

## Alpha-determinant Cyclic Modules of $\mathfrak{gl}_n(\mathbb{C})$

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**Abstract.** The alpha-determinant unifies and interpolates the notion of the determinant and permanent. We determine the irreducible decomposition of the cyclic module of  $\mathfrak{gl}_n(\mathbb{C})$  defined by the alpha-determinant. The degeneracy of the irreducible decomposition is determined by the content polynomial of a given partition.

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### 1. Introduction

Let  $X = (x_{ij})_{1 \leq i, j \leq n}$  be a matrix with commutative variables  $x_{ij}$ . For a complex number  $\alpha$ , the  $\alpha$ -determinant of  $X$  is defined by

$$\det_{\alpha}(X) = \sum_{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n} \alpha^{n - \nu_n(\sigma)} \prod_{i=1}^n x_{i\sigma(i)},$$

where  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  is the symmetric group of degree  $n$  and  $\nu_n(\sigma)$  stands for the number of cycles in the cycle decomposition of a permutation  $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n$ . The  $\alpha$ -determinant is nothing but the permanent if  $\alpha = 1$  and the (usual) determinant if  $\alpha = -1$ , and hence, it interpolates these two. It appears as a coefficient in the Taylor expansion of the power  $\det(I - \alpha X)^{-1/\alpha}$  of the characteristic polynomial of  $X$  and defines a generalization of the boson, poisson and fermion point processes, see [9, 10]. Also, its Pfaffian analogue has been developed in [8].

It is a natural question whether the  $\alpha$ -determinant can be interpreted as an invariant like the usual determinant (and also the  $q$ -determinant in quantum group theory). Denote by  $\mathcal{P}(\text{Mat}_{n \times n})$  the ring of polynomials in variables  $\{x_{ij}\}_{1 \leq i, j \leq n}$ . Let  $\{E_{ij}\}_{1 \leq i, j \leq n}$  be the natural basis of the Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{gl}_n(\mathbb{C})$ . When  $n = 2$

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and  $\alpha \neq 0$ , consider the linear map  $\rho_2^{(\alpha)}$  of  $\mathfrak{gl}_2(\mathbb{C})$  on  $\mathcal{P}(\text{Mat}_{n \times n})$  determined by

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_2^{(\alpha)}(E_{11}) &= x_{11}\partial_{11} + x_{12}\partial_{12}, & \rho_2^{(\alpha)}(E_{12}) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{-\alpha}}(x_{11}\partial_{21} - \alpha x_{12}\partial_{22}), \\ \rho_2^{(\alpha)}(E_{21}) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{-\alpha}}(-\alpha x_{21}\partial_{11} + x_{22}\partial_{12}), & \rho_2^{(\alpha)}(E_{22}) &= x_{21}\partial_{21} + x_{22}\partial_{22}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\partial_{ij} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{ij}}$ . Then  $\rho_2^{(\alpha)}$  defines a representation of  $\mathfrak{gl}_2(\mathbb{C})$  and

$$\rho_2^{(\alpha)}(E_{ii})\det_\alpha(X) = \det_\alpha(X),$$

$\rho_2^{(\alpha)}(E_{ij})\det_\alpha(X) = 0$  for  $i \neq j$ . This is not, however, true for  $n \geq 3$ . Precisely, although the map  $\rho_n^{(\alpha)}$  given by  $\rho_n^{(\alpha)}(E_{ij}) = \sum_{k=1}^n \beta^{|i-k|-|j-k|} x_{ik}\partial_{jk}$ , where  $\beta = \sqrt{-\alpha}$ , defines a representation of  $\mathfrak{gl}_n(\mathbb{C})$  on  $\mathcal{P}(\text{Mat}_{n \times n})$ ,  $\rho_n^{(\alpha)}(E_{ij})\det_\alpha(X) \neq 0$ , ( $i \neq j$ ) in general. (One can actually show that  $\rho_n^{(\alpha)}$  is equivalent to the usual action of  $\mathfrak{gl}_n(\mathbb{C})$  determined by  $\rho(E_{ij}) = \rho_n^{(-1)}(E_{ij}) = \sum_{k=1}^n x_{ik}\partial_{jk}$  on  $\mathcal{P}(\text{Mat}_{n \times n})$  when  $\alpha \neq 0$ . Indeed, the map  $f(x_{ij}) \mapsto f(\beta^{|i-j|}x_{ij})$  is the intertwining operator from  $(\rho, \mathcal{P}(\text{Mat}_{n \times n}))$  to  $(\rho_n^{(\alpha)}, \mathcal{P}(\text{Mat}_{n \times n}))$ .)

Then, a question which subsequently arises is what the structure of the smallest invariant subspace of  $\mathcal{P}(\text{Mat}_{n \times n})$  which contains  $\det_\alpha(X)$  is. Thus, the aim of the present paper is to investigate a cyclic module  $V_n^{(\alpha)} = U(\mathfrak{g})\det_\alpha(X)$ , under the representation  $\rho$  on  $\mathcal{P}(\text{Mat}_{n \times n})$  for each  $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$ . Clearly,  $V_n^{(-1)}$  is the one-dimensional determinant representation.

We adopt the notations for partitions used in [7] and for representations of  $\mathfrak{gl}_n(\mathbb{C})$  used in [1] and [11]. A partition  $\lambda$  is a weakly decreasing sequence  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots)$  of non-negative integers such that  $\lambda_j = 0$  for sufficiently large  $j$ . We usually identify a partition  $\lambda$  with the corresponding Young diagram. Write  $\lambda \vdash n$  if  $\sum_{j \geq 1} \lambda_j = n$  and denote by  $\lambda' = (\lambda'_1, \lambda'_2, \dots)$  the conjugate partition of  $\lambda$ . Let  $E^\lambda$  denote the Schur module (or called the Weyl module) corresponding to  $\lambda$  and  $f^\lambda$  the number of standard tableaux of shape  $\lambda$ .

The following is our main result, which describes the irreducible decomposition of  $V_n^{(\alpha)}$ .

**Theorem 1.1.** For  $k = 1, 2, \dots, n - 1$ ,

$$V_n^{(\frac{1}{k})} \cong \bigoplus_{\substack{\lambda \vdash n, \\ \lambda'_1 \leq k}} (E^\lambda)^{\oplus f^\lambda} \quad \text{and} \quad V_n^{(-\frac{1}{k})} \cong \bigoplus_{\substack{\lambda \vdash n, \\ \lambda_1 \leq k}} (E^\lambda)^{\oplus f^\lambda}. \tag{1}$$

For  $\alpha \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{\pm 1, \pm \frac{1}{2}, \dots, \pm \frac{1}{n-1}\}$ ,

$$V_n^{(\alpha)} \cong (\mathbb{C}^n)^{\otimes n} \cong \bigoplus_{\lambda \vdash n} (E^\lambda)^{\oplus f^\lambda}. \tag{2}$$

**Example 1.2.** When  $n = 3$  the irreducible decomposition of  $V_n^{(\alpha)}$  is given by

$$V_3^{(\alpha)} \cong \begin{cases} E^{(3)} & \text{if } \alpha = 1, \\ E^{(3)} \oplus E^{(2,1)} \oplus E^{(2,1)} & \text{if } \alpha = \frac{1}{2}, \\ E^{(1,1,1)} & \text{if } \alpha = -1, \\ E^{(2,1)} \oplus E^{(2,1)} \oplus E^{(1,1,1)} & \text{if } \alpha = -\frac{1}{2}, \\ E^{(3)} \oplus E^{(2,1)} \oplus E^{(2,1)} \oplus E^{(1,1,1)} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Note that each Schur module possesses a canonical basis formed by  $\alpha$ -determinants (see Theorem 3.9). Although the  $\alpha$ -determinant is not an invariant, this fact implies that it has a rich symmetry.

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**2. The  $U(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$ -module  $V_n^{(\alpha)}$**

Let  $V_n^{(\alpha)} = \rho(U(\mathfrak{gl}_n))\det_\alpha(X)$ . Put  $[n] = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  and

$$D^{(\alpha)}(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n) = \det_\alpha \begin{pmatrix} x_{i_1 1} & x_{i_1 2} & \dots & x_{i_1 n} \\ x_{i_2 1} & x_{i_2 2} & \dots & x_{i_2 n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ x_{i_n 1} & x_{i_n 2} & \dots & x_{i_n n} \end{pmatrix}$$

for any  $i_1, \dots, i_n \in [n]$ . In particular,  $\det_\alpha(X) = D^{(\alpha)}(1, 2, \dots, n)$ . We abbreviate  $\rho(E_{ij})$  to  $E_{ij}$  for simplicity. When there is no fear of confusion, we abbreviate  $\nu_n$  to  $\nu$ .

**Lemma 2.1.**

$$E_{pq} \cdot D^{(\alpha)}(i_1, \dots, i_n) = \sum_{k=1}^n \delta_{i_k, q} D^{(\alpha)}(i_1, \dots, i_{k-1}, p, i_{k+1}, \dots, i_n). \tag{3}$$

**Proof.** It is straightforward. In fact,

$$\begin{aligned} E_{pq} \cdot D^{(\alpha)}(i_1, \dots, i_n) &= \sum_{j=1}^n x_{pj} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{qj}} \sum_{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n} \alpha^{n-\nu(\sigma)} x_{i_1 \sigma(1)} \cdots x_{i_n \sigma(n)} \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n} \alpha^{n-\nu(\sigma)} \sum_{k=1}^n x_{pj} \delta_{i_k, q} \delta_{\sigma(k), j} x_{i_1 \sigma(1)} \cdots \widehat{x_{i_k \sigma(k)}} \cdots x_{i_n \sigma(n)} \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n \delta_{i_k, q} \sum_{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n} \alpha^{n-\nu(\sigma)} x_{p\sigma(k)} x_{i_1 \sigma(1)} \cdots \widehat{x_{i_k \sigma(k)}} \cdots x_{i_n \sigma(n)} \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n \delta_{i_k, q} D^{(\alpha)}(i_1, \dots, i_{k-1}, p, i_{k+1}, \dots, i_n), \end{aligned}$$

where  $\widehat{x_{kl}}$  stands for the omission of  $x_{kl}$ . ■

**Example 2.2.** We see that  $E_{21} \cdot D^{(\alpha)}(4, 1, 2, 1) = D^{(\alpha)}(4, 2, 2, 1) + D^{(\alpha)}(4, 1, 2, 2)$ ,  $E_{11} \cdot D^{(\alpha)}(4, 1, 2, 1) = 2D^{(\alpha)}(4, 1, 2, 1)$ , and  $E_{43} \cdot D^{(\alpha)}(4, 1, 2, 1) = 0$ .

The symmetric group  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  acts also on  $V_n^{(\alpha)}$  from the right by  $D^{(\alpha)}(i_1, \dots, i_n) \cdot \sigma = D^{(\alpha)}(i_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, i_{\sigma(n)})$ .

**Lemma 2.3.** *The space  $V_n^{(\alpha)}$  is the complex vector space spanned by  $\{D^{(\alpha)}(i_1, \dots, i_n) \mid i_1, \dots, i_n \in [n]\}$ .*

**Proof.** Since the vector space spanned by all  $D^{(\alpha)}(i_1, \dots, i_n)$  contains  $V_n^{(\alpha)}$  by Lemma 2.1, we prove that all  $D^{(\alpha)}(i_1, \dots, i_n)$  are contained in  $V_n^{(\alpha)}$ . For  $1 \leq p < q \leq n$ , we have

$$V_n^{(\alpha)} \ni (E_{pq}E_{qp} - 1) \cdot D^{(\alpha)}(1, 2, \dots, n) = D^{(\alpha)}(\tau(1), \dots, \tau(n)),$$

where  $\tau$  is the transposition  $(p, q)$  of  $p$  and  $q$ . It follows that, for each  $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n$ ,  $D^{(\alpha)}(\sigma(1), \dots, \sigma(n)) = Y \cdot D^{(\alpha)}(1, \dots, n)$  for some  $Y = Y_\sigma \in U(\mathfrak{g})$ . For any  $1 \leq i_1 \leq i_2 \leq \dots \leq i_n \leq n$ , suppose there exists  $X = X_{i_1 \dots i_n} \in U(\mathfrak{g})$  such that  $D^{(\alpha)}(i_1, \dots, i_n) = X \cdot D^{(\alpha)}(1, \dots, n)$ . For any  $j_1, \dots, j_n \in [n]$ , we have  $D^{(\alpha)}(j_1, \dots, j_n) = D^{(\alpha)}(i_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, i_{\sigma(n)})$  for some  $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n$  and  $i_1 \leq \dots \leq i_n$ . Hence, since the action of  $\mathfrak{gl}_n(\mathbb{C})$  and of  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  commute, we see that

$$\begin{aligned} D^{(\alpha)}(j_1, \dots, j_n) &= D^{(\alpha)}(i_1, \dots, i_n) \cdot \sigma \\ &= (X \cdot D^{(\alpha)}(1, \dots, n)) \cdot \sigma = X \cdot (D^{(\alpha)}(1, \dots, n) \cdot \sigma) = XY \cdot D^{(\alpha)}(1, \dots, n) \end{aligned}$$

and  $D^{(\alpha)}(j_1, \dots, j_n)$  is contained in  $V_n^{(\alpha)}$ . Therefore it is sufficient to prove  $D^{(\alpha)}(i_1, \dots, i_n) \in V_n^{(\alpha)}$  for  $i_1 \leq \dots \leq i_n$ .

For any sequence  $(i_1, \dots, i_n)$  such that  $i_k \leq k$  for any  $k$ , we have

$$D^{(\alpha)}(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n) = E_{i_n} \cdots E_{i_2} E_{i_1} \cdot D^{(\alpha)}(1, 2, \dots, n) \in V_n^{(\alpha)}.$$

In fact, by Lemma 2.1, we see that  $E_{i_k k} \cdot D^{(\alpha)}(i_1, \dots, i_{k-1}, k, k + 1, \dots, n) = D^{(\alpha)}(i_1, \dots, i_{k-1}, i_k, k + 1, \dots, n)$  because  $i_1 \leq \dots \leq i_{k-1} < k$  for any  $1 \leq k \leq n$ . Suppose there exists  $k$  such that  $i_j \leq j$  for any  $j < k$  and  $i_k > k$ . We prove  $D^{(\alpha)}(i_1, \dots, i_n) \in V_n^{(\alpha)}$  for such sequences  $(i_1, \dots, i_n)$  by induction with respect to the lexicographic order. Since  $i_1 \leq \dots \leq i_{k-1} < k \leq i_k - 1 < i_{k+1} \leq \dots \leq i_n$  and  $D^{(\alpha)}(i_1, \dots, i_{k-1}, i_k - 1, i_{k+1}, \dots, i_n) \in V_n^{(\alpha)}$  by the induction assumption, we have  $D^{(\alpha)}(i_1, \dots, i_k, \dots, i_n) = E_{i_k, i_k-1} \cdot D^{(\alpha)}(i_1, \dots, i_k - 1, \dots, i_n) \in V_n^{(\alpha)}$  by Lemma 2.1. Hence we obtain our claim. ■

The universal enveloping algebra  $U(\mathfrak{g})$  of  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{gl}_n(\mathbb{C})$  acts on the  $n$ -tensor product  $(\mathbb{C}^n)^{\otimes n} = \mathbb{C}^n \otimes \dots \otimes \mathbb{C}^n$  from the left by

$$E_{pq} \cdot (e_{i_1} \otimes \dots \otimes e_{i_n}) = \sum_{k=1}^n e_{i_1} \otimes \dots \otimes E_{pq} e_{i_k} \otimes \dots \otimes e_{i_n} = \sum_{k=1}^n \delta_{i_k, q} e_{i_1} \otimes \dots \otimes e_p \otimes \dots \otimes e_{i_n},$$

where  $\{e_k\}_{k=1}^n$  is the natural basis of  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . From this fact together with Lemma 2.1 and Lemma 2.3, we have the

**Proposition 2.4.** *Let  $\Phi_n^{(\alpha)}$  be the linear map from  $(\mathbb{C}^n)^{\otimes n}$  to  $V_n^{(\alpha)}$  defined by*

$$\Phi_n^{(\alpha)}(e_{i_1} \otimes \dots \otimes e_{i_n}) = D^{(\alpha)}(i_1, \dots, i_n)$$

*for each  $i_1, \dots, i_n \in [n]$ . Then  $\Phi_n^{(\alpha)}$  is a  $U(\mathfrak{g})$ -module homomorphism. In particular,  $V_n^{(\alpha)}$  is isomorphic to a quotient module  $(\mathbb{C}^n)^{\otimes n} / \text{Ker } \Phi_n^{(\alpha)}$  of  $(\mathbb{C}^n)^{\otimes n}$ .*

Notice that, when  $\alpha = 0$ , the homomorphism  $\Phi_n^{(0)}(\mathbf{e}_{i_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbf{e}_{i_n}) = D^{(0)}(i_1, \dots, i_n) = x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_n}$  is clearly bijective, and therefore  $V_n^{(0)} \cong (\mathbb{C}^n)^{\otimes n}$ . Hence we have the irreducible decomposition of  $V_n^{(0)}$  as

$$V_n^{(0)} \cong \bigoplus_{\lambda \vdash n} (E^\lambda)^{\oplus f^\lambda}. \tag{4}$$

The symmetric group  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  acts on  $(\mathbb{C}^n)^{\otimes n}$  from the right by  $(\mathbf{e}_{i_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbf{e}_{i_n}) \cdot \sigma = \mathbf{e}_{i_{\sigma(1)}} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbf{e}_{i_{\sigma(n)}}$  for any  $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n$ .

### 3. A formula for the number of cycles

A numbering of shape  $\lambda \vdash n$  is a way of putting distinct elements in  $[n]$  in each box of the Young diagram  $\lambda$ . Let  $R(T)$  be the row group (or called the Young subgroup) of a numbering represented by a tableau  $T$ , i.e., permutations in  $R(T)$  permute the entries of each row among themselves. The column group  $C(T)$  is also defined similarly.

Recall the Frobenius notation  $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_d | b_1, b_2, \dots, b_d)$  of a partition  $\lambda$ , where  $a_i = \lambda_i - i \geq 0$  and  $b_i = \lambda'_i - i \geq 0$  for  $1 \leq i \leq d$ . Then the content polynomial  $f_\lambda(\alpha)$  ([7, I-1]) for the partition  $\lambda$  is written as

$$f_\lambda(\alpha) = \prod_{i=1}^d \left\{ \prod_{j=1}^{a_i} (1 + j\alpha) \cdot \prod_{j=1}^{b_i} (1 - j\alpha) \right\}. \tag{5}$$

Note that  $f_\lambda(\alpha)$  satisfies  $f_\lambda(\alpha) = f_{\lambda'}(-\alpha)$ . We have the following formula for the number  $\nu = \nu_n$  of cycles.

**Proposition 3.1.** *Let  $T$  be a numbering of shape  $\lambda \vdash n$ . Then*

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{q \in C(T)} \text{sgn}(q) \sum_{p \in R(T)} \alpha^{n - \nu(pq\sigma)} \\ &= \begin{cases} \text{sgn}(q_0) f_\lambda(\alpha) & \text{if } \sigma = q_0 p_0 \text{ for some } q_0 \in C(T) \text{ and } p_0 \in R(T), \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

**Proof.** The formula

$$\alpha^{n - \nu_n(\sigma)} = \sum_{\mu \vdash n} \frac{f^\mu}{n!} f_\mu(\alpha) \chi^\mu(\sigma) \tag{7}$$

is a specialization of the Frobenius character formula, see [7, I-7, Example 17]. Here  $\chi^\mu$  is the irreducible character of  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  corresponding to  $\mu$ . Moreover, for a numbering  $T$  of shape  $\lambda$  and a partition  $\mu$ , the well-known equation

$$\chi^\mu \cdot c_T = \delta_{\lambda, \mu} \frac{n!}{f^\mu} c_T \tag{8}$$

in the group algebra  $\mathbb{C}\mathfrak{S}_n$  holds, which is obtained by Young. Here  $c_T$  is the Young symmetrizer

$$c_T = \sum_{q \in C(T)} \text{sgn}(q) \sum_{p \in R(T)} qp.$$

Define  $\phi_\alpha = \sum_{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n} \alpha^{n-\nu(\sigma)} \sigma \in \mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{S}_n]$ . It follows from (7) that  $\phi_\alpha = \sum_{\mu \vdash n} \frac{f_\mu}{n!} f_\mu(\alpha) \chi^\mu$ . Hence by (8) we have

$$\phi_\alpha \cdot c_T = \sum_{\mu \vdash n} \frac{f_\mu}{n!} f_\mu(\alpha) \delta_{\lambda, \mu} \frac{n!}{f_\mu} c_T = f_\lambda(\alpha) c_T.$$

In other words,

$$\sum_{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n} \sum_{q \in C(T)} \text{sgn}(q) \sum_{p \in R(T)} \alpha^{n-\nu(pq\sigma)} \sigma = f_\lambda(\alpha) \sum_{q \in C(T)} \text{sgn}(q) \sum_{p \in R(T)} qp.$$

This gives our desired formula. ■

**Example 3.2.** When  $T = \begin{smallmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 \end{smallmatrix}$  we have

$$\sum_{q \in C(T)} \text{sgn}(q) \sum_{p \in R(T)} \alpha^{3-\nu(pq\sigma)} = \begin{cases} (1 + \alpha)(1 - \alpha) & \text{for } \sigma = (1) \text{ or } (12), \\ -(1 + \alpha)(1 - \alpha) & \text{for } \sigma = (13) \text{ or } (123), \\ 0 & \text{for } \sigma = (23) \text{ or } (132). \end{cases}$$

**Example 3.3.** For  $T = \begin{smallmatrix} 1 & 2 & \dots & n \end{smallmatrix}$  Proposition 3.1 says

$$\sum_{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n} \alpha^{n-\nu(\sigma)} = \prod_{j=1}^{n-1} (1 + j\alpha). \tag{9}$$

For a sequence  $(i_1, \dots, i_n) \in [n]^n$  and a numbering  $T$ , we define

$$\begin{aligned} v_T^{(\alpha)}(i_1, \dots, i_n) &= D^{(\alpha)}(i_1, \dots, i_n) \cdot c_T \\ &= \sum_{q \in C(T)} \text{sgn}(q) \sum_{p \in R(T)} D^{(\alpha)}(i_{qp(1)}, \dots, i_{qp(n)}), \end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

where  $c_T = \sum_{q \in C(T)} \text{sgn}(q) \sum_{p \in R(T)} qp$  is the Young symmetrizer.

**Corollary 3.4.** *Let  $\lambda \vdash n$ . For each sequence  $(i_1, \dots, i_n) \in [n]^n$  and numbering  $T$  of shape  $\lambda$ , we have*

$$v_T^{(\alpha)}(i_1, \dots, i_n) = f_\lambda(\alpha) v_T^{(0)}(i_1, \dots, i_n). \tag{11}$$

**Proof.** For a numbering  $T$  of shape  $\lambda$ , denote by  $W_T^{(\alpha)}$  the space spanned by  $\{v_T^{(\alpha)}(i_1, \dots, i_n) \mid i_1, \dots, i_n \in [n]\}$ . Since the Schur module  $E^\lambda$  is isomorphic to the image of the map  $(\mathbb{C}^n)^{\otimes n} \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}^n)^{\otimes n}$  given by  $c_T$  for any numbering  $T$ , it follows from Proposition 2.4 and (10) that  $W_T^{(\alpha)}$  is isomorphic to  $\{0\}$  or  $E^\lambda$ . If (11) is proved for a certain sequence  $(j_1, \dots, j_n)$  satisfying  $v_T^{(0)}(j_1, \dots, j_n) \neq 0$ , (11) holds for any  $(i_1, \dots, i_n) \in [n]^n$  because  $W_T^{(\alpha)}$  is the cyclic module  $U(\mathfrak{g})v_T^{(\alpha)}(j_1, \dots, j_n)$  and the action of  $\mathfrak{g}$  is independent of  $\alpha$ .

We prove (11) for the case where  $(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n) = (1, 2, \dots, n)$ . Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} v_T^{(\alpha)}(1, \dots, n) &= \sum_{q \in C(T)} \operatorname{sgn}(q) \sum_{p \in R(T)} \sum_{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n} \alpha^{n-\nu(\sigma)} x_{qp\sigma(1),1} \cdots x_{qp\sigma(n),n} \\ &= \sum_{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n} \left( \sum_{q \in C(T)} \operatorname{sgn}(q) \sum_{p \in R(T)} \alpha^{n-\nu(pq\sigma)} \right) x_{\sigma(1),1} \cdots x_{\sigma(n),n}. \end{aligned}$$

By Proposition 3.1 we see that

$$\begin{aligned} v_T^{(\alpha)}(1, \dots, n) &= f_\lambda(\alpha) \sum_{q_0 \in C(T)} \operatorname{sgn}(q_0) \sum_{p_0 \in R(T)} x_{q_0 p_0(1),1} \cdots x_{q_0 p_0(n),n} = f_\lambda(\alpha) v_T^{(0)}(1, \dots, n). \end{aligned}$$

If  $q_0 \neq q'_0$  or  $p_0 \neq p'_0$  then  $q_0 p_0 \neq q'_0 p'_0$ . Indeed, if  $q_0 p_0 = q'_0 p'_0$  then  $C(T) \ni (q'_0)^{-1} q_0 = p_0 (p'_0)^{-1} \in R(T)$ . But, since  $C(T) \cap R(T) = \{(1)\}$ , we have  $q_0 = q'_0$  and  $p_0 = p'_0$ . Hence

$$v_T^{(0)}(1, \dots, n) = \sum_{q_0 \in C(T)} \operatorname{sgn}(q_0) \sum_{p_0 \in R(T)} x_{q_0 p_0(1),1} \cdots x_{q_0 p_0(n),n} \neq 0$$

and so we have proved the corollary. ■

**Example 3.5.** For  $T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} v_T^{(\alpha)}(1, 2, 1) &= D^{(\alpha)}(1, 2, 1) \cdot ((1) + (13) - (12) - (132)) \\ &= 2D^{(\alpha)}(1, 2, 1) - D^{(\alpha)}(2, 1, 1) - D^{(\alpha)}(1, 1, 2) \\ &= (1 + \alpha)(1 - \alpha)(2x_{11}x_{22}x_{13} - x_{21}x_{12}x_{13} - x_{11}x_{12}x_{23}). \end{aligned}$$

**Example 3.6.** For  $T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} v_T^{(\alpha)}(1, 2, 2, 4) &= D^{(\alpha)}(1, 2, 2, 4) + D^{(\alpha)}(1, 2, 4, 2) - 2D^{(\alpha)}(1, 4, 2, 2) + D^{(\alpha)}(2, 1, 2, 4) \\ &\quad + D^{(\alpha)}(2, 1, 4, 2) - 2D^{(\alpha)}(2, 2, 1, 4) - 2D^{(\alpha)}(2, 2, 4, 1) + D^{(\alpha)}(2, 4, 1, 2) \\ &\quad + D^{(\alpha)}(2, 4, 2, 1) - 2D^{(\alpha)}(4, 1, 2, 2) + D^{(\alpha)}(4, 2, 1, 2) + D^{(\alpha)}(4, 2, 2, 1) \\ &= (1 + \alpha)(1 - \alpha)(x_{11}x_{22}x_{23}x_{44} + x_{11}x_{22}x_{43}x_{24} - 2x_{11}x_{42}x_{23}x_{24} + x_{21}x_{12}x_{23}x_{44} \\ &\quad + x_{21}x_{12}x_{43}x_{24} - 2x_{21}x_{22}x_{13}x_{44} - 2x_{21}x_{22}x_{43}x_{14} + x_{21}x_{42}x_{13}x_{24} \\ &\quad + x_{21}x_{42}x_{23}x_{14} - 2x_{41}x_{12}x_{23}x_{24} + x_{41}x_{22}x_{13}x_{24} + x_{41}x_{22}x_{23}x_{14}). \end{aligned}$$

For a semi-standard tableau  $S$  and a standard tableau  $T$  of the same shape, we define the sequence  $\mathbf{i}^{(S,T)} = (i_1^{(S,T)}, \dots, i_n^{(S,T)})$  as follows. For each  $k$ , we let  $B_k$  be the box numbered by  $k$  in  $T$  and denote by  $i_k^{(S,T)}$  the number in box  $B_k$  of  $S$ . For example, for

$$S = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 3 & 4 \\ 4 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & 5 & 6 \\ 2 & 4 & 9 \\ 7 & 8 \end{bmatrix},$$

we have  $\mathbf{i}^{(S,T)} = (1, 3, 2, 3, 2, 3, 4, 6, 4)$ . Put  $v_{S,T}^{(\alpha)} = v_T^{(\alpha)}(\mathbf{i}^{(S,T)})$ .

**Example 3.7.**

$$\begin{aligned}
 v_{S,T}^{(\alpha)} &= 2D^{(\alpha)}(1, 2, 1) - D^{(\alpha)}(2, 1, 1) - D^{(\alpha)}(1, 1, 2) \quad \text{for } (S, T) = \left( \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 1 & 1 \\ \hline 2 & \\ \hline \end{array}, \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 1 & 3 \\ \hline 2 & \\ \hline \end{array} \right), \\
 v_{S,T}^{(\alpha)} &= D^{(\alpha)}(1, 3, 2) - D^{(\alpha)}(3, 1, 2) + D^{(\alpha)}(2, 3, 1) - D^{(\alpha)}(2, 1, 3) \\
 &\quad \text{for } (S, T) = \left( \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 1 & 2 \\ \hline 3 & \\ \hline \end{array}, \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 1 & 3 \\ \hline 2 & \\ \hline \end{array} \right), \\
 v_{S,T}^{(\alpha)} &= D^{(\alpha)}(1, 2, 3) - D^{(\alpha)}(2, 1, 3) + D^{(\alpha)}(3, 2, 1) - D^{(\alpha)}(3, 1, 2) \\
 &\quad \text{for } (S, T) = \left( \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 1 & 3 \\ \hline 2 & \\ \hline \end{array}, \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 1 & 3 \\ \hline 2 & \\ \hline \end{array} \right).
 \end{aligned}$$

**Example 3.8.** For

$$S = T = \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 1 \\ \hline 2 \\ \hline \vdots \\ \hline n \\ \hline \end{array}$$

we have  $v_{S,T}^{(\alpha)} = \sum_{q \in \mathfrak{S}_n} \text{sgn}(q) D^{(\alpha)}(q(1), \dots, q(n)) = \prod_{j=1}^{n-1} (1 - j\alpha) \det(X)$ .

Finally, we obtain the following theorem.

**Theorem 3.9.** Denote by  $W_T^{(\alpha)}$  the image of the map  $V_n^{(\alpha)} \rightarrow V_n^{(\alpha)}$  given by  $c_T$  for each standard tableau  $T$  of shape  $\lambda \vdash n$ . Then  $V_n^{(\alpha)} = \bigoplus_{\lambda \vdash n} \bigoplus_T W_T^{(\alpha)}$ , where  $T$  run over standard tableaux, and

$$W_T^{(\alpha)} \cong f_\lambda(\alpha) E^\lambda = \begin{cases} \{0\} & \text{for } \alpha \in \{1, \frac{1}{2}, \dots, \frac{1}{\lambda'_1-1}, -1, -\frac{1}{2}, \dots, -\frac{1}{\lambda_1-1}\}, \\ E^\lambda & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

When  $W_T^{(\alpha)} \cong E^\lambda$ , the  $v_{S,T}^{(\alpha)} = f_\lambda(\alpha) v_{S,T}^{(0)}$ , where  $S$  run over all semi-standard tableaux of shape  $\lambda$  with entries in  $[n]$ , form a basis of  $W_T^{(\alpha)}$ . Further, the vector  $v_{S,T}^{(\alpha)}$  is the highest weight vector of  $W_T^{(\alpha)}$  if all entries in the  $r$ -th row of  $S$  are  $r$ , and  $v_{S,T}^{(\alpha)}$  is the lowest weight vector if entries in each  $r$ -th column of  $S$  are given as  $n - \lambda'_r + 1, \dots, n - 1, n$  from the top.

**Proof.** By Proposition 2.4, it is clear that  $V_n^{(\alpha)} = \bigoplus_\lambda \bigoplus_T W_T^{(\alpha)}$  and each  $W_T^{(\alpha)}$  is  $\{0\}$  or isomorphic to  $E^\lambda$ . The space  $W_T^{(\alpha)}$  is generated by  $v_T^{(\alpha)}(i_1, \dots, i_n)$ , where  $(i_1, \dots, i_n) \in [n]^n$ . Since  $W_T^{(0)} \cong E^\lambda$  by (4), it follows from Corollary 3.4 that  $W_T^{(\alpha)} \cong E^\lambda$  unless  $f_\alpha(\lambda) = 0$ . It is easy to see that  $f_\alpha(\lambda) = 0$  if and only if  $\alpha = 1/k$  for  $1 \leq k \leq \lambda'_1 - 1$  or  $\alpha = -1/k$  for  $1 \leq k \leq \lambda_1 - 1$ .

Suppose  $W_T^{(\alpha)} \cong E^\lambda$ . Elements  $\{v_{S,T}^{(\alpha)} \mid S \text{ are semi-standard tableaux}\}$  are linearly independent. In fact, for any semi-standard tableau  $S_0$ , the term  $D^{(0)}(\mathbf{i}^{(S_0, T)}) = x_{i_1^{(S_0, T)}, 1} \cdots x_{i_n^{(S_0, T)}, n}$  appears only in  $v_{S_0, T}^{(0)}$  among all  $v_{S, T}^{(0)}$ . Since the dimension of  $E^\lambda$  is equal to the number of semi-standard tableaux of shape  $\lambda$ , the  $v_{S, T}^{(\alpha)} = f_\lambda(\alpha) v_{S, T}^{(0)}$  form a basis of  $W_T^{(\alpha)}$ . It is immediate to check the last claim. ■



Theorem 3.9 says that  $\{D^{(\alpha)}(i_1, \dots, i_n) \mid i_1, \dots, i_n \in [n]\}$  are linearly independent if  $\alpha \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{\pm 1/k \mid k = 1, \dots, n-1\}$ . Theorem 1.1 follows from Theorem 3.9 immediately.

A trick of doubling the variables ([3], [11]) suggests the following corollary. In fact, since  $\dim_{\mathbb{C}}(E^\lambda \otimes (E^\lambda)^*)^{\mathfrak{sl}_n(\mathbb{C})} = 1$ , we can express  $\det(X)^2$  by  $\alpha$ -determinants except a finite number of  $\alpha$ .

**Corollary 3.10.** *Let  $\alpha \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{\frac{1}{k} \mid 1 \leq k \leq \frac{n-1}{2}\}$ . Then there exists  $\lambda \vdash n$  such that  $f_\lambda(\alpha) \neq 0$ , which has the following property; for any standard tableau  $T$  of shape  $\lambda$  there exists a  $\mathfrak{sl}_n(\mathbb{C})$ -intertwining operator  $A^{(\alpha)} : (W_T^{(\alpha)})^* \rightarrow W_T^{(\alpha)}$  satisfying  $A^{(\alpha)}((v_{T,T}^{(\alpha)})^*) = v_{T,T}^{(\alpha)}$  and*

$$\det(X)^2 = f_\lambda(\alpha)^{-2} \sum_S v_{S,T}^{(\alpha)} \cdot A^{(\alpha)}((v_{S,T}^{(\alpha)})^*). \tag{12}$$

Here the sum runs over all semi-standard tableaux  $S$  of shape  $\lambda$  and  $(v_{S,T}^{(\alpha)})^*$  are defined by  $(v_{S,T}^{(\alpha)})^*(v_{S',T}^{(\alpha)}) = \delta_{S,S'}$ . More precisely, one may take

$$\lambda = \overbrace{(2, 2, \dots, 2)}^{\frac{n}{2}} \quad \text{if } n \text{ is even} \quad \text{or} \quad \lambda = \overbrace{(2, \dots, 2, 1)}^{\frac{n-1}{2}} \quad \text{if } n \text{ is odd,}$$

which satisfies the condition.

**Proof.** For  $\alpha$  and  $\lambda$  in the corollary, it is easy to see that  $f_\lambda(\alpha) \neq 0$ . Consider a standard tableau  $T$  of shape  $\lambda$ . Then we see that  $W_T^{(\alpha)} = W_T^{(0)}$  and  $(v_{S,T}^{(\alpha)})^* = f_\lambda(\alpha)^{-1}(v_{S,T}^{(0)})^*$ . Suppose the corollary is true for  $\alpha = 0$ . Using the intertwining operator  $A^{(0)}$ , we define  $A^{(\alpha)}$  by  $A^{(\alpha)} = f_\lambda(\alpha)^2 A^{(0)}$ . Then we see that  $A^{(\alpha)}((v_{T,T}^{(\alpha)})^*) = f_\lambda(\alpha)^2 A^{(0)}(f_\lambda(\alpha)^{-1}(v_{T,T}^{(0)})^*) = v_{T,T}^{(\alpha)}$  and

$$\sum_S v_{S,T}^{(\alpha)} \cdot A^{(\alpha)}((v_{S,T}^{(\alpha)})^*) = f_\lambda(\alpha)^2 \sum_S v_{S,T}^{(0)} \cdot A^{(0)}((v_{S,T}^{(0)})^*) = f_\lambda(\alpha)^2 \det(X)^2.$$

It is hence sufficient to prove the corollary for the case  $\alpha = 0$ .

In general, for a finite-dimensional irreducible  $U(\mathfrak{sl}_n)$ -module  $V$  and its dual module  $V^*$ ,

$$\mathfrak{I} = \sum_i v_i \otimes v_i^* \in V \otimes V^*$$

defines an invariant of  $\mathfrak{sl}_n(\mathbb{C})$ , see [3]. Here  $v_i$  are a basis of  $V$  and  $v_i^*$  are the dual basis, i.e.,  $v_i^*(v_j) = \delta_{ij}$ . Let  $\lambda$  be a partition whose parts are 1 or 2. Then  $V = W_T^{(0)} \cong E^\lambda$  is self-dual, i.e.,  $V^* \cong_{\mathfrak{sl}_n(\mathbb{C})} V$ . Therefore there exists an intertwining operator  $A'$  from  $V^*$  to  $V$ . Then the polynomial  $\sum_S v_{S,T}^{(0)} \cdot A'((v_{S,T}^{(0)})^*) \in \mathcal{P}(\text{Mat}_{n \times n})$  of degree  $2n$  determined by  $\mathfrak{I}$  is an invariant of  $\mathfrak{sl}_n$  and hence

$$\sum_S v_{S,T}^{(0)} \cdot A'((v_{S,T}^{(0)})^*) = c \det(X)^2 \tag{13}$$

for some constant  $c$ . Comparing the coefficients of  $x_{11}^2 \cdots x_{nn}^2$  in both sides in (13), we have  $A'((v_{T,T}^{(0)})^*) = cx_{11} \cdots x_{nn} = cv_{T,T}^{(0)}$  and so  $c \neq 0$ . Hence  $A^{(0)} = c^{-1}A'$  is our desired operator. ■

**Example 3.11.** Let  $T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ . The module  $W_T^{(\alpha)}$  has a basis consisting of  $v_+ = v_{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}}^{(\alpha)} = 2D^{(\alpha)}(1, 1)$ ,  $v = v_{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}}^{(\alpha)} = D^{(\alpha)}(1, 2) + D^{(\alpha)}(2, 1)$ ,  $v_- = v_{\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}}^{(\alpha)} = 2D^{(\alpha)}(2, 2)$  if  $\alpha \neq -1$ . The linear map  $A$  determined by

$$A(v_+^*) = -\frac{1}{2}v_-, \quad A(v^*) = v, \quad A(v_-^*) = -\frac{1}{2}v_+$$

from  $(W_T^{(\alpha)})^*$  to  $W_T^{(\alpha)}$  defines an intertwining operator of  $\mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{C})$ . Hence, by the corollary, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (1 + \alpha)^2 \det(X)^2 &= v_+ \cdot A(v_+^*) + v \cdot A(v^*) + v_- \cdot A(v_-^*) = v^2 - v_+ \cdot v_- \\ &= (D^{(\alpha)}(1, 2) + D^{(\alpha)}(2, 1))^2 - 4D^{(\alpha)}(1, 1)D^{(\alpha)}(2, 2). \end{aligned}$$

### 4. Concluding remarks

#### 4.1. Quantum analogue.

We give here a brief comment on a possible generalization of our theorems to the quantum group  $U_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$  because it produces new interesting phenomena that have never appeared in the classical case.

Define the quantum  $\alpha$ -determinant by

$$\det_{\alpha,q}(X) = \sum_{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n} q^{\text{inv}(\sigma)} \alpha^{n-\nu(\sigma)} x_{\sigma(1)1} \cdots x_{\sigma(n)n}, \tag{14}$$

where  $\text{inv}(\sigma)$  is the inversion number of  $\sigma$ ;  $\text{inv}(\sigma) = \#\{(i, j) \mid 1 \leq i < j \leq n, \sigma(i) > \sigma(j)\}$ . In particular,  $\det_q(X) = \det_{-1,q}(X)$  is the (usual) quantum determinant, see e.g. [4]. We define quantum analogue  $v_{S,T}^{(\alpha,q)}$  of the element  $v_{S,T}^{(\alpha)}$  by the  $q$ -Young symmetrizers studied by Gyoja [2]. For each standard tableau  $T$ , denote by  $W_T^{(\alpha,q)}$  the quantum analogue of  $W_T^{(\alpha)}$  given by the  $q$ -Young symmetrizer. Let  $\lambda$  be a partition of  $n$  and let  $T_1, \dots, T_d$  be all standard tableaux of shape  $\lambda$ , where  $d = f^\lambda$ . Let  $v_k^{(\alpha,q)} = v_{S_k, T_k}^{(\alpha,q)}$  be the highest weight vector of each  $W_{T_k}^{(\alpha,q)}$ . Then there exists a  $d \times d$  matrix  $F_\lambda(\alpha; q)$  such that

$$(v_1^{(\alpha,q)}, \dots, v_d^{(\alpha,q)}) = (v_1^{(0,q)}, \dots, v_d^{(0,q)})F_\lambda(\alpha; q).$$

In the classical case, as we have seen in Corollary 3.4,  $F_\lambda(\alpha; 1)$  is the scalar matrix  $f_\lambda(\alpha)I$ . It is observed, however,  $F_\lambda(\alpha; q)$  is not, in general, a scalar matrix, not even a diagonal matrix, see [6]. Therefore, it is necessary to find a new basis other than the one obtained by the  $q$ -Young symmetrizers in order to diagonalize  $F_\lambda(\alpha; q)$ . In particular, one notes that the  $q$ -Young symmetrizer does not provide a formula like (6) in Proposition 3.1 in the quantum group case.

#### 4.2. Immanant.

Recall the immanant. For a partition  $\lambda$  of  $n$ , the  $\lambda$ -immanant of  $X$  is defined by

$$\text{Imm}_\lambda(X) = \sum_{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n} \chi^\lambda(\sigma) \prod_{i=1}^n x_{i\sigma(i)}.$$

Then, if we use the formula (8), we find the cyclic module  $U(\mathfrak{gl}_n)\text{Imm}_\lambda(X)$  is decomposed as  $U(\mathfrak{gl}_n)\text{Imm}_\lambda(X) \cong (E^\lambda)^{\oplus f^\lambda}$  as in the case of  $\alpha$ -determinants. Also, since the function  $\sigma \rightarrow \nu_n(\sigma)$  is a class function, the  $\alpha$ -determinant is expanded by immanants;

$$\det_\alpha(X) = \sum_{\lambda \vdash n} \frac{f^\lambda}{n!} f_\lambda(\alpha) \text{Imm}_\lambda(X)$$

by (7). Combining these facts, we have  $V_n^{(\alpha)} \cong \bigoplus_{\substack{\lambda \vdash n \\ f_\lambda(\alpha) \neq 0}} (E^\lambda)^{\oplus f^\lambda}$ . This agrees with Theorem 1.1. However, if we consider the quantum group case, this discussion can not be applied, because the function  $\sigma \mapsto \text{inv}(\sigma)$  appeared in (14) is not a class function.

**4.3. The case where  $\alpha = \infty$ .**

We consider the case “ $\alpha = \infty$ ” and describe the irreducible decomposition of  $V_n^{(\infty)}$ . Since  $\det_\alpha(X)$  is a polynomial of degree  $n - 1$  in variable  $\alpha$ , we can define a limit

$$\det_\infty(X) = \lim_{|\alpha| \rightarrow \infty} \alpha^{1-n} \det_\alpha(X) = \sum_{\substack{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n \\ \nu_n(\sigma)=1}} x_{\sigma(1),1} \cdots x_{\sigma(n),n}. \tag{15}$$

For example,

$$\det_\infty \begin{pmatrix} x_{11} & x_{12} & x_{13} \\ x_{21} & x_{22} & x_{23} \\ x_{31} & x_{32} & x_{33} \end{pmatrix} = x_{21}x_{32}x_{13} + x_{31}x_{12}x_{23}.$$

Denote by  $V_n^{(\infty)}$  the cyclic module  $U(\mathfrak{g})\det_\infty(X)$ . Then we have the following irreducible decomposition of  $V_n^{(\infty)}$  as a corollary of Theorem 3.9.

**Corollary 4.1.**

$$V_n^{(\infty)} \cong \bigoplus_{\lambda:\text{hook}} (E^\lambda)^{\oplus f^\lambda} = \bigoplus_{k=1}^n \left( E^{(k,1^{n-k})} \right)^{\oplus \binom{n-1}{k-1}},$$

where  $\lambda$  run over all hook partitions of  $n$ .

**Proof.** The degree of polynomial  $f_\lambda(\alpha) \in \mathbb{Z}[\alpha]$  is equal to  $n - d$ , where  $d$  is the number of the main diagonal of the Young diagram  $\lambda$ . Therefore  $\lim_{|\alpha| \rightarrow \infty} \alpha^{1-n} f_\lambda(\alpha)$  is zero unless  $d = 1$ , i.e.,  $\lambda$  is a hook. For a hook  $\lambda = (k, 1^{n-k})$ , the number  $f^\lambda$  is given by the binomial coefficient  $\binom{n-1}{k-1}$ . Hence, the claim follows from Theorem 3.9. ■

**Example 4.2.** When  $n = 5$ ,

$$V_5^{(\infty)} \cong E^{(5)} \oplus (E^{(4,1)})^{\oplus 4} \oplus (E^{(3,1,1)})^{\oplus 6} \oplus (E^{(2,1,1,1)})^{\oplus 4} \oplus E^{(1,1,1,1,1)}.$$

**Remark 4.3.** By (9), for each  $\alpha > 0$ , we can define a probability measure  $\mathfrak{M}_n^{(\alpha)}$  on  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  by

$$\mathfrak{M}_n^{(\alpha)}(\sigma) = \frac{\alpha^{n-\nu_n(\sigma)}}{\prod_{j=1}^{n-1} (1+j\alpha)} \quad \text{for each } \sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n.$$

This is called the Ewens measure in [5] but the definition is slightly different from ours. It is clear that  $\mathfrak{M}_n^{(1)}$  is the uniform measure on  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  and  $\mathfrak{M}_n^{(0)} = \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 0^+} \mathfrak{M}_n^{(\alpha)}$  is the Dirac measure at the identity. Also we see that

$$\mathfrak{M}_n^{(\infty)}(\sigma) = \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow +\infty} \mathfrak{M}_n^{(\alpha)}(\sigma) = \begin{cases} 1/(n-1)! & \text{if } \nu_n(\sigma) = 1, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Given a matrix  $X$  with non-negative entries  $x_{ij}$ , define a random variable  $X_\sigma$  by  $X_\sigma = \prod_{i=1}^n x_{i\sigma(i)}$  on  $\mathfrak{S}_n$ . Then for  $\alpha \in [0, +\infty]$  the  $\alpha$ -determinant of  $X$  is essentially the mean value of  $X_\sigma$  with respect to  $\mathfrak{M}_n^{(\alpha)}$ :

$$\det_\alpha(X) = \prod_{j=1}^{n-1} (1+j\alpha) \sum_{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n} X_\sigma \mathfrak{M}_n^{(\alpha)}(\sigma) \quad \text{for } 0 \leq \alpha < +\infty,$$

$$\det_\infty(X) = (n-1)! \sum_{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n} X_\sigma \mathfrak{M}_n^{(\infty)}(\sigma).$$

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