

# On stable modular plethysms of the natural module of $SL_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$ in characteristic $p$

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# Outline

- 1 Schur functors and modular plethysms
- 2 Representation theory of  $SL_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$  in characteristic  $p$
- 3 Computation of modular plethysms
- 4 Endotrivial modules and Schur functors

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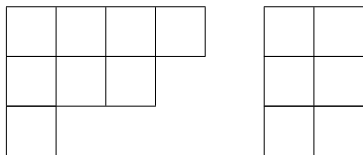
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# Schur functors

Let  $S = V$  be a vector space over  $K$ . We identify  $\lambda$ -tableaux with entries in  $V$  with elements of  $\text{Sym}^\lambda V := \text{Sym}^{\lambda_1} V \otimes \text{Sym}^{\lambda_2} V \otimes \cdots \otimes \text{Sym}^{\lambda_{\ell(\lambda)}} V$  by ‘multiplying along rows’.

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- computational formulas for modular plethysms when  $\nabla^\nu$  is a symmetric or an exterior power established by Kouwenhoven in 1990,
- various isomorphisms of modular plethysms established by McDowell and Wildon in 2022.

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- $\stackrel{p}{\cong}$  denotes an isomorphism in the stable module category of  $kH$  ('isomorphism modulo projectives'). That is, for two  $kH$ -modules  $V, W$  we write  $V \stackrel{p}{\cong} W$  if there are projective  $kH$ -modules  $P, Q$  such that  $V \oplus P \cong W \oplus Q$ .



# Irreducible modules

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Let  $0 \leq i \leq j \leq p-2$ . Writing  $S$  for the tensor product  $\text{Sym}^i E \otimes \text{Sym}^j E$  we have the decomposition

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# Indecomposable modules

Recall that for any  $kH$ -module  $V$  we define a module  $\Omega V$  to be the kernel of the surjection  $PV \twoheadrightarrow V$ , where  $PV$  is the projective cover of  $V$ .

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**Example:** Let  $p = 5$ . We compute

$$\Omega (\text{Sym}^3 E) \otimes \Omega^2 (\text{Sym}^3 E) \stackrel{P}{\cong} \Omega^3 (\text{Sym}^0 E).$$

# Representation ring

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The subring  $R_I$  of  $\overline{R(G)}$  consisting of the (virtual) semisimple modules corresponds under  $\Psi$  to  $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_p + \zeta_p^{-1}][Y]/(Y^2 - 1)$ .

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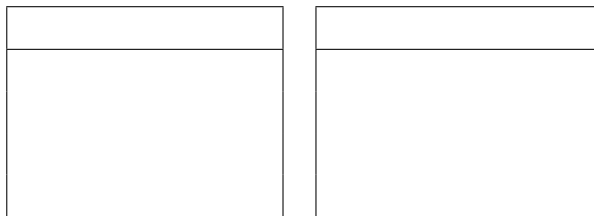
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# Diagrammatic representation ring



Let us construct two  $(p-1) \times (p-1)/2$  tables (for  $p = 5$ ).

# Diagrammatic representation ring

$h \backslash c$	0	1	0	1
3				
2				
1				
0				

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	0	1
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# Outline

- 1 Schur functors and modular plethysms
- 2 Representation theory of  $SL_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$  in characteristic  $p$
- 3 Computation of modular plethysms**
- 4 Endotrivial modules and Schur functors

By restricting the inverse of the isomorphism

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**Example:** Let  $f = \zeta_p^2 + 1 + \zeta_p^{-2}$ . Then

$$\{(2, 1)\} f = s_{2,1}(\zeta_p^2, 1, \zeta_p^{-2}) = \zeta_p^4 + 2\zeta_p^2 + 2 + 2\zeta_p^{-2} + \zeta_p^{-4}.$$

# Finding modular plethysms I

## Corollary

Let  $\nu$  be a  $p$ -small partition and  $0 \leq l \leq p - 2$ . Then

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The only obstacle left is that  $\Theta$  is not invertible.

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Fix a partition  $\lambda$  and let  $(i, j) \in Y(\lambda)$ . The **hook length** of  $(i, j)$  is  $\lambda_i + \lambda'_j - i - j + 1$ .

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## Theorem (Stanley's Hook Content Formula)

Let  $\lambda$  be a partition,  $l$  a non-negative integer and  $q$  a variable. Then

$$s_\lambda(q^{-l}, q^{-l+2}, \dots, q^l) = \frac{\prod_{c \in \mathcal{C}_{l+1}} (q^c - q^{-c})}{\prod_{h \in \mathcal{H}} (q^h - q^{-h})}.$$

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# Main results I

## Theorem (T, 2022)

Let  $0 \leq l \leq p - 2$  and let  $\nu$  be a  $p$ -small partition. Then  $\nabla^\nu \text{Sym}^l E$  is projective if and only if  $\nu_1 \geq p - l$  or  $\ell(\nu) \geq l + 2$ .

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We say that a  $kG$ -module is **stably-irreducible** if it has only one non-projective indecomposable summand which is moreover irreducible.



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# Outline

- 1 Schur functors and modular plethysms
- 2 Representation theory of  $SL_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$  in characteristic  $p$
- 3 Computation of modular plethysms
- 4 Endotrivial modules and Schur functors

# Endotrivial modules

Recall that a  $kH$ -module  $V$  is **endotrivial** if there is a  $kH$ -module  $W$  such that  $V \otimes W \stackrel{P}{\cong} k$ .

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**Example:** For any  $0 \leq i \leq p-2$  we have

$$\text{Sym}^i E \otimes \text{Sym}^{p-2} E \stackrel{P}{\cong} \text{Sym}^{p-2-i} E.$$

# Exchange lemma

## Proposition (T, 2022)

Let  $\nu$  be a  $p$ -small partition of  $n$ ,  $V$  an endotrivial  $kH$ -module and  $W$  any  $kH$ -module. If  $d$  is the dimension of  $V$ , then

$$\nabla^\nu(V \otimes W) \stackrel{p}{\cong} \begin{cases} V^{\otimes n} \otimes \nabla^\nu W & \text{if } d \equiv 1 \pmod{p}, \\ V^{\otimes n} \otimes \nabla^{\nu'} W & \text{if } d \equiv -1 \pmod{p}. \end{cases}$$

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## Proposition (T, 2022)

Let  $\nu$  be a  $p$ -small partition of  $n$ ,  $V$  an endotrivial  $kH$ -module and  $W$  any  $kH$ -module. If  $d$  is the dimension of  $V$ , then

$$\nabla^\nu(V \otimes W) \stackrel{p}{\cong} \begin{cases} V^{\otimes n} \otimes \nabla^\nu W & \text{if } d \equiv 1 \pmod{p}, \\ V^{\otimes n} \otimes \nabla^{\nu'} W & \text{if } d \equiv -1 \pmod{p}. \end{cases}$$

Steps of the proof for  $d \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$  (throughout  $n$  equals the size of  $\nu$ ):

- expand  $V^{\otimes n}$  using Schur–Weyl duality,
- this  $n$ -fold tensor product has a unique non-projective summand,
- by dimension counting this summand is  $\text{Sym}^n V$ ,
- for any  $\lambda \vdash n$  the module  $\nabla^\lambda V$  is projective unless  $\lambda = (n)$ ,
- expand  $\nabla^\nu(V \otimes W)$  using the Kronecker coefficients.



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Steps of the proof for  $d \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$  (throughout  $n$  equals the size of  $\nu$ ):

- expand  $V^{\otimes n}$  using Schur–Weyl duality,
- this  $n$ -fold tensor product has a unique non-projective summand,
- by dimension counting this summand is  $\bigwedge^n V$ ,
- for any  $\lambda \vdash n$  the module  $\nabla^\lambda V$  is projective unless  $\lambda = (\mathbf{1}^n)$ ,
- expand  $\nabla^\nu(V \otimes W)$  using the Kronecker coefficients.

# Corollaries of the exchange lemma

## Corollary

If  $W$  is a  $kH$ -module and  $\nu \vdash n$  with  $n < p$ , then  $\nabla^\nu(\Omega W) \stackrel{p}{\cong} \Omega^n(\nabla^{\nu'} W)$ .

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This helps generalise the earlier classifications of certain plethysms  $\nabla^\nu \text{Sym}^l E$  by replacing  $\text{Sym}^l E$  by any indecomposable  $kG$ -module.

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## Corollary

For  $0 \leq l \leq p-2$  and  $\nu \vdash n$  with  $n < p$  we have

$$\nabla^\nu \text{Sym}^{p-2-l} E \stackrel{p}{\cong} \begin{cases} \nabla^{\nu'} \text{Sym}^l E & \text{if } n \text{ is even,} \\ \text{Sym}^{p-2} E \otimes \nabla^{\nu'} \text{Sym}^l E & \text{if } n \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

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Consequently, the number of the non-projective indecomposable summands of  $\nabla^\nu \text{Sym}^l E$  is invariant under the involution  $(\nu, l) \mapsto (\nu', p - l - 2)$ .