

**On the straightening law for minors of a matrix**

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<http://www.math.uchicago.edu/~swan/strLaw.pdf>

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**Errata and addenda by Darij Grinberg**

I will refer to the results appearing in the preprint "On the straightening law for minors of a matrix" by the numbers under which they appear in this preprint (specifically, in its version of 18 February 2003, published on <http://www.math.uchicago.edu/~swan/strLaw.pdf>).

**11. Errata**

- **Page 1:** The name "Doubilet" is misspelt as "Doubillet" twice (once in the abstract, and once again in §1).
- **Page 2, proof of Lemma 2.3:** Replace "etc. ,each" by "etc., each".
- **Page 2, proof of Theorem 2.6:** The " $\sigma$ " comes out of the blue in the proof, as there is no  $\sigma$  in the statement of the theorem. To clarify where it comes from, I suggest adding the following sentence at the beginning of the proof: "By Corollary 2.5, we can WLOG assume that  $X$  is a permutation matrix  $P(\sigma^{-1})$  for some  $\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_n$ ".
- **Page 3, §3:** Replace "say that  $S$  is good" by "say that  $S$  is good". (I have replaced the text-" $S$ " by a math-" $S$ " here.)
- **Page 3, Theorem 3.1:** It would be helpful to clarify that some of the  $(A_i, B_i)$  may be equal.
- **Page 3, proof of Theorem 3.1:** Replace " $B_i \leq B$ ,and" by " $B_i \leq B$ , and".
- **Page 3, proof of Theorem 3.1:** Replace "all other terms" by "all other nonzero terms".
- **Page 4, proof of Theorem 4.1:** This proof is confusing due to some of its parts being out of order. The determinant  $Y(P | Q)$  is not well-defined before the sets  $I$  and  $J$  are totally ordered; I even would not call  $Y$  a "square matrix" until the indexing set  $I$  for its rows and the indexing set  $J$  for its columns have been identified. I suggest modifying the proof as follows:
  - At the beginning of the proof, add the following sentence: "We WLOG assume that  $|S'| = |T'|$  and  $|S''| = |T''|$ , as otherwise the left hand side is 0".

- Move the second paragraph of the proof (the paragraph that begins with "Order  $I$  by setting" and ends with "and similarly for subsets of  $J$ ") to before the sentence that begins with "Define a square matrix  $Y$ ".
- Before the sentence that begins with "Define a square matrix  $Y$ ", add the following sentence: "Now the sets  $I$  and  $J$  are totally ordered. Let  $k = |I| = |J|$ . Then, we have order-preserving bijections  $I \rightarrow \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$  and  $J \rightarrow \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$ . Use these bijections to identify  $I$  and  $J$  with  $\{1, 2, \dots, k\}$ . For every subset  $Q$  of  $\{1, 2, \dots, k\}$ , we will write  $\tilde{Q}$  for the complement  $\{1, 2, \dots, k\} - Q$ ".

Once this is done,  $Y$  actually becomes a honest square matrix (of size  $k \times k$ ).

- **Page 4, proof of Theorem 4.1:** Replace " $(S' | T') (S'' | T'') = Y \{I' | J'\}$ " by " $(S' | T') (S'' | T'') = \pm Y \{I' | J'\}$ ". (At least I don't see a reason why the  $\pm$  must always be a  $+$ . Maybe it is?)
- **Page 5, proof of Lemma 4.2:** Add "WLOG assume that  $|K| = |I'|$  (since otherwise,  $\varphi(K) \neq S'$  is obvious)." after the first sentence of the proof.
- **Page 5, proof of Lemma 4.2:** Remove " $S' = \{s_1 < \dots < s_p\}$ " (as this is unnecessary).
- **Page 5, proof of Lemma 4.2:** The argument "But  $i_\nu$  lies in  $I'$  so  $k_\nu$  is in  $I''$  and therefore  $k_\nu > i_\nu$ " goes a bit too fast for me. I suggest adding a few details, e.g., as follows:  
 "Recall that  $\varphi$  is injective on  $I'$  and on  $K$ . Thus, from  $I' = \{i_1 < \dots < i_p\}$  and  $K = \{k_1 < \dots < k_p\}$ , we obtain  $\varphi(I') = \{\varphi(i_1) < \dots < \varphi(i_p)\}$  and  $\varphi(K) = \{\varphi(k_1) < \dots < \varphi(k_p)\}$ . Hence,  $\varphi(K) = S' = \varphi(I')$  shows that  $\varphi(k_\nu) = \varphi(i_\nu)$ . Since  $k_\nu \neq i_\nu$  and  $i_\nu \in I'$ , this entails  $k_\nu \in I''$  and therefore  $k_\nu > i_\nu$ ".
- **Page 5, §5:** A nitpick: Replace "whose entries are indeterminates" by "whose entries are distinct indeterminates".
- **Page 5, Theorem 5.3:** In this theorem, you probably want to state that two standard monomials which only differ by factors of the form  $(\emptyset, \emptyset)$  are considered to be identical. (You can always add  $(\emptyset, \emptyset)$  to the end of a standard monomial without changing the value of this monomial.)
- **Page 6, proof of Theorem 5.3:** Replace all appearances of "leading form" by "leading term" (or is "leading form" really a synonym for "leading term"?).
- **Page 6, proof of Theorem 5.3:** Add a period before "Similarly, if".

- **Page 6, proof of Theorem 5.3:** After " $z(B) = z_{b_1}^{(1)} \cdots z_{b_p}^{(p)}$ ", add "(if  $N \geq |A| = |B|$ )".
- **Page 6, References:** "Desarmenian"  $\rightarrow$  "Desarmenien" in [4].