

Pieri formulas for Demazure characters

Alain Lascoux, Hui Lin and Arthur L. B. Yang

Abstract. We give a Pieri formula for key polynomials (also called Demazure characters). It implies an explicit decomposition of Schubert polynomials in terms of key polynomials. The constructions extend to the non-commutative cases.

1. Motivation and background

2. Notation

Given a polynomial f in the variables $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$, the simple transposition s_i acts on f by exchanging the variables x_i and x_{i+1} , denoted by f^{s_i} .

The divided difference ∂_i acts on f in the following way:

$$f\partial_i = \frac{f - f^{s_i}}{x_i - x_{i+1}}. \quad (2.1)$$

The isobaric divided differences π_i and $\widehat{\pi}_i$ are defined by:

$$f\pi_i = \frac{x_i f - x_{i+1} f^{s_i}}{x_i - x_{i+1}} = f x_i \partial_i \quad \text{and} \quad f\widehat{\pi}_i = f\pi_i - f = f\partial_i x_{i+1}, \quad (2.2)$$

where x_i means “multiplication by x_i ”.

For any permutation σ we define the operator ∂_σ as $\partial_{r_1} \cdots \partial_{r_k}$, where $s_{r_1} \cdots s_{r_k}$ is a reduced decomposition of σ . Since the operators ∂_i satisfy the braid relations, ∂_σ is well defined. Similarly we define the operators π_σ and $\widehat{\pi}_\sigma$.

We now give the definition of Schubert polynomials and key polynomials.

For any $J \in \mathbb{N}^n$, we say that J is dominant if J is weakly decreasing. In the dominant case, we define the Schubert polynomial Y_J , the key polynomial K_J and $\widehat{K}_J$ as the same monomial $x_1^{j_1} x_2^{j_2} \cdots x_n^{j_n}$, namely,

$$Y_J = K_J = \widehat{K}_J = x_1^{j_1} x_2^{j_2} \cdots x_n^{j_n}. \quad (2.3)$$

If J is not dominant, then there must exist i such that $j_i < j_{i+1}$. Let $J' = [\dots, j_{i+1}, j_i, \dots]$. Then the Schubert polynomial Y_J , the key polynomial K_J and $\widehat{K}_J$ are recursively defined as

$$Y_J = Y_{J'} \partial_i, \quad K_J = K_{J'} \pi_i \quad \text{and} \quad \widehat{K}_J = \widehat{K}_{J'} \widehat{\pi}_i. \quad (2.4)$$

For any $J \in \mathbb{N}^n$, the polynomials Y_J , K_J , $\widehat{K}_J$ are well defined.

Suppose λ is a weakly decreasing reordering of J , then there exists a permutation σ such that $J = \lambda^\sigma$. We have

$$Y_J = Y_\lambda \partial_\sigma, \quad K_J = K_\lambda \pi_\sigma \quad \text{and} \quad \widehat{K}_J = \widehat{K}_\lambda \widehat{\pi}_\sigma. \quad (2.5)$$

Given two sets u, v of the same size, written increasingly, then $u \leq v$ if and only if $u_1 \leq v_1, u_2 \leq v_2, \dots$. Let λ and μ be two partitions which are decreasing reordering of u and v respectively. Graphically, $u \leq v$ means that the diagram of λ is a subdiagram of μ . The diagram of λ is also called the diagram of u .

Given two permutations σ and ν , we say that $\sigma \leq \nu$ if and only if for any k one has $\{\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_k\} \leq \{\nu_1, \dots, \nu_k\}$. This order is called the Ehresmann-Bruhat order of the symmetric group. It can be used to define an order on vectors with repeated components.

Given two vectors u, v of the same length, then $u \leq v$ if and only if for any k , $\{u_1, \dots, u_k\} \leq \{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$.

The Ehresmann-Bruhat order of the symmetric group also has another definition. For $\sigma \in S_n$, let $r_1 \cdots r_m$ be a reduced expression of σ . For $\nu \in S_n$, $\nu \leq \sigma$ if and only if there exists a sequence of natural numbers $1 \leq j_1 \leq \dots \leq j_k \leq m$ such that $r_{j_1} \cdots r_{j_k}$ is one of the reduced decompositions of ν .

3. Commutation rule on operators

From the definitions of ∂_i , π_i and $\widehat{\pi}_i$, we directly get

$$\pi_i = x_i \partial_i, \quad \widehat{\pi}_i = \partial_i x_{i+1} \quad (3.6)$$

that we can rewrite as commutation rules

$$\widehat{\pi}_i x_i = x_{i+1} \pi_i, \quad x_i \widehat{\pi}_i = \pi_i x_{i+1}. \quad (3.7)$$

The following relation is immediate from the definitions of divided differences

$$x_i \partial_j = \partial_j x_i, \quad x_i \pi_j = \pi_j x_i, \quad x_i \widehat{\pi}_j = \widehat{\pi}_j x_i, \quad \text{for } |i - j| > 1. \quad (3.8)$$

Then for any $k > j$ we have

$$\pi_k \pi_{k-1} \cdots \pi_j = x_k \partial_k x_{k-1} \partial_{k-1} \cdots x_j \partial_j = x_k x_{k-1} \cdots x_j \partial_k \partial_{k-1} \cdots \partial_j, \quad (3.9)$$

$$\widehat{\pi}_k \widehat{\pi}_{k-1} \cdots \widehat{\pi}_j = \partial_k x_{k+1} \partial_{k-1} x_k \cdots \partial_j x_{j+1} = \partial_k \partial_{k-1} \cdots \partial_j x_{k+1} x_k \cdots x_{j+1}. \quad (3.10)$$

The following commutation rules are needed in the following, for $k > j$

$$\pi_k \cdots \pi_j x_{k+1} \cdots x_{j+1} = x_k \cdots x_j \widehat{\pi}_k \cdots \widehat{\pi}_j \quad (3.11)$$

$$x_{j+1} \cdots x_{k+1} \pi_j \cdots \pi_k = \widehat{\pi}_j \cdots \widehat{\pi}_k x_j \cdots x_k. \quad (3.12)$$

Let σ be a permutation with one reduced decomposition inscribed in the diagram of a partition in the South-East corner of the rectangles

$$\begin{array}{ccc} s_{n-k} & \cdots & s_{n-1} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ s_1 & \cdots & s_k \end{array} \quad (3.13)$$

Then applying the above commutation rules, we get

Lemma 3.1 *For any k and σ having the above reduced decomposition, the following relations hold*

$$\widehat{\pi}_\sigma x_k \cdots x_1 = (x_k \cdots x_1)^\nu \pi_\sigma, \quad \pi_\sigma x_n \cdots x_{k+1} = (x_n \cdots x_{k+1})^\nu \widehat{\pi}_\sigma, \quad (3.14)$$

where $\nu = \sigma^{-1}$.

For example we take $n = 8$, $k = 3$ and $\sigma = s_4 s_3 s_2 s_7 s_6 s_5 s_4 s_3$, the following planar display implies a proof of the above lemma.

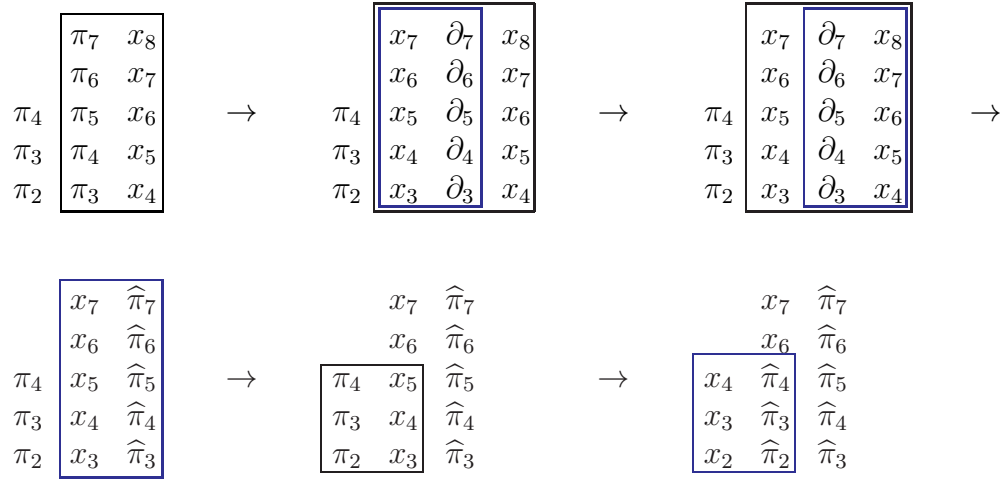


Figure 3.1 Commutations between π_σ and $x_{k+1} \cdots x_n$

We have a Leibniz formula

$$\pi_i x_i = x_{i+1} \pi_i + x_i. \quad (3.15)$$

For any $j < k$ and $m \geq 0$, iterating the above formula we get

$$\pi_j \cdots \pi_k \pi_{k+1} \cdots \pi_{k+m} x_j \cdots x_k = \sum_{i=j}^{k+1} x_j \cdots \bar{x}_i \cdots x_{k+1} \pi_j \cdots \bar{\pi}_{i-1} \cdots \pi_k \pi_{k+1} \cdots \pi_{k+m}, \quad (3.16)$$

where $\bar{x}_i$ and $\bar{\pi}_{i-1}$ means the missing in the product. For this formula we have the following planar display reading the word by rows

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline \cdot & \pi_j & \cdots & \pi_k & \pi_{k+1} & \cdots & \pi_{k+m} \\ \hline \cdot & x_j & \cdots & x_k & \cdot & \cdots & \cdot \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline \cdot & x_{j+1} & \cdots & x_{k+1} & \cdot & \cdots & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \pi_j & \cdots & \pi_k & \pi_{k+1} & \cdots & \pi_{k+m} \\ \hline \end{array} +$$

$$\cdots + \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline x_j & x_{j+1} & \cdots & x_{i-1} & \cdot & x_{i+1} & \cdots & x_{k+1} & \cdot & \cdots & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \pi_j & \cdots & \pi_{i-2} & \cdot & \pi_i & \cdots & \pi_k & \pi_{k+1} & \cdots & \pi_{k+m} \\ \hline \end{array} + \cdots$$

$$+ \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline x_j & x_{j+1} & \cdots & x_{k-1} & x_k & \cdot & \cdot & \cdots & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \pi_j & \cdots & \pi_{k-2} & \pi_{k-1} & \cdot & \pi_{k+1} & \cdots & \pi_{k+m} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Figure 3.2 Basic process I

We call the above process the basic process I. We also need basic process II and III in the following, Figure 3.3 and Figure 3.4 give their planar displays.

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline \pi_{j-1} & \pi_j & \cdots & \pi_k \\ \hline \cdot & x_j & \cdots & x_k \\ \hline \end{array} \rightarrow \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline \cdot & x_{j+1} & \cdots & x_{k+1} \\ \hline \pi_{j-1} & \pi_j & \cdots & \pi_k \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Figure 3.3 Basic process II

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline \cdot & \pi_j & \pi_{j+1} & \cdots & \pi_k & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & x_j & \pi_j & \cdots & \pi_{k-1} & \cdot \\ \hline \end{array} =$$

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline x_j & \cdot & \pi_{j+1} & \cdots & \pi_k & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \cdot & \pi_j & \cdots & \pi_{k-1} & \cdot \\ \hline \end{array} + \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline \cdot & x_{j+1} & \pi_{j+1} & \cdots & \pi_k & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \cdot & \pi_j & \cdots & \pi_{k-1} & \pi_k \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Figure 3.4 Basic process III

We still take a permutation σ with one reduced decomposition inscribed in the diagram (3.13). Let $\mathcal{C}(\sigma, k)$ be the set of all the permutations which are smaller than or equal to σ for the Ehresmann-Bruhat order with maximal length in the coset class modulo $S_k \times S_{n-k}$. Then

Lemma 3.2 *For any $k > 0$ and σ defined as above,*

$$\pi_\sigma x_1 \cdots x_k = \sum_{\nu \in \mathcal{C}(\sigma, k)} (x_1 \cdots x_k)^{\nu^{-1}} \pi_\nu. \quad (3.17)$$

Moreover we have

$$\sum_{\nu \in \mathcal{C}(\sigma, k)} (x_1 \cdots x_k)^{\nu^{-1}} = K[1^k] \pi_{\sigma^{-1}}. \quad (3.18)$$

To illustrate this Lemma, we take $k = 3$ and $\sigma = s_4 s_5 s_3 s_4 s_1 s_2 s_3$. Using the above three basic processes, we show the commutations between the π_i operators and monomials by induction on rows. Figure 3.5 and Figure 3.6 show how to apply the commutations inductively in a planar display.

Given $u \in \mathbb{N}^n$ and $i : 1 \leq i < n$, define $\phi_i(u)$ as follows:

$$\phi_i(u) = \begin{cases} u^{s_i}, & u_i > u_{i+1}; \\ u, & u_i \leq u_{i+1}. \end{cases}$$

For fixed $k : 1 \leq k \leq n$ let $\mathcal{E}_k(u)$ be the set of all the distinct permutations of u which are greater than or equal to u for the Ehresmann-Bruhat order and of minimum length in their coset class modulo $S_k \times S_{n-k}$. Then we have the following lemma

Lemma 3.3 *For any $i \neq k$ such that $u_i > u_{i+1}$, we have*

$$\mathcal{E}_k(u^{s_i}) = \{\phi_i(v) \mid v \in \mathcal{E}_k(u)\}. \quad (3.19)$$

Proof. Let λ be the decreasing reordering of u , and let σ be the permutation such that $\lambda^\sigma = u$. Taking another vector v , there exists a permutation ν such that $\lambda^\nu = v$. Then $v \geq u$ if and only if $\nu \leq \sigma$ by checking that every simple transposition in the reduced decomposition decreases the number of inversions by 1.

Suppose $r_1 \cdots r_m$ is one reduced decomposition of σ , then $r_1 \cdots r_m s_i$ is one reduced decomposition of σ' where $\lambda^{\sigma'} = u^{s_i}$. For any $v = \lambda^\nu \in \mathcal{E}_k(u)$, by the subword property there exists a sequence $1 \leq j_1, \dots, j_\ell \leq m$ such that $r_{j_1} \cdots r_{j_\ell} = \nu$. If $\phi_i(v) = v$, we immediately get $\nu \leq \sigma'$, thus $\phi_i(v) \geq u^{s_i}$. If $\phi_i(v) = v^{s_i}$, then $r_{j_1} \cdots r_{j_\ell} s_i$ is one reduced decomposition of νs_i , thus $\nu s_i \leq \sigma'$, and one also gets $\phi_i(v) \geq u^{s_i}$.

$$\begin{array}{c}
\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline \cdot & \cdot & \pi_4 & \pi_5 & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \cdot & \pi_3 & \pi_4 & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \pi_1 & \pi_2 & \pi_3 & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & x_1 & x_2 & x_3 & \cdot \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline \cdot & \cdot & \pi_4 & \pi_5 & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \cdot & \pi_3 & \pi_4 & \cdot \\ \hline x_1 & x_2 & x_3 & \cdot & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \pi_1 & \pi_2 & \cdot & \cdot \\ \hline \end{array} + \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline \cdot & \cdot & \pi_4 & \pi_5 & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \cdot & \pi_3 & \pi_4 & \cdot \\ \hline x_1 & x_2 & \cdot & x_4 & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \pi_1 & \cdot & \pi_3 & \cdot \\ \hline \end{array} + \\
\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline \cdot & \cdot & \pi_4 & \pi_5 & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \cdot & \pi_3 & \pi_4 & \cdot \\ \hline x_1 & \cdot & x_3 & x_4 & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \cdot & \pi_2 & \pi_3 & \cdot \\ \hline \end{array} + \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline \cdot & \cdot & \pi_4 & \pi_5 & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \cdot & \pi_3 & \pi_4 & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & x_2 & x_3 & x_4 & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \pi_1 & \pi_2 & \pi_3 & \cdot \\ \hline \end{array} \\
\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline \cdot & \cdot & \pi_4 & \pi_5 & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \cdot & \pi_3 & \pi_4 & \cdot \\ \hline x_1 & x_2 & x_3 & \cdot & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \pi_1 & \pi_2 & \cdot & \cdot \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline \cdot & \cdot & \pi_4 & \pi_5 & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & x_3 & \cdot & \pi_4 & \cdot \\ \hline x_1 & x_2 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \pi_1 & \pi_2 & \cdot & \cdot \\ \hline \end{array} + \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline \cdot & \cdot & \pi_4 & \pi_5 & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \cdot & x_4 & \pi_4 & \cdot \\ \hline x_1 & x_2 & \pi_3 & \cdot & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \pi_1 & \pi_2 & \cdot & \cdot \\ \hline \end{array} = \\
\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline \cdot & \cdot & \pi_4 & \pi_5 & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & x_3 & \cdot & \pi_4 & \cdot \\ \hline x_1 & x_2 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \pi_1 & \pi_2 & \cdot & \cdot \\ \hline \end{array} + \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline \cdot & x_4 & \cdot & \pi_5 & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \pi_4 & \cdot \\ \hline x_1 & x_2 & \pi_3 & \cdot & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \pi_1 & \pi_2 & \cdot & \cdot \\ \hline \end{array} + \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline \cdot & \cdot & x_5 & \pi_5 & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \pi_4 & \pi_5 \\ \hline x_1 & x_2 & \pi_3 & \cdot & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \pi_1 & \pi_2 & \cdot & \cdot \\ \hline \end{array} \\
\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline \cdot & \cdot & \pi_4 & \pi_5 & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \cdot & \pi_3 & \pi_4 & \cdot \\ \hline x_1 & x_2 & \cdot & x_4 & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \pi_1 & \cdot & \pi_3 & \cdot \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline \cdot & \cdot & \pi_4 & \pi_5 & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & x_5 & \cdot \\ \hline x_1 & x_2 & \pi_3 & \pi_4 & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \pi_1 & \cdot & \pi_3 & \cdot \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & x_6 & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \cdot & \pi_4 & \pi_5 & \cdot \\ \hline x_1 & x_2 & \pi_3 & \pi_4 & \cdot \\ \hline \cdot & \pi_1 & \cdot & \pi_3 & \cdot \\ \hline \end{array}
\end{array}$$

Figure 3.5 (I) Commutations between π_σ and $x_1 \cdots x_k$

Since v is of minimum length in the coset class modulo $S_k \times S_{n-k}$, then ν must have the maximum length among all the vectors smaller than σ in the coset class, that is to say, for any $t \neq k$ the permutation νs_t with length increased by 1 is not smaller than σ . Let $\phi_i(v) = \lambda^{\nu'}$. For the case of $\phi_i(v) = v$ if there exists an integer $t \neq k$ such that $r_{j_1} \cdots r_{j_\ell} s_t$ as a subword sequence of $r_1 \cdots r_m s_i$ is reduced. Then $t \neq i$, otherwise it is contrary to $v_i \leq v_{i+1}$. Thus $r_{j_1} \cdots r_{j_\ell} s_t$ is a subword sequence of $r_1 \cdots r_m$. This is a contrary to the minimum length of v . For the case of $\phi_i(v) = v^{s_i}$ if there exists an integer $t \neq k$ such that $r_{j_1} \cdots r_{j_\ell} s_i s_t$ as a subword sequence of $r_1 \cdots r_m s_i$ is reduced. Then we must have a subword sequence of $r_1 \cdots r_m$ with length greater than ℓ such that it is also reduced. This is also a contrary to the minimum length of v . Thus we obtain $\phi_i(v)$ must have the minimum length among all the vectors greater than u^{s_i} in the coset class.

Conversely, following the above arguments, one can check that for any $v' \in \mathcal{E}_k(u^{s_i})$ there exists a vector $v \in \mathcal{E}_k(u)$ such that $v' = \phi_i(v)$. ■

4. Pieri formula for key polynomials

In this section, we will prove the following two theorems:

Theorem 4.1 *Given $J \in \mathbb{N}^n$, let k be such that $j_1 \geq \dots \geq j_k$, $j_{k+1} \geq \dots \geq j_n$. Then*

$$\widehat{K}_J x_k \cdots x_1 = K_{J+[1^k 0^{n-k}]} \quad (4.20)$$

and

$$K_J x_n \cdots x_{k+1} = \widehat{K}_{J+[0^k 1^{n-k}]}. \quad (4.21)$$

Proof. $\widehat{K}_J$ and $\widehat{K}_J$ are the images of $x^\lambda = K_\lambda = \widehat{K}_\lambda$ (with λ = decreasing reordering of J), under some $\widehat{\pi}_\sigma$ or π_σ respectively. These two operators can be realized as a sequence of isobaric divided differences inscribed in the diagram of a partition in the South-East corner of the rectangles

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \widehat{\pi}_{n-k} & \cdots & \widehat{\pi}_{n-1} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \widehat{\pi}_1 & \cdots & \widehat{\pi}_k \end{array} \quad \text{or} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \pi_{n-k} & \cdots & \pi_{n-1} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \pi_1 & \cdots & \pi_k \end{array}.$$

By Lemma 3.1, we have

$$\widehat{\pi}_\sigma x_k \cdots x_1 = (x_k \cdots x_1)^\nu \pi_\sigma, \quad \pi_\sigma x_n \cdots x_{k+1} = (x_n \cdots x_{k+1})^\nu \widehat{\pi}_\sigma, \quad (4.22)$$

where $\nu = \sigma^{-1}$. One concludes by checking that multiplying x^λ by one of the two monomials corresponds to adding $[1^k 0^{n-k}]$ or $[0^k 1^{n-k}]$ to J . ■

Theorem 4.2 *Given $J \in \mathbb{N}^n$, then for any k we have*

$$K_J x_1 \cdots x_k = \sum_{I \in \mathcal{E}_k(J)} K[I + [1^k, 0^{n-k}]], \quad (4.23)$$

sum over all I which are $\geq J$ (for the Ehresmann-Bruhat order) and of minimum length in their coset class modulo $S_k \times S_{n-k}$.

Proof. Let $u = (j_1, \dots, j_k)$ and $v = (j_{k+1}, \dots, j_n)$. First we prove the special case where both u and v are decreasing. Let λ be the decreasing reordering of J , then there exists a permutation σ with one reduced decomposition inscribed in the

diagram (3.13) such that $J = \lambda^\sigma$. Now from the definition of key polynomials we deduce that

$$K_J x_1 \cdots x_k = (x_1^{\lambda_1} x_2^{\lambda_2} \cdots x_n^{\lambda_n} \pi_\sigma) x_1 \cdots x_k = (x_1^{\lambda_1} x_2^{\lambda_2} \cdots x_n^{\lambda_n}) \pi_\sigma x_1 \cdots x_k. \quad (4.24)$$

By Lemma 3.2, we have

$$K_J x_1 \cdots x_k = (x_1^{\lambda_1} x_2^{\lambda_2} \cdots x_n^{\lambda_n}) \sum_{\nu \in \mathcal{C}(\sigma, k)} (x_1 \cdots x_k)^{\nu^{-1}} \pi_\nu = \sum_{I \in \mathcal{E}_k(J)} K[I + [1^k, 0^{n-k}]]. \quad (4.25)$$

For general J we don't have u and v are decreasing. Let u' and v' be decreasing reordering of u and v respectively. Then K_J is obtained from $K[u', v']$ by applying a series of isobaric divided differences (where π_k is not a factor). Notice that $K[J]$ is symmetric in x_i and x_{i+1} if $j_i < j_{i+1}$, which means that in this case we have $K_J \pi = K_J$. By successively using Lemma 3.3, we get the desired theorem. ■

5. Decomposition of Schubert polynomials

The preceding Pieri formula allows us to give a generation of Schubert polynomials, providing their decomposition in terms of key polynomials.

Theorem 5.1 *Given $J \in \mathbb{N}^n$, let k be minimum such that $j_k = 0$ (if it does not exist, replace J by $J0$). Let $I = [j_1 - 1, \dots, j_{k-1} - 1, j_{k+1}, \dots, j_n]$. Then*

$$Y_J = Y_I \pi_{n-1} \cdots \pi_k x_{k-1} \cdots x_1. \quad (5.26)$$

Proof. Notice that $x_{k-1} \cdots x_1$ commutes with $\pi_{n-1} \cdots \pi_k$, and therefore

$$\begin{aligned} Y_I \pi_{n-1} \cdots \pi_k x_{k-1} \cdots x_1 &= Y_I(x_{n-1} \cdots x_k)(x_{k-1} \cdots x_1) \partial_{n-1} \cdots \partial_k \\ &= Y_{I+1^{n-1}} \partial_{n-1} \cdots \partial_k = Y_J. \end{aligned}$$

■

Consequently the decomposition of Y_I in terms of key polynomials gives the decomposition of Y_J . Let

$$Y_I = \sum_u c_u K_u, \quad (5.27)$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} Y_J &= (\sum_u c_u K_u) \pi_{n-1} \cdots \pi_k x_{k-1} \cdots x_1 \\ &= \sum_u (c_u K_u) \pi_{n-1} \cdots \pi_k x_{k-1} \cdots x_1 \\ &= \sum_u c_u (K_{u'} x_{k-1} \cdots x_1) \\ &= \sum_u c_u \sum_v K_v = \sum_{v'} c_{v'} K_{v'} \end{aligned}$$

An immediate consequence of this theorem is that any Schubert polynomials can be expressed as the image of 1 under the action of a product of isobaric divided differences and monomials $x_1 x_2 \cdots x_k$.

6. Noncommutative Pieri formula

Given an infinite totally ordered alphabet A with noncommutative letters, let $A_n = \{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$, and let $\mathfrak{Plax}$ be the plactic algebra of A .

Let $\mathfrak{Sym}(A_n)$ be the linear span of the Schur functions in A_n . We denote the elementary symmetric function of order k in A_n by $\Lambda^k(A_n)$.

Define the *Schubert Module* to be the subspace of $\mathfrak{Plax}$:

$$\mathfrak{Schub} = \cdots \otimes \mathfrak{Sym}(A_3) \otimes \mathfrak{Sym}(A_2) \otimes \mathfrak{Sym}(A_1)$$

linearly generated by finite products of symmetric polynomials (respecting the order $\dots, A_3, A_2, A_1$).

It is known that $\mathfrak{Sym}(A_n)$ has a basis $\{P_J \mid J \leq [\dots, 3, 2, 1, 0]\}$ [?] where for $J \in \mathbb{N}^n$

$$P_J = \Lambda^{j_1}(A_{n-1}) \cdots \Lambda^{j_n}(A_0). \quad (6.28)$$

Let ev be a map which sends a_i to x_i for each i , then $\{ev(P_J)\}$ is a basis of $\mathfrak{Pol}$.

Let λ be a partition, then $\cdots a_3^{\lambda_3} a_2^{\lambda_2} a_1^{\lambda_1}$ is defined as the free key polynomials corresponding to λ , which belongs to $\mathfrak{Schub}$. The operators π_i^a and $\widehat{\pi}_i^a$ introduced in [?] are the operators which act on $\mathfrak{Plax}$, and they preserve the module $\mathfrak{Schub}$. Notice that they don't satisfy the braid relations, i.e., there is no operator π_σ^a or $\widehat{\pi}_\sigma^a$ on the free algebra. However we can still define the free key polynomials recursively as shown in [?]

$$K_J = K_{J'} \pi_i^a \quad \text{and} \quad \widehat{K}_J = \widehat{K}_{J'} \widehat{\pi}_i^a, \quad (6.29)$$

where $J_i < J_{i+1}$ and $J' = J^{s_i}$. Thus the free key polynomials constitute another basis of $\mathfrak{Schub}$.

The following figure shows the relations between these several algebras.

Notice that Pieri formulas (4.20) and (4.23) are also true in the Schubert module, because both the divided differences $\pi_i^a, \widehat{\pi}_i^a$ and the standard monomial $a_k \cdots a_1$ preserve the Schubert module. These corresponding formulas are called noncommutative Pieri formulas. By Theorem 5.1, we also have the decomposition of free Schubert polynomial in terms of free key polynomials.

Figure 3.6 (II) Commutations between π_σ and $x_1 \cdots x_k$

$$\mathsf{Schub} \hookrightarrow \mathsf{Plax}$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$\mathsf{Pol}$$



$$\mathsf{Sym}(A_n) \hookrightarrow \mathsf{Plax}$$

$$\wr$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$\mathsf{Sym}(X_n) \hookrightarrow \mathsf{Pol}$$