

# THE SEQUENCE OF CODIMENSIONS OF PI-ALGEBRAS

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## ABSTRACT

Bounds and asymptotic formulas are given for the size of the irreducible representations of the symmetric groups. These are applied to obtain information on the identities and codimension sequence  $c_n(R)$  of a PI-algebra  $R$  of characteristic zero, e.g., the “ultimate” width of the hook in which the diagrams of the cocharacters of  $R$  lies is  $\leq (\lim c_n(R)^{1/n})^2$ , and  $\lim c_n(R)^{1/n} \leq 2(\lim c_n(R)^{1/n})^2$  for rings with no right (or left) total annihilators.

## 1. Introduction

The relation between the representations of the symmetric group and the polynomial identities  $I(R)$  of an algebra  $R$  of characteristic zero, has been developed by Regev in a sequence of papers. The basic idea is to consider the set of multilinear homogeneous polynomials  $V_n$  in  $n$  non-commutative indeterminates  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  as an  $S_n$ -module, isomorphic with  $FS_n$ , by setting  $\sigma f[x_1, \dots, x_n] = f[x_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, x_{\sigma(n)}]$ , the polynomials of  $V_n$  which are identities of  $R$ , i.e.  $I_n(R) = I(R) \cap V_n$  is a left  $S_n$ -module, and by identifying  $V_n$  with the group ring  $FS_n$ ,  $I_n(R)$  is a left ideal in  $FS_n$ . The  $n$ -th cocharacter  $x_n(R)$  is the character of the quotient module  $V_n/I_n(R)$ , and its dimension  $c_n(R)$  is the  $n$ -th codimension of  $R$ .  $V_n/I_n(R)$  is a direct sum of irreducible left ideals  $I_D$ , and  $c_n(R) = \sum a_D \dim D$ . In particular, if for some Young diagram  $D'$ ,  $\dim D' > c_n(R)$ , then the two-sided ideal  $I_{D'}$  is included in  $I_n(R)$ . Regev in [4] has shown that the classical result, that  $R$  satisfies a power of standard polynomial  $S_h[x_1, \dots, x_n]^k = 0$ , can be shown with  $h = (d-1)^2 + 1$ , and  $k \sim h^4$  where  $d$  is the degree of a minimal identity of  $R$ . In [1], Regev and the author have shown that the diagrams  $D$  of the cocharacter lie in a hook of width  $\sim e(d-1)^4$ .

The present paper uses the methods developed by Regev and in [1], to obtain more refined results in this direction.

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First we obtain better bounds for  $\dim(k^h)$  of a Young diagram of rectangles  $k \times h$ , and of hooks shown in Fig. 2. These bounds are used to show, e.g., that  $S_h^k[x] = 0$  will hold for  $k \sim h^2 \log h$  which is better than the bound of [4].

Next we consider  $\underline{\lim} c_n(R)^{1/n} = c$ , and prove that  $c$  can replace Latyshev bound  $(d-1)^2$  which was used in [1] and [4], but then without giving precise bounds, but rather results of the form, e.g.: (1) for each  $h > c$  there exists  $k$  such that  $R$  satisfies  $S_h^k[x]^k = 0$ ; (2) the diagrams  $D$  of the cocharacter lie in a hook of the shape in Fig. 3 (Corollary 9) with 'ultimate' width  $\leq c^2$ . An interesting corollary is that  $\underline{\lim} c_n(R)^{1/n}$  and  $\overline{\lim} c_n(R)^{1/n}$  are not independent. For matrix rings and for the exterior algebra actually  $\lim c_n(R)^{1/n}$  exists (Regev [5], Drensky [3]). In the general case we could only prove that  $\underline{\lim} c_n(R)^{1/n} \leq 2(\overline{\lim} c_n(R)^{1/n})^2$ . A lower bound for  $c$  is  $s^2$ , where  $s$  is a size of matrices in which  $R/N_1(R)$  can be embedded, where  $N_1(R)$  is the sum of all nilpotent ideals of  $R$ .

## 2. Dimensions of the representations of $S_n$

All algebras and representations in this paper are over fields of characteristic zero. Let  $D$  be a Young diagram of content  $n$ ;  $\dim D$  will denote the dimension of the corresponding representation of the symmetric group  $S_n$ .

To compute a lower bound for  $\dim D$  we use the hook formula

$$(2.1) \quad \dim D = \frac{n!}{\prod h_{ij}}$$

where  $h_{ij}$  is the hook number, that is, the number of squares in the hook through the  $(i, j)$  square. Let  $s, t$  denote the number of squares of the corresponding legs (Fig. 1); then  $h_{ij} = s + t - 1$ . Hence we obtain from (2.1)

$$(2.2) \quad \begin{aligned} \log \dim D &= \sum_{\nu=1}^n \log \nu - \sum \log(s + t - 1) \\ &\geq n((\log n) - 1) - \iint \log^+(s + t - 1) ds dt \end{aligned}$$

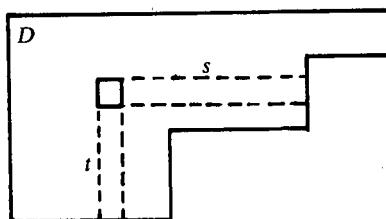


Fig. 1.

where  $\log^+ n = \log n$  for  $n \geq 1$  and zero elsewhere, and the integral is taken over the area of  $D$  with each square a unit square.

Let  $T = (k^h)$  be a rectangle of  $h$  rows each of  $k$  squares. For  $T$  it is easy to obtain an upper bound for the integral:

$$\begin{aligned} \iint \log^+(s + y - 1) ds dt &\leq \int_0^k \int_0^h \log^+(s + t) ds dt \\ &= \int_0^k [(s + t)(\log^+(s + t) - 1)]_0^h ds \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(k + h)^2 \log(k + h) - \frac{1}{2}k^2 \log k - \frac{1}{2}h^2 \log h - \frac{3}{2}kh \end{aligned}$$

which is obtained by using the equation  $\int x(\log x - 1) dx = \frac{1}{2}x^2(\log x - \frac{3}{2}) + C$ .

Let  $x = k/h$ , and divide (2.2) by  $n = kh$ ; using the inequality  $\sum_{\nu=1}^n \log \nu \geq n(\log n - 1)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{n} \log \dim T &\geq \log x h^2 - 1 - \frac{1}{2x} (1+x)^2 \log(1+x)h + \frac{x}{2} \log x h + \frac{1}{2x} \log h + \frac{3}{2} \\ (2.3) \quad &= \log h - \varphi(x) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi(x) &= \frac{(1+x)^2}{2x} \log(1+x) - \left(1 + \frac{x}{2}\right) \cdot \log x - \frac{1}{2} \\ (2.4) \quad &= \frac{1}{2x} [F(x+1) - F(x) - F'(x)] \\ &= \frac{1}{2x} \int_0^1 (1-t)F''(x+t) dt \end{aligned}$$

with  $F(x) = x^2 \log x$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi(x) &= \frac{1}{2x} \int_0^1 (1-t)(2 \log(x+t) + 3) dt \\ (2.5) \quad &\leq \frac{1}{2x} (\log(x+1) + \frac{3}{2}). \end{aligned}$$

A simple bound for  $\varphi(x)$  is  $A(\log x)/x$ , where  $A$  is a constant whose value can be chosen suitably, if the values of  $x$  are not too near to 1. It follows easily by computation that  $\varphi(x) \leq (\log x)/x$  for  $x \geq 4.8$ , and, e.g.,  $\varphi(x) \leq 2(\log x)/x$  for  $x \geq 1.75$ . In fact, for  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists  $x_0$  so that

$$\varphi(x) \leq (\frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon) \frac{\log x}{x} \quad \text{for } x \geq x_0,$$

since the integral of (2.5) is  $\geq \log x$ .

Summarizing, we obtain:

**THEOREM 1.** *If  $T = (k^h)$ , then  $\dim T \geq (e^{-\varphi(x)} h)^{kh}$ ,  $x = k/h$  and  $\varphi(x) \rightarrow 0$  as  $x \rightarrow \infty$ . Furthermore, for  $x \geq 4.8$ ,  $\dim T \geq (x^{-1/x} h)^n$ .*

An asymptotic formula and bounds for some other diagrams will be given later.

The next lemma is readily proved by a straightforward computation using the inequality  $\log(1+x) < x$  for  $x > 0$ , or by using Newton's method to obtain a bound for the solution of the equation  $x/M - \log x = 0$ ,  $M > 0$ .

**LEMMA 2.** *If  $1 < M \leq e$  and  $x > M \log M$ , or if  $M > e$  and*

$$x > M \log M \left( 1 + \frac{\log \log M}{\log M - 1} \right)$$

*then  $(\log x)/x < 1/M$ .*

### 3. First applications to PI

Let  $V_n$  be the linear space of all  $n$ -homogeneous multilinear polynomials in  $n$  non-commutative indeterminates, and consider it as the  $S_n$ -left module ( $S_n$  the permutation group) given by  $of[x_1, \dots, x_n] = f[x_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, x_{\sigma(n)}]$ .

Let  $I(R)$  be the set of all identities of an algebra  $R$  over a field of characteristic zero. The sequence of codimensions of  $R$  is defined by Regev:  $c_n(R) = \dim(V_n/I_n(R))$ , where  $I_n(R) = V_n \cap I(R)$ .

First we follow Regev's method of [4], but we use our bounds of  $\dim D$  to obtain a *more* refined result than those of [4]. We begin by quoting some of the basic facts of [1] and [4]:

Given a Young diagram of content  $|D| = n$ , let  $I_D$  denote the ideal corresponding to  $D$  in the group algebra  $FS_n$ , and we identify  $FS_n$  with  $V_n$  by identifying  $\sum \alpha_\sigma \sigma$  with  $\sum \alpha_\sigma x_{\sigma(1)} \cdots x_{\sigma(n)}$ . A basic lemma of [4] which is the main tool is:

$$(3.1) \quad \text{If } c_n(R) < \dim D \text{ then } I_D \subseteq I_n(R).$$

This has the corollary (Regev [4]):

If  $c_n(R) \leq \dim T$ ,  $T = (k^h)$ , then  $R$  satisfies the identity  $S_h[x_1, \dots, x_h]^k = 0$ ,

$$(3.2) \quad \text{where } S_h[x] \text{ is the standard polynomial.}$$

And by [1]:

If  $I(R) \supseteq I_{D'}$  for all  $D' \geq D$ , and  $|D'| = n + m$   
then  $R$  satisfies all identities of the form

$$(3.3) \quad f^*[x] = \sum \alpha_\sigma m_{i_0} x_{\sigma(1)} m_{i_1} x_{\sigma(2)} \cdots m_{i_{n-1}} x_{\sigma(n)} m_{i_n}$$

for all  $f = \sum \alpha_\sigma \sigma \in I_D$ , and all monomials  $m_i$  in  $1, x_{n+1}, \dots, x_{n+m}$ .

In particular we obtain:

**PROPOSITION 3.** *If  $I(R) \supseteq I_D$  for all Young diagrams  $D$  containing the rectangle  $T = (k^h)$  where  $|D| = k(h+1)$ , then the principle ideal generated by any element  $S_h[a_1, \dots, a_h]$ ,  $a_i \in R$  is nilpotent of index  $\leq k$ . Hence, if  $N(R)$  is the sum of all nilpotent ideals of  $R$  then  $R/N(R)$  satisfies the identity  $S_h[x] = 0$ .*

Indeed, it follows from (3.3) and (3.2) that  $R$  satisfies the identity (with  $k$  factors)

$$S_h[x_1, \dots, x_h] y_1 S_h[x_1, \dots, x_h] y_2 \cdots S_h[x_1, \dots, x_h] y_h = 0,$$

and the rest follows immediately.

We shall also need the following result of [1]:

$$(3.4) \quad \text{If for all diagrams } D' \geq D, 2|D| > |D'| \geq |D| \text{ the identities } I(R) \supseteq I_{D'}, \text{ then for all } D' \geq D, I(R) \supseteq I_{D'}.$$

Our first result is a refinement of a result of Regev [4] who has proved the next theorem for  $k \sim h^4$ :

**THEOREM 4.** (i) *Let  $R$  be a PI algebra satisfying an identity of degree  $d \geq 3$ , then for every  $h \geq 1 + (d-1)^2$  and*

$$k > h^2 \log h \left( 1 + \frac{\log \log h}{\log h - 1} \right),$$

*the ring  $R$  satisfies the identities  $S_h^k[x] = 0$  and  $S_k[x]^h = 0$ .*

(ii)  *$R$  satisfies also the identity  $S_h[x]^h = 0$ , for  $h = [4e^{-1/2}(d-1)^2] + 1$ .*

**PROOF.** We follow Regev's method of [4] using our bounds, to show that for  $k, h$  of our theorem we have  $\dim T > c_n(R)$  and apply (3.2).

Indeed, assume first that  $x = k/h \geq 4.9$ , Using the bound of Latyshev that  $c_n(R) \leq (d-1)^{2n}$ , we have to show, by Theorem 1, that

$$\frac{1}{n} \log \dim T > \log h - \varphi(x) \geq \log h - \frac{\log x}{x} \geq \log(d-1)^2$$

or equivalently that

$$\frac{\log x}{x} < \log \frac{h}{(d-1)^2}.$$

If  $h \geq 1 + (d-1)^2$ , then  $\log(h/(d-1)^2) \geq 1/h$  hence it suffices to show that  $(\log x)/x \leq 1/h$ . We can apply Lemma 2, since  $h \geq 1 + (d-1)^2 \geq 5 > e$  for  $d \geq 3$ , and obtain the first part of our theorem. Note that

$$x = \frac{k}{h} > h \log h \left(1 + \frac{\log \log h}{\log h - 1}\right) \geq 5$$

and so the method is admissible. For  $d = 2$  see Remark 2 below.

REMARK 1. If we wish to obtain a result for lower  $x$ , e.g.  $x = 1$ , we have to use the original form of  $\varphi(x)$  in (2.4), e.g.,  $\varphi(1) = 2 \log 2 - \frac{1}{2}$ . Hence for  $x = 1$ ,

$$\frac{1}{n} \log \dim T > \log h - \varphi(1) \geq \log(d-1)^2$$

which yields  $h \geq 4e^{-1/2}(d-1)^2$ ,  $\approx 2.42(d-1)^2$ , and proves the second part of the theorem.

REMARK 2. If  $R$  satisfies an identity of degree  $d = 2$ , then it evidently satisfies an identity of degree 3. But a simpler method follows by noting that then  $R$  satisfies either  $S_2 = x_1x_2 - x_2x_1 = 0$  or  $x_1x_2 + x_2x_1 = 0$  (or both) and hence  $R$  will always satisfy  $S_2^2[x_1, x_2] = 0$ .

#### 4. A bound for $\dim D_\lambda$

Let  $\lambda = (\lambda_r, \lambda_{r-1}, \dots, \lambda_1)$ ,  $\lambda_r \geq \lambda_{r-1} \geq \dots \geq \lambda_1 \geq 1$  be a partition of  $n = \lambda_1 + \dots + \lambda_r$ , and let  $D_\lambda$  be its corresponding Young diagram.

Two cases will be considered in this section. (i) The number of parts  $r$  is small relative to  $n$ ; (ii)  $D_\lambda$  lies in a hook of width  $h$ .

To this end we use the Frobenius-Young formula for  $\dim D_\lambda$ :

$$(4.1) \quad \dim D_\lambda = n! \frac{\prod_{j < i} (\hat{\lambda}_j - \hat{\lambda}_i)}{\hat{\lambda}_1! \hat{\lambda}_2! \dots \hat{\lambda}_r!}$$

where  $\hat{\lambda}_j = \lambda_j + j - 1$ ; we put it in an equivalent form:

$$(4.2) \quad \dim D_\lambda = \frac{n!}{\lambda_1! \dots \lambda_r!} \frac{\prod \prod (\lambda_j - \lambda_i + j - i)}{\prod \prod (\lambda_j + j - i)} = \binom{n}{\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_r} \cdot C \text{ and } C = C(\lambda).$$

Since

$$\frac{\hat{\lambda}_j!}{\lambda_j!} = \prod_{i=1}^{j-1} (\lambda_j + i) = \prod_{i=1}^{j-1} (\lambda_j + j - i),$$

both products of the numerator and denominator of the constant  $C$  range over  $\prod_{j=2}^r \prod_{i=1}^{j-1}$ ; and hence  $C \leq 1$ . On the other hand, since  $\lambda_1 \leq \lambda_j \leq n$ ,

$$(4.3) \quad C \leq \prod \prod \frac{j-i}{\lambda_j + j - 1} \leq (n+1)^{-\rho}$$

where  $\rho = \sum(j-i) = r(r-1)/2$ . (By using the condition that  $\lambda_i \geq 1$ , one can obtain that  $C \leq (n/n+1)^\rho$ .)

Next we look for an asymptotic formula for  $\binom{n}{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_r}$ , and to this end we use the classical integral approximation for  $n!$  and  $\lambda_j!$ , that is,

$$(4.4) \quad \begin{aligned} \log \binom{n}{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_r} &= \sum_{\nu=1}^n \log \nu - \sum_{i=1}^r \sum_{\nu=1}^{\lambda_i} \log \nu \\ &\geq n(\log n - 1) - \sum_{i=1}^r \lambda_i (\log \lambda_i - 1) - \frac{1}{2} \sum \log \lambda_i \\ &\geq \sum \lambda_i \log \frac{n}{\lambda_i} - \frac{r}{2} \log n \end{aligned}$$

since  $\sum \lambda_i = n$ .

Combining the previous inequalities we finally get

$$(4.5) \quad \frac{1}{n} \log \dim D_\lambda \geq \sum_{i=1}^r \frac{\lambda_i}{n} \log \frac{n}{\lambda_i} - \frac{1}{n} \log P(n)$$

where  $P(n)$  is a polynomial of  $n$  of degree  $\leq r^2$ . As we shall be mainly interested in the case  $n \rightarrow \infty$  and  $r$  bounded, a slightly more detailed analysis of (4.2), (4.3) and (4.4) will yield

$$(4.6) \quad \frac{1}{n} \log \dim D_\lambda = \sum_{i=1}^r \frac{\lambda_i}{n} \log \frac{n}{\lambda_i} + O\left(\frac{\log n}{n}\right).$$

This is the first step in proving the following theorem:

**THEOREM 5.** *If  $\{D_\lambda\}$  ranges over a sequence of partitions  $(\lambda) = (\lambda_r, \dots, \lambda_1)$  of  $n$  of length  $r$ , and  $\lim(\lambda_1/n) = 1/c$ , then  $c \geq r$ . If  $c = r$  then  $\lim \dim D_\lambda^{1/n} = r$ , i.e.,  $D_\lambda \sim r^n$  asymptotically; and if  $c > r$  then  $\overline{\lim} \dim D_\lambda^{1/n} = \rho < r$ .*

**PROOF.** Since  $\sum \lambda_i = n$ , and  $\lambda_1$  is the minimal  $\lambda_i$ , it follows that  $n \geq \lambda_1 r$ . Hence  $\lambda_1/n \leq 1/r$  and, therefore,  $c \geq r$ .

We set  $x_i = \lambda_i/n$  and consider the term  $\Sigma(\lambda_i/n)\log(n/\lambda_i)$  of (4.6) as a function  $F(x) = \sum_{i=1}^r x_i \log(1/x_i)$  defined in a domain  $0 < b \leq x_1 \leq \dots \leq x_r \leq 1$ ,  $x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_r = a$  and in our domain  $a = 1$ ,  $b = 1/n$ . Clearly  $F(x)$  is defined and obtain a maximum (and minimum) in this domain.

**PROPOSITION 5'.**  *$F(x)$  obtains its maximal value  $a \cdot \log(r/a)$ , only once in the above domain, and this at the point  $x_i = a/r$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, r$ .*

**PROOF.** Given a point  $(x) = (x_1, \dots, x_r)$ , and suppose  $x_i < x_j$  for some  $i \neq j$ , then at a point  $(x') = (x'_i)$ ,  $x'_i = x_i + \delta$ ,  $x_j = x_i - \delta$  for small  $\delta$  still in this domain (and with a possible change of the indices of the  $x'_i$ ) we have

$$(4.7) \quad F(x') = F(x) + \delta \log \frac{x_j}{x_i} + O(\delta^2)$$

and so for small  $\delta > 0$ ,  $F(x') > F(x) > F(x)$  and for  $\delta < 0$  (and  $x_i - \delta \geq b$ ),  $F(x') < F(x)$ . This implies that the maximum is obtained only if all  $x_i$  are equal, i.e., at the point  $(a/r, \dots, a/r)$ , and there

$$F = r \frac{a}{r} \log \frac{r}{a}.$$

Hence,

**COROLLARY 5''.** *If  $\{D_\lambda\}$  ranges over a sequence of Young diagrams of  $r$  rows with length of rows  $\lambda_i = n/c_i + o(n)$ , then  $r \leq c_1 \leq \dots \leq c_r \leq n$  and  $\Sigma(1/c_i) = 1$ ,*

$$N_\lambda = \frac{1}{n} \log \dim D_\lambda = \sum \frac{\lambda_i}{n} \log \frac{n}{\lambda_i} + O\left(\frac{\log n}{n}\right) = \sum_{i=1}^r \frac{1}{c_i} \log c_i + o(1).$$

Next we consider diagrams  $D_\lambda$  which lie in a hook  $H$  of the shape given in Fig. 2, which is a hook with a middle rectangle of some size. We divide this diagram into three parts:  $D_1$ , the part of  $D_\lambda$  which is the horizontal leg;  $D_2$ , the part in the

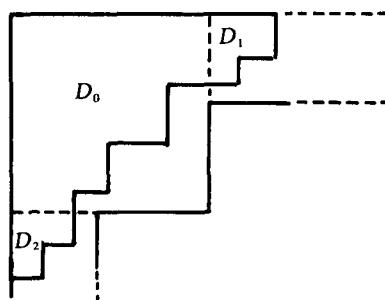


Fig. 2.

vertical leg; and  $D_0$ , within the middle rectangle. Let  $|D_1| = u$ ,  $|D_2| = v$  and  $|D_0| = w$  so  $n = u + v + w$ . From the hook formula we obtain

$$(4.8) \quad \dim D_\lambda = \frac{n!}{\prod h_{ij}} = \frac{n!}{u!v!w!} \cdot \frac{u!}{\prod_1 h'_{ij}} \cdot \frac{v!}{\prod_2 h'_{ij}} \cdot \frac{w!}{\prod_0 h'_{ij}} \cdot \frac{\prod_1 h'_{ij} \prod_2 h'_{ij} \prod_0 h'_{ij}}{\prod h_{ij}}$$

where  $h'_{ij}$  denotes the hook number of the corresponding subdiagram  $D_1$ ,  $D_2$ ,  $D_0$ ;  $\prod_i$  is the product of the corresponding diagram  $D_i$ , and  $\prod$  is the product for  $D_\lambda$ . Now for  $D_2$ , clearly  $h'_{ij} = h_{ij}$  and we have the same hook number, and so they cancel each other in the last factor of (4.8); and similarly for the diagram  $D_1$ . For the middle part  $D_0$ , in each square we have for each quotient

$$1 \geq \frac{h'_{ij}}{h_{ij}} \geq \frac{1}{n}$$

since  $h_{ij} \leq n$ . Hence, the last factor of (4.8) is between 1 and  $n^{-w}$ , where  $w = |D_0|$ .

Thus (4.8) yields

$$(4.9) \quad \begin{aligned} \binom{n}{u, v, w} \dim D_2 \dim D_1 \dim D_0 &\geq \dim D_\lambda \\ &\geq n^{-w} \binom{n}{u, v, w} \dim D_2 \dim D_1 \dim D_0. \end{aligned}$$

We use this inequality to prove:

**THEOREM 6.** *Let  $\lambda_i$  be the length of the rows of  $D_1$  (horizontal part of  $D_\lambda$ ) and  $\mu_i$  the length of the columns of  $D_2$  (vertical part of  $D_\lambda$ ), then*

$$(4.10) \quad \frac{1}{n} \log \dim D_\lambda = \sum \frac{\lambda_i}{n} \log \frac{n}{\lambda_i} + \sum \frac{\mu_i}{n} \log \frac{n}{\mu_i} + O\left(\frac{\log n}{n}\right).$$

**PROOF.** From (4.6) we have

$$(1) \quad \frac{1}{u} \log \dim D_1 = \sum \frac{\lambda_i}{u} \log \frac{u}{\lambda_i} + O\left(\frac{\log u}{u}\right),$$

and if we consider the dual diagram of  $D_2$  (i.e. the rows turned into columns) which have the same dimension, we get

$$(2) \quad \frac{1}{v} \log \dim D_2 = \sum \frac{\mu_i}{v} \log \frac{v}{\mu_i} + O\left(\frac{\log v}{v}\right).$$

Finally  $\dim D_0$  is bounded by  $w!$  as a diagram corresponding to the symmetric group  $S_w$ .

For the binomial factor  $\binom{n}{u, v, w}$  of (4.9) we use the asymptotic formula of the factorial, namely

$$\log \binom{n}{u, v, w} = \log n! - \log u! - \log v! - \log w!$$

$$= n(\log n - 1) - u(\log u - 1) - v(\log v - 1) - w(\log w - 1) + O(\log n)$$

since  $u, v$  and  $w < n$ . Thus using  $n = u + v + w$  we get

$$= u \log \frac{n}{u} + v \log \frac{n}{v} + O(\log n)$$

noting that in the shape  $H$ ,  $w$  is a bounded number, even if we vary  $D_\lambda$  so that  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . This proves that

$$(0) \quad \frac{1}{n} \log \binom{n}{u, v, w} = \frac{u}{n} \log \frac{n}{u} + \frac{v}{n} \log \frac{n}{v} + O\left(\frac{\log n}{n}\right).$$

If we put the values of (1), (2), (0) in (4.9) we get

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{n} \log \dim D_\lambda &= \frac{u}{n} \log \frac{n}{u} + \frac{u}{n} \cdot \frac{1}{u} \log \dim D_1 + \frac{v}{n} \log \frac{n}{v} + \frac{v}{n} \frac{1}{v} \log \dim D_2 + O\left(\frac{\log n}{n}\right) \\ &= \frac{u}{n} \left( \log \frac{n}{u} + \sum \frac{\lambda_i}{u} \log \frac{u}{\lambda_i} \right) + \frac{v}{n} \left( \log \frac{n}{v} + \sum \frac{\mu_j}{v} \log \frac{v}{\mu_j} \right) + O\left(\frac{\log n}{n}\right) \end{aligned}$$

since

$$\frac{u}{n} O\left(\frac{\log u}{u}\right) = O\left(\frac{\log u}{n}\right) = O\left(\frac{\log n}{n}\right) \text{ etc.}$$

Now  $\sum \lambda_i = u$ ,  $\sum \mu_j = v$ . Hence we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{n} \log \dim D_\lambda &= \frac{u}{n} \sum \frac{\lambda_i}{u} \left( \log \frac{u}{\lambda_i} + \log \frac{n}{u} \right) + \frac{v}{n} \sum \frac{\mu_j}{v} \left( \log \frac{v}{\mu_j} + \log \frac{n}{v} \right) + O\left(\frac{\log n}{n}\right) \\ &= \sum \frac{\lambda_i}{n} \log \frac{n}{\lambda_i} + \sum \frac{\mu_j}{n} \log \frac{n}{\mu_j} + O\left(\frac{\log n}{n}\right) \end{aligned}$$

which proves (4.10).

**COROLLARY 6'.** *If  $h, k$  are the respective width of the horizontal and vertical legs of  $H$  (Fig. 2), then*

$$\dim D_\lambda^{1/n} \leq (h+k) \left( 1 + O\left(\frac{\log n}{n}\right) \right),$$

and if  $v = |D_2| = o(n)$ , the number of squares in the vertical leg, then  $\dim D_\lambda^{1/n} \leq h(1 + o(1))$ .

PROOF. Let  $h_0, k_0$  be the respective number of rows and column of  $D_\lambda$ , then it follows from (4.10), from the fact that  $\sum \lambda_i = u$ ,  $\sum \mu_j = v$ , and by Proposition 5', that

$$(4.11) \quad \frac{1}{n} \log \dim D_\lambda \leq \frac{u}{n} \log \left( h_0 \frac{n}{u} \right) + \frac{v}{n} \log \left( k_0 \frac{n}{v} \right) + O\left(\frac{\log n}{n}\right).$$

Since  $\log x$  is a convex function, we have

$$\frac{a}{a+b} \log x + \frac{b}{a+b} \log y \leq \log \frac{ax+by}{a+b}$$

for  $a, b$  and  $x, y$  positive. In our case we get for  $a = u/n$ ,  $b = v/n$ , and from the fact  $u + v + O(1) = n$ , that

$$\frac{1}{n} \log \dim D_\lambda \leq \frac{u+v}{n} \log \frac{(h_0+k_0)}{u+v} n \leq \log(h_0+k_0) + O\left(\frac{1}{n}\right)$$

which proves the first part of Corollary 6', since  $h_0 \leq h$ ,  $k_0 \leq k$ .

The second part follows since  $v = o(n)$ ,  $u = n + o(n)$ , and as  $x \log x \rightarrow 0$  when  $x \rightarrow 0$  the second factor of (4.11) is  $o(1)$ .

## 5. The codimension series

Given the codimension series  $\{c_n(R)\}$  of a PI-ring  $R$ , we consider  $c = \lim c_n(R)^{1/n}$ . It seems probable that the  $\{c_n(R)^{1/n}\}$  has a limit, and in one case, Regev [5] has recently proved that for the matrix ring  $M_r(K) = R$  then  $\lim c_n(R)^{1/n} = r^2$ . It follows also from [3] that this limit exists for the exterior algebra. For general rings we can only show that  $c = \lim c_n(R)^{1/n}$  can replace the Latyshev bound  $(d-1)^2$  (which is  $\geq c$ ) in the main theorem of [4]; namely,

**THEOREM 7.** (1) For every integer  $h > c$ , there exists  $k$  such that  $R$  satisfies the identity  $S_h[x_1, \dots, x_n]^k = 0$  (and  $S_h^k = 0$ ).

(2) If  $c > 0$ , then for every integer  $h > c \log c$  and if  $c = 0$  for any  $h \geq 1$ , the ring  $R/N_1(R)$  satisfies the identity  $S_h[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_h] = 0$ ; and the principal ideal generated by any finite number of values  $S_h[a_{j_1}, \dots, a_{j_h}]$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, t$  is nilpotent of index depending only on  $t$  and  $h$ .

(3) If  $R$  has either no right or left annihilator (e.g.  $1 \in R$ ), then for every integer  $h > c^2$ , there exists an integer  $k$  such that  $R$  satisfies all identities  $I_D$  corresponding to a Young diagram which contains either the rectangle  $T = (k^h)$  or  $T' = (h^k)$ .

PROOF. The proof of the three parts will follow the idea of section 2 by showing that

$$\frac{1}{n} \log \dim D > \frac{1}{n} \log c_n(R)$$

for certain  $n$ 's and appropriate diagrams  $D$ , so that  $I(R) \supseteq I_D$  and then we apply (3.2)–(3.4).

Let  $c_0 > c$  be a number (to be fixed later) and let  $\{n_\lambda\}$  be a sequence of integers such that  $c_n(R)^{1/n} \leq c_0$ , which exist by definition of  $c = \lim c_n(R)^{1/n}$ .

Given  $n \in \{n_\lambda\}$  we choose  $k = [n/h]$ , i.e.  $k \leq n < h(k+1)$ . Let  $D$  be any Young diagram of content  $n$ , which contains the rectangle  $T = (k^h)$ . Hence,  $\dim D \geq \dim T$  (e.g. [1]). We shall choose  $c_0$  so that  $\dim D \geq \dim T \geq c_0^n > c_n(R)$ , where  $n = |D| < (k+1)h$ , and then apply (3.2).

Indeed, by Theorem 1

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{n} \log \dim D &\geq \frac{1}{n} \log \dim T = \frac{kh}{n} \left( \frac{1}{kh} \log \dim T \right) \\ &> \frac{kh}{n} (\log h - \varphi(x)) \geq \frac{k}{k+1} (\log h - \varphi(x)) \end{aligned}$$

as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , also  $x \rightarrow \infty$  and so  $k/(k+1) \rightarrow 1$  and  $\varphi(x) \rightarrow 0$ . Hence the last term tends to  $\log h$ . Consequently, if we choose any  $c_0$  so that  $h > c_0 > c$  we can find a large  $n \in \{n_\lambda\}$  and  $x = k/h$  so that

$$\frac{1}{n} \log \dim T \geq \frac{k}{k+1} (\log h - \varphi(x)) \geq \log c_0 > \log c_n(R)^{1/n}.$$

Next we apply (3.3) and obtain that  $R$  will satisfy the identity  $S_h^k[x_1, \dots, x_j]x_{kh+1} \cdots x_n = 0$ , from which it follows that  $R$  satisfies the identity  $S_h[x]^{k+1} = 0$  which proves (1).

To prove (2), we follow the same idea: for a given  $c_0$  we shall choose  $n \in \{n_\lambda\}$  so that  $c_n(R) < c_0^n$ .

But now we choose  $k = [n/(h+1)]$ , i.e.  $k(h+1) \leq n < (k+1)(h+1)$ , then for any diagram  $D \supseteq T = (k^h)$  of content  $n$ , we have as before

$$\frac{1}{n} \log \dim D \geq \frac{kh}{n} \left( \frac{1}{kh} \log \dim T \right) \geq \frac{kh}{(k+1)(h+1)} (\log h - \varphi(x)).$$

If  $n \rightarrow \infty$  (in the sequence  $\{n_\lambda\}$ ), then also  $x = k/h \rightarrow \infty$  and the last term of the inequality tends to  $(h/(h+1))\log h$ .

We need the fact that if  $h > c + \log c$  then

$$\frac{h}{h+1} \log h > \log c,$$

and indeed for

$$\frac{h}{h+1} \log h - \log c = \frac{1}{h+1} [h(\log h - \log c) - \log c] \geq \frac{1}{h+1} [h - c - \log c] \geq 0,$$

since

$$h(\log h - \log c) = h \int_c^h \frac{dt}{t} \geq h - c \quad \text{for } h > c.$$

If  $h > c + \log c$  we can find  $c_0 > c$  and  $h > c_0 + \log c_0$ . Thus, it follows that

$$\frac{h}{h+1} \log h > \log c_0 > \log c.$$

Consequently, as before we can find a sequence  $\{n_\lambda\}$  and for  $n \in \{n_\lambda\}$ , we get the corresponding  $k$ ,  $x$  so that (for appropriate  $\varepsilon > 0$ )

$$\frac{1}{n} \log \dim D \geq \frac{h}{h+1} \log h - \varepsilon \geq \log c_0 \geq \log c_n(R)^{1/n}.$$

Hence by Proposition 3 it follows that  $R$  satisfies

$$S_h[x]y_1 S_h[x]y_2 \cdots S_h[x]y_k = 0$$

which proves that every principal ideal in  $R$  generated by an element  $S_h[a_1, \dots, a_n]$  is nilpotent of exponent  $\leq k$ . From this, we easily conclude that also any ideal generated by  $t$  elements is nilpotent of exponent  $\leq k \cdot t$ .

To prove the last part we need a simple lemma:

**LEMMA 8.** *If  $R$  has no right or has no left annihilator, then the sequence  $\{c_n(R)\}$  is non-decreasing.*

Indeed, let  $R$  have no right annihilator, then if  $f[x_1, \dots, x_n]x_{n+1} = 0$  in  $R$  also  $f[x_1, \dots, x_n] = 0$  is an identity of  $R$ . Thus, the mapping  $f \rightarrow fx_{n+1}$  induces an injection of  $V_n(R)/I_n(R)$  into  $V_{n+1}(R)/I_{n+1}(R)$ , which proves that  $c_n(R) \leq c_{n+1}(R)$ .

To prove part (3), we choose  $c_0$  so that  $h > c_0^2 > c^2$  and  $k = \lfloor n/2h \rfloor$  for  $n \in \{n_\lambda\}$ , i.e.,  $2kh \leq n < 2(k+1)h$ , or equivalently

$$\frac{1}{2} \geq \frac{kh}{n} > \frac{1}{2} \frac{k}{k+1}.$$

As before, let  $D \geq T = (k^h)$  and  $|D| = m$ , where  $n \geq 2kh > m \geq kh$ . Then first we have

$$\frac{n}{m} \log c_0 > \frac{n}{m} \left( \frac{1}{n} \log c_n(R) \right) = \frac{1}{m} \log c_n(R) \geq \frac{1}{m} \log c_m(R).$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{m} \log \dim D &\geq \frac{kh}{m} \left( \frac{1}{kh} \log \dim T \right) \geq \frac{n}{m} \cdot \frac{kh}{n} (\log h - \varphi(x)) \\ &\geq \frac{n}{m} \cdot \frac{k}{2(k+1)} (\log h - \varphi(x)). \end{aligned}$$

In order to achieve  $\dim D \geq c_m(R)$ , we choose  $n \in \{n_\lambda\}$  and, respectively,  $k$  and  $x$ , so that

$$\frac{k}{2(k+1)} (\log h - \varphi(x)) \geq \log c_0,$$

which is possible since the left side tends to  $\geq \frac{1}{2} \log h$  which is  $\geq \log c_0$ . The rest of the proof follows by (3.4). The second half of part (3) is a consequence of the observation that  $\dim(k^h) = \dim(h^k)$ , and all computations are therefore symmetrical.

## 6. Width of the hook

Part (3) of the preceding theorem shows that given any integer  $m > c^2$ , e.g.  $m = [c^2] + 1$ , then there exists an integer  $k$  such that for all diagrams  $D \geq (k^m)$  or  $D \geq (m^k)$ , the identity  $I(R)$  contains  $I_D$ . Let  $\chi_n(R)$  be the co-character of  $R$ , i.e., the character of the representation module  $V_n/I_n(R)$ , and let

$$(6.1) \quad \chi_n(R) = \sum a_D \chi_D \quad \text{where } a_D \neq 0,$$

then the preceding result means that these diagrams  $D$  satisfy  $D \not\leq (k^m)$  and  $D \not\leq (m^k)$ . In other words, we can state this fact:

**COROLLARY 9.** *The diagrams of  $D$  of the co-characters of (6.1) lie in a hook  $H$  of the shape in Fig. 3, and the width of its legs is  $p = [c^2]$  where  $c = \lim c_n(R)^{1/n}$ .*

Note that the size of the maximal square in  $H$  cannot be determined by our method.

We quote an important result of Berele and Regev [2], stating that the coefficients of the co-characters  $\{a_D\}$  of (6.1) satisfy  $\sum a_D = O(n^s)$  for some

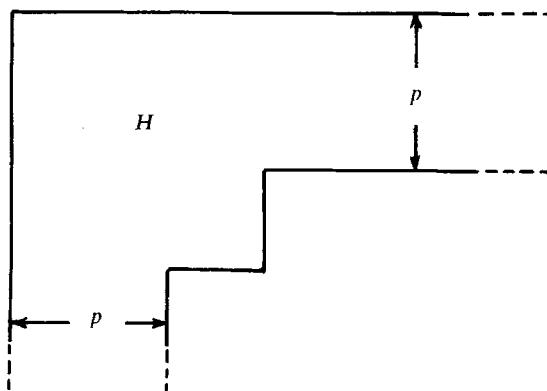


Fig. 3.

integer  $s$ , i.e.  $\sum a_D$  has polynomial growth. Hence it follows from (6.1) that  $c_n(R) = \sum a_D \dim D$  and, therefore,

$$\max \dim D \leq c_n(R) \leq \max \dim D \cdot \sum a_D \leq O(n^s) \cdot \max \dim D$$

which implies

$$(6.2) \quad \max \dim D^{1/n} \leq c_n(R)^{1/n} \leq \max \dim D^{1/n} \left( 1 + O\left(\frac{\log n}{n}\right) \right).$$

Since these diagrams lie within the hook  $H$  whose width is  $[c^2]$ , it follows by Theorem 6 that

$$\dim D^{1/n} \leq 2[c^2] + O\left(\frac{\log n}{n}\right),$$

which proves one part of the following result:

**COROLLARY 10.** *If  $R$  has no right or left annihilator, then*

$$c = \underline{\lim} c_n(R)^{1/n} \leq \overline{\lim} c_n(R)^{1/n} \leq 2[\underline{\lim} c_n(R)^{1/n}]^2;$$

and if  $R$  satisfies the Cappelli identity, then

$$\overline{\lim} c_n(R)^{1/n} \leq [c^2].$$

Indeed, the first part follows by passing to  $\overline{\lim}$  on both sides of (6.2). The second part of the theorem follows from the fact that in this case  $H$  can be replaced by a strip and then

$$\dim D^{1/n} \leq [c^2] + O\left(\frac{\log n}{n}\right),$$

and the rest is as in the first part.

An upper bound for  $C = \overline{\lim} c_n(R)^{1/n}$  can be given by Latyshev's result to be  $(d-1)^2$ , since  $c_n(R) \leq (d-1)^{2n}$ , where  $d$  is the minimal degree of the identities of  $R$ . A lower bound for  $\underline{\lim} c_n(R)^{1/n}$  can be obtained by a recent result of Regev [5]:

For the matrix ring  $R = M_s(K)$ ,  $\lim c_n(R)^{1/n} = r^2$ , i.e., for these rings, there is always a limit to  $c_n(R)^{1/n}$ . Using this result we can prove:

**THEOREM 10.** *For a PI-algebra  $R$  let  $N_1(R)$  be the sum of nilpotent ideals of  $R$ , then  $R/N_1(R)$  can be embedded in some matrix ring  $M_s(K)$ ,  $K$  commutative, semi-prime, and  $c = \lim c_n(R)^{1/n} \geq s^2$ .*

**PROOF.** Let  $\bar{R} = R^R$  be the product ring, i.e., the ring of all functions from  $R$  to  $R$ , and let  $L(\bar{R})$  be its lower radical. Consider the sequence of maps  $\psi : R \rightarrow \bar{R} \rightarrow \bar{R}/L(\bar{R})$ , where  $\psi$  is the diagonal embedding of  $R$  into  $\bar{R}$  followed by the canonical projection. We prove  $\text{Ker } \psi = N_1(R)$ : indeed, if  $a \in \text{Ker } \psi$  then for the function  $f \in \bar{R}$ , defined by  $f(r) = r$  for every  $r \in R$ , we have that  $\bar{a}f \in L(\bar{R})$ , where  $\bar{a} \in R^R$  is the image of  $a \in R$ , i.e.  $\bar{a}(r) = a$  for all  $r \in R$ .  $L(\bar{R})$  is nil and so  $\bar{a}f$  is nilpotent, i.e., there exists  $m$  such that  $(\bar{a}f)^m = 0$ , hence for all  $r \in R$ ,  $(\bar{a}f)^m(r) = (ar)^m = 0$ . This yields that  $aR$  is a nil ideal of bounded index, but  $R$  is an algebra of characteristic zero, hence by the Nagata–Higman theorem it is nilpotent, which implies that  $a \in N_1(R)$ , i.e.,  $\text{Ker } \psi \subseteq N_1(R)$ .

Conversely, if  $a \in N_1(R)$ , then  $a$  generates a nilpotent ideal  $aR$  of index  $m$ , then  $\bar{a}\bar{R}$  is also nilpotent, since

$$(\bar{a}f_1 \cdots \bar{a}f_m)(r) = af_1(r)af_2(r) \cdots af_m(r) \in (aR)^m = 0.$$

Thus  $a \in \text{Ker } \psi$ , and so  $N_1(R) \subseteq \text{Ker } \psi$ .

Now  $\bar{R}/L(\bar{R})$  is a semi-prime PI-ring, and as such it is embeddable in some matrix ring  $M_s(K)$ ,  $K$  commutative and semi-prime and which satisfies the same identities. Hence  $c_n(\bar{R}/L(\bar{R})) = c_n(M_s(K)) \cong s^{2n}$ . On the other hand, the identities of  $\bar{R}$  and  $R$  are the same so that  $c_n(R) = c_n(\bar{R})$ , and clearly  $c_n(\bar{R}) \geq c_n(\bar{R}/L(\bar{R})) \cong s^{2n}$ , so that  $\underline{\lim} c_n(R)^{1/n} \geq s^2$ . q.e.d.

This number  $s$  of Theorem 10 can also be characterised in a different way.

**THEOREM 11.** *The integer  $s$  of Theorem 10 is the maximal order of matrix ring  $M_s(Q)$  which satisfies all identities of  $R$ , i.e.,  $I(M_s(Q)) \supseteq I(R)$ .*

**PROOF.** We can replace  $R$  by the universal ring  $F\langle x \rangle / I(R)$ , where  $F\langle x \rangle$  is the free ring in an infinite number of indeterminates, since the identities of  $R$  and of

the universal ring coincide. For the universal ring we have  $N_1(R) = I(M_s(Q))/I(R)$ . Indeed,  $N_1(R)$  is the lower radical  $L(R)$  of  $R$ , since  $L(R) \supseteq N_1(R)$  and if  $f(x) \in L(R)$ , then  $(f[x]x_{n+1})^m = 0$  in  $R$  for some  $m$  and  $x_{n+1}$  which is not in the indeterminates of  $f[x]$ . In other words this means that  $f[x]R$  is a nil ideal of bounded index, and since the characteristic is zero,  $f[x] \in N_1(R)$ . Now, for the universal ring  $L(R)$  is the identity of the matrix ring, i.e.  $L(R) = I(M_t(Q))/I(R)$ , and  $t$  is the maximal integer for which  $I(M_t(Q)) \supseteq I(R)$ . One can now easily verify that  $t = s$ , the integer of Theorem 10.

**COROLLARY 12.** *If  $\lim c_n(R)^{1/n} < 4$ , then  $R/N_1(R)$  is commutative, and if  $R/N_1(R)$  is not commutative, then  $\lim c_n(R)^{1/n} \geq 4$ .*

Indeed, the first part follows since  $s^2 < 4$  implies  $s = 1$ . The second part follows since then  $R/L(R)$  satisfies the same identities of a matrix ring  $M_t(K)$ ,  $t \geq 2$ , and so  $c_n(R)^{1/n} \geq c_n(R/L(R))^{1/n} \rightarrow t^2$ . Hence  $\lim c_n(R)^{1/n} \geq t^2 \geq 4$ .

### 7. Lim sup of the sequence $\{c_n(R)^{1/n}\}$

Let  $C = \overline{\lim} c_n(R)^{1/n}$ ; we determine a lower bound for the ultimate width of the hook in which the diagrams  $D$  of the co-characters  $\chi_n(R)$  of (6.1) lie in terms of  $C$  if  $C > 0$ . More precisely:

**THEOREM 13.** *For any integer  $N$ , there exist diagrams  $D$  of the co-character such that  $D$  contains either a hook  $T$  of width  $k$  and  $h$ , or a strip  $T = (a^h)$  or  $(h^a)$  such that  $|T| > N$  and  $h + k \geq C$ , and  $h \geq C$  for the case of a strip  $T$  (Fig. 4).*

We need a few preliminary results.

**LEMMA 13'.** *Let  $D$  be a Young diagram of content  $n$ , divided into a union of diagrams  $D_i$ ,  $|D_i| = d_i$ ,  $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, r$ ; then*

$$\dim D \leq \binom{n}{d_0, d_1, \dots, d_r} \dim D_0 \dim D_1 \cdots \dim D_r.$$

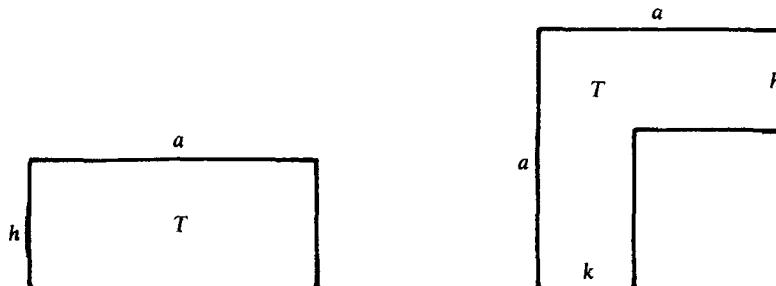


Fig. 4.

The proof follows the same method as that of (4.9):

$$\dim D = \frac{n!}{\prod h_{ij}} = \frac{n!}{d_0! \cdots d_r!} \prod_{(\rho)} \frac{d_\rho!}{h_{ij}^{(\rho)}} \prod_\rho \prod_{(\rho)} \frac{h_{ij}^{(\rho)}}{h_{ij}}$$

where  $\prod_{(\rho)}$  is the product ranging over the subdiagram  $D_\rho$ , with hook numbers  $h_{ij}^{(\rho)}$ . Clearly  $h_{ij}^{(\rho)} \leq h_{ij}$ , so that the last factor is  $\leq 1$ , which proves the lemma.

We are going to use this lemma in a special case where all  $D_i$ , except  $D_0$ , are either rows or columns of length  $d_i$  and width 1 (Fig. 5). In this case we show:

COROLLARY 13''.  $\dim D \leq (n/(h+k))^{d_0} (h+k)^n$ .

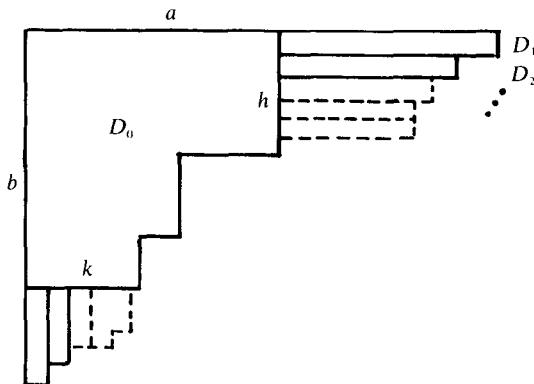


Fig. 5.

Indeed, by the preceding lemma we have, in our case,  $\dim D_i = 1$  for  $i > 1$ . Also  $\dim D_0 \leq d_0!$  since  $|D_0| = d_0$ . Hence it follows by Lemma 13' that

$$\dim D \leq \binom{n}{d_0, d_1, \dots, d_{h+k}} d_0! = \binom{n}{d_0} d_0! \binom{n-d_0}{d_1, d_2, \dots, d_r} \leq n^{d_0} (h+k)^{n-d_0}.$$

We turn to the proof of the theorem. By the statement preceding (6.2) it follows that there exist constants  $K$  and  $s$  so that  $c_n(R) < Kn^s \dim D$  for some diagram  $D$  which lies in the co-character  $\chi_n(R)$ . Next, the definition of  $C$  implies that given  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists an infinite sequence  $\{n_\lambda\}$  such that for  $n \in \{n_\lambda\}$ ,  $c_n(R) > (C - \varepsilon/2)^n$ .

Using the last corollary we obtain

$$(7.1) \quad (C - \varepsilon/2)^n \leq c_n(R) \leq Kn^s n^{d_0} (h+k)^n.$$

The procedure of choosing the diagrams  $D$  is as follows:

Given  $N$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ , find a sequence  $\{n_\lambda\}$  such that for all  $n \in \{n_\lambda\}$ ,  $c_n(R) \geq (C - \varepsilon/2)^n$ . For each  $n \in \{n_\lambda\}$  choose a diagram  $D$  such that  $c_n(R) \leq Kn^s \dim D$ . Now we consider two cases.

*Case 1.* These diagrams  $D$  have unbounded height and width. In this case we choose integer  $a = b$  in Fig. 5, which will be chosen later depending on  $N$  and  $C$ , and  $R$ . To each  $D$  we cut the diagram at height and width  $a$ , and set  $D_0$  to be the remaining squares; then  $d_0 = |D_0| \leq a^2$ . Next we choose  $n \in \{n_\lambda\}$  large enough such that

$$h + k > (C - \varepsilon/2)(Kn^{s+a^2})^{-1/n} \geq C - \varepsilon$$

which is possible for large  $n$  in the sequence  $\{n_\lambda\}$ , since by the lemma

$$(C - \varepsilon/2)^n \leq Kn^{s+d_0}(h + k)^n \leq Kn^{s+a^2}(h + k)^n.$$

If we choose  $\varepsilon > 0$  small enough so that  $C - \varepsilon > [C]$  if  $C \neq [C]$ , we get  $h + k \geq C$  since  $h + k$  is an integer; and if  $C$  is an integer and  $C - \varepsilon > C - 1$ , we also have  $h + k \geq C$ .

Finally, if  $T$  is the hook in  $D$  based on  $k$  and  $h$  we get

$$|T| = (k + h)a - kh \geq (k + h)a - p^2$$

where  $p$  is an upper bound for the hook of shape  $H$  (Fig. 3) in which all these diagrams  $D$  lie. Hence, if we choose  $a > (N + p^2)/C$  we have  $|T| > N$  as required.

*Case 2.* The chosen diagrams have either a bounded height or width (say of bounded height). Then we choose  $b$  in Fig. 5 to be the maximum height. We repeat the preceding procedure with  $k = 0$ , and take the leg of  $D$  cut at distance  $a$  (Fig. 5); then  $d_0 = |D| \leq ab$ . Also, choose  $n$  large enough so that

$$h > (C - \varepsilon/2)(Kn^s n^{ab})^{-1/n} \geq C - \varepsilon,$$

hence, as before,  $h \geq C$ .

Finally, in this case we obtain the strip  $T$  of height  $h$  and length  $a$ , so that  $|T| \geq ha > N$  if we choose  $a > N/C$ .

## 8. Appendix 1. An asymptotic formula

The lower bound of  $\dim(k^h)$  given in section 1 is not far from the asymptotic formula, which proves that we cannot expect that this computational method of finding  $h$ ,  $k$ , so that  $S_h^k[x] = 0$  holds, will yield any result for  $h < 1 + (d - 1)^2$ , although we know it holds for  $h = [d/2]$ .

**THEOREM 14.**  $\dim[k^h] = C(k+h)^{1/12}n^{5/12}(e^{-\varphi(x)}h)^n(1+O(1/n)); \quad x = k/h,$   
 $n = kh,$  where  $\varphi(x)$  is the function in (2.4), and some constant  $C = C_0(1+O(1/h)).$

We use the Stirling formula

$$(8.1) \quad \sum_{\nu=1}^n \log \nu = n(\log n - 1) + \frac{1}{2} \log n + O(1).$$

Following the formulas of (2.2) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum \log(s+t-1) &= \sum_{t=1}^k \sum_{s=1}^h \log(s+t-1) \\ &= \sum_{\nu=1}^{k+h} (k+h-\nu) \log \nu - \sum_{\nu=1}^k (k-\nu) \log \nu - \sum_{\nu=1}^h (l-\nu) \log \nu \\ &= g(k+h) - g(k) - g(h) \end{aligned}$$

where  $g(m) = \sum_{\nu=1}^m (\mu - \nu) \log \nu.$  The last formula is obtained by setting  $s+t-1 = \nu$  and summing in three areas,  $\nu < k$  (say  $k \geq h$ ),  $k \geq \nu > h$ , and  $\nu \leq h.$  We then get

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{t=1}^k \sum_{s=1}^h &= \sum_{\nu=k+1}^{k+h-1} (k+h-\nu) \log \nu + \sum_{\nu=h+1}^k h \log \nu + \sum_{\nu=1}^h \nu \log \nu \\ &= \sum_{\nu=1}^{k+h} (k+h-\nu) \log \nu + \sum_{\nu=h+1}^k \log \nu + \sum_{\nu=1}^h \nu \log \nu \end{aligned}$$

and the rest is immediate (when  $h = k$  the empty sum is taken to be zero).

Next we obtain an asymptotic formula for  $g(m).$  First, we need the well known formula

$$\begin{aligned} m \sum_{\nu=1}^m \log \nu &= m[m(\log m - 1) + \frac{1}{2} \log m + C + O(1/m)] \\ &= m^2 \log m - m^2 + \frac{1}{2} m \log m + Cm + O(1). \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\nu=1}^m \nu \log \nu &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\nu=1}^m [\nu^2 - (\nu-1)^2 + 1] \log \nu \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left[ \sum_{\nu=1}^m \nu^2 \log \nu - \sum_{\nu=1}^{m-1} \nu^2 \log(\nu+1) - \sum_{\nu=1}^m \log \nu \right] \\ &= \frac{m^2}{2} \log m - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\nu=1}^{m-1} \nu^2 \log \frac{\nu+1}{\nu} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\nu=1}^m \log \nu. \end{aligned}$$

Note that

$$\log \frac{\nu+1}{\nu} = \frac{1}{\nu} - \frac{1}{2\nu^2} + \frac{1}{3\nu^3} - \frac{\theta(\nu)}{\nu^4}, \quad 0 \leq \theta < 1.$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\nu=1}^m \nu \log \nu &= \frac{m^2}{2} \log m - \frac{m(m-1)}{4} + \frac{m-1}{4} - \frac{1}{6}[\log m + C + O(1/m)] + O(1) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2}[m(\log m - 1) + \frac{1}{2}\log m + O(1)] \\ &= \frac{m^2}{2} \log m - \frac{m^2}{4} + \frac{m}{2} + \frac{1}{2}m \log m + \frac{1}{12} \log m + O(1) \end{aligned}$$

where  $C$  is Euler's constant. Hence

$$g(m) = \sum_{\nu=1}^m (m-\nu) \log \nu = \frac{m^2}{2} \log m - \frac{3}{4}m^2 - \frac{1}{12} \log m + Am + O(1)$$

for some constant  $A$ .

Finally, by (8.1) for  $n = kh$ ,  $x = k/h$ , we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} \log \dim(k^h) &= [n(\log n - 1) + \frac{1}{2}\log n + O(1)] \\ &\quad - [\frac{1}{2}(k+h)^2 \log(k+h) - \frac{3}{4}(k+h)^2 - \frac{1}{12} \log(k+h) - A(k+h)] \\ &\quad + [\frac{1}{2}k^2 \log k - \frac{3}{4}k^2 - \frac{1}{12} \log k + Ak] \\ &\quad + [\frac{1}{2}h^2 \log h - \frac{3}{4}h^2 - \frac{1}{12} \log h + Ah] + O(1) \\ &= n[\log h - \varphi(x)] + \frac{1}{2}\log n + \frac{1}{12} \log \left(\frac{k+h}{kh}\right) + O(1) \end{aligned}$$

which proves that, for  $n = kh$ ,

$$\dim(k^h) = (e^{-\varphi(x)}h)^n n^{5/12} (k+h)^{1/12} g(n, h).$$

If we use one additional term in the approximation of  $\sum \log \nu$  and  $\sum \nu \log \nu$ , we can show that  $g(n, h) = C(1 + O(1/n))$  for some constant  $C = C(h)$ , which is of the form  $C_0(1 + O(1/h))$ .

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