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Generators of supersymmetric polynomials in positive characteristic

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ABSTRACT

In Kantor and Trishin (1997) [3], Kantor and Trishin described the algebra of polynomial invariants of the adjoint representation of the Lie superalgebra $gl(m|n)$ and a related algebra A_s of what they called pseudosymmetric polynomials over an algebraically closed field K of characteristic zero. The algebra A_s was investigated earlier by Stembridge (1985) who in [9] called the elements of A_s supersymmetric polynomials and determined generators of A_s .

The case of positive characteristic p of the ground field K has been recently investigated by La Scala and Zubkov (in press) in [6]. We extend their work and give a complete description of generators of polynomial invariants of the adjoint action of the general linear supergroup $GL(m|n)$ and generators of A_s .

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Introduction and notation

We will start by recalling a classical problem of finding invariants of conjugacy classes of matrices, a solution of which is known for more than a century. Let K be an infinite field of arbitrary characteristic, $GL(n)$ be the general linear group and \mathfrak{g} be its Lie algebra. A function $f \in K[\mathfrak{g}]$ is called an invariant if it has the same value on each conjugacy class of matrices. For an $n \times n$ matrix M , denote by $\sigma_i(M)$ the i -th coefficient of the characteristic polynomial of M ; in particular $\sigma_1(M)$ is the trace of M and $\sigma_n(M)$ is the determinant of M . Chevalley restriction theorem (see Theorem 1.5.7 of [8] or [4]) gives an isomorphism of the ring of invariants $K[\mathfrak{g}]^{GL(n)}$ and the ring of symmetric functions in n variables, say x_1, \dots, x_n . This isomorphism is given by restriction on a subset consisting of all diagonal matrices with pairwise different eigenvalues. Generators of $K[\mathfrak{g}]^{GL(n)}$ corresponding

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to coefficients of the characteristic polynomial of such matrices are given by elementary symmetric polynomials.

This classical result was extended to the case of the general linear supergroup $GL(m|n)$ in characteristic zero by Kantor and Trishin [3]. Before formulating their results, we will introduce the general linear supergroup $G = GL(m|n)$. Let K be an algebraically closed field of characteristic zero or positive characteristic $p > 2$. Let $K[c_{ij}]$ be a commutative superalgebra freely generated by elements c_{ij} for $1 \leq i, j \leq m + n$, where c_{ij} is even if either $1 \leq i, j \leq m$ or $m + 1 \leq i, j \leq m + n$, and c_{ij} is odd otherwise. Denote by C the generic matrix $(c_{ij})_{1 \leq i, j \leq m+n}$ and write it as a block matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} C_{00} & C_{01} \\ C_{10} & C_{11} \end{pmatrix},$$

where entries of C_{00} and C_{11} are even and entries of C_{01} and C_{10} are odd. The localization of $K[c_{ij}]$ by elements $\det(C_{00})$ and $\det(C_{11})$ is the coordinate superalgebra $K[G]$ of the general linear supergroup $G = GL(m|n)$. The general linear supergroup $G = GL(m|n)$ is a group functor from the category $SAlg_K$ of commutative superalgebras over K to the category of groups, represented by its coordinate ring $K[G]$, that is $G(A) = Hom_{SAlg_K}(K[G], A)$ for $A \in SAlg_K$. Here, for $g \in G(A)$ and $f \in K[G]$ we define $f(g) = g(f)$. Denote by $Ber(C) = \det(C_{00} - C_{01}C_{11}^{-1}C_{10})\det(C_{11})^{-1}$ the Berezinian element. The Berezinian plays a role analogous to that of the ordinary determinant in the classical case $GL(n)$.

The algebra R of invariants with respect to the adjoint action of G is a set of functions $f \in K[G]$ satisfying $f(g_1^{-1}g_2g_1) = f(g_2)$ for any $g_1, g_2 \in G(A)$ and any commutative superalgebra A over K . The algebra R_{pol} of polynomial invariants is a subalgebra of R consisting of polynomial functions.

In the case when the characteristic of the ground field K is zero, Kantor and Trishin [3] described generators of R_{pol} using supertraces. To explain their result we will need the following definition.

If V is a G -supermodule with a homogeneous basis $\{v_1, \dots, v_a, v_{a+1}, \dots, v_{a+b}\}$ such that v_i is even for $1 \leq i \leq a$ and v_i is odd for $a + 1 \leq i \leq a + b$, and the image $\rho_V(v_i)$ of a basis element v_i under a comultiplication ρ_V is given as $\rho_V(v_i) = \sum_{1 \leq j \leq a+b} v_j \otimes f_{ji}$, then the supertrace $Tr(V)$ is defined as $\sum_{1 \leq i \leq a} f_{ii} - \sum_{a+1 \leq i \leq a+b} f_{ii}$.

Let E be the natural G -supermodule given by basis elements e_1, \dots, e_m that are even, and e_{m+1}, \dots, e_{m+n} that are odd, and by comultiplication $\rho_E(e_i) = \sum_{1 \leq j \leq m+n} e_j \otimes c_{ji}$. Denote by $\Lambda^r(E)$ the r -th superexterior power of E and by C_r the supertrace of $\Lambda^r(E)$.

If V is a (polynomial) G -supermodule, then $Tr(V)$ is a (polynomial) invariant of G (see Lemma 5.2 of [6]). Therefore elements $C_r \in R_{pol}$. It was proved in [3] that R_{pol} is generated by C_r and that the algebra R_{pol} is isomorphic to the algebra of pseudosymmetric polynomials $\Omega(m, n)$, which is a subalgebra of the polynomial ring over K in commuting variables $x_1, \dots, x_m, y_1, \dots, y_n$, generated by polynomials $I_k = \sum_{i=1}^m x_i^k - \sum_{j=1}^n y_j^k$ for $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$. Moreover, it was observed there that this algebra is not finitely generated. The same algebra was investigated earlier by Stembridge in [9], who called it an algebra of supersymmetric polynomials.

The main objective of this paper is to describe generators of invariants of G when the characteristic $p > 2$. As in the case of characteristic zero, all elements C_r are polynomial invariants. However, in our case there are additional polynomial invariants $\sigma_i(C_{00})^p, \sigma_j(C_{11})^p$ and $\sigma_n(C_{11})^p Ber(C)^k \in R_{pol}$ for $1 \leq i \leq m, 1 \leq j \leq n$ and $0 < k < p$ which cannot be expressed solely in terms of the C_r 's.

To show that the elements $\sigma_i(C_{00})^p$ and $\sigma_j(C_{11})^p$ are polynomial invariants of $GL(m|n)$, consider the Frobenius map $F : K[GL(m) \times GL(n)] \rightarrow K[GL(m|n)]$ given by $f \mapsto f^p$. Clearly, if f_0 is even and f_1 is odd, then $F(f = f_0 + f_1) = f_0^p$. By computing images of generators c_{ij} , where $1 \leq i, j \leq m$ and $m + 1 \leq i, j \leq m + n$, it can be verified that the map F is a morphism of Hopf superarrings. Since coadjoint actions are defined over the ring of integers, the Frobenius map F sends coadjoint $GL(m) \times GL(n)$ -invariants to $GL(m|n)$ -invariants. Therefore $F(\sigma_i(C_{00})) = \sigma_i(C_{00})^p \in R_{pol}$ for $1 \leq i \leq m$ and $F(\sigma_j(C_{11})) = \sigma_j(C_{11})^p \in R_{pol}$ for $1 \leq j \leq n$.

The element $\sigma_n(C_{11})^p$ is group-like by Lemma 3.3.1a of [7] and $Ber(C)$ is also group-like by [1]. Therefore an element $\sigma_n(C_{11})^p Ber(C)^k$, where $0 < k < p$, generates a one-dimensional simple G -supermodule and it belongs to R . Since the (highest) weight of $\sigma_n(C_{11})^p Ber(C)^k$ is $(k, \dots, k | p - k, \dots, p - k)$, by Theorem 6.5 of [2] it is polynomial. For example, if $m = n = 1$, then $\sigma_n(C_{11})^p Ber(C)^k = c_{11}^k c_{22}^{p-k} - k c_{12} c_{22}^{p-k-1} c_{21} c_{11}^{k-1}$ is polynomial for $1 \leq k \leq p - 1$.

Actually, in the case $m = n = 1$, it is simple to determine the linear basis of R_{pol} : if p divides r , then it is given by elements

$$c_{11}^i c_{22}^{r-i} + (r - i) c_{11}^{i-1} c_{12} c_{21} c_{22}^{r-i-1}$$

for $0 \leq i \leq r$, and if p does not divide r , then it consists of elements

$$c_{11}^i c_{22}^{r-i} + (r - i) c_{11}^{i-1} c_{12} c_{21} c_{22}^{r-i-1} - c_{11}^{i-1} c_{22}^{r-i+1} + (i - 1) c_{11}^{i-2} c_{12} c_{21} c_{22}^{r-i}$$

for $1 \leq i \leq r$.

Our first result states that the above invariants are generators of algebra R_{pol} .

Theorem 1. *The algebra R_{pol} is generated by elements*

$$C_r, \sigma_i(C_{00})^p, \sigma_j(C_{11})^p, \sigma_n(C_{11})^p Ber(C)^k,$$

where $0 \leq r, 1 \leq i \leq m, 1 \leq j \leq n$ and $0 < k < p$.

A description of the algebra R follows easily from this theorem.

Corollary 1. *The algebra R equals $R_{pol}[\sigma_m(C_{00})^{-p}, \sigma_n(C_{11})^{-p}]$.*

Proof. If $f \in R$, then its multiple by a sufficiently large power of $\sigma_m(C_{00})^p \sigma_n(C_{11})^p$ is a polynomial invariant. \square

The main tool used in the proof of the above theorem is (again) the Chevalley map $\phi : K[G] \rightarrow A = K[x_1^{\pm 1}, \dots, x_m^{\pm 1}, y_1^{\pm 1}, \dots, y_n^{\pm 1}]$ defined on entries of a generic matrix C by $\phi(c_{ij}) = \delta_{ij} x_i$ for $1 \leq i \leq m$ and $\phi(c_{ij}) = \delta_{ij} y_{i-m}$ for $m + 1 \leq i \leq m + n$. According to [6] and [3], the restriction of ϕ to R is an injective map and its image is contained in the algebra A_s of supersymmetric polynomials which by definition consists of polynomials $f(x|y) = f(x_1, \dots, x_m, y_1, \dots, y_n)$ that are symmetric in variables x_1, \dots, x_m and y_1, \dots, y_n separately, such that $\frac{d}{dT} f(x|y)|_{x_i=y_i=T}$ vanishes.

We will show that the image $\phi(R_{pol})$ equals A_s , hence $R_{pol} \cong A_s$.

To find images under ϕ of the previously defined elements from R_{pol} , consider the standard maximal torus T in G and a set of characters $X(T)$. Let V be a G -supermodule with weight decomposition $V = \bigoplus_{\lambda \in X(T)} V_\lambda$, where $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_{m+n})$, and each V_λ splits into a sum of its even subspace $(V_\lambda)_0$ and odd subspace $(V_\lambda)_1$. The (formal) supercharacter $\chi_{sup}(V)$ of V is defined as

$$\chi_{sup}(V) = \sum_{\lambda \in X(T)} (\dim(V_\lambda)_0 - \dim(V_\lambda)_1) x_1^{\lambda_1} \dots x_m^{\lambda_m} y_1^{\lambda_{m+1}} \dots y_n^{\lambda_{m+n}}.$$

Then for any G -supermodule V we have $\phi(\text{Tr}(V)) = \chi_{sup}(V)$. In particular, for $0 \leq r$ we have

$$\phi(C_r) = c_r = \sum_{0 \leq i \leq \min(r,m)} (-1)^{r-i} \sigma_i(x_1, \dots, x_m) p_{r-i}(y_1, \dots, y_n),$$

where σ_i is the i -th elementary symmetric function and p_j is the j -th complete symmetric function.

The images of the remaining generators of R_{pol} under ϕ ,

$$\phi(\sigma_i(C_{00})^p) = \sigma_i(x_1, \dots, x_m)^p$$

for $1 \leq i \leq m$,

$$\phi(\sigma_j(C_{11})^p) = \sigma_j(y_1, \dots, y_n)^p$$

for $1 \leq j \leq n$, and

$$\phi(\sigma_n(C_{11})^p \text{Ber}(C)^k) = u_k(x|y) = \sigma_m(x_1, \dots, x_m)^k \sigma_n(y_1, \dots, y_n)^{p-k}$$

for $0 < k < p$ are elements from A_s .

Theorem 1 will follow from the following description of generators of the algebra A_s .

Theorem 2. *The algebra A_s is generated by elements c_r for $r \geq 0$, $\sigma_i(x_1, \dots, x_m)^p$ for $1 \leq i \leq m$, $\sigma_j(y_1, \dots, y_n)^p$ for $1 \leq j \leq n$ and $u_k(x|y)$ for $0 < k < p$.*

We conclude the introduction with the following remarkable observation. It was showed in [3] that $A_s \simeq R_{pol}$ is not finitely generated if the characteristic of the field K equals zero. We will show that if the characteristic of K is positive, then the algebra $A_s \simeq R_{pol}$ is finitely generated.

1. Proof of Theorem 1

In this section we will compare algebras corresponding to different values of m, n and apply the Schur functor. Therefore we adjust the notation slightly to reflect the dependence on m, n . For example, we will write $R(m|n)$ instead of R and $A_s(m|n)$ instead of A_s .

Denote by $R'_{pol}(m|n)$ a subalgebra of $R_{pol}(m|n)$ generated by elements C_r , $\sigma_i(C_{00})^p$, $\sigma_j(C_{11})^p$ and $\sigma_n(C_{11})^p \text{Ber}(C)^k$, where $0 \leq r$, $1 \leq i \leq m$, $1 \leq j \leq n$ and $0 < k < p$.

Further, denote by $A_{ns}(m|n)$ a subalgebra of $A_s(m|n)$ generated by polynomials $c_r(m|n)$, $\sigma_i(x, m)^p = \sigma_i(x_1, \dots, x_m)^p$, $\sigma_j(y, n)^p = \sigma_j(y_1, \dots, y_n)^p$ and $u_k(m|n) = \sigma_m(x, m)^k \sigma_n(y, n)^{p-k}$ for $1 \leq i \leq m$, $1 \leq j \leq n$ and $0 < k < p$.

There is the following commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} R_{pol}(m|n) & \xrightarrow{\phi} & A_s(m|n) \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ R'_{pol}(m|n) & \xrightarrow{\phi} & A_{ns}(m|n) \end{array}$$

where the vertical maps are inclusions and horizontal maps are given by restrictions of the Chevalley morphism ϕ .

Both horizontal maps in the above diagram are monomorphisms. The bottom map is an epimorphism by definition of $R'_{pol}(m|n)$ and $A_{ns}(m|n)$, hence an isomorphism. We will produce three proofs of Theorem 1. For the first proof, we will show in Proposition 1.3 that $\phi(R_{pol}(m|n)) = A_{ns}(m|n)$ and it implies $R_{pol}(m|n) = R'_{pol}(m|n)$. The second proof uses the equality $A_{ns}(m|n) = A_s(m|n)$ from Theorem 2. From the above diagram it follows that $R_{pol}(m|n) = R'_{pol}(m|n)$. An elementary proof of Theorem 2 will provide the third proof of Theorem 1.

Denote by $A_{ns}(m|n, t)$ the homogeneous component of $A_{ns}(m|n)$ of degree t . For any integers $M \geq m$, $N \geq n$ there is a graded superalgebra morphism $p_e : K[x_1, \dots, x_M, y_1, \dots, y_N] \rightarrow$

$K[x_1, \dots, x_m, y_1, \dots, y_n]$ that maps $x_i \mapsto x_i$ for $i \leq m$, $y_j \mapsto y_j$ for $j \leq n$ and the remaining generators x_i, y_j to zero. Clearly the image of $A_S(M|N)$ under p_e is a subset of $A_S(m|n)$.

Lemma 1.1. *The morphism p_e maps $A_{ns}(M|N)$ to $A_{ns}(m|n)$.*

Proof. Verify that

$$\begin{aligned}
 p_e(\sigma_i(x, M)) &= \sigma_i(x, m) \quad \text{if } i \leq m \quad \text{and} \quad p_e(\sigma_i(x, M)) = 0 \quad \text{if } i > m, \\
 p_e(\sigma_j(y, N)) &= \sigma_j(y, n) \quad \text{if } j \leq n \quad \text{and} \quad p_e(\sigma_j(y, N)) = 0 \quad \text{if } j > n, \\
 p_e(c_r(M, N)) &= c_r(m|n) \quad \text{if } r \leq m, n \quad \text{and} \quad p_e(c_r(M, N)) = 0 \quad \text{if } r > m \text{ or } r > n,
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$p_e(u_k(M|N)) = 0.$$

The claim follows. \square

For the integers $M \geq m, N \geq n$ consider the Schur superalgebra $S(M|N, r)$ and its idempotent $e = \sum_{\mu} \xi_{\mu}$, where the sum is over all weights μ for which $\mu_i = 0$ whenever $m < i \leq M$ or $M + n < i \leq M + N$. Then $S(m|n, r) \simeq eS(M|N, r)e$ and there is a natural Schur functor $S(M|N, r) - \text{mod} \rightarrow S(m|n, r) - \text{mod}$ given by $V \mapsto eV$. If V is an $S(M|N, r)$ -supermodule, then eV is a supersubspace of V and therefore, eV has a canonical $S(m|n, r)$ -supermodule structure.

Let $\mathbf{V} = \{V\}$ be a collection of polynomial G -supermodules. Such a collection is called *good* if for any simple polynomial G -supermodule L there is $V \in \mathbf{V}$ such that L is a composition factor of V and the highest weights of all remaining composition factors of V are strictly smaller than the highest weight of L . Clearly, the collection of all simple polynomial G -supermodules is good. The collection of all costandard supermodules is also good. We will use repeatedly Theorem 5.3 from [6] which states that if $\{V\}$ is a good collection of polynomial G -supermodules, then R_{pol} is spanned by $Tr(V)$.

Lemma 1.2. *The map p_e induces an epimorphism of graded algebras $\phi(R_{pol}(M|N)) \rightarrow \phi(R_{pol}(m|n))$.*

Proof. Applying the Chevalley map ϕ to the collection of all simple polynomial G -supermodules L and using Theorem 5.3 of [6] we obtain that the algebra $\phi(R_{pol})$ is spanned by the supercharacters $\chi_{sup}(L)$. If λ is the highest weight of L , then $\chi_{sup}(L)$ is a homogeneous polynomial of degree $r = |\lambda| = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq m+n} \lambda_i$. By a standard property of a Schur functor, there is a simple $S(M|N, r)$ -supermodule L' such that $eL' \simeq L$. Since $p_e(\chi_{sup}(L')) = \chi_{sup}(L)$, the claim follows. \square

Proposition 1.3. *The image $\phi(R_{pol}(m|n))$ equals $A_{ns}(m|n)$.*

Proof. Fix a homogeneous element $f \in \phi(R_{pol}(m|n))$ of degree r and choose $M \geq m$ strictly greater than r . By Lemma 1.2, there is a homogeneous polynomial $f' \in \phi(R_{pol}(M|n))$ of degree r such that $p_e(f') = f$. Using the Chevalley map, and applying Theorem 5.3 of [6] to the collection of all costandard polynomial modules $\nabla(\mu)$, we obtain that f' is a linear combination of supercharacters $\chi_{sup}(\nabla(\mu))$, or alternatively of supercharacters $\chi_{sup}(L(\mu))$, where μ runs over polynomial dominant weights with $|\mu| = r$. We can write $\chi_{sup}(\nabla(\mu)) = \sum_{\pi \leq \mu} c_{\mu, \pi} \chi_{sup}(L(\pi))$ and $\chi_{sup}(L(\mu)) = \sum_{\pi \leq \mu} d_{\mu, \pi} \chi_{sup}(\nabla(\pi))$, where coefficients $c_{\mu, \pi}$ and $d_{\mu, \pi}$ are non-negative integers, and $c_{\mu, \mu} = d_{\mu, \mu} = 1$.

Denote by Γ_r a finite set of all polynomial dominant weights μ such that $|\mu| \leq r$. Define a partial order on Γ_r by $\lambda < \mu$ if and only if $|\lambda| < |\mu|$ or $\lambda \leq \mu$ (recall that $\lambda \leq \mu$ implies $|\lambda| = |\mu|$). Then $\chi_{sup}(\nabla(\pi)) \in A_{ns}(M|n)$ for all $\pi < \mu$ is equivalent to $\chi_{sup}(L(\pi)) \in A_{ns}(M|n)$ for all $\pi < \mu$.

Consider $\mu \in \Gamma_r$ and assume that $\chi_{sup}(\nabla(\pi)) \in A_{ns}(M|n)$ for any $\pi < \mu$, $\pi \neq \mu$. The assumption $M > r$, Theorem 5.4 and Proposition 5.6 of [5] imply that for the highest weight $\mu = (\mu_+|\mu_-)$ we have $\mu_- = p\bar{\mu}$ for some weight $\bar{\mu}$, and $\nabla(\mu) \simeq \nabla(\mu_+|0) \otimes F(\bar{\nabla}(\bar{\mu}))$, where F is the Frobenius map and $\bar{\nabla}(\bar{\mu})$ is the costandard $GL(n)$ -module with the highest weight $\bar{\mu}$. Therefore

$$\chi_{sup}(\nabla(\mu)) = \chi_{sup}(\nabla(\mu_+|0))\chi(\bar{\nabla}(\bar{\mu}))^p$$

and $\chi(\bar{\nabla}(\bar{\mu}))^p$ is a polynomial in $\sigma_j(y, n)^p$. If $\mu_- \neq 0$ then, by the inductive hypothesis, $\chi_{sup}(\nabla(\mu_+|0)) \in A_{ns}(M|n)$. Otherwise, $\mu = (\mu_+|0)$.

An exterior power $\Lambda^t(E(M|n))$ for $t \leq M$ has a unique maximal weight $(1^t|0)$. Consequently, an $S(M|n, r)$ -supermodule

$$V = \Lambda^M(E(M|n))^{\otimes \mu_M} \otimes \Lambda^{M-1}(E(M|n))^{\otimes (\mu_{M-1}-\mu_M)} \otimes \dots \otimes \Lambda^1(E(M|n))^{\otimes (\mu_1-\mu_2)}$$

has a unique maximal weight μ and the supercharacter

$$\chi_{sup}(V) = c_1^{\mu_1-\mu_2} \dots c_{M-1}^{\mu_{M-1}-\mu_M} c_M^{\mu_M}.$$

The module V has a composition series with a unique section that is isomorphic to $L(\mu)$ and the remaining sections isomorphic to $L(\kappa)$, where $\kappa < \mu$. By the inductive hypothesis, all $\chi_{sup}(L(\kappa)) \in A_{ns}(M|n)$ and therefore, $\chi_{sup}(L(\mu)) \in A_{ns}(M|n)$. \square

Corollary 1.4. *The morphism p_e maps $A_{ns}(M|N, t)$ onto $A_{ns}(m|n, t)$.*

Proof of Theorem 1. Recall that the restriction of ϕ on R is a monomorphism. Since $\phi(C_r) = c_r$, $\phi(\sigma_i(C_{00})^p) = \sigma_i(x_1, \dots, x_m)^p$, $\phi(\sigma_j(C_{11})^p) = \sigma_j(y_1, \dots, y_n)^p$ and $\phi(\sigma_n(C_{11})^p \text{Ber}(C)^k) = u_k(x|y)$, the statement follows from Proposition 1.3. \square

2. Proof of Theorem 2

We will need the following crucial observation.

Lemma 2.1. *If $f \in A_s(m|n)$ is divisible by x_m , then f is divisible by a nonconstant element of $A_{ns}(m|n)$.*

Proof. We can assume $f \neq 0$ and use the symmetricity of f in variables x_1, \dots, x_m and y_1, \dots, y_n to write $f = x_1^a \dots x_m^a y_1^b \dots y_n^b g$, where exponents $a > 0$, $b \geq 0$, and polynomial g , such that $g|_{x_m=y_n=0} \neq 0$, are unique. Then

$$\begin{aligned} f|_{x_m=y_n=T} &= T^{a+b} x_1^a \dots x_{m-1}^a y_1^b \dots y_{n-1}^b g|_{x_m=y_n=T} \\ &= T^{a+b} x_1^a \dots x_{m-1}^a y_1^b \dots y_{n-1}^b g_0 + T^{a+b+1} x_1^a \dots x_{m-1}^a y_1^b \dots y_{n-1}^b g_1, \end{aligned}$$

where we write $g|_{x_m=y_n=T} = g_0 + Tg_1$. The requirement $g|_{x_m=y_n=0} \neq 0$ implies $g_0 \neq 0$. Since $\frac{d}{dT} f|_{x_m=y_n=T} = 0$, this is only possible if $a + b \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$. Since $a > 0$, the polynomial $x_1^a \dots x_m^a y_1^b \dots y_n^b$ is not constant, and is a product of $\sigma_m(x, m)^p$, $\sigma_n(y, n)^p$ and $u_k(m|n)$, all of which belong to $A_{ns}(m|n)$. In fact, since $a > 0$, we have that f is divisible either by $\sigma_m(x, m)^p$ or by some $u_k(m|n)$. \square

Proof of Theorem 2. The statement of the theorem is equivalent to the equality $A_s(m|n) = A_{ns}(m|n)$.

Fix n and assume that m is minimal, such that there exists a polynomial $f \in A_s(m|n) \setminus A_{ns}(m|n)$, and choose f that is homogeneous and of the minimal degree. Then its reduction $f|_{x_m=0} \in A_{ns}(m-1|n)$ is a nonzero polynomial $h(c_t(m-1|n), \sigma_i(x, m-1)^p, \sigma_j(y, n)^p, u_k(m-1|n))$ in elements $c_t(m-1|n)$, $\sigma_i(x, m-1)^p$, $\sigma_j(y, n)^p$ and $u_k(m-1, n)$ where $t \geq 0$, $1 \leq i \leq m-1$, $1 \leq j \leq n$ and $0 < k < p$. By Corollary 1.4 there are elements $v_k \in A_{ns}(m|n)$ of degree $mk + (p-k)n$ such that $v_k|_{x_m=0} = u_k(m-1|n)$. Since $c_t(m|n)|_{x_m=0} = c_t(m-1|n)$, $\sigma_i(x, m)^p|_{x_m=0} = \sigma_i(x, m-1)^p$ and $\sigma_j(y, n)^p|_{x_m=0} = \sigma_j(y, n)^p$, the polynomial $l = f - h(c_t(m|n), \sigma_i(x, m)^p, \sigma_j(y, n)^p, v_k(m|n))$ satisfies $l|_{x_m=0} = 0$. Since the degree of l does not exceed the degree of f , $l \in A_s(m|n)$ and x_m divides l , Lemma 2.1 implies that $l = l_0 l_1$, where $l_0 \in A_{ns}(m|n)$ and the degree of l_1 is strictly less than the degree of f . But $l_1 \in A_s(m|n) \setminus A_{ns}(m|n)$ which is a contradiction with our choice of f . \square

3. Elementary proof of Theorem 2

A closer look at the proof of Theorem 2 reveals that Corollary 1.4 is the only result from Section 1 that was used in the proof of Theorem 2. Actually, only the following weaker statement was required in the proof of Theorem 2.

Proposition 3.1. *For each $0 < k < p$ there is a polynomial $v_k \in A_{ns}(m|n)$ of degree $(m-1)k + (p-k)n$ such that $v_k|_{x_m=0} = u_k(m-1|n)$.*

In this section we give a constructive elementary proof of Proposition 3.1 that bypasses the use of the Schur functor and the results about costandard modules derived in [5].

Fix $0 < k < p$ and denote $s = \lceil \frac{k}{p-k} \rceil$. Then for $i = 0, \dots, s-1$ define $k_i = (i+1)k - ip > 0$ and $k_p = sp - (s+1)k \geq 0$. The relations

$$k_i + (p-k) = k_{i-1}, \quad k_p + k = s(p-k), \quad k_i + k_p = (s-i)(p-k)$$

will be used without explicit reference.

A symbol \mathcal{I} will denote a nondecreasing sequence $(i_1 \leq \dots \leq i_t)$ of natural numbers, where $0 \leq t < s$. We denote $\|\mathcal{I}\| = t$ and $|\mathcal{I}| = \sum_{j=1}^t i_j$. In particular, we allow $\mathcal{I} = \emptyset$ with $\|\emptyset\| = |\emptyset| = 0$. Additionally, denote by $Supp(\mathcal{I})$ the set of all elements (without repetitions) appearing in \mathcal{I} . If $i \in Supp(\mathcal{I})$, then by slightly abusing notation we define $\mathcal{I} \setminus i$ to be a sequence obtained from \mathcal{I} by deleting one arbitrary element equal to i and define $\mathcal{I} \cup i$ to be a sequence obtained from \mathcal{I} by adding an extra element equal to i .

Fix an arbitrary sequence (a_1, \dots, a_j) of length $j \leq M$. Denote by Σ_j the symmetric group acting on j symbols, and by Y its Young subgroup which preserves the fibers of the map $j \mapsto a_j$. Then there is a unique symmetric polynomial in x_1, \dots, x_M that has integral coefficients, with the coefficient of the monomial $x_1^{a_1} \dots x_j^{a_j}$ equal to 1. This polynomial is denoted $Sym_{x,M}(a_1, \dots, a_j)$ and is defined as

$$Sym_{x,M}(a_1, \dots, a_j) = \sum_{\{k_1, \dots, k_j\} \subset \{1, \dots, M\}} \sum_{\sigma \in Y \setminus \Sigma_j} x_{k_{\sigma(1)}}^{a_1} \dots x_{k_{\sigma(j)}}^{a_j},$$

where the first sum is over all subsets $\{k_1, \dots, k_j\}$ of $\{1, \dots, M\}$ of cardinality j , and the second sum is over representatives of the left cosets of Σ_j over its Young subgroup Y .

The symmetric polynomial $Sym_{y,N}(b_1, \dots, b_j)$ in variables y_1, \dots, y_N , that has integral coefficients, with the coefficient of the monomial $y_1^{b_1} \dots y_j^{b_j}$ equal to 1, is defined analogously.

For simplicity we will use a multiplicative notation, and instead of $Sym_{x,M}(a, \dots, a, \dots, \underbrace{z, \dots, z}_{m_a}, \dots, \underbrace{z, \dots, z}_{m_z})$, we will write $Sym_{x,M}(a^{m_a} \dots z^{m_z})$. We will use analogous multiplicative notation for $Sym_{y,N}$.

Further, denote

$$A(\mathcal{I}, j)_{M,N} = \text{Sym}_{x,M}(k^{M-t}k_{i_1} \dots k_{i_t}) \text{Sym}_{y,N}((p-k)^{N-j-1}k_p)$$

for $0 \leq \|\mathcal{I}\| = t \leq M$ and $0 \leq j < N$, and $A(\mathcal{I}, l)_{M,N} = 0$ if $t > M$ or $j \geq N$;

$$B(\mathcal{I}, j)_{M,N} = \text{Sym}_{x,M}(k^{M-t}k_{i_1} \dots k_{i_t}) \text{Sym}_{y,N}((p-k)^{N-j})$$

for $0 \leq \|\mathcal{I}\| = t \leq M$ and $0 \leq j \leq N$, and $B(\mathcal{I}, j)_{M,N} = 0$ if $t > M$ or $j > N$;

$$C(\mathcal{I}, l, j)_{M,N} = \text{Sym}_{x,M}(k^{M-t-1}(lp-lk)k_{i_1} \dots k_{i_t}) \text{Sym}_{y,N}((p-k)^{N-j})$$

for $0 \leq \|\mathcal{I}\| = t < M$ and $0 \leq j \leq N$ and any l , and $C(\mathcal{I}, l, j)_{M,N} = 0$ if $t \geq M$ or $j > N$.

For simplicity write $A(\mathcal{I}, j)$, $B(\mathcal{I}, j)$ and $C(\mathcal{I}, l, j)$ short for $A(\mathcal{I}, j)_{m-1, n-1}$, $B(\mathcal{I}, j)_{m-1, n-1}$ and $C(\mathcal{I}, l, j)_{m-1, n-1}$.

For $f \in K[x_1, \dots, x_m, y_1, \dots, y_n]$ define $\psi(f) = f|_{x_m=y_n=T}$ and for $g, h \in K[x_1, \dots, x_{m-1}, y_1, \dots, y_{n-1}, T]$ write $g \equiv h$ if and only if $\frac{d}{dT}(g-h) = 0$.

Lemma 3.2. *The following relations are valid:*

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(C(\mathcal{I}, l, j)_{m,n}) &\equiv T^k C(\mathcal{I}, l, j-1) + T^{(l+1)(p-k)} B(\mathcal{I}, j) + T^{l(p-k)} B(\mathcal{I}, j-1) \\ &\quad + \sum_{i \in \text{Supp}(\mathcal{I})} (T^{k_i} C(\mathcal{I} \setminus i, l, j-1) + T^{k_i-1} C(\mathcal{I} \setminus i, l, j)) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(A(\mathcal{I}, j)_{m,n}) &\equiv T^k A(\mathcal{I}, j-1) + T^{s(p-k)} B(\mathcal{I}, j) + \sum_{i \in \text{Supp}(\mathcal{I})} (T^{k_i} A(\mathcal{I} \setminus i, j-1) + T^{k_i-1} A(\mathcal{I} \setminus i, j)) \\ &\quad + T^{(s-i)(p-k)} B(\mathcal{I} \setminus i, j). \end{aligned}$$

Proof. It is easy to see that for $j = 0, \dots, n$ we have

$$\psi(S_{y,n}((p-k)^{n-j})) = (1 - \delta_{j,n})T^{p-k}S_{y,n-1}((p-k)^{n-1-j}) + (1 - \delta_{j,0})S_{y,n-1}((p-k)^{n-j})$$

and for $j = 0, \dots, n-1$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(S_{y,n}((p-k)^{n-1-j}k_p)) &= T^k S_{y,n-1}((p-k)^{n-1-j}) + (1 - \delta_{j,n-1})T^{p-k}S_{y,n-1}((p-k)^{n-2-j}k_p) \\ &\quad + (1 - \delta_{j,0})S_{y,n-1}((p-k)^{n-1-j}k_p). \end{aligned}$$

Assume that $lp-lk$ is different from k and all numbers k_i . Then we can verify that for $t = 0, \dots, m$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(S_{x,m}(k^{m-t}k_{i_1} \dots k_{i_t})) &= (1 - \delta_{t,m})T^k S_{x,m-1}(k^{m-1-t}k_{i_1} \dots k_{i_t}) \\ &\quad + \sum_{u=1}^t T^{k_{i_u}} S_{x,m-1}(k^{m-t}k_{i_1} \dots \widehat{k_{i_u}} \dots k_{i_t}) \end{aligned}$$

and for $t = 0, \dots, m - 1$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\psi(S_{x,m}(k^{m-1-t}(lp - lk)k_{i_1} \dots k_{i_t})) \\ &= T^{lp-lk} S_{x,m-1}(k^{m-1-t}k_{i_1} \dots k_{i_t}) + (1 - \delta_{m-1,t})T^k S_{x,m-1}(k^{m-2-t}(lp - lk)k_{i_1} \dots k_{i_t}) \\ &\quad + \sum_{u=1}^t T^{k_{i_u}} S_{x,m-1}(k^{m-1-t}(lp - lk)k_{i_1} \dots \widehat{k_{i_u}} \dots k_{i_t}). \end{aligned}$$

Even when $lp - lk$ coincides with k or one of k_i , the above formulae remain valid.

Using these formulae we obtain readily

$$\begin{aligned} &\psi(C(\mathcal{I}, l, j)_{m,n}) \\ &= (1 - \delta_{j,n})T^{(l+1)(p-k)} S_{x,m-1}(k^{m-1-t}k_{i_1} \dots k_{i_t})S_{y,n-1}((p - k)^{n-1-j}) \\ &\quad + (1 - \delta_{j,n})(1 - \delta_{m-1,t})T^p S_{x,m-1}(k^{m-2-t}(lp - lk)k_{i_1} \dots k_{i_t})S_{y,m-1}((p - k)^{n-j}) \\ &\quad + (1 - \delta_{j,n}) \sum_{u=1}^t T^{p-k+k_{i_u}} S_{x,m-1}(k^{m-1-t}(lp - lk)k_{i_1} \dots \widehat{k_{i_u}} \dots k_{i_t})S_{y,n-1}((p - k)^{n-1-j}) \\ &\quad + (1 - \delta_{j,0})T^{lp-lk} S_{x,m-1}(k^{m-1-t}k_{i_1} \dots k_{i_t})S_{y,n-1}((p - k)^{n-j}) \\ &\quad + (1 - \delta_{j,0})(1 - \delta_{m-1,t})T^k S_{x,m-1}(k^{m-2-t}(lp - lk)k_{i_1} \dots k_{i_t})S_{y,n-1}((p - k)^{n-j}) \\ &\quad + \sum_{u=1}^t T^{k_{i_u}} S_{x,m-1}(k^{m-1-t}(lp - lk)k_{i_1} \dots \widehat{k_{i_u}} \dots k_{i_t})S_{y,n-1}((p - k)^{n-j}) \end{aligned}$$

hence

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(C(\mathcal{I}, l, j)_{m,n}) &\equiv T^{(l+1)(p-k)} B(\mathcal{I}, j) + \sum_{u=1}^t T^{p-k+k_{i_u}} C(\mathcal{I} \setminus i_u, l, j) + T^{l(p-k)} B(\mathcal{I}, j - 1) \\ &\quad + T^k C(\mathcal{I}, j, j - 1) + \sum_{u=1}^t T^{k_{i_u}} C(\mathcal{I} \setminus i_u, l, j - 1) \end{aligned}$$

and the formula for $\psi(C(\mathcal{I}, l, j)_{m,n})$ follows.

Additionally, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(A(\mathcal{I}, j)_{m,n}) &= (1 - \delta_{t,m})T^{k+k_p} S_{x,m-1}(k^{m-1-t}k_{i_1} \dots k_{i_t})S_{y,n-1}((p - k)^{n-1-j}) \\ &\quad + (1 - \delta_{t,m})(1 - \delta_{n-1,j})T^p S_{x,m-1}(k^{m-1-t}k_{i_1} \dots k_{i_t})S_{y,n-1}((p - k)^{n-2-j}k_p) \\ &\quad + (1 - \delta_{t,m})(1 - \delta_{0,j})T^k S_{x,m-1}(k^{m-1-t}k_{i_1} \dots k_{i_t})S_{y,n-1}((p - k)^{n-1-j}k_p) \\ &\quad + \sum_{u=1}^t T^{k_{i_u}+k_p} S_{x,m-1}(k^{m-t}k_{i_1} \dots \widehat{k_{i_u}} \dots k_{i_t})S_{y,n-1}((p - k)^{n-1-j}) \\ &\quad + (1 - \delta_{n-1,j}) \sum_{u=1}^t T^{k_{i_u}+p-k} S_{x,m-1}(k^{m-t}k_{i_1} \dots \widehat{k_{i_u}} \dots k_{i_t})S_{y,n-1}((p - k)^{n-2-j}k_p) \end{aligned}$$

$$+ (1 - \delta_{0,j}) \sum_{u=1}^t T^{k_u} S_{x,m-1}(k^{m-t} k_{i_1} \dots \widehat{k_{i_u}} \dots k_{i_t}) S_{y,n-1}((p-k)^{n-1-j} k_p)$$

hence

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(A(\mathcal{I}, j)_{m,n}) &\equiv T^{s(p-k)} B(\mathcal{I}, j) + T^k A(\mathcal{I}, j-1) + \sum_{u=1}^t T^{k_{i_u} + k_p} B(\mathcal{I} \setminus i_u, j) \\ &+ \sum_{u=1}^t T^{k_{i_u} + (p-k)} A(\mathcal{I} \setminus i_u, j) + \sum_{u=1}^t T^{k_{i_u}} A(\mathcal{I} \setminus i_u, j-1) \end{aligned}$$

and the formula for $\psi(A(\mathcal{I}, j)_{m,n})$ follows. \square

Let us define

$$w = \sum_{l=1}^{s-1} \sum_{0 \leq |\mathcal{I}| \leq l} (-1)^{|\mathcal{I}|+s+l} (s-l) C(\mathcal{I}, l, l-|\mathcal{I}|)_{m,n} + \sum_{0 \leq |\mathcal{I}| < s} (-1)^{|\mathcal{I}|} A(\mathcal{I}, s-1-|\mathcal{I}|)_{m,n}.$$

Then

$$\psi(w) = \sum_{l=1}^{s-1} \sum_{0 \leq |\mathcal{I}| \leq l} (-1)^{|\mathcal{I}|+s+l} (s-l) \psi(C(\mathcal{I}, l, l-|\mathcal{I}|)_{m,n}) + \sum_{0 \leq |\mathcal{I}| < s} (-1)^{|\mathcal{I}|} \psi(A(\mathcal{I}, s-1-|\mathcal{I}|)_{m,n})$$

and by Lemma 3.2

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(w) &\equiv \sum_{l=1}^{s-1} \sum_{0 \leq |\mathcal{I}| \leq l} (-1)^{s+l+|\mathcal{I}|} (s-l) \left(T^k C(\mathcal{I}, l, l-|\mathcal{I}|-1) + T^{(l+1)(p-k)} B(\mathcal{I}, l-|\mathcal{I}|) \right. \\ &+ T^{l(p-k)} B(\mathcal{I}, l-|\mathcal{I}|-1) + \sum_{i \in \text{Supp}(\mathcal{I})} (T^{k_i} C(\mathcal{I} \setminus i, l, l-|\mathcal{I}|-1) + T^{k_i-1} C(\mathcal{I} \setminus i, l, l-|\mathcal{I}|)) \Big) \\ &+ \sum_{0 \leq |\mathcal{I}| < s} (-1)^{|\mathcal{I}|} \left(T^k A(\mathcal{I}, s-|\mathcal{I}|-2) + T^{s(p-k)} B(\mathcal{I}, s-1-|\mathcal{I}|) \right. \\ &+ \sum_{i \in \text{Supp}(\mathcal{I})} (T^{k_i} A(\mathcal{I} \setminus i, s-|\mathcal{I}|-2) + T^{k_i-1} A(\mathcal{I} \setminus i, s-|\mathcal{I}|-1)) \\ &\left. + T^{(s-i)(p-k)} B(\mathcal{I} \setminus i, s-|\mathcal{I}|-1) \right). \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 3.3. *The element $\psi(w)$ is described by*

$$\psi(w) \equiv (-1)^{s+1} s T^{p-k} B(\emptyset, 0).$$

Proof. If $s = 1$, then $\psi(w) \equiv T^{p-k} B(\emptyset, 0)$ and the formula is valid. Therefore we will assume $s > 1$.

We begin by analyzing coefficients at expressions of the type $T^{k_i} A(J, s-2-|J|-i)$ for various sets J and $i = 0, \dots, s-2$.

If $i = 0$, then $|J| \leq s - 2$, and this term appears once with coefficient $(-1)^{|J|}$ as a special term in the second sum which corresponds to the choice $\mathcal{I} = J$, and a second time with coefficient $(-1)^{|J|+1}$ corresponding to the choice $\mathcal{I} = J \cup 1$ (for which $|\mathcal{I}| = s - 1$) and both terms cancel out.

If $0 < i \leq s - 2 - |J|$, then this term appears twice. The first time it appears with coefficient $(-1)^{|J|+i}$ corresponding to $\mathcal{I} = J \cup i$ (for which $|\mathcal{I}| \leq s - 2$), and the second time with coefficient $(-1)^{|J|+i+1}$ corresponding to $\mathcal{I} = J \cup i + 1$ (for which $|\mathcal{I}| \leq s - 1$) and both terms cancel out.

Therefore all terms of type $T^{k_i}A(J, s - 2 - |J| - i)$ will cancel out.

Similar argument can be applied to expressions of the type $T^{k_l}C(J, l, l - 1 - |J| - i)$ for any fixed l . In this case there will be two terms, first with coefficient $(-1)^{s+l+|J|+i}$, and second with coefficient $(-1)^{s+l+|J|+i+1}$ and they will cancel out as well.

Finally, we analyze terms of type $T^{s(p-k)}B(\mathcal{I}, s - |J| - 1)$. We have $l - 1 - |J| < s - 1 - |J|$ and assume that $0 < l - 1 - |J|$. In this first case there are three terms, two of them with coefficients $(s - l)(-1)^{|J|+s+l}$ and $(s - (l - 1))(-1)^{|J|+s+(l-1)}$ corresponding to $\mathcal{I} = J$ and the third term with coefficient $(-1)^{|J|+s-l}$ corresponding to the choice $\mathcal{I} = J \cup s - l$ (for which $|\mathcal{I}| < s - 1$). Note that in this case $l > 1$ and $l - 1 \geq 1$ is within our range of summation. All these three terms will cancel out.

If $0 = l - 1 - |J|$ and $|J| > 0$, then the same argument remains valid since $l > 1$.

The only remaining case is when $J = \emptyset$ and $l = 1$. The corresponding term $T^{p-k}B(\emptyset, 0)$ appears twice. The first time with coefficient $(s - 1)(-1)^{s-1}$ corresponding to $\mathcal{I} = J$, the second time with coefficient $(-1)^{s-1}$ corresponding to $\mathcal{I} = J \cup s - 1$. The sum of these two terms equals $(-1)^{s+1}sT^{p-k}B(\emptyset, 0)$. Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(w) &= (-1)^{s+1}sT^{p-k}B(\emptyset, 0) \\ &= (-1)^{s+1}sT^{p-k}\text{Sym}_{x,m-1}(k^{m-1})\text{Sym}_{y,n-1}((p - k)^{n-1}). \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

We can now easily prove Proposition 3.1.

Proof of Proposition 3.1. Since $s < p$, we can take

$$v_k = \frac{(-1)^s}{s}w + \text{Sym}_{x,m}(k^{m-1})\text{Sym}_{y,n}((p - k)^n).$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(v_k) &= -T^{p-k}\text{Sym}_{x,m-1}(k^{m-1})\text{Sym}_{y,n-1}((p - k)^{n-1}) + ((1 - \delta_{m,1})T^k\text{Sym}_{x,m-1}(k^{m-2}) \\ &\quad + \text{Sym}_{x,m-1}(k^{m-1}))T^{p-k}\text{Sym}_{y,n-1}((p - k)^{n-1}) \equiv 0 \end{aligned}$$

meaning that $v_k \in A_s(m|n)$.

Observe that $w|_{x_m=0} = 0$ because all numbers k , $l(p - k)$ and each k_i are positive. Therefore $v_k|_{x_m=0} = \text{Sym}_{x,m-1}(k^{m-1})\text{Sym}_{y,n}((p - k)^n) = u_k(m - 1|n)$. It remains to observe that v_k is homogeneous of degree $(m - 1)k + (p - k)n$. \square

4. Concluding remarks

Let us comment that if the characteristic of K is positive, then the condition that $f|_{x_m=y_n=T}$ does not depend on T is stronger than the condition that $\frac{d}{dT}f|_{x_m=y_n=T} = 0$.

Proposition 3.1 of [3] states that, in the case of characteristic zero, the algebra A_s is infinitely generated. In the case of positive characteristic we have the following.

Proposition 4.1. *The algebra A_s is finitely generated.*

Proof. The algebra A_S is contained in $B = K[\sigma_i(x|m), \sigma_j(y|n) \mid 1 \leq i \leq m, 1 \leq j \leq n]$. The algebra B is finitely generated over its subalgebra $B' = K[\sigma_i(x|m)^p, \sigma_j(y|n)^p \mid 1 \leq i \leq m, 1 \leq j \leq n]$, hence B a Noetherian B' -module. However, A_S contains B' and is therefore a finitely generated B' -module. Since B' is finitely generated, so is A_S . \square

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