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## A NOTE ON THE GROTHENDIECK RING OF THE SYMMETRIC GROUP

CÉDRIC BONNAFÉ

ABSTRACT. Let p be a prime number and let n be a non-zero natural number. We compute the descending Loewy series of the algebra  $\mathbb{F}_p \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathcal{R}_n$ , where  $\mathcal{R}_n$  denotes the ring of virtual ordinary characters of the symmetric group  $\mathfrak{S}_n$ .

Let p be a prime number and let n be a non-zero natural number. Let  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  be the symmetric group of degree n. Let  $\mathcal{R}_n$  denote the ring of virtual ordinary characters of the symmetric group  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  and let  $\overline{\mathcal{R}}_n = \mathbb{F}_p \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathcal{R}_n$ . The aim of this paper is to determine the descending Loewy series of  $\overline{\mathcal{R}}_n$  (see Theorem A). In particular, we deduce that the Loewy length of  $\overline{\mathcal{R}}_n$  is [n/p] + 1 (see Corollary B). Here, if x is a real number, [x] denotes the unique  $r \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $r \leq x < r + 1$ .

Let us introduce some notation. If  $\varphi \in \mathcal{R}_n$ , we denote by  $\overline{\varphi}$  its image in  $\overline{\mathcal{R}}_n$ . The radical of  $\overline{\mathcal{R}}_n$  is denoted by Rad  $\overline{\mathcal{R}}_n$ . If X and Y are two subspaces of  $\overline{\mathcal{R}}_n$ , we denote by XY the subspace of  $\overline{\mathcal{R}}_n$  generated by the elements of the form xy, with  $x \in X$  and  $y \in Y$ .

**Compositions, partitions.** A composition is a finite sequence  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_r)$  of non-zero natural numbers. We set  $|\lambda| = \lambda_1 + \cdots + \lambda_r$  and we say that  $\lambda$  is a composition of  $|\lambda|$ . The  $\lambda_i$ 's are called the *parts* of  $\lambda$ . If moreover  $\lambda_1 \ge \lambda_2 \ge \ldots \ge \lambda_r$ , we say that  $\lambda$  is a *partition* of  $|\lambda|$ . The set of compositions (resp. partitions) of n is denoted by  $\operatorname{Comp}(n)$  (resp.  $\operatorname{Part}(n)$ ). We denote by  $\hat{\lambda}$  the partition of n obtained from  $\lambda$  by reordering its parts. So  $\operatorname{Part}(n) \subset \operatorname{Comp}(n)$  and  $\operatorname{Comp}(n) \to \operatorname{Part}(n), \lambda \mapsto \hat{\lambda}$  is surjective. If  $1 \le i \le n$ , we denote by  $r_i(\lambda)$  the number of occurrences of i as a part of  $\lambda$ . We set

$$\pi_p(\lambda) = \sum_{i=1}^n \left[\frac{r_i(\lambda)}{p}\right].$$

Recall that  $\lambda$  is called *p*-regular (resp. *p*-singular) if and only if  $\pi_p(\lambda) = 0$  (resp.  $\pi_p(\lambda) \ge 1$ ). Note also that  $\pi_p(\lambda) \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots, [n/p]\}$  and that  $\pi_p(\hat{\lambda}) = \pi_p(\lambda)$ . Finally, if  $i \ge 0$ , we set

$$\operatorname{Part}_{i}^{(p)}(n) = \{\lambda \in \operatorname{Part}(n) \mid \pi_{p}(\lambda) \ge i\}.$$

**Young subgroups.** For  $1 \leq i \leq n-1$ , let  $s_i = (i, i+1) \in \mathfrak{S}_n$ . Let  $S_n = \{s_1, s_2, \ldots, s_{n-1}\}$ . Then  $(\mathfrak{S}_n, S_n)$  is a Coxeter group. We denote by  $\ell : \mathfrak{S}_n \to \mathbb{N}$  the associated length function. If  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_r) \in \operatorname{Comp}(n)$ , we set

$$S_{\lambda} = \{ s_i \mid \forall \ 1 \leq j \leq r, \ i \neq \lambda_1 + \dots + \lambda_j \}.$$

Let  $\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda} = \langle S_{\lambda} \rangle$ . Then  $(\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda}, S_{\lambda})$  is a Coxeter group: it is a standard parabolic subgroup of  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  which is canonically isomorphic to  $\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda_1} \times \cdots \times \mathfrak{S}_{\lambda_r}$ . Note that

(1)  $\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda}$  and  $\mathfrak{S}_{\mu}$  are conjugate in  $\mathfrak{S}_{n}$  if and only if  $\hat{\lambda} = \hat{\mu}$ .

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We write  $\lambda \subset \mu$  if  $\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda} \subset \mathfrak{S}_{\mu}$  and we write  $\lambda \leq \mu$  if  $\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda}$  is contained in a subgroup of  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  conjugate to  $\mathfrak{S}_{\mu}$ . Then  $\subset$  is an order on  $\operatorname{Comp}(n)$  and  $\leq$  is a preorder on  $\operatorname{Comp}(n)$  which becomes an order when restricted to  $\operatorname{Part}(n)$ .

Let  $X_{\lambda} = \{w \in \mathfrak{S}_n \mid \forall x \in \mathfrak{S}_{\lambda}, \ \ell(wx) \ge \ell(w)\}$ . Then  $X_{\lambda}$  is a cross-section of  $\mathfrak{S}_n/\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda}$ . Now, let  $\mathcal{N}_{\lambda} = N_{\mathfrak{S}_n}(\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda})$  and  $W(\lambda) = \mathcal{N}_{\lambda} \cap X_{\lambda}$ . Then  $W(\lambda)$  is a subgroup of  $\mathcal{N}_{\lambda}$  and  $\mathcal{N}_{\lambda} = W(\lambda) \ltimes \mathfrak{S}_{\lambda}$ . Note that

(2) 
$$W(\lambda) \simeq \mathfrak{S}_{r_1(\lambda)} \times \cdots \times \mathfrak{S}_{r_n(\lambda)}.$$

Recall that, for a finite group G, the *p*-rank of G is the maximal rank of an elementary abelian *p*-subgroup of G. For instance, [n/p] is the *p*-rank of  $\mathfrak{S}_n$ . So

(3) 
$$\pi_p(\lambda)$$
 is the *p*-rank of  $W(\lambda)$ .

If  $\lambda, \mu \in \text{Comp}(n)$ , we set

$$X_{\lambda\mu} = (X_{\lambda})^{-1} \cap X_{\mu}.$$

Then  $X_{\lambda\mu}$  is a cross-section of  $\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda} \backslash \mathfrak{S}_n / \mathfrak{S}_{\mu}$ . Moreover, if  $d \in X_{\lambda\mu}$ , there exists a unique composition  $\nu$  of n such that  $\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda} \cap {}^d \mathfrak{S}_{\mu} = \mathfrak{S}_{\nu}$ . This composition will be denoted by  $\lambda \cap {}^d \mu$  or by  ${}^d \mu \cap \lambda$ .

The ring  $\mathcal{R}_n$ . If  $\lambda \in \text{Comp}(n)$ , we denote by  $1_{\lambda}$  the trivial character of  $\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda}$  and we set  $\varphi_{\lambda} = \text{Ind}_{\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda}}^{\mathfrak{S}_n} 1_{\lambda}$ . Then, by (1), we have  $\varphi_{\lambda} = \varphi_{\hat{\lambda}}$ . We recall the following well-known old result of Frobenius:

(4) 
$$(\varphi_{\lambda})_{\lambda \in \operatorname{Part}(n)}$$
 is a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -basis of  $\mathcal{R}_n$ .

Moreover, by the Mackey formula for tensor product of induced characters, we have

(5) 
$$\varphi_{\lambda}\varphi_{\mu} = \sum_{d \in X_{\lambda\mu}} \varphi_{\lambda\cap^{d}\mu} = \sum_{d \in X_{\lambda\mu}} \varphi_{\widehat{\lambda\cap^{d}\mu}}.$$

Let us give another form of (5). If  $d \in X_{\lambda\mu}$ , we define  $\Delta_d : \mathcal{N}_{\lambda} \cap {}^d\mathcal{N}_{\mu} \to \mathcal{N}_{\lambda} \times \mathcal{N}_{\mu}$ ,  $w \mapsto (w, d^{-1}wd)$ . Let  $\bar{\Delta}_d : \mathcal{N}_{\lambda} \cap {}^d\mathcal{N}_{\mu} \to W(\lambda) \times W(\mu)$  be the composition of  $\Delta_d$  with the canonical projection  $\mathcal{N}_{\lambda} \times \mathcal{N}_{\mu} \to W(\lambda) \times W(\mu)$ . Then the kernel of  $\bar{\Delta}_d$  is  $\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda \cap {}^d\mu}$ , so  $\bar{\Delta}_d$  induces an injective morphism  $\tilde{\Delta}_d : W(\lambda, \mu, d) \hookrightarrow W(\lambda) \times W(\mu)$ , where  $W(\lambda, \mu, d) = (\mathcal{N}_{\lambda} \cap {}^d\mathcal{N}_{\mu})/\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda \cap {}^d\mu}$ . Now,  $W(\lambda) \times W(\mu)$  acts on  $\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda} \backslash \mathfrak{S}_n / \mathfrak{S}_{\mu}$  and, if  $d \in X_{\lambda\mu}$ , then the stabilizer of  $\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda} d\mathfrak{S}_{\mu}$  in  $W(\lambda) \times W(\mu)$  is  $\tilde{\Delta}_d(W(\lambda, \mu, d))$ . Moreover, if d and d' are two elements of  $X_{\lambda\mu}$  such that  $\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda} d\mathfrak{S}_{\mu}$  and  $\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda} d'\mathfrak{S}_{\mu}$  are in the same  $(W(\lambda) \times W(\mu))$ -orbit, then  $\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda \cap {}^d\mu}$  and  $\mathfrak{S}_{\lambda \cap {}^d\mu}$  are conjugate in  $\mathcal{N}_{\lambda}$ . Therefore,

(6) 
$$\varphi_{\lambda}\varphi_{\mu} = \sum_{d \in X'_{\lambda\mu}} \frac{|W(\lambda)|.|W(\mu)|}{|W(\lambda,\mu,d)|} \varphi_{\lambda \cap d\mu},$$

where  $X'_{\lambda\mu}$  denotes a cross-section of  $\mathcal{N}_{\lambda} \setminus \mathfrak{S}_n / \mathcal{N}_{\mu}$  contained in  $X_{\lambda\mu}$ .

The Loewy series of  $\overline{\mathcal{R}}_n$ . We can now state the main results of this paper.

THEOREM A. If 
$$i \ge 0$$
, we have  $\left(\operatorname{Rad} \bar{\mathcal{R}}_n\right)^i = \bigoplus_{\lambda \in \operatorname{Part}_i^{(p)}(n)} \mathbb{F}_p \bar{\varphi}_{\lambda}$ .

COROLLARY B. The Loewy length of  $\mathcal{R}_n$  is [n/p] + 1.

Corollary B follows immediately from Theorem A. The end of this paper is devoted to the proof of Theorem A.

**Proof of Theorem A.** Let  $\bar{\mathcal{R}}_n^{(i)} = \bigoplus_{\lambda \in \operatorname{Part}_i^{(p)}(n)} \mathbb{F}_p \bar{\varphi}_{\lambda}$ . Note that

$$0 = \bar{\mathcal{R}}_n^{([n/p]+1)} \subset \bar{\mathcal{R}}_n^{([n/p])} \subset \dots \subset \bar{\mathcal{R}}_n^{(1)} \subset \bar{\mathcal{R}}_n^{(0)} = \bar{\mathcal{R}}_n$$

Let us first prove the following fact:

$$(\clubsuit) If i, j \ge 0, then \ \bar{\mathcal{R}}_n^{(i)} \bar{\mathcal{R}}_n^{(j)} \subset \bar{\mathcal{R}}_n^{(i+j)}.$$

Proof of ( $\clubsuit$ ). Let  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$  be two compositions of n such that  $\pi_p(\lambda) \ge i$  and  $\pi_p(\mu) \ge j$ . Let  $d \in X'_{\lambda\mu}$  be such that p does not divide  $\frac{|W(\lambda)|.|W(\mu)|}{|W(\lambda,\mu,d)|}$ . By (6), we only need to prove that this implies that  $\pi_p(\lambda \cap {}^d\mu) \ge i + j$ . But our assumption on d means that  $\tilde{\Delta}_d(W(\lambda,\mu,d))$  contains a Sylow p-subgroup of  $W(\lambda) \times W(\mu)$ . In particular, the p-rank of  $W(\lambda,\mu,d)$  is greater than or equal to the p-rank of  $W(\lambda) \times W(\mu)$ . By (3), this means that the p-rank of  $W(\lambda,\mu,d)$  is  $\ge i+j$ . Since  $W(\lambda,\mu,d)$  is a subgroup of  $W(\lambda \cap {}^d\mu)$ , we get that the p-rank of  $W(\lambda \cap {}^d\mu)$  is  $\ge i+j$ . In other words, again by (3), we have  $\pi_p(\lambda \cap {}^d\mu) \ge i+j$ , as desired.

By  $(\clubsuit)$ ,  $\bar{\mathcal{R}}_n^{(i)}$  is an ideal of  $\bar{\mathcal{R}}_n$  and, if  $i \ge 1$ , then  $\bar{\mathcal{R}}_n^{(i)}$  is a nilpotent ideal of  $\bar{\mathcal{R}}_n$ . Therefore,  $\bar{\mathcal{R}}_n^{(1)} \subset \operatorname{Rad} \bar{\mathcal{R}}_n$ . In fact:

$$(\diamondsuit) \qquad \qquad \operatorname{Rad} \bar{\mathcal{R}}_n = \bar{\mathcal{R}}_n^{(1)}$$

Proof of  $(\diamondsuit)$ . First, note that  $\operatorname{Rad} \overline{\mathcal{R}}_n$  consists of the nilpotent elements of  $\overline{\mathcal{R}}_n$  because  $\overline{\mathcal{R}}_n$  is commutative. Now, let  $\varphi$  be a nilpotent element of  $\overline{\mathcal{R}}_n$ . Write  $\varphi = \sum_{\lambda \in \operatorname{Part}(n)} a_\lambda \overline{\varphi}_\lambda$  and let  $\lambda_0 \in \operatorname{Part}(n)$  be maximal (for the order  $\leqslant$  on  $\operatorname{Part}(n)$ ) such that  $a_{\lambda_0} \neq 0$ . Then, by (6), the coefficient of  $\varphi_{\lambda_0}$  in  $\varphi^r$  is equal to  $a_{\lambda_0}^r |W(\lambda_0)|^{r-1}$ . Therefore, since  $\varphi$  is nilpotent and  $a_{\lambda_0} \neq 0$ , we get that p divides  $|W(\lambda_0)|$ , so that  $\lambda_0 \in \operatorname{Part}_1^{(p)}(n)$  (by (3)). Consequently,  $\varphi - a_{\lambda_0} \overline{\varphi}_{\lambda_0}$  is nilpotent and we can repeat the argument to find finally that  $\varphi \in \overline{\mathcal{R}}_n^{(1)}$ .

We shall now establish a special case of (5) (or (6)). We need some notation. If  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_r)$  is a composition of n' and  $\beta = (\beta_1, \ldots, \beta_s)$  is a composition of n'', let  $\alpha \sqcup \beta$  denote the composition of n' + n'' equal to  $(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_r, \beta_1, \ldots, \beta_r)$ . If  $1 \leq j \leq n$  and if  $0 \leq k \leq [n/j]$ , we denote by  $\boldsymbol{\nu}(n, j, k)$  the composition  $(n - jk, j, j, \ldots, j)$  of n, where j is repeated k times (if n = jk, then the part n - jk is omitted). If  $\lambda \in \text{Comp}(n)$ , we set

 $M(\lambda) = \{0\} \cup \{1 \le j \le n \mid p \text{ does not divide } r_j(\lambda)\},$  $\mathbf{m}(\lambda) = \max M(\lambda),$  $J(\lambda) = \{0\} \cup \{1 \le j \le n \mid r_j(\lambda) \ge p\},$ 

$$\mathbf{j}(\lambda) = \min J(\lambda)$$

and

$$\mathbf{jm}(\lambda) = (\mathbf{j}(\lambda), \mathbf{m}(\lambda)).$$

Let  $I = \{0, 1, ..., [n/p]\}$ . Then  $\mathbf{jm}(\lambda) \in I \times I$ . Let us now introduce an order  $\preccurlyeq$  on  $I \times I$ . If (j, m), (j', m') are two elements of  $I \times I$ , we write  $(j, m) \preccurlyeq (j', m')$  if one of the following two conditions is satisfied:

(a) 
$$j < j'$$
.  
(b)  $j = j'$  and  $m \ge m'$ 

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Now, let  $i \ge 1$  and let  $\lambda \in \operatorname{Part}_{i+1}^{(p)}(n)$ . Let  $(j,m) = \mathbf{jm}(\lambda)$ . Then  $\lambda = \widehat{\alpha \sqcup \nu_0}$ , where  $\alpha$  is a partition of n - m - jp and  $\nu_0 = \boldsymbol{\nu}(m + jp, j, p)$ . Let  $\tilde{\lambda} = \alpha \sqcup (m + jp)$ . Then  $\pi_p(\tilde{\lambda}) = i$  (indeed,  $r_{m+jp}(\tilde{\lambda}) = 1 + r_{m+jp}(\alpha) = 1 + r_{m+jp}(\lambda)$  and, by the maximality of m, we have that p divides  $r_{m+jp}(\lambda)$  and

$$(\heartsuit) \qquad \qquad \bar{\varphi}_{\boldsymbol{\nu}(n,j,p)}\bar{\varphi}_{\tilde{\lambda}} \in \bar{\varphi}_{\lambda} + \Big( \underset{\substack{\mu \in \operatorname{Part}_{i+1}^{(p)}(n) \\ \mathbf{jm}(\mu) \prec (j,m)}}{\oplus} \mathbb{F}_{p}\bar{\varphi}_{\mu} \Big).$$

Proof of  $(\heartsuit)$ . Let  $\nu = \boldsymbol{\nu}(n, j, p)$ . Since  $\pi_p(\lambda) = i + 1 \ge 2$ , there exists  $j' \in \{1, 2, \dots, [n/p]\}$  such that  $r_{j'}(\lambda) \ge p$ . Then  $j' \ge j$  (by definition of j), so  $n \ge 2pj$ . In particular, n - pj > j, so  $W(\nu) \simeq \mathfrak{S}_p$ . Now, if m' > m, then  $r_{m'}(\alpha) = r_{m'}(\lambda)$ , so

$$(\heartsuit') \qquad \qquad \forall \ m' > m, \ r_{m'}(\alpha) \equiv 0 \mod p.$$

Also

$$(\heartsuit'') \qquad \forall \ l \neq m + jp, \ r_l(\lambda) = r_l(\alpha)$$

and

$$(\heartsuit'') \qquad \qquad r_{m+jp}(\lambda) = r_{m+jp}(\alpha) + 1.$$

Now, keep the notation of (6). We may, and we will, assume that  $1 \in X'_{\nu\lambda}$ . First, note that  $\nu \cap \tilde{\lambda} = \alpha \sqcup \nu_0$  and that the image of  $\tilde{\Delta}_1$  in  $W(\nu) \times W(\tilde{\lambda})$  is equal to  $W(\nu) \times W(\alpha)$ . But, by  $(\heartsuit')$ ,  $(\heartsuit'')$  and  $(\heartsuit''')$ , the index of  $W(\alpha)$  in  $W(\tilde{\lambda})$  is  $\equiv 1 \mod p$ . Thus, by (6), we have

$$\bar{\varphi}_{\nu}\bar{\varphi}_{\tilde{\lambda}} = \bar{\varphi}_{\lambda} + \sum_{d \in X'_{\nu\tilde{\lambda}} - \{1\}} \frac{|W(\nu)|.|W(\tilde{\lambda})|}{|W(\nu, \tilde{\lambda}, d)|} \bar{\varphi}_{\nu \cap d\tilde{\lambda}}.$$

Now, let d be an element of  $X_{\nu\tilde{\lambda}}$  such that p does not divide  $\frac{|W(\nu)|.|W(\tilde{\lambda})|}{|W(\nu,\tilde{\lambda},d)|} = x_d$  and such that  $\mathbf{jm}(\nu \cap {}^d\tilde{\lambda}) \succeq \mathbf{jm}(\lambda)$ . It is sufficient to show that  $d \in \mathcal{N}_{\nu}\mathcal{N}_{\tilde{\lambda}}$ . Write  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_r)$ . Then

$$\nu \cap {}^{d}\lambda = (n_1, \dots, n_r, n_0) \sqcup j^{(1)} \sqcup \dots \sqcup j^{(p)},$$

where  $n_k \ge 0$  and  $j^{(l)}$  is a composition of j with at most r+1 parts. Since p does not divide  $x_d$ , the image of  $\mathcal{N}_{\nu} \cap {}^d\mathcal{N}_{\tilde{\lambda}}$  in  $W(\nu)$  contains a Sylow p-subgroup of  $W(\nu) \simeq \mathfrak{S}_p$ . Let  $w \in \mathcal{N}_{\nu} \cap {}^d\mathcal{N}_{\tilde{\lambda}}$ be such that its image in  $W(\nu)$  is an element of order p. Then there exists  $\sigma \in \mathcal{N}_{\nu}$  such that  $w\sigma$  normalizes  $\mathfrak{S}_{\nu \cap {}^d\tilde{\lambda}}$ . In particular,  $\widehat{j^{(1)}} = \cdots = \widehat{j^{(p)}}$ . So, if  $j^{(1)} \neq (j)$ , then  $\mathbf{j}(\nu \cap {}^d\tilde{\lambda}) < \mathbf{j}(\lambda)$ , which contradicts our hypothesis. So  $j^{(1)} = \cdots = j^{(p)} = (j)$ . Therefore,

$$\tilde{\lambda} \cap {}^{d^{-1}}\nu = \nu(\alpha_1, j, k_1) \sqcup \cdots \sqcup \nu(\alpha_r, j, k_r) \sqcup \nu(m + jp, j, k_0)$$

where  $0 \leq k_i \leq p$  and  $\sum_{i=0}^r k_i = p$ . Note that  $(n_1, \ldots, n_r, n_0) = (\alpha_1 - k_1 j, \ldots, \alpha_r - k_r j, \alpha_0 - k_0 j)$ where, for simplification, we denote  $\alpha_0 = m + jp$ . Also,  $\mathbf{j}(\tilde{\lambda} \cap d^{-1}\nu) \leq j$  and, since  $\mathbf{jm}(\tilde{\lambda} \cap d^{-1}\nu) \geq (j,m)$ , we have that  $\mathbf{m}(\tilde{\lambda} \cap d^{-1}\nu) \leq m$ . Recall that  $d^{-1}wd \in \mathcal{N}_{\tilde{\lambda}}$ . So two cases may occur:

• If the image of  $d^{-1}wd$  in  $W(\tilde{\lambda})$  has order p, this means that there exists a sequence  $0 \leq i_1 < \cdots < i_p \leq r$  such that  $0 \neq k_{i_1} = \cdots = k_{i_p}$  (= 1) and such that  $\alpha_{i_1} = \cdots = \alpha_{i_p}$ . So  $r_l(\tilde{\lambda} \cap {}^{d^{-1}}\nu) \equiv r_l(\tilde{\lambda}) \mod p$  for every  $l \geq 1$ . In particular,  $r_{m+jp}(\tilde{\lambda} \cap {}^{d^{-1}}\nu) \equiv 1 + r_{m+jp}(\alpha) \equiv 1 \mod p$  by  $(\heartsuit')$  and  $(\heartsuit''')$ . Thus,  $\mathbf{m}(\tilde{\lambda} \cap {}^{d^{-1}}\nu) \geq m + jp > m$ , which contradicts our hypothesis.

• Therefore, the image of  $d^{-1}wd$  in  $W(\tilde{\lambda})$  has order 1. So there exists a unique  $i \in \{0, 1, \ldots, r\}$ such that  $k_i = p$ . Consequently,  $k_{i'} = 0$  if  $i' \neq i$ . If  $\alpha_i > m + jp$ , then  $r_{\alpha_i}(\tilde{\lambda} \cap d^{-1}\nu) =$   $r_{\alpha_i}(\tilde{\lambda}) - 1 = r_{\alpha_i}(\alpha) - 1$  (by  $(\heartsuit'')$ ), so p does not divide  $r_{\alpha_i}(\tilde{\lambda} \cap {}^{d^{-1}}\nu)$  (by  $(\heartsuit')$ ), which implies that  $\mathbf{m}(\tilde{\lambda} \cap {}^{d^{-1}}\nu) \ge \alpha_i > m$ , contrarily to our hypothesis. If  $\alpha_i < m + jp$ , then  $r_{m+jp}(\tilde{\lambda} \cap {}^{d^{-1}}\nu) = r_{m+jp}(\tilde{\lambda}) = r_{m+jp}(\alpha) + 1$  (by  $(\heartsuit'')$ ), so p does not divide  $r_{m+jp}(\tilde{\lambda} \cap {}^{d^{-1}}\nu)$  (by  $(\heartsuit')$ ), contrarily to our hypothesis. This shows that  $\alpha_i = m + jp$ . In other words,  $d \in \mathcal{N}_{\tilde{\lambda}}\mathcal{N}_{\nu}$ , as desired.  $\Box$ 

By  $(\diamondsuit)$ , Theorem A follows immediately from the next result: if  $i \ge 0$ , then

$$(\bigstar) \qquad \qquad \bar{\mathcal{R}}_n^{(1)}\bar{\mathcal{R}}_n^{(i)} = \bar{\mathcal{R}}_n^{(i+1)}.$$

Proof of ( $\bigstar$ ). We may assume that  $i \ge 1$ . By ( $\bigstar$ ), we have  $\bar{\mathcal{R}}_n^{(1)} \bar{\mathcal{R}}_n^{(i)} \subset \bar{\mathcal{R}}_n^{(i+1)}$ . So we only need to prove that, if  $\lambda \in \operatorname{Part}_{i+1}^{(p)}(n)$  then  $\bar{\varphi}_{\lambda} \in \bar{\mathcal{R}}_n^{(1)} \bar{\mathcal{R}}_n^{(i)}$ . But this follows from ( $\heartsuit$ ) and an easy induction on  $\mathbf{jm}(\lambda) \in I \times I$  (for the order  $\preccurlyeq$ ).

Laboratoire de Mathématiques de Besançon, (CNRS - UMR 6623), Université de Franche-Comté, 16 Route de Gray, 25030 Besançon Cedex, France

*E-mail address*: bonnafe@math.univ-fcomte.fr