# Weight 2 blocks of double covers of symmetric groups

Matt Fayers



# Part I: The symmetric groups

 $\mathbb{F}$  field of characteristic p > 0

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 $D^{\lambda} \quad \text{James module head}(S^{\lambda}) \text{ for } \textit{p}\text{-restricted } \lambda$ 

dominance order on partitions

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Want to know decomposition numbers  $[S^{\lambda}:D^{\mu}].$ 

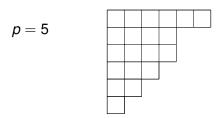
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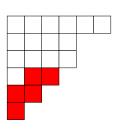
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Want to know decomposition numbers  $[S^{\lambda}:D^{\mu}]$ .

**Basic result:**  $[S^{\mu}:D^{\mu}]=1$ , and  $[S^{\lambda}:D^{\mu}]>0$  only if  $\lambda \geqslant \mu$ .

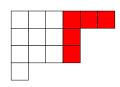






F			
<i>p</i> = 5			





[		
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p-core of  $\lambda$ : obtained by repeatedly removing rim p-hooks.

*p*-weight: number of rim *p*-hooks removed.

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So a block *B* of some  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  is determined by its weight *w* and its core  $\nu$  (and then  $n = |\nu| + pw$ ).

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Look at blocks of small weight ...

p = 7	$(4, 2, 1^7)$	$(4, 2^2, 1^5)$	$(4, 3^2, 1^3)$	٠,٠	$(5^2, 3)$	(8, 5)
$(4, 2, 1^7)$	1					
$(4, 2^2, 1^5)$	1	1				
$(4,3^2,1^3)$		1	1			
$(4^2, 3, 1^2)$			1	1		
$(5^2, 3)$				1	1	
(8, 5)					1	1
(11, 2)						1

p = 7	$(4, 2, 1^7)$	$(4, 2^2, 1^5)$	3	$(4^2, 3, 1^2)$	$(5^2, 3)$	(8, 5)
$(4, 2, 1^7)$	1					
$(4, 2^2, 1^5)$	1	1				
$(4,3^2,1^3)$		1	1			
$(4^2, 3, 1^2)$			1	1		
$(5^2, 3)$				1	1	
(8, 5)					1	1
(11, 2)		٠	•	٠	٠	1

 $\lambda$  a partition of *p*-weight 1.

p = 7	$(4, 2, 1^7)$	$(4, 2^2, 1^5)$	3	$(4^2, 3, 1^2)$		(8, 5)
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6	$(4, 2, 1^7)$	1					
5	$(4, 2^2, 1^5)$	1	1				
4	$(4,3^2,1^3)$		1	1			
3	$(4^2, 3, 1^2)$			1	1		
2	$(5^2,3)$				1	1	
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# Robinson 1961:

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#### **Robinson 1961:** *B* a block of $\mathbb{F}\mathfrak{S}_n$ of weight 1.

► For each  $0 \le i < p$ , B contains a unique partition  $\lambda^i$  of leg length i.

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- $\triangleright [S^{\lambda^i}:D^{\lambda^j}] = \delta_{ij} + \delta_{i(j-1)}.$

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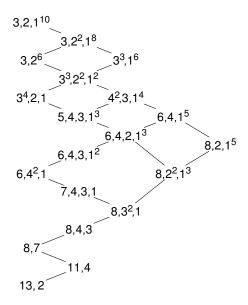
# Blocks of weight 2

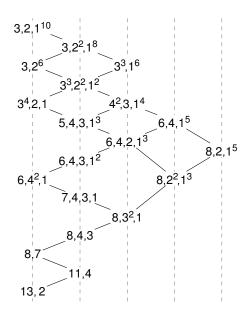
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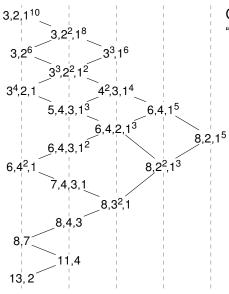
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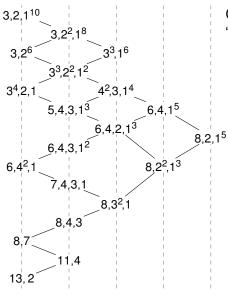
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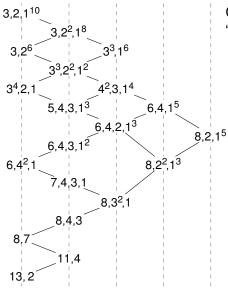




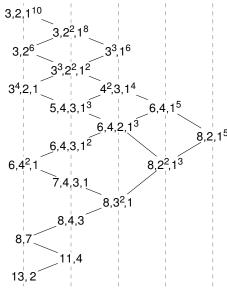


Can arrange the diagram in "strings" such that:

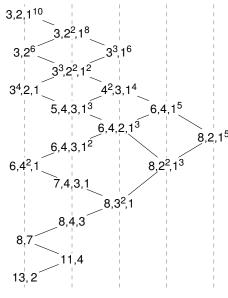
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- ▶ every -cover occurs between two adjacent strings;
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*B* a block of weight 2, core  $\nu$ .

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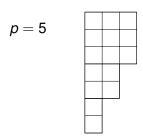
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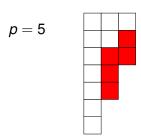
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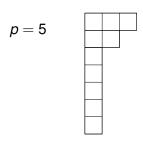
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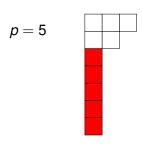
 $\partial \lambda = \text{difference between leg lengths of removed rim } p\text{-hooks.}$ 



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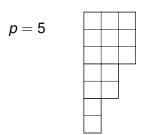
$$p = 5$$



$$\partial \lambda = |3-4| = 1$$

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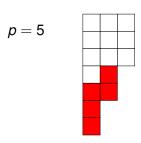
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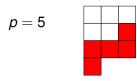
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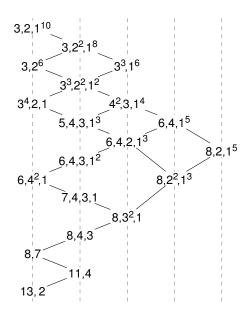
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$$p = 5$$



$$\partial \lambda = |3-2| = 1$$



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$$\partial \lambda = 1$$

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If  $\lambda$  in B, then we remove two rim p-hooks to reach  $\nu$  from  $\lambda$ .

 $\partial \lambda =$  difference between leg lengths of removed rim *p*-hooks.

$$p=5$$
  $\partial \lambda = 1$ 

If  $\partial \lambda = 0$ , say  $\lambda$  is black if it has:

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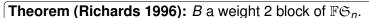
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and white otherwise.

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If  $\mu$  in B is p-restricted, let  $\mu^+$  be the next one in the dominance order with the same  $\partial$ -value (and colour).

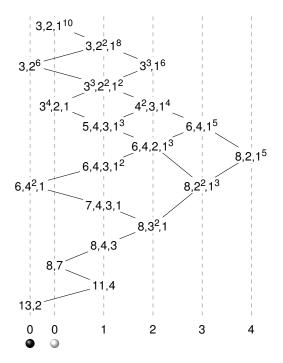
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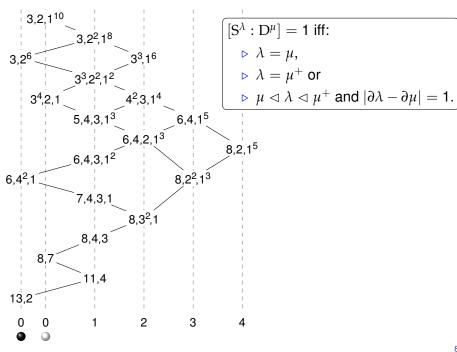
- ▶ The partitions in B with a given  $\partial$ -value form a  $\triangleleft$ -chain.
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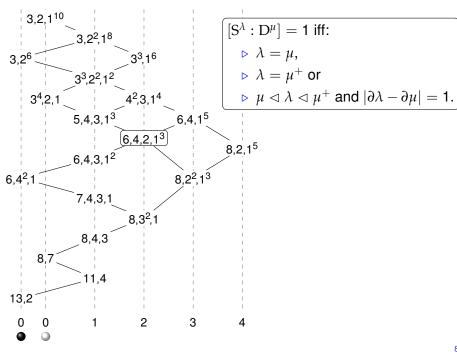
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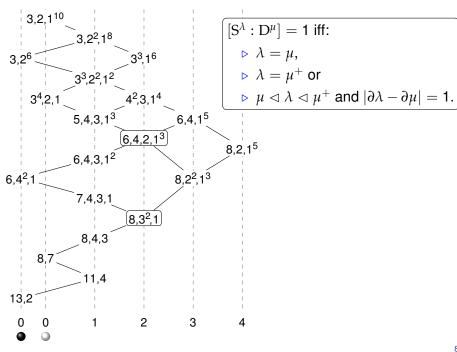
- ▶ If p odd, then  $[S^{\lambda}:D^{\mu}]=1$  if:
  - $\triangleright \lambda = \mu$ ,
  - $\lambda = \mu^+$  or
  - $\triangleright \mu \lhd \lambda \lhd \mu^+ \text{ and } |\partial \lambda \partial \mu| = 1,$

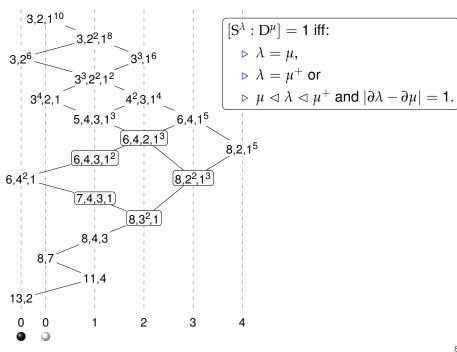
and 0 otherwise.

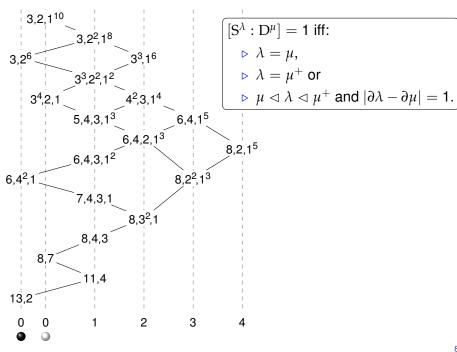


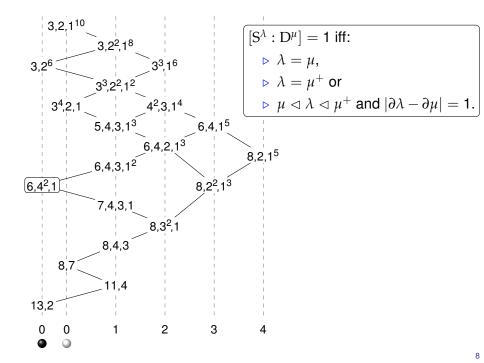


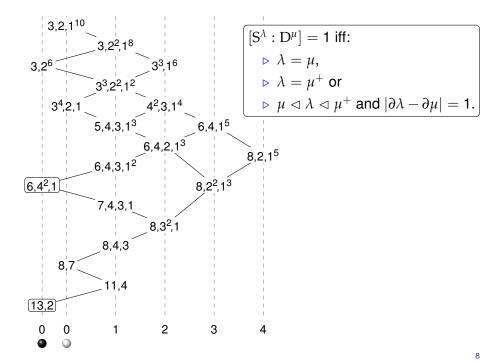


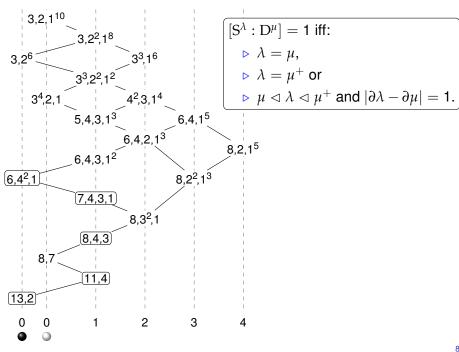


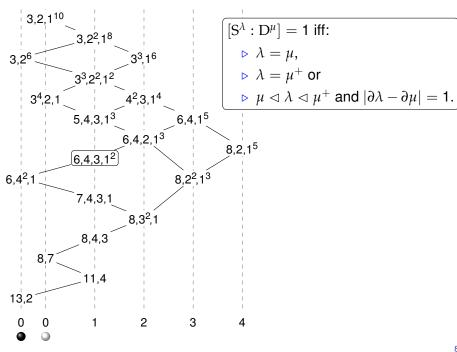


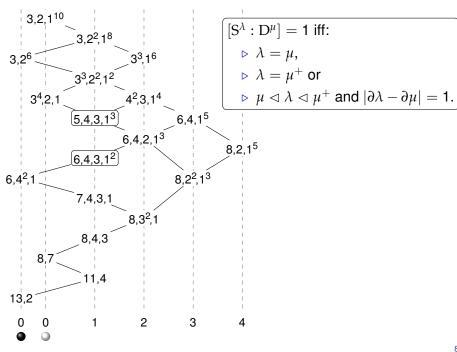


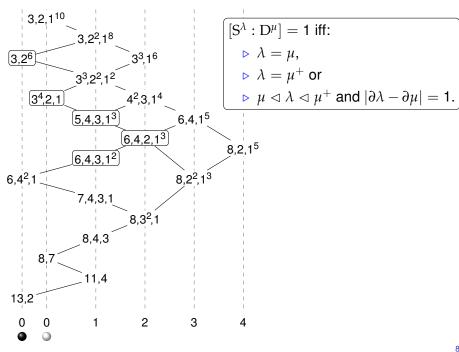












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Similar theorems for:

Richards's theorem proved using the Jantzen–Schaper formula.

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Similar theorems for:

▶ Hecke algebras of type B (F. 2006);

Richards's theorem proved using the Jantzen–Schaper formula.

Applies also to Hecke algebras of type A.

Similar theorems for:

- ▶ Hecke algebras of type B (F. 2006);
- Ariki–Koike algebras (Lyle–Ruff 2016).

# Part II: Double covers

$$\hat{\mathfrak{S}}_n = \langle s_1, \ldots, s_{n-1}, z \rangle$$

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p odd from now on.

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11

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Work with  $\mathbb{F}\hat{\mathfrak{S}}_n$  as a superalgebra by putting

$$z \in (\mathbb{F}\hat{\mathfrak{S}}_n)_0, \qquad s_1, \ldots, s_{n-1} \in (\mathbb{F}\hat{\mathfrak{S}}_n)_1.$$

11

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**Brundan–Kleshchev 2002:**  $\mathbb{F} = \overline{\mathbb{F}}$ , characteristic p odd.

For each restricted *p*-strict partition  $\lambda$  of *n*, there is a simple  $\mathbb{F}\hat{\mathfrak{S}}_n$ -supermodule  $\hat{\mathbb{D}}^{\lambda}$ .

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Consider a *p*-modular reduction of  $\hat{S}^{\lambda}$ ; call this  $\hat{S}^{\lambda}$  also.

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n = 9 p = 5	-	-		_	(6,3)	
(4, 3, 2)	1	•	•	•	•	•
(5, 3, 1)	•	1	•	•	•	
(5, 4)	1		1			
(6, 2, 1)				1		
(6, 3)		1			1	
(7, 2)						1
(8, 1)					1	
(9)		٠	1	٠	٠	

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Now look at individual blocks ....

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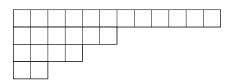
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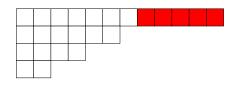
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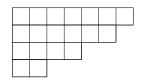
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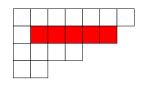
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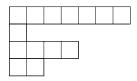
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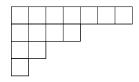
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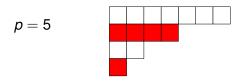
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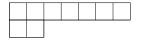


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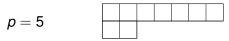
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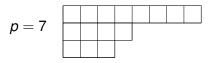
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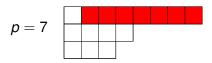
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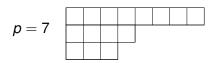
Look at blocks of small weight ...

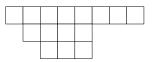
### Leg length

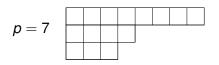


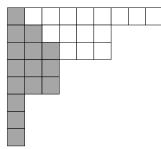




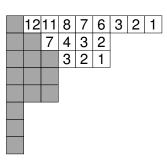


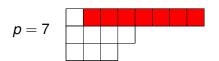


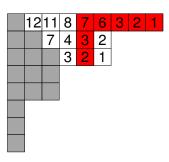




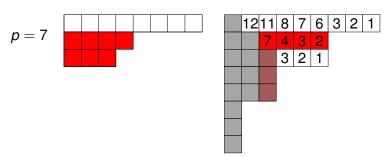








Removable *p*-bars  $\longleftrightarrow$  *p*-hooks in the doubled diagram:



 $\longrightarrow$  leg length of a removable *p*-bar (Hoffman–Humphreys).

<i>ρ</i> = 7	٦.	ď,	(8, 7, 1)
(8, 4, 3, 1)	1		
(8, 5, 2, 1)	1	1	
(8, 7, 1)		1	1
(15, 1)			1

p = 7	4	(8, 5, 2, 1)	7
(8, 4, 3, 1)	1		
(8, 5, 2, 1)	1	1	
(8, 7, 1)		1	1
(15, 1)			1

Leg length of  $\lambda$ : leg length of the unique p-bar of  $\lambda$ .

	p = 7	4	(8, 5, 2, 1)	۲,
3	(8, 4, 3, 1)	1		
2	(8, 5, 2, 1)	1	1	
- 1	(8, 7, 1)		1	1
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Müller 2003:			

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**Müller 2003:** B a spin block of  $\hat{\mathfrak{S}}_n$  of weight 1.

▶ For each  $0 \le i < \frac{1}{2}p$ , B contains a unique partition  $\lambda^i$  of leg length i.

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- ▶ For each  $0 \le i < \frac{1}{2}p$ , B contains a unique partition  $\lambda^i$  of leg length i.
- $\lambda^{\frac{1}{2}(p-1)} \lhd \cdots \lhd \lambda^{0}.$

	p = 7	4	(8, 5, 2, 1)	٠
3	(8, 4, 3, 1)	1		
2	(8, 5, 2, 1)	1	1	
1	(8, 7, 1)		1	1
0	(15, 1)			1

Leg length of  $\lambda$ : leg length of the unique p-bar of  $\lambda$ .

- ▶ For each  $0 \le i < \frac{1}{2}p$ , B contains a unique partition  $\lambda^i$  of leg length i.
- $\lambda^{\frac{1}{2}(p-1)} \triangleleft \cdots \triangleleft \lambda^{0}.$
- ▶ All except  $\lambda^0$  are restricted.

	p = 7	4	(8, 5, 2, 1)	7,
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- $\triangleright [\hat{S}^{\lambda^i}:\hat{D}^{\lambda^j}] = \delta_{ij} + \delta_{i(j-1)}.$

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Instead, we use the Fock space . . . .

Let 
$$r=\frac{1}{2}(p-1)$$
.  $U=U_q(A_{p-1}^{(2)})$ .  $\mathbb{C}(q)$ -algebra with generators  $e_0,\ldots,e_r,t_0,\ldots,t_r,f_0,\ldots,f_r$ .

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Assign spin residues to nodes:

Then

$$t_i \lambda \in \langle \lambda \rangle$$
  
 $f_i \lambda \in \langle \mu \mid \mu = \lambda \cup \text{an } i\text{-node} \rangle$   
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$$\begin{split} & t_i \lambda \in \langle \lambda \rangle \\ & f_i \lambda \in \langle \mu \mid \ \mu = \lambda \cup \text{an } i\text{-node} \rangle \\ & e_i \lambda \in \langle \mu \mid \ \mu = \lambda \setminus \text{an } i\text{-node} \rangle \,. \end{split}$$

(Kashiwara–Miwa–Petersen–Yung 1996, Leclerc–Thibon 1997.)

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Define 
$$\emph{d}_{\lambda\mu}(\emph{q})\in\mathbb{C}(\emph{q})$$
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$$G(\mu) = \sum_{\lambda} d_{\lambda\mu}(q) \lambda.$$

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Hope this is true for blocks of weight 2, and calculate . . .

# Blocks of weight 2

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```
p=5
5-bar-core (6, 1)
                     (6, 5, 3, 2, 1)
                     (7, 6, 3, 1)
                     (8, 6, 2, 1)
                     (10, 6, 1)
                     (11, 3, 2, 1)
                     (11, 5, 1)
                     (11, 6)
                     (16, 1)
```

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```
p=5
5-bar-core (6, 1)
                     (6, 5, 3, 2, 1)
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                     (10, 6, 1)
                     (11, 3, 2, 1) \mid \cdot \cdot \cdot 1 \cdot
                     (11, 5, 1)
                      (11, 6)
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```

Let's try a Richards formula anyway ...

*B* weight 2 spin block of  $\hat{\mathfrak{S}}_n$  with *p*-bar-core  $\nu$ .

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$$\triangleq (..., p^2, ...);$$

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#### Two special partitions:

- ▶  $\stackrel{.}{\underline{}}$  = (...,  $p^2$ , ...);

	9		(6, 5, 3, 2, 1)	$(6, 5^2, 1)$	$(6, 5^2, 1)$	(7, 6, 3, 1)	(8, 6, 2, 1)	(10, 6, 1)
•	1	(6, 5, 3, 2, 1)	1					
3	0	$(6, 5^2, 1)$	1	1	1			.
3	1	(7, 6, 3, 1) 豐	1	1	1	1		.
3	1	(8, 6, 2, 1)		1	1	1	1	.
	0	(10, 6, 1)		1			1	1
	2	(11, 3, 2, 1)					1	.
3	1	(11, 5, 1)			1		1	1
	0	(11, 6)						1
0	0	(16, 1)		٠	1	٠	٠	

"Ricl	hard ∂	ds matrix"	(6, 5, 3, 2, 1)	$(6, 5^2, 1)$		ó,		(10, 6, 1)
0	1	(6, 5, 3, 2, 1)	1		•			
3	0	$(6, 5^2, 1)$	1	1	1			
3	1	(7, 6, 3, 1) \\	1	1	1	1		
3	1	(8, 6, 2, 1)		1	1	1	1	
•	0	(10, 6, 1)		1	•		1	1
	2	(11, 3, 2, 1)			•		1	
3	1	(11, 5, 1)			1		1	1
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0	0	(16, 1)		•	1			

Rich	nard ∂	ds matrix"	(6, 5, 3, 2, 1)	$(6, 5^2, 1)$	$(6, 5^2, 1)$		(8, 6, 2, 1)	(10, 6, 1)
0	1	(6, 5, 3, 2, 1)	1					
3	0	$(6, 5^2, 1)$ \bigsig	1	1	1			.
3	1	(7, 6, 3, 1) \\	1	1	1	1		.
3	1	(8, 6, 2, 1)		1	1	1	1	.
	0	(10, 6, 1)		1	•		1	1
	2	(11, 3, 2, 1)					1	.
3	1	(11, 5, 1)			1		1	1
	0	(11, 6)						1
0	0	(16, 1)		٠	1	•	٠	

Now take all columns starting with  $\@$  or ending with  $\@$  and add together in adjacent pairs.

"Richards matrix" ∂					$(6, 5^2, 1)$	$(6, 5^2, 1)$	(7, 6, 3, 1)	(8, 6, 2, 1)	(10, 6, 1)	(6, 5, 3, 2, 1)	$(6, 5^2, 1)$	(7, 6, 3, 1)	(8, 6, 2, 1)	(10, 6, 1)
	)	1	(6, 5, 3, 2, 1)	1						1				
	3	0	$(6, 5^2, 1)$	1	1	1		•		2	2			
	3	1	(7, 6, 3, 1) 豐	1	1	1	1	•	•	2	2	1		
	3	1	(8, 6, 2, 1)		1	1	1	1	•	1	2	1	1	
•		0	(10, 6, 1)		1		•	1	1	1	1		1	1
		2	(11, 3, 2, 1)					1		•	•	•	1	
	3	1	(11, 5, 1)			1		1	1	•	1	•	1	1
		0	(11, 6)						1		•			1
-	)	0	(16, 1)			1		•		•	1		•	

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"Ricl	hard ∂	ds matrix"	(6, 5, 3, 2, 1)	$(6, 5^2, 1)$	$(6, 5^2, 1)$	(7, 6, 3, 1)	(8, 6, 2, 1)	(10, 6, 1)	(6, 5, 3, 2, 1)	$(6, 5^2, 1)$	(7, 6, 3, 1)	(8, 6, 2, 1)	(10, 6, 1)
0	1	(6, 5, 3, 2, 1)	1						1	•			
3	0	$(6, 5^2, 1)$ \$	1	1	1								
3	1	(7, 6, 3, 1) \\	1	1	1	1			2	2	1	•	
3	1	(8, 6, 2, 1)		1	1	1	1		1	2	1	1	
	0	(10, 6, 1)		1			1	1	1	1		1	1
	2	(11, 3, 2, 1)		•			1	•	٠	٠		1	
3	1	(11, 5, 1)		•	1		1	1		1	•	1	1
	0	(11, 6)						1		٠	•	•	1
	0	(16, 1)		•	1		•		•	1	•	٠	٠

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"Ricł	nard ∂	ds matrix"	(6, 5, 3, 2, 1)	$(6, 5^2, 1)$	$(6, 5^2, 1)$	(7, 6, 3, 1)	(8, 6, 2, 1)	(10, 6, 1)	(6, 5, 3, 2, 1)	$(6, 5^2, 1)$	(7, 6, 3, 1)	(8, 6, 2, 1)	(10, 6, 1)
0	1	(6, 5, 3, 2, 1)	1						1				
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3	1	(7, 6, 3, 1) 豐	1	1	1	1	•		2	2	1		
3	1	(8, 6, 2, 1)		1	1	1	1		1	2	1	1	
	0	(10, 6, 1)		1		•	1	1	1	1		1	1
	2	(11, 3, 2, 1)		•		•	1		٠	٠		1	
3	1	(11, 5, 1)		•	1	•	1	1		1	•	1	1
	0	(11, 6)		•	•	•	•	1					1
	0	(16, 1)		•	1		•		•	1	•	•	٠

Now take all columns starting with  $\@$  or ending with  $\@$  and add together in adjacent pairs. Delete the  $\@$  row.

**Conjecture:** This produces the decomposition matrix of *B*.

**Step 1:** Prove it for the  $d_{\lambda\mu}(q)$ .

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1		•	•			1											
2	2	1				1	1	1	1				1				
1	2	1	1				1	1	1	1			1	1			
1	1		1	1			1			1	1			1			
			1		=					1		×			1		
	1		1	1				1		1	1					1	
				1							1						1
.	1							1									