

# Quantised coordinate rings and total positivity

Stéphane Launois (University of Kent)

New Trends in Noncommutative Algebra

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<http://www.kent.ac.uk/ims/personal/sl261/index.htm>

Quantised coordinate rings  
Prime spectrum of quantum matrices

Poisson geometry  
Symplectic leaves in Poisson matrix varieties

Total Positivity  
Cells in totally nonnegative matrices



# The quantum world

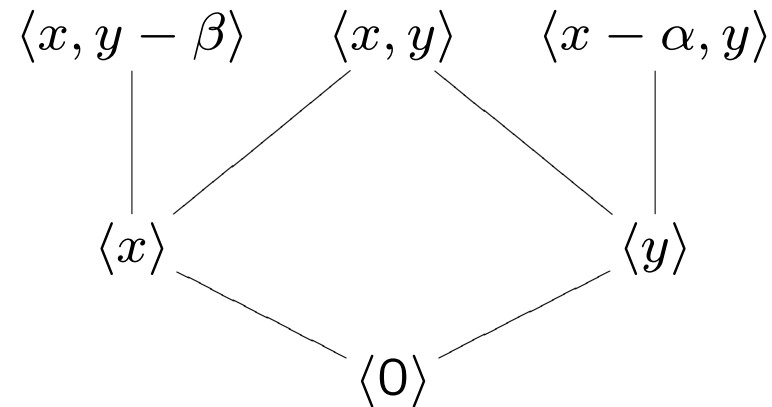
## Quantum plane.

Let  $q \in \mathbb{C}^*$ ,  $q^N \neq 1$ .  $A := \mathbb{C}\langle x, y \mid xy = qyx \rangle$ .  
 $A$  is a noetherian domain.

There is an action of the torus  $H := (\mathbb{C}^*)^2$  on  $A$

$$(h, g).x = hx \text{ and } (h, g).y = gy$$

Here is the picture of the prime spectrum of  $A$ .



$$(\alpha, \beta \neq 0)$$

## Quantum affine $n$ -space.

$$T := \mathbb{C}\langle t_1, \dots, t_n \mid t_i t_j = \lambda_{ij} t_j t_i, i < j \rangle.$$

There is an action of the torus  $H := (\mathbb{C}^*)^n$  on  $T$  by automorphisms

$$(h_1, \dots, h_n).t_i = h_i t_i$$

For each  $w \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$ , we set  $J_w := \langle t_i \rangle_{i \in w}$ .

Then  $H\text{-Spec}(T) = \{J_w\}$ .

## Quantum $2 \times 2$ matrices

The coordinate ring of quantum  $2 \times 2$  matrices

$$\mathcal{O}_q(\mathcal{M}_2(\mathbb{C})) := \mathbb{C} \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$$

is generated by four indeterminates  $a, b, c, d$  subject to the following rules:

$$\begin{aligned} ab &= qba, & cd &= qdc \\ ac &= qca, & bd &= qdb \\ bc &= cb, & ad - da &= (q - q^{-1})cb. \end{aligned}$$

The **quantum determinant**  $ad - qbc$  is a central element

## The algebra of $m \times p$ quantum matrices.

$$R = O_q(\mathcal{M}_{m,p}(\mathbb{C})) := \mathbb{C} \begin{bmatrix} Y_{1,1} & \cdots & Y_{1,p} \\ \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ Y_{m,1} & \cdots & Y_{m,p} \end{bmatrix},$$

where each  $2 \times 2$  sub-matrix is a copy of  $O_q(\mathcal{M}_2(\mathbb{C}))$ .

$O_q(\mathcal{M}_{m,p}(\mathbb{C}))$  is an iterated Ore extension with the indeterminates  $Y_{i,\alpha}$  adjoined in the lexicographic order and so is a noetherian integral domain.

In the square case ( $m = p = n$ )

$$D = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} (-q)^{l(\sigma)} Y_{1,\sigma(1)} \cdots Y_{n,\sigma(n)}$$

is the **quantum determinant**, a central element.



## Quantum minors of $R = \mathcal{O}_q(\mathcal{M}_{m,p}(\mathbb{C}))$ .

They are the quantum determinants of square sub-matrices of  $\mathcal{O}_q(\mathcal{M}_{m,p}(\mathbb{C}))$ .

More precisely, if  $I \subseteq \llbracket 1, m \rrbracket$  and  $\Lambda \subseteq \llbracket 1, p \rrbracket$  with  $|I| = |\Lambda|$ , the **quantum minor** associated with the rows  $I$  and columns  $\Lambda$  is

$$[I | \Lambda] := D_q(\mathcal{O}_q(M_{I,\Lambda}(\mathbb{C}))).$$

For example,  $[12|23] = Y_{1,2}Y_{2,3} - qY_{1,3}Y_{2,2}$  is the quantum minor of  $R$  associated with the rows 1, 2, and the columns 2, 3.

- **The prime spectrum of  $\mathcal{O}_q(\mathcal{M}_{m,p}(\mathbb{C}))$**

We now assume that  $q \in \mathbb{C}^*$  **is not a root of unity**, and we set  $R := \mathcal{O}_q(\mathcal{M}_{m,p}(\mathbb{C}))$ .

- **Goodearl-Letzter** Prime ideals of  $R$  are completely prime.

The torus  $\mathcal{H} := (\mathbb{C}^*)^{m+p}$  acts by automorphisms on  $R$  via :

$$(a_1, \dots, a_m, b_1, \dots, b_p).Y_{i,\alpha} = a_i b_\alpha Y_{i,\alpha}.$$

This action of  $\mathcal{H}$  on  $R$  induces an action of  $\mathcal{H}$  on  $\text{Spec}(R)$ . We denote by  $\mathcal{H}\text{-Spec}(R)$  the set of those prime ideals in  $R$  which are  $\mathcal{H}$ -invariant.

- **Goodearl-Letzter**  $R$  has at most  $2^{mp}$   $\mathcal{H}$ -primes.

## Stratification Theorem (Goodearl-Letzter) :

If  $J \in \mathcal{H}\text{-Spec}(R)$ , then we set

$$\text{Spec}_J(R) := \{P \in \text{Spec}(R) \mid \bigcap_{h \in \mathcal{H}} h.P = J\}.$$

1.  $\text{Spec}(R) = \bigsqcup_{J \in \mathcal{H}\text{-Spec}(R)} \text{Spec}_J(R)$

2. For all  $J \in \mathcal{H}\text{-Spec}(R)$ ,  $\text{Spec}_J(R)$  is homeomorphic to the prime spectrum of a (commutative) Laurent polynomial ring in  $n(J)$  indeterminates over  $\mathbb{C}$ .

3. The primitive ideals of  $R$  are precisely the primes maximal in their  $\mathcal{H}$ -strata.

## An observation

Recall that in  $\mathcal{O}_q(\mathcal{M}_2(\mathbb{C}))$

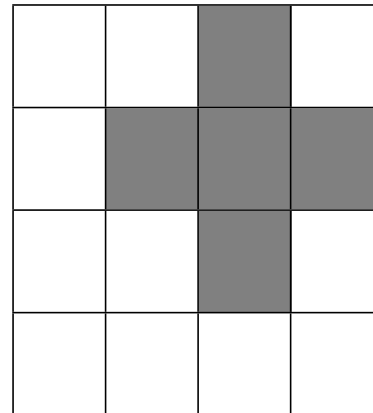
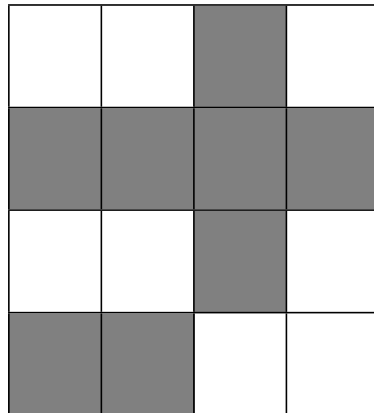
$$ad - da = (q - q^{-1})bc.$$

As a result, if  $P$  is a prime ideal and  $d \in P$  then this forces  $bc \in P$  so either  $b \in P$  or  $c \in P$ .

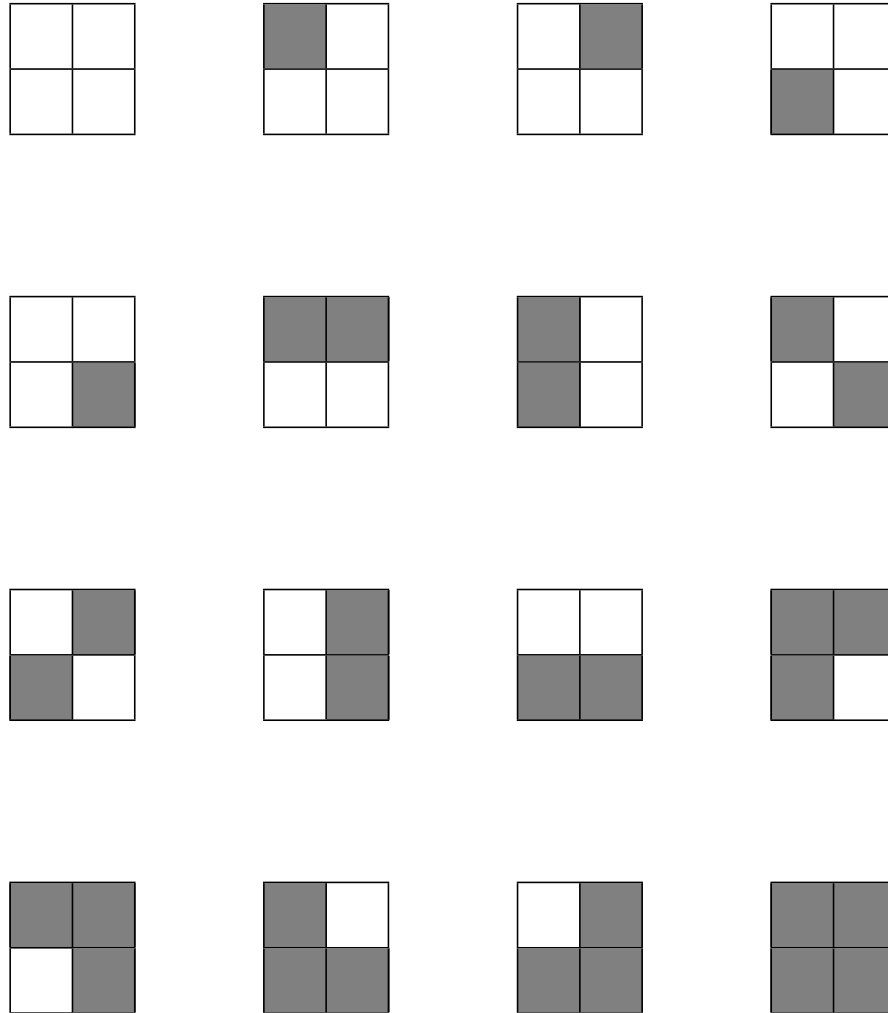
Thus there is no prime ideal  $P$  of  $\mathcal{O}_q(\mathcal{M}_2(\mathbb{C}))$  for which  $d$  is the only quantum minor in  $P$ .

## Cauchon diagrams

A **Cauchon diagram** on an  $m \times p$  array is an  $m \times p$  array of squares filled either black or white such that if a square is coloured black then either each square to the left is coloured black, or each square above is coloured black. Here are an example and a non-example



## 2 × 2 Cauchon Diagrams



## Parametrisation of $\mathcal{H}\text{-Spec}(\mathcal{O}_q(\mathcal{M}_{m,p}(\mathbb{C})))$

- **Cauchon (2003)** There is a bijection between Cauchon diagrams on an  $m \times p$  array and  $\mathcal{H}\text{-Spec}(\mathcal{O}_q(\mathcal{M}_{m,p}(\mathbb{C})))$ .
- **L.** The height of a  $\mathcal{H}$ -prime is given by the number of black boxes in the corresponding Cauchon diagram.

n	$C_n :=   \mathcal{H}\text{-Spec}(\mathcal{O}_q(\mathcal{M}_n(\mathbb{C})))  $
2	14
3	230
4	6902

## Generators of $\mathcal{H}$ -primes

**Conjecture (Goodearl-Lenagan):**  *$\mathcal{H}$ -primes are generated by quantum minors.*

The conjecture is true for  $O_q(\mathcal{M}_2(\mathbb{C}))$  and  $O_q(\mathcal{M}_3(\mathbb{C}))$  (Goodearl-Lenagan).

- **L. (2004)** Assume that  $q$  is transcendental. Then  $\mathcal{H}$ -primes of  $R$  are generated by quantum minors.
- **Yakimov (201?)** Also, assuming  $q$  transcendental, Yakimov gives explicit generating sets of quantum minors.





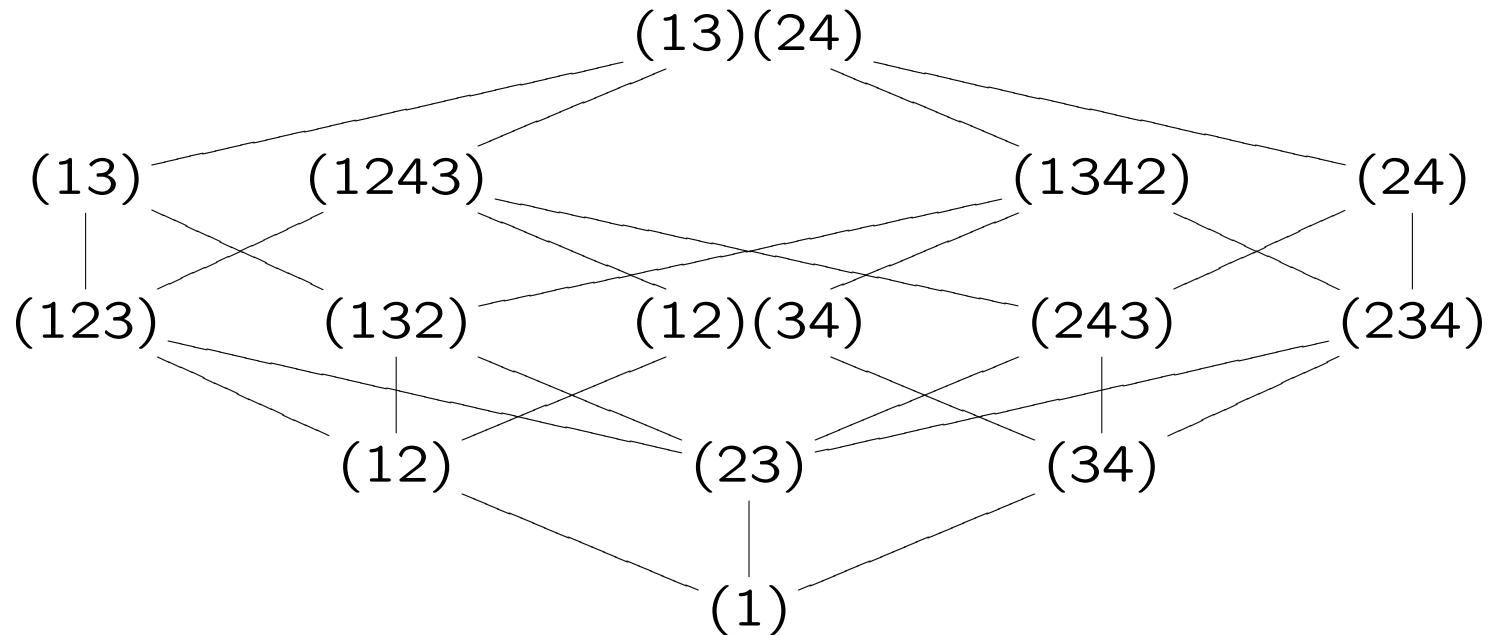
## Restricted permutations

$$\mathcal{S} = \{w \in S_{m+p} \mid -p \leq w(i) - i \leq m \text{ for all } i = 1, 2, \dots, m+p\}.$$

In the  $2 \times 2$  case, this subposet of the Bruhat poset of  $S_4$  is

$$\mathcal{S} = \{w \in S_4 \mid -2 \leq w(i) - i \leq 2 \text{ for all } i = 1, 2, 3, 4\}.$$

and is shown below.



## The poset $\mathcal{H}\text{-Spec}(\mathcal{O}_q(\mathcal{M}_{m,p}(\mathbb{C})))$

Set

$$\mathcal{S} := \{\sigma \in S_{m+p} \mid -p \leq \sigma(i) - i \leq m, \forall i \in \llbracket 1, m+p \rrbracket\}$$

and

$$w_0 := \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & \dots & p & p+1 & p+2 & \dots & p+m \\ m+1 & m+2 & \dots & m+p & 1 & 2 & \dots & m \end{bmatrix}.$$

Then

$$\mathcal{S} = \{w \in S_{m+p} \mid w \leq w_0\}$$

and

**L. (2007)** We have a poset isomorphism

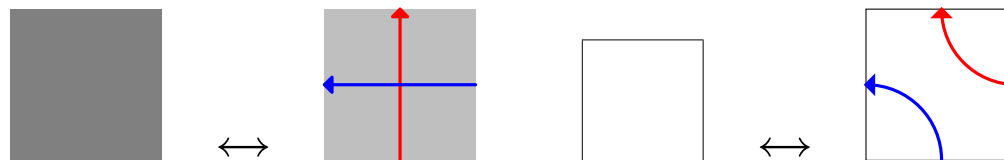
$$\mathcal{H}\text{-Spec}(\mathcal{O}_q(\mathcal{M}_{m,p}(\mathbb{C}))) \simeq \mathcal{S}.$$

## Pipe dreams

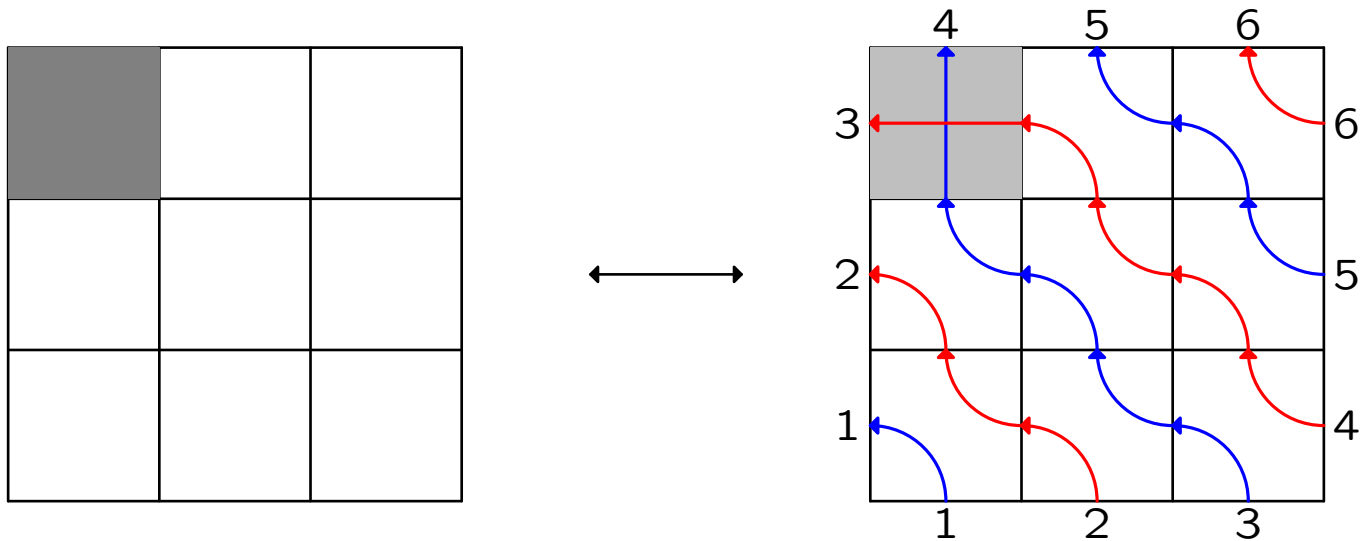
Previous results imply the existence of a bijection between the set of  $m \times p$  Cauchon diagrams and the set  $\mathcal{S}$  of restricted permutations.

This is no coincidence, and the connection between the two posets can be illuminated by using *Pipe Dreams*.

The procedure to produce a restricted permutation from a Cauchon diagram goes as follows. Given a Cauchon diagram, replace each black box by a cross, and each white box by an elbow joint, that is:



## Pipe dreams: an example



So the restricted permutation associated to this Cauchon diagram is  $(3\ 4)$ .

Observe that the all black diagram produces the restricted permutation  $w_0$ .

## Direct graph associated to a diagram

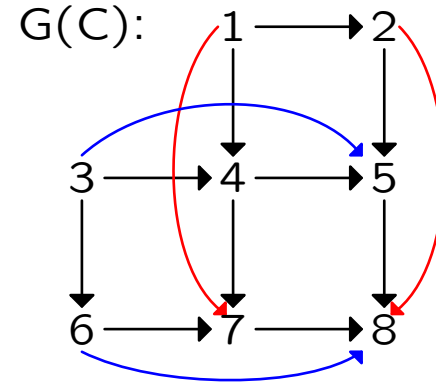
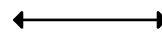
To a Cauchon diagram  $C$ , one can associate a direct graph  $G(C)$  and a skew-symmetric matrix  $A_C$  as follows.

The vertices of  $G(C)$  are the white boxes of  $C$  labeled 1 to  $N$ . We draw an arrow between two vertices in the same column (going from North to South) or on the same row (going from West to East).

$A_C$  is the  $N \times N$  skew-symmetric matrix whose coefficient  $a_{ij}$  ( $i < j$ ) is the number of arrows going from the vertex labeled  $i$  to the vertex labeled  $j$ .

## An example

	1	2
3	4	5
6	7	8



$$\rightsquigarrow A_C = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

## Dimension of strata

**Bell-L. (2010).** The  $\mathcal{H}$ -stratum of  $\mathcal{O}_q(\mathcal{M}_{m,p}(\mathbb{C}))$  associated to  $C$  is a Laurent polynomial ring over  $\mathbb{C}$  in  $\dim \ker A_C$  indeterminates.

Problem: this matrix is huge. It can be  $mp \times mp$  whereas we have proved that the dimension of a stratum is always less than or equal to  $\min(m, p)$ .

**Bell-Casteels-L. (201?).** Let  $C$  be an  $m \times p$  Cauchon diagram and  $w$  be the corresponding restricted permutation.

$$\dim \ker A_C = \dim \ker(P_w + P_{w_0}),$$

where  $P_\sigma$  denotes the permutation-matrix associated to  $\sigma$ .



## Explicit bijections

We define two bijections

$$\phi : \ker A_C \rightarrow \ker(P_w + P_{w_0})$$

and

$$\psi : \ker(P_w + P_{w_0}) \rightarrow \ker A_C.$$

To avoid technicalities, we explain their construction on an example. Consider the following Cauchon diagram

	1	2
3	4	5
6	7	8

$$\text{Recall that } A_C = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

So we have

$$\ker A_C = \text{Vect}\left(u = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, v = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}\right)$$

Recall that in this case we have  $w = (3\ 4)$  and  $w_0 = (1\ 4)(2\ 5)(3\ 6)$ .

$$\text{So } P_w + P_{w_0} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

So we have

$$\ker(P_w + P_{w_0}) = \text{Vect}\left(\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \beta = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}\right)$$

## Bijection 1: Image of $u$

1. Put the coordinates of  $u$  in  $C$

	4	5	6
3		1	0
2	0	0	1
1	-1	0	0

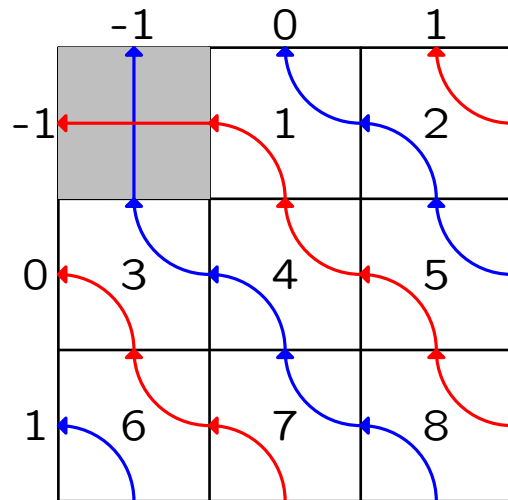
2. The image of  $u$  is the vector  $(y_1, \dots, y_6)$  with

$$y_1 = -(-1+0+0) = 1, \quad y_2 = -(0+0+1) = -1, \quad y_3 = -(1+0) = -1$$

$$y_4 = 0 + (-1) = -1, \quad y_5 = 1 + 0 + 0, \quad y_6 = 0 + 1 + 0.$$

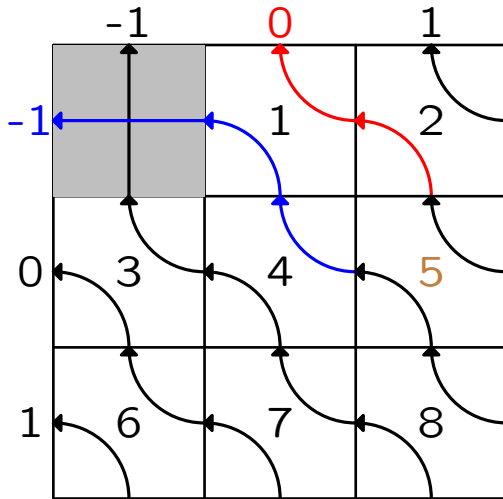
One can check that  $\phi(u) = \alpha - \beta \in \ker(P_w + P_{w_0})$ .

## Bijection 2: image of $\alpha$



The image of  $\alpha$  is the vector  $(x_1, \dots, x_8)$ .

## Bijection 2: image of $\alpha$



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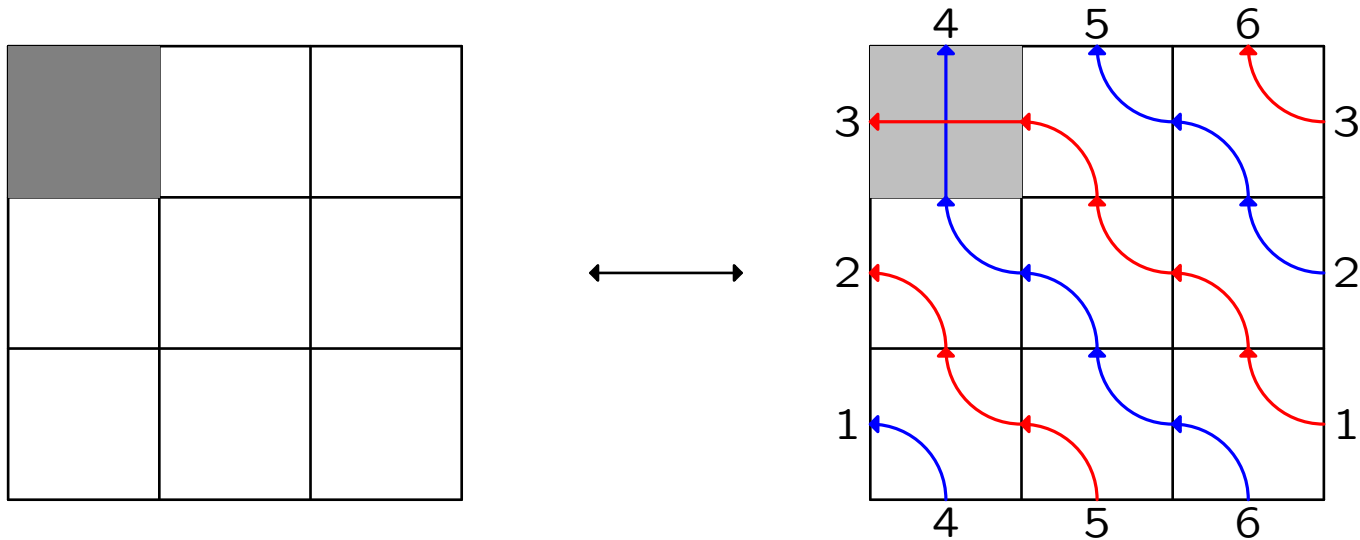
$$x_5 = -1 - 0 = -1$$

One can easily check that

$$\psi(\alpha) = (-1, 0, 1, 0, -1, 1, 1, 0) = -(u + v) \in \ker A_C.$$

Moreover  $\phi \circ \psi = -2\text{id}$  and  $\psi \circ \phi = -2\text{id}$ .

## Dimension of strata: toric permutation



So the toric permutation associated to this Cauchon diagram is  $(1\ 3\ 6\ 4)(2\ 5)$ .

**Bell-Casteels-L. (201?)** The dimension of the stratum associated to  $C$  is equal to the number of odd cycles in the decomposition of the corresponding toric permutation.

# The nonnegative world



- A matrix is **totally positive** if each of its minors is positive.
- A matrix is **totally nonnegative** if each of its minors is non-negative.

## Examples

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 4 & 8 \\ 1 & 3 & 9 & 27 \\ 1 & 4 & 16 & 64 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 3 & 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 4 & 6 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 5 & 6 & 3 & 0 \\ 4 & 7 & 4 & 0 \\ 1 & 4 & 4 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

¿ How much work is involved in checking if a matrix is totally positive?

Eg.  $n = 4$ :

$$\# \text{minors} = \sum_{k=1}^n \binom{n}{k}^2 = \binom{2n}{n} - 1 \approx \frac{4^n}{\sqrt{\pi n}}$$

by using Stirling's approximation

$$n! \approx \sqrt{2\pi n} \frac{n^n}{e^n}$$

## $2 \times 2$ case

The matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$$

has **five** minors:  $a, b, c, d, \Delta = ad - bc$ .

If  $b, c, d, \Delta = ad - bc > 0$  then

$$a = \frac{\Delta + bc}{d} > 0$$

so it is sufficient to check **four** minors.

Gasca and Pena: optimal test for total positivity and algorithm for total nonnegativity.

Let  $\mathcal{M}_{m,p}^{\text{tnn}}$  be the set of totally nonnegative  $m \times p$  real matrices.

Let  $Z$  be a subset of minors. The **cell**  $S_Z^{\circ}$  is the set of matrices in  $\mathcal{M}_{m,p}^{\text{tnn}}$  for which the minors in  $Z$  are zero (and those not in  $Z$  are nonzero).

Some cells may be empty. The space  $\mathcal{M}_{m,p}^{\text{tnn}}$  is partitioned by the non-empty cells.

**A trivial example** In  $\mathcal{M}_{2,1}^{\text{tnn}}$  every cell is non-empty. There are 4 cells:

$$S_{\{\emptyset\}}^{\circ} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \mid x, y > 0 \right\} \quad S_{\{[1,1]\}}^{\circ} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ y \end{pmatrix} \mid y > 0 \right\}$$

$$S_{\{[2,1]\}}^{\circ} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} x \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \mid x > 0 \right\} \quad S_{\{[1,1],[2,1]\}}^{\circ} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

**Example** In  $\mathcal{M}_2^{\text{tnn}}$  the cell  $S_{\{[2,2]\}}^\circ$  is empty.

For, suppose that  $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$  is tnn and  $d = 0$ .

Then  $a, b, c \geq 0$  and also  $ad - bc \geq 0$ .

Thus,  $-bc \geq 0$  and hence  $bc = 0$  so that  $b = 0$  or  $c = 0$ .

(This is exactly the same reasoning as in the the proof that a prime in  $\mathcal{O}_q(\mathcal{M}_2(\mathbb{C}))$  that contains  $d$  must contain either  $b$  or  $c$ !)

**Exercise** There are 14 non-empty cells in  $\mathcal{M}_2^{\text{tnn}}$ .

Postnikov (arXiv:math/0609764) defines **Le-diagrams**: an  $m \times p$  array with entries either 0 or 1 is said to be a **Le-diagram** if it satisfies the following rule: if there is a 0 in a given square then either each square to the left is also filled with 0 or each square above is also filled with 0.

An example and a non-example of a Le-diagram on a  $5 \times 5$  array

1	1	0	1	0
0	0	0	1	0
1	1	1	1	0
0	0	0	1	0
1	1	1	1	0

1	1	0	1	0
0	0	1	0	1
1	1	1	0	1
0	0	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1

- **Postnikov (arXiv:math/0609764)** There is a bijection between Le-diagrams on an  $m \times p$  array and non-empty cells  $S_Z^\circ$  in  $\mathcal{M}_{m,p}^{\text{tnn}}$ .

**For  $2 \times 2$  matrices**, this says that there is a bijection between Le-diagrams on  $2 \times 2$  arrays and non-empty cells in  $\mathcal{M}_2^{\text{tnn}}$ .

## $2 \times 2$ Le-diagrams

1	1
1	1

0	1
1	1

1	0
1	1

1	1
0	1

1	1
1	0

0	0
1	1

0	1
0	1

0	1
1	0

1	0
0	1

1	0
1	0

1	1
0	0

0	0
0	1

0	0
1	0

0	1
0	0

1	0
0	0

0	0
0	0



# The Link

## Totally nonnegative cells

Totally nonnegative cells are defined by the vanishing of families of minors. Some of the TNN cells are empty.

We denote by  $S_Z^0$  the TNN cell associated to the family of minors  $Z$ .

A family of minors is *admissible* if the corresponding TNN cell is non-empty.

**Question: what are the admissible families of minors?**

## Generators of $\mathcal{H}$ -primes in quantum matrices.

Assume that  $q$  is transcendental.

Then  $\mathcal{H}$ -primes of  $\mathcal{O}_q(\mathcal{M}(m, p))$  are generated by quantum minors.

**Question: which families of quantum minors?**

## Conjecture

Let  $Z_q$  be a family of quantum minors, and  $Z$  be the corresponding family of minors.

$\langle Z_q \rangle$  is a  $\mathcal{H}$ -prime ideal iff the cell  $S_Z^0$  is non-empty.

## An algorithm to rule them all

**Deleting derivations algorithm:**

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} a - bd^{-1}c & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$$

**Restoration algorithm:**

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} a + bd^{-1}c & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$$

## An algorithm to rule them all

If  $M = (x_{i,\alpha}) \in \mathcal{M}_{m,p}(K)$ , then we set

$$f_{j,\beta}(M) = (x'_{i,\alpha}) \in \mathcal{M}_{m,p}(K),$$

where

$$x'_{i,\alpha} := \begin{cases} x_{i,\alpha} + x_{i,\beta} x_{j,\beta}^{-1} x_{j,\alpha} & \text{if } x_{j,\beta} \neq 0, i < j \text{ and } \alpha < \beta \\ x_{i,\alpha} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

We set  $M^{(j,\beta)} := f_{j,\beta} \circ \cdots \circ f_{1,2} \circ f_{1,1}(M)$ .

## An example

Set  $M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ . Then

$$M^{(2,2)} = M^{(2,1)} = M^{(1,3)} = M^{(1,2)} = M^{(1,1)} = M,$$

$$M^{(3,1)} = M^{(2,3)} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad M^{(3,2)} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$M^{(3,3)} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 2 & 1 \\ 3 & 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

**Exercise.** Is this matrix TNN?

## TNN Matrices and restoration algorithm

### Goodearl-L.-Lenagan (201?)

- If the entries of  $M$  are nonnegative and its zeros form a Cauchon diagram, then  $M^{(m,p)}$  is TNN.
- Let  $M$  be a matrix with real entries. We can apply the deleting derivation algorithm to  $M$ . Let  $N$  denote the resulting matrix.

Then  $M$  is TNN iff the matrix  $N$  is nonnegative and its zeros form a Cauchon diagram.



## Main Result

**Goodearl-L.-Lenagan (201?)** Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a family of minors in the coordinate ring of  $\mathcal{M}_{m,p}(\mathbb{C})$ , and let  $\mathcal{F}_q$  be the corresponding family of quantum minors in  $\mathcal{O}_q(\mathcal{M}_{m,p}(\mathbb{C}))$ . Then the following are equivalent:

1. The totally nonnegative cell associated to  $\mathcal{F}$  is non-empty.
2.  $\mathcal{F}_q$  is the set of quantum minors that belong to torus-invariant prime in  $\mathcal{O}_q(\mathcal{M}_{m,p}(\mathbb{C}))$ .