# COUNTING THE IDEALS OF GIVEN CODIMENSION OF THE ALGEBRA OF LAURENT POLYNOMIALS IN TWO VARIABLES

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ABSTRACT. We establish an explicit formula for the number  $C_n(q)$  of ideals of codimension *n* of the algebra  $\mathbb{F}_q[x, y, x^{-1}, y^{-1}]$  of Laurent polynomials in two variables over a finite field  $\mathbb{F}_q$  of cardinality *q*. This number is a palindromic polynomial of degree 2n in *q*. Moreover,  $C_n(q) = (q-1)^2 P_n(q)$ , where  $P_n(q)$  is another palindromic polynomial; the latter is a *q*-analogue of the sum of divisors of *n*, which happens to be the number of subgroups of  $\mathbb{Z}^2$  of index *n*.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $\mathbb{F}_q$  be a finite field of cardinality q and  $\mathbb{F}_q[x, y, x^{-1}, y^{-1}]$  be the algebra of Laurent polynomials in two variables with coefficients in  $\mathbb{F}_q$ .

Our main aim is to give a formula for the number  $C_n(q)$  of ideals of codimension *n* of  $\mathbb{F}_q[x, y, x^{-1}, y^{-1}]$ . Our main result is the following.

**Theorem 1.1.** For each integer  $n \ge 1$  we have

$$C_n(q) = \sum_{\lambda \vdash n} (q-1)^{2\nu(\lambda)} q^{n-\ell(\lambda)} \prod_{\substack{i=1,\dots,t\\ d_i \ge 1}} \frac{q^{2d_i}-1}{q^2-1},$$

where the sum runs over all partitions  $\lambda$  of n. The expression  $C_n(q)$  is a monic polynomial of degree 2n in the variable q with integer coefficients. Moreover, the polynomial  $C_n(q)$  is divisible by  $(q-1)^2$ .

The notation  $\ell(\lambda)$ ,  $\nu(\lambda)$ ,  $d_i$  appearing in the formula will be explained in Section 3.1. The proof of the theorem will be given in Section 5.3; it relies on a parametrization by Conca and Valla [6] of the affine cells in the Ellingsrud–Strømme decomposition of the Hilbert scheme of *n* points on the affine plane.

Note that since  $C_n(q)$  is divisible by  $(q-1)^2$ , we may define for each  $n \ge 1$  a unique polynomial  $P_n(q)$  by

(1.1) 
$$C_n(q) = (q-1)^2 P_n(q),$$

which clearly implies  $C_n(1) = 0$  for all  $n \ge 1$ . Table 1 (resp. Table 2) at the end of the paper displays the polynomials  $C_n(q)$  (resp. the polynomials  $P_n(q)$ ) for  $n \le 12$ .

Theorem 1.1 has two interesting consequences. The first one concerns the polynomials  $P_n(q)$ . Let us state it.

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**Corollary 1.2.** For each  $n \ge 1$  the polynomial  $P_n(q)$  is a monic polynomial of degree 2n - 2 with integer coefficients and we have

$$P_n(1) = \sigma(n) = \sum_{d|n\,;\,d\ge 1} d.$$

As is well known, the sum  $\sigma(n)$  of positive divisors of *n* is equal to the number of subgroups of index *n* of the free abelian group  $\mathbb{Z}^2$  of rank two. Thus Theorem 1.1 and Corollary 1.2 imply that the number of ideals of codimension *n* of the Laurent polynomial algebra  $\mathbb{F}_q[x, y, x^{-1}, y^{-1}]$ , i.e. of the algebra of the group  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ , is, up to the factor  $(q-1)^2$ , a *q*-analogue<sup>1</sup> of the number of subgroups of index *n* of  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ .

A similar phenomenon had been observed by Bacher and the second-named author in [3]: up to a power of q - 1, the number of right ideals of codimension nof the algebra  $\mathbb{F}_q[F_2]$  of the rank two free group  $F_2$  is a q-analogue of the number of subgroups of index n of  $F_2$ . Actually it was this observation that prompted us to compute the number of ideals of codimension n of the algebra  $\mathbb{F}_q[\mathbb{Z}^2]$  of the free abelian group  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ , i.e. of  $\mathbb{F}_q[x, y, x^{-1}, y^{-1}]$ .

In a similar context, the following holds.

(a) By [8] (see also Section 3.1 below) the number of ideals of codimension *n* of the polynomial algebra  $\mathbb{F}_q[x, y]$ , which is the algebra of the free abelian monoid  $\mathbb{N}^2$ , is a *q*-analogue of the number p(n) of partitions of *n*; as is well known, the latter is equal to the number of ideals of the monoid  $\mathbb{N}^2$  whose complement is of cardinality *n*.

(b) In a non-commutative setting, by [20, 2], the number of right ideals of codimension *n* of the free algebra  $\mathbb{F}_q\langle x, y \rangle$  is a *q*-analogue of the number of right ideals of the free monoid  $\langle x, y \rangle^*$  whose complement is of cardinality *n*.

(c) It may be shown that the number of right ideals of codimension 2 of the algebra  $\mathbb{F}_q[F_3]$  of the rank three free group  $F_3$  is equal to

$$q^{2}(q-1)^{5}((q+1)^{3}-1).$$

The last factor is obviously a *q*-analogue of  $2^3 - 1 = 7$ , which is the number of subgroups of index 2 of  $F_3$ .

We conjecture the number of right ideals of codimension 2 of the algebra  $\mathbb{F}_q[F_r]$ of the free group  $F_r$  with r generators to be of the form  $q^i(q-1)^j((q+1)^r-1)$  for some non-negative integers i, j; the last factor is then a q-analogue of the number  $2^r - 1$  of subgroups of index 2 of  $F_r$ . More generally, we expect the number of right ideals of codimension n of  $\mathbb{F}_q[F_r]$ , up to a power of q-1, to be a q-analogue of the number of subgroups of index n of  $F_r$  (see also the conclusion of [3]).

**Remark 1.3.** The commutative algebra  $L_r = \mathbb{F}_q[x_1, x_1^{-1}, \dots, x_r, x_r^{-1}]$  of Laurent polynomials in *r* variables  $(r \ge 3)$  provides a distinct contrast with the cases discussed above. We can show that the number of right ideals of codimension 2 of  $L_r$ , which is the algebra of the free abelian group  $\mathbb{Z}^r$ , is equal to  $(q - 1)^r R_r(q)$ , where

$$R_r(q) = \frac{1}{2} \left( (q+1)^r + (q-1)^r \right) + \frac{q^r - 1}{q-1} - 1.$$

The latter is a *q*-analogue of  $R_r(1) = 2^{r-1} + r - 1$ . Now the number of subgroups of index 2 of  $\mathbb{Z}^r$  is equal to  $2^r - 1$ , which is different from  $R_r(1)$  when  $r \ge 3$ .

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>By a *q*-analogue of an integer *r* we mean a polynomial P(q) in the variable *q* such that P(1) = r.

The second consequence of Theorem 1.1 expresses the generating function of the polynomials  $C_n(q)$  as a nice infinite product.

**Corollary 1.4.** (a) We have

$$1 + \sum_{n \ge 1} \frac{C_n(q)}{q^n} t^n = \prod_{i \ge 1} \frac{(1 - t^i)^2}{1 - (q + q^{-1})t^i + t^{2i}}.$$

(b) The polynomials  $C_n(q)$  and  $P_n(q)$  are palindromic.

The previous infinite product shows up in [9, p. 10] (see for instance Equations (9.2) and (10.1)) and probably in other papers on basic hypergeometric series; in an algebraic geometry context it appears in [16, Th. 4.1.3], where it is equal to the generating function of the *E*-polynomials of the punctual Hilbert schemes of the complex two-dimensional torus (see details in Section 6.3 below).

Using Corollary 1.4, we gave explicit expressions for the coefficients of the polynomials  $C_n(q)$  and  $P_n(q)$  in the companion paper [18] (see Theorems 1.1 and 1.2 in *loc. cit.*). We obtained a rather striking positivity result, namely the coefficients of  $P_n(q)$  are all *non-negative* integers. For the sake of completeness we recall our formulas for the coefficients of the polynomials  $C_n(q)$  and  $P_n(q)$  in Appendix A.

The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 is devoted to some preliminaries: we first recall the one-to-one correspondence between the ideals of the localization  $S^{-1}A$  of an algebra A and certain ideals of A; we also count tuples of polynomials subject to certain constraints over a finite field.

In Section 3 we recall Conca and Valla's parametrization of the affine cells in a decomposition of the Hilbert scheme of n points in the plane; these cells are indexed by the partitions of n. We show how to deduce a parametrization of the cells in the induced decomposition of the Hilbert scheme of n points in a Zariski open subset of the plane.

In Section 4 we apply the techniques of the preceding section to compute the number of ideals of codimension *n* of  $\mathbb{F}_q[x, y, y^{-1}]$ . In passing we give a criterion (Proposition 4.1) which will also be used in the proof of Theorem 1.1.

In Section 5 we define what we call an invertible Gröbner cell, which is a Zariski open subset of the corresponding affine cell, and compute its cardinality over a finite field. We derive a proof of Theorem 1.1.

The proofs of Corollary 1.4 of and of Corollary 1.2 are given in Section 6.

In Appendix A we briefly recall the results on the coefficients of  $C_n(q)$  and  $P_n(q)$  we obtained in [18].

## 2. Preliminaries

We fix a ground field *k*. By algebra we mean an associative unital *k*-algebra. In this paper all algebras are assumed to be *commutative*.

2.1. **Ideals in localizations.** Let *A* be a (commutative) algebra, *S* a multiplicative submonoid of *A* not containing 0, and  $S^{-1}A$  the corresponding localization of *A*. We assume that the canonical algebra map  $i : A \to S^{-1}A$  is injective (this is the case, for instance, when *A* is a domain).

Recall the well-known correspondence between the ideals of  $S^{-1}A$  and those of *A* (see [4, Chap. 2, § 2, n<sup>o</sup> 4–5], [7, Prop. 2.2]).

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- (a) For any ideal J of  $S^{-1}A$ , the set  $i^{-1}(J) = J \cap A$  is an ideal of A and we have  $J = i^{-1}(J)S^{-1}A$ . The map  $J \mapsto i^{-1}(J)$  is an injection from the set of ideals of  $S^{-1}A$  to the set of ideals of A.
- (b) An ideal *I* of *A* is of the form *i*<sup>-1</sup>(*J*) for some ideal *J* of *S*<sup>-1</sup>*A* if and only if for all *s* ∈ *S* the endomorphism of *A*/*I* induced by the multiplication by *s* is injective.

Given an integer  $n \ge 1$ , a *n*-codimensional ideal of A is an ideal such that  $\dim_k A/I = n$ . For such an ideal, the previous condition (b) is then equivalent to: for all  $s \in S$ , the endomorphism of A/I induced by the multiplication by s is a linear isomorphism.

We leave the proof of the following lemma to the reader.

**Lemma 2.1.** If J is a finite-codimensional ideal of  $S^{-1}A$ , then the canonical algebra map  $i : A \to S^{-1}A$  induces an algebra isomorphism

$$A/i^{-1}(J) \cong (S^{-1}A)/J.$$

It follows that there is a bijection between the set of *n*-codimensional ideals of  $S^{-1}A$  and the set of *n*-codimensional ideals *I* of *A* such that for all  $s \in S$ , the endomorphism of A/I induced by the multiplication by *s* is a linear isomorphism. The latter assertion is equivalent to *s* being invertible modulo *I*, that is the image of *s* in A/I being invertible.

The following criterion will be used in Sections 4 and 5.

**Lemma 2.2.** Let A be a commutative algebra. For any  $s \in A$ , let  $p : A \to A/(s)$  be the natural projection onto the quotient algebra of A by the ideal generated by s. If I is an ideal of A, then s is invertible modulo I if and only if p(I) = A/(s).

*Proof.* If *s* is invertible modulo *I*, then there exists  $t \in A$  such that  $st-1 \in I$ . Hence, p(1) belongs to p(I), which implies p(I) = A/(s). Conversely, if p(I) = A/(s), then p(1) = p(u) for some  $u \in I$ . Hence  $1 - u \in (s)$ , which means that there is  $t \in A$  such that 1 - u = st. Thus,  $st \equiv 1 \pmod{I}$ .

2.2. Counting polynomials over a finite field. In this subsection we assume that  $k = \mathbb{F}_q$  is a finite field of cardinality q. We shall need the following in Section 5.

**Proposition 2.3.** Let d, h be integers  $\geq 1$  and  $Q_1, \ldots, Q_h \in \mathbb{F}_q[y]$  be coprime polynomials. The number of (h + 1)-tuples  $(P, P_1, \ldots, P_h)$  satisfying the three conditions

- (i) *P* is a degree *d* monic polynomial with  $P(0) \neq 0$ ,
- (ii)  $P_1, \ldots, P_h$  are polynomials of degree < d, and
- (iii) P and  $P_1Q_1 + \cdots + P_hQ_h$  are coprime,

is equal to

$$(q-1)^2 q^{(h-1)d} \frac{q^{2d}-1}{q^2-1}$$

Before giving the proof, we state and prove two auxiliary lemmas.

**Lemma 2.4.** Let R be a finite commutative ring and  $a_1, \ldots, a_h \in R$  such that  $a_1R + \cdots + a_hR = R$ . For any  $b \in R$ , the number of h-tuples  $(x_1, \ldots, x_h) \in R^h$  such that  $a_1x_1 + \cdots + a_hx_h = b$  is equal to  $(\operatorname{card} R)^{h-1}$ .

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*Proof.* The map  $(x_1, \ldots, x_h) \mapsto a_1 x_1 + \cdots + a_h x_h$  is a homomorphism  $\mathbb{R}^h \to \mathbb{R}$  of additive groups. Since it is surjective, the number of *h*-tuples satisfying the above condition is equal to the cardinality of its kernel, which is equal to card  $\mathbb{R}^h/\text{card } \mathbb{R} = (\text{card } \mathbb{R})^{h-1}$ .

**Lemma 2.5.** Let  $d \ge 1$  be an integer. The number of couples  $(P, Q) \in \mathbb{F}_q[y]^2$  such that P is a degree d monic polynomial with  $P(0) \ne 0$ , Q is of degree < d, and P and Q are coprime is equal to

$$c_d = (q-1)^2 \frac{q^{2d}-1}{q^2-1}.$$

*Proof.* This amounts to counting the number of couples (P, z), where  $P \in \mathbb{F}_q[y]$  is a degree *d* monic polynomial not divisible by *y* and *z* is an invertible element of the quotient ring  $\mathbb{F}_q[y]/(P)$ .

Expanding P into a product of irreducible polynomials and using the Chinese remainder lemma, we have

$$1 + \sum_{d \ge 1} c_d t^d = \prod_{\substack{P \text{ irreducible} \\ P \ne y}} \left( 1 + \sum_{k \ge 1} \operatorname{card}(\mathbb{F}_q[y]/(P))^{\times} t^{k \operatorname{deg}(P)} \right),$$

where the product is taken over all irreducible polynomials of  $\mathbb{F}_q[y]$  different from yand where deg(P) denotes the degree of P. First observe that for any irreducible polynomial  $P \in \mathbb{F}_q[y]$  the group  $(\mathbb{F}_q[y]/(P))^{\times}$  of invertible elements of  $\mathbb{F}_q[y]/(P)$ is of cardinality  $q^{k \deg(P)} - q^{(k-1) \deg(P)}$ : indeed, there are  $q^{k \deg(P)}$  polynomials of degree  $< k \deg(P)$  and  $q^{(k-1) \deg(P)}$  of them are divisible by P, hence not invertible in  $\mathbb{F}_q[y]/(P)$ . Consequently,

$$1 + \sum_{d \ge 1} c_d t^d = \prod_{\substack{P \text{ irreducible} \\ P \ne y}} \left( 1 + \left( 1 - q^{-\deg(P)} \right) \sum_{k \ge 1} (qt)^{k \deg(P)} \right)$$
$$= \prod_{\substack{P \text{ irreducible} \\ P \ne y}} \left( 1 + \left( 1 - q^{-\deg(P)} \right) \frac{(qt)^{\deg(P)}}{1 - (qt)^{\deg(P)}} \right)$$
$$= \prod_{\substack{P \text{ irreducible} \\ P \ne y}} \frac{1 - t^{\deg(P)}}{1 - (qt)^{\deg(P)}}.$$

On one hand the infinite product  $\prod_{\substack{P \text{ irreducible} \\ P \neq y}} (1 - t^{\deg(P)})^{-1}$  is equal to the zeta function  $Z_{\mathbb{A}^1 \setminus \{0\}}(t)$  of the affine line minus a point. On the other,

$$Z_{\mathbb{A}^1\setminus\{0\}}(t) = \frac{Z_{\mathbb{A}^1}(t)}{Z_{\{0\}}(t)} = \frac{1-t}{1-qt}$$

Therefore,

$$1 + \sum_{d \ge 1} c_d t^d = \frac{1 - qt}{1 - q^2 t} \left/ \frac{1 - t}{1 - qt} \right| = \frac{(1 - qt)^2}{(1 - t)(1 - q^2 t)}$$

Subtracting 1 from both sides, we obtain

$$\sum_{d \ge 1} c_d t^d = (q-1)^2 \frac{t}{(1-t)(1-q^2t)},$$

from which it is easy to derive the desired formula for  $c_d$ .

*Proof of Proposition 2.3.* We have to count the number of those (h + 2)-tuples  $(P, Q, P_1, \ldots, P_h)$  such that *P* is a degree *d* monic polynomial with  $P(0) \neq 0$ , *Q* is a polynomial of degree < d and coprime to *P*, each polynomial  $P_i$  is of degree < d, and  $\sum_{i=1}^{h} P_i Q_i \equiv Q$  modulo *P*.

By Lemma 2.5, the number of couples (P, Q) satisfying these conditions is equal to  $(q-1)^2 (q^{2d}-1)/(q^2-1)$ . Since card  $\mathbb{F}_q[y]/(P) = q^d$ , by Lemma 2.4 we have  $q^{d(h-1)}$  choices for the *h*-tuples  $(P_1, \ldots, P_h)$ . The number we wish to count is the product of the two previous ones.

## 3. The Hilbert scheme of points in a Zariski open subset of the plane

Let *k* be a field. As is well known, the ideals of codimension *n* of an affine *k*-algebra *A* are in bijection with the *k*-points of the Hilbert scheme parametrizing finite subschemes of colength *n* of the spectrum of *A*. For instance the ideals of codimension *n* of the polynomial algebra k[x, y] are in bijection with the *k*-points of the Hilbert scheme Hilb<sup>*n*</sup>( $\mathbb{A}_k^2$ ) of *n* points on the affine plane. Similarly, the ideals of codimension *n* of the Laurent polynomial algebra  $k[x, y, x^{-1}, y^{-1}]$  are in bijection with the *k*-points of the Hilbert scheme Hilb<sup>*n*</sup>( $\mathbb{A}_k^1 \setminus \{0\}$ ) × ( $\mathbb{A}_k^1 \setminus \{0\}$ )) of *n* points on the two-dimensional torus, which is a Zariski open subset of the plane.

In this paragraph we prove that the Hilbert scheme of n points in a Zariski open subset of the plane is an open subscheme of the Hilbert scheme of n points in the plane, and show how to determine it explicitly.

3.1. **Parametrizing the finite-codimensional ideals of** k[x, y]. Computing the homology of Hilbert scheme Hilb<sup>*n*</sup>( $\mathbb{A}_k^2$ ), Ellingsrud and Strømme [8] showed that it has a cellular decomposition indexed by the partitions  $\lambda$  of *n*, each cell  $C_{\lambda}$  being an affine space of dimension  $n + \ell(\lambda)$ , where  $\ell(\lambda)$  is the length of  $\lambda$ .

It follows that, in the special case when  $k = \mathbb{F}_q$  is a finite field of cardinality q, the number  $A_n(q)$  of ideals of  $\mathbb{F}_q[x, y]$  of codimension n is finite and given by the polynomial

(3.1) 
$$A_n(q) = \sum_{\lambda \vdash n} q^{n+\ell(\lambda)}$$

where the sum runs over all partitions  $\lambda$  of n (we indicate this by the notation  $\lambda \vdash n$  or by  $|\lambda| = n$ ). The polynomial  $A_n(q)$  clearly has non-negative integer coefficients, its degree is 2n, and  $A_n(1) = p(n)$  is equal to the number of partitions of n (for more on the polynomials  $A_n(q)$ , see Remark 4.7).

For our purposes we need an explicit description of the affine cells  $C_{\lambda}$ . We use a parametrization due to Conca and Valla [6]. Let us now recall it.

Given a positive integer *n*, there is a well-known bijection between the partitions of *n* and the monomials ideals of codimension *n* of k[x, y]. The correspondence is as follows: to a partition  $\lambda$  of *n* we associate the sequence

$$0 = m_0 < m_1 \leqslant \cdots \leqslant m_t$$

of integers counting from right to left the boxes in each column of the Ferrers diagram of  $\lambda$ ; we have  $m_1 + \cdots + m_t = n$ . Then the associated monomial ideal  $I^0_{\lambda}$  is given by

(3.2) 
$$I_{\lambda}^{0} = (x^{t}, x^{t-1}y^{m_{1}}, \dots, xy^{m_{t-1}}, y^{m_{t}}).$$

(Note that the generating set in the right-hand side of (3.2) is in general not minimal.) The set  $\mathcal{B}_{\lambda} = \{x^i y^j \mid 0 \le i < t, \ 0 \le j < m_i\}$  induces a linear basis of the *n*-dimensional quotient algebra  $k[x, y]/I_{\lambda}^0$ .

Consider the lexicographic ordering on the monomials  $x^i y^j$  given by

$$1 < y < y^2 < \dots < x < xy < xy^2 < \dots < x^2 < x^2y < x^2y^2 < \dots$$

Then the cell  $C_{\lambda}$ , called *Gröbner cell* in [6], is by definition the set of ideals *I* of k[x, y] such that the dominating terms (for this ordering) of the elements of *I* generate the monomial ideal  $I_{\lambda}^{0}$ . It was proved in [8] that  $C_{\lambda}$  is an affine space.

Here is how Conca and Valla explicitly parametrize  $C_{\lambda}$ . Given a partition  $\lambda$  of *n* and the associated sequence  $0 = m_0 < m_1 \leq \cdots \leq m_t$ , they first define the sequence of integers  $d_1, \ldots, d_t$  by

(3.3) 
$$d_i = m_i - m_{i-1} \ge 0.$$

We have  $d_1 = m_1 > 0$ .

Later we shall also need the integer

(3.4) 
$$v(\lambda) = \operatorname{card} \{i = 1, \dots, t \mid d_i \ge 1\};$$

this integer is equal to the number of distinct values of the sequence  $m_1 \leq \cdots \leq m_t$ . Note that  $v(\lambda) \geq 1$ ; moreover,  $v(\lambda) = 1$  if and only if the partition is "rectangular", i.e.  $m_1 = \cdots = m_t (> 0)$ .

Let  $T_{\lambda}$  be the set of  $(t + 1) \times t$ -matrices  $(p_{i,j})$  with entries in the one-variable polynomial algebra k[y] satisfying the following conditions:  $p_{i,j} = 0$  if i < j, the degree of  $p_{i,j}$  is less than  $d_j$  if  $i \ge j$  and  $d_j \ge 1$ , and  $p_{i,j} = 0$  for all i if  $d_j = 0$ . The set  $T_{\lambda}$  is an affine space whose dimension is  $n + \ell(\lambda)$ .

Now consider the  $(t + 1) \times t$ -matrix

(3.3)									
	$(y^{d_1} + p_1)$	0	0	• • •	0	0	0	• • •	0 )
	$p_{2,1} - x$	$y^{d_2} + p_2$	0		0	0	0		0
	<i>p</i> <sub>3,1</sub>	$p_{3,2} - x$	$y^{d_3} + p_3$	• • •	0	0	0	•••	0
	:	:	:	۰.	÷	:	÷		:
м. –	$p_{i-1,1}$	$p_{i-1,2}$	$p_{i-1,3}$		$y^{d_{i-1}} + p_{i-1}$	0	0		0
$M_{\lambda} =$	$p_{i,1}$	$p_{i,2}$	$p_{i,3}$		$p_{i,i-1} - x$	$y^{d_i} + p_i$	0	•••	0
	$p_{i+1,1}$	$p_{i+1,2}$	$p_{i+1,3}$	• • •	$p_{i+1,i-1}$	$p_{i+1,i} - x$	$y^{d_{i+1}} + p_{i+1}$	•••	0
		÷	÷	·	÷	÷	÷	·	:
	$p_{t,1}$	$p_{t,2}$	$p_{t,3}$		$p_{t,i-1}$	$p_{t,i}$	$p_{t,i+1}$	•••	$y^{d_t} + p_t$
	$p_{t+1,1}$	$p_{t+1,2}$	$p_{t+1,3}$	• • •	$p_{t+1,i-1}$	$p_{t+1,i}$	$p_{t+1,i+1}$	•••	$p_{t+1,t}-x$

where for simplicity we set  $p_i = p_{i,i}$ .

By [6, Th. 3.3] the map sending the polynomial matrix  $(p_{i,j}) \in T_{\lambda}$  to the ideal  $I_{\lambda}$  of k[x, y] generated by all *t*-minors (the maximal minors) of the matrix  $M_{\lambda}$  is a bijection of  $T_{\lambda}$  onto  $C_{\lambda}$ . These minors are polynomial expressions with integer coefficients in the coefficients of the  $p_{i,j}$ 's.

3.2. Localizing. Let *S* be a multiplicative submonoid of k[x, y] not containing 0. We assume that *S* has a finite generating set  $\Sigma$ . In the sequel we shall concentrate on two cases:  $\Sigma = \{y\}$  (in Section 4) and  $\Sigma = \{x, y\}$  (in Section 5).

It follows from Section 2 that the set of *n*-codimensional ideals of the localization  $S^{-1}k[x, y]$  can be identified with the subset of  $\operatorname{Hilb}^n(\mathbb{A}^2_k)$  consisting of the *n*-codimensional ideals *I* of k[x, y] such that for all  $s \in S$ , the endomorphism  $\mu_s$ of k[x, y]/I induced by the multiplication by *s* is a linear isomorphism. The latter is equivalent to det  $\mu_s \neq 0$  for all  $s \in \Sigma$ . By the considerations of Section 3.1, the set of *n*-codimensional ideals of the algebra  $S^{-1}k[x, y]$  is the disjoint union

$$\coprod_{\lambda \vdash n} C^{\Sigma}_{\lambda},$$

where  $C_{\lambda}^{\Sigma}$  is the Zariski open subset of the affine Gröbner cell  $C_{\lambda}$  consisting of the points satisfying det  $\mu_s \neq 0$  for all  $s \in \Sigma$ .

Consequently, the Hilbert scheme  $\text{Hilb}^n(\text{Spec}(S^{-1}k[x, y]))$  parametrizing subschemes of colength *n* in  $\text{Spec}(S^{-1}k[x, y])$  is an open subscheme of  $\text{Hilb}^n(\mathbb{A}^2_k)$ , hence an open subscheme of  $\text{Hilb}^n(\mathbb{P}^2_k)$ . Since by [10, 12] the latter is smooth and projective,  $\text{Hilb}^n(\text{Spec}(S^{-1}k[x, y]))$  is a smooth quasi-projective variety.

The endomorphism  $\mu_x$  (resp.  $\mu_y$ ) of k[x, y]/I induced by the multiplication by x (resp. by y) can be expressed as a matrix in the basis  $\mathcal{B}_{\lambda}$ . Observe that the entries of such a matrix are polynomial expressions with integer coefficients in the coefficients of the  $p_{i,j}$ 's. Therefore, if any  $s \in \Sigma$  is a linear combination with integer coefficients of monomials in the variables x, y, then the Hilbert scheme Hilb<sup>n</sup>(Spec( $S^{-1}k[x, y]$ )) is defined over  $\mathbb{Z}$  as a variety.

In particular, the Hilbert schemes  $\operatorname{Hilb}^{n}(\mathbb{A}_{k}^{1} \times (\mathbb{A}_{k}^{1} \setminus \{0\}))$  and  $\operatorname{Hilb}^{n}((\mathbb{A}_{k}^{1} \setminus \{0\})^{2})$  are smooth quasi-projective varieties defined over  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

**Example 3.1.** Let  $\lambda$  be the unique self-conjugate partition of 3. In this case, t = 2,  $m_1 = 1$ ,  $m_2 = 2$ , hence  $d_1 = d_2 = 1$ . The corresponding matrix  $M_{\lambda}$ , as in (3.5), is

$$M_{\lambda} = \begin{pmatrix} y+a & 0\\ b-x & y+d\\ c & e-x \end{pmatrix},$$

where *a*, *b*, *c*, *d*, *e* are scalars. The associated Gröbner cell  $C_{\lambda}$  is a 5-dimensional affine space parametrized by these five scalars. The ideal  $I_{\lambda}$  is generated by the maximal minors of the matrix, namely by (b-x)(e-x) - c(y+d), (e-x)(y+a), and (y+a)(y+d). It follows that modulo  $I_{\lambda}$  we have the relations

$$x^{2} \equiv (b+e)x + cy + (cd - be), \quad xy \equiv -ax + ey + ae, \quad y^{2} \equiv -(a+d)y - ad.$$

In the basis  $\mathcal{B}_{\lambda} = \{x, y, 1\}$  the multiplication endomorphisms  $\mu_x$  and  $\mu_y$  can be expressed as the matrices

$$\mu_x = egin{pmatrix} b+e & -a & 1 \ c & e & 0 \ cd-be & ae & 0 \end{pmatrix} ext{ and } \mu_y = egin{pmatrix} -a & 0 & 0 \ e & -(a+d) & 1 \ ae & -ad & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

We have det  $\mu_x = e(ac - cd + be)$  and det  $\mu_y = -ad^2$ .

It follows from the above computations that, if for instance  $\Sigma = \{x, y\}$ , then  $C_{\lambda}^{\Sigma}$  is the complement in the affine space  $\mathbb{A}_{k}^{5}$  of the union of the three hyperplanes a = 0, d = 0, e = 0 and of the quadric hypersurface ac - cd + be = 0.

## 4. The punctual Hilbert scheme of the complement of a line in an affine plane

In this section we apply the considerations of the previous section to the case  $\Sigma = \{y\}$ . Here *S* is the multiplicative submonoid of k[x, y] generated by *y* and  $S^{-1}k[x, y] = k[x, y, y^{-1}] = k[x][y, y^{-1}]$ .

By Section 3.2, the Hilbert scheme  $\text{Hilb}^n(\mathbb{A}^1_k \times (\mathbb{A}^1_k \setminus \{0\}))$ , that is the set of *n*-codimensional ideals of  $k[x, y, y^{-1}]$ , is the disjoint union over the partitions  $\lambda$  of *n* 

of the sets  $C_{\lambda}^{y}$ , where  $C_{\lambda}^{y}$  consists of the ideals  $I \in C_{\lambda}$  such that y is invertible in k[x,y]/I. We call  $C_{\lambda}^{y}$  the semi-invertible Gröbner cell associated to the partition  $\lambda$ .

4.1. A criterion for the invertibility of y. Let  $p_y : k[x, y] \to k[x]$  be the algebra map sending x to itself and y to 0. Then by Lemma 2.2, the set  $C_{\lambda}^{y}$  consists of the ideals  $I \in C_{\lambda}$  such that  $p_{\nu}(I) = k[x]$ .

Recall from Section 3.1 that  $I_{\lambda}$  is generated by the maximal minors of the matrix  $M_{\lambda}$  of (3.5), namely by the polynomials  $f_0(x, y), \ldots, f_t(x, y)$ , where we define  $f_i(x, y)$  to be the determinant of the  $t \times t$ -matrix obtained from  $M_{\lambda}$  by deleting its (i + 1)-st row. Then the ideal  $p_v(I_\lambda)$  can be identified with the ideal of k[x] generated by the polynomials  $f_0(x,0), \ldots, f_t(x,0) \in k[x]$  obtained by setting y = 0. We need to determine under what conditions this ideal is equal to the whole algebra k[x].

Recall the entries of the matrix  $M_{\lambda}$  and particularly the polynomials  $p_{i,j}$  and  $p_i = p_{i,i} \in k[y]$ . Let  $a_{i,j} = p_{i,j}(0)$  be the constant term of  $p_{i,j}$ . As above, we set  $a_i = a_{i,i} = p_i(0)$ . Note that  $a_j = 1$  and  $a_{i,j} = 0$  for all  $i \neq j$  whenever  $d_j = 0$ .

Then  $f_0(x, 0), \ldots, f_t(x, 0)$  are the maximal minors of the matrix

	$\begin{pmatrix} a_1 \end{pmatrix}$	0	0		0	0	0		0 \	
	$a_{2,1} - x$	$a_2$	0	•••	0	0	0	•••	0	
	$a_{3,1}$	$a_{3,2} - x$	$a_3$	•••	0	0	0		0	
	÷	÷	÷	·	÷	:	÷		÷	
M	$a_{i-1,1}$	$a_{i-1,2}$	$a_{i-1,3}$		$a_{i-1}$	0	0		0	
$M_{\lambda} =$	$a_{i,1}$	$a_{i,2}$	$a_{i,3}$	•••	$a_{i,i-1} - x$	$a_i$	0		0	•
	$a_{i+1,1}$	$a_{i+1,2}$	$a_{i+1,3}$	•••	$a_{i+1,i-1}$	$a_{i+1,i} - x$	$a_{i+1}$	•••	0	
	÷	÷	÷	·.	÷	:	÷	۰.	÷	
	$a_{t,1}$	$a_{t,2}$	$a_{t,3}$	• • •	$a_{t,i-1}$	$a_{t,i}$	$a_{t,i+1}$	• • •	$a_t$	
	$\langle a_{t+1,1} \rangle$	$a_{t+1,2}$	$a_{t+1,3}$	• • •	$a_{t+1,i-1}$	$a_{t+1,i}$	$a_{t+1,i+1}$	• • •	$a_{t+1,t} - x$	

To be precise,  $f_i(x, 0)$  is the determinant of the square matrix obtained from  $M_{\lambda}^{y}$  by deleting its (i + 1)-st row.

The criterion we need is the following.

**Proposition 4.1.** We have  $p_{y}(I_{\lambda}) = k[x]$  if and only if  $a_{i} \neq 0$  for all i = 1, ..., tsuch that  $d_i \ge 1$ .

*Proof.* Since  $a_i = 1$  when  $d_i = 0$ , it is equivalent to prove that  $p_y(I_\lambda) = k[x]$  if and only if  $a_1 a_2 \cdots a_t \neq 0$ .

Set  $I_x = p_y(I_\lambda) \subset k[x]$ . The condition  $a_1 a_2 \cdots a_t \neq 0$  is sufficient. Indeed, the last polynomial,  $f_t(x, 0)$ , is the determinant of a lower triangular matrix whose diagonal entries are the scalars  $a_i$ ; hence,  $f_t(x, 0) = a_1 a_2 \cdots a_t$ . Thus, if  $f_t(x, 0)$  is non-zero, then  $I_x = k[x]$ .

To check the necessity of the condition, we will prove that for each i = 1, ..., t, the vanishing of the scalar  $a_i$  implies that the ideal  $I_x$  is contained in a proper ideal generated by a minor of  $M_{\lambda}^{y}$ .

If  $a_1 = 0$ , then  $f_1(x, 0) = \cdots = f_t(x, 0) = 0$  since these are determinants of matrices whose first row is zero. It follows that  $I_x$  is the principal ideal generated by the characteristic polynomial  $f_0(x, 0)$ , which is of degree  $t \ge 1$ . Hence,  $I_x$  is a proper ideal of k[x].

Let now  $i \ge 2$ . If for  $k \ge i$ , we delete the (k + 1)-st row of  $M_{\lambda}^{y}$ , we obtain a lower block-triangular matrix of the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} M_1 & 0 \\ * & M_2^{(k)} \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $M_1$  is the square submatrix of  $M_{\lambda}^{y}$  corresponding to the rows  $1, \ldots, i$  and to the columns  $1, \ldots, i$ ; this is a lower triangular matrix whose diagonal entries are  $a_1, \ldots, a_i$ . Consequently, if  $a_i = 0$ , then  $f_k(x, 0) = 0$  for all  $k \ge i$ .

Under the same condition  $a_i = 0$ , if we delete the (k+1)-st row of  $M_{\lambda}^{y}$  for k < i, then we obtain a lower block-triangular matrix of the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} M_1^{(k)} & 0\\ * & M_2 \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $M_2$  is the square submatrix of  $M_{\lambda}^{y}$  corresponding to the rows  $i + 1, \ldots, t + 1$  and to the columns  $i, \ldots, t$ :

$$M_{2} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{i+1,i} - x & a_{i+1} & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ a_{i+2,i} & a_{i+2,i+1} - x & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ a_{t,i} & \cdots & \cdots & a_{t,t-1} - x & a_{t} \\ a_{t+1,i} & a_{t+1,i+1} & \cdots & a_{t+1,t-1} & a_{t+1,t} - x \end{pmatrix}$$

Consequently, the polynomials  $f_k(x, 0)$  for k < i are all divisible by the determinant of  $M_2$ . Thus,  $I_x$  is contained in the ideal generated by det $(M_2)$ , which is a characteristic polynomial of degree t - i + 1. Since  $t - i + 1 \ge 1$  for all i = 1, ..., t, we have  $I_x \ne k[x]$ .

As an immediate consequence of Section 3.2 and of Proposition 4.1 we obtain the following.

**Corollary 4.2.** The set of n-codimensional ideals of  $k[x, y, y^{-1}]$  is the disjoint union

$$\coprod_{\lambda \vdash n} C^{y}_{\lambda},$$

where  $C_{\lambda}^{y}$  is the complement in the affine Gröbner cell  $C_{\lambda}$  of the union of the hyperplanes  $a_{i} = 0$  where i runs over all integers i = 1, ..., t such that  $d_{i} \ge 1$ .

4.2. On the number of finite-codimensional ideals of  $\mathbb{F}_q[x, y, y^{-1}]$ . Recall the positive integer  $v(\lambda)$  defined by (3.4).

**Proposition 4.3.** Let  $k = \mathbb{F}_q$ . For each partition  $\lambda$  of n, the set  $C_{\lambda}^{y}$  is finite and its cardinality is given by

card 
$$C_{\lambda}^{y} = (q-1)^{\nu(\lambda)} q^{n+\ell(\lambda)-\nu(\lambda)}$$
.

*Proof.* By Corollary 4.2 the set  $C_{\lambda}^{y}$  is parametrized by  $n + \ell(\lambda)$  parameters subject to the sole condition that  $v(\lambda)$  of them are not zero.

**Corollary 4.4.** For each integer  $n \ge 1$ , the number  $B_n(q)$  of n-codimensional ideals of  $\mathbb{F}_q[x, y, y^{-1}]$  is equal to  $(q-1) q^n B_n^{\circ}(q)$ , where

$$B_n^{\circ}(q) = \sum_{\lambda \vdash n} (q-1)^{\nu(\lambda)-1} q^{\ell(\lambda)-\nu(\lambda)}.$$

Note that  $B_n^{\circ}(q)$  is a polynomial in q since  $v(\lambda) \ge 1$  and  $\ell(\lambda) \ge v(\lambda)$  for all partitions. It is of degree n-1 and has integer coefficients. The coefficients of  $B_n^{\circ}(q)$  may be negative, as one can see in Table 3 at the end of the paper.

**Remark 4.5.** Let  $v_n$  be the valuation of the polynomial  $B_n^{\circ}(q)$ , i.e. the maximal integer *r* such that  $q^r$  divides  $B_n^{\circ}(q)$ . We conjecture that  $v_n = 0$ , 1, or 2, and that the infinite word  $v_1v_2v_3...$  is equal to  $0\prod_{n=1}^{\infty} 01^{2n}02^n$ .

Let us now give a product formula for the generating function of the sequence of polynomials  $B_n(q)$  and an arithmetical interpretation for two values of  $B_n^{\circ}(q)$ .

**Theorem 4.6.** (a) Let  $B_n(q)$  be the number of ideals of  $\mathbb{F}_q[x, y, y^{-1}]$  of codimension *n*. We have

$$1 + \sum_{n \ge 1} \frac{B_n(q)}{q^n} t^n = \prod_{i \ge 1} \frac{1 - t^i}{1 - qt^i}.$$

(b) Let  $B_n^{\circ}(q)$  be the polynomial  $B_n^{\circ}(q) = (q-1)^{-1}q^{-n}B_n(q)$ . It has integer coefficients and satisfies

$$B_n^{\circ}(1) = \sigma_0(n),$$

where  $\sigma_0(n)$  is the number of divisors of n, and

$$B_n^{\circ}(-1) = \begin{cases} (-1)^{k-1} & \text{if } n = k^2 \text{ for some integer } k, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* (a) Since an analogous proof will be used in Remark 4.7 and in Section 6.2, we give here a detailed proof. Let X be a set and M be the free abelian monoid on X (X is called a basis of M). We say that a function  $\varphi : M \to R$  from M to a ring R is *multiplicative* if  $\varphi(uv) = \varphi(u)\varphi(v)$  for all couples  $(u, v) \in M^2$  of words having no common basis element. Under this condition, it is easy to check the following identity:

(4.1) 
$$\sum_{w \in M} \varphi(w) = \prod_{x \in X} \left( 1 + \sum_{e \ge 1} \varphi(x^e) \right).$$

Now, identifying each partition with its planar diagram, we consider a partition  $\lambda$  as a union of rectangular partitions  $i^{e_i}$ , with  $e_i$  parts of length i, for  $e_i \ge 1$  and distinct  $i \ge 1$ , which we denote by the formal product  $\lambda = \prod_{i\ge 1} i^{e_i}$ . Thus the set of partitions is equal to the free abelian monoid on  $X = \mathbb{N}\setminus\{0\}$ . Before we apply (4.1), let us remark that  $|\lambda| = \sum_i ie_i$  and  $\ell(\lambda) = \sum_i e_i$ . Moreover, the multisets  $\{e_i \mid i \ge 1\}$  and  $\{d_i \mid i \ge 1\}$  are equal (recall that the integers  $d_i$  are those associated with  $\lambda$  in (3.3)); therefore,  $v(\lambda) = \sum_i 1 = \operatorname{card}\{i \mid e_i \ge 1\}$ .

The function  $\lambda \mapsto \operatorname{card} C_{\lambda}^{y} s^{|\lambda|}$  computed in Proposition 4.3 is clearly multiplicative. Applying (4.1), we obtain

$$\begin{split} 1 + \sum_{n \ge 1} B_n(q) s^n &= 1 + \sum_{|\lambda| \ge 1} \operatorname{card} C^y_\lambda s^{|\lambda|} \\ &= \prod_{i \ge 1} \left( 1 + \sum_{e \ge 1} \operatorname{card} C^y_{i^e} s^{i^e} \right) \\ &= \prod_{i \ge 1} \left( 1 + \sum_{e \ge 1} (q-1)q^{ie+e-1}s^{i^e} \right) \\ &= \prod_{i \ge 1} \left( 1 + (q-1)q^{-1}\sum_{e \ge 1} (q^{i+1}s^i)^e \right) \\ &= \prod_{i \ge 1} \left( 1 + (q-1)q^{-1}\frac{q^{i+1}s^i}{1-q^{i+1}s^i} \right) \\ &= \prod_{i \ge 1} \frac{(1-q^{i+1}s^i) + (q-1)q^is^i}{1-q^{i+1}s^i} \\ &= \prod_{i \ge 1} \frac{1-q^is^i}{1-q^{i+1}s^i} \,. \end{split}$$

Finally replace *s* by  $q^{-1}t$ .

(b) To compute  $B_n^{\circ}(1)$  we use the formula of Corollary 4.4. Since the values at q = 1 of  $(q - 1)^{\nu(\lambda)-1}$  is 1 if  $\nu(\lambda) = 1$  and 0 otherwise and since  $\nu(\lambda) = 1$  if and only if  $m_1 = \cdots = m_t = d$ , in which case dt = n, we have

$$B_n^{\circ}(1) = \sum_{dt=n} 1 = \sum_{d|n} 1 = \sigma_0(n).$$

For  $B_n^{\circ}(-1)$  we use the infinite product expansion of Item (a): replacing  $B_n(q)$  by  $(q-1)q^n B_n^{\circ}(q)$ , we obtain

$$1 + \sum_{n \ge 1} (q-1)B_n^{\circ}(q)t^n = \prod_{i \ge 1} \frac{1-t^i}{1-qt^i}.$$

Setting q = -1 yields

$$1 - 2\sum_{n \ge 1} B_n^{\circ}(-1)t^n = \prod_{i \ge 1} \frac{1 - t^i}{1 + t^i}.$$

Now recall the following identity of Gauss (see [9, (7.324)] or [17, 19.9 (i)]):

(4.2) 
$$\prod_{i \ge 1} \frac{1 - t^i}{1 + t^i} = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} (-1)^k t^{k^2}.$$

It follows that

$$1 - 2\sum_{n \ge 1} B_n^{\circ}(-1)t^n = 1 + 2\sum_{k \ge 1} (-1)^k t^{k^2},$$

which allows us to conclude.

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Remark 4.7. The results of Theorem 4.6 should be compared to the following ones concerning the number  $A_n(q)$  of ideals of  $\mathbb{F}_q[x, y]$  of codimension *n*. Proceeding as in the proof of Theorem 4.6, we deduce from (3.1) that

$$1 + \sum_{n \ge 1} A_n(q) s^n = \prod_{i \ge 1} \frac{1}{1 - q^{i+1} s^i}.$$

Setting q = -1, we have

(4.3) 
$$1 + \sum_{n \ge 1} A_n(-1)s^n = \prod_{i \ge 1} \frac{1}{1 - (-1)^{i+1}s^i} = \prod_{m \ge 1} \frac{1}{(1 - s^{2m-1})(1 + s^{2m})}.$$

Multiplying by  $\prod_{m \ge 1} (1 + s^{2m})^{-1}$  both sides of the Euler identity

$$\prod_{n \ge 1} \frac{1}{1 - s^{2m-1}} = \prod_{i \ge 1} (1 + s^i)$$

(see [17, (19.4.7)]), we deduce that the right-hand side of (4.3) is equal to the infinite product

$$\prod_{m \ge 1} \left( 1 + s^{2m-1} \right).$$

Thus by [1, Table 14.1, p. 310] or [17, (19.4.4)], the value  $A_n(-1)$  is equal to the number<sup>2</sup> of partitions of *n* with unequal odd parts. Note that  $A_n(1)$  is equal to the number<sup>3</sup> of partitions of *n*. See Table 4 at the end for a list of the polynomials  $A_n(q)$  $(1 \leq n \leq 12).$ 

### 5. Invertible Gröbner cells

Let  $\mathrm{Hilb}^n((\mathbb{A}^1_k\backslash\{0\})^2)$  be the Hilbert scheme parametrizing finite subschemes of colength n of the two-dimensional torus, i.e. of the complement of two distinct intersecting lines in the affine plane. Its k-points are in bijection with the set of ideals of  $k[x, y, x^{-1}, y^{-1}]$  of codimension *n*. By Section 3.2 this set of ideals is the disjoint union over the partitions  $\lambda$  of *n* of the sets  $C_{\lambda}^{x,y}$ , where  $C_{\lambda}^{x,y}$  consists of the ideals  $I \in C_{\lambda}$  such that both x and y are invertible in k[x, y]/I. We call  $C_{\lambda}^{x, y}$  the *invertible Gröbner cell* associated to the partition  $\lambda$ . When the ground field is finite, so is  $C_{\lambda}^{x,y}$ . The aim of this section is to compute

the cardinality of  $C_{\lambda}^{x,y}$  when  $k = \mathbb{F}_q$ .

5.1. The cardinality of an invertible Gröbner cell. Recall the non-negative integers  $d_1, \ldots, d_t$  defined by (3.3) and the positive integer  $v(\lambda)$  defined by (3.4). We now give a formula for card  $C_{\lambda}^{x,y}$ .

**Theorem 5.1.** Let  $k = \mathbb{F}_q$ , *n* an integer  $\geq 1$  and  $\lambda$  be a partition of *n*. Then

card 
$$C_{\lambda}^{x,y} = (q-1)^{2\nu(\lambda)} q^{n-\ell(\lambda)} \prod_{\substack{i=1,...,t\\d_i \ge 1}} \frac{q^{2d_i}-1}{q^2-1}$$

The theorem will be proved in Section 5.3. It has the following straightforward consequences.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>See Sequence A000700 in [19].

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>See Sequence A000041 in [19].

**Corollary 5.2.** Let  $k = \mathbb{F}_q$  and  $\lambda$  be a partition of *n*. (a) card  $C_{\lambda}^{x,y}$  is a monic polynomial in *q* with integer coefficients; it is of degree  $n + \ell(\lambda)$ .

(b) The polynomial card  $C_{\lambda}^{x,y}$  is divisible by  $(q-1)^2$ . The quotient

$$P_{\lambda}(q) = \frac{\operatorname{card} C_{\lambda}^{x,y}}{(q-1)^2}$$

is a monic polynomial in q with integer coefficients and of degree  $n + \ell(\lambda) - 2$ .

(c) If the partition  $\lambda$  is rectangular, i.e., if  $v(\lambda) = 1$ , in which case  $d_2 = \cdots =$  $d_t = 0$  and  $d = d_1$  is a divisor of n, then

$$P_{\lambda}(q) = q^{n-d} \frac{q^{2d}-1}{q^2-1} = q^{n-d} \left(1+q^2+\dots+q^{2d-2}\right).$$

In this case,  $P_{\lambda}(1) = d$ .

(d) If  $v(\lambda) \ge 2$ , then  $P_{\lambda}(q)$  is divisible by  $(q-1)^2$ , and  $P_{\lambda}(1) = 0$ .

**Remark 5.3.** The polynomials  $P_{\lambda}(q)$  may have negative coefficients. For instance, if  $\lambda$  is the partition of 4 corresponding to t = 2,  $d_1 = 1$ ,  $d_2 = 2$ , then

$$P_{\lambda}(q) = q^5 - 2q^4 + 2q^3 - 2q^2 + q.$$

The rest of the section is devoted to the proof of Theorem 5.1.

5.2. A criterion for the invertibility of x. In Section 4 we introduced the algebra map  $p_y : k[x, y] \to k[x]$  sending x to itself and y to 0. Similarly, let  $p_x : k[x, y] \to k[x, y]$ k[x] be the algebra map sending x to 0 and y to itself. Then by Lemma 2.2, the set  $C_{\lambda}^{x,y}$  consists of the ideals  $I \in C_{\lambda}$  such that  $p_x(I) = k[y]$  and  $p_y(I) = k[x]$ . We already have a criterion for  $p_v(I) = k[x]$  (see Proposition 4.1). We shall now give a necessary and sufficient condition for  $p_x(I)$  to be equal to k[y].

Resuming the notation of Section 4, we see that  $p_x(I)$  can be identified with the ideal of k[y] generated by the polynomials  $f_0(0, y), \ldots, f_t(0, y) \in k[y]$  obtained from the polynomials  $f_0(x, y), \ldots, f_t(x, y)$  by setting x = 0. The polynomials  $f_0(0, y), \ldots, f_t(0, y)$  are the maximal minors of the matrix

$$M_{\lambda}^{x} = \begin{pmatrix} y^{d_{1}} + p_{1} & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ p_{2,1} & y^{d_{2}} + p_{2} & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ p_{3,1} & p_{3,2} & y^{d_{3}} + p_{3} & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ p_{i-1,1} & p_{i-1,2} & p_{i-1,3} & \cdots & y^{d_{i-1}} + p_{i-1} & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ p_{i,1} & p_{i,2} & p_{i,3} & \cdots & p_{i,i-1} & y^{d_{i}} + p_{i} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ p_{i+1,1} & p_{i+1,2} & p_{i+1,3} & \cdots & p_{i+1,i-1} & p_{i+1,i} & y^{d_{i+1}} + p_{i+1} & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ p_{t,1} & p_{t,2} & p_{t,3} & \cdots & p_{t,i-1} & p_{t,i} & p_{t,i+1} & \cdots & y^{d_{t}} + p_{t} \\ p_{t+1,1} & p_{t+1,2} & p_{t+1,3} & \cdots & p_{t,i-1} & p_{t,i} & p_{t,i+1} & \cdots & y^{d_{t}} + p_{t} \\ p_{t+1,1} & p_{t+1,2} & p_{t+1,3} & \cdots & p_{t+1,i-1} & p_{t+1,i} & p_{t+1,i+1} & \cdots & p_{t+1,i} \end{pmatrix}$$

obtained from the matrix  $M_{\lambda}$  of (3.5) by setting x = 0.

Let  $\mu_i$  be the determinant of the submatrix  $M_i$  of  $M_{\lambda}^x$  corresponding to the rows  $(i+1), \ldots, (t+1)$  and to the columns  $i, \ldots, t$ . We have  $\mu_t = p_{t+1,t}$  and

$$\mu_{i} = \begin{vmatrix} p_{i+1,i} & y^{d_{i+1}} + p_{i+1} & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ p_{t,i} & p_{t,i+1} & \cdots & y^{d_{t}} + p_{t} \\ p_{t+1,i} & p_{t+1,i+1} & \cdots & p_{t+1,t} \end{vmatrix}$$

if  $1 \le i < t$ . Expanding  $\mu_i$  along its first column, we obtain

(5.1) 
$$\mu_i = \sum_{j=1}^{t-i+1} p_{i+j,i} q_{i+j,i},$$

where (5.2)

$$q_{i+j,i} = \begin{cases} \mu_{i+1} & \text{if } j = 1, \\ (-1)^{j-1} (y^{d_{i+1}} + p_{i+1}) \cdots (y^{d_{i+j-1}} + p_{i+j-1}) \mu_{i+j} & \text{if } 1 < j < t-i+1, \\ (-1)^{t-i} (y^{d_{i+1}} + p_{i+1}) \cdots (y^{d_{t-1}} + p_{t-1}) (y^{d_t} + p_t) & \text{if } j = t-i+1. \end{cases}$$

Observe also that

(5.3) 
$$f_i(0, y) = \begin{cases} \mu_1 & \text{if } i = 0, \\ (y^{d_1} + p_1) \cdots (y^{d_i} + p_i) \mu_{i+1} & \text{if } 1 \le i < t, \\ (y^{d_1} + p_1) \cdots (y^{d_t} + p_t) & \text{if } i = t. \end{cases}$$

**Lemma 5.4.** If  $1 \le i \le j \le t$ , then  $\mu_i$  belongs to the ideal  $(\mu_j, y^{d_j} + p_j)$  generated by  $\mu_j$  and  $(y^{d_j} + p_j)$ .

*Proof.* The case i = j is obvious. Otherwise, consider the matrix  $M_i$  whose determinant is  $\mu_i$ ; the column of  $M_i$  containing the entry  $y^{d_j} + p_j$  can be written as the sum of a column containing only the entry  $y^{d_j} + p_j$ , the other entries being zero, and of a column whose top entry is zero and the bottom ones form the first column of the matrix  $M_j$  whose determinant is  $\mu_j$ . Therefore by the multilinearity property of determinants,  $\mu_i$  is the sum of a determinant which is a multiple of  $y^{d_j} + p_j$  and of another determinant which is a multiple of  $\mu_j$ ; indeed, this second determinant is block-triangular with one diagonal block equal to  $\mu_j$ .

Here is our criterion for the invertibility of *x*.

**Proposition 5.5.** We have  $p_x(I_\lambda) = k[y]$  if and only if  $y^{d_i} + p_i$  and  $\mu_i$  are coprime for all i = 1, ..., t.

*Proof.* (a) Let us first check that the above condition is sufficient. The fact that  $y^{d_t} + p_t$  and  $\mu_t$  are coprime implies that by (5.3) the gcd of  $f_t(0, y)$  and of  $f_{t-1}(0, y)$  is  $(y^{d_1} + p_1) \cdots (y^{d_{t-1}} + p_{t-1})$ . Now the gcd of the latter and of  $f_{t-2}(0, y)$  is  $(y^{d_1} + p_1) \cdots (y^{d_{t-2}} + p_{t-2})$  in view of the fact that  $y^{d_{t-1}} + p_{t-1}$  and  $\mu_{t-1}$  are coprime. Repeating this argument, we find that the gcd of  $f_0(0, y), \ldots, f_t(0, y)$  is 1, which implies that  $p_x(I_\lambda) = k[y]$ .

(b) Conversely, suppose that  $y^{d_j} + p_j$  and  $\mu_j$  are not coprime for some j, i.e.,  $(\mu_j, y^{d_j} + p_j) \neq k[y]$ . By (5.3) and Lemma 5.4,  $f_0(0, y), \ldots, f_{j-1}(0, y)$  belong to the ideal  $(\mu_j, y^{d_j} + p_j)$ . On the other hand, again by (5.3), the remaining polynomials  $f_j(0, y), \ldots, f_t(0, y)$  are divisible by  $y^{d_j} + p_j$ , hence belong to  $(\mu_j, y^{d_j} + p_j)$ . Therefore,  $p_x(I_\lambda) \subseteq (\mu_j, y^{d_j} + p_j) \neq k[y]$ .

For the proof of Theorem 5.1, we shall also need the following result.

**Lemma 5.6.** If  $y^{d_j} + p_j$  and  $\mu_j$  are coprime for all j > i, then the polynomials  $q_{i+1,i}, \ldots, q_{t+1,i}$  of (5.2) are coprime.

*Proof.* Proceeding as in Part (a) of the proof of Proposition 5.5 and using (5.2), one shows by descending induction on *j* that the gcd of  $q_{j+1,i}, \ldots, q_{t+1,i}$  is

$$(y^{d_{i+1}} + p_{i+1}) \cdots (y^{d_j} + p_j)$$

In particular, for j = i + 1, the gcd of  $q_{i+2,i}, \ldots, q_{t+1,i}$  is  $(y^{d_{i+1}} + p_{i+1})$ . The conclusion follows from this fact together with the coprimality of  $(y^{d_{i+1}} + p_{i+1})$  and of  $q_{i+1,i} = \mu_{i+1}$ .

5.3. **Proof of Theorem 5.1.** By Propositions 4.1 and 5.5, it is enough to count the entries of the matrix  $M_{\lambda}$  over  $\mathbb{F}_q[y]$  such that  $p_i(0) \neq 0$  and  $y^{d_i} + p_i$  and  $\mu_i$  are coprime for all i = 1, ..., t. We consider these conditions successively for i = t, t - 1, ..., 1.

Assume first that all integers  $d_1, \ldots, d_t$  are non-zero. For i = t,  $y^{d_t} + p_t$  is a monic polynomial of degree  $d_t$  with non-zero constant term,  $\mu_t = p_{t+1,t}$  is of degree  $< d_t$ , and both polynomials are coprime. It follows from Lemma 2.5 (or from Proposition 2.3 with  $d = d_t$  and h = 1) that we have  $(q-1)^2(q^{2d_t}-1)/(q^2-1)$ possible choices for the last column of  $M_{\lambda}$ .

For i = t - 1, it follows from (5.1) that  $\mu_{t-1} = P_1Q_1 + P_2Q_2$ , where  $Q_1 = q_{t,t-1}$  and  $Q_2 = -q_{t+1,t-1}$ , which are coprime by Lemma 5.6,  $P_1 = p_{t,t-1}$  and  $P_2 = p_{t+1,t-1}$ , which are both polynomials of degree  $< d_{t-1}$ . The polynomial  $P = y^{d_{t-1}} + p_{t-1}$  is monic of degree  $d_{t-1}$  with non-zero constant term, and  $Q = \mu_{t-1} = P_1Q_1 + P_2Q_2$  is coprime to P by the coprimality condition. It then follows from Proposition 2.3 applied to the case  $d = d_{t-1}$  and h = 2 that there are

$$(q-1)^2 q^{d_{t-1}} \, \frac{q^{2d_{t-1}}-1}{q^2-1}$$

possible choices for the (t-1)-st column of  $M_{\lambda}$ .

In general, the polynomial  $P = y^{d_i} + p_i$  is monic of degree  $d_{t-1}$  with non-zero constant term, and is assumed to be coprime to  $Q = \mu_i = \sum_{j=1}^{t-i+1} p_{i+j,i} q_{i+j,i}$ . By Lemma 5.6 the polynomials  $q_{i+1,i}, \ldots, q_{t+1,i}$  are coprime. Applying Proposition 2.3 to the case  $d = d_i$  and h = t + 1 - i, we see that there are

$$(q-1)^2 q^{(t-i)d_i} \, \frac{q^{2d_i}-1}{q^2-1}$$

possible choices for the *i*-th column of  $M_{\lambda}$ .

In the end we obtain a number of possible entries for  $M_{\lambda}$  equal to

$$\prod_{i=1}^{t} (q-1)^2 q^{(t-i)d_i} \frac{q^{2d_i} - 1}{q^2 - 1} = q^{n-\ell(\lambda)} \prod_{i=1}^{t} (q-1)^2 \frac{q^{2d_i} - 1}{q^2 - 1}$$

since  $\ell(\lambda) = \sum_{i=1}^{t} d_i$  and  $n = |\lambda| = \sum_{i=1}^{t} (t - i + 1) d_i$ . We have thus proved the theorem when all  $d_1, \ldots, d_t$  are non-zero.

Let *E* be the subset of  $\{1, ..., t\}$  consisting of those subscripts *i* for which  $d_i = 0$ . (Note that 1 does not belong to *E* since  $d_1 > 0$ .) Assume now that *E* is non-empty and set t' = t - card E. By assumption t' < t. For any positive integer  $i \leq t'$ , let  $d'_i$  be equal to the *i*-th non-zero  $d_i$ . The integers  $d'_1 = d_1, d'_2, \ldots, d'_{t'}$  are positive.

Recall that if  $i \in E$ , then the *i*-th column of the matrix  $M_{\lambda}$  is zero except for the (i, i)-entry which is 1. Permuting rows and columns, we may rearrange  $M_{\lambda}$  into a

matrix  $M'_{\lambda}$  of the form

$$M'_{\lambda} = \begin{pmatrix} M_{\nu} & 0 \\ N & I_{t-t'} \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $I_{t-t'}$  is an identity matrix of size (t - t'). The  $(t' + 1) \times t'$ -matrix  $M_{\nu}$  is of the form (3.5) with *t* replaced by *t'*, the sequence  $d_1, \ldots, d_t$  by the shorter sequence  $d'_1, \ldots, d'_{t'}$ , and the partition  $\lambda$  by the partition  $\nu$  associated to the sequence  $d'_1, \ldots, d'_{t'}$ .

 $d'_1, \ldots, d'_{\prime'}$ . Let  $f'_i$  be the determinant of the square matrix obtained from  $M'_{\lambda}$  by deleting its (i + 1)-st row. It is clear that up to sign and to reordering the maximal minors  $f'_0, \ldots, f'_t$  of  $M'_{\lambda}$  are the same as those of  $M_{\lambda}$ . In view of the special form of  $M'_{\lambda}$ , observe that

$$f'_i = \begin{cases} f_i^{(\nu)} & \text{if } 0 \leqslant i \leqslant t', \\ 0 & \text{if } t' < i \leqslant t. \end{cases}$$

where  $f_i^{(\nu)}$  is the determinant of the  $t' \times t'$ -matrix obtained from  $M_{\nu}$  by deleting its (i + 1)-st row.

The number of possible entries of  $M_{\lambda}$ , which is the same as the number of possible entries of  $M'_{\lambda}$ , is then the product of the number of possible entries of N, which is a power of q, and of the number of possible entries of  $M_{\nu}$ . Since  $d'_1, \ldots, d'_{t'}$  are positive, by the first part of the proof, we know that the number of possible entries of  $M_{\nu}$  is the product of a power of q by

$$\prod_{i=1}^{t'} (q-1)^2 \, \frac{q^{2d'_i} - 1}{q^2 - 1} \, .$$

In other words, the number of possible entries of  $M_{\lambda}$  is

$$q^{c} \prod_{\substack{i=1,\dots,t\\d_{i}\geq 1}} (q-1)^{2} \frac{q^{2d_{i}}-1}{q^{2}-1}$$

for some non-negative integer c. Now since the invertible Gröbner cell  $C_{\lambda}^{x,y}$  is a Zarisky open subset of the affine Gröbner cell  $C_{\lambda}$ , the degree of the previous polynomial in q must be the same as the degree of the cardinal of  $C_{\lambda}$ , which is  $q^{n+\ell(\lambda)}$  by Section 3.1. This suffices to establish that  $c = n - \ell(\lambda)$  and to complete the proof of the theorem.

5.4. **Proof of Theorem 1.1.** By our remark at the beginning of Section 5, the number  $C_n(q)$  of ideals of  $\mathbb{F}_q[x, y, x^{-1}, y^{-1}]$  of codimension *n* is given by

(5.4) 
$$C_n(q) = \sum_{\lambda \vdash n} \operatorname{card} C_{\lambda}^{x,y},$$

where  $C_{\lambda}^{x,y}$  is the *invertible Gröbner cell* associated to the partition  $\lambda$ . The equality in Theorem 1.1 follows then from the formula for card  $C_{\lambda}^{x,y}$  given in Theorem 5.1.

By Corollary 5.2 (a) card  $C_{\lambda}^{x,y}$  is a monic polynomial which has integer coefficients and whose degree is  $n + \ell(\lambda)$ . Therefore,  $C_n(q)$  has integer coefficients and its degree is  $\max\{n + \ell(\lambda) \mid \lambda \vdash n\}$ . Now  $\ell(\lambda)$  is maximal if and only if  $\lambda = 1^n$ , in which case  $\ell(\lambda) = n$ . Therefore  $C_n(q)$  is monic and its degree is 2n.

Since  $\nu(\lambda) \ge 1$ , it follows from the formula in Theorem 5.1 that card  $C_{\lambda}^{x,y}$  is divisible by  $(q-1)^2$  for each invertible Gröbner cell. Therefore, the polynomial  $C_n(q)$  is divisible by  $(q-1)^2$ .

#### 6. PROOFS OF THE COROLLARIES

We now start the proofs of Corollary 1.2 and of Corollary 1.4.

6.1. **Proof of Corollary 1.2.** Since  $C_n(q)$  and  $(q-1)^2$  are both monic with integer coefficients, so is  $P_n(q)$ . The latter is the sum over all partitions of *n* of the polynomials  $P_{\lambda}(q)$  (introduced in Corollary 5.2 (b)). By Corollary 5.2 (c)–(d), we have  $P_{\lambda}(1) = 0$  if  $v(\lambda) \ge 2$  and, if  $v(\lambda) = 1$ , then  $\lambda$  is of the form  $t^d$ , where dt = n, in which case  $P_{\lambda}(1) = d$ . The desired formula for  $P_n(1)$  follows.

6.2. **Proof of Corollary 1.4.** As in the proof of Theorem 4.6 we consider each partition  $\lambda$  as a union of rectangular partitions  $i^{e_i}$ , with  $e_i$  parts of length *i*, for  $e_i \ge 1$  and distinct  $i \ge 1$ . Recall that  $|\lambda| = \sum_i ie_i$ ,  $\ell(\lambda) = \sum_i e_i$ , and  $v(\lambda) = \sum_i 1$ . To indicate the dependance of  $e_i$  on  $\lambda$ , we write  $e_i = e_i(\lambda)$ . We then obtain the following statement.

**Proposition 6.1.** We have the infinite product expansion

$$1 + \sum_{\lambda} \operatorname{card} C_{\lambda}^{x,y} \, s_1^{e_1(\lambda)} \, s_2^{e_2(\lambda)} \dots = \prod_{i \ge 1} \frac{(1 - q^i s_i)^2}{(1 - q^{i+1} s_i)(1 - q^{i-1} s_i)}$$

*Proof.* Proceeding as in the proof of Theorem 4.6 and using Theorem 5.1, we deduce that the left-hand side is equal to

$$1 + \sum_{\lambda} \prod_{i \ge 1} (q-1)^2 \frac{q^{2e_i} - 1}{q^2 - 1} q^{ie_i - e_i} s_i^{e_i},$$

which in turn is equal to

$$\begin{split} \prod_{i \ge 1} & \left( 1 + \frac{(q-1)^2}{q^2 - 1} \sum_{e_i \ge 1} \left( (q^{i+1}s_i)^{e_i} - (q^{i-1}s_i)^{e_i} \right) \right) \\ &= \prod_{i \ge 1} \left( 1 + \frac{(q-1)^2}{q^2 - 1} \left( \frac{q^{i+1}s_i}{1 - q^{i+1}s_i} - \frac{q^{i-1}s_i}{1 - q^{i-1}s_i} \right) \right) \\ &= \prod_{i \ge 1} \left( 1 + \frac{(q-1)^2}{q^2 - 1} \frac{(q^2 - 1)q^{i-1}s_i}{(1 - q^{i+1}s_i)(1 - q^{i-1}s_i)} \right) \\ &= \prod_{i \ge 1} \left( 1 + \frac{(q-1)^2q^{i-1}s_i}{(1 - q^{i+1}s_i)(1 - q^{i-1}s_i)} \right) \\ &= \prod_{i \ge 1} \frac{(1 - q^is_i)^2}{(1 - q^{i+1}s_i)(1 - q^{i-1}s_i)} . \end{split}$$

*Proof of Corollary 1.4.* (a) Replace  $s_i$  by  $(t/q)^i$  in Proposition 6.1, use (5.4) and Theorem 1.1, and observe that  $(1 - qt^i)(1 - q^{-1}t^i) = 1 - (q + q^{-1})t^i + t^{2i}$ .

(b) The infinite product is clearly invariant under the transformation  $q \leftrightarrow q^{-1}$ ; thus,  $C_n(q^{-1}) = q^{-2n} C_n(q)$ . Together with deg  $C_n(q) = 2n$ , this implies that  $C_n(q)$  is palindromic. The polynomial  $P_n(q)$  is palindromic as a quotient of two palindromic polynomials.

6.3. An alternative proof of Corollary 1.4 (a). After we made public a first version of this article, we learnt of an alternative geometric approach to the polynomials  $C_n(q)$ . Indeed, Göttsche and Soergel determined the mixed Hodge structure of the punctual Hilbert schemes of any smooth complex algebraic surface (see [11, Th. 2]). Applying their result to the Hilbert scheme  $H^n_{\mathbb{C}} = \text{Hilb}^n(\mathbb{C}^{\times} \times \mathbb{C}^{\times})$  of *n* points of the complex two-dimensional torus, Hausel, Letellier and Rodriguez-Villegas observed in [16, Th. 4.1.3] that the compactly supported mixed Hodge polynomial  $H_c(H^n_{\mathbb{C}}; q, u)$  of  $H^n_{\mathbb{C}}$  fits into the equality of formal power series

(6.1) 
$$1 + \sum_{n \ge 1} H_c(H^n_{\mathbb{C}}; q, u) \frac{t^n}{q^n} = \prod_{i \ge 1} \frac{(1 + u^{2i+1}t^i)^2}{(1 - u^{2i+2}qt^i)(1 - u^{2i}q^{-1}t^i)}$$

Setting u = -1 in (6.1), we obtain an infinite product expansion for the generating function of the *E*-polynomial  $E(H^n_{\mathbb{C}};q) = H_c(H^n_{\mathbb{C}};q,-1)$  of  $H^n_{\mathbb{C}}$ , namely

(6.2) 
$$1 + \sum_{n \ge 1} E(H_{\mathbb{C}}^{n};q) \frac{t^{n}}{q^{n}} = \prod_{i \ge 1} \frac{(1-t^{i})^{2}}{1 - (q+q^{-1})t^{i} + t^{2i}}$$

Now,  $H^n_{\mathbb{C}}$  is strongly polynomial-count in the sense of Nick Katz (see [13, Appendix]), probably a well-known fact (which also follows from the computations in the present paper). Therefore, by [13, Th. 6.1.2] the *E*-polynomial counts the number of elements of  $H^n$  over the finite field  $\mathbb{F}_q$ , which is also the number  $C_n(q)$  of ideals of codimension *n* of  $\mathbb{F}_q[x, y, x^{-1}, y^{-1}]$ . Thus (6.2) implies the equality of Corollary 1.4 (a).

**Remark 6.2.** In the same vein as above, there is a geometric explanation of the palindromicity of the polynomials  $C_n(q)$ . In [5] de Cataldo, Hausel, Migliorini observed that any diffeomorphism between  $\mathbb{C}^{\times} \times \mathbb{C}^{\times}$  and the cotangent bundle  $E \times \mathbb{C}$  of the elliptic curve  $E = \mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Z}[i]$  induces a linear isomorphism of graded vector spaces between the cohomology groups of the corresponding Hilbert schemes:  $H^*(H^n_{\mathbb{C}}, \mathbb{Q}) \cong H^*(\text{Hilb}^n(E \times \mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Q})$ . This isomorphism does not preserve the mixed Hodge structures, as the one on the right-hand side is pure whereas the one on the left-hand side is not. Nevertheless, such an isomorphism identifies the weight filtration on  $H^*(H^n_{\mathbb{C}}, \mathbb{Q})$  with the perverse Leray filtration on  $H^*(\text{Hilb}^n(E \times \mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Q})$  associated to the natural projective map from  $\text{Hilb}^n(E \times \mathbb{C})$  to the *n*-th symmetric product of  $\mathbb{C}$  induced by the projection of  $E \times \mathbb{C}$  on the second factor. The perverse Leray filtration is "palindromic" as a consequence of the relative hard Lefschetz theorem for the map above (see [5, Th. 4.1.1 and Th. 4.3.2]).

Note that Hausel, Letellier and Rodriguez-Villegas observed a similar palindromicity for the *E*-polynomial of certain character varieties and termed it "curious Poincaré duality" in [15, Cor. 5.2.4] (see also [13, Cor. 3.5.3], [14, Cor. 1.4]).

**Remark 6.3.** The natural action of the group  $\mathbb{C}^{\times} \times \mathbb{C}^{\times}$  on itself induces an action on the Hilbert scheme  $H^n_{\mathbb{C}}$ . Consider the GIT quotient  $\widetilde{H}^n_{\mathbb{C}} = H^n_{\mathbb{C}} //(\mathbb{C}^{\times} \times \mathbb{C}^{\times})$ . Using [13, Th. 2.2.12] and [15, Sect. 5.3], we see that the *E*-polynomial of  $\widetilde{H}^n_{\mathbb{C}}$  is given by

$$E(\widetilde{H}^n_{\mathbb{C}};q) = E(H^n_{\mathbb{C}};q)/(q-1)^2 = C_n(q)/(q-1)^2 = P_n(q).$$

Recall from the introduction (see also the appendix below) that the coefficients of  $P_n(q)$  are all non-negative. Therefore,  $\widetilde{H}^n_{\mathbb{C}}$  provides an example of a polynomial-count variety with odd cohomology and a counting polynomial with non-negative

coefficients. This implies non-trivial cancellation for the mixed Hodge numbers of  $\widetilde{H}^n_{\mathbb{C}}$ . No similar positivity phenomenon was observed for the character varieties investigated by Hausel, Letellier and Rodriguez-Villegas.

## Appendix A. The coefficients of the polynomials $C_n(q)$ and $P_n(q)$

We now state the results of the companion paper [18] on the coefficients of the polynomials  $C_n(q)$  and  $P_n(q)$ .

Since  $C_n(q)$  and  $P_n(q)$  are palindromic of respective degrees 2n and 2n - 2, we may expand  $C_n(q)$  and  $P_n(q)$  as follows:

$$C_n(q) = c_{n,0} q^n + \sum_{i=1}^n c_{n,i} \left( q^{n+i} + q^{n-i} \right),$$

where  $c_{n,0}, c_{n,1}, c_{n,2}...$  are integers, and

$$P_n(q) = a_{n,0} q^{n-1} + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} a_{n,i} \left( q^{n+i-1} + q^{n-i+1} \right),$$

where  $a_{n,0}, a_{n,1}, a_{n,2} \dots$  are integers.

By Theorem 1.1 of [18] the coefficients  $c_{n,i}$  of  $C_n(q)$  are given by the following formulas: (a) For the central coefficients  $c_{n,0}$  we have

$$c_{n,0} = \begin{cases} 2(-1)^k & \text{if } n = k(k+1)/2 \text{ for some integer } k \ge 1, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

(b) For the non-central coefficients  $(i \ge 1)$  we have

$$c_{n,i} = \begin{cases} (-1)^k & \text{if } n = k(k+2i+1)/2 \text{ for some integer } k \ge 1, \\ (-1)^{k-1} & \text{if } n = k(k+2i-1)/2 \text{ for some integer } k \ge 1, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Note that in Item (b) the first two conditions are mutually exclusive.

As for the coefficients of  $P_n(q)$ , the coefficient  $a_{n,i}$  is by [18, Th. 1.2] equal to the number of divisors d of n such that

$$\frac{i+\sqrt{2n+i^2}}{2} < d \le i+\sqrt{2n+i^2}.$$

It follows that all coefficients  $a_{n,i}$  of  $P_n(q)$  are non-negative integers.

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TABLE 1. The polynomials  $C_n(q)$ 

п	$C_n(q)$
1	$q^2 - 2q + 1$
2	$q^4-q^3-q+1$
3	$q^6 - q^5 - q^4 + 2q^3 - q^2 - q + 1$
4	$q^8 - q^7 - q + 1$
5	$q^{10} - q^9 - q^7 + q^6 + q^4 - q^3 - q + 1$
6	$q^{12} - q^{11} + q^7 - 2q^6 + q^5 - q + 1$
7	$q^{14} - q^{13} - q^{10} + q^9 + q^5 - q^4 - q + 1$
8	$q^{16} - q^{15} - q + 1$
9	$q^{18} - q^{17} - q^{13} + q^{12} + q^{11} - q^{10} - q^8 + q^7 + q^6 - q^5 - q + 1$
10	$q^{20} - q^{19} - q^{11} + 2q^{10} - q^9 - q + 1$
11	$q^{22} - q^{21} - q^{16} + q^{15} + q^7 - q^6 - q + 1$
12	$q^{24} - q^{23} + q^{15} - q^{14} - q^{10} + q^9 - q + 1$

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n	$P_n(q)$	$P_n(1)$
1	1	1
2	$q^2 + q + 1$	3
3	$q^4 + q^3 + q + 1$	4
4	$q^6 + q^5 + q^4 + q^3 + q^2 + q + 1$	7
5	$q^8 + q^7 + q^6 + q^2 + q + 1$	6
	$q^{10} + q^9 + q^8 + q^7 + q^6$	
6	$+2q^5 + q^4 + q^3 + q^2 + q + 1$	12
7	$q^{12} + q^{11} + q^{10} + q^9 + q^3 + q^2 + q + 1$	8
	$q^{14} + q^{13} + q^{12} + q^{11} + q^{10} + q^9 + q^8$	
8	$+q^7 + q^6 + q^5 + q^4 + q^3 + q^2 + q + 1$	15
	$q^{16} + q^{15} + q^{14} + q^{13} + q^{12} + q^9$	
9	$+q^8+q^7+q^4+q^3+q^2+q+1$	13
	$q^{18} + q^{17} + q^{16} + q^{15} + q^{14} + q^{13}$	
	$+q^{12}+q^{11}+q^{10}+q^8+q^7+q^6$	
10	$+q^5 + q^4 + q^3 + q^2 + q + 1$	18
	$q^{20} + q^{19} + q^{18} + q^{17} + q^{16} + q^{15}$	
11	$+q^5 + q^4 + q^3 + q^2 + q + 1$	12
	$q^{22} + q^{21} + q^{20} + q^{19} + q^{18} + q^{17} + q^{16} + q^{15}$	
	$+q^{14} + 2q^{13} + 2q^{12} + 2q^{11} + 2q^{10} + 2q^9 + q^8$	
12	$+q^7 + q^6 + q^5 + q^4 + q^3 + q^2 + q + 1$	28

TABLE 2. The polynomials  $P_n(q)$ 

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TABLE 5. The polynomials $D_n(q)$	TABLE 3.	The polynomials	$B_n^\circ(q)$
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n	$B_n^\circ(q)$	$B_n^{\circ}(1)$	$B_n^{\circ}(-1)$
1	1	1	1
2	q+1	2	0
3	$q^2 + q$	2	0
4	$q^3 + q^2 + q$	3	-1
5	$q^4 + q^3 + q^2 - 1$	2	0
6	$q^5 + q^4 + q^3 + q^2$	4	0
7	$q^6 + q^5 + q^4 + q^3 - q - 1$	2	0
8	$q^7 + q^6 + q^5 + q^4 + q^3 - q$	4	0
9	$q^8 + q^7 + q^6 + q^5 + q^4 - q^2 - q$	3	1
10	$q^9 + q^8 + q^7 + q^6 + q^5 + q^4 - q^2 - q$	4	0
11	$q^{10} + q^9 + q^8 + q^7 + q^6 + q^5 - q^3 - 2q^2 - q$	2	0
12	$q^{11} + q^{10} + q^9 + q^8 + q^7 + q^6 + q^5 - q^3 - q^2 + 1$	6	0

TABLE 4. The polynomials  $A_n(q)$ 

n	$A_n(q)$	$A_n(1)$	$A_n(-1)$
1	$q^2$	1	1
2	$q^4 + q^3$	2	0
3	$q^6 + q^5 + q^4$	3	1
4	$q^8 + q^7 + 2q^6 + q^5$	5	1
5	$q^{10} + q^9 + 2q^8 + 2q^7 + q^6$	7	1
6	$q^{12} + q^{11} + 2q^{10} + 3q^9 + 3q^8 + q^7$	11	1
7	$q^{14} + q^{13} + 2q^{12} + 3q^{11} + 4q^{10} + 3q^9 + q^8$	15	1
8	$q^{16} + q^{15} + 2q^{14} + 3q^{13} + 5q^{12} + 5q^{11} + 4q^{10} + q^9$	22	2
	$q^{18} + q^{17} + 2q^{16} + 3q^{15} +$		
9	$+5q^{14}+6q^{13}+7q^{12}+4q^{11}+q^{10}$	30	2
	$q^{20} + q^{19} + 2q^{18} + 3q^{17} + 5q^{16} +$		
10	$+7q^{15}+9q^{14}+8q^{13}+5q^{12}+q^{11}$	42	2
	$q^{22} + q^{21} + 2q^{20} + 3q^{19} + 5q^{18} +$		
11	$+7q^{17} + 10q^{16} + 11q^{15} + 10q^{14} + 5q^{13} + q^{12}$	56	2
	$q^{24} + q^{23} + 2q^{22} + 3q^{21} + 5q^{20} + 7q^{19} +$		
12	$+11q^{18} + 13q^{17} + 15q^{16} + 12q^{15} + 6q^{14} + q^{13}$	77	3