

An extended generalization of RSK via the combinatorics of type A quiver representations

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Abstract. The classical Robinson–Schensted–Knuth correspondence is a bijection from nonnegative integer matrices to pairs of semi-standard Young tableaux. Based on the work of, among others, Burge, Hillman, Grassl, Knuth and Gansner, it is known that a version of this correspondence gives, for any nonzero integer partition λ , a bijection from arbitrary fillings of λ to reverse plane partitions of shape λ , via Greene–Kleitman invariants. By bringing out the combinatorial aspects of our recent results on quiver representations, we construct a family of bijections from fillings of λ to reverse plane partitions of shape λ parametrized by a choice of Coxeter element in a suitable symmetric group. We recover the above version of the Robinson–Schensted–Knuth correspondence for a particular choice of Coxeter element depending on λ .

Résumé. La correspondance Robinson–Schensted–Knuth classique est une bijection partant des matrices à coefficients des entiers naturels vers les paires de tableaux de Young semi-standards. Basé sur les travaux, entre autres, de Burge, Hillman, Grassl, Knuth et Gansner, on sait qu'une version de cette correspondance donne, pour tout partage d'un entier non nul λ , une bijection allant des remplissages arbitraires de λ vers les partitions planes renversées de forme λ , via les invariants de Greene–Kleitman. En faisant ressortir les aspects combinatoires de nos récents résultats sur les représentations de carquois, nous construisons une famille de bijections partant des remplissages de λ vers les partitions planes renversées de forme λ , paramétrées par un choix d'élément de Coxeter dans un groupe symétrique approprié. Nous récupérons la version de la correspondance Robinson–Schensted–Knuth ci-dessus pour un choix particulier d'élément de Coxeter dépendant de λ .

Keywords: Quiver representations, Robinson–Schensted–Knuth, Reverse plane partitions.

1 Introduction

The Robinson–Schensted–Knuth (RSK) correspondence is a fundamental bijection from nonnegative integer matrices to pairs of semi-standard Young tableaux of the same shape. For further details, the reader may consult the following references: [16], [6].

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Based on observations of various works of Burge [3], Hillman–Grassl [12] and Knuth [13], Gansner [7, 9] constructed a generalized version of this correspondence, via Greene–Kleitman invariants, which gives a bijection from arbitrary fillings to reverse plane partitions of the same shape.

Our paper [4] studies a representation-theoretic setting in which a version of RSK exists. In the present paper, we present an explicit, combinatorial form of the results from [4]. Given a fixed nonzero integer partition λ , we present the construction of a family of maps $(\text{RSK}_{\lambda,c})_c$ from fillings of λ to reverse plane partitions of shape λ parametrized by c a Coxeter element of the symmetric group \mathfrak{S}_n where $n - 1$ is the hook-length of the box $(1, 1)$ in λ . We can state the following result from [4].

Theorem 1. *The map $\text{RSK}_{\lambda,c}$ gives a one-to-one correspondence from fillings of shape λ to reverse plane partitions of shape λ . Moreover, for any λ , there exists a unique (up to inverse) choice of c such that $\text{RSK}_{\lambda,c}$ coincides with the usual RSK.*

No knowledge in quiver representation is required to read this abstract, except for Section 5 in which we discuss the connection with quiver representations. For more details on this work, we refer the reader to [5].

2 Gansner’s Ferrers Diagram RSK

In this section, we describe Gansner’s correspondence explicitly.

2.1 Some vocabulary

An *integer partition* is a weakly decreasing nonnegative integer sequence $\lambda = (\lambda_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}^*}$ with finitely many nonzero terms. The *length* of λ is the minimal $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $\lambda_{k+1} = 0$. We endow $(\mathbb{N}^*)^2$ with the Cartesian product order \trianglelefteq . The *Ferrers diagram of λ* $\text{Fer}(\lambda)$ is the subset of $(\mathbb{N}^*)^2$ given by pairs (i, j) such that $i \leq \lambda_j$. We call any map $f : \text{Fer}(\lambda) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ a *filling of shape λ* . Such a filling f is a *reverse plane partition* whenever f weakly increases with respect to \trianglelefteq . We give an example of a reverse plane partition of shape $(5, 3, 3, 2)$ in Figure 1.

0	3	5	5	7
1	5	5		
4	6	9		
4	10			

Figure 1: A reverse plane partitions of shape $\lambda = (5, 3, 3, 2)$.

2.2 Greene–Kleitman invariants

Let $G = (G_0, G_1)$ be a finite directed graph, where G_0 is the set of vertices of G , and $G_1 \subset (G_0)^2$ is the set of arrows of G . Assume that G has no multi-arrows.

We see a path γ in G as a finite sequence of vertices (v_0, \dots, v_k) such that $(v_i, v_{i+1}) \in G_1$. Denote by $s(\gamma) = v_0$ its source and by $t(\gamma) = v_k$ its target. Write $\text{Supp}(\gamma) = \{v_0, \dots, v_k\}$ to denote the support of γ . For $\ell \geq 1$, we extend the notion of support to ℓ -tuples of paths $\underline{\gamma} = (\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_\ell)$ as $\text{Supp}(\underline{\gamma}) = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\ell} \text{Supp}(\gamma_i)$. For $\ell \geq 1$, write $\Pi_\ell(G)$ the set of ℓ -tuples of paths in G .

From now on, assume that G is acyclic, meaning there is no nontrivial path γ in G such that $s(\gamma) = t(\gamma)$. An *antichain* of G is any subset of vertices $\{w_1, \dots, w_r\} \subset G_0$ such that there is no path γ in G with $s(\gamma) = w_i$ and $t(\gamma) = w_j$ for all $1 \leq i, j \leq r$ with $i \neq j$.

A *filling* of G is a map $f : G_0 \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$. We assign to any ℓ -tuple of paths $\underline{\gamma}$ of G a *f-weight* defined by

$$\text{wt}_f(\underline{\gamma}) = \sum_{v \in \text{Supp}(\underline{\gamma})} f(v).$$

Set $M_0^G(f) = 0$, and for all integers $\ell \geq 1$, $M_\ell^G(f) = \max_{\underline{\gamma} \in \Pi_\ell(G)} \text{wt}_f(\underline{\gamma})$. We define the *Greene–Kleitman invariant* of f in G as

$$\text{GK}_G(f) = \left(M_\ell^G(f) - M_{\ell-1}^G(f) \right)_{\ell \geq 1}.$$

See [Figure 2](#) for an explicit computation example.

Proposition 2 (Greene–Kleitman [11]). *Let G be a finite direct acyclic graph and f be a filling of G . The integer sequence $\text{GK}_G(f)$ is an integer partition of length the maximal cardinality of an antichain in G .*

2.3 Ferrers diagram RSK

Throughout this section, we highlight Gansner’s generalized version of the RSK correspondence, which gives, for any nonzero integer partition λ , a bijection from fillings of shape λ to reverse plane partitions of shape λ .

Fix a nonzero integer partition λ . Let G_λ be the oriented acyclic graph such that:

- its vertices are the elements of $\text{Fer}(\lambda)$;
- its arrows are given by:
 - $(i, j) \rightarrow (i + 1, j)$ whenever $(i, j), (i + 1, j) \in \text{Fer}(\lambda)$;
 - $(i, j) \rightarrow (i, j + 1)$ whenever $(i, j), (i, j + 1) \in \text{Fer}(\lambda)$.

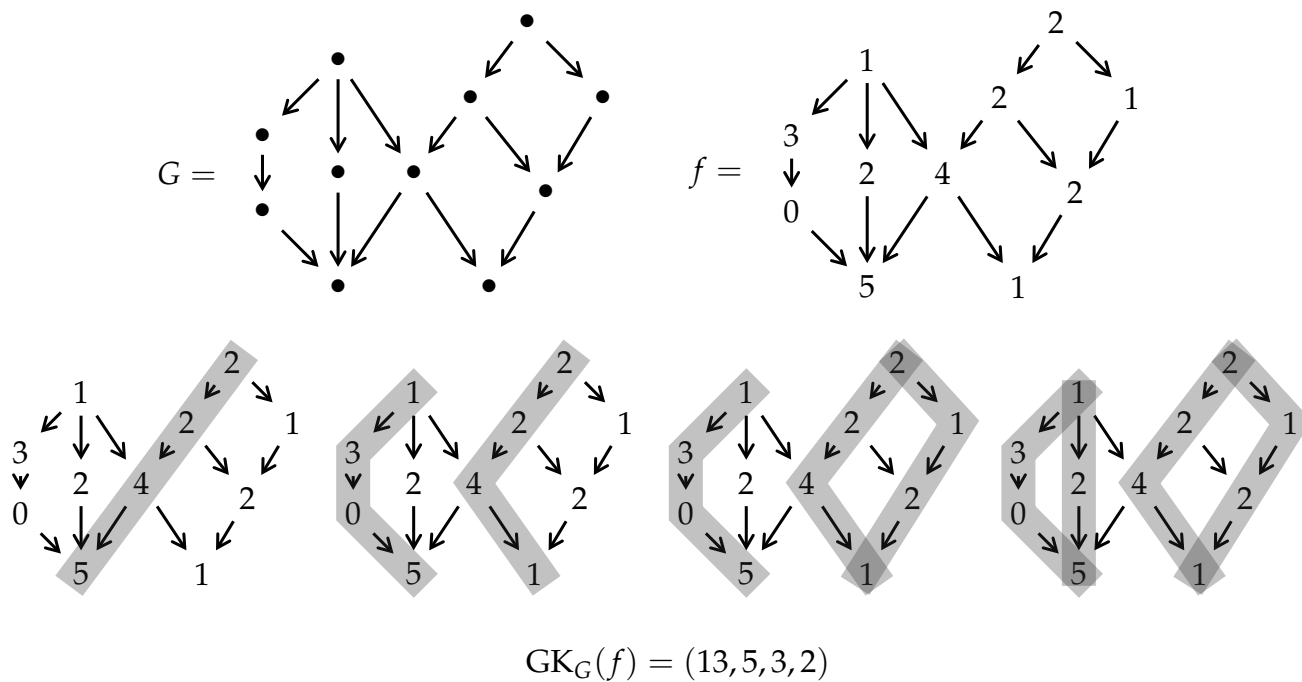


Figure 2: An example of the computation of GK_G .

For all $m \in \mathbb{Z}$, write $D_m(\lambda) = \{(i, j) \in \text{Fer}(\lambda) \mid i - j + \lambda_1 = m\}$ for the m th diagonal of λ . Note that $D_m(\lambda) \neq \emptyset$ for $1 \leq m \leq h_\lambda(1, 1)$, where $h_\lambda(1, 1) = \#\{(i, j) \in \text{Fer}(\lambda) \mid i = 1 \text{ or } j = 1\}$ denotes the *hook length of the box* $(1, 1)$ in λ .

For each value $1 \leq m \leq h_\lambda(1, 1)$, consider (u_m, v_m) the maximal element of $D_m(\lambda)$. Write $G_\lambda(m)$ for the full subgraph of G_λ given by the poset ideal generated by (u_m, v_m) . Note that $G_\lambda(m)$ admits only one source $(1, 1)$, and only one sink (u_m, v_m) .

We define $g = \text{RSK}_\lambda(f)$ to be the filling of shape λ defined by

$$\forall m \in \{1, \dots, h_\lambda(1, 1)\}, \forall (i, j) \in D_m(\lambda), \quad g(i, j) = \text{GK}_{G_\lambda(m)}(f)_{u_m - i + 1}.$$

See [Figure 3](#) for an explicit calculation of $\text{RSK}_\lambda(f)$ for a given filling of $\lambda = (5, 3, 3, 2)$.

Theorem 3 (Gansner [9]). *Let λ be a nonzero integer partition. The map RSK_λ is a bijection from fillings of shape λ to reverse plane partitions of shape λ .*

Remark. If λ is a rectangle, we can recover the classical RSK. See [11] and [10, Section 6] for more details.

Moreover, a parallel can be made with Britz and Fomin's version of the RSK algorithm [2], where we compute sequences of integer partitions for an $n \times n$ nonnegative integer matrix as growth diagrams. A generalized version of RSK was also exploited by Krattenthaler [14] on polyominoes. From a given filling f of shape λ , the integer partitions we can read on diagonals $D_m(\lambda)$ of $\text{RSK}_\lambda(f)$ correspond precisely to the results

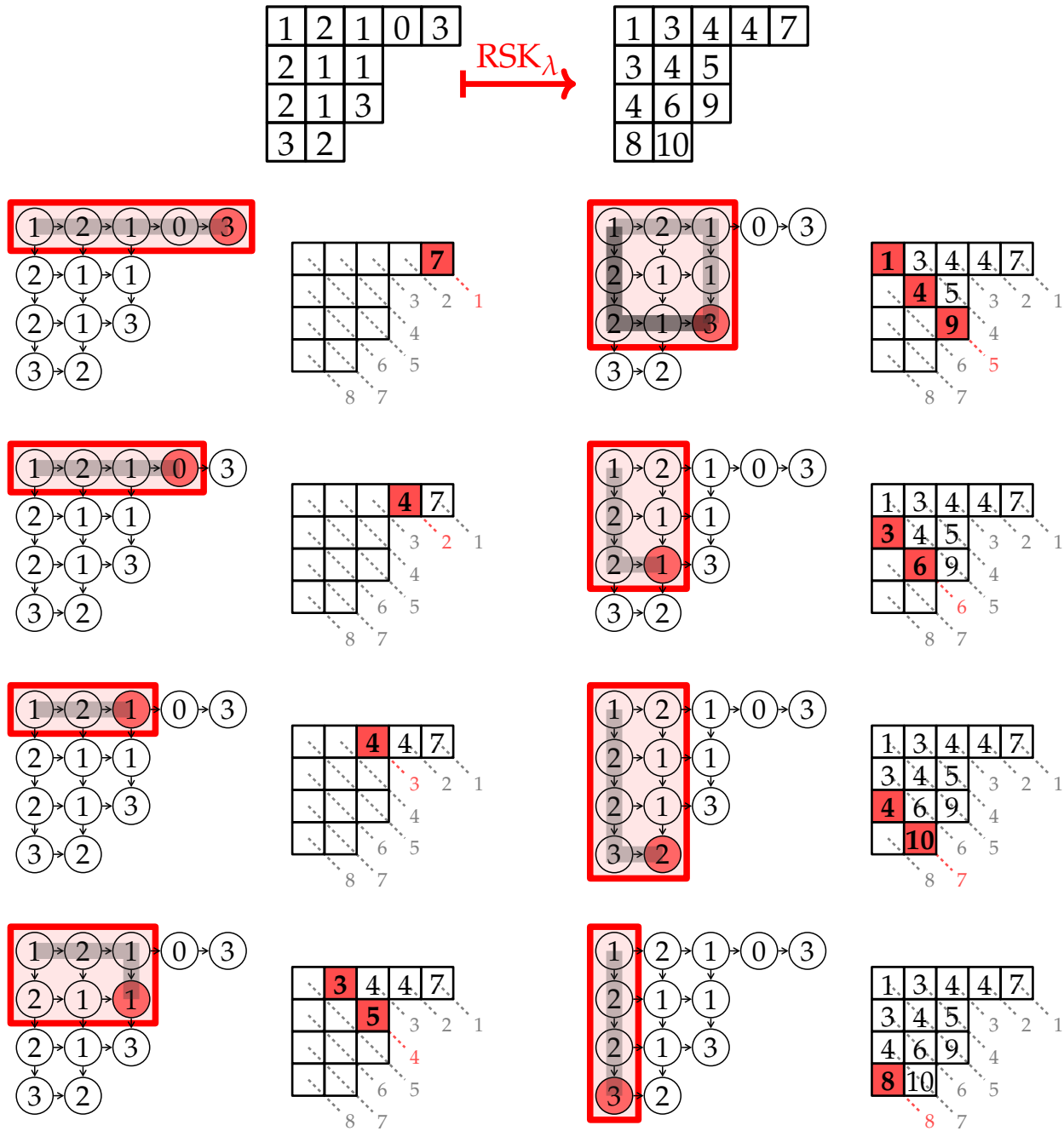


Figure 3: Explicit calculations of $\text{RSK}_\lambda(f)$ for a given filling f of shape $\lambda = (5, 3, 3, 2)$. For $1 \leq m \leq 8$, each framed subgraph corresponds to the subgraph $G_\lambda(m)$, and each filled diagonal colored in red corresponds to $\text{GK}_{G_\lambda(m)}(f)$.

obtained at the end of each line by using the Krattenthaler growth diagram algorithm

version.

3 Some tools

In this section, we give the definition of some combinatorial objects that will be useful to present our generalized version of Gansner's RSK correspondence.

3.1 Interval bipartitions

An *interval bipartition* is a pair $(\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{E}) \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N}^*)^2$ such that $\{\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{E}\}$ is a set partition of $\{i, \dots, j\}$ for some $1 \leq i \leq j$. Call it *elementary* whenever $1 \in \mathbf{B}$ and $\max(\mathbf{B} \cup \mathbf{E}) \in \mathbf{E}$.

Fix (\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{E}) as an interval bipartition. Write $\mathbf{B} = \{b_1 < b_2 < \dots < b_p\}$. We define the integer partition $\lambda(\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{E})$ by $\lambda(\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{E})_i = \#\{e \in \mathbf{E} \mid b_i < e\}$. If we also write $\mathbf{E} = \{e_1 < \dots < e_q\}$, we can also describe $\lambda(\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{E})$ by its Ferrers diagram: we have $(i, j) \in \text{Fer}(\lambda(\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{E}))$ whenever $b_i < e_{q-j+1}$. It allows us to label the i th row of $\text{Fer}(\lambda(\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{E}))$ by b_i and the j th row by e_{q-j+1} . See Figure 4 for an example of such an object.

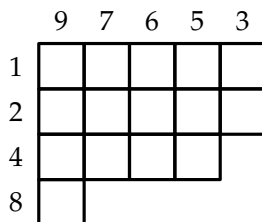


Figure 4: The (labelled) integer partition $\lambda(\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{E})$ with $\mathbf{B} = \{1, 2, 4, 8\}$ and $\mathbf{E} = \{3, 5, 6, 7, 9\}$.

Proposition 4. *For any integer partition λ , there exists an interval bipartition (\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{E}) such that $\lambda(\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{E}) = \lambda$. Moreover, if λ is a nonzero integer partition, there exists a unique elementary interval bipartition satisfying this property.*

3.2 (Type A) Coxeter elements

For any $n \geq 2$, let \mathfrak{S}_n be the symmetric group on n letters. For $1 \leq i < j \leq n$, write (i, j) for the transposition exchanging i and j . For $1 \leq i < n$, let s_i be the adjacent transposition $(i, i + 1)$. Let S be the set of the adjacent transpositions.

For any $w \in \mathfrak{S}_n$, an expression of w is a way to write w as a product of adjacent transpositions in S . The length $\ell(w)$ of w is the minimal number of adjacent transpositions in S needed to express w . Whenever, for some $1 \leq i < n$, $\ell(s_i w) < \ell(w)$, we say that s_i is initial in w . Similarly, we call s_i final in w whenever $\ell(ws_i) < \ell(w)$.

A *Coxeter element* (of \mathfrak{S}_n) is an element $c \in \mathfrak{S}_n$ which can be written as a product of all the adjacent transpositions, in some order, where each of them appears exactly once. For example, $c = s_2s_1s_3s_6s_5s_4s_8s_7 = (1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 8, 6, 5, 2)$ is a Coxeter element of \mathfrak{S}_9 .

Lemma 5. *An element $c \in \mathfrak{S}_n$ is a Coxeter element if and only if c is a long cycle which can be written as follows*

$$c = (c_1, c_2, \dots, c_m, c_{m+1}, \dots, c_n)$$

where $c_1 = 1 < c_2 < \dots < c_m = n > c_{m+1} > \dots > c_n > c_1 = 1$.

3.3 Auslander–Reiten quivers

Let $c \in \mathfrak{S}_n$ be a Coxeter element. The *Auslander–Reiten quiver of c* , denoted $\text{AR}(c)$, is the oriented graph satisfying the following conditions:

- The vertices of $\text{AR}(c)$ are the transpositions (i, j) , with $i < j$, in \mathfrak{S}_n ;
- The arrows of $\text{AR}(c)$ are given, for all $i < j$, by
 - $(i, j) \longrightarrow (i, c(j))$ whenever $i < c(j)$;
 - $(i, j) \longrightarrow (c(i), j)$ whenever $c(i) < j$.

To construct recursively such a graph, we can first find the initial adjacent transpositions of c , which are all the sources, and step by step, using the second rule, construct the arrows and the vertices of $\text{AR}(c)$ until we reach all the transpositions of \mathfrak{S}_n . Note that the sinks of $\text{AR}(c)$ are given by the final adjacent transpositions of c . See [Figure 5](#) for an explicit example.

Remark. The Auslander–Reiten quiver of a Coxeter element has a representation-theoretic meaning: briefly it corresponds to the oriented graph whose vertices are the indecomposable representations of a certain type A quiver, and whose arrows are the irreducible morphisms between them.

To see further details about Auslander–Reiten quivers of type A quivers in particular, we refer the reader to [15, Section 3.1]. To learn more about quiver representation theory, and for more in-depth knowledge on the notion of Auslander–Reiten quivers, we invite the reader to look at [1].

4 An extended generalized Ferrers diagram RSK

In the following, we describe a generalized version of RSK using (type A) Coxeter elements, and state the main result.

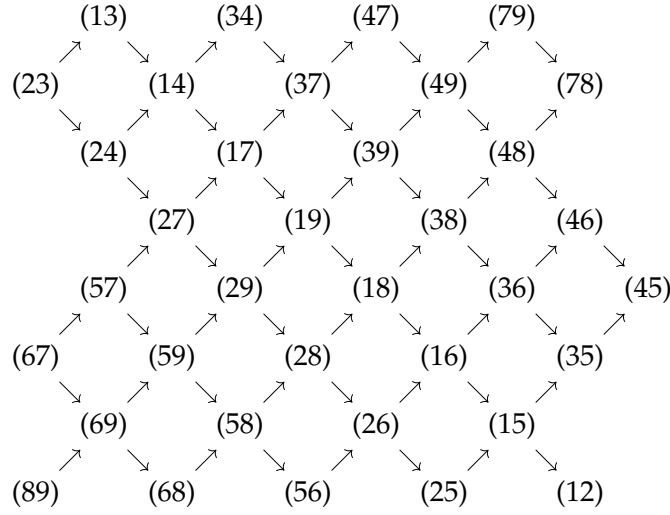


Figure 5: The Auslander–Reiten quiver of $c = (1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 8, 6, 5, 2) = s_2s_1s_3s_6s_5s_4s_8s_7$.

Let λ be a nonzero integer partition and consider (\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{E}) the unique elementary interval bipartition such that $\lambda(\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{E}) = \lambda$. Set $n = h_\lambda(1, 1) + 1$. Let $c \in \mathfrak{S}_n$ and consider $\text{AR}(c)$ its Auslander–Reiten quiver.

Recall that if $\mathbf{B} = \{b_1 < \dots < b_p\}$ and $\mathbf{E} = \{e_1 < \dots < e_q\}$, then $(i, j) \in \text{Fer}(\lambda)$ if and only if $b_i < e_{q-j+1}$. It allows us to label each box (i, j) by a transposition $(b_i, e_{q-j+1}) \in \mathfrak{S}_n$. Thus it allows us to construct a one-to-one correspondence from fillings of shape λ to fillings of the Auslander–Reiten quiver $\text{AR}(c)$ which are supported on vertices $(b, e) \in \mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{E}$ such that $b < e$. Explicitly, for any filling f of shape λ , we define \bar{f} be the filling of $\text{AR}(c)$ defined by $\bar{f}(b_i, e_{q-j+1}) = f(i, j)$ whenever $(i, j) \in \text{Fer}(\lambda)$ and $\bar{f}(x, y) = 0$ otherwise.

As in Section 2, for $m \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$, let (u_m, v_m) be the maximal pair with respect of \trianglelefteq in $D_m(\lambda)$. The boxes in the ideal generated by (u_m, v_m) correspond to pairs (i, j) such that $b_i \leq m < e_{q-j+1}$, and therefore (u_m, v_m) is the maximal pair satisfying this condition.

For each $m \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$, we consider the subgraph $\text{AR}_m(c)$ of $\text{AR}(c)$ where the vertices are the transpositions (i, j) with $i \leq m < j$. This subgraph has only one source and only one sink.

We define $g = \text{RSK}_{\lambda, c}(f)$ to be the fillings of shape λ defined for $m \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$ by

$$\forall (i, j) \in D_m(\lambda), \quad g(i, j) = \text{GK}_{\text{AR}_m(c)}(f)_{u_m - i + 1}.$$

See Figure 6 for an explicit example.

Our main result is the following.

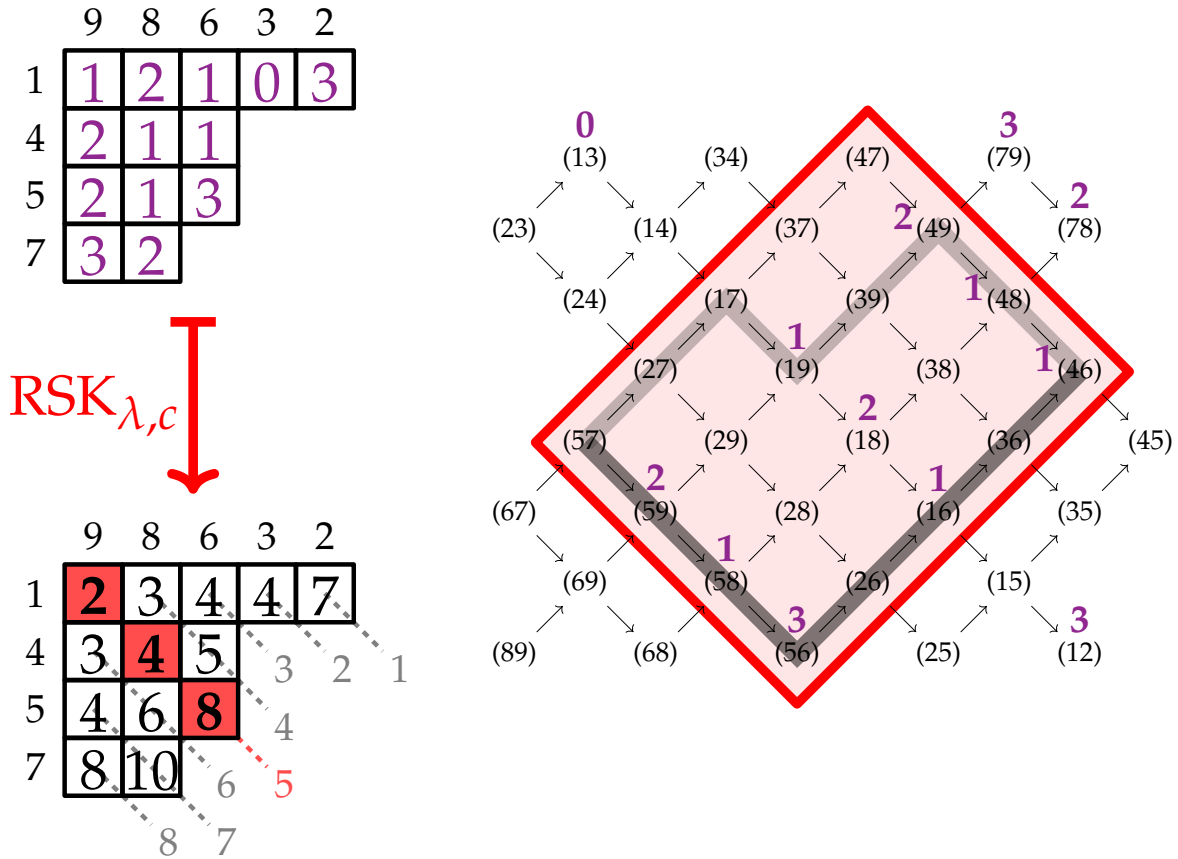


Figure 6: Explicit calculation of $RSK_{\lambda,c}(f)$ for the boxes in $D_5(\lambda)$ from a filling of $\lambda = (5, 3, 3, 2)$, with $c = (1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 8, 6, 5, 2)$

Theorem 6. Let λ be a nonzero integer partition. Consider $n = h_\lambda(1, 1) + 1$. Let $c \in \mathfrak{S}_n$ be a Coxeter element. The map $RSK_{\lambda,c}$ gives a one-to-one correspondence from fillings of shape λ to reverse plane partitions of shape λ .

The following result shows that we extended the RSK correspondence.

Proposition 7. Let λ be a nonzero integer partition. Consider $n = h_\lambda(1, 1) + 1$ and (\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{E}) be the only elementary interval bipartition such that $\lambda(\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{E}) = \lambda$. Let $c \in \mathfrak{S}_n$ be the Coxeter element such that

- for $i \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$, $(i, i+1)$ is final in c if and only if $i \in \mathbf{B}$ and $i+1 \in \mathbf{E}$;
- for $i \in \{2, \dots, n-2\}$, $(i, i+1)$ is initial in c if and only if $i \in \mathbf{E}$ and $i+1 \in \mathbf{B}$.

Then $\text{RSK}_{\lambda,c} = \text{RSK}_{\lambda}$. Moreover, c and c^{-1} are the unique Coxeter element of \mathfrak{S}_n satisfying this property.

Remark. Gansner's RSK for a fixed integer partition λ admits a local description in terms of toggles on G_{λ} . Based on the proof given in [4], for $c = (1, 2, \dots, n)$, we can give a local description in terms of toggles on $\text{AR}(c)$. However, more works need to be done for a general choice of c , as this local description does not extend naturally.

5 Some words about quiver representation theory

This section aims to give a dictionary to link the result from [4] with [Theorem 6](#).

Fix $Q = (Q_0, Q_1)$ a type A quiver. A *finite dimensional representation E of Q over \mathbb{C}* is an assignment of a finite dimensional \mathbb{C} -vector space E_q to each vertex q of Q , and an assignment of a \mathbb{C} -linear transformation $E_{\alpha} : E_i \rightarrow E_j$ to each arrow $\alpha : i \rightarrow j$ of Q . For two representations E and F , a morphism $\phi : E \rightarrow F$ is the data of a \mathbb{C} -linear map ϕ_q for each vertex q of Q such that for any arrow $\alpha : i \rightarrow j$, $\phi_j E_{\alpha} = F_{\alpha} \phi_i$. Denote by $\text{rep}_{\mathbb{K}}(Q)$ the category consisting of the representations of Q .

Any representation E of Q can be uniquely decomposed into a direct sum of copies of indecomposable representations up to isomorphism. Thus, we can consider the invariant which counts the number of indecomposable summands of each isomorphism class in E . Write it $\text{Mult}(E)$.

In [10], A. Garver, R. Patrias and H. Thomas introduce a new invariant of quiver representations, called the generic Jordan form data. For any representation E of Q , write $\text{GenJF}(E)$ for the generic Jordan form data of E . This data encodes the generic behavior of a nilpotent endomorphism $N = (N_q)_{q \in Q_0}$ of the representation via the size of the Jordan blocks of each N_q . In some subcategories, the representation can be recovered from this invariant up to isomorphism.

They also show that the map from Mult to GenJF generalizes the RSK correspondence for type A quivers, using Gansner's previous work [8].

As this map is bijective, if we restrict it to the representation in some subcategories \mathcal{C} , one can be interested to get an explicit way to invert it. An algebraic method developed in [10] asks the subcategory \mathcal{C} to satisfy the following property. For any $E \in \mathcal{C}$, there exists a dense open set Ω (in the Zariski topology) in the set of representations admitting a nilpotent endomorphism with Jordan forms encoded by $\text{GenJF}(E)$ such that any $F \in \Omega$ is isomorphic to E . Such a subcategory is said to be *canonically Jordan recoverable (CJR)*.

More recently, in [4], we gave a combinatorial characterization of all the CJR subcategories of representations of Q , substantially enlarging the family of subcategories for which GenJF is a complete invariant given by [10]. The maximal such subcategories can be described thanks to the elementary interval partitions (\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{E}) of $\{1, \dots, n+1\}$.

The following table compares the representation-theoretic tools used in [4] and the combinatorial tools used to describe our generalized RSK.

Combinatorial tools	Representation-theoretic tools
Coxeter element of \mathfrak{S}_n	Orientation of an A_{n-1} type quiver Q
Transposition in \mathfrak{S}_n	Indecomposable representation in $\text{rep}_{\mathbb{C}}(Q)$
AR quiver of c	AR quiver of $\text{rep}_{\mathbb{C}}(Q)$
Integer partition λ with $h_{\lambda}(1, 1) = n - 1$	CJR subcategory \mathcal{C} of $\text{rep}_{\mathbb{C}}(Q)$
Filling of λ	$\text{Mult}(E)$ for some $E \in \mathcal{C}$
Reverse plane partition of λ	$\text{GenJF}(E)$ for E in \mathcal{C} .

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