

# Geometric Complexity Theory via Algebraic Combinatorics

Greta Panova

University of Pennsylvania  
Institute for Advanced Study Princeton

IAS, CSDM Seminar

# (Boolean) Complexity

**Input:** string of  $n$  bits, i.e.  $\text{size}(\text{input}) = n$ .

## Decision problems:

Is there an object, s.t.... ?

**P** = solution can be found in time  $\text{Poly}(n)$

**NP** = solution can be *verified* in  $\text{Poly}(n)$  (polynomial witness)

**NP –Complete** = in NP, and every NP problem can be reduced to it poly time; e.g.

## Counting problems:

Compute  $F(\text{input}) = ?$

**FP** = solution can be found in time  $\text{Poly}(n)$

**#P** = NP counting analogue; informally –  $F(\text{input})$  counts Exp-many objects, whose verification is in P.

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An approach [Mulmuley, Sohoni]: **Geometric Complexity Theory**

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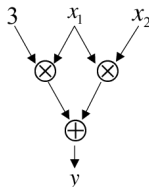
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# VP vs VNP: determinant vs permanent

## Arithmetic Circuits:

$$y = 3x_1 + x_1x_2$$



Polynomials  $f_n \in \mathbb{F}[X_1, \dots, X_n]$ . Circuit – nodes are  $+$ ,  $\times$  gates, input –  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  and constants from  $\mathbb{F}$ .

**Class VP** (Valliant's P):

polynomials that can be computed with  $\text{poly}(n)$  large circuit (size of the associated graph).

**Class VNP:**

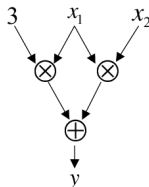
the class of polynomials  $f_n$ , s.t.  $\exists g_n \in \text{VP}$  with

$$f_n = \sum_{b \in \{0,1\}^n} g_n(X_1, \dots, X_n, b_1, \dots, b_n).$$

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**Theorem**[Bürgisser]: If  $\text{VP} = \text{VNP}$ , then  $\text{P} = \text{NP}$  if  $\mathbb{F}$  - finite or the Generalized Riemann Hypothesis holds.

# VP vs VNP: determinant vs permanent

## Universality of the determinant [Cohn, Valiant]:

For every polynomial  $p$  in any number of variables there exists some  $n$  such that

$$p = \det(A),$$

where  $A$  is an  $n \times n$  matrix whose entries are affine linear polynomials. The smallest  $n$  possible is called the *determinantal complexity*  $\text{dc}(p)$ .

**Example:**  $p = x_1^2 + x_1x_2 + x_2x_3 + 2x_1$ , then

$$p = \det \begin{bmatrix} x_1 + 2 & x_2 \\ -x_3 + 2 & x_1 + x_2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{dc}(p) = 2$$

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## The permanent:

$$\text{per}_m := \sum_{\sigma \in S_m} \prod_{i=1}^m x_{i, \sigma(i)}.$$

**Theorem:**[Valiant]  $\text{per}_m$  is VNP-complete.

**Conjecture (Valiant, VP  $\neq$  VNP equivalent)**

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Known:  $\text{dc}(\text{per}_m) \leq 2^m - 1$  (Grenet 2011),  $\text{dc}(\text{per}_m) \geq \frac{m^2}{2}$  (Mignon, Ressayre, 2004). Ryser's formula:

$$\text{per}_m(X) = (-1)^m \sum_{S \subset [1..m]} (-1)^{|S|} \prod_{i=1}^m \left( \sum_{j \in S} x_{i,j} \right)$$

# Geometric Complexity Theory

$GL_N$  action on polynomials:  $A \in GL_N(\mathbb{C})$ ,  $v := (X_1, \dots, X_N)$ ,  
 $f \in \mathbb{C}[X_1, \dots, X_N]$ , then  $A.f = f(A^{-1}v)$   
(replaces variables with linear forms)

$GL_{n^2} \det_n := \{g \cdot \det_n \mid g \in GL_{n^2}\}$  – **determinant orbit**.

$\Omega_n := \overline{GL_{n^2} \det_n}$  – **determinant orbit closure**.

$\text{per}_m^n := (X_{1,1})^{n-m} \text{per}_m$  – **the padded permanent**.

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$\max\{n : \text{per}_m^n \notin \overline{GL_{n^2} \det_n}\} (\leq \text{dc}(\text{per}_m))$  grows superpolynomially.

$$\text{per}_m^n \in \overline{GL_{n^2} \det_n} \iff \underbrace{\overline{GL_{n^2} \text{per}_m^n}}_{=: \Gamma_m^n} \subseteq \underbrace{\overline{GL_{n^2} \det_n}}_{\Omega_n}.$$

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Exploit the symmetry! Coordinate rings as  $GL_{n^2}$  representations:

$$\mathbb{C}[\overline{GL_{n^2} \det_n}]_d \simeq \bigoplus_{\lambda \vdash nd} V_{\lambda}^{\oplus \delta_{\lambda, d, n}}, \quad \mathbb{C}[\overline{GL_{n^2} \text{per}_m^n}]_d \simeq \bigoplus_{\lambda} V_{\lambda}^{\oplus \gamma_{\lambda, d, n, m}},$$

## Definition (Representation theoretic obstruction)

If  $\delta_{\lambda, d, n} < \gamma_{\lambda, d, n, m}$ , then  $\lambda$  is a **representation theoretic obstruction**.  
Its existence shows  $\overline{GL_{n^2} \text{per}_m^n} \not\subseteq \overline{GL_{n^2} \det_n}$  and so  $\text{dc}(\text{per}_m) > n$  !

# (Non)existence of obstructions

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If also  $\delta_{\lambda,d,n} = 0$ , then  $\lambda$  is an **occurrence obstruction**.

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## Theorem (Bürgisser-Ikenmeyer-P(FOCS 2016))

*This Conjecture is false.*

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**Kronecker coefficients** of the Symmetric Group:

$$\delta_{\lambda,d,n} \leq sk(\lambda, n^d) \leq g(\lambda, n^d, n^d)$$

(Symmetric Kronecker:

$$sk(\lambda, \mu) := \dim \text{Hom}_{S_{|\lambda|}}(\mathbb{S}^{\lambda}, S^2(\mathbb{S}^{\mu})) = \text{mult}_{\lambda} \mathbb{C}[GL_{n^2} \det_n]_d$$

**Plethysm coefficients:** of  $GL$ .

$$a_{\lambda}(d[n]) := \text{mult}_{\lambda} \text{Sym}^d(\text{Sym}^n(V)) \geq \gamma_{\lambda,d,n,m}.$$

**Problem (GCT program, “easy version”)**

Find  $\lambda$ , such that the  $sk(\lambda, (n^d)) < a_{\lambda}(d[n])$ ?

# Positivity towards negativity

## Conjecture (Mulmuley and Sohoni 2001)

*For all  $c \in \mathbb{N}_{\geq 1}$ , for infinitely many  $m$ , there exists a partition  $\lambda$  occurring in  $\mathbb{C}[\overline{GL_{n^2} X_{11}^{n-m} per_m}]$  but not in  $\mathbb{C}[\overline{GL_{n^2} \cdot \det_n}]$ , where  $n = m^c$ .*

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Let  $n > 3m^4$ ,  $\lambda \vdash nd$ . If  $g(\lambda, n^d, n^d) = 0$  (so  $\text{mult}_\lambda \mathbb{C}[GL_{n^2} \det_n] = 0$ ), then  $\text{mult}_\lambda (\mathbb{C}[\overline{GL_{n^2} (X_{1,1})^{n-m} per_m}]) = 0$ .

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## Theorem (Bürgisser-Ikenmeyer-P (FOCS'16))

Let  $n, d, m$  be positive integers with  $n \geq m^{25}$  and  $\lambda \vdash nd$ . If  $\lambda$  occurs in  $\mathbb{C}[\overline{GL_{n^2} X_{11}^{n-m} per_m}]$ , then  $\lambda$  also occurs in  $\mathbb{C}[\overline{GL_{n^2} \cdot \det_n}]$ . In particular, the Conjecture is false, there are no “occurrence obstructions”.

# Classical problems in Algebraic Combinatorics

**Irreducible representations of the symmetric group  $S_n$ :**

( group homomorphisms  $S_n \rightarrow GL_N(\mathbb{C})$  )

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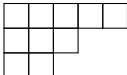
**integer partitions**  $\lambda \vdash n$ :

$$\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_\ell),$$

$$\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_\ell > 0,$$

$$\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \dots = n, \text{ length } \ell(\lambda) = \ell \text{ (= number of nonzero parts)}$$

**Young diagram** of  $\lambda$ :



$$(\lambda = (5, 3, 2), \ell(\lambda) = 3, n = |\lambda| = 5 + 3 + 2 = 10).$$

**Basis for  $\mathbb{S}_\lambda$ : Standard Young Tableaux** of shape  $\lambda$ :

1	2	3
4	5	

1	2	4
3	5	

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$$g(\lambda, \mu, \nu) = \dim \operatorname{Hom}_{S_n}(\mathbb{S}_\nu, \mathbb{S}_\lambda \otimes \mathbb{S}_\mu)$$

In terms of  $GL(\mathbb{C}^m)$  modules  $V_\lambda, V_\mu, V_\nu$

$$\operatorname{Sym}(\mathbb{C}^m \otimes \mathbb{C}^m \otimes \mathbb{C}^m) = \bigoplus_{\lambda, \mu, \nu} g(\lambda, \mu, \nu) V_\lambda \otimes V_\mu \otimes V_\nu$$

## A bit of history

1873: Lie groups, *Lie, Klein...*

1896: Representations of finite groups, *Frobenius ...*

1923: Representations of Lie groups, *H. Weyl*. Quantum mechanics, *von Neumann*

1934: Tensor products of irreducible representations of Lie groups:  
 $V_\lambda$  – irreducible representation of  $GL_N(\mathbb{C})$ .

$$V_\lambda \otimes V_\mu = \bigoplus_\nu c_{\lambda\mu}^\nu V_\nu$$

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(LR tableaux of shape  $(7, 4, 3)/(3, 1)$  and type  $(4, 3, 2)$ .  $c_{(3,1)(4,3,2)}^{(7,4,3)} = 2$ )

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$c_{\lambda\mu}^\nu$  – Littlewood-Richardson coefficients.

### Theorem (Littlewood-Richardson, 1934)

*The coefficient  $c_{\lambda\mu}^\nu$  is equal to the number of LR tableaux of shape  $\nu/\mu$  and type  $\lambda$ .*

1938: Tensor product of irreducible representations of  $S_n$ , Kronecker coefficients, *Murnaghan*:

$$\mathbb{S}_\lambda \otimes \mathbb{S}_\mu = \bigoplus_{\nu \vdash n} g(\lambda, \mu, \nu) \mathbb{S}_\nu$$



# The combinatorics questions

## Problem (Murnaghan, 1938, then Stanley et al)

*Find a positive combinatorial interpretation for  $g(\lambda, \mu, \nu)$ , i.e. a family of combinatorial objects  $\mathcal{O}_{\lambda, \mu, \nu}$ , s.t.  $g(\lambda, \mu, \nu) = \#\mathcal{O}_{\lambda, \mu, \nu}$ .*

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**Classical motivation:** (Littlewood–Richardson: for  $c_{\lambda, \mu}^{\nu}$ ,  $\mathcal{O}_{\lambda, \mu, \nu} = \{ \text{LR tableaux of shape } \nu/\mu, \text{ type } \lambda \}$ )

## Theorem (Murnaghan)

*If  $|\lambda| + |\mu| = |\nu|$  and  $n > |\nu|$ , then*

$$g((n + |\mu|, \lambda), (n + |\lambda|, \mu), (n, \nu)) = c_{\lambda, \mu}^{\nu}.$$

## Modern motivation:

1. A positive combinatorial formula "  $\iff$  " Computing Kronecker coefficients is in  $\#P$ .
2. **Geometric Complexity Theory.**
3. Invariant Theory, moment polytopes [see Bürgisser, Christandl, Mulmuley, Walter, Oliveira, Garg, Wigerson etc]




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### Results since then:

Combinatorial formulas for  $g(\lambda, \mu, \nu)$ , when:

- $\mu$  and  $\nu$  are hooks (  ), [Remmel, 1989]
- $\nu = (n - k, k)$  (  ) and  $\lambda_1 \geq 2k - 1$ , [Ballantine–Orellana, 2006]
- $\nu = (n - k, k)$ ,  $\lambda = (n - r, r)$  [Remmel–Whitehead, 1994; Blasiak–Mulmuley–Sohoni, 2013]
- $\nu = (n - k, 1^k)$  (  ), [Blasiak, 2012]
- Other special cases [Colmenarejo-Rosas, Ikenmeyer-Mulmuley-Walter, Pak-Panova].

# The combinatorics questions

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### Bounds and positivity:

[Pak-P]:  $g(\lambda, \mu, \mu) \geq |\chi^\lambda(2\mu_1 - 1, 2\mu_2 - 3, \dots)|$  when  $\mu = \mu^T$ .

Corollaries:  $g(\lambda, \mu, \mu) > c \frac{2^{\sqrt{2k}}}{k^{9/4}}$  for  $\lambda = (|\mu| - k, k)$ , and  $\text{diag}(\mu) \geq \sqrt{k}$ .

### Complexity results:

[Bürgisser-Ikenmeyer]: KRON is in GapP.

( Littlewood-Richardson, i.e. KRON's special case, is  $\#P$ -complete )

[Pak-P]: If  $\nu$  is a hook, then KronPositivity is in P. If  $\lambda, \mu, \nu$  have fixed length there exists a linear time algorithm for deciding  $g(\lambda, \mu, \nu) > 0$ .

[Ikenmeyer-Mulmuley-Walter]: KronPositivity is NP-hard.

[Bürgisser-Christandl-Mulmuley-Walter]: membership in the moment polytope is NP and coNP.

# Back to GCT: Positivity towards negativity

## Conjecture (Mulmuley and Sohoni 2001)

*For all  $c \in \mathbb{N}_{\geq 1}$ , for infinitely many  $m$ , there exists a partition  $\lambda$  occurring in  $\mathbb{C}[\overline{GL_{n^2} X_{11}^{n-m} per_m}]$  but not in  $\mathbb{C}[\overline{GL_{n^2} \cdot \det_n}]$ , where  $n = m^c$ .*

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Let  $n > 3m^4$ ,  $\lambda \vdash nd$ . If  $g(\lambda, n^d, n^d) = 0$  (so  $\text{mult}_\lambda \mathbb{C}[GL_{n^2} \det_n] = 0$ ), then  $\text{mult}_\lambda (\mathbb{C}[\overline{GL_{n^2} (X_{1,1})^{n-m} per_m}]) = 0$ .

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# No occurrence obstructions I: positive Kroneckers

## Theorem (Ikenmeyer-P (2015, FOCS'16))

Let  $n > 3m^4$ ,  $\lambda \vdash nd$ . If  $g(\lambda, n \times d, n \times d) = 0$ , then  $\text{mult}_\lambda(\mathbb{C}[\overline{GL_{n^2}(X_{1,1})^{n-m} \text{per}_m}]) = 0$ .

### Proof:

$$\bar{\lambda} := (\lambda_2, \lambda_3, \dots) \vdash |\lambda| - \lambda_1$$

## Theorem (Kadish-Landsberg)

If  $\text{mult}_\lambda \mathbb{C}[\overline{GL_{n^2} X_{11}^{n-m} \text{per}_m}] > 0$ , then  $|\bar{\lambda}| \leq md$  and  $\ell(\lambda) \leq m^2$ .

## Theorem (Degree lower bound, [IP] )

If  $|\bar{\lambda}| \leq md$  with  $a_\lambda(d[n]) > g(\lambda, n \times d, n \times d)$ , then  $d > \frac{n}{m}$ .



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## Theorem (Kronecker positivity, [IP] )

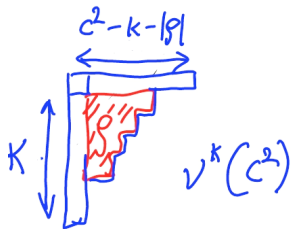
Let  $\lambda \vdash dn$ . Let  $\mathcal{X} := \{(1), (2 \times 1), (4 \times 1), (6 \times 1), (2, 1), (3, 1)\}$ .

(a) If  $\bar{\lambda} \in \mathcal{X}$ , then  $a_\lambda(d[n]) = 0$ .

(b) If  $\bar{\lambda} \notin \mathcal{X}$  and  $m \geq 3$  such that  $\ell(\lambda) \leq m^2$ ,  $|\bar{\lambda}| \leq md$ ,  $d > 3m^3$ , and  $n > 3m^4$ , then  $g(\lambda, n \times d, n \times d) > 0$ .

# Kronecker positivity I: hook-like $\lambda$ s

## Proposition (Ikenmeyer-P)



If there is an  $a$ , such that

$g(\nu^k(a^2), a \times a, a \times a) > 0$  for all  $k$ , s.t.  
 $k \notin H^1(\rho)$  and  $a^2 - k \notin H^2(\rho)$  for some  
 sets  $H^1(\rho), H^2(\rho) \subset [\ell, 2a + 1]$ ,

then  $g(\nu^k(b^2), b \times b, b \times b) > 0$  for all  $k$ ,  
 s.t.  $k \notin H^1(\rho)$  and  $b^2 - k \notin H^2(\rho)$  for all  
 $b \geq a$ .

### Proof idea:

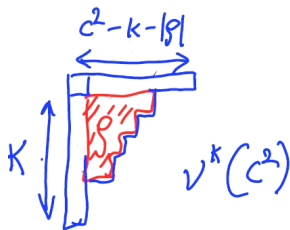
Kronecker symmetries and semigroup properties:

Let  $P_c = \{k : g(\nu^k(c^2), c \times c, c \times c) > 0\}$ , we have

**Claim:** Suppose that  $k \in P_c$ , then  $k, k + 2c + 1 \in P_{c+1}$ .

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### Corollary

We have that  $g(\lambda, h \times w, h \times w) > 0$  for  $\lambda = (hw - j - |\rho|, 1^j + \rho)$  for most “small” partitions  $\rho$  and all but finitely many values of  $j$ .

# Kronecker positivity II: squares, and decompositions

## Theorem (Ikenmeyer-P)

Let  $\nu \notin \mathcal{X}$  and  $\ell = \max(\ell(\nu) + 1, 9)$ ,  $a > 3\ell^{3/2}$ ,  $b \geq 3\ell^2$  and  $|\nu| \leq ab/6$ .  
Then  $g(\nu(ab), a \times b, a \times b) > 0$ .

**Proof sketch:** decomposition + regrouping

$$\nu = \rho + \xi + \sum_{k=2}^{\ell} x_k((k-1) \times k) + \sum_{k=2}^{\ell} y_k((k-1) \times 2).$$

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## Crucial facts:

- $g(k \times k, k \times k, k \times k) > 0$  [Bessenrodt-Behns].
- Transpositions:  $g(\alpha, \beta, \gamma) = g(\alpha, \beta^T, \gamma^T)$  (with  $\beta = \gamma = wxh$ )
- Hooks and exceptional cases:  $g(\lambda, h \times w, h \times w) > 0$  for all  $\lambda = (hw - j - |\rho|, 1^j + \rho)$  for  $|\rho| \leq 6$  and almost all  $js$ .
- Semigroup property for positive triples:  
 $g(\alpha^1 + \alpha^2, \beta^1 + \beta^2, \gamma^1 + \gamma^2) \geq \max(g(\alpha^1, \beta^1, \gamma^1), g(\alpha^2, \beta^2, \gamma^2)).$

# Kronecker vs plethysm: inequality of multiplicities

**Stability**[Manivel]:  $g((nd - |\rho|, \rho), n \times d, n \times d) = a_\rho(d)$ , as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

$\text{St}^1(\rho) := \{(n, d) \mid g((nd - |\rho|, \rho), n \times d, n \times d)\} = a_\rho(d)$ .

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Fix  $\rho$ , and let  $(n, d) \in St^1(\rho)$ , which is true in particular if  $n \geq |\rho|$ . Let  $\lambda = (nd - |\rho|, \rho)$ . Then  $g(\lambda, n \times d, n \times d) \geq a_\lambda(d[n])$ .

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**KL'14:** If  $\mu \vdash md$  then  $\text{mult}_{\mu+d(n-m)}(\mathbb{C}[\overline{GL_{n^2}(X_{1,1})^{n-m}V_m}]) \geq a_\mu(d[m])$ ,  
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$$\begin{aligned} \implies mult_\lambda(\mathbb{C}[\overline{GL_{n^2}(X_{1,1})^{n-m}V_m}]) &\geq a_\mu(d[m]) = a_\lambda(d[n]) > g(\lambda, n \times d, n \times d) \\ &\implies \max_{f \in V_m} dc(f_m) > n \rightarrow \infty \end{aligned}$$

# Plethysm positivity

## Theorem (Bürgisser-Ikenmeyer-P (FOSC'16))

Let  $n, d, m$  be positive integers with  $n \geq m^{25}$  and  $\lambda \vdash nd$ . If  $\lambda$  occurs in  $\mathbb{C}[\overline{GL_{n^2} X_{11}^{n-m} per_m}]$ , then  $\lambda$  also occurs in  $\mathbb{C}[\overline{GL_{n^2} \cdot \det_n}]$ . In particular, the Obstruction Existence Conjecture is false, there are no “occurrence obstructions”.

Proof ideas:

- For  $mult_{\lambda} \mathbb{C}[\overline{GL_{n^2} X_{11}^{n-m} per_m}] > 0$  we must have  $\lambda_1 > d(n-m)$ .
- (Valiant):  $dc(X_1^s + \dots + X_k^s) \leq ks$ , hence...  
 $\ell^{n-s}(v_1^s + \dots + v_k^s) \in \Omega_n$  for  $n \geq ks$ .
- If a highest weight vector of weight  $-\lambda$  does not vanish on  $\Omega_n$  (or in particular, on the power sums), then  $\delta_{\lambda,n} = mult_{\lambda} \mathbb{C}[\Omega_n] > 0$ .
- Then  $\delta_{\lambda,n} > 0$ , because of the existence of  $\lambda$ -highest weight vectors in  $Sym^d Sym^n V$ , i.e.  $a_{\lambda}(d[n]) > 0$  via explicit tableaux constructions: tableaux  $T$  of shape  $\lambda$ , content  $d \times n \dots$

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

- decomposition into building blocks + regrouping

## Next time:

- Matrix Powering vs permanent and the symmetric Kronecker coefficients.
- Iterated Matrix Multiplication vs permanent model.
- Matrix Multiplication lower bounds via GCT.
- Some combinatorics and bounds on the Kronecker coefficients.

# Thank you!

## Algebraic Geometry

$$\mathbb{C}[X_{1,1}X_{2,2} - X_{1,2}X_{2,1}]$$

## Representation Theory

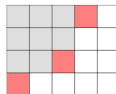


## Statistical Mechanics/

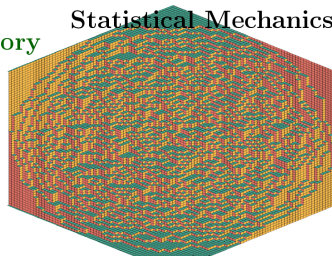


## Complexity Theory

### P vs NP



## Algebraic Combinatorics



## Probability

$$s_{(2,2)}(x_1, x_2, x_3) = x_1^2 x_2^2 + x_1^2 x_3^2 + x_2^2 x_3^2 + x_1^2 x_2 x_3 + x_1 x_2^2 x_3 + x_1 x_2 x_3^2$$

1	1
2	2

1	1
3	3

2	2
3	3

1	1
2	3

1	2
2	3

1	2
3	3