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On bijections between monotone rooted trees and the comb basis

Fu Liu[†]

Department of Mathematics, University of California, Davis, USA.

Abstract. Let A be an n -element set. Let $\mathcal{L}ie_2(A)$ be the multilinear part of the free Lie algebra on A with a pair of compatible Lie brackets, and $\mathcal{L}ie_2(A, i)$ the subspace of $\mathcal{L}ie_2(A)$ generated by all the monomials in $\mathcal{L}ie_2(A)$ with i brackets of one type. The author and Dotsenko-Khoroshkin show that the dimension of $\mathcal{L}ie_2(A, i)$ is the size of $\mathcal{R}_{A,i}$, the set of rooted trees on A with i decreasing edges. There are three families of bases known for $\mathcal{L}ie_2(A, i)$: the comb basis, the Lyndon basis, and the Liu-Lyndon basis.

Recently, González D'León and Wachs, in their study of (co)homology of the poset of weighted partitions (which has close connection to $\mathcal{L}ie_2(A, i)$), asked whether there are nice bijections between $\mathcal{R}_{A,i}$ and the comb basis or the Lyndon basis. We give a natural definition for "nice bijections", and conjecture that there is a unique nice bijection between $\mathcal{R}_{A,i}$ and the comb basis. We show the conjecture is true for the extreme cases where $i = 0, n - 1$.

Résumé. Soit A un ensemble à n éléments. Soit $\mathcal{L}ie_2(A)$ la partie multilinéaire de l'algèbre de Lie libre sur A avec une paire de crochets de Lie compatibles et $\mathcal{L}ie_2(A, i)$ le sous-espace de $\mathcal{L}ie_2(A)$ généré par tous les monômes en $\mathcal{L}ie_2(A)$ avec i supports d'un même type. L'auteur et Dotsenko-Khoroshkin montrent que la dimension de $\mathcal{L}ie_2(A, i)$ est la taille de la $\mathcal{R}_{A,i}$, l'ensemble des arbres enracinés sur A avec i arêtes décroissantes. Il y a trois familles de bases connues pour $\mathcal{L}ie_2(A, i)$: la base de peigne, la base Lyndon, et la base Liu-Lyndon.

Récemment, Gonzalez, D' Léon et Wachs, dans leur étude de (co)-homologie de la poset des partitions pondérés, ont demandé si il y a des bijections jolies entre $\mathcal{R}_{A,i}$, et la base de peigne ou la base Lyndon. Nous donnons une définition naturelle de "bijection jolie", et un conjecture qu'il y a une seule bijection jolie entre $\mathcal{R}_{A,i}$, et la base de peigne. Nous montrons que la conjecture est vraie pour les cas extrêmes: $i = 0$, et $n - 1$.

Keywords: free Lie algebra, bijection, rooted trees, comb bases

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Let $A = \{a_1 < a_2 < \dots < a_n\}$ be an ordered set and \mathbf{k} a field. Let $\mathcal{L}ie(n)$ or $\mathcal{L}ie(A)$ be the multilinear component of the free Lie algebra on A over \mathbf{k} . It is well known that the dimension of $\mathcal{L}ie(n)$ is $(n-1)!$. Feigin considered the free Lie algebra on A equipped with two compatible Lie brackets $[\cdot, \cdot]$ and $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$, and

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its multilinear component which we denote by $\mathcal{L}ie_2(n)$ or $\mathcal{L}ie_2(A)$. Further, he conjectured the dimension of $\mathcal{L}ie_2(n)$ to be n^{n-1} . His conjecture was proved by the author [7] and Dotsenko-Khoroshkin [2, 3]. In fact, a refinement of Feigin’s conjecture was obtained in [7] as well: let $\mathcal{L}ie_2(n, i)$ (or $\mathcal{L}ie_2(A, i)$) be the subspace of $\mathcal{L}ie_2(n)$ (or $\mathcal{L}ie_2(A)$) generated by all the monomials in $\mathcal{L}ie_2(n)$ (or $\mathcal{L}ie_2(A)$) with exactly i $[\cdot, \cdot]$ ’s (and $n - 1 - i$ $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ ’s), then

$$\dim \mathcal{L}ie_2(A, i) = |\mathcal{R}_{A,i}|, \tag{1.1}$$

where $\mathcal{R}_{A,i}$ is the set of rooted trees on A with i decreasing edges. In [2, 3], Dotsenko and Khoroshkin use the theory of operads to prove Feigin’s conjecture. They also obtain character formulas for the representation of the symmetric groups \mathfrak{S}_n and the SL_2 group in $\mathcal{L}ie_2(n)$. Although (1.1) is not derived directly in their work, it follows from their character formulas and a result of Drake [4].

Another interesting property of $\mathcal{L}ie(n)$ is its close connection to the (co)homology of the partition lattice Π_n . The symmetric group \mathfrak{S}_n acts naturally on $\mathcal{L}ie(n)$, so we can consider $\mathcal{L}ie(n)$ an \mathfrak{S}_n -module. At the same time, \mathfrak{S}_n also acts naturally on Π_n and this action induces isomorphic representations of \mathfrak{S}_n on the unique nonvanishing reduced simplicial homology $\tilde{H}_{n-3}(\bar{\Pi}_n)$ and cohomology $\tilde{H}^{n-3}(\bar{\Pi}_n)$ of the order complex $\Delta(\bar{\Pi}_n)$ of the proper part $\bar{\Pi}_n$ of Π_n . It is a classical result that

$$\tilde{H}_{n-3}(\bar{\Pi}_n) \cong_{\mathfrak{S}_n} \mathcal{L}ie(n) \otimes \text{sgn}_n, \tag{1.2}$$

where sgn_n is the sign representation of \mathfrak{S}_n .

Dotsenko and Khoroshkin [2] introduced a weighted version of Π_n , denoted by Π_n^w and called the *poset of weighted partitions*. (The precise definition of Π_n^w is not important to us in this paper.) The weighted partition poset has one unique minimal element, denoted by $\hat{0}$, and n maximal elements, denoted by $[n]^i$ for $i = 0, 1, \dots, n - 1$. The (co)homology of maximal open intervals $(0, [n]^i)$ is studied. Vallette [8] and Dotsenko-Khoroshkin [3] show, using the theory of operads, that

$$\tilde{H}_{n-3}((\hat{0}, [n]^i)) \cong_{\mathfrak{S}_n} \mathcal{L}ie_2(n, i) \otimes \text{sgn}_n. \tag{1.3}$$

Since $(0, [n]^i) \cong \bar{\Pi}_n$ and $\mathcal{L}ie_2(n, i) \cong \mathcal{L}ie(n)$ when $i = 0$ or $n - 1$, their result generalizes (1.2).

In [6], González D’león and Wachs extend various classical results of Π_n to Π_n^w . In particular, they establish a strong connection between cohomology of open intervals $(\hat{0}, [n]^i)$ and $2v$ -colored binary trees, which give another proof for (1.3) and provide a way to construct bases for $\tilde{H}^{n-3}((\hat{0}, [n]^i))$ from bases for $\mathcal{L}ie_2(n, i)$. They also construct a basis for $\tilde{H}_{n-3}((\hat{0}, [n]^i))$ from $\mathcal{R}_{A,i}$.

1.2 Questions and results

There are three families of bases known for $\mathcal{L}ie_2(A, i)$ (and thus for $\tilde{H}^{n-3}((\hat{0}, [n]^i))$) summarized in [6] by González D’León and Wachs in their study of (co)homology of weighted partition poset. We list them here, following the notations in [6]:

- $\text{Comb}_{A,i}^2$: Bershtein-Dotsenk-Khoroshkin [1] introduced a comb basis, for $\mathcal{L}ie_2(A, i)$ generalizing Wachs’ comb basis [9] for $\mathcal{L}ie(A)$.
- $\text{Liu}_{A,i}^2$: The author [7] introduced a Liu-Lyndon basis for $\mathcal{L}ie_2(A, i)$ generalizing the standard Lyndon basis for $\mathcal{L}ie(A)$.

- $\text{Lyn}_{A,i}^2$: González D’león-Wachs [6] constructed another basis for $\mathcal{L}ie_2(A, i)$ that generalizes the standard Lyndon basis. We will refer to it as the Lyndon basis.

Since the dimension of $\mathcal{L}ie_2(A, i)$ is known to be the size of $\mathcal{R}_{A,i}$, we have

$$|\mathcal{R}_{A,i}| = |\text{Comb}_{A,i}^2| = |\text{Liu}_{A,i}^2| = |\text{Lyn}_{A,i}^2|.$$

It is thus natural to ask whether one can give bijections between the above four sets. In [7], the author gives a bijection between $\mathcal{R}_{A,i}$ and $\text{Liu}_{A,i}$. In [5], González D’león constructs a bijection between $\text{Comb}_{A,i}^2$ and $\text{Lyn}_{A,i}^2$. Given these results, González D’león and Wachs ask whether there are nice bijections between $\mathcal{R}_{A,i}$ and $\text{Comb}_{A,i}^2$ or $\text{Lyn}_{A,i}^2$ [6, Remark 5.11]. The motivation of this paper is to answer their question.

Before we can answer the question of González D’león and Wachs, we need to clarify what bijections are “nice”. We give such a definition in Section 3, where *good-pair bijections* are defined. With this definition, we conjecture the following:

Conjecture 1.1 *There exists a unique good-pair bijection from $\mathcal{R}_{A,i} \rightarrow \text{Comb}_{A,i}^2$ for any nonempty finite ordered set A and $0 \leq i \leq |A| - 1$.*

Below is the main result of the paper.

Theorem 1.2 *Conjecture 1.1 holds for $i = 0$ and $i = n - 1$.*

We finish this part with a potential consequence of answering González D’león and Wachs’ question. In [5], González D’león generalizes $\mathcal{L}ie_2(n)$ to $\mathcal{L}ie_k(n)$, the multilinear part of the free Lie algebra with k compatible brackets, and introduces a new corresponding poset of weighted partition Π_n^k that generalizes Π_n^w . He obtains various dimension formulas for $\mathcal{L}ie_k(n)$ and generalizations of the comb basis $\text{Comb}_{A,i}^2$ and the Lyndon basis $\text{Lyn}_{A,i}^2$. Generalizing the techniques in [6], he shows these bases also provide bases for cohomology of maximal open intervals of Π_n^k . However, bases for homology of Π_n^k are still waiting to be found. One key ingredient used in [6] to find a basis for $\tilde{H}_{n-3}(\hat{0}, [n]^i)$ is the bijection from $\mathcal{R}_{A,i}$ to $\text{Liu}_{A,i}^2$ given in [7]. Since neither bases for $\mathcal{L}ie_k(n)$ constructed in [5] is a generalization of $\text{Liu}_{A,i}^2$, it is hard to generalize the method used for Π_n^w to Π_n^k . However, if we are able to find a nice bijection from $\mathcal{R}_{A,i}$ to either $\text{Comb}_{A,i}^2$ or $\text{Lyn}_{A,i}^2$, we can hope to generalize it and find a basis for the homology of maximal open intervals of Π_n^k .

2 Rooted trees and the comb basis

In this section, we will introduce the main combinatorial objects that are going to be used in this paper.

Definition 2.1 *A tree is a connected acyclic graph. A rooted tree is a tree with one special vertex, which we call it the root of the tree. Let \mathcal{R}_A be the set of all rooted trees on the n -element set A , i.e., all the rooted trees with n vertices that are labeled by the elements in A .*

For any edge $\{i, j\}$ in a rooted tree, if i is closer to the root than j , we call i the parent of j and j a child of i . Furthermore, if i is the parent of j , we say $\{i, j\}$ an increasing edge if $i < j$, and a decreasing edge if $i > j$. For convenience, we color each increasing edge blue and each decreasing edge red.

Let $\mathcal{R}_{A,i}$ be the set of rooted trees on A with i decreasing/blue edges (and $n - 1 - i$ increasing/blue edges).

Note that for any rooted tree in $\mathcal{R}_{A,0}$, all of its edge are increasing. Thus, we call trees in $\mathcal{R}_{A,0}$ increasing trees. Similarly, we call trees in $\mathcal{R}_{A,n-1}$ decreasing trees.

A monotone tree is either an increasing tree or a decreasing tree.

See Figure 1 for the nine rooted trees in \mathcal{R}_A with $n = 3$, where the first two trees on the first row are increasing trees in $\mathcal{R}_{A,0}$, the last two trees on the first row are decreasing trees in $\mathcal{R}_{A,2}$, and the five trees on the second row are in $\mathcal{R}_{A,1}$.

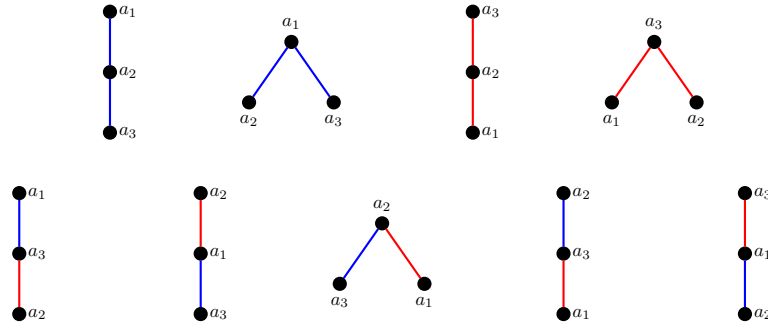


Fig. 1: Rooted trees in \mathcal{R}_A with $n = 3$

A vertex in a rooted tree is a *leaf* if it does not have any children, and is an *internal vertex* otherwise.

Definition 2.2 A binary tree is an ordered (rooted) tree, where all of its internal vertices have exactly two children.

A 2v-colored binary tree is a binary tree whose internal vertices are colored by red or blue. We denote by \mathcal{BT}_A the set of all 2v-colored binary trees whose leaves are labeled by A , and by $\mathcal{BT}_{A,i}$ the set of all 2v-colored binary trees whose leaves are labeled by A and i of whose internal vertices are red.

See Figure 2 for an example of 2v-colored binary tree.

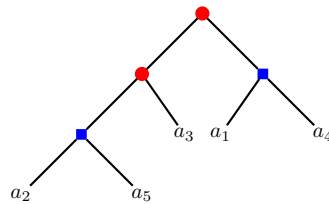


Fig. 2: Example of a tree in $\mathcal{BT}_{A,2}$ with $n = 5$

A labeled binary tree is *normalized* if the leftmost leaf of each subtree has the smallest label in the subtree.

Definition 2.3 A tree in \mathcal{BT}_A is a 2v-colored comb if it is normalized and satisfies the following coloring restriction: for each internal vertex i whose right child j is not a leaf, i is colored red and j is colored blue.

We denote by Comb_A^2 the set of all $2v$ -colored combs in \mathcal{BT}_A , and by $\text{Comb}_{A,i}^2$ the set of all $2v$ -colored combs in $\mathcal{BT}_{A,i}$.

See Figure 3 for all the nine combs in Comb_A^2 with $n = 3$, where the first two trees on the first row are in $\text{Comb}_{A,0}^2$, the last two trees on the first row are in $\text{Comb}_{A,2}^2$, and the five trees on the second row are in $\text{Comb}_{A,1}^2$.

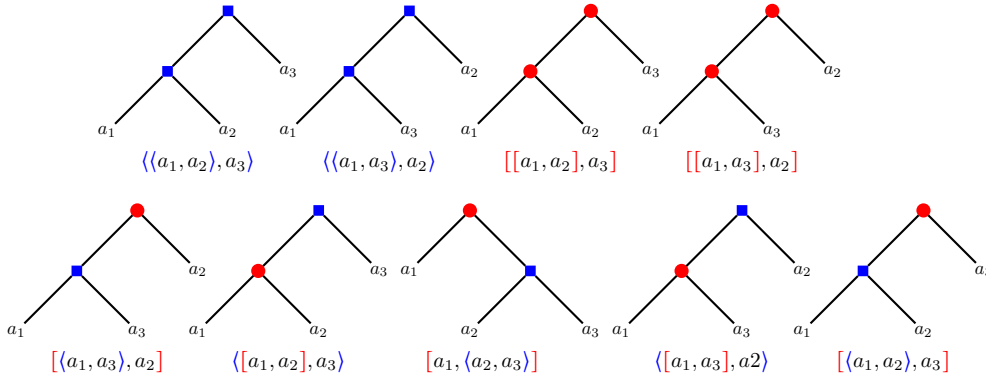


Fig. 3: $2v$ -colored combs in Comb_A^2 with $n = 3$

There is a canonical bijection between $\mathcal{BT}_{A,i}$ and all the monomials in $\mathcal{Lie}_2(A, i)$: given a $2v$ -colored binary tree in $\mathcal{BT}_{A,i}$, each leaf denotes a letter in A , and we can construct a monomial in $\mathcal{Lie}_2(A, i)$ recursively by interpreting each internal vertex as a bracket of the left and right subtrees, with red vertices corresponding to $[\cdot, \cdot]$ and blue vertices corresponding to $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$. For example, in Figure 3, each comb corresponds to the monomial shown below it. Therefore, we can consider that $\mathcal{Lie}_2(A, i)$ is spanned by elements of $\mathcal{BT}_{A,i}$ and use $\mathcal{BT}_{A,i}$ to describe bases of $\mathcal{Lie}_2(A)$.

Bershtein, Dotsenko and Khoroshkin show in [1] that $\text{Comb}_{A,i}^2$, considered as a set of monomials, is a basis for $\mathcal{Lie}_2(A, i)$, and we call it the *comb basis*.

From now on, we will always consider \mathcal{BT}_A and Comb_A^2 as sets of monomials of $\mathcal{Lie}_2(A)$. (We only introduce the binary tree terminology because it is easier to be used to describe the combs.)

3 Good-pair bijections

In this section, we will define *good-pair* bijections, which we consider to be “nice” bijections, and reduce Conjecture 1.1 to a new conjecture (Conjecture 3.9). We will also explain why our definition of “good-pair bijection” is natural.

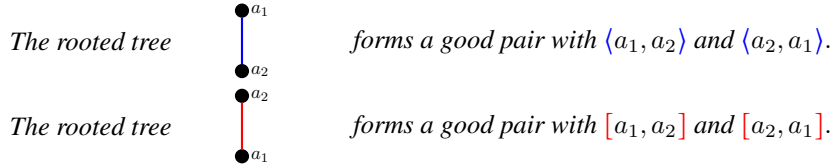
Definition 3.1 We say $m \in \mathcal{BT}_A$ and $G \in \mathcal{R}_A$ form a good pair if one of the following is satisfied:

- (i) $|A| = 1$.
- (ii) Suppose $|A| \geq 2$ and $m = \{m_1, m_2\}$, where $\{\cdot, \cdot\} = [\cdot, \cdot]$ or $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$. There exists an edge e of G such that:

1. e has the same color as $\{\cdot, \cdot\}$, i.e., e is red if $\{\cdot, \cdot\} = [\cdot, \cdot]$ and e is blue if $\{\cdot, \cdot\} = \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$;
2. By removing e from G , we obtain two rooted trees G_1 and G_2 such that m_i and G_i form a good pair for each i .

It follows immediately from the definition that if $m \in \mathcal{BT}_A$ and $G \in \mathcal{R}_A$ form a good pair, then $m \in \mathcal{BT}_{A,i}$ and $G \in \mathcal{R}_{A,i}$ for some i .

Example 3.2 Below we give all the good pairs between elements in \mathcal{R}_A and \mathcal{BT}_A when $|A| = 2$.



Example 3.3 In Figure 4, G_1 and G_2 are the (only) two rooted trees in $\mathcal{R}_{A,0}$, and m_1 and m_2 are two monomials in $\mathcal{BT}_{A,0}$. We summarize the good-pair relations between $\{m_1, m_2\}$ and $\{G_1, G_2\}$ below.

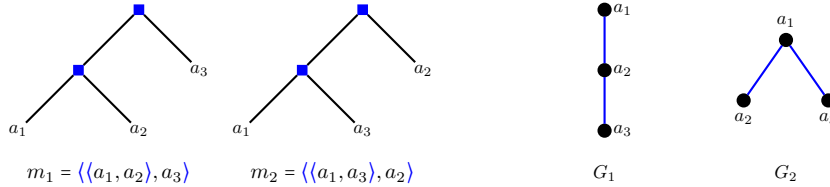


Fig. 4:

- G_1 forms a good pair with m_1 , but not with m_2 . (One sees that in order to be a good pair with m_2 , a rooted tree has to have a blue edge connecting a_1 and a_3 . However, G_1 does not have such an edge.)
- G_2 forms a good pair with both m_1 and m_2 .

Definition 3.4 Given $B \subseteq \mathcal{BT}_{A,i}$ a basis for $\mathcal{L}ie_2(A, i)$, we say a bijection $\psi : \mathcal{R}_{A,i} \rightarrow B$ is a good-pair bijection if $\psi(G)$ and G form a good pair for each $G \in \mathcal{R}_{A,i}$.

Example 3.5 Suppose $n = 3$. Let m_1, m_2, G_1 and G_2 be as in Figure 4. Note that $\{m_1, m_2\} = \text{Comb}_{A,0}^2$ is the comb basis for $\mathcal{L}ie_2(A, i)$.

Clearly, the map that maps G_i to m_i for $i = 1, 2$ is a good-pair bijection. Furthermore, we observe that it is the **unique** good-pair bijection from $\mathcal{R}_{A,0}$ to B .

Because of the observation in the above example, we modify question of González D’León and Wachs:

Question 3.6 For each of the three known bases $\text{Comb}_{A,i}^2$, $\text{Liu}_{A,i}^2$, and $\text{Lyn}_{A,i}^2$, does good-pair bijection exist? If so, is it unique?

The following lemma gives one way to prove both the existence and uniqueness of a good-pair bijection.

Lemma 3.7 *Let $B \subseteq \mathcal{BT}_{A,i}$ be a basis for $\mathcal{L}ie_2(A, i)$. There exist a total ordering on $\mathcal{R}_{A,i}$: G_1, G_2, \dots and a total ordering on B : b_1, b_2, \dots such that*

- (i) b_i and G_i form a good pair for each i ;
- (ii) b_i and G_j does not form a good pair unless $i \leq j$.

Then there is a unique good-pair bijection from $\mathcal{R}_{A,i}$ to B .

Proof: First, mapping G_i to b_i for each i gives a good-pair bijection. On the other hand, given a good-pair bijection ψ , since G_1 is good pair with nothing other than b_1 , ψ has to map G_1 to b_1 . As a result, it is forced to map G_2 to b_2 , and so on. Hence, the good-pair bijection is unique. \square

In fact, in [7], the author shows that the hypothesis of Lemma 3.7 is satisfied for the Liu-Lyndon basis $\text{Liu}_{A,i}^2$. Hence, we immediately have the following fact:

Fact 3.8 *There exists a unique good-pair bijection from $\mathcal{R}_{A,i}$ to $\text{Liu}_{A,i}^2$ and it is the one constructed in [7].*

Therefore, Question 3.6 is only open for the comb basis $\text{Comb}_{A,i}^2$ and the Lyndon basis $\text{Lyn}_{A,i}^2$. After checking small examples of comb bases, we conjecture that the hypothesis of Lemma 3.7 holds for the comb basis.

Conjecture 3.9 *There exist a total ordering on $\mathcal{R}_{A,i}$: G_1, G_2, \dots and a total ordering on $\text{Comb}_{A,i}^2$: m_1, m_2, \dots such that*

- (i) m_i and G_i form a good pair for each i ;
- (ii) m_i and G_j does not form a good pair unless $i \leq j$.

By Lemma 3.7, Conjecture 3.9 implies Conjecture 1.1.

Example 3.10 *We've verified that Conjecture 3.9 is true for $n \leq 4$. Hence, Conjecture 1.1 holds for $n \leq 3$.*

The situations for $n = 1$ and 2 are trivial. When $n = 3$, we order $\mathcal{R}_{A,i}$ and $\text{Comb}_{A,i}$ as they are shown in Figures 1 and 3. One checks that the orderings satisfying conditions (i) and (ii) of Conjecture 3.9.

There are $4^3 = 64$ rooted trees and combs when $n = 4$. So we omit the details here.

Remark 3.11 *For the Lyndon basis $\text{Lyn}_{A,i}^2$, we've checked that the hypothesis of Lemma 3.7 holds for n up to 3. However, we have not had chance to check the case for $n = 4$. Since for $n \leq 3$, the size of each basis is very small, we do not think we have enough data to make similar conjectures.*

Why good-pair?

We finish this section with an explanation of why we consider good-pair bijections are nice bijections. In fact, the definition of "good pair" has close connection to both work in [7] and [6].

In [7], the author constructs a monomial b_G from each $G \in \mathcal{R}_{A,i}$ and shows that $\text{Liu}_{A,i}^2 := \{b_G \mid G \in \mathcal{R}_{A,i}\}$ is a basis for $\mathcal{L}ie_2(A, i)$. One main technique used in the proof is that a complementary space $\mathcal{E}il_2(A)$ is introduced where rooted trees are elements of $\mathcal{E}il_2(A)$, and a pairing between $\mathcal{L}ie_2(A)$ and $\mathcal{E}il_2(A)$ are defined and shown to be perfect. Then the pairing of b_G and G' is nonzero if and only if b_G and G' form a good pair, for any $G, G' \in \mathcal{R}_{A,i}$.

In [6], González D'León and Wachs associate \bar{c}_T , a maximal chain in $(\hat{0}, [n]^i)$, to each $T \in \mathcal{BT}_{A,i}$. This association provides a connection between bases for $\mathcal{L}ie_2(A, i)$ and bases for $\tilde{H}^{n-3}((\hat{0}, [n]^i))$. More precisely, for any basis $B \subseteq \mathcal{BT}_{A,i}$ of $\mathcal{L}ie_2(A, i)$, $\{\bar{c}_T \mid T \in B\}$ is a basis for $\tilde{H}^{n-3}((\hat{0}, [n]^i))$. They also associate ρ_G , a fundamental cycle of the spherical complex $\Delta(\bar{\Pi}_G)$, to each $G \in \mathcal{R}_{A,i}$, and show that $\{\rho_G \mid G \in \mathcal{R}_{A,i}\}$ is a basis for $\tilde{H}^{n-3}((\hat{0}, [n]^i))$. Also, when the (co)homology is defined in [6], the chain and cochain spaces have been identified using the natural bases. This identification is given by the bilinear form $\langle\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle\rangle$. Then we have that $\langle\langle \rho_G, \bar{c}_T \rangle\rangle \neq 0$ if and only if T and G form a good pair.

Therefore, one sees that “good-pair” really is a natural way to define a “nice” bijection from $\mathcal{R}_{A,i}$ to a basis of $\mathcal{L}ie_2(A, i)$. In particular, because of its connection to bilinear form defined between homology and cohomology in [6], like we've discussed in the introduction, if one is able to find a good-pair bijection from $\mathcal{R}_{A,i}$ to either $\text{Comb}_{A,i}^2$ or $\text{Lyn}_{A,i}^2$, it is very likely to be generalized and be used to find a basis for the homology of maximal open intervals of π_n^k introduced by González D'León.

4 The unique bijection between $\mathcal{R}_{A,0}$ and $\text{Comb}_{A,0}^2$

In this section, we will show our conjectures are true for $i = 0$. Since all the trees in $\mathcal{R}_{A,0}$ are increasing trees, we write $\mathcal{R}_{A,0}$ as \mathcal{R}_A^i .

The main result of this section is the following:

Theorem 4.1 *Conjecture 3.9 holds for $i = 0$. Hence, Conjecture 1.1 holds for $i = 0$.*

Observation 4.2 *We see that $\text{Comb}_{A,0}^2$ consists of all monomials of the form*

$$\langle\langle \cdots \langle \langle a_1, a_{i_2} \rangle, a_{i_3} \rangle, \cdots, a_{i_{n-1}} \rangle, a_{i_n} \rangle, \quad (4.1)$$

where $i_2 i_3 \cdots i_{n-1} i_n$ is a permutation on $\{2, 3, \dots, n\}$.

4.1 A good-pair bijection

We will first construct a bijection from \mathcal{R}_A^i to $\text{Comb}_{A,0}^2$ and show it is a good-pair bijection. We need a preliminary definition.

Definition 4.3 *Let $|A| \geq 2$. For each $G \in \mathcal{R}_A^i$, the cutting path, the cutting edge, and the cutting node of G , denoted by $\text{CP}(G)$, $\text{CE}(G)$, and $\text{CN}(G)$ are defined as below:*

Let $v_0 := a_1$ be the root and for each $i \geq 0$, if v_i is not a leaf, let v_{i+1} be the smallest child of v_i . Suppose v_k is a leaf. Then let

$$\text{CP}(G) := v_0 - v_1 - v_2 - \cdots - v_k,$$

and let $\text{CE}(G) := \{v_{k-1}, v_k\}$ be the last edge in the cutting path, and $\text{CN}(G) := v_k$ be the leaf in the path.

Now we are ready to define the desired bijection between \mathcal{R}_A^i and $\text{Comb}_{A,0}^2$.

Definition 4.4 *We define a map $\varphi_A : \mathcal{R}_A^i \rightarrow \text{Comb}_{A,0}^2$ recursively in the following way. Let $G \in \mathcal{R}_A^i$.*

(i) *If $A = \{a\}$ has only one element, we define $\varphi_A(G) := a$.*

(ii) *Otherwise, if $|A| \geq 2$, we define*

$$\varphi_A(G) := \langle \varphi_{A \setminus \{\text{CN}(G)\}}(G \setminus \text{CN}(G)), \text{CN}(G) \rangle,$$

where $G \setminus \text{CN}(G)$ is the tree obtained from G by removing the leaf $\text{CN}(G)$ and its adjacent edge $\text{CE}(G)$, so it is in $\mathcal{R}_{A \setminus \text{CN}(G)}^i$.

When there is no confusion of the set A , we will omit the subscript A from φ_A and just write φ .

It is easy to see that $\varphi(G)$ is always in the form of (4.1). Hence, the map φ is well-defined.

Example 4.5 Let G_1 and G_2 be the two rooted trees in Figure 4. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{CP}(G_1) &= a_1-a_2-a_3 & \text{and} & & \varphi(G_1) &= \langle\langle a_1, a_2 \rangle, a_3 \rangle; \\ \text{CP}(G_2) &= a_1-a_2 & \text{and} & & \varphi(G_2) &= \langle\langle a_1, a_3 \rangle, a_2 \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Proposition 4.6 φ is a good-pair bijection from \mathcal{R}_A^i to $\text{Comb}_{A,0}^2$.

Since it is clear that G and $\varphi(G)$ form a good pair for each $G \in \mathcal{R}_A^i$, in order to prove Proposition 4.6, we only need to construct an inverse map φ^{-1} from $\text{Comb}_{A,0}^2$ to \mathcal{R}_A^i .

Definition 4.7 Suppose $|A| \geq 2$. Let a be an element of A that is not a_1 , and let $A' = A \setminus \{a\}$. Suppose $G' \in \mathcal{R}_{A'}^i$, with

$$\text{CP}(G') = v_0-v_1-v_2-\cdots-v_k,$$

and let

$$\ell := \max\{i \mid v_i < a\}.$$

(So we have $a_1 = v_0 < v_1 < \cdots < v_\ell < a < v_{\ell+1} < \cdots < v_k$.) We define the i -merge of G' and a , denoted by $G' \triangleleft a$, to be the increasing tree obtained by connecting a to the vertex v_ℓ of G' .

Definition 4.8 We define a map $\varphi_A^{-1} : \text{Comb}_{A,0}^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{R}_A^i$ in the following way. Let $m \in \text{Comb}_{A,0}^2$.

(i) If $A = \{a\}$ has only one element, we define $\varphi_A^{-1}(m) := a$.

(ii) Otherwise, Suppose $|A| \geq 2$ and m is in the form of (4.1). Let

$$\varphi_A^{-1}(m) := ((\cdots((a_1 \triangleleft a_{i_2}) \triangleleft a_{i_3}) \triangleleft \cdots \triangleleft a_{i_{n-1}}) \triangleleft a_{i_n}).$$

It is easy to verify that φ_A and φ_A^{-1} are inverse to each other. Therefore, we complete the proof of Proposition 4.6.

4.2 An ordering on cutting paths

We will define an ordering on sequences that are made from the ordered set A .

Definition 4.9 Suppose $\alpha = \alpha_1-\alpha_2-\cdots-\alpha_s$ and $\beta = \beta_1-\beta_2-\cdots-\beta_t$, where $\alpha_i, \beta_j \in A$. We write

$$\alpha <_{\text{mlex}} \beta$$

if one of the following is satisfied:

- a) There exists $1 \leq r \leq \min(s, t)$ such that $\alpha_i = \beta_i$ for each $i < r$ and $\alpha_r < \beta_r$.
- b) β is a proper subsequence of α ; that is, $t < s$ and $\alpha_i = \beta_i$ for each $i \leq t$.

We call the above ordering the *modified lexicographical order*. (Note that if we replace condition b) with “ α is a proper subsequence of β ”, we recover the regular lex order.) One can verify $<_{\text{mlex}}$ is a well-defined ordering.

Example 4.10 Let G_1 and G_2 be the two rooted trees in Figure 4. Then

$$\text{CP}(G_1) = a_1-a_2-a_3 \prec_{\text{mlex}} \text{CP}(G_2) = a_1-a_2.$$

We have the following two important lemmas stating that the i -merge operation \triangleleft minimizes the cutting path, and preserving the orderings of cutting paths.

Lemma 4.11 Suppose $|A| \geq 2$. Let a be an element of A that is not a_1 , and let $A' = A \setminus \{a\}$. Suppose $G' \in \mathcal{R}_{A'}^i$ and $G \in \mathcal{R}_A^i$ is obtained by connecting a to a vertex of G' . Then we have the followings:

- a) If $G = G' \triangleleft a$, then $\text{CP}(G) \prec_{\text{mlex}} \text{CP}(G')$;
- b) Otherwise, $\text{CP}(G) = \text{CP}(G')$.

Hence, we always have $\text{CP}(G' \triangleleft a) \leq_{\text{mlex}} \text{CP}(G)$.

Proof: Suppose $\text{CP}(G')$ and ℓ are given as in Definition 4.7. Then

$$\text{CP}(G' \triangleleft a) = v_0-v_1-\dots-v_\ell-a.$$

Thus, a) follows immediately from the definition of the modified lex order.

Suppose $G \neq (G' \triangleleft a)$. Let v be the vertex in G' that a is connected to. Then $v \neq v_\ell$. If $v \neq v_i$ for any i , it is clear that we have $\text{CP}(G) = \text{CP}(G')$. Suppose $v = v_i$ for some $i \neq \ell$. Since $a < v_i$ for $i > \ell$ and $\{v, a\}$ is an increasing edge, we must have that $i < \ell$. Then one checks that $\text{CP}(G) = \text{CP}(G')$. \square

Lemma 4.12 Suppose $|A| \geq 2$. Let a be an element of A that is not a_1 , and let $A' = A \setminus \{a\}$. Suppose $G_1, G_2 \in \mathcal{R}_{A'}^i$ with $\text{CP}(G_1) \leq_{\text{mlex}} \text{CP}(G_2)$. Then $\text{CP}(G_1 \triangleleft a) \leq_{\text{mlex}} \text{CP}(G_2 \triangleleft a)$.

Proof: If $\text{CP}(G_1) = \text{CP}(G_2)$, by the definition of i -merge, it's clear that $\text{CP}(G_1 \triangleleft a) = \text{CP}(G_2 \triangleleft a)$.

Suppose

$$\text{CP}(G_1) = \alpha_1-\alpha_2-\dots-\alpha_s \prec_{\text{mlex}} \text{CP}(G_2) = \beta_1-\beta_2-\dots-\beta_t,$$

and let

$$\ell := \max\{i \mid \alpha_i < a\}.$$

Then one of the conditions in Definition 4.9 is satisfied. Suppose condition b) of Definition 4.9 is satisfied; that is, $\text{CP}(G_2)$ is a proper subsequence of $\text{CP}(G_1)$. Then

$$\text{CP}(G_1 \triangleleft a) \prec_{\text{mlex}} \text{CP}(G_2 \triangleleft a) \text{ if } \ell > t, \quad \text{and} \quad \text{CP}(G_1 \triangleleft a) = \text{CP}(G_2 \triangleleft a) \text{ if } \ell \leq t.$$

Suppose condition a) of Definition 4.9 is satisfied. Then

$$\text{CP}(G_1 \triangleleft a) \prec_{\text{mlex}} \text{CP}(G_2 \triangleleft a) \text{ if } \ell \geq r, \quad \text{and} \quad \text{CP}(G_1 \triangleleft a) = \text{CP}(G_2 \triangleleft a) \text{ if } \ell < r.$$

\square

Corollary 4.13 Suppose $m \in \text{Comb}_{A,0}^2$ and $G \in \mathcal{R}_A^i$ form a good pair. Then

$$\text{CP}(\varphi^{-1}(m)) \leq_{\text{mlex}} \text{CP}(G).$$

Proof: We prove by induction on $|A|$. If $|A| = 1$, the statement is trivially true. Assume $n \geq 2$ and the statement holds for A with cardinality $n - 1$. We will show the statement is true for $|A| = n$.

Suppose m is in the form of (4.1). Let

$$a = a_{i_n}, A' = A \setminus \{a\}, m' = \langle \dots \langle \langle a_1, a_{i_2} \rangle, a_{i_3} \rangle, \dots, a_{i_{n-1}} \rangle \rangle.$$

Since m and G form a good pair. There exist $G' \in \mathcal{R}_{A'}^i$ such that G is obtained from G' by attaching a to a vertex of G' , and m' and G' form a good pair. By induction hypothesis, we have that $\text{CP}(\varphi^{-1}(m')) \leq_{\text{mlex}} \text{CP}(G')$.

Note that

$$\varphi^{-1}(m) = \varphi^{-1}(m') \triangleleft a, \text{ and } G$$

By Lemmas 4.12 and 4.11, we have

$$\text{CP}(\varphi^{-1}(m)) \leq_{\text{mlex}} \text{CP}(G' \triangleleft a) \leq_{\text{mlex}} \text{CP}(G),$$

completing the proof. □

Proof of Theorem 4.1: We define a total ordering $<$ on \mathcal{R}_A^i satisfying for any $G, G' \in \mathcal{R}_A^i$, if $\text{CP}(G) <_{\text{mlex}} \text{CP}(G')$, then $G < G'$. Assume the elements in \mathcal{R}_A^i is ordered as:

$$G_1 < G_2 < G_3 < \dots$$

We give an ordering on $\text{Comb}_{A,0}^2$ accordingly by letting $m_i = \varphi(G_i)$:

$$m_1 < m_2 < m_3 < \dots$$

First, because φ is a good-pair bijection, we clearly have that m_i and G_i form a good pair for each i .

Suppose m_i and G_j form a good pair. Then by Corollary 4.13, we have

$$\text{CP}(G_i) \leq_{\text{mlex}} \text{CP}(G_j).$$

By the construction of $<$, we have $G_i \leq G_j$, which means $i \leq j$. □

5 The unique bijection between $\mathcal{R}_{A,n-1}$ and $\text{Comb}_{A,n-1}^2$

The main result of this section is that our conjectures are true for $i = n - 1$.

Theorem 5.1 *Conjecture 3.9 holds for $i = n - 1$. Hence, Conjecture 1.1 holds for $i = n - 1$.*

The proof is very similar to what we give for the cases where $i = 0$ in the last section, but with a slightly complicated construction. We omit the proof from this extended abstract.

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