow \mathbb{C}[x_{11}, \dots, x_{nn}]$$

$$M_n(\mathbb{C})/GL_n$$



# Group actions on varieties

Example revisited:

$$M_n(\mathbb{C}) \leftrightarrow \mathbb{C}[x_{11}, \dots, x_{nn}]$$

Is the orbit space a variety?

$$M_n(\mathbb{C})/GL_n$$

# Group actions on varieties

Example revisited:

$$M_n(\mathbb{C}) \leftrightarrow \mathbb{C}[x_{11}, \dots, x_{nn}]$$

Is the orbit space a variety? If so, what is its co-ordinate ring?

$$M_n(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow M_n(\mathbb{C})/GL_n$$

# Group actions on varieties

Example revisited:

$$M_n(\mathbb{C}) \leftrightarrow \mathbb{C}[x_{11}, \dots, x_{nn}]$$

Is the orbit space a variety? If so, what is its co-ordinate ring?

$$M_n(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow M_n(\mathbb{C})/GL_n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

A regular map constant on orbits has to be constant on the closure of the orbit!!

# Group actions on varieties

Example revisited:

$$M_n(\mathbb{C}) \leftrightarrow \mathbb{C}[x_{11}, \dots, x_{nn}]$$

Is the orbit space a variety? If so, what is its co-ordinate ring?

$$M_n(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow M_n(\mathbb{C})/GL_n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

A regular map constant on orbits has to be constant on the closure of the orbit!!

Are orbits closed?

# Group actions on varieties

Example revisited:

$$M_n(\mathbb{C}) \leftrightarrow \mathbb{C}[x_{11}, \dots, x_{nn}]$$

Is the orbit space a variety? If so, what is its co-ordinate ring?

$$M_n(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow M_n(\mathbb{C})/GL_n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

A regular map constant on orbits has to be constant on the closure of the orbit!!

Are orbits closed? NO.

$$\overline{\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \lambda & t \\ 0 & \lambda \end{bmatrix} \mid t \in \mathbb{R}^\times \right\}}$$

# Group actions on varieties

Example revisited:

$$M_n(\mathbb{C}) \leftrightarrow \mathbb{C}[x_{11}, \dots, x_{nn}]$$

Is the orbit space a variety? If so, what is its co-ordinate ring?

$$M_n(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow M_n(\mathbb{C})/GL_n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

A regular map constant on orbits has to be constant on the closure of the orbit!!

Are orbits closed? NO.

$$\overline{\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \lambda & t \\ 0 & \lambda \end{bmatrix} \mid t \in \mathbb{R}^\times \right\}}$$

Upshot: It is NOT reasonable to expect a variety structure on  $M_n(\mathbb{C})/GL_n$  but rather on orbit closures.

## Invariant ring

Describe the co-ordinate ring of the space of orbit closures.

# Invariant ring

Describe the co-ordinate ring of the space of orbit closures.

Candidate: regular maps (on the original space) which are invariant on orbits.

This is called the **Invariant ring** for the given action.

We seek a description of this ring.



# Invariant ring

Describe the co-ordinate ring of the space of orbit closures.

Candidate: regular maps (on the original space) which are invariant on orbits.

This is called the **Invariant ring** for the given action.

We seek a description of this ring.

**Earlier example:**  $GL_n(\mathbb{C}) \curvearrowright M_n(\mathbb{C})$

Candidates for  $\mathbb{C}[M_n]^{GL_n}$ : Coefficients of characteristic polynomial.

# Invariant ring

Describe the co-ordinate ring of the space of orbit closures.

Candidate: regular maps (on the original space) which are invariant on orbits.

This is called the **Invariant ring** for the given action.

We seek a description of this ring.

**Earlier example:**  $\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{C}) \curvearrowright M_n(\mathbb{C})$

Candidates for  $\mathbb{C}[M_n]^{\mathrm{GL}_n}$ : Coefficients of characteristic polynomial.

## Classical result

The algebra generated by these elements is the co-ordinate ring of the space of orbit closures.

# Multilinear to polynomials

Another procedure: (This generalizes to the case of  $GL_n \curvearrowright M_n(\mathbb{C})^d$ )

H.Weyl for characteristic 0, Other characteristics and other classical groups: DeConcini, Procesi, Donkin, Zubkov

# Multilinear to polynomials

Another procedure: (This generalizes to the case of  $GL_n \curvearrowright M_n(\mathbb{C})^d$ )

H.Weyl for characteristic 0, Other characteristics and other classical groups: DeConcini, Procesi, Donkin, Zubkov

The invariant polynomials are obtained by “restitution” of the invariant multilinear functions.

$$f : M_n \times \cdots \times M_n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

$$f(g.(x_1, \dots, x_d)) = f(x_1, \dots, x_d) \text{ for } g \in GL_n$$

# Multilinear to polynomials

Another procedure: (This generalizes to the case of  $GL_n \curvearrowright M_n(\mathbb{C})^d$ )

H.Weyl for characteristic 0, Other characteristics and other classical groups: DeConcini, Procesi, Donkin, Zubkov

The invariant polynomials are obtained by “restitution” of the invariant multilinear functions.

$$f : M_n \times \cdots \times M_n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

$$f(g.(x_1, \dots, x_d)) = f(x_1, \dots, x_d) \text{ for } g \in GL_n$$

Multi-linear function to invariant polynomial:

Example:  $\text{Trace}(X_1 X_2) \mapsto \text{Trace } X^2$

# Multilinear to polynomials

Another procedure: (This generalizes to the case of  $GL_n \curvearrowright M_n(\mathbb{C})^d$ )

H.Weyl for characteristic 0, Other characteristics and other classical groups: DeConcini, Procesi, Donkin, Zubkov

The invariant polynomials are obtained by “restitution” of the invariant multilinear functions.

$$f : M_n \times \cdots \times M_n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

$$f(g.(x_1, \dots, x_d)) = f(x_1, \dots, x_d) \text{ for } g \in GL_n$$

Multi-linear function to invariant polynomial:

Example:  $\text{Trace}(X_1 X_2) \mapsto \text{Trace } X^2$

So try to understand the space of multi-linear invariants.

# Invariant ring...

Multi-linear invariants on  $M_n^d$ : The symmetric group  $\mathfrak{S}_d$  gives a set of generators.

$$\mathbb{C}\mathfrak{S}_d \xrightarrow{\ominus} (\text{End}(V)^{\otimes d})^* \quad V := \mathbb{C}^n$$

$$[(i_1, i_2, \dots)(i_k, i_{k+1}, \dots) \dots (i_p, i_{p+1}, \dots) \xrightarrow{\ominus} [A_1, \dots, A_d] \mapsto \\ \text{Trace}(A_{i_1} A_{i_2} \dots) \dots \text{Trace}(A_{i_p} A_{i_{p+1}} \dots)]$$

# Invariant ring...

**Multi-linear invariants on  $M_n^d$ :** The symmetric group  $\mathfrak{S}_d$  gives a set of generators.

$$\mathbb{C}\mathfrak{S}_d \xrightarrow{\Theta} (End(V)^{\otimes d})^* \quad V := \mathbb{C}^n$$

$$[(i_1, i_2, \dots)(i_k, i_{k+1}, \dots) \dots (i_p, i_{p+1}, \dots)] \xrightarrow{\Theta} [A_1, \dots, A_d] \mapsto \\ \text{Trace}(A_{i_1} A_{i_2} \dots) \dots \text{Trace}(A_{i_p} A_{i_{p+1}} \dots)]$$

$\Theta$  maps onto  $\{(End(V)^{\otimes d})^*\}^{GL(V)}$



# Invariant ring...

**Multi-linear invariants on  $M_n^d$ :** The symmetric group  $\mathfrak{S}_d$  gives a set of generators.

$$\mathbb{C}\mathfrak{S}_d \xrightarrow{\Theta} (\text{End}(V)^{\otimes d})^* \quad V := \mathbb{C}^n$$

$$[(i_1, i_2, \dots)(i_k, i_{k+1}, \dots) \dots (i_p, i_{p+1}, \dots)] \xrightarrow{\Theta} [A_1, \dots, A_d] \mapsto \\ \text{Trace}(A_{i_1} A_{i_2} \dots) \dots \text{Trace}(A_{i_p} A_{i_{p+1}} \dots)]$$

$\Theta$  maps onto  $\{(\text{End}(V)^{\otimes d})^*\}^{GL(V)}$

Our aim is to get a basis!

## Final remarks:

$$\mathbb{C}\mathfrak{S}_d \xrightarrow{\Theta} (\text{End}(\mathbb{C}^n)^{\otimes d})^*$$

### RSK Basis

The permutations having no decreasing subsequence of length bigger than  $n$  gives a basis for the ring of multi-linear invariants of  $M_n^d(\mathbb{C})$ .

## Final remarks:

$$\mathbb{C}\mathfrak{S}_d \xrightarrow{\Theta} (\text{End}(\mathbb{C}^n)^{\otimes d})^*$$

### RSK Basis

The permutations having no decreasing subsequence of length bigger than  $n$  gives a basis for the ring of multi-linear invariants of  $M_n^d(\mathbb{C})$ .

The proof involves the representation theory of the symmetric group and its Hecke algebra.

It can be posed as a more general problem in the representation theory of symmetric groups, involving tabloids. And the answer to it involves RSK algorithm, hence the name.