Richardson varieties, cluster algebras, and knot homology

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Joint work with T. Lam, M. Sherman-Bennett, and D. Speyer.



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[Deligne splitting / weight filtration \rightarrow canonical second grading on $H^*(X)$]



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Most interesting case: $\mathcal{P}(X; q, t) \in \mathbb{N}[q, t]$ (i.e., odd cohomology vanishes).

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Question: Which variety should we choose?

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- Euler characteristic: $\binom{n}{k}$.

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$$C''_{k,n-k}(t) := \sum_{P \in \mathsf{Dyck}_{k,n-k}} t^{\mathsf{area}(P)}$$

$$t^{\frac{1}{2}} = -1$$

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 $\#X_{2,5}^{\circ}(\mathbb{F}_q) = q^2 + 1, \quad \mathcal{P}(X_{2,5}^{\circ}(\mathbb{C});t) = 1 + t, \quad \mathcal{P}(X_{2,5}^{\circ};q,t) = q + t.$

Theorem (G.–Lam (2020))



$$\begin{aligned} &\mathsf{Gr}(k,n;\mathbb{F}) := \{ V \subseteq \mathbb{F}^n \mid \mathsf{dim}(V) = k \} = \frac{\{k \times n \text{ matrices of rank } k\}}{(\mathsf{row operations})}. \\ &X^\circ_{k,n} := \{ V \in \mathsf{Gr}(k,n) \mid \Delta_{1,\dots,k}(V) = \Delta_{2,\dots,k+1}(V) = \dots = \Delta_{n,1,\dots,k-1}(V) = 1 \}. \end{aligned}$$

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The top open positroid variety $\Pi_{k,n}^{\circ} \subseteq \operatorname{Gr}(k,n)$ is $\Pi_{k,n}^{\circ} := \{ V \in \operatorname{Gr}(k,n) \mid \Delta_{1,\dots,k}(V), \Delta_{2,\dots,k+1}(V), \cdots, \Delta_{n,1,\dots,k-1}(V) \neq 0 \}.$

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- Open positroid varieties inside Gr(k, n) are special cases of open Richardson varieties inside the flag variety SL_n/B.

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Let
$$v = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 & 5 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$
, $w = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 5 & 4 & 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

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Example Let $v = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 & 5 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$, $w = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 5 & 4 & 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$. $\begin{pmatrix} & 1 & c & f \\ 1 & b & e \\ 1 & & a & d \\ & & & 1 \\ & & & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

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If $c(wv^{-1}) = 1$ then

$$\mathcal{P}(R_{v,w}^{\circ}/T;q,t) = ???$$

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Arbitrary $v \leq w$: LHS = *T*-equivariant cohomology of $R_{v,w}^{\circ}$ with compact support.

What does it all have to do with cluster algebras?

[Fomin-Zelevinsky '02]
• Start with a quiver Q with some cluster variables labeling its vertices.



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- Mutate in all possible directions. Get lots of cluster variables.
- Cluster algebra $\mathcal{A}(Q) := \mathbb{C}[$ cluster variables].



[Muller '13] introduced a nice class of locally acyclic quivers.

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Partial results: [Leclerc '14], [Ingermanson '19], [Ménard '22] Parallel work: [Casals–Gorsky–Gorsky–Le–Shen–Simental '22+]

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- [Ingermanson '19] gave a different construction and showed that $\mathbb{C}[R_{v,w}^{\circ}]$ is an upper cluster algebra.



Richardson quivers: our construction

Consider $R_{v,w}^{\circ}$ for arbitrary $v \leq w$. We have dim $R_{v,w}^{\circ} = \ell(w) - \ell(v)$. $v = s_3 s_1 s_2 s_5 s_4, \quad w = s_1 s_5 s_3 s_2 s_4 s_3 s_2 s_1 s_2 s_5 s_4 s_3.$
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• bicolored graph: find rightmost subexpression for v inside w;



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arrows = black-white edges, directions = conjugate surfaces of [Goncharov-Kenyon '13].



Thanks!

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