Andrews–Gordon type partition identities and commutative algebra

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(commun avec P. Afsharijoo, J. Dousse, I. Konan et H. Mourtada)

1 The Andrews–Gordon identities

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A new bijection

Integer partitions

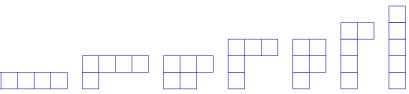
A partition of a non-negative integer *n* is a non-increasing sequence of positive integers $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_\ell)$ such that $\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \dots + \lambda_\ell = n$.

- The integer $n = |\lambda|$ is the weight of λ .
- The integers λ_k are the parts of λ .
- The integer ℓ is the length of λ .

Example. Partitions of 5 :

 $(5) \quad (4,1) \quad (3,2) \quad (3,1,1) \quad (2,2,1) \quad (2,1,1,1) \quad (1,1,1,1,1) \\$

Young diagrams :



Theorem (Rogers-Ramanujan, MacMahon, 1916)

Let *n* be a nonnegative integer and set $i \in \{1, 2\}$. Denote by $T_{2,i}(n)$ the number of partitions of *n* such that the difference between two consecutive parts is at least 2 and the part 1 appears at most i - 1 times. Let $E_{2,i}(n)$ be the number of partitions of *n* into parts not congruent to $0, \pm i \mod 5$. Then we have $T_{2,i}(n) = E_{2,i}(n)$.

Example. Among the partitions of 5 :

 $\begin{aligned} \mathcal{T}_{2,2}(5) &= \{(5), (4,1)\} &\longleftrightarrow \quad \mathcal{E}_{2,2}(5) &= \{(4,1), (1,1,1,1)\} \\ \mathcal{T}_{2,1}(5) &= \{(5)\} \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \mathcal{E}_{2,1}(5) &= \{(3,2)\} \end{aligned}$

Appear in combinatorics (Andrews, Bressoud, Warnaar,...), statistical mechanics (Andrews, Baxter,...), number theory (Ono, Zagier,...), representation theory (Lepowsky, Milne, Wilson,...), algebraic geometry (Mourtada,...),...

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Notation : $(a)_n = (a; q)_n := \prod_{k=0}^{n-1} (1 - aq^k)$, for $n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$.

Let Q(n, k) be the number of partitions of *n* into *k* distinct parts. Then

$$1 + \sum_{n \ge 1} \sum_{k \ge 1} Q(n,k) z^k q^n = (1 + zq)(1 + zq^2)(1 + zq^3)(1 + zq^4) \cdots$$
$$= (-zq)_{\infty}.$$

Let p(n, k) be the number of partitions of n into k parts. Then

$$1 + \sum_{n \ge 1} \sum_{k \ge 1} p(n,k) z^k q^n = \prod_{n \ge 1} \left(1 + zq^n + z^2 q^{2n} + \cdots \right)$$
$$= \frac{1}{(zq)_{\infty}}.$$

Generating functions for Rogers-Ramanujan identities

If $P_{k,N}(n)$ is the number of partitions of *n* into parts $\equiv k \mod N$ and if $p_k(n)$ is the number of partitions of *n* into parts at most *k* then :

$$\sum_{n\geq 0} P_{k,N}(n)q^n = \frac{1}{(q^k;q^N)_{\infty}} \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{n\geq 0} p_k(n)q^n = \frac{1}{(q;q)_k}.$$

Theorem (Rogers–Ramanujan identites, analytic version)

We have

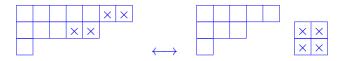
$$\begin{split} &\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{k^2}}{(q;q)_k} &= \frac{1}{(q;q^5)_{\infty}(q^4;q^5)_{\infty}}, \\ &\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{k^2+k}}{(q;q)_k} &= \frac{1}{(q^2;q^5)_{\infty}(q^3;q^5)_{\infty}}. \end{split}$$

Connecting the analytic and combinatorial versions

The product sides are the generating functions of $E_{2,2}(n)$ and $E_{2,1}(n)$. As $1 + 3 + \cdots + (2k - 1) = k^2$, we have

$$\sum_{n\geq 0} T_{2,2}(n)q^n = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{k^2}}{(q;q)_k}$$

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Similarly $2 + 4 + \dots + 2k = k^2 + k$, so

$$\sum_{n\geq 0} T_{2,1}(n)q^n = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{k^2+k}}{(q;q)_k}$$

Theorem (Gordon, 1961)

Let r, i be integers with $r \ge 2, 1 \le i \le r$. Denote by $\mathcal{T}_{r,i}$ the set of partitions $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_\ell)$ where $\lambda_j - \lambda_{j+r-1} \ge 2$ for all j, and the part 1 appears at most i - 1 times. Let $\mathcal{E}_{r,i}$ be the set of partitions into parts not congruent to $0, \pm i \mod (2r+1)$. Let n be a nonnegative integer, and let $\mathcal{T}_{r,i}(n)$ (respectively $\mathbb{E}_{r,i}(n)$) denote the number of partitions of n which belong to $\mathcal{T}_{r,i}$ (respectively $\mathcal{E}_{r,i}(n)$).

The Rogers-Ramanujan identities correspond to the cases r = i = 2 and r = i + 1 = 2, respectively.

Analytic version

Recall
$$(a)_n := \prod_{j=0}^{n-1} (1 - aq^j)$$
 and write $(a_1, \dots, a_m)_k := (a_1)_k \cdots (a_m)_k$.
Theorem (Andrews–Gordon identities, Andrews, 1974)
Let $r \ge 2$ and $1 \le i \le r$ be two integers. We have

$$\sum_{n_1 \ge \dots \ge n_{r-1} \ge 0} \frac{q^{n_1^r + \dots + n_{r-1}^r + n_i + \dots + n_{r-1}}}{(q)_{n_1 - n_2} \dots (q)_{n_{r-2} - n_{r-1}}(q)_{n_{r-1}}} = \frac{(q^{2r+1}, q^i, q^{2r-i+1}; q^{2r+1})_{\infty}}{(q)_{\infty}}$$

For r = 2 we recover the analytic version of the Rogers–Ramanujan identities.

But : how can we see that the left-hand side is the generating series of the set $\mathcal{T}_{r,i}$? Answer by Warnaar (1997) using the multiplicities of partitions $\lambda = 1^{m_1} 2^{m_2} \cdots$ and a tricky bijection.

And rews used a Durfee dissection which does not give the partitions in $\mathcal{T}_{r,i}$.

q-binomial coefficients

For $n \ge 0$, the *q*-binomial coefficient is defined as :

$$\begin{bmatrix}n\\k\end{bmatrix}_q := \frac{(q)_n}{(q)_k(q)_{n-k}}$$

Note that $\begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q = 0$ if k < 0 or k > n.

It is the generating function for partitions with largest part $\leq k$ and number of parts $\leq n - k$, or equivalently partitions whose Ferrers diagram fits inside a $k \times (n - k)$ rectangle.

The sum-side of the Andrews-Gordon identities can be rewritten as :

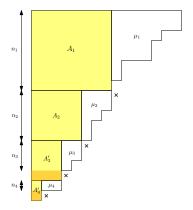
$$\sum_{\substack{n_1 \ge \dots \ge n_{r-1} \ge 0}} \frac{q^{n_1^2 + \dots + n_{r-1}^2 + n_i + \dots + n_{r-1}}}{(q)_{n_1 - n_2} \dots (q)_{n_{r-2} - n_{r-1}}(q)_{n_{r-1}}}$$

=
$$\sum_{\substack{n_1 \ge \dots \ge n_{r-1} \ge 0}} \frac{q^{n_1^2 + \dots + n_{r-1}^2 + n_i + \dots + n_{r-1}}}{(q)_{n_1}} \begin{bmatrix} n_1 \\ n_1 - n_2 \end{bmatrix}_q \dots \begin{bmatrix} n_{r-2} \\ n_{r-2} - n_{r-1} \end{bmatrix}_q$$

Andrews' Durfee dissection and the set $A_{r,i}$

Durfee square : largest $A = n \times n$ fitting in the top-left corner of λ .

- Vertical Durfee rectangle : largest rectangle $A' = n \times (n + 1)$.
- Repeat the process until the row below a square/rectangle is empty.
- Vertical (i 1)-Durfee dissection : the first i - 1 are squares and all the following ones are rectangles.



 $\mathcal{A}_{r,i}$: partitions λ such that in their vertical (i-1)-Durfee dissection, all vertical Durfee rectangles below \mathcal{A}'_{r-1} are empty, and such that the last row of each non-empty Durfee rectangle is actually a part of λ .

$$\sum_{\lambda \in \mathcal{A}_{r,i}} q^{|\lambda|} = \sum_{n_1 \ge \dots \ge n_{r-1} \ge 0} \frac{q^{n_1^2 + \dots + n_{r-1}^2 + n_i + \dots + n_{r-1}}}{(q)_{n_1}} \begin{bmatrix} n_1 \\ n_1 - n_2 \end{bmatrix}_q \cdots \begin{bmatrix} n_{r-2} \\ n_{r-2} - n_{r-1} \end{bmatrix}_q$$

The Andrews–Gordon identities

2 Connection to commutative algebra



A new bijection

A graded algebra of multivariate polynomials

Algebra of polynomials : $\mathcal{R} = K[x_j, j \ge 1]$ over a field K of characteristic 0.

Grading by assigning to x_i the weight j.

Then set $R_0 := K$ and let R_n be the K-vector space with a basis given by the monomials $x_{j_1} \cdots x_{j_\ell}$ such that $j_1 + \cdots + j_\ell = n$ (the variables commute, so we can assume that $j_1 \ge j_2 \ge \cdots \ge j_\ell > 0$). Then

$$\mathcal{R}=\bigoplus_{n\geq 0}R_n.$$

Correspondence between monomials of weight n and partitions of n:

$$x_{j_1}\cdots x_{j_\ell}\longleftrightarrow \lambda = (j_1,\ldots,j_\ell).$$

Therefore the Hilbert–Poincaré series of $\mathcal R$ is

$$HP_{\mathcal{R}}(q) := \sum_{n\geq 0} \dim_{\mathcal{K}}(R_n) q^n = \sum_{n\geq 0} p(n)q^n = \frac{1}{(q)_{\infty}}.$$

Interpretation of $T_{2,i}(n)$ in terms of ideals

Consider the ideal $J_{0,i} = (x_1^i, x_k^2, x_k x_{k+1}; k \ge 1)$ of $\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{K}[x_j, j \ge 1]$.

Then $\mathcal{R}/J_{0,i}$ corresponds to Rogers–Ramanujan partitions with difference conditions, and

$$HP_{\mathcal{R}/J_{0,i}}(q) = \sum_{n\geq 0} T_{2,i}(n)q^n = \sum_{k\geq 0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{k^2+(2-i)k}}{(q)_k}.$$

Bruschek–Mourtada–Schepers (2011) studied the quotient $\mathcal{R}/[x_1^2]$ (motivated by the theory of arc spaces in algebraic geometry).

Here $[x_1^2]$ is the differential ideal generated by $\{D^k(x_1^2), k \ge 0\}$ where $D(x_j) := x_{j+1}$ and D(fg) = D(f)g + fD(g):

 $[x_1^2] = (x_1^2, 2x_1x_2, 2x_2^2 + 2x_1x_3, 6x_2x_3 + 2x_1x_4, \ldots).$

Weighted reverse lexicographic order : $x_1^{a_1}x_2^{a_2}\cdots < x_1^{b_1}x_2^{b_2}\cdots$ if $\operatorname{wt}(x_1^{a_1}x_2^{a_2}\cdots) < \operatorname{wt}(x_1^{b_1}x_2^{b_2}\cdots)$ or $\operatorname{wt}(x_1^{a_1}x_2^{a_2}\cdots) = \operatorname{wt}(x_1^{b_1}x_2^{b_2}\cdots)$ and there exists *i* such that

$$a_1 = b_1, \dots, a_{i-1} = b_{i-1}$$
 and $a_i < b_i$
..., $a_n = b_n, \dots, a_{i+1} = b_{i+1}$ and $a_i > b_i$.

Leading monomials :

$$[x_1^2] = (x_1^2, 2x_1x_2, 2x_2^2 + 2x_1x_3, 6x_2x_3 + 2x_1x_4, \ldots),$$

$$[x_1^2] = (x_1^2, 2x_1x_2, 2x_2^2 + 2x_1x_3, 6x_2x_3 + 2x_1x_4, \ldots).$$

Interpretation of $T_{2,i}(n)$ in terms of ideals

 $[x_1^2] = (x_1^2, 2x_1x_2, 2x_2^2 + 2x_1x_3, 6x_2x_3 + 2x_1x_4, \ldots).$

BMS proved that the leading ideal of $J_i := (x_1^i, [x_1^2])$ w.r.t. the weighted reverse lexicographic order (ideal generated by the leading monomials of all the elements in J) is $J_{0,i} = (x_1^i, x_k^2, x_k x_{k+1}; k \ge 1)$. Hence

$$HP_{\mathcal{R}/J_i}(q) = HP_{\mathcal{R}/J_{0,i}}(q) = \sum_{n \ge 0} T_{2,i}(n)q^n = \sum_{k \ge 0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{k^2 + (2-i)k}}{(q;q)_k}.$$

Remark : $J_{0,i}$ is in general NOT generated by the leading monomials of a system of generators of J_i . But a system of generators of J_i whose leading monomials generate $J_{0,i}$ is called a Gröbner basis. For different orders, we may have different Gröbner bases.

Question : What happens for the weighted lexicographic order?

The Andrews–Gordon identities

2 Connection to commutative algebra



4 A new bijection

Theorem (Gordon, 1961)

Let r, i be integers with $r \ge 2, 1 \le i \le r$. Denote by $\mathcal{T}_{r,i}$ the set of partitions $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_\ell)$ where $\lambda_j - \lambda_{j+r-1} \ge 2$ for all j, and the part 1 appears at most i - 1 times. Let $\mathcal{E}_{r,i}$ be the set of partitions into parts not congruent to $0, \pm i \mod (2r+1)$. Let n be a nonnegative integer, and let $\mathcal{T}_{r,i}(n)$ (respectively $\mathbb{E}_{r,i}(n)$) denote the number of partitions of n which belong to $\mathcal{T}_{r,i}$ (respectively $\mathcal{E}_{r,i}(n)$).

Bruschek-Mourtada-Schepers (2011) : define $J := (x_1^i, [x_1^r])$, then its leading ideal with respect to the weighted reverse lexicographic order is

$$J_{r,i} = (x_1^i, x_k^{r-s} x_{k+1}^s; k \ge 1; s = 0, \dots, r-1).$$

A conjecture arising from the lexicographic order

Afsharijoo (2019) : guessed the leading ideal $I_{r,i}$ of $J = (x_1^i, [x_1^r])$ with respect to the weighted lexicographic order. Even for r = 2 a Gröbner basis is not differentially finite (Afsharijoo–Mourtada, 2020).

For $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_\ell)$, define $N_{r,i}(\lambda) := |\{m \mid p_{i,m}(\lambda) \neq 0\}|$, with

$$p_{i,m}(\lambda) := \begin{cases} \lambda_{\ell} & \text{if } m = 1, \\ \lambda_{\ell - \sum_{j=1}^{m-1} p_{i,j}(\lambda)} & \text{if } 2 \le m \le i, \\ \lambda_{\ell + m - i - \sum_{j=1}^{m-1} p_{i,j}(\lambda)} & \text{if } i < m \le r - 1. \end{cases}$$

Conjecture (Afsharijoo, 2019)

Set $r \ge 2, 1 \le i \le r$ and $C_{r,i}$ the set of partitions $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_\ell)$ such that at most i-1 of the parts are equal to 1 and either $N_{r,i}(\lambda) < r-1$, or $N_{r,i}(\lambda) = r-1$ and $\ell \le \sum_{j=1}^{r-1} p_{i,j}(\lambda) - (r-i)$. Let n be a nonnegative integer, and denote by $C_{r,i}(n)$ the number of partitions of n which belong to $C_{r,i}$. Then we have $C_{r,i}(n) = T_{r,i}(n) = E_{r,i}(n)$.

Theorem (Afsharijoo–Dousse–J.–Mourtada, 2023)

Afsharijoo's conjecture is true.

We use the set $A_{r,i}$ from Andrews' Durfee dissection, and define two new sets of partitions $\mathcal{B}_{r,i}$ and $\mathcal{D}_{r,i}$ related to new Durfee-type dissections.

Theorem (ADJM, 2023)

Set $r \ge 2, 1 \le i \le r$. Let *n* be a nonnegative integer. Then we have

 $A_{r,i}(n) = B_{r,i}(n) = C_{r,i}(n) = D_{r,i}(n) = T_{r,i}(n) = E_{r,i}(n)$

It is almost immediate that $\mathcal{B}_{r,i} = \mathcal{C}_{r,i}$. We then prove combinatorially that $\mathcal{B}_{r,i} = \mathcal{D}_{r,i}$. Finally we show that $\mathcal{D}_{r,r-i}$ and $\mathcal{E}_{r,r-i}$ have the same generating functions : this is the only non-combinatorial part of our proof.

Generating functions

By definition of our sets $\mathcal{D}_{r,i}$:

$$\sum_{\lambda \in \mathcal{D}_{r,r-i}} q^{|\lambda|} = \sum_{n_1 \ge \dots \ge n_{r-1} \ge 0} \frac{q^{n_1^2 + \dots + n_{r-1}^2 - n_1 - \dots - n_i}}{(q)_{n_1 - n_2} \dots (q)_{n_{r-2} - n_{r-1}} (q)_{n_{r-1}}} (1 - q^{n_i}).$$

We prove that it is equal to the generating function of $\mathcal{E}_{r,r-i}$, that is

$$\frac{(q^{2r+1},q^{r-i},q^{r+i+1};q^{2r+1})_{\infty}}{(q)_{\infty}}.$$

Recall the Andrews-Gordon identities :

$$\sum_{n_1 \geq \dots \geq n_{r-1} \geq 0} \frac{q^{n_1^2 + \dots + n_{r-1}^2 + n_i + \dots + n_{r-1}}}{(q)_{n_1 - n_2} \dots (q)_{n_{r-2} - n_{r-1}}(q)_{n_{r-1}}} = \frac{(q^{2r+1}, q^i, q^{2r-i+1}; q^{2r+1})_{\infty}}{(q)_{\infty}}$$

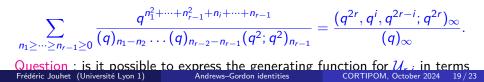
Extensions : the Bressoud identities

Bressoud : even moduli analogues of the Andrews-Gordon identities.

Theorem (Bressoud 1979)

Let *r* and *i* be integers such that $r \ge 2$ and $1 \le i < r$. Let $\mathcal{U}_{r,i}$ be the set of partitions $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_\ell)$ where $\lambda_j - \lambda_{j+r-1} \ge 2$ for all *j*, $\lambda_j - \lambda_{j+r-2} \le 1$ only if $\lambda_j + \lambda_{j+1} + \dots + \lambda_{j+r-2} \equiv i-1 \mod 2$, and at most i-1 of the parts λ_j are equal to 1. Let $\mathcal{F}_{r,i}$ be the set of partitions whose parts are not congruent to $0, \pm i \mod (2r)$. Let *n* be a non-negative integer, and let $U_{r,i}(n)$ (respectively $\mathcal{F}_{i,r}(n)$) denote the number of partitions of *n* which belong to $\mathcal{U}_{r,i}$ (respectively $\mathcal{F}_{r,i}$). Then we have

 $U_{r,i}(n)=F_{r,i}(n).$



The Andrews–Gordon identities

2 Connection to commutative algebra

3 Afsharijoo's conjecture

A new bijection

Partitions allowing 0 parts by multiplicities

Now $\lambda = (\lambda_1 \ge \ldots \ge \lambda_\ell \ge 0) = (f_u)_{u \ge 0}$ the multiplicity sequence. Then

$$|\lambda| = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \dots + \lambda_\ell = \sum_{u \ge 0} uf_u.$$

Example : (4, 4, 3, 1, 0) = (1, 1, 0, 1, 2, 0, ...).

Recall that $\mathcal{T}_{r,i}$ consists of $\lambda = (\lambda_1 \ge ... \ge \lambda_{\ell} > 0)$ where $\lambda_j - \lambda_{j+r-1} \ge 2$ for all j, and the part 1 appears at most i - 1 times. Equivalently, it consists of partitions $(f_u)_{u\ge 0}$ such that

$$\begin{cases} f_0 = 0, \\ f_1 \leq i - 1, \\ \text{for all } u \geq 1, \ f_u + f_{u+1} \leq r - 1. \end{cases}$$

Set

$$\mathcal{A}_r := \{(f_u)_{u \ge 0} \mid f_0 \le r - 1 \text{ and } f_u + f_{u+1} \le r - 1 \text{ for all } u\}.$$

A particular element in A_r

For integers $n_1 \ge \cdots \ge n_{r-1} \ge 0$, $n_0 := \infty$, $n_r := 0$, define the partition $\mu(n_1, \ldots, n_{r-1}) = (f_u)_{u \ge 0}$ by

 $(f_{2u}, f_{2u+1}) = (j, 0)$ for all $n_{j+1} \le u < n_j$ and $0 \le j \le r - 1$.

Note that its multiplicity sequence is

The bijection

Let $\mathcal{P}(n_1, \ldots, n_{r-1})$ be the set of sequences $\lambda = (\lambda_0, \ldots, \lambda_{n_1-1})$ of non-negative integers such that for all $j \in \{1, \ldots, r-1\}$, the sequence $\lambda^{(j)} := (\lambda_{n_i-1}, \ldots, \lambda_{n_{j+1}})$ is a partition.

Set

$$\mathcal{P}_r := \bigsqcup_{n_1 \geq \cdots \geq n_{r-1} \geq 0} \{\mu(n_1, \ldots, n_{r-1})\} \times \mathcal{P}(n_1, \ldots, n_{r-1}).$$

Weight : $|\mu(n_1, ..., n_{r-1})| + |\lambda^{(1)}| + \cdots + |\lambda^{(r-1)}|.$ Length : $\ell(\mu(n_1, ..., n_{r-1})) = n_1 + \cdots + n_{r-1}.$

Theorem (Dousse–J.–Konan, 2024)

For all $r \ge 2$, there is an explicit weight- and length-preserving bijection between the sets \mathcal{P}_r and \mathcal{A}_r .

Consequences

Simplification of Warnaar's result :

$$\sum_{\lambda \in \mathcal{T}_{r,i}} q^{|\lambda|} = \sum_{n_1 \ge \dots \ge n_{r-1} \ge 0} \frac{q^{n_1^2 + \dots + n_{r-1}^2 + n_i + \dots + n_{r-1}}}{(q)_{n_1 - n_2} \dots (q)_{n_{r-2} - n_{r-1}} (q)_{n_{r-1}}}.$$

Extension to Bressoud's set of partitions :

$$\sum_{\lambda \in \mathcal{U}_{r,i}} q^{|\lambda|} = \sum_{n_1 \ge \dots \ge n_{r-1} \ge 0} \frac{q^{n_1^2 + \dots + n_{r-1}^2 + n_i + \dots + n_{r-1}}}{(q)_{n_1 - n_2} \dots (q)_{n_{r-2} - n_{r-1}} (q^2; q^2)_{n_{r-1}}}$$

Restricting our bijection to subsets of $\mathcal{T}_{r,i}$ and using Andrews–Gordon and Bressoud's identities as starting points, we prove combinatorially several known and new identities, including the formula for the generating function of $\mathcal{D}_{r,r-i}$ which we used to conclude the proof of Afsharijoo's conjecture :

$$\mathcal{D}_{r,r-i} \leftrightarrow \mathcal{T}_{r,r-i}.$$