

Torus Knots and the Rational DAHA

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1 Part I

Definition 1.1. Let L be a representation of S_n . Define the Frobenius character map $\text{ch} : \text{Rep } S_n \rightarrow \Lambda_n$ (where $\Lambda_n = \text{symmetric polynomials of degree } n$) to be

$$\text{ch}(L) = \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \text{Tr}_L(\sigma) p_1^{k_1(\sigma)} \dots p_r^{k_r(\sigma)}$$

where p_i are power sums, $k_i(\sigma)$ is the number of cycles of length i in σ .

Remark. $\text{ch}(S^\lambda) = s_\lambda$. Note $[S^\lambda]_{\lambda \vdash n}$ forms a basis for $K_0(\text{Rep } S_n)$ and in fact

$$\text{ch} : K_0 \left(\bigoplus_{n \geq 0} \text{Rep } S_n \right) \xrightarrow{\sim} \Lambda (= \text{symmetric polynomials in } \infty \text{ many variables})$$

is an isomorphism of Hopf Algebras. (Representations of the Symmetric Group is a categorification of symmetric functions.)

Lemma 1.2. The reflection(geometric) representation \mathfrak{h} of S_n is isomorphic to $\mathbb{C}^n / \mathbb{C} \cdot x_1 + \dots + x_n$ where \mathbb{C}^n is the defining representation of S_n .

Lemma 1.3. Let $T : V \rightarrow V$ be a linear operator and let $V = V_1 \oplus \dots \oplus V_k$ where each V_i is T -invariant. Then

$$\text{char}_T(q) = \text{char}_{T|_{V_1}}(q) \dots \text{char}_{T|_{V_k}}(q)$$

Proof. $qI - T$ will be a block matrix. ■

Proposition 1.4. For $\sigma \in S_n$ acting in the reflecting representation \mathfrak{h}

$$\det_{\mathfrak{h}}(I - q\sigma) = \frac{1}{1 - q} \prod_i (1 - q^i)^{k_i(\sigma)} \tag{1}$$

Proof. It is easy to see that for $A : V \rightarrow V$ where V is n dimensional,

$$\det(I - qA) = (-q)^n \text{char}_A(q^{-1}) \tag{2}$$

From [Lemma 1.2](#) we have that $\mathbb{C}^n = \mathbb{C} \oplus \mathfrak{h}$ as representations and so by [Lemma 1.3](#)

$$\det_{\mathfrak{h}}(I - q\sigma) = \frac{\det_{\mathbb{C}^n}(I - q\sigma)}{\det_{\text{triv}}(I - q\sigma)} = \frac{\det_{\mathbb{C}^n}(I - q\sigma)}{1 - q}$$

As the characteristic polynomial is conjugation invariant in $\text{GL}(\mathbb{C}^n)$, and conjugating by permutation matrices corresponds to conjugation in S_n so we see that the LHS above only depends on the cycle type of σ . For each cycle c in σ of length i , notice there is a σ invariant subspace V_c of \mathbb{C}^n of dimension i .

For example, if $\sigma = (1234)(56)$, then $V_{(1234)} = \bigoplus_{i=1}^4 \mathbb{C}x_i$ and $V_{(56)} = \mathbb{C}x_5 \oplus \mathbb{C}x_6$ are our two σ invariant subspaces. It is clear these only depend on the length i and that if $\sigma = c_1 \dots c_m$ where c_i are cycles,

$$\mathbb{C}^n = V_{c_1} \oplus \dots \oplus V_{c_m}$$

Therefore by [Lemma 1.3](#) we see that

$$\det_{\mathbb{C}^n}(I - q\sigma) = \prod_i \det_{\mathbb{C}^i}(I - q(12 \dots i))^{k_i(\sigma)}$$

where $T_i = (12 \dots i)$ acts on \mathbb{C}^i by permutation of basis vectors. It's clear that \mathbb{C}^i is a T -cyclic vector space, i.e. $\{T^j(x_1)\}_{j \geq 0} = \mathbb{C}^i$. As a result,

$$\text{char}_{T_i}(q) = (-1)^i \min_{T_i}(q)$$

and so $\deg \min_{T_i}(q) = i$. Because $T_i^i - I = 0$ it follows that $\min_{T_i}(q) = q^i - 1$. Thus

$$\det_{\mathbb{C}^i}(I - q(12 \dots i)) = (-q)^i \text{char}_{T_i}(q) = q^i \left(\frac{1}{q^i} - 1 \right) = 1 - q^i$$

■

Recall $L_{m/n} = \bigoplus_i (L_{m/n})_i$ where each $(L_{m/n})_i$ is a representation of S_n .

Proposition 1

Let $F_{m/n}(q, p_i) := \text{gch}(L_{m/n}) := \sum_i \text{ch}((L_{m/n})_i)q^i$. Fixing m , we claim

$$F_m(q, p_i) := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} F_{m/n}(q, p_i)z^n = \frac{1}{[m]_q} \prod_{j=0}^{m-1} \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1 - q^{j+\frac{1-m}{2}}zx_k}$$

where $[m]_q = \frac{q^{m/2} - q^{-m/2}}{q^{1/2} - q^{-1/2}}$.

Proof. Let $\delta_{m,n} = \frac{(m-1)(n-1)}{2}$. Using what Sam wrote,

$$\sum_i \text{Tr}(\sigma, (L_{m/n})_i)q^i = q^{-\delta_{m,n}} \frac{\det_{\mathfrak{h}}(1 - q^m \sigma)}{\det_{\mathfrak{h}}(1 - q\sigma)} \stackrel{\text{Eq. (1)}}{=} q^{-\delta_{m,n}} \frac{1 - q}{1 - q^m} \prod_i \left(\frac{1 - q^{mi}}{1 - q^i} \right)^{k_i(\sigma)}$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} F_{m/n}(q, p_i) &= \sum_i \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \text{Tr}(\sigma, (L_{m/n})_i) p_1^{k_1(\sigma)} \dots p_r^{k_r(\sigma)} q^i \\ &= \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \frac{q^{\frac{n(1-m)}{2}}}{[m]_q} \prod_i \left(\frac{1 - q^{mi}}{1 - q^i} p_i \right)^{k_i(\sigma)} \end{aligned}$$

as $q^{-\delta_{m,n}} \frac{1-q}{1-q^m} = \frac{q^{\frac{n(1-m)}{2}}}{[m]_q}$. Thus,

$$F_m(q, p_i) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \frac{q^{\frac{n(1-m)}{2}}}{[m]_q} \prod_i \left(\frac{1-q^{mi}}{1-q^i} p_i \right)^{k_i(\sigma)} z^n \quad (3)$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{\lambda \vdash n} \frac{n!}{\prod_i i^{k_i(\lambda)} k_i(\lambda)!} \frac{q^{\frac{n(1-m)}{2}}}{[m]_q} \prod_i \left(\frac{1-q^{mi}}{1-q^i} p_i \right)^{k_i(\lambda)} z^n \quad (4)$$

$$= \frac{1}{[m]_q} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{\lambda \vdash n} \prod_i \frac{1}{k_i(\lambda)!} \left(\frac{(1-q^{mi}) p_i q^{\frac{i(1-m)}{2}} z^i}{(1-q^i) i} \right)^{k_i(\lambda)} \quad (5)$$

where going from (3) – (4), the cycle type of an element $\sigma \in S_n$ is the same as a partition λ of n . The number of permutations in S_n with cycle type λ is precisely the size of the conjugacy class in S_n so we can then reindex over partitions of n . Going from (4) – (5) we use $\sum_i i k_i(\lambda) = n$. Now note

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_i \frac{1}{1-z^i} &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\sum_{\lambda \vdash n} 1 \right) z^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{\lambda \vdash n} \prod_i (z^i)^{k_i(\lambda)} \\ &\implies \prod_i \frac{1}{1-f(q, i)z^i} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{\lambda \vdash n} \prod_i (f(q, i)z^i)^{k_i(\lambda)} \end{aligned}$$

Moving over to exponential generating functions it follows that

$$\prod_i \exp(f(q, i)z^i) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{\lambda \vdash n} \prod_i \frac{1}{k_i(\lambda)!} (f(q, i)z^i)^{k_i(\lambda)}$$

and thus

$$F_m(q, p_i) = \frac{1}{[m]_q} \exp \left(\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{(1-q^{mi}) p_i q^{\frac{i(1-m)}{2}} z^i}{(1-q^i) i} \right) \quad (6)$$

$$= \frac{1}{[m]_q} \prod_{j=0}^{m-1} \exp \left(\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{q^{ij} p_i q^{\frac{i(1-m)}{2}} z^i}{i} \right) \quad (7)$$

$$= \frac{1}{[m]_q} \prod_{j=0}^{m-1} \exp \left(\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{(q^{j+\frac{(1-m)}{2}} z)^i}{i} p_i \right) \quad (8)$$

$$= \frac{1}{[m]_q} \prod_{j=0}^{m-1} \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \exp \left(\log \left(\frac{1}{1 - q^{j+\frac{(1-m)}{2}} z x_k} \right) \right) \quad (9)$$

■

2 Part II

- Rewrite [Proposition 1](#).
- $\text{ch}(L)$ is really the same datum as $\{\chi_L(g)\}_{g \in S_n}$. For example, the cycle type for the identity permutation is (1^n) , so $\langle p_1^n \rangle \text{ch}L = \frac{\dim L}{n!} \implies \dim L = n! \langle \text{ch}L, p_1^n \rangle$.

The advantage of using $\text{ch}(L)$ is that it's a generating function/formal. Notice characters for S_n is a function while characters for $\text{GL}(m) =$ is a generating function.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} K_0 \left(\bigoplus_{n \geq 0} \text{Rep } S_n \right) & & K_0 \left(\text{Rep}^{\text{poly}} \text{GL}(m) \right) \\ & \searrow \cong \quad \sim \text{ for } m \gg 0 & \swarrow \\ & \text{ch} & \text{Tr}(\text{diag}(x_1, \dots, x_m), -) \\ & & \text{Sym} \end{array}$$

Theorem 2

As a graded S_n -rep, the representation $L_{m/n}$ decomposes as

$$L_{m/n} = \frac{1}{[m]_q} \bigoplus_{\lambda \vdash n} s_\lambda(q^{\frac{1-m}{2}}, q^{\frac{3-m}{2}}, \dots, q^{\frac{m-1}{2}}) S^\lambda \quad (10)$$

Proof. Since ch is an isomorphism it suffices to show this at the level of graded Frobenius characters. Now, using the Cauchy identity

$$\prod_{k,j} \frac{1}{1 - x_k y_j} = \sum_{\lambda} s_\lambda(x_1, \dots) s_\lambda(y_1, \dots)$$

with

$$y_j = \begin{cases} zq^{j+\frac{1-m}{2}} & 0 \leq j < m \\ 0 & j \geq m \end{cases}$$

we see that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{gch}(L_{m/n}) &= \langle z^n \rangle F_m(q, p_i) \stackrel{\text{Proposition 1}}{=} \langle z^n \rangle \frac{1}{[m]_q} \prod_{j=0}^{m-1} \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1 - q^{j+\frac{1-m}{2}} z x_k} \\ &\stackrel{\text{Cauchy}}{=} \langle z^n \rangle \frac{1}{[m]_q} \sum_{\lambda} s_\lambda(x_1, \dots) s_\lambda(zq^{\frac{1-m}{2}}, zq^{\frac{3-m}{2}}, \dots, zq^{\frac{m-1}{2}}) \\ &= \langle z^n \rangle \frac{1}{[m]_q} \sum_n \sum_{\lambda \vdash n} z^n s_\lambda(q^{\frac{1-m}{2}}, q^{\frac{3-m}{2}}, \dots, q^{\frac{m-1}{2}}) s_\lambda(x_1, \dots) \\ &= \frac{1}{[m]_q} \sum_{\lambda \vdash n} s_\lambda(q^{\frac{1-m}{2}}, q^{\frac{3-m}{2}}, \dots, q^{\frac{m-1}{2}}) s_\lambda(x_1, \dots) \end{aligned}$$

■

Proposition 2.1 (Hook-Content Formula).

$$s_\lambda(q^{\frac{1-m}{2}}, q^{\frac{3-m}{2}}, \dots, q^{\frac{m-1}{2}}) = \prod_{(i,j) \in \lambda} \frac{[m+i-j]_q}{[h_\lambda(i,j)]_q}$$

where $[m]_q = \frac{q^{m/2} - q^{-m/2}}{q^{1/2} - q^{-1/2}}$ and $h_\lambda(i, j) =$ hook length of box (i, j) .

Example.

$$L_{3/2} = (q + q^{-1}) S^{\square\square} \oplus S^{\square}$$

3 HOMFLY polynomial of Torus knots

Definition 3.1. Recall that the HOMFLY polynomial $P = P_{q^{-q^{-1}}}(a, q)$ of a link L is defined to be

$$aP(L_+) - a^{-1}P(L_-) = (q - q^{-1})P(L_0)$$

and $P(\text{unknot}) = 1$.

Example. For the trefoil $(T(2, 3))$ one can compute

$$P(T(2, 3)) = a^2(q^2 + q^{-2} - a^2)$$

Definition 3.2. $H_q(n)$ is the quotient of $\mathbb{Z}[q^{\pm 1}][B_n]$ by the relation

$$\sigma_i^2 = (q - 1)\sigma_i + q$$

where $\{\sigma_i\}_{1 \leq i \leq n-1}$ be the usual set of generators for B_n . Let $g_i := [\sigma_i] \in H_q(n)$.

Warning. q is always generic!

Definition 3.3. The Jones-Ocneanu trace $\text{tr} : \bigcup_{n \geq 1} H_q(n) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}[q^{\pm 1}][z]$ is the unique linear map s.t.

$$(1) \text{tr}(ab) = \text{tr}(ba).$$

$$(2) \text{tr}(1) = 1.$$

$$(3) \text{tr}(xg_n) = z\text{tr}(x) \text{ for } x \in H_q(n)$$

Remark (Skip). Property (1) above implies that tr factors through

$$\bigcup_{n \geq 1} H_q(n) \rightarrow \bigcup_{n \geq 1} H_q(n)/[H_q(n), H_q(n)] = \text{Sym}$$

and some people also refer to the above map as the Jones-Oceanu trace, where you recover tr by specializing p_i to specific values.

Theorem 3.4 (Jones). Let $\beta \in B_n$. Define

$$X_\beta(q, \lambda) = f(q, \lambda)\text{tr}([\beta])|_{z=-\frac{1-q}{1-\lambda q}} \quad (11)$$

Then $P(\widehat{\beta})(a, q) = X_\beta\left(q^2, \frac{a^2}{q}\right)$.

Theorem 3.5 (Ocneanu). Let $x \in H_q(n)$

$$\text{tr}(x) = \sum_{\lambda \vdash n} \text{Tr}_{S^\lambda(q)}(x) \prod_{(i,j) \in \lambda} \frac{q^i(1-q+z) - q^j z}{1 - q^{h_\lambda(i,j)}} \quad (12)$$

where the first row of λ has coordinates $(0, j)$ and the first column has coordinates $(i, 0)$.

Proof. $H_q(n) = \bigoplus_{\lambda \vdash n} \text{End}(S^\lambda(q))$ is semisimple as q is generic. Any function $f : M_k(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ satisfying $f(ab) = f(ba)$ is a scalar multiple of Tr . Ocneanu found these constants for us. ■

Proof. By the previous lemma we see that

$$\mathrm{Tr}(\pi_\lambda((g_1 \dots g_{n-1})^m)) = q^{mr(n-1)/d} \mathrm{Tr}_{S^\lambda}((n \ (n-1) \dots 1)^m) = q^{mr(n-1)/d} \sum_i \lambda_i^m$$

where λ_i are the eigenvalues of $(n \ (n-1) \dots 1)$. As seen in previous lemma, all the λ_i are n -th roots of unity. As $(m, n) = 1$ the map $\tau_m(w_n) = w_n^m$ where w_n a primitive n -th root of unity is in $\mathrm{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}(w_n)/\mathbb{Q})$ and note $\lambda_i^m = \tau_m(\lambda_i)$. As $\mathrm{char}((n \ (n-1) \dots 1)) \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$ it follows that $\tau_m(\mathrm{char}_{(n \ (n-1) \dots 1)}(x)) = \mathrm{char}_{(n \ (n-1) \dots 1)}(x)$ and thus

$$\sum_i \lambda_i^m = \sum_i \tau_m(\lambda_i) = \tau_m\left(\sum_i \lambda_i\right) = \sum_i \lambda_i = \mathrm{Tr}_{S^\lambda}((n \ (n-1) \dots 1))$$

The result now follows from the Murnaghan-Nakayama rule. ■

Theorem 3 (Jones)

Suppose $(m, n) = 1$. Then

$$P(T_{n,m})(a, q) = \frac{a^{m(n-1)} \langle 1 \rangle_q}{\langle n \rangle_q} \sum_{b=0}^{n-1} (-1)^{n-1-b} \frac{q^{-m(2b-n+1)}}{\langle b \rangle_q! \langle n-1-b \rangle_q!} \prod_{\substack{j=b-n+1 \\ j \neq 0}} (q^j a - q^{-j} a^{-1}) \quad (14)$$

where $\langle n \rangle = q^n - q^{-n}$.

Proof. Plug Eq. (13) into Eq. (12) and then plug that into Eq. (11). The only thing I haven't explicitly computed is $r = \mathrm{rank}_{S^\lambda(q)}(e_1)$ and $d = \dim S^\lambda$. First all the σ_i are conjugate to σ_1 in B_n as a result of the braid relations. So we only need to find $\mathrm{rank} e_1$. But $e_1 \in H_q(2)$. Thus

$$\mathrm{rank}_{S^\lambda(q)}(e_1) = \mathrm{rank}_{\mathrm{Res}_{H_q(2)}^{H_q(n)}(S^\lambda(q))}(e_1)$$

There are 2 irreducibles for $H_q(2)$ and $\pi_{\square}(g_1) = q$ while $\pi_{\square}(g_1) = -1 \implies \pi_{\square}(e_1) = 1$ and $\pi_{\square}(g_1) = 0$ and so for $\lambda = H_{a,b}$

$$r = \mathrm{rank}_{S^{H_{a,b}(q)}}(e_1) = \mathrm{mult} \text{ of } S^{\square}(q) \text{ in } \mathrm{Res}_{H_q(2)}^{H_q(n)}(S^{H_{a,b}(q)}) \stackrel{\text{branching}}{=} \binom{a+b-1}{a}$$

and note we also have

$$d = \dim S^{H_{a,b}(q)} \stackrel{\text{hook}}{=} \binom{a+b}{a}$$

■

4 Cherednik Algebras and Torus Knots

Proposition 4.1 (Skip). *Let L be any representation of S_n , then*

$$\frac{1}{1-a} \mathrm{ch}(L; p_i = 1 - a^i) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (-a)^k \dim_{\mathbb{C}} \mathrm{Hom}_{S_n}(\Lambda^k \mathfrak{h}, L) \quad (15)$$

Proof. Applying definitions,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (-a)^k \dim_{\mathbb{C}} \text{Hom}_{S_n}(\Lambda^k \mathfrak{h}, L) &= \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (-a)^k \langle \Lambda^k \mathfrak{h}, L \rangle = \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (-a)^k \text{Tr}_L(\sigma) \text{Tr}_{\Lambda^k \mathfrak{h}}(\sigma) \\ &= \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \text{Tr}_L(\sigma) \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \text{Tr}_{\Lambda^k \mathfrak{h}}(\sigma) (-a)^k \end{aligned}$$

Writing out the first few terms, we see that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \text{Tr}_{\Lambda^k \mathfrak{h}}(\sigma) (-a)^k &= 1 + \text{Tr}_{\mathfrak{h}}(\sigma) (-a) + \dots + \text{Tr}_{\Lambda^{n-1} \mathfrak{h}}(\sigma) (-a)^{n-1} \\ &= (-1)^{n-1} (\text{characteristic polynomial of } \sigma \text{ but coefficients reversed}) \\ &= (-1)^n q^n \text{char}_{\sigma} \left(\frac{1}{q} \right) \stackrel{\text{Eq. (2)}}{=} \det(I - q\sigma) \stackrel{\text{Eq. (1)}}{=} \frac{1}{1-a} \prod_i (1-a^i)^{k_i(\sigma)} \end{aligned}$$

Now apply the definition of $\text{ch}(L)$. ■

Theorem 4 (GORS)

The graded Frobenius character of $L_{m/n}$ (after changing variables) coincides with the HOMFLY polynomial of the (m, n) -torus knot when $(m, n) = 1$.

$$a^{(m-1)(n-1)} \frac{1}{1-a^2} \text{gch}(L_{m/n})(q^2, p_i = (1-a^2)^i) = P(T_{n,m})(a, q)$$

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{1-a^2} \text{gch}(L_{m/n})(q^2, p_i = (1-a^2)^i) &\stackrel{\text{Eq. (15)}}{=} \sum_i \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (-a^2)^k \dim_{\mathbb{C}} \text{Hom}_{S_n}(\Lambda^k \mathfrak{h}, (L_{m/n})_i) q^{2i} \\ &\stackrel{\text{check}}{=} \sum_i \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (-a^2)^k \dim_{\mathbb{C}} \text{Hom}_{S_n}(S^{a, n-1-a}, (L_{m/n})_i) q^{2i} \\ &\stackrel{\text{Eq. (10)}}{=} \text{explicit function of } q \text{ and } a \end{aligned}$$

One can then show using pro q -series manipulation to show that this is equal to Eq. (14). ■

Corollary 4.2 (rank-level duality).

$$(L_{m/n})^{S_n} \cong (L_{n/m})^{S_m}$$

Fun Facts:

- (a) $\text{gr } L_{n+1/n} \cong \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_n] / \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_n]_+^{S_n}$
- (b) $c_n(q, t) = \langle \nabla e_n, e_n \rangle = \mathcal{P}_{T(n, n+1)}(q, t, a = 0)$