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On central idempotents in the Brauer algebra

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A R T I C L E   I N F O

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A B S T R A C T

We provide a method for constructing central idempotents in the Brauer algebra (using the splitting of short exact sequences of bimodules). From this we determine certain primitive central idempotents. By working over a suitable integral ring we hence demonstrate an efficient method of constructing pieces of the representation theory of the Brauer algebra over Artinian rings from the integral case.

1. Introduction

One of the main open problems in representation theory is to compute the decomposition matrices of the symmetric groups over fields of finite characteristic. This problem has driven much significant research (see for example [7,6,10,14,18–20,26] and references therein), but the original problem itself remains almost entirely open. A natural strategy in approaching this problem is to relate the symmetric group to algebraic systems with more intrinsic structure, and then to study these – the connection with the general linear group [12,13,16,28,29] is perhaps the classic example. Recently much progress has

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been made on the representation theory of diagram algebras (subalgebras of partition algebras) closely related to the symmetric group, such as the Brauer algebra. Indeed the decomposition matrices of the Brauer algebra over the complex field are now known [22], see for instance [3] for a detailed exposition of the combinatorics developed in [22]. Behind this complex-field result lies a lot of mathematics that is still valid over an integral ring so that, while the connection with the symmetric group trivialises (from a homological perspective) over the complex field, the representation theory of the Brauer algebra over this integral ring can then be reduced to the positive characteristic case as described in Benson [1]. The challenge, then, is to push the integral representation theory of the Brauer algebra into that of the symmetric group (as in [5] for example).

Generally speaking of course, this integral theory is harder than the general representation theory over Artinian rings (for instance, results such as Wedderburn–Artin are unavailable). But it is often possible use partial knowledge of the Artinian theory to construct arithmetic and combinatorial arguments that remain valid over the integral ring, and then use these to access the remainder of the Artinian theory. The present paper describes key results in pursuit of this strategy, by computing fundamental pieces of the Brauer algebra – primitive central idempotents.

The original idea for this dates back all the way to Brauer [2]. The combinatorial-homological approach is illustrated in practice for example by [23] in determining semisimplicity criteria for partition algebras from integral ground-ring arithmetic, and [5] through abacus techniques for Brauer algebras.

Returning to the focus of this paper, the Brauer algebra $B_n(\delta)$ may be defined as a $\mathbb{Z}[\delta]$-algebra, i.e. over a commutative ring with a single parameter. This allows us to define integral forms of the cell modules (one can think of these as analogues of the Specht modules for the symmetric group), which allows for independent specialisation of the parameter and the field via extension of scalars. In our case, we will need to consider a ring where the above is possible, but where we can also invert certain monic polynomials in δ. This ring K will be introduced in Section 2.2. Working in this ring we will construct a family of central idempotents of the Brauer algebra. We then use existing information about the algebra to establish connections to representation theory.

In principle there are several possible approaches to finding idempotents in the Brauer algebra. A result of Kilmoyer [9, Proposition 9.17] allows one to use the characters of a semisimple algebra to construct its primitive central idempotents. Leduc and Ram [21] express the Brauer algebra as a multimatrix algebra and then give a method for finding primitive central idempotents by considering pairs of paths in the Bratteli diagram. Isaev and Molev [17] build on this by introducing a method based on the 'Jucys–Murphy elements' of the Brauer algebra. A recent paper of Doty, Lauve and Seelinger [11] determines the central idempotents in so-called multiplicity free families of algebras, of which the Brauer algebra is one. However for the types of questions we would like to ask regarding the Brauer algebra, the method we describe in this paper has several advantages over the existing ones. In particular our choice of the ring K gives us information about the form of the coefficients appearing in each idempotent. This allows us to easily draw conclusions about the representation theory of the algebra before we have arrived at the final result. Moreover K is akin to the integral ring in the setup of a p-modular system, so simply tensoring with a field of finite characteristic will give idempotents that relate to the modular representation theory of the algebra. Use of Kilmoyer's proposition requires us to know the characters of the Brauer algebra, which in itself is a non-trivial task, and the method employed by Leduc and Ram becomes rather inefficient as n increases, and moreover is only valid over $\overline{\mathbb{Q}(\delta)}$. As such it is difficult to see any results regarding the integral or exceptional representation theory of the algebra until the process has finished. Similar comments can be made about Isaev and Molev's method, where interim steps are also based upon paths in the Bratteli diagram. Use of the Bratteli diagram, which becomes increasingly complicated as n grows, is also necessary for Doty, Lauve and Seelinger's method.

Our approach mirrors that of [25], in that we construct splitting idempotents of certain exact sequences. We will see later that a short exact sequence of Λ-bimodules

$$0 \to J \to \Lambda \to \Lambda/J \to 0 \tag{1}$$

splits if and only if there is an element $\varphi_J \in \Lambda$ satisfying

(i) $\varphi_J \equiv 1_\Lambda \bmod J$, and
(ii) $J\varphi_J = \varphi_J J = 0$.

If φ_J exists then it is unique and is a central idempotent in Λ. We call it the splitting idempotent of the sequence (1). In our case, we will consider ideals $\overline{J_n}(\ell)$ of $B_n(\delta)$ generated by diagrams with ℓ or fewer propagating lines (see Section 2.2). We use as a labelling set, tableaux with entries from the set $\{N, S, P\}$ under an equivalence, (see Definition 2) and working over the ring K to be introduced in Section 2.2 prove the following:

Theorem. *Let $\{A_\mathfrak{t} : \mathfrak{t} \in \mathcal{T}_n(\ell)\}$ be a set of representatives of the orbit of diagrams generating $\overline{J_n}(\ell)$ under conjugation by $\mathfrak{S}_n$, and $D_\mathfrak{t}$ be the sum of elements in the orbit containing $A_\mathfrak{t}$. Define $X_n(\ell) = \sum_{\mathfrak{t}\in\mathcal{T}_n(\ell)} c_\mathfrak{t} D_\mathfrak{t}$ for some scalars $c_\mathfrak{t}$. Then for $\overline{u} \in \overline{J_n}(\ell)$ the equation*

$$\overline{u} X_n(\ell) = -\overline{u}$$

is always solvable in the $c_\mathfrak{t}$. Moreover, setting $\varphi_n(\ell) = 1 + X_n(\ell)$ gives the splitting idempotent of the short exact sequence

$$0 \to \overline{J_n}(\ell) \to B_n(\delta) \to B_n(\delta)/\overline{J_n}(\ell) \to 0.$$

This paper is structured as follows: In Section 2 we set up the definitions for the rest of the paper and classify the $\mathfrak{S}_n$-conjugacy classes of elements of B_n. In Section 3 we use this to construct the splitting idempotents related to certain ideals in B_n. Section 4 contains some background representation theory needed to obtain some of the primitive central idempotents of B_n, and Section 5 provides several applications of the theory. Finally, there are two supplementary sections: one with the splitting idempotents in B_6 to show that the method we obtain does give results that would previously have been inaccessible, and another comparing the complexity of our method to a previously known procedure from [21] to justify its use.

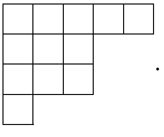
2. Preliminaries

2.1. Young tableaux

Given a partition $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m)$ of $n \in \mathbb{N}$ (i.e. $\sum_i \lambda_i = n$ and $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \cdots \geq \lambda_m$), written $\lambda \vdash n$, also $|\lambda| = n$, we define the *Young diagram* $[\lambda]$ to be the set

$$[\lambda] = \{(i, j) \in \mathbb{N}^2 \mid 1 \leqslant i \leqslant m,\ 1 \leqslant j \leqslant \lambda_i\}.$$

We depict these graphically in the plane by a configuration of boxes in the "English convention", for instance the partition $(5, 3, 3, 1)$ of 12 has Young diagram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We will confuse partitions and their Young diagrams in the usual way.

A *Young tableau* of shape λ is a function

$$\mathfrak{t} : [\lambda] \longrightarrow T,$$

where T is a non-empty set. We can equivalently think of $\mathfrak{t}$ as a filling of the boxes of $[\lambda]$ by elements of T. We will also confuse these two definitions.

2.2. The Brauer algebra

If T is a finite set of size $2m$ for some $m \in \mathbb{N}$, then write $\mathbf{J}(T)$ for the set of pair partitions of T, that is the set

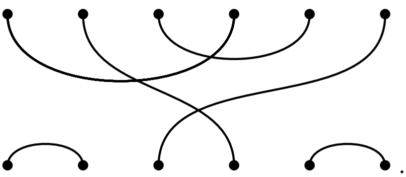
$$\mathbf{J}(T) = \big\{a_1 \sqcup \cdots \sqcup a_m \mid a_i \subset T,\ |a_i| = 2 \text{ for all } i\big\}$$

For $n \in \mathbb{N}$ let $\underline{n} = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$, $\underline{n'} = \{1', 2', \dots, n'\}$, and define the function

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{op} : \underline{n} \cup \underline{n'} &\longrightarrow \underline{n} \cup \underline{n'} \\ x \in \underline{n} &\longmapsto x' \\ x' \in \underline{n'} &\longmapsto x. \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

Fix an indeterminate δ and let R be a commutative $\mathbb{Z}[\delta]$-algebra. We will henceforth abuse notation and denote by δ its image in R. The *Brauer algebra* $B_n = B_n(\delta)$ is the R-algebra with basis $\mathbf{J}_n = \mathbf{J}(\underline{n} \cup \underline{n'})$, and multiplication defined by concatenation of diagrams (this will be made explicit below). We can represent any element A of $\mathbf{J}_n$ as a graph in the plane, with vertex set $\underline{n} \cup \underline{n'}$ and an edge between vertices x and y if $\{x, y\} \in A$. We will identify all graph depictions of the same element A, and typically draw the vertices as two horizontal rows labelled by $\underline{n}$ and $\underline{n'}$ as in the following example. Note then that x and $\mathrm{op}(x)$ are vertically opposite one another.

Example 1. Let $A = \big\{\{1,4\},\{2,4'\},\{3,5\},\{6,3'\},\{1',2'\},\{5',6'\}\big\} \in \mathbf{J}_6$. This has the following graphical depiction:



We wish to distinguish edges that connect nodes on the same side of the diagram or opposite sides. To do this we define the *type function* on a pair partition $A \in \mathbf{J}_n$:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{tp} : A &\longrightarrow \{N, S, P\} \\ \{x, y\} &\longmapsto \begin{cases} N & \text{if } x, y \in \underline{n}, \\ S & \text{if } x, y \in \underline{n'}, \\ P & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

We will refer to these three cases as northern horizontal arcs, southern horizontal arcs and propagating lines respectively. This allows us to define the following subsets of $\mathbf{J}_n$:

$$\mathbf{J}_n[\ell] = \big\{A \in \mathbf{J}_n \mid A \text{ contains precisely } \ell \text{ components } a_i \text{ such that } \mathrm{tp}(a_i) = P\big\}, \text{ and}$$

$$\mathbf{J}_n(\ell) = \bigcup_{m \leqslant \ell} \mathbf{J}_n[m].$$

In other words $\mathbf{J}_n[\ell]$ can be thought of as the set of diagrams with precisely ℓ propagating lines, and $\mathbf{J}_n(\ell)$ as the set of diagrams with at most ℓ propagating lines.

Multiplication in B_n is defined by vertical concatenation of diagrams. Given $A, B \in \mathbf{J}_n$ we compute AB by drawing A on top of B so that the southern nodes of A and the northern nodes of B coincide pointwise. This defines a new graph $A \circ B$ on three rows of vertices. Let $v(A, B)$ be the number of connected components of $A \circ B$ involving only vertices in the middle row. By considering the connected components of vertices on the top and bottom rows we obtain a pair partition $\pi(A \circ B)$, and define $AB = \delta^{v(A,B)}\pi(A \circ B)$. Note that this multiplication cannot increase the number of propagating lines in a diagram, and hence the set $\mathbf{J}_n(\ell)$ is an R-basis of an ideal $J_n(\ell) \subset B_n$.

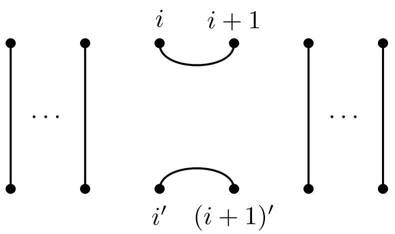
The Brauer algebra is a unital algebra with identity element

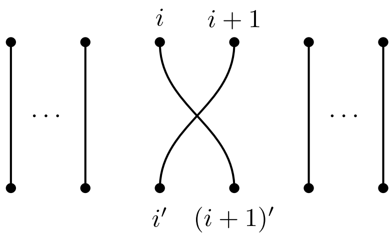
$$1 = 1_n = \big\{\{1, 1'\}, \{2, 2'\}, \ldots, \{n, n'\}\big\},$$

and is generated by elements $u_1, u_2, \ldots, u_{n-1}$ and $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \ldots, \sigma_{n-1}$, where

$$\begin{aligned} u_i &= \big(1_n \backslash \big\{\{i, i'\}, \{i+1, (i+1)'\}\big\}\big) \cup \big\{\{i, i+1\}, \{i', (i+1)'\}\big\} \\ \sigma_i &= \big(1_n \backslash \big\{\{i, i'\}, \{i+1, (i+1)'\}\big\}\big) \cup \big\{\{i, (i+1)'\}, \{i+1, i'\}\big\}. \end{aligned}$$

We can depict these elements graphically as follows:

$u_i =$ 

and $\sigma_i =$ 

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As mentioned in the introduction, we wish to work over a ring that is amenable to both specialisation of δ and moving to fields of characteristic $p \geqslant 0$, whilst still allowing us to invert monic polynomials in δ. For our purposes, this ring will be

$$K = \{f/g \mid f, g \in \mathbb{Z}[\delta],\ g \text{ monic},\ \deg(f) \leqslant \deg(g)\},$$

a subring of $\mathbb{Q}(\delta)$ containing $\mathbb{Z}[\delta^{-1}]$. The quotient of K by the principal ideal $K\delta^{-1}$ is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}$. An element $x \in K$ is a unit in K if and only if $x \equiv \pm 1 \bmod K\delta^{-1}$. In order to use this ring, we must substitute the generator u_i by

$$\overline{u_i} = \frac{1}{\delta} u_i. \tag{4}$$

We then view the Brauer algebra as the K-algebra generated by the σ_i and $\overline{u_i}$. Writing a pair partition A as a product of generators $A = \prod_{j=1}^m A_j$ where $A_j = \sigma_{i_j}$ or u_{i_j} for $1 \leqslant i_j \leqslant n-1$, we let $\overline{A} = \prod_{j=1}^m \overline{A_j}$, where

$$\overline{A_j} = \begin{cases} \sigma_{j_i} & \text{if } A_j = \sigma_{j_i}, \\ \overline{u_{j_i}} & \text{if } A_j = u_{j_i}. \end{cases}$$

Then a basis of B_n over K is given by

$$\overline{\mathbf{J}_n} = \{\overline{A} \mid A \in \mathbf{J}_n\}.$$

We analogously define

$$\begin{aligned}\overline{\mathbf{J}_n}[\ell] &= \{\overline{A} \mid A \in \mathbf{J}_n[\ell]\},\\ \overline{\mathbf{J}_n}(\ell) &= \{\overline{A} \mid A \in \mathbf{J}_n(\ell)\}, \text{ and}\\ \overline{J_n}(\ell) &= B_n\overline{\mathbf{J}_n}(\ell)B_n.\end{aligned}$$

Note that since all elements of $\mathbf{J}_n[n]$ are generated by the σ_i, we have $\overline{\mathbf{J}_n}[n] = \mathbf{J}_n[n]$.

2.3. Spore function on pair partitions

The subalgebra $K\mathbf{J}_n[n]$ of B_n generated by the σ_i is isomorphic to $K\mathfrak{S}_n$, where permutations are composed left-to-right. Thus B_n is both a left and a right $K\mathfrak{S}_n$-module by restriction. In particular we can conjugate pair partitions by elements $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n$, which amounts to relabelling the nodes x, x' with σx and $\sigma x'$. Write $A^{\mathfrak{S}_n}$ for the orbit of $A \in \mathbf{J}_n$ under conjugation by $\mathfrak{S}_n$. Note that $A \in \mathbf{J}_n[n]$ implies $A^{\mathfrak{S}_n} \subset \mathbf{J}_n[n]$ which is in natural bijection with $\mathfrak{S}_n$, and there is the usual observation that conjugacy classes of $\mathfrak{S}_n$ are indexed by integer partitions of n. We also define

$$A_\Sigma = A_\Sigma^{\mathfrak{S}_n} = \sum_{B \in A^{\mathfrak{S}_n}} B,$$

the $\mathfrak{S}_n$-orbit sum of A.

The rest of this section is devoted to classifying the $\mathfrak{S}_n$-orbits of $\mathbf{J}_n$ under conjugation.

Definition 2. Given two Young tableaux $\mathfrak{s}, \mathfrak{t}$ with entries in $\{N, S, P\}$ and underlying Young diagram $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_m)$ with $\lambda_m \neq 0$, we say $\mathfrak{s} \sim \mathfrak{t}$ if there exists a permutation $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_m$ such that the σi-th row of $\mathfrak{t}$ can be obtained from the i-th row of $\mathfrak{s}$ by cycling and/or reversing the entries. It is clear then that $\sim$ is an equivalence relation. For $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we let $\mathcal{T}_n$ be the set

$$\mathcal{T}_n = \big\{\{N, S, P\}^{[\lambda]} \mid \lambda \vdash n\big\}/\sim .$$

Let also $\mathcal{T}_n(\ell)$ be the subset of $\mathcal{T}_n$ containing all tableaux with at most ℓ entries equal to P.

Definition 3. We define the *Spore* function

$$\mathrm{Sp} : \mathbf{J}_n \longrightarrow \mathcal{T}_n$$

as follows. For a pair partition $A \in \mathbf{J}_n$ begin by decomposing A into a disjoint union of non-empty sets

$$A = A_1 \sqcup \cdots \sqcup A_m,$$

of maximal possible m, where for all $a \in A_i, b \in A_j$ $(i \neq j)$, if $x \in a$ then $\mathrm{op}(x) \notin b$, where op is the function defined in (2) above. We also relabel so that $|A_1| \geqslant |A_2| \geqslant \ldots \geqslant |A_m|$. This decomposition defines an integer partition λ_A of n, where $(\lambda_A)_i = |A_i|$.

We now associate a Young tableau $\mathfrak{s}$ of shape λ_A to A. For each part A_i of the above decomposition of A we order the components $a_1, \ldots, a_{\lambda_i}$ as follows. We choose a_1 arbitrarily, and pick an element $x_1 \in a_1$. Now given a_j and $x_j \in a_j$ we define $a_{j+1} \in A_i$ to be the component containing $\mathrm{op}(x_j)$ and x_{j+1} to be the element of $a_{j+1} \backslash \{\mathrm{op}(x_j)\}$. This process ends when we return to the set a_1. Then A_i will have the form

$$\begin{aligned} A_i &= \{a_1, a_2, a_3, \ldots, a_{(\lambda_A)_i}\} \\ &= \big\{\{x_1, \mathrm{op}(x_{(\lambda_A)_i})\}, \{\mathrm{op}(x_1), x_2\}, \{\mathrm{op}(x_2), x_3\}, \ldots, \{op(x_{(\lambda_A)_i - 1}), x_{(\lambda_A)_i}\}\big\}. \end{aligned}$$

In the i-th row of the Young diagram $[\lambda_A]$ we then fill the j-th box with the symbol $\mathrm{tp}(a_j)$, where tp is the type function defined in (3) above.

Proposition 4. *The function* Sp *is well-defined.*

Proof. We must show that any pair of tableaux $\mathfrak{s}, \mathfrak{t}$ constructible from an element $A \in \mathbf{J}_n$ satisfy $\mathfrak{s} \sim \mathfrak{t}$. In the process described above we make several choices. Firstly, if any of the parts A_i contain the same number of components, we can place the corresponding rows of the Young tableau in any order. However we can obtain any of these tableaux by performing a permutation of the rows, which will give the element $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_m$ from Definition 2.

Once we have chosen an order on the parts A_i, the next choice is to pick a component a_1 and an element $x_1 \in a_1$. Choosing a different component for a_1 amounts to cycling the sequence of the a_i, and choosing a different element x_1 reverses the sequence. We therefore see that both tableaux represent the same class in $\mathcal{T}_n$. $\square$

Remark 5. The process that defines $\mathrm{Sp}(A)$ does not depend on the actual values of the $x_j \in \underline{n} \cup \underline{n'}$, only the components in which they reside. This is to be expected as we can change values of the x_j by $\mathfrak{S}_n$-conjugation, and the Spore function is intended to be invariant under this.

Before we move on to use the Spore function, we provide the following example.

Example 6. Let $A = \big\{\{1,4\}, \{2,4'\}, \{3,5\}, \{6,3'\}, \{1',2'\}, \{5',6'\}\big\} \in \mathbf{J}_6$. This decomposes into $A = A_1 \sqcup A_2$, where

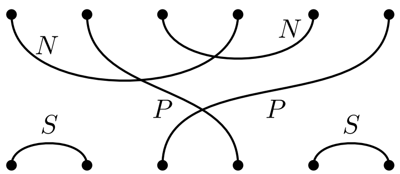
$$A_1 = \{\{1,4\},\{2,4'\},\{1',2'\}\}, \text{ and}$$
$$A_2 = \{\{3,5\},\{6,3'\},\{5',6'\}\}.$$

Starting with the first element of the first pair as written above, we obtain sequences (N, P, S) and (N, S, P) for A_1 and A_2 respectively. Therefore

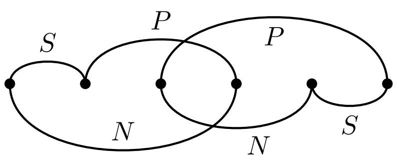
$$\mathrm{Sp}(A) = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|}\hline N & S & P \\ \hline N & P & S \\ \hline \end{array}.$$

There is an alternative way of constructing the Spore function using the diagram form of the Brauer algebra. Given the diagram of a pair partition $A \in \mathbf{J}_n$, begin by labelling all northern horizontal arcs by N, southern horizontal arcs by S and propagating arcs P. Then identify all pairs of nodes i, i' for $1 \leqslant i \leqslant n$. The resulting diagram has n nodes connected by a series of arcs each labelled N, S or P, such that each node has valency 2. The connected components of this diagram then partition the set of nodes. These components then define an integer partition λ of n, where λ_i is the number of nodes in the i-th largest connected component. For each i, we choose a node in the i-th largest component and a direction, walk around this component and record the sequence of edge labels we encounter in the i-th row of the Young diagram $[\lambda]$. This defines a Young tableaux $\mathfrak{t}$ with entries in $\{N, S, P\}$. We therefore set $\mathrm{Sp}(A) = \mathfrak{t} \in \mathcal{T}_n$.

Example 7. Let $A = \{\{1,4\},\{2,4'\},\{3,5\},\{6,3'\},\{1',2'\},\{5',6'\}\} \in \mathbf{J}_6$ as before. We draw the diagram and label the edges N, S or P below.



After identifying opposite pairs of nodes we have the following diagram.



We see that we have two connected components, each containing three nodes. Starting with the leftmost node in each part and walking counter-clockwise around we record the same tableaux as in Example 6.

$$A_1 = \{\{1,4\},\{2,4'\},\{1',2'\}\}, \text{ and}$$
$$A_2 = \{\{3,5\},\{6,3'\},\{5',6'\}\}.$$

Starting with the first element of the first pair as written above, we obtain sequences (N, P, S) and (N, S, P) for A_1 and A_2 respectively. Therefore

$$\mathrm{Sp}(A) = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|}\hline N & S & P \\ \hline N & P & S \\ \hline \end{array}.$$

Proposition 8. *For all $A, B \in \mathbf{J}_n$, $A^{\mathfrak{S}_n} = B^{\mathfrak{S}_n}$ if and only if* $\mathrm{Sp}(A) = \mathrm{Sp}(B)$.

Proof. The effect of conjugation by an element of the symmetric group on a diagram A is to apply the same permutation to the set $\underline{n}$ and $\underline{n'}$. Therefore when we decompose $A = A_1 \sqcup \cdots \sqcup A_m$, neither the size of the A_i nor the type of the component parts is affected. We therefore have that for all $A \in \mathbf{J}_n$ and $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n$,

$$\mathrm{Sp}(A) = \mathrm{Sp}(\sigma A \sigma^{-1}).$$

It follows that $A^{\mathfrak{S}_n} = B^{\mathfrak{S}_n}$ implies $\mathrm{Sp}(A) = \mathrm{Sp}(B)$.

Now assume that $\mathrm{Sp}(A) = \mathrm{Sp}(B)$. We saw in Remark 5 that the labels of the x_j do not matter, so we may assume that the first components A_1 and B_1 contains elements x, x' for $1 \leqslant x \leqslant (\lambda_A)_1$, the second components contain x, x' for $(\lambda_A)_1 + 1 \leqslant x \leqslant (\lambda_A)_2$ and so on. Since the two diagrams then are formed of disjoint components of corresponding sizes, we may assume that there is only one part in the decomposition $A = A_1$ (hence also $B = B_1$). Then it must be possible to write $A = \{a_1, \ldots, a_n\}$ and $B = \{b_1, \ldots, b_n\}$ such that $\mathrm{tp}(a_i) = \mathrm{tp}(b_i)$ for all i. We also have sequences of distinct elements $x_i \in a_i$ and $y_i \in b_i$ such that (ignoring primes) all values $1, \ldots, n$ appear in each sequence. We then construct a permutation $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n$ by setting $\sigma x_i = y_i$ for all i. Hence we have $A = \sigma B \sigma^{-1}$, and therefore $A^{\mathfrak{S}_n} = B^{\mathfrak{S}_n}$. □

Proposition 9. *For each ℓ, the image of $\mathbf{J}_n[\ell]$ under* Sp *is the set of equivalence classes in $\mathcal{T}_n$ whose representative tableaux have the following properties:*

- *there are the same number of N and S in each row;*
- *ignoring the P, the N and S alternate across each row;*
- *P appears ℓ times across the whole tableau.*

Proof. For the first property, note that for each horizontal arc on the top of each component of the diagram we must also have a horizontal arc on the bottom.

The second property follows from the fact that each node in the original diagram is connected to precisely one edge, so we cannot have successive arcs at the top since this will require a node of valency two between them (and similarly for the bottom).

The last property is by definition of $\mathbf{J}_n[\ell]$, as this states that the original diagram has precisely ℓ propagating lines. □

Remark. Note that the tableaux in the image of $\mathbf{J}_n[n]$ have all entries equal to P, and are therefore in bijection with the set of partitions λ of n. This is to be expected, as $\mathbf{J}_n[n]$ is isomorphic as a group to $\mathfrak{S}_n$.

3. Construction of the splitting idempotent

As outlined in the introduction, we will follow the approach of [25]. This relies on the following lemma:

Lemma 10 *([25, Section 1]). Let $J \subset \Lambda$ be an ideal of a unital algebra Λ, then the short exact sequence of Λ-bimodules*

$$0 \to J \to \Lambda \to \Lambda/J \to 0$$

splits if and only if there is an element $\varphi_J \in \Lambda$ with the following properties:

(i) $\varphi_J \equiv 1_\Lambda$ *mod* J;
(ii) $\varphi_J J = J\varphi_J = 0$.

If φ_J exists then it is the unique idempotent with these properties, and moreover $\varphi_J \in Z(\Lambda)$, the centre of Λ.

For $\Lambda' \subset \Lambda$ a subalgebra (or indeed any subset), define $Z_{\Lambda'}(\Lambda)$ as the set of elements of Λ that commute with Λ'. Obviously $Z(\Lambda) \subset Z_{\Lambda'}(\Lambda)$. Thus we can start to search for elements of $Z(\Lambda)$ by looking for elements of $Z_{\Lambda'}(\Lambda)$.

We will then examine $Z_{K\mathfrak{S}_n}(B_n)$, where $K\mathfrak{S}_n$ is the subalgebra of B_n with basis $\mathbf{J}_n[n]$. We are therefore interested in elements of $\overline{\mathbf{J}_n}$ that are invariant under conjugation by all elements of $\mathfrak{S}_n$. Consider an element $x \in Z_{K\mathfrak{S}_n}(B_n)$ of the form

$$\begin{aligned} x &= \sum_{A \in \overline{\mathbf{J}_n}} c_A A \qquad (c_A \in K) \\ &= \sigma x \sigma^{-1} \\ &= \sum_{A \in \overline{\mathbf{J}_n}} c_A \sigma A \sigma^{-1} \\ &= \sum_{A \in \overline{\mathbf{J}_n}} c_{\sigma^{-1} A \sigma} A, \end{aligned}$$

where we have used the fact that conjugation by $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n$ is a permutation on $\overline{\mathbf{J}_n}$. Thus $x \in Z_{K\mathfrak{S}_n}(B_n)$ implies $c_A = c_{\sigma A \sigma^{-1}}$ for all σ. Evidently for any A,

$$\sum_{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n} \sigma A \sigma^{-1} \in Z_{K\mathfrak{S}_n}(B_n).$$

In characteristic zero, all possible multiplicities in this sum are units, so $Z_{\mathfrak{S}_n}(B_n)$ has a basis of elements of this form. However we wish to find a basis valid in arbitrary characteristic.

Lemma 11. *For each* $\mathfrak{t} \in \mathrm{Im}(\mathrm{Sp}) \subset \mathcal{T}_n$*, let* $A_\mathfrak{t} \in \mathbf{J}_n$ *be any pair partition such that* $\mathrm{Sp}(A_\mathfrak{t}) = \mathfrak{t}$*. Writing* $D_\mathfrak{t} = (A_\mathfrak{t})_\Sigma$*, the set*

$$\{D_\mathfrak{t} \mid \mathfrak{t} \in \mathrm{Im}(\mathrm{Sp})\}$$

is a basis of $Z_{\mathfrak{S}_n}(B_n)$*.*

Proof. It is clear that the elements A_Σ $(A \in \mathbf{J}_n)$ span this space, and from Proposition 8 we see that $A_\Sigma = B_\Sigma$ if and only if $\mathrm{Sp}(A) = \mathrm{Sp}(B)$. To show linear independence we note first that each element of the set is a sum of basis elements of the Brauer algebra, and furthermore no diagram appears in two different sums (since the spore function is well-defined). The result follows. □

Recall from Section 2.2 that $\overline{J_n}(\ell)$ is the ideal of B_n with basis $\overline{\mathbf{J}_n}(\ell)$, and for $\ell < n$ we write $\varphi_n(\ell)$ for the corresponding splitting idempotent in the sense of Lemma 10. We will see below that this idempotent exists for our chosen ring K. Define $X_n(\ell)$ by $\varphi_n(\ell) = 1 + X_n(\ell)$. Since $X_n(\ell)$ is central, and hence in $Z_{\mathfrak{S}_n}(B_n)$, we have

$$X_n(\ell) = \sum_{\mathfrak{t} \in \mathcal{T}_n(\ell)} c_\mathfrak{t} D_\mathfrak{t}$$

where the scalars $c_\mathfrak{t}$ are to be determined. By Lemma 10(ii) a necessary condition is given by $dX_n(\ell) = -d$ for $d \in \overline{J_n}(\ell)$. Thus in particular for $\overline{u} = \overline{u_1}\,\overline{u_3}\,\overline{u_5}\ldots\overline{u_{n-\ell-1}}$ (where the $\overline{u_i}$ are as in (4)) a necessary condition is

$$\overline{u}X_n(\ell) = -\overline{u}. \tag{5}$$

We will use this equation to obtain several linear equations in the $c_\mathfrak{t}$, show that these are linearly independent and hence solve to obtain the values of $c_\mathfrak{t}$.

We may assume that $A_\mathfrak{t}$ has an arc between nodes $2j+1$ and $2j+2$ for $j = 0, 1, \ldots, \frac{1}{2}(n-\ell-2)$. Then $\overline{u}A_\mathfrak{t} = A_\mathfrak{t}$ for all $\mathfrak{t} \in \mathcal{T}_n(\ell)$. Moreover the following proposition shows that this relation is uniquely satisfied by the action of u on $A_\mathfrak{t}$.

Proposition 12. *Suppose* $A \neq A_\mathfrak{t}$ *satisfies* $\overline{u}A = \delta^r A_\mathfrak{t}$ *for some* $r \in \mathbb{Z}$*. Then* $r < 0$*.*

Proof. Clearly $r = 0$ is the maximum possible power of δ since we are working in the ring K. So we prove that if this maximum is attained, then $A = A_\mathfrak{t}$.

Firstly, it is clear that if $r = 0$, then we must cancel each factor $\frac{1}{\delta}$ from each of the $\overline{u_i}$ constituting $\overline{u}$ by forming closed loops. Thus nodes $2j+1$ and $2j+2$ must be joined for

$j = 0, 1, \ldots, \frac{1}{2}(n - \ell - 2)$. Next, the action of $\overline{u}$ cannot change the arrangement of any southern arcs, and it acts as the identity on the remaining ℓ propagating or northern arcs. Clearly this implies that if $\overline{u}A = \delta^r A_{\mathfrak{t}}$ with r maximal, then $A = A_{\mathfrak{t}}$. □

Writing $\mathcal{T}_n(\ell) = \{\mathfrak{t}_1, \ldots, \mathfrak{t}_m\}$ with $\mathrm{Sp}(u) = \mathfrak{t}_1$ we have a system of equations

$$\begin{pmatrix} p_1^{(1)}(\delta) & p_2^{(1)}(\delta) & \cdots & p_m^{(1)}(\delta) \\ p_1^{(2)}(\delta) & p_2^{(2)}(\delta) & \cdots & p_m^{(2)}(\delta) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ p_1^{(m)}(\delta) & p_2^{(m)}(\delta) & \cdots & p_m^{(m)}(\delta) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{\mathfrak{t}_1} \\ c_{\mathfrak{t}_2} \\ \vdots \\ c_{\mathfrak{t}_m} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -\delta^{-\frac{1}{2}(n-\ell)} \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \tag{6}$$

where the $p_j^{(k)}$ are elements of K, $p_j^{(j)} \equiv 1 \bmod K\delta^{-1}$, and $p_j^{(k)} \in K\delta^{-1}$ for $k \neq j$. Therefore the determinant of this matrix is also an element of K with leading term 1, which is generically non-zero. In order to invert this matrix, it may be true that we have to work over the field of rational polynomials in δ. However the following proposition shows that this is not the case.

Proposition 13. *The coefficients $c_{\mathfrak{t}_i}$ all lie in K.*

Proof. Denote by M the $m \times m$ matrix in (6). Since $\det M \equiv 1 \bmod K\delta^{-1}$, it is a unit in K. An application of Cramer's rule then shows that

$$c_{\mathfrak{t}_i} = \frac{\det M_i}{\det M},$$

where M_i is the matrix obtained by replacing the i-th column of M by $(-\delta^{-\frac{1}{2}(n-\ell)}, 0, \ldots, 0)^T$. Therefore we must show that $\det M_i$ is an element of K. But in the construction of M_i we are simply replacing the $p_i^{(j)}(\delta)$ by either 0 or $-\delta^{-\frac{1}{2}(n-\ell)}$, which are also elements of K. Therefore $\det M_i \in K$, and the result follows. □

The above proves the main theorem of this paper, that the condition (5) is also sufficient.

Theorem 14. *For each $\mathfrak{t} \in \mathcal{T}_n(\ell)$ let $D_{\mathfrak{t}} = (A_{\mathfrak{t}})_\Sigma$, where $A_{\mathfrak{t}} \in \mathbf{J}_n$ is any pair partition such that $Sp(A_{\mathfrak{t}}) = \mathfrak{t}$. Setting $X_n(\ell) = \sum_{\mathfrak{t} \in \mathcal{T}_n(\ell)} c_{\mathfrak{t}} D_{\mathfrak{t}}$ for some $c_{\mathfrak{t}} \in K$ and $\overline{u} = \overline{u_1}\,\overline{u_3} \ldots \overline{u_{n-\ell-1}}$, the equation*

$$\overline{u} X_n(\ell) = -\overline{u}$$

is always solvable in the $c_{\mathfrak{t}}$. Moreover, by defining $\varphi_n(\ell) = 1 + X_n(\ell)$ we obtain the splitting idempotent corresponding to the short exact sequence

$$0 \to \overline{J_n}(\ell) \to B_n \to B_n/\overline{J_n}(\ell) \to 0.$$

4. Representation theory and primitive central idempotents

In this section we will study the Brauer algebra over a field of characteristic zero, which for our purposes amounts to extending scalars of the ring K to $\mathbb{Q}\otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} K$ and specialising δ to an element of $\mathbb{Z}$. We will assume some familiarity with the representation theory of the Brauer algebra over a field (see for instance [4], [8], [15], [27]). In particular, the algebra B_n is cellular [15], and thus comes equipped with cell modules. These cell modules are indexed by integer partitions of $n, n-2, \ldots, 0/1$, and generically so too are the simple modules. Write $\Delta_n(\lambda)$ (resp. $L_n(\lambda)$) for the cell (resp. simple) module indexed by the partition λ.

The family B_n ($n \geqslant 0$) of Brauer algebras form a tower of recollement, in the sense of [8]. We therefore have a family of localisation functors

$$F_n : B_n\textbf{-mod} \to B_{n-2}\textbf{-mod}$$

and globalisation functors

$$G_n : B_n\textbf{-mod} \to B_{n+2}\textbf{-mod}.$$

For all $n \geqslant 0$ and B_n-modules M, we have $F_{n+2}G_n(M) \cong M$, and each G_n is a full embedding. Moreover for all partitions $\lambda \vdash n, n-2, \ldots, 0/1$,

$$\begin{aligned} F_n(\Delta_n(\lambda)) &\cong \begin{cases} \Delta_{n-2}(\lambda) & \text{if } \lambda \vdash n-2, n-4, \ldots, 0/1 \\ 0 & \text{if } \lambda \vdash n, \text{ and} \end{cases} \\ G_n(\Delta_n(\lambda)) &\cong \Delta_{n+2}(\lambda). \end{aligned}$$

In the generic case over a field of characteristic zero or $p > n$ the Brauer algebra is semisimple, and the cell modules are both simple and indecomposable projective, so are generated by a primitive central idempotent $\varphi_n(\lambda)$. Therefore $\varphi_n(\ell)$ decomposes into a sum of $\varphi_n(\lambda)$ where λ is a partition of $\lambda \vdash \ell+2, \ell+4, \ldots, n$. For $\ell + 2 < n$ this decomposition is not always easily obtained. However when $\ell = n-2$ we have the following:

Lemma 15. *For $\lambda \vdash n$,*

$$\varphi_n(\lambda) = \varphi_n(n-2)e_\lambda,$$

where e_λ is the idempotent in $\mathbb{Q}\mathfrak{S}_n$ corresponding to the Specht module S^λ, viewed as an element of B_n.

Proof. We show that the action of B_n on the module generated by $\varphi_n(n-2)e_\lambda$ is the same as that on the cell module $\Delta_n(\lambda)$. In the case of the latter, all elements with fewer than n propagating lines act as zero, and the remaining act as they would on the Specht module S^λ.

Since $\varphi_n(n-2)$ is central, we need not worry about the order of multiplication above. Now from Lemma 10, we see that $\varphi_n(n-2)$ acts as zero on any element with fewer than n propagating lines, and as the identity on the rest. Since all that remains are elements with n propagating lines, they then act on the idempotent e_λ as they do in the Specht module S^λ, proving the lemma. $\square$

When specialising δ or moving to a field of characteristic $p > 0$, it is possible that the Brauer algebra may no longer be semisimple. This will be reflected in the idempotents $\varphi_n(\ell)$ and $\varphi_n(\lambda)$. Indeed, some of these may no longer be well defined, and will need to be added together in order to clear any singularities. This corresponds to having a non-trivial block in the algebra.

Note first that the denominators in $\varphi_n(\ell)$ are all monic polynomials in $\mathbb{Z}[\delta]$, and so are well defined in all characteristics. Assume then that we are working in a field of characteristic zero. Rui's semisimplicity criterion [27, Theorem 1.2] tells us that these denominators will vanish when δ is an element of a certain subset of the integers.

Continuing with the characteristic zero case, suppose $\lambda \vdash n$. If the denominators appearing in $\varphi_n(\lambda)$ do not vanish at a chosen value of $\delta \in K$ then the cell module $\Delta_n(\lambda)$ is equal to the simple module $L_n(\lambda)$ and there is a corresponding idempotent in B_n splitting

$$0 \to \mathrm{Ann}(L_n(\lambda)) \to B_n \to B_n/\mathrm{Ann}(L_n(\lambda)) \to 0.$$

Thus there can be no map $L_n(\lambda) \hookrightarrow \Delta_n(\mu)$ for any partition $\mu \neq \lambda$. Equivalently, if a denominator does vanish then there is a corresponding map. Moreover, if m is the largest propagating number among the elements with diverging coefficients, then $\mu \vdash m$.

We can use globalisation and localisation to overcome the difficulty of computing the $\varphi_n(\lambda)$ for $\lambda \vdash \ell < n$. Indeed, due to the cellular structure of B_n, if $L_n(\lambda)$ appears as a composition factor of any $\Delta_n(\mu)$ then $|\mu| \leqslant |\lambda|$. Therefore by localising to B_ℓ, we do not lose any data about which modules $L_n(\lambda)$ appears in. We will make use of this in the examples in the next section.

5. Examples

Given their links to representation theory (cf. [1, Chapter 1] for example), it should not be surprising that in many cases the calculation of central idempotents is a highly non-trivial task, see for instance Murphy's construction of central idempotents in the symmetric group [24]. The method described above gives us a general process that, given enough time, will produce central idempotents of B_n and from there some of the primitive central idempotents. In low ranks it is even possible to calculate the $\varphi_n(\ell)$ (and some of the $\varphi_n(\lambda)$) explicitly by hand. We will do this for $n \leqslant 4$, but for the sake of brevity will suppress many of the details. Instead we will refer to several features of the idempotents that can be interpreted in a representation theoretic manner.

5.1. Splitting idempotents

Our first task will be to calculate the idempotent $\varphi_2(0)$ in B_2. By Lemma 11, a basis of $Z_{\mathfrak{S}_2}(B_2)$ is indexed by the tableaux

$$\mathfrak{s}_1^{(0)} = \begin{array}{|c|c|}\hline N & S \\ \hline\end{array}, \quad \mathfrak{s}_1^{(2)} = \begin{array}{|c|c|}\hline P & P \\ \hline\end{array}, \quad \text{and } \mathfrak{s}_2^{(2)} = \begin{array}{|c|}\hline P \\ \hline P \\ \hline\end{array}.$$

The tableau corresponding to diagrams with no propagating lines is $\mathfrak{s}_1^{(0)}$, and so

$$X_2(0) = a_{\mathfrak{s}_1^{(0)}} D_{\mathfrak{s}_1^{(0)}},$$

where $D_{\mathfrak{s}_1^{(0)}} = u_1 \in B_2$. Theorem 14 requires $\overline{u_1} X_2(0) = -\overline{u_1}$, which is satisfied by setting $a_{\mathfrak{s}_1^{(0)}} = -\frac{1}{\delta}$. Therefore

$$\varphi_2(0) = 1 - \frac{1}{\delta} u_1.$$

We invite the reader to calculate the idempotent $\varphi_3(1)$ in B_3, as we will not make use of it in the rest of this paper. The case $n = 4$ will outline the method and provide enough detail to omit the $n = 3$ case.

We now calculate the idempotents $\varphi_4(0)$ and $\varphi_4(2)$ in B_4. This requires us to first find a basis of $Z_{\mathfrak{S}_4}(B_4)$, which again by Lemma 11 above is indexed by the tableaux

$$\mathfrak{t}_1^{(0)} = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|}\hline N & S & N & S \\ \hline\end{array}, \quad \mathfrak{t}_2^{(0)} = \begin{array}{|c|c|}\hline N & S \\ \hline N & S \\ \hline\end{array},$$

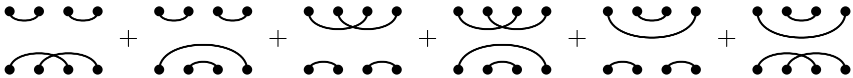
$$\mathfrak{t}_1^{(2)} = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|}\hline N & S & P & P \\ \hline\end{array}, \quad \mathfrak{t}_2^{(2)} = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|}\hline N & P & S & P \\ \hline\end{array}, \quad \mathfrak{t}_3^{(2)} = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|}\hline N & S & P \\ \hline \multicolumn{1}{|c|}{P} & \multicolumn{2}{c}{} \\ \cline{1-1}\end{array}, \quad \mathfrak{t}_4^{(2)} = \begin{array}{|c|c|}\hline N & S \\ \hline P & P \\ \hline\end{array}, \quad \mathfrak{t}_5^{(2)} = \begin{array}{|c|c|}\hline N & S \\ \hline \multicolumn{1}{|c|}{P} & \multicolumn{1}{c}{} \\ \cline{1-1} \multicolumn{1}{|c|}{P} & \multicolumn{1}{c}{} \\ \cline{1-1}\end{array},$$

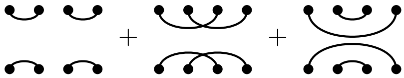
$$\mathfrak{t}_1^{(4)} = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|}\hline P & P & P & P \\ \hline\end{array}, \quad \mathfrak{t}_2^{(4)} = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|}\hline P & P & P \\ \hline \multicolumn{1}{|c|}{P} & \multicolumn{2}{c}{} \\ \cline{1-1}\end{array}, \quad \mathfrak{t}_3^{(4)} = \begin{array}{|c|c|}\hline P & P \\ \hline P & P \\ \hline\end{array}, \quad \mathfrak{t}_4^{(4)} = \begin{array}{|c|c|}\hline P & P \\ \hline \multicolumn{1}{|c|}{P} & \multicolumn{1}{c}{} \\ \cline{1-1} \multicolumn{1}{|c|}{P} & \multicolumn{1}{c}{} \\ \cline{1-1}\end{array}, \quad \text{and } \mathfrak{t}_5^{(4)} = \begin{array}{|c|}\hline P \\ \hline P \\ \hline P \\ \hline P \\ \hline\end{array}.$$

Considering first diagrams with no propagating lines, i.e. those tableaux $\mathfrak{t}_j^{(i)}$ with $i = 0$, we have

$$X_4(0) = b_{\mathfrak{t}_1^{(0)}} D_{\mathfrak{t}_1^{(0)}} + b_{\mathfrak{t}_2^{(0)}} D_{\mathfrak{t}_2^{(0)}},$$

where

$D_{\mathfrak{t}_1^{(0)}} =$  and

$D_{\mathfrak{t}_2^{(0)}} =$  .

Setting $\overline{u} = \overline{u_1}\,\overline{u_3}$ and requiring $\overline{u}X_4(0) = -\overline{u}$, we obtain the system of equations

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1+\delta^{-1} & \delta^{-1} \\ 2\delta^{-1} & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} b_{\mathfrak{t}_1^{(0)}} \\ b_{\mathfrak{t}_2^{(0)}} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -\delta^{-2} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Solving this gives

$$b_{\mathfrak{t}_1^{(0)}} = \frac{1}{\delta(\delta+2)(\delta-1)} \quad \text{and} \quad b_{\mathfrak{t}_2^{(0)}} = -\frac{\delta+1}{\delta(\delta+2)(\delta-1)},$$

and we have $\varphi_4(0) = 1 + b_{\mathfrak{t}_1^{(0)}} D_{\mathfrak{t}_1^{(0)}} + b_{\mathfrak{t}_2^{(0)}} D_{\mathfrak{t}_2^{(0)}}$.

We will now consider diagrams with at most 2 propagating lines, i.e. those tableaux $t_j^{(i)}$ with $i = 0, 2$, so that

$$X_4(2) = \sum_{i=1}^{5} c_{\mathfrak{t}_i^{(2)}} D_{\mathfrak{t}_i^{(2)}} + \sum_{i=1}^{2} c_{\mathfrak{t}_i^{(0)}} D_{\mathfrak{t}_i^{(0)}}.$$

This time we set $\overline{u} = \overline{u_1}$ and obtain the following system of 7 linearly independent equations.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1+\delta^{-1} & \delta^{-1} & 2\delta^{-1} & 0 & 2\delta^{-1} & 0 & 0 \\ 2\delta^{-1} & 1 & 0 & 2\delta^{-1} & 0 & \delta^{-1} & \delta^{-1} \\ 0 & 0 & 1+\delta^{-1} & \delta^{-1} & \delta^{-1} & \delta^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2\delta^{-1} & 1 & 2\delta^{-1} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \delta^{-1} & \delta^{-1} & 1+\delta^{-1} & 0 & \delta^{-1} \\ 0 & 0 & 4\delta^{-1} & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 4\delta^{-1} & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{\mathfrak{t}_1^{(0)}} \\ c_{\mathfrak{t}_2^{(0)}} \\ c_{\mathfrak{t}_1^{(2)}} \\ c_{\mathfrak{t}_2^{(2)}} \\ c_{\mathfrak{t}_3^{(2)}} \\ c_{\mathfrak{t}_4^{(2)}} \\ c_{\mathfrak{t}_5^{(2)}} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ -\delta^{-1} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Upon solving this we see that

$$c_{\mathfrak{t}_1^{(0)}} = -\frac{3\delta+2}{(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)}$$

$$c_{\mathfrak{t}_2^{(0)}} = \frac{\delta^2+3\delta+6}{(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)}$$

$$c_{\mathfrak{t}_1^{(2)}} = -\frac{1}{(\delta-2)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)}$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
c_{\mathfrak{t}_2^{(2)}} &= -\frac{2}{\delta(\delta-2)(\delta+4)} \\
c_{\mathfrak{t}_3^{(2)}} &= \frac{\delta+3}{(\delta-2)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)} \\
c_{\mathfrak{t}_4^{(2)}} &= \frac{4}{\delta(\delta-2)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)} \\
c_{\mathfrak{t}_5^{(2)}} &= -\frac{\delta^3+4\delta^2-4}{\delta(\delta-2)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)},
\end{aligned}
$$

and $\varphi_4(2) = 1 + \sum_{i=1}^{5} c_{\mathfrak{t}_i^{(2)}} D_{\mathfrak{t}_i^{(2)}} + \sum_{i=1}^{2} c_{\mathfrak{t}_i^{(0)}} D_{\mathfrak{t}_i^{(0)}}$.

Remark. Note that the values of δ for which $\varphi_4(0)$ and $\varphi_4(2)$ are well-defined coincide with the values of δ for which $B_4(\delta)$ is semisimple over a field of characteristic zero (see [27]).

5.2. Connections with representation theory

We begin by studying the case $n = 2$. From [24], the primitive central idempotents in $\mathbb{Q}\mathfrak{S}_2$ are

$$
\begin{aligned}
e_{(2)} &= \frac{1}{2}(1 + (1\ 2)), \text{ and} \\
e_{(1^2)} &= \frac{1}{2}(1 - (1\ 2)),
\end{aligned}
$$

where we are using the cycle notation for permutations (also henceforth). By Lemma 15, we then have

$$
\begin{aligned}
\varphi_2((2)) &= \varphi_2(0)e_{(2)} \\
&= \frac{1}{2}(1 + (1\ 2)) - \frac{1}{\delta}u_1 \\
&= \frac{1}{2}(D_{\mathfrak{s}_2^{(2)}} + D_{\mathfrak{s}_1^{(2)}}) - \frac{1}{\delta}D_{\mathfrak{s}_1^{(0)}} \\
\varphi_2((1^2)) &= \varphi_2(0)e_{(1^2)} \\
&= \frac{1}{2}(1 - (1\ 2)) \\
&= \frac{1}{2}(D_{\mathfrak{s}_2^{(2)}} - D_{\mathfrak{s}_1^{(2)}}).
\end{aligned}
$$

When $\delta = 0$, the coefficient of $\varphi_2((2))$ corresponding to elements with zero propagating lines diverges, indicating a non-zero homomorphism $L_2((2)) \hookrightarrow \Delta_2(\emptyset)$.

Moving now to the $n = 4$ case, note first that we can globalise the $n = 2$ case and see that when $\delta = 0$, we have a non-zero homomorphism

$$\Delta_4(2) \to \Delta_4(\emptyset)/M,$$

where $M \subset \Delta_4(\emptyset)$ is a submodule.

We now calculate the idempotent $e_\lambda \in \mathbb{Q}\mathfrak{S}_4$ with $\lambda = (3, 1)$ using the results of [24]:

$$\begin{aligned} e_{(3,1)} &= \frac{3}{8} + \frac{1}{8}(1\ 2)_\Sigma - \frac{1}{8}(1\ 2)(3\ 4)_\Sigma - \frac{1}{8}(1\ 2\ 3\ 4)_\Sigma \\ &= \frac{1}{8}\left(-D_{\mathfrak{t}_1^{(4)}} - D_{\mathfrak{t}_3^{(4)}} + D_{\mathfrak{t}_4^{(4)}} + 3D_{\mathfrak{t}_5^{(4)}}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_4((3,1)) &= \varphi_4(2)e_{(3,1)} \\ &= e_{(3,1)} + \frac{1}{8\delta(\delta+2)}\left(\delta D_{\mathfrak{t}_1^{(2)}} + 2(\delta+2)D_{\mathfrak{t}_2^{(2)}} - \delta D_{\mathfrak{t}_3^{(2)}} - 4D_{\mathfrak{t}_4^{(2)}} - 4(\delta+1)D_{\mathfrak{t}_5^{(2)}}\right). \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

From (7) above we see that when $\delta = 0$ or -2, the idempotent $\varphi_4((3, 1))$ is no longer well-defined. The coefficients that blow up are attached to the diagrams with two propagating lines, signifying the appearance of $L_4(3, 1)$ as a submodule of $\Delta_4(\mu)$ for $\mu \vdash 2$.

Finally we will show that a sum of idempotents that individually are not defined at a certain value of δ, can in fact be well defined for this δ. In particular we will compute

$$\varphi_4(0) - \varphi_4(2) + \varphi_4((3,1)) \tag{8}$$

and show that it is well defined at $\delta = -2$, even though each constituent is not. Since each part is a linear combination of the $D_{\mathfrak{t}_j^{(i)}}$ we can sum each of the corresponding coefficients. Using the order of the $\mathfrak{t}_j^{(i)}$ from Section 5.1 we have

$$\begin{aligned} b_{\mathfrak{t}_1^{(0)}} - c_{\mathfrak{t}_1^{(0)}} &= \frac{4}{\delta(\delta-2)(\delta+4)} \\ b_{\mathfrak{t}_2^{(0)}} - c_{\mathfrak{t}_2^{(0)}} &= \frac{-2(\delta+2)}{\delta(\delta-2)(\delta+4)} \\ -c_{\mathfrak{t}_1^{(2)}} + \frac{1}{8(\delta+2)} &= \frac{\delta}{8(\delta-2)(\delta+4)} \\ -c_{\mathfrak{t}_2^{(2)}} + \frac{1}{4\delta} &= \frac{\delta+2}{4(\delta-2)(\delta+4)} \\ -c_{\mathfrak{t}_3^{(2)}} - \frac{1}{8(\delta+2)} &= -\frac{\delta+8}{8(\delta-2)(\delta+4)} \end{aligned}$$

$$-c_{\mathfrak{t}_4^{(2)}} - \frac{1}{2\delta(\delta+2)} = -\frac{1}{2(\delta-2)(\delta+4)}$$
$$-c_{\mathfrak{t}_5^{(2)}} - \frac{\delta+1}{2\delta(\delta+2)} = \frac{\delta+3}{2(\delta-2)(\delta+4)}.$$

Note that the $D_{\mathfrak{t}_j^{(4)}}$ appear only in $\varphi_4((3,1))$, so we have omitted their coefficients here. We see then that (8) is well defined at $\delta = -2$. Since the element $\varphi_4(0)$ kills all modules $\Delta_4(\lambda)$ with $|\lambda| = 0$ and $\varphi_4(2)$ kills all $\Delta_4(\lambda)$ with $|\lambda| \leqslant 2$, this sum will kill all cell modules except $\Delta_4((3,1))$, $\Delta_4((2))$ and $\Delta_4((1^2))$. We have already seen that when $\delta = -2$ there is a homomorphism $\Delta_4((3,1)) \to \Delta_4(\mu)$ for some $\mu \vdash 2$, and from the block characterisation of [4] we see that in fact $\mu = (1^2)$. From the same characterisation we see that $\Delta_4((2))$ is alone in its block. Therefore the sum (8) corresponds to a union of these two blocks of B_4.

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Appendix A. The case $n = 6$

The examples above illustrate the method of computing central idempotents and how to glean information about representation theory from them. In this supplementary section we calculate the splitting idempotents in B_6, a 10395-dimensional algebra, to show that the method we derived does indeed give idempotents that were previously inaccessible.

Starting with the splitting idempotent for $\overline{J_6}(0)$, we have

$$\mathfrak{u}_1^{(0)} = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|}\hline N&S&N&S&N&S\\\hline\end{array}, \quad \mathfrak{u}_2^{(0)} = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|}\hline N&S&N&S\\\hline N&S\\\cline{1-2}\end{array}, \quad \text{and } \mathfrak{u}_3^{(0)} = \begin{array}{|c|c|}\hline N&S\\\hline N&S\\\hline N&S\\\hline\end{array}.$$

Then $\varphi_6(0) = 1 + \sum_{i=1}^{3} \alpha_i^{(0)} D_{\mathfrak{u}_i^{(0)}}$, where

$$\alpha_1^{(0)} = -\frac{2}{\delta(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)},$$
$$\alpha_2^{(0)} = \frac{1}{\delta(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+4)},$$
$$\alpha_3^{(0)} = \frac{\delta^2+3\delta-2}{\delta(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)}.$$

Next, for the splitting idempotent for $\overline{J_6}(2)$ we have (in addition to the above)

$$\mathfrak{u}_1^{(2)} = \begin{ytableau} N & S & N & S & P & P \end{ytableau}, \quad \mathfrak{u}_2^{(2)} = \begin{ytableau} N & S & N & P & S & P \end{ytableau}, \quad \mathfrak{u}_3^{(2)} = \begin{ytableau} N & S & P & N & P & S \end{ytableau},$$

$$\mathfrak{u}_4^{(2)} = \begin{ytableau} N & S & P & N & S & P \end{ytableau},$$

$$\mathfrak{u}_5^{(2)} = \begin{ytableau} N & S & N & S & P \\ P \end{ytableau}, \quad \mathfrak{u}_6^{(2)} = \begin{ytableau} N & S & N & S \\ P & P \end{ytableau}, \quad \mathfrak{u}_7^{(2)} = \begin{ytableau} N & S & P & P \\ N & S \end{ytableau}, \quad \mathfrak{u}_8^{(2)} = \begin{ytableau} N & P & S & P \\ N & S \end{ytableau},$$

$$\mathfrak{u}_9^{(2)} = \begin{ytableau} N & S & N & S \\ P \\ P \end{ytableau}, \quad \mathfrak{u}_{10}^{(2)} = \begin{ytableau} N & S & P \\ N & S & P \end{ytableau}, \quad \mathfrak{u}_{11}^{(2)} = \begin{ytableau} N & S & P \\ N & S \\ P \end{ytableau}, \quad \mathfrak{u}_{12}^{(2)} = \begin{ytableau} N & S \\ N & S \\ P & P \end{ytableau}, \quad \text{and } \mathfrak{u}_{13}^{(2)} = \begin{ytableau} N & S \\ N & S \\ P \\ P \end{ytableau}.$$

Thus $\varphi_6(2) = 1 + \sum_{i=1}^{3} \beta_i^{(0)} D_{\mathfrak{u}_i^{(0)}} + \sum_{i=1}^{13} \beta_i^{(2)} D_{\mathfrak{u}_i^{(2)}}$, where

$$\beta_1^{(0)} = \frac{13\delta^2 + 25\delta + 18}{(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)},$$

$$\beta_2^{(0)} = -\frac{4(\delta^2 + 3\delta + 3)}{(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+1)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)},$$

$$\beta_3^{(0)} = \frac{2(\delta^4 + 7\delta^3 + 13\delta^2 + 13\delta - 6)}{(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)},$$

$$\beta_1^{(2)} = \frac{3(\delta^2 + \delta + 2)}{\delta(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)},$$

$$\beta_2^{(2)} = \frac{5\delta + 6}{\delta(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta+1)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)},$$

$$\beta_3^{(2)} = \frac{5\delta + 6}{\delta(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta+1)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)},$$

$$\beta_4^{(2)} = \frac{2(2\delta^2 + 3\delta - 6)}{\delta(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)},$$

$$\beta_5^{(2)} = -\frac{2\delta^3 + 10\delta^2 + 3\delta - 6}{\delta(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)},$$

$$\beta_6^{(2)} = -\frac{4(5\delta + 6)}{\delta(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)},$$

$$\beta_7^{(2)} = -\frac{(\delta+3)(\delta^2 + \delta + 2)}{\delta(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)},$$

$$\beta_8^{(2)} = -\frac{2}{(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta+1)(\delta+6)},$$

$$\beta_9^{(2)} = \frac{\delta^4 + 7\delta^3 + 8\delta^2 - 8\delta - 24}{\delta(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)},$$

$$\beta_{10}^{(2)} = -\frac{\delta^3 + 6\delta^2 + 18\delta + 12}{\delta(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)},$$

$$\beta_{11}^{(2)} = \frac{\delta^4 + 7\delta^3 + 7\delta^2 - 11\delta - 6}{\delta(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)},$$
$$\beta_{12}^{(2)} = \frac{8}{(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+6)},$$
$$\beta_{13}^{(2)} = -\frac{\delta^4 + 8\delta^3 + 7\delta^2 - 40\delta - 44}{(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)}.$$

Finally, we compute the splitting idempotent for $\overline{J_6}(4)$. The remaining tableaux to consider are

$$\mathfrak{u}_1^{(4)} = \begin{ytableau} N & S & P & P & P & P \end{ytableau}, \quad \mathfrak{u}_2^{(4)} = \begin{ytableau} N & P & S & P & P & P \end{ytableau}, \quad \mathfrak{u}_3^{(4)} = \begin{ytableau} N & P & P & S & P & P \end{ytableau},$$
$$\mathfrak{u}_4^{(4)} = \begin{ytableau} N & S & P & P & P \\ P \end{ytableau},$$
$$\mathfrak{u}_5^{(4)} = \begin{ytableau} N & P & S & P & P \\ P \end{ytableau}, \quad \mathfrak{u}_6^{(4)} = \begin{ytableau} N & S & P & P \\ P & P \end{ytableau}, \quad \mathfrak{u}_7^{(4)} = \begin{ytableau} N & P & S & P \\ P & P \end{ytableau}, \quad \mathfrak{u}_8^{(4)} = \begin{ytableau} P & P & P & P \\ N & S \end{ytableau},$$
$$\mathfrak{u}_9^{(4)} = \begin{ytableau} N & S & P & P \\ P \\ P \end{ytableau}, \quad \mathfrak{u}_{10}^{(4)} = \begin{ytableau} N & P & S & P \\ P \\ P \end{ytableau}, \quad \mathfrak{u}_{11}^{(4)} = \begin{ytableau} N & S & P \\ P & P & P \end{ytableau}, \quad \mathfrak{u}_{12}^{(4)} = \begin{ytableau} N & S & P \\ P & P \\ P \end{ytableau},$$
$$\mathfrak{u}_{13}^{(4)} = \begin{ytableau} P & P & P \\ N & S \\ P \end{ytableau}, \quad \mathfrak{u}_{14}^{(4)} = \begin{ytableau} N & S & P \\ P \\ P \\ P \end{ytableau}, \quad \mathfrak{u}_{15}^{(4)} = \begin{ytableau} N & S \\ P & P \\ P & P \end{ytableau}, \quad \mathfrak{u}_{16}^{(4)} = \begin{ytableau} N & S \\ P & P \\ P \\ P \end{ytableau}, \quad \text{and } \mathfrak{u}_{17}^{(4)} = \begin{ytableau} N & S \\ P \\ P \\ P \\ P \end{ytableau}.$$

Therefore $\varphi_6(4) = 1 + \sum_{i=1}^{3} \gamma_i^{(0)} D_{\mathfrak{u}_i^{(0)}} + \sum_{i=1}^{13} \gamma_i^{(2)} D_{\mathfrak{u}_i^{(2)}} + \sum_{i=1}^{17} \gamma_i^{(4)} D_{\mathfrak{u}_i^{(4)}}$, where

$$\gamma_1^{(0)} = -\frac{17\delta - 18}{(\delta-4)(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta+1)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)},$$
$$\gamma_2^{(0)} = \frac{3\delta^3 + 23\delta^2 + 66\delta - 24}{(\delta-4)(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta+1)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)},$$
$$\gamma_3^{(0)} = -\frac{\delta^4 + 10\delta^3 + 19\delta^2 - 2\delta + 408}{(\delta-4)(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta+1)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)},$$

$$\gamma_1^{(2)} = -\frac{7\delta^5 + 11\delta^4 - 27\delta^3 - 78\delta^2 + 216\delta - 192}{\delta(\delta-4)(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)},$$
$$\gamma_2^{(2)} = -\frac{11\delta^4 + 47\delta^3 - 6\delta^2 - 208\delta - 96}{(\delta-4)(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)},$$
$$\gamma_3^{(2)} = -\frac{11\delta^4 + 47\delta^3 - 6\delta^2 - 208\delta - 96}{(\delta-4)(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)},$$
$$\gamma_4^{(2)} = -\frac{2(4\delta^5 + 6\delta^4 - 29\delta^3 + 26\delta^2 - 136\delta + 192)}{\delta(\delta-4)(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)},$$

$$\gamma_5^{(2)} = \frac{5\delta^6 + 31\delta^5 - 62\delta^4 - 233\delta^3 + 298\delta^2 + 216\delta - 192}{\delta(\delta-4)(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)},$$

$$\gamma_6^{(2)} = \frac{4(15\delta^2 + 10\delta - 88)}{(\delta-4)(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)},$$

$$\gamma_7^{(2)} = \frac{\delta^6 + 7\delta^5 + 31\delta^4 - 47\delta^3 - 78\delta^2 + 152\delta - 192}{\delta(\delta-4)(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)},$$

$$\gamma_8^{(2)} = \frac{2(\delta^5 + 9\delta^4 + 30\delta^3 - 52\delta - 240)}{(\delta-4)(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)},$$

$$\gamma_9^{(2)} = -\frac{3\delta^6 + 26\delta^5 - 29\delta^4 - 400\delta^3 + 192\delta^2 + 1256\delta - 544}{(\delta-4)(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)},$$

$$\gamma_{10}^{(2)} = \frac{\delta^6 + 9\delta^5 + 70\delta^4 + 78\delta^3 - 588\delta^2 - 80\delta + 384}{\delta(\delta-4)(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)},$$

$$\gamma_{11}^{(2)} = -\frac{\delta^7 + 10\delta^6 + 20\delta^5 - 42\delta^4 - 249\delta^3 + 42\delta^2 + 536\delta - 192}{\delta(\delta-4)(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)},$$

$$\gamma_{12}^{(2)} = -\frac{8(\delta^5 + 7\delta^4 + 36\delta^3 - 26\delta^2 - 240\delta + 96)}{\delta(\delta-4)(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)},$$

$$\gamma_{13}^{(2)} = \frac{\delta^8 + 11\delta^7 + 7\delta^6 - 171\delta^5 - 148\delta^4 + 716\delta^3 + 16\delta^2 - 192\delta + 768}{\delta(\delta-4)(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)},$$

$$\gamma_1^{(4)} = -\frac{\delta^3 - 14\delta^2 - 28\delta - 48}{(\delta-4)(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)},$$

$$\gamma_2^{(4)} = -\frac{2(2\delta^4 + 4\delta^3 - 11\delta^2 - 18\delta - 40)}{(\delta-4)(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)},$$

$$\gamma_3^{(4)} = -\frac{2(3\delta^4 + 12\delta^3 - 16\delta^2 - 128\delta + 192)}{\delta(\delta-4)(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)},$$

$$\gamma_4^{(4)} = \frac{\delta^4 + 4\delta^3 - 22\delta^2 - 32\delta + 28}{(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)},$$

$$\gamma_5^{(4)} = \frac{3\delta^5 + 20\delta^4 - 37\delta^3 - 200\delta^2 + 132\delta + 208}{(\delta-4)(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)},$$

$$\gamma_6^{(4)} = \frac{2(13\delta^3 + 10\delta^2 - 62\delta - 24)}{(\delta-4)(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)},$$

$$\gamma_7^{(4)} = \frac{4(10\delta^4 + 23\delta^3 - 120\delta^2 - 72\delta + 96)}{\delta(\delta-4)(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)},$$

$$\gamma_8^{(4)} = \frac{8(\delta^3 - 14\delta^2 - 28\delta - 48)}{\delta(\delta-4)(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)},$$

$$\gamma_9^{(4)} = -\frac{\delta^4 + 4\delta^3 - 29\delta^2 - 2\delta + 100}{(\delta-4)(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)},$$

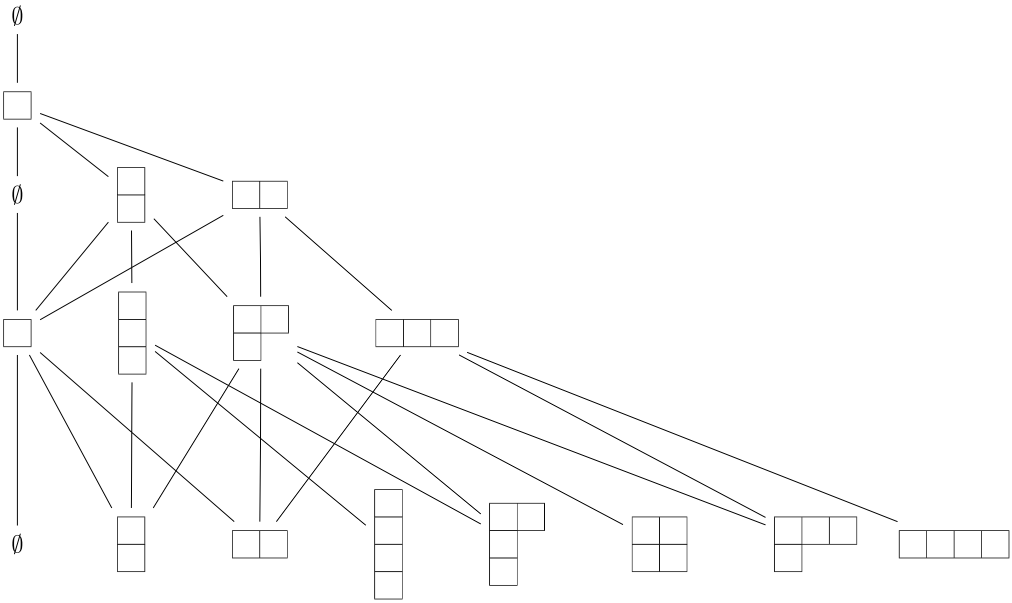


Fig. 1. The Bratteli diagram of B_4.

$$\gamma_{10}^{(4)} = -\frac{2(\delta^7+9\delta^6-9\delta^5-151\delta^4+20\delta^3+432\delta^2+16\delta-192)}{\delta(\delta-4)(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)},$$

$$\gamma_{11}^{(4)} = \frac{21(\delta^2+2\delta-4)}{(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)},$$

$$\gamma_{12}^{(4)} = -\frac{4(3\delta^3+17\delta^2-27\delta-76)}{(\delta-4)(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)},$$

$$\gamma_{13}^{(4)} = -\frac{6}{(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+8)},$$

$$\gamma_{14}^{(4)} = \frac{\delta^7+10\delta^6-8\delta^5-212\delta^4-11\delta^3+1042\delta^2+60\delta-1008}{(\delta-4)(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)},$$

$$\gamma_{15}^{(4)} = -\frac{16(13\delta^3+10\delta^2-62\delta-24)}{\delta(\delta-4)(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)},$$

$$\gamma_{16}^{(4)} = \frac{4(\delta^5+8\delta^4-\delta^3-50\delta^2-16\delta+96)}{\delta(\delta-4)(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)},$$

$$\gamma_{17}^{(4)} = -\frac{\delta^9+11\delta^8-7\delta^7-295\delta^6-106\delta^5+2252\delta^4+352\delta^3-4464\delta^2+96\delta+1152}{\delta(\delta-4)(\delta-3)(\delta-2)(\delta-1)(\delta+1)(\delta+2)(\delta+4)(\delta+6)(\delta+8)}.$$

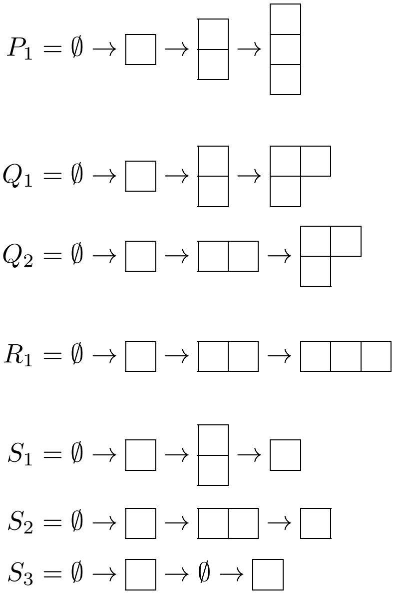
Appendix B. Efficiency of the construction

The expression of $B_n(\delta)$ as a multimatrix algebra in [21] allows one to calculate the primitive central idempotents of B_n directly by summing the elements corresponding to certain paths in the Bratteli diagram, see Fig. 1. In particular we have a basis of B_n

given by $\{E_{ST}\}$ where (S,T) are pairs of paths from row 0 to the same point in row n of the Bratteli diagram. Multiplication of these elements is given by the rule

$$E_{ST}E_{UV} = \delta_{TU}E_{SV}.$$

For $n = 3$, we have the following:



Now by [21, Theorem 6.22] we can express the generators u_i, σ_i of B_n as linear combinations of the E_{ST} over the field $\overline{\mathbb{Q}(\delta)}$. In particular for B_3 we have

$$\begin{aligned}
u_1 &= \delta E_{S_1S_1}\\
s_1 &= -E_{P_1P_1} + E_{R_1R_1} - E_{Q_1Q_1} + E_{Q_2Q_2} + E_{S_1S_1} - E_{S_2S_2} + E_{S_3S_3}\\
u_2 &= \frac{1}{\delta}E_{S_1S_1} + \frac{\delta-1}{2}E_{S_2S_2} + \frac{(x-1)(x+2)}{2x}E_{S_3S_3} + \frac{\sqrt{x(x-1)}}{\sqrt{2}x}(E_{S_1S_2} + E_{S_2S_1})\\
&\quad + \frac{\sqrt{(x-1)(x+2)}}{\sqrt{2}x}(E_{S_1S_3} + E_{S_3S_1}) + \frac{\sqrt{x(x-1)^2(x+2)}}{2x}(E_{S_2S_3} + E_{S_3S_2})\\
s_2 &= -E_{P_1P_1} + E_{R_1R_1} + \frac{1}{2}(E_{Q_1Q_1} - E_{Q_2Q_2}) + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}(E_{Q_1Q_2} + E_{Q_2Q_1}) + \frac{1}{\delta}E_{S_1S_1}\\
&\quad + \frac{1}{2}E_{S_2S_2} + \frac{(x-2)}{2x}E_{S_3S_3} - \frac{\sqrt{x(x-1)}}{\sqrt{2}x}(E_{S_1S_2} + E_{S_2S_1})\\
&\quad + \frac{\sqrt{(x-1)(x+2)}}{\sqrt{2}x}(E_{S_1S_3} + E_{S_3S_1}) + \frac{\sqrt{x(x-1)^2(x+2)}}{2x(x-1)}(E_{S_2S_3} + E_{S_3S_2}).
\end{aligned}$$

Since the set $\{u_1, s_1, u_2, s_2\}$ generates a $\mathbb{Z}[\delta]$-basis for B_3 we can find this basis in terms of the E_{ST}, and hence find an expression for the E_{ST} in terms of the standard diagram basis. To calculate the primitive central idempotent $\varphi_n(\lambda)$ with this basis we must sum the elements E_{SS} where S is a path ending at λ. For instance for $\varphi_3((1))$ we find the sum

$$\begin{aligned} E_{S_1S_1} + E_{S_2S_2} + E_{S_3S_3} = &\frac{\delta+1}{(\delta-1)(\delta+2)}(u_1 + u_2 + s_1u_2s_1) \\ &- \frac{1}{(\delta-1)(\delta+2)}(u_1u_2 + u_2u_1 + u_1s_2 + u_2s_1 + s_1u_2 + s_2u_1). \end{aligned}$$

This is simply the element $X_4(0)$ in the notation of this paper, which is already a much easier calculation. Moreover in order to write the generators of the algebra in terms of the E_{ST} we must calculate a coefficient for each pair of paths (S, T) ending at the same partition. The number of such pairs grows dramatically with n, as does the dimension of the algebra B_n and hence the calculation to convert from one basis to the other. Finally the coefficients in the intermediate steps do not reside in some integral or otherwise "nice" ring, which is a property of the method described in this paper.

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