

HILBERT-KUNZ FUNCTIONS OF 2×2 DETERMINANTAL RINGS

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ABSTRACT. Let k be an arbitrary field (of arbitrary characteristic) and let $X = [x_{i,j}]$ be a generic $m \times n$ matrix of variables. Denote by $I_2(X)$ the ideal in $k[X] = k[x_{i,j} : i = 1, \dots, m; j = 1, \dots, n]$ generated by the 2×2 minors of X . We give a recursive formulation for the lengths of the $k[X]$ -module $k[X]/(I_2(X) + (x_{1,1}^q, \dots, x_{m,n}^q))$ as q varies over all positive integers using Gröbner basis. This is a generalized Hilbert-Kunz function, and our formulation proves that it is a polynomial function in q . We apply our method to give closed forms for these Hilbert-Kunz functions for cases $m \leq 2$.

1. INTRODUCTION

Let R be a ring of characteristic $p > 0$ and set $q = p^e$. For a zero-dimensional ideal I and a finitely generated R -module M , the Hilbert-Kunz function $\text{HK}_{M,I}(q)$ is the R -module length of $M/I^{[q]}M$, where $I^{[q]}$ is the ideal generated by the q -th powers of elements of a generating set of I . Hilbert-Kunz functions were initially studied by Kunz [12]. In contrast with the Hilbert-Samuel function, which agrees with a polynomial for large input, the Hilbert-Kunz function is in general not a polynomial function even asymptotically:

Example 1.1. (c.f., [7]) If $R = \mathbf{F}_5[[w, x, y, z]]/(w^4 + x^4 + y^4 + z^4)$, then the characteristic is 5, and for $e \geq 1$, $\text{HK}_{R,(x,y,z,e)}(5^e) = \frac{168}{61}5^{3e} - \frac{107}{61}3^e$.

Monsky [13, Thm 3.10] showed that $\text{HK}_{M,I}(q) = cq^d + O(q^{d-1})$ for a real constant c and where $d = \dim M$. The real number c is called the Hilbert-Kunz multiplicity of M with respect to I and is denoted $e_{\text{HK}}(I; M)$. There is a great deal of computational evidence [14, 15] that the Hilbert-Kunz multiplicities can take on non-rational algebraic or even transcendental values, but no such examples have been definitively established. The Hilbert-Kunz function has proven difficult to compute in any generality, though there are computations done for explicit examples in small dimensions or special cases [3, 6, 11, 16, 17, 19, 20]. Deeper coefficients have only recently been proven to exist in special cases [8, 10]. The well-established sensitivity of the Hilbert-Kunz function to the singularities of the underlying space serves as a driving motivation for their study. For more details, on Hilbert-Kunz theory see [9] or [18, Section 8.4].

The main subject of this article is to compute the **(generalized) Hilbert-Kunz function** of determinantal varieties of size 2 minors. The setting is the quotient of a polynomial ring in $m \cdot n$ variables $x_{i,j}$ over an arbitrary field k modulo the ideal $I_2(X)$ generated by the 2×2 minors of the generic matrix $[x_{i,j}]$, and we study the length function

$$\text{HK}_{k[X]/I_2(X), \mathfrak{m}}(q) = \lambda \left(\frac{k[X]}{I_2(X) + \mathfrak{m}^{[q]}} \right),$$

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where q varies over all non-negative integers, $\mathbf{m}^{[q]} = (x_{i,j}^q : i, j)$, and λ stands for length. We will simply refer to this function as the Hilbert-Kunz function, and the corresponding (generalized) Hilbert-Kunz multiplicity of $k[X]/I_2(X)$ with respect to \mathbf{m} equals

$$e_{\text{HK}}(k[X]/I_2(X); \mathbf{m}) = \lim_{q \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\text{HK}_{k[X]/I_2(X), \mathbf{m}}(q)}{q^{m+n-1}}.$$

We give a recursive formulation of the Hilbert-Kunz function which enables us to prove that it is a polynomial in q (Corollary 3.4). We give closed forms for the Hilbert-Kunz function and the Hilbert-Kunz multiplicity when the generic matrix is of size $2 \times n$ (Theorem 4.4, Corollary 4.5). Both are independent of the characteristic of the field. We note that our recursive formulation gives lengths of various other ideals as well (see discussion below Definition 3.1).

Results on the Hilbert-Kunz multiplicity of $k[X]/I_2(X)$ at the maximal ideal of variables are well understood by the work of Buchweitz, Chen, Pardue [1], Eto [4], Eto and Yoshida [5], Watanabe [20], and Watanabe and Yoshida [21]. The first calculation had an integral form [1], which was later put into more combinatorial form by Eto and Yoshida using Sterling numbers of the second kind [5, 21]: The Hilbert-Kunz multiplicity of $k[X]/I_2(X)$ with respect to \mathbf{m} is

$$e_{\text{HK}}(k[X]/I_2(X); \mathbf{m}) = \frac{n!}{d!} S(d, n) - \frac{1}{d!} \sum_{r=1}^{m-1} \sum_{s=1}^{m-r} \binom{m}{r+s} \binom{n}{s} (-1)^{m+r} s^d.$$

The central technique in the results of Eto and Yoshida is viewing the determinantal ring of 2×2 minors as a Segre product. They work with the relevant lengths by counting monomials in each factor similar to the monomials counted in this article (See Remark 2.5). While their work only yields the leading term, the approach of this article is to compute the lengths using a Gröbner basis. Our approach has the advantage of giving a recursive method which can be used to calculate not only the multiplicity, but the complete Hilbert-Kunz function.

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2. GRÖBNER BASES

We use the settings from the introduction in the rest of the paper. We impose any diagonal order on monomials, that is, any monomial order in which the leading term of the determinant of any 2×2 submatrix is the product of the two diagonal entries. Examples of such diagonal orders are the lexicographic order with variables themselves ordered lexicographically by their indices $x_{1,1} > x_{1,2} > \dots > x_{1,n} > x_{2,1} > \dots > x_{m,n-1} > x_{m,n}$, or the degree reverse lexicographic orders with variables ordered instead along the rows from right to left in each row from the top row to the bottom row.

Definition 2.1. We call a monomial $\prod_{i,j} x_{i,j}^{p_{i,j}}$ a **staircase monomial** if whenever $i < i'$ and $j < j'$, then $p_{i,j} p_{i',j'} = 0$. Thus the indices (i, j) for which $p_{i,j} \neq 0$ lie on a southwest-northeast staircase in the two-dimensional integer lattice, such as in the following matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} & & & & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ & & & & \bullet & & \\ & & & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \\ & & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & & \\ & & \bullet & & & & \\ \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet & & & \end{bmatrix}$$

We call a staircase monomial a **stair monomial** if there exist $c \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ and $d \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ such that $p_{l,k} = 0$ whenever $(l-c)(k-d) \neq 0$. Thus the indices (i,j) for which $p_{i,j} \neq 0$ all lie in the union of part of row c with part of column d , either in a Γ or a \perp configuration. A stair monomial is called a **q-stair monomial** if for such c, d , $\sum_k p_{c,k} = q = \sum_k p_{k,d}$.

Theorem 2.2. *Let G be the set of all q -stair monomials and all 2×2 determinants of X . Then G is a minimal reduced Gröbner basis for $I_2(X) + \mathfrak{m}^{[q]}$ in any diagonal order.*

Proof. Set $I = I_2(X) + \mathfrak{m}^{[q]}$. First we prove that $G \subseteq I$. We only have to prove that an arbitrary q -stair monomial $\beta = \prod x_{i,j}^{p_{i,j}}$ is in I . We proceed by induction on the degree of β . The smallest possible degree of such β is q . In this case $\beta = x_{i,j}^q \in \mathfrak{m}^{[q]} \subseteq I$. Now suppose that the degree of β is strictly greater than q . By definition of q -stair monomials, there exist $i < i'$ and $j < j'$ such that $p_{i,j} p_{i',j} \neq 0$. Set $\alpha = \beta / (x_{i,j}^{p_{i,j}} x_{i',j}^{p_{i',j}} x_{i,j}^{p_{i,j}} x_{i',j'}^{p_{i',j'}})$ and $m = \min\{p_{i,j'}, p_{i',j}\}$. Adding

$$\alpha x_{i,j'}^{p_{i,j'}-m} x_{i',j}^{p_{i',j}-m} x_{i,j}^{p_{i,j}} x_{i',j'}^{p_{i',j'}} (x_{i,j}^m x_{i',j'}^m - x_{i',j}^m x_{i,j}^m) \in I$$

to β , we get the monomial $\beta' = \alpha x_{i,j'}^{p_{i,j'}-m} x_{i',j}^{p_{i',j}-m} x_{i,j}^{p_{i,j}+m} x_{i',j'}^{p_{i',j'}+m}$. By the shape of q -stair monomials, either $\beta' / x_{i,j}^{p_{i,j}+m}$ or $\beta' / x_{i',j'}^{p_{i',j'}+m}$ is another q -stair monomial of strictly smaller degree than β . By induction on degree this monomial and hence β are in I .

Now we prove that G forms a Gröbner basis by going through the Buchberger algorithm. We need to show that for all $f, g \in G$, their S-polynomial $S(f, g)$ reduces to 0 with respect to G . If f and g are both determinants, then $S(f, g)$ reduces to 0 with respect to other determinantal elements of G by [2]. If both f and g are monomials, then $S(f, g) = 0$. So we may assume that f is a determinant and g is a q -stair monomial. If the leading terms of f and g have no variables in common, then $S(f, g)$ trivially reduces to 0 with respect to $\{f, g\}$. So we may assume that the leading terms of f and g have a variable in common. By the shape southwest-northeast structure of q -stair monomials and the northwest-southeast structure of the leading monomials of determinants, the leading terms of f and g have precisely one variable in common. Let $f = x_{a,b} x_{a',b'} - x_{a',b} x_{a,b'}$ with $a < a'$, $b < b'$.

Assume that $g = \prod x_{i,j}^{p_{i,j}}$ is in the configuration Γ in row c and column d . First suppose that $p_{a,b} \neq 0$. By direct calculation $S(f, g) = g x_{a,b'} x_{a',b} / x_{a,b}$. If $a = c$ and $b = d$, then $g / x_{a,b}$ is a $(q-1)$ -stair monomial. Thus $g x_{a,b'} x_{a',b} / x_{a,b}$ is a q -stair monomial in the Γ configuration, and so $S(f, g)$ reduces to 0 with respect to G . If $a = c$ and $b \neq d$, then $g x_{a,b'} / x_{a,b}$ is a q -stair monomial, so also in this case $S(f, g)$ reduces to 0 with respect to G . The remaining case, $a \neq c$ and $b = d$, under the assumption $p_{a,b} \neq 0$, is handled similarly. Now suppose that $p_{a',b'} \neq 0$. Again, by direct calculation $S(f, g) = g x_{a,b'} x_{a',b} / x_{a',b'}$. Necessarily $a' = c$ or $b' = d$. By symmetry of the diagonal orders without loss of generality $a' = c$. If in addition $b' = d$, then $g / x_{a',b'}$ is a $(q-1)$ -stair monomial. If $g = x_{c,d}^q$, then $S(f, g) = g x_{a,b'} x_{a',b} / x_{a',b'}$ is a q -stair monomial (in \perp configuration), and otherwise (still with $a' = c$, $b' = d$) there exist $j > d$ and $i > c$ such that $p_{c,j} p_{i,d} \neq 0$. In this case, $x_{a,b'} x_{c,j}$ reduces with respect to G to $x_{a,j} x_{c,b'} = x_{a,j} x_{c,d}$ and $x_{a',b} x_{i,d}$ reduces to $x_{c,d} x_{i,b}$, so that $S(f, g)$ reduces to a multiple of the q -stair monomial $g x_{c,d}^2 / (x_{a',b'} x_{c,j} x_{i,d}) = g x_{c,d} / (x_{c,j} x_{i,d})$. Thus it reduces to 0 with respect to G . Now suppose that $a' = c$ and $b' \neq d$. Necessarily all exponents in g are strictly smaller than q , and since g is a q -stair monomial, there exists $i > c$ such that $p_{i,d} \neq 0$. Since $x_{a',b} x_{i,d}$ reduces to $x_{c,d} x_{i,b}$, it follows that $S(f, g)$ is a multiple of a q -stair monomial, and hence reduces with respect to G to 0. Similar reasoning shows that $S(f, g)$ reduces with respect to G to 0 also in the case when g is a q -stair monomial in the \perp configuration. Thus G is a Gröbner basis. \square

Remark 2.3. While the Gröbner basis constructed in Theorem 2.2 is a Gröbner basis for many orders, it is not a universal Gröbner basis as it is not a Gröbner basis for any antidiagonal order, and in particular it is not a Gröbner basis for the graded reverse lexicographic order while keeping the same order on the variables. However, a completely analogous Gröbner basis can be constructed in that case, and instead of the q -stair monomials in the southwest-northeast configuration we need analogous monomials in the southeast-northwest configuration.

By standard Gröbner basis arguments, the length of $k[X]/(I_2(X) + \mathfrak{m}^{[q]})$, namely the Hilbert-Kunz function $\text{HK}_{k[X]/I_2(X), \mathfrak{m}}(q)$ at q , equals the number of monomials in $k[X]$ that are not divisible by any element of the Gröbner basis G of the ideal $I_2(X) + \mathfrak{m}^{[q]}$. We proceed to make this collection of monomials explicit.

Theorem 2.4. *A k -vector space basis for $k[X]/(I_2 + \mathfrak{m}^{[q]})$ consists of staircase monomials $\prod_{i,j} x_{i,j}^{p_{i,j}}$ such that either for all $i = 1, \dots, m$, $\sum_j p_{i,j} < q$, or for all $j = 1, \dots, n$, $\sum_i p_{i,j} < q$.*

Proof. Theorem 2.2 gives a Gröbner basis G of $I_2 + \mathfrak{m}^{[q]}$ in any diagonal monomial order. Any staircase monomial for which either all row sums or all column sums are strictly smaller than q is not divisible by the leading term of any element of G . Conversely, let M be a monomial in $k[X]$ that is not divisible by the leading term of any element of G . Since G contains all 2×2 determinants whose leading monomials are products of two variables in the northwest-southeast configuration, necessarily M is a staircase monomial. If some row sum and some column sum of the exponents in M are at least q , then M is a multiple of a q -stair monomial. Hence it is divisible by an element of G , which is a contradiction. So the set of all staircase monomials for which either all row sums or all column sums are strictly smaller than q equals the set of all monomials in $k[X]$ that are not divisible by the leading terms of any element of G . It follows by the standard Gröbner basis arguments that this set is a k -vector space basis. \square

Remark 2.5. Eto and Yoshida [4, 5] used similar vector space methods to compute the Hilbert-Kunz multiplicity of the ring $k[X]/I_2(X)$ (but not the Hilbert-Kunz function). We now give a translation of their approach and ours. Let $d \in \mathbf{Z}_+$. Viewing $k[X]/I_2(X)$ as a Segre product $k[z_1, \dots, z_m] \# k[y_1, \dots, y_n]$, set $\alpha_{m,d}$ to be the number of monomials in $k[z_1, \dots, z_m]$ of total degree d and $\alpha_{m,d,q}$ to be the number of monomials in $k[z_1, \dots, z_m]$ of total degree d and where $\deg z_i < q$ for all i , and similarly for $\alpha_{n,d}$ and $\alpha_{n,d,q}$ in $k[y_1, \dots, y_n]$. Both in [4] and [5], $\lambda_k(k[X]/(I_2(X) + \mathfrak{m}^q))$ is given by counting all monomials in $k[z_1, \dots, z_m] \# k[y_1, \dots, y_n]$ which have total degree d but with the conditions that either all the z_i have degree at most q or all the y_i have degree at most q (see [4, pg. 319]):

$$(1) \quad \lambda_k(k[X]/(I_2(X) + \mathfrak{m}^{[q]})) = \sum_{d=0}^{(q-1)n} \alpha_{m,d} \alpha_{n,d,q} + \sum_{d=0}^{(q-1)m} \alpha_{n,d} \alpha_{m,d,q} - \sum_{d=0}^{(q-1)m} \alpha_{n,d,q} \alpha_{m,d,q}.$$

This formulation is the same as our count of monomials in Theorem 2.4 as we show next. Consider the usual map $k[X] \rightarrow k[z_1, \dots, z_m] \# k[y_1, \dots, y_n]$ sending $x_{i,j}$ to $z_i y_j$, and thus $\prod_{i,j} x_{i,j}^{p_{i,j}}$ to

$$\prod_{i,j} (z_i y_j)^{p_{i,j}} = \left(\prod_i z_i^{\sum_j p_{i,j}} \right) \left(\prod_j y_j^{\sum_i p_{i,j}} \right).$$

The exponents in the variables z_i are row sums of the matrix of the exponents of the monomial in $k[X]$, and the exponents in the y_j are the column sums. This matches the basis described in Theorem 2.4.

3. RECURSION FOR COMPUTING LENGTHS

In this section we describe a recursion that we then use to compute the Hilbert function $\text{HK}_{k[X]/I_2(X),m}(q) = \lambda(k[X]/(I_2(X) + \mathfrak{m}^{[q]}))$. We begin by setting up a useful notation for counting elements of the basis according to restrictions on the row and column sums.

Definition 3.1. Let $N_q(m, n; r_1, \dots, r_m; c_1, \dots, c_n)$ be the number of staircase monomials $\prod_{i,j} x_{i,j}^{p_{i,j}}$ such that

- (1) For all $i = 1, \dots, m$, $\sum_j p_{i,j} \leq r_i$, and for all $j = 1, \dots, n$, $\sum_i p_{i,j} \leq c_j$.
- (2) Either for all $i = 1, \dots, m$, $\sum_j p_{i,j} < q$, or for all $j = 1, \dots, n$, $\sum_i p_{i,j} < q$.

We make the convention $N_q(0, n; ; c_1, \dots, c_n) = 1$.

We note these numbers also compute lengths of ideals. In particular, $N_q(m, n; r_1, \dots, r_m; c_1, \dots, c_n)$ equals the length

$$\lambda \left(\frac{k[X]}{I_2(X) + (x_{i,j}^q : i, j) + \sum_{i=1}^m (x_{i,1}, \dots, x_{i,n})^{r_i+1} + \sum_{j=1}^n (x_{1,j}, \dots, x_{m,j})^{c_j+1}} \right),$$

where for an ideal I , we set I^∞ to be the 0 ideal.

Throughout we abbreviate by writing \bar{c} when c gets repeated. For example, the symbol $N_q(m, n; \infty, \dots, \infty; \infty, \dots, \infty)$ is abbreviated to $N_q(m, n; \bar{\infty}; \bar{\infty})$. This is the Hilbert-Kunz function $\lambda_k(k[X]/(I_2(X) + \mathfrak{m}^{[q]}))$ that we are interested in computing. Despite this being the primary interest, the recursion forces us to consider r_i and c_i different from ∞ . We first establish the base case of the induction.

Theorem 3.2. (1) $N_q(1, n; \infty; c_1, \dots, c_n) = \prod_{i=1}^n \min\{c_i + 1, q\}$.
 (2) $N_q(1, n; \infty; \bar{\infty}) = N_q(1, n; \infty; \infty, \dots, \infty) = q^n$.
 (3) If $r < \infty$, then

$$N_q(1, n; r; c_1, \dots, c_n) = \sum_{i_1=0}^{\min\{c_1, r, q-1\}} \sum_{i_2=0}^{\min\{c_2, r-i_1, q-1\}} \dots \sum_{i_{n-1}=0}^{\min\{c_{n-1}, r-\sum_{j=1}^{n-2} i_j, q-1\}} \min\{r+1 - \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} i_j, c_n+1, q\}.$$

(4) If $r < q$, and if $r \leq c_1, \dots, c_n$, then

$$N_q(1, n; r; c_1, \dots, c_n) = \binom{r+n}{n}.$$

In particular, $N_q(1, n; r; c_1, \dots, c_n)$ is independent of c_1, \dots, c_n . (Note that this is the number of ordered partitions of $0, 1, \dots, r$ into n or fewer parts.)

Proof. If $m = 1 = n$, then clearly $N_q(1, 1; r; c) = \min\{r+1, c+1, q\}$. If $n > 1$, $N_q(1, n; r; c_1, \dots, c_n)$ counts the number of monomials $\prod_j x_{1,j}^{p_{1,j}}$ where $p_{1,1}$ varies in the set $\{0, \dots, \min\{c_1, r, q-1\}\}$, and for each such $p_{1,1}$, the possible number of rest of the $1 \times (n-1)$ matrix of $p_{1,j}$ has the count of $N_q(1, n-1; r-p_{1,1}; c_2, \dots, c_n)$. Thus, by repeating this reasoning,

$$\begin{aligned} N_q(1, n; r; c_1, \dots, c_n) &= \sum_{i_1=0}^{\min\{c_1, r, q-1\}} N_q(1, n-1; r-i_1; c_2, \dots, c_n) \\ &= \sum_{i_1=0}^{\min\{c_1, r, q-1\}} \sum_{i_2=0}^{\min\{c_2, r-i_1, q-1\}} N_q(1, n-2; r-i_1-i_2; c_3, \dots, c_n) \\ &= \vdots \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \sum_{i_1=0}^{\min\{c_1, r, q-1\}} \sum_{i_2=0}^{\min\{c_2, r-i_1, q-1\}} \cdots \sum_{i_{n-1}=0}^{\min\{c_{n-1}, r-\sum_{j=1}^{n-2} i_j, q-1\}} N_q(1, 1; r - \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} i_j; c_n) \\
&= \sum_{i_1=0}^{\min\{c_1, r, q-1\}} \sum_{i_2=0}^{\min\{c_2, r-i_1, q-1\}} \cdots \sum_{i_{n-1}=0}^{\min\{c_{n-1}, r-\sum_{j=1}^{n-2} i_j, q-1\}} \min\{r+1 - \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} i_j, c_n + 1, q\}.
\end{aligned}$$

It remains to prove (4). If $n = 1$, then $N_q(1, 1; r, c_1) = \min\{r+1, c_1+1, q\}$, which by assumption equals $r+1 = \binom{r+1}{1}$. Now suppose that we know the result for $n-1$. Then

$$N_q(1, n; r; c_1, \dots, c_n) = \sum_{i_1=0}^r \binom{r-i_1+n-1}{n-1} = \binom{r+n-1+1}{n-1+1} = \binom{r+n}{n},$$

which proves the proposition. \square

Recall that $N_q(0, n; c_1, \dots, c_n) = 1$. In the next theorem and beyond we utilize the monus operation $a \dot{-} b = \max\{a-b, 0\}$.

Theorem 3.3. *For all $m, n \geq 1$ and all $r_i, c_j \in \mathbf{N} \cup \{\infty\}$,*

$$\begin{aligned}
&N_q(m, n; r_1, \dots, r_m; c_1, \dots, c_n) = N_q(m, n-1; r_1, \dots, r_m; c_2, \dots, c_n) \\
&+ \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \sum_{j=1}^{\min\{r_i, q-1\}} (N_q(m-i, 1; r_{i+1}, \dots, r_m; c_1-j) \dot{-} N_q(m-i, 1; r_{i+1}, \dots, r_m; q-1-j)) \\
&\quad \cdot N_q(i, n-1; \min\{r_1, q-1\}, \dots, \min\{r_{i-1}, q-1\}, \min\{r_i, q-1\}-j; c_2, \dots, c_n) \\
&+ \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^{\min\{r_i, q-1\}} N_q(m-i, 1; r_{i+1}, \dots, r_m; \min\{c_1, q-1\}-j) \\
&\quad \cdot (N_q(i, n-1; r_1, \dots, r_{i-1}, r_i-j; \min\{c_2, q-1\}, \dots, \min\{c_n, q-1\}) \\
&\quad \dot{-} N_q(i, n-1; r_1, \dots, r_{i-1}, q-1-j; \min\{c_2, q-1\}, \dots, \min\{c_n, q-1\})) \\
&+ \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^{\min\{r_i, q-1\}} N_q(m-i, 1; r_{i+1}, \dots, r_m; \min\{c_1, q-1\}-j) \\
&\quad \cdot N_q(i, n-1; r_1, \dots, r_{i-1}, \min\{r_i, q-1\}-j; c_2, \dots, c_n).
\end{aligned}$$

Proof. By Theorem 2.4, it suffices to recursively count all monomials $\prod_{i,j} x_{i,j}^{p_{i,j}}$ as in Definition 3.1. The number of such $[p_{i,j}]$ with all $p_{i,1}$ zero is $N_q(m, n-1; r_1, \dots, r_m; c_2, \dots, c_n)$. Now suppose that some $p_{i,1}$ is non-zero. Let $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ be smallest with this property. By the staircase condition, there are no non-zero entries in $[p_{i,j}]$ in the submatrix of rows $i+1, \dots, m$ and columns $2, \dots, n$, and by the assumption on i , there are no non-zero entries in $[p_{i,j}]$ in the first column in rows $1, \dots, i-1$. So it remains to count the possible combinations of how to fill in the submatrix of the first column in rows i, \dots, m and the submatrix of rows $1, \dots, i$ and columns $2, \dots, n$. If we fill the first column so that the total sum is q or larger, then we have to make sure that all the rows in the rest of $[p_{i,j}]$ add up to strictly less than q ; if the first column adds up to strictly less than q and the i th row adds up to q or more, then we need to control all the columns of $[p_{i,j}]$ to be strictly less than q ; and finally, if the first column and the i th row each add up to at most $q-1$, then we have no further restriction on the rest. This is expressed precisely by the sums in the recursive formulation. \square

Theorems 3.3 and 3.2 immediately give:

Corollary 3.4. *The Hilbert-Kunz function $\text{HK}_{k[X]/I_2(X),m}(q)$ is a polynomial in q .* ■

4. COMPUTING THE $2 \times n$ CASE

Our main interest is the Hilbert-Kunz function $N_q(2, n; \overline{\infty}; \overline{\infty})$, but the recursion in Theorem 3.3 forces us to calculate also $N_q(2, n; \overline{\infty}; \overline{q-1})$, $N_q(2, n; \infty, r; \overline{\infty})$, $N_q(2, n; \infty, r; \overline{q-1})$ for all $r < q$. We begin this section with a summary of the main results on $N_q(2, n; r_1, r_2; c_1, \dots, c_n)$ proved in this section, where r in the table is always strictly smaller than q :

| Theorem | Result ($r < q$) |
|---------------|--|
| Theorem 4.1 | $N_q(2, n; \overline{\infty}; \overline{q-1}) = q^{n+1} + (n-2)q^{n-1} \binom{q}{2}$ |
| Theorem 4.2 | $N_q(2, n; \infty, r; \overline{\infty}) = (n-1) \binom{r+n}{n+1} + (r+1)q^n$ |
| Theorem 4.3 | $N_q(2, n; \infty, r; \overline{q-1}) = (r+1)q^n - \binom{r+n}{n+1}$ |
| Theorem 4.4 | $N_q(2, n; \overline{\infty}; \overline{\infty}) = \frac{nq^{n+1} - (n-2)q^n}{2} + n \binom{n+q-1}{n+1}$ |
| Corollary 4.5 | $\lim_{q \rightarrow \infty} \frac{N_q(2, n; \overline{\infty}; \overline{\infty})}{q^{n+1}} = \frac{n}{2} + \frac{n}{(n+1)!}$ |
| Theorem 4.8 | $N_q(2, n; \infty, r; \infty, \overline{q-1}) = q^n(r+1)$ |
| Theorem 4.6 | $N_q(2, n; q-1, r; \overline{q-1}) = q \binom{r+n}{n} + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \binom{q+i-1}{i+1} \binom{r+n-i}{n-i} - n \binom{r+n}{n+1}$ |
| Theorem 4.7 | $N_q(2, n; q-1, r; \overline{\infty}) = \binom{r+n}{n} + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \binom{q+i-1}{i+1} \binom{r+n-i}{n-i}$ |

Throughout we will make use of many detailed but easy lemmas concerning binomial sums. To improve readability the proofs of these can be found in Appendix A.

The general recursion from Theorem 3.3 applied to the case $m = 2$ gives:

$$\begin{aligned}
N_q(2, n; r_1, r_2; c_1, \dots, c_n) &= N_q(2, n-1; r_1, r_2; c_2, \dots, c_n) \\
&+ \sum_{j=1}^{\min\{r_1, q-1\}} (N_q(1, 1; r_2; c_1 - j) \dot{-} N_q(1, 1; r_2; q-1-j)) \cdot N_q(1, n-1; \min\{r_1, q-1\} - j; c_2, \dots, c_n) \\
&+ \sum_{i=1}^2 \sum_{j=1}^{\min\{r_i, q-1\}} N_q(2-i, 1; r_{i+1}, \dots, r_2; \min\{c_1, q-1\} - j) \\
&\quad \cdot (N_q(i, n-1; r_1, \dots, r_{i-1}, r_i - j; \min\{c_2, q-1\}, \dots, \min\{c_n, q-1\}) \\
&\quad \dot{-} N_q(i, n-1; r_1, \dots, r_{i-1}, q-1-j; \min\{c_2, q-1\}, \dots, \min\{c_n, q-1\})) \\
&+ \sum_{i=1}^2 \sum_{j=1}^{\min\{r_i, q-1\}} N_q(2-i, 1; r_{i+1}, \dots, r_2; \min\{c_1, q-1\} - j) \\
&\quad \cdot N_q(i, n-1; r_1, \dots, r_{i-1}, \min\{r_i, q-1\} - j; c_2, \dots, c_n).
\end{aligned}$$

We now handle each case required by the recursion in turn.

Theorem 4.1. For $n \geq 2$, $N_q(2, n; \overline{\infty}; \overline{q-1}) = q^{n+1} + (n-2)q^{n-1} \binom{q}{2}$.

Proof. By Theorems 3.3 and 3.2,

$$\begin{aligned}
N_q(2, n; \overline{\infty}; \overline{q-1}) &= N_q(2, n-1; \overline{\infty}; \overline{q-1}) \\
&+ \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} (N_q(1, 1; \infty; q-1-j) \dot{-} N_q(1, 1; \infty; q-1-j)) \cdot N_q(1, n-1; q-1-j; \overline{q-1}) \\
&+ \sum_{i=1}^2 \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} N_q(2-i, 1; \overline{\infty}; q-1-j) \cdot (N_q(i, n-1; \overline{\infty}; \overline{q-1}) \dot{-} N_q(i, n-1; \overline{\infty}, q-1-j; \overline{q-1})) \\
&+ \sum_{i=1}^2 \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} N_q(2-i, 1; \overline{\infty}; q-1-j) \cdot N_q(i, n-1; \overline{\infty}, q-1-j; \overline{q-1}) \\
&= N_q(2, n-1; \overline{\infty}; \overline{q-1}) + \sum_{i=1}^2 \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} N_q(2-i, 1; \overline{\infty}; q-1-j) \cdot N_q(i, n-1; \overline{\infty}; \overline{q-1}) \\
&= N_q(2, n-1; \overline{\infty}; \overline{q-1}) + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} N_q(1, 1; \infty; q-1-j) \cdot N_q(1, n-1; \infty; \overline{q-1}) \\
&\quad + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} N_q(0, 1; ; q-1-j) \cdot N_q(2, n-1; \overline{\infty}; \overline{q-1}) \\
&= qN_q(2, n-1; \overline{\infty}; \overline{q-1}) + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} (q-j)q^{n-1} \\
&= qN_q(2, n-1; \overline{\infty}; \overline{q-1}) + q^{n-1} \binom{q}{2}.
\end{aligned}$$

When $n = 2$, this equals $q \binom{q+1}{2} + q \binom{q}{2} = q^3$, which is exactly the theorem. If $n > 2$, then by induction and reduction above,

$$\begin{aligned}
N_q(2, n; \overline{\infty}; \overline{q-1}) &= qN_q(2, n-1; \overline{\infty}; \overline{q-1}) + q^{n-1} \binom{q}{2} \\
&= q \left(q^n + (n-3)q^{n-2} \binom{q}{2} \right) + q^{n-1} \binom{q}{2} \\
&= q^{n+1} + (n-2)q^{n-1} \binom{q}{2}. \quad \blacksquare
\end{aligned}$$

Theorem 4.2. For $n \geq 2$ and $r < q$, $N_q(2, n; \infty, r; \overline{\infty}) = (n-1) \binom{r+n}{n+1} + (r+1)q^n$.

Proof. We apply Theorems 3.3 and 3.2:

$$\begin{aligned}
N_q(2, n; \infty, r; \overline{\infty}) &= N_q(2, n-1; \infty, r; \overline{\infty}) \\
&+ \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} (N_q(1, 1; r; \infty) \dot{-} N_q(1, 1; r; q-1-j)) \cdot N_q(1, n-1; q-1-j; \overline{\infty}) \\
&+ \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} N_q(1, 1; r; q-1-j) \cdot (N_q(1, n-1; \infty; \overline{q-1}) \dot{-} N_q(1, n-1; q-1-j; \overline{q-1}))
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + \sum_{j=1}^r N_q(0, 1; ; q-1-j) \cdot (N_q(2, n-1; \infty, r-j; \overline{q-1}) \dot{-} N_q(2, n-1; \infty, q-1-j; \overline{q-1})) \\
& + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} N_q(1, 1; r; q-1-j) \cdot N_q(1, n-1; q-1-j; \overline{\infty}) \\
& + \sum_{j=1}^r N_q(0, 1; ; q-1-j) \cdot N_q(2, n-1; \infty, r-j; \overline{\infty}) \\
= & \sum_{j=0}^r N_q(2, n-1; \infty, r-j; \overline{\infty}) + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} ((r+1) - \min\{r+1, q-j\}) \cdot \binom{q-1-j+n-1}{n-1} \\
& + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} \min\{r+1, q-j\} \cdot \left(q^{n-1} - \binom{q-1-j+n-1}{n-1} \right) \\
& + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} \min\{r+1, q-j\} \cdot \binom{q-1-j+n-1}{n-1} \\
= & \sum_{j=0}^r N_q(2, n-1; \infty, r-j; \overline{\infty}) + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} (r+1) \binom{q-1-j+n-1}{n-1} \\
& + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} \min\{r+1, q-j\} \cdot \left(q^{n-1} - \binom{q-1-j+n-1}{n-1} \right) \\
= & \sum_{j=0}^r N_q(2, n-1; \infty, r-j; \overline{\infty}) + (r+1) \binom{q+n-2}{n} \\
& + \left(q(r+1) - \binom{r+2}{2} \right) q^{n-1} - \left((r+1) \binom{q+n-2}{n} - \binom{r+n}{n+1} \right) \text{ (by Lemma A.2)} \\
= & \sum_{j=0}^r N_q(2, n-1; \infty, r-j; \overline{\infty}) + (r+1)q^n - q^{n-1} \binom{r+2}{2} + \binom{r+n}{n+1}.
\end{aligned}$$

When $n = 2$, this equals $\sum_{j=0}^r (r-j+1)q + (r+1)q^2 - q \binom{r+2}{2} + \binom{r+2}{3} = \binom{r+2}{2}q + (r+1)q^2 - q \binom{r+2}{2} + \binom{r+2}{3}$
 $= (r+1)q^2 + \binom{r+2}{3}$, which is of the desired form. If $n > 2$, then by induction and the reduction above,

$$\begin{aligned}
N_q(2, n; \infty, r; \overline{\infty}) & = \sum_{j=0}^r \left((n-2) \binom{r-j+n-1}{n} + (r-j+1)q^{n-1} \right) \\
& \quad + (r+1)q^n - q^{n-1} \binom{r+2}{2} + \binom{r+n}{n+1} \\
& = (n-2) \binom{r+n}{n+1} + \binom{r+2}{2} q^{n-1} + (r+1)q^n - q^{n-1} \binom{r+2}{2} + \binom{r+n}{n+1} \\
& = (n-1) \binom{r+n}{n+1} + (r+1)q^n. \quad \blacksquare
\end{aligned}$$

Theorem 4.3. For $n \geq 2$ and $r < q$, $N_q(2, n; \infty, r; \overline{q-1}) = (r+1)q^n - \binom{r+n}{n+1}$.

Proof. By Theorem 3.3,

$$N_q(2, n; \infty, r; \overline{q-1}) = N_q(2, n-1; \infty, r; \overline{q-1})$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} N_q(1, 1; r; q-1-j) \cdot (N_q(1, n-1; \infty; \overline{q-1}) \dot{-} N_q(1, n-1; q-1-j; \overline{q-1})) \\
& + \sum_{j=1}^r N_q(0, 1; ; q-1-j) \cdot (N_q(2, n-1; \infty, r-j; \overline{q-1}) \dot{-} N_q(2, n-1; \infty, q-1-j; \overline{q-1})) \\
& + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} N_q(1, 1; r; q-1-j) \cdot N_q(1, n-1; q-1-j; \overline{q-1}) \\
& + \sum_{j=1}^r N_q(0, 1; ; q-1-j) \cdot N_q(2, n-1; \infty, r-j; \overline{q-1}) \\
& = \sum_{j=0}^r N_q(2, n-1; \infty, r-j; \overline{q-1}) + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} \min\{r+1, q-j\} q^{n-1} \\
& = \sum_{j=0}^r N_q(2, n-1; \infty, r-j; \overline{q-1}) + (r+1)q^n - \binom{r+2}{2} q^{n-1} \text{ (by Lemma A.2)}.
\end{aligned}$$

When $n = 2$, this is

$$\begin{aligned}
N_q(2, 2; \infty, r; \overline{q-1}) & = \sum_{j=0}^r N_q(2, 1; \infty, r-j; q-1) + (r+1)q^2 - \binom{r+2}{2} q \\
& = \sum_{j=0}^r \sum_{i=0}^{q-1} \min\{q-i, r-j+1\} + (r+1)q^2 - \binom{r+2}{2} q \\
& = q \binom{r+2}{2} - \binom{r+2}{3} \text{ (by Lemma A.4)} + (r+1)q^2 - \binom{r+2}{2} q \\
& = (r+1)q^2 - \binom{r+2}{3},
\end{aligned}$$

which proves the theorem in case $n = 2$. Now let $n > 2$. By above and by induction,

$$\begin{aligned}
N_q(2, n; \infty, r; \overline{q-1}) & = \sum_{j=0}^r N_q(2, n-1; \infty, r-j; \overline{q-1}) + (r+1)q^n - \binom{r+2}{2} q^{n-1} \\
& = \sum_{j=0}^r \left((r-j+1)q^{n-1} - \binom{r-j+n-1}{n} \right) + (r+1)q^n - \binom{r+2}{2} q^{n-1} \\
& = \binom{r+2}{2} q^{n-1} - \binom{r+n}{n+1} + (r+1)q^n - \binom{r+2}{2} q^{n-1} \\
& = (r+1)q^n - \binom{r+n}{n+1}. \quad \blacksquare
\end{aligned}$$

Theorem 4.4. *The Hilbert-Kunz function for the $2 \times n$ generic matrix X with $n \geq 2$ is*

$$\text{HK}_{k[X]/I_2(X), \mathfrak{m}}(q) = \frac{nq^{n+1} - (n-2)q^n}{2} + n \binom{n+q-1}{n+1}.$$

Proof. Recall that $\text{HK}_{k[X]/I_2(X), \mathfrak{m}}(q) = N_q(2, n; \overline{\infty}; \overline{\infty})$ by notation. We apply Theorems 3.3 and 3.2:

$$\begin{aligned}
& N_q(2, n; \overline{\infty}; \overline{\infty}) = N_q(2, n-1; \overline{\infty}; \overline{\infty}) \\
& + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} (N_q(1, 1; \infty; \infty) \dot{-} N_q(1, 1; \infty; q-1-j)) \cdot N_q(1, n-1; q-1-j; \overline{\infty}) \\
& + \sum_{i=1}^2 \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} N_q(2-i, 1; \overline{\infty}; q-1-j) \cdot (N_q(i, n-1; \overline{\infty}; \overline{q-1}) \dot{-} N_q(i, n-1; \overline{\infty}, q-1-j; \overline{q-1})) \\
& + \sum_{i=1}^2 \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} N_q(2-i, 1; \overline{\infty}; q-1-j) \cdot N_q(i, n-1; \overline{\infty}, q-1-j; \overline{\infty}) \\
& = N_q(2, n-1; \overline{\infty}; \overline{\infty}) + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} j \binom{q-1-j+n-1}{n-1} \\
& + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} N_q(1, 1; \infty; q-1-j) \cdot (N_q(1, n-1; \infty; \overline{q-1}) - N_q(1, n-1; q-1-j; \overline{q-1})) \\
& + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} N_q(0, 1; ; q-1-j) \cdot (N_q(2, n-1; \overline{\infty}; \overline{q-1}) - N_q(2, n-1; \infty, q-1-j; \overline{q-1})) \\
& + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} N_q(1, 1; \infty; q-1-j) \cdot N_q(1, n-1; q-1-j; \overline{\infty}) \\
& + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} N_q(0, 1; ; q-1-j) \cdot N_q(2, n-1; \infty, q-1-j; \overline{\infty}) \\
& = N_q(2, n-1; \overline{\infty}; \overline{\infty}) + \binom{q-1+n}{n+1} \text{ (by Lemma A.1)} \\
& + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} (q-j) \left(q^{n-1} - \binom{q-1-j+n-1}{n-1} \right) \\
& + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} (N_q(2, n-1; \overline{\infty}; \overline{q-1}) - N_q(2, n-1; \infty, q-1-j; \overline{q-1})) \\
& + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} (q-j) \binom{q-1-j+n-1}{n-1} + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} N_q(2, n-1; \infty, q-1-j; \overline{\infty}) \\
& = N_q(2, n-1; \overline{\infty}; \overline{\infty}) + \binom{q-1+n}{n+1} + \binom{q}{2} q^{n-1} \\
& + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} (N_q(2, n-1; \overline{\infty}; \overline{q-1}) - N_q(2, n-1; \infty, q-1-j; \overline{q-1})) \\
& + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} N_q(2, n-1; \infty, q-1-j; \overline{\infty}).
\end{aligned}$$

When $n = 2$, this simplifies to

$$\begin{aligned}
N_q(2, 2; \overline{\infty}; \overline{\infty}) &= q^2 + \binom{q+1}{3} + \binom{q}{2}q + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} \left(\binom{q+1}{2} - \sum_{i=1}^{q-1} \min\{q-i, q-j\} \right) + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} q(q-j) \\
&= q^2 + \binom{q+1}{3} + 2\binom{q}{2}q + (q-1)\binom{q+1}{2} - 2\binom{q+1}{3} \quad (\text{by Lemma A.3}) \\
&= q^2 + \frac{(q+1)q(q-1)}{6} + q^3 - q^2 + \frac{(q-1)(q+1)q}{2} - \frac{(q+1)q(q+1)}{3} \\
&= q^3 + 2\binom{q+1}{3},
\end{aligned}$$

which proves the case $n = 2$, and if $n > 2$, then by Theorems 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, and the reduction above,

$$\begin{aligned}
N_q(2, n; \overline{\infty}; \overline{\infty}) &= \frac{(n-1)q^n - (n-3)q^{n-1}}{2} + (n-1)\binom{n+q-2}{n} + \binom{q-1+n}{n+1} + \binom{q}{2}q^{n-1} \\
&\quad + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} \left(q^n + (n-3)q^{n-2}\binom{q}{2} - (q-j)q^{n-1} + \binom{q-1-j+n-1}{n} \right) \\
&\quad + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} \left((n-2)\binom{q-1-j+n-1}{n} + (q-j)q^{n-1} \right) \\
&= \frac{(n-1)q^n - (n-3)q^{n-1}}{2} + (n-1)\binom{n+q-2}{n} + \binom{q-1+n}{n+1} + \binom{q}{2}q^{n-1} \\
&\quad + (q-1)q^n + (q-1)(n-3)q^{n-2}\binom{q}{2} + (n-1)\binom{q+n-2}{n+1} \\
&= \frac{(n-2)q^n + q^n - (n-3)q^{n-1}}{2} + (n-1)\binom{n+q-1}{n+1} + \binom{q-1+n}{n+1} + (n-2)\binom{q}{2}q^{n-1} \\
&\quad + q^{n+1} - q^n - (n-3)q^{n-2}\binom{q}{2} \\
&= \frac{(n-2)q^{n+1} + q^n - (n-3)q^n}{2} + n\binom{n+q-1}{n+1} + q^{n+1} - q^n \\
&= \frac{nq^{n+1} + q^n - (n-1)q^n}{2} + n\binom{n+q-1}{n+1} \\
&= \frac{nq^{n+1} - (n-2)q^n}{2} + n\binom{n+q-1}{n+1}. \quad \blacksquare
\end{aligned}$$

Corollary 4.5. (c.f., [5, Theorem 3.3]) *The Hilbert-Kunz multiplicity for the $2 \times n$ generic matrix X with $n \geq 2$ is*

$$e_{\text{HK}}(k[X]/I_2(X); \mathfrak{m}) = \lim_{q \rightarrow \infty} \frac{N_q(2, n; \overline{\infty}; \overline{\infty})}{q^{n+1}} = \frac{n}{2} + \frac{n}{(n+1)!}. \quad \blacksquare$$

We pause to use Theorem 4.4 and Corollary 4.5 to record the Hilbert-Kunz functions and corresponding multiplicities for specific $n \geq 2$. We also remark that the Hilbert-Kunz function $N_q(2, 3; \overline{\infty}; \overline{\infty})$ appeared in [10, pg. 544] without supporting calculation.

$$N_q(2, 2; \overline{\infty}; \overline{\infty}) = \frac{4q^3 - q}{3}, e_{\text{HK}} = \frac{4}{3},$$

$$\begin{aligned}
N_q(2, 3; \overline{\infty}; \overline{\infty}) &= \frac{13q^4 - 2q^3 - q^2 - 2q}{8}, e_{\text{HK}} = \frac{18}{8}, \\
N_q(2, 4; \overline{\infty}; \overline{\infty}) &= \frac{61q^5 - 25q^4 + 5q^3 - 5q^2 - 6q}{30}, e_{\text{HK}} = \frac{61}{30}, \\
N_q(2, 5; \overline{\infty}; \overline{\infty}) &= \frac{361q^6 - 207q^5 + 25q^4 + 15q^3 - 26q^2 - 24q}{144}, e_{\text{HK}} = \frac{361}{144}.
\end{aligned}$$

To generalize Theorem 4.4, the recursion in Theorem 3.3 applied to larger cases forces other cases of $N_q(2, n; r_1, r_2; c_1, \dots, c_n)$ to be computed. The rest of this section proves two such necessary cases.

Theorem 4.6. *For all $r < q$, $N_q(2, n; q-1, r; \overline{q-1}) = q \binom{r+n}{n} + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \binom{q+i-1}{i+1} \binom{r+n-i}{n-i} - n \binom{r+n}{n+1}$.*

Proof. By Theorem 3.3,

$$\begin{aligned}
N_q(2, n; q-1, r; \overline{q-1}) &= N_q(2, n-1; q-1, r; \overline{q-1}) \\
&+ \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} (N_q(1, 1; r; q-1-j) \dot{-} N_q(1, 1; r; q-1-j)) \cdot N_q(1, n-1; q-1-j; \overline{q-1}) \\
&+ \sum_{i=1}^2 \sum_{j=1}^{r_i} N_q(2-i, 1; \overline{q-1}, r; q-1-j) \\
&\quad \cdot (N_q(i, n-1; r_1, \dots, r_{i-1}, r_i-j; \overline{q-1}) \dot{-} N_q(i, n-1; r_1, \dots, r_{i-1}, q-1-j; \overline{q-1})) \\
&+ \sum_{i=1}^2 \sum_{j=1}^{r_i} N_q(2-i, 1; \overline{q-1}, r; q-1-j) \cdot N_q(i, n-1; r_1, \dots, r_{i-1}, r_i-j; \overline{q-1}) \\
&= N_q(2, n-1; q-1, r; \overline{q-1}) \\
&+ \sum_{i=1}^2 \sum_{j=1}^{r_i} N_q(2-i, 1; \overline{q-1}, r; q-1-j) \cdot N_q(i, n-1; r_1, \dots, r_{i-1}, r_i-j; \overline{q-1}) \\
&= N_q(2, n-1; q-1, r; \overline{q-1}) \\
&+ \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} N_q(1, 1; r; q-1-j) \cdot N_q(1, n-1; q-1-j; \overline{q-1}) \\
&+ \sum_{j=1}^r N_q(0, 1; q-1-j) \cdot N_q(2, n-1; q-1, r-j; \overline{q-1}) \\
&= N_q(2, n-1; q-1, r; \overline{q-1}) \\
&+ \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} \min\{r+1, q-j\} \binom{q-1-j+n-1}{n-1} + \sum_{j=1}^r N_q(2, n-1; q-1, r-j; \overline{q-1}) \\
&= \sum_{j=0}^r N_q(2, n-1; q-1, r-j; \overline{q-1}) + (r+1) \binom{q+n-2}{n} - \binom{r+n}{n+1} \text{ (by Lemma A.2)}.
\end{aligned}$$

When $n = 2$, this equals

$$N_q(2, 2; q-1, r; \overline{q-1}) = \sum_{j=0}^r N_q(2, 1; q-1, r-j; \overline{q-1}) + (r+1) \binom{q}{2} - \binom{r+2}{3}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \sum_{j=0}^r \sum_{i=0}^{q-1} \min\{q-i, r-j+1\} + (r+1) \binom{q}{2} - \binom{r+2}{3} \\
&= q \binom{r+2}{2} - \binom{r+2}{3} \text{ (by Lemma A.4)} + (r+1) \binom{q}{2} - \binom{r+2}{3} \\
&= q \binom{r+2}{2} + (r+1) \binom{q}{2} - 2 \binom{r+2}{3},
\end{aligned}$$

which fits the pattern, and for $n > 2$,

$$\begin{aligned}
N_q(2, n; q-1, r; \overline{q-1}) &= \sum_{j=0}^r N_q(2, n-1; q-1, r-j; \overline{q-1}) + (r+1) \binom{q+n-2}{n} - \binom{r+n}{n+1} \\
&= \sum_{j=0}^r \left(q \binom{r-j+n-1}{n-1} + \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} \binom{q+i-1}{i+1} \binom{r-j+n-1-i}{n-1-i} - (n-1) \binom{r-j+n-1}{n} \right) \\
&\quad + (r+1) \binom{q+n-2}{n} - \binom{r+n}{n+1} \\
&= q \binom{r+n}{n} + \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} \binom{q+i-1}{i+1} \binom{r+n-i}{n-i} - (n-1) \binom{r+n}{n+1} + (r+1) \binom{q+n-2}{n} - \binom{r+n}{n+1} \\
&= q \binom{r+n}{n} + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \binom{q+i-1}{i+1} \binom{r+n-i}{n-i} - n \binom{r+n}{n+1}. \quad \blacksquare
\end{aligned}$$

Theorem 4.7. For all $r < q$, $N_q(2, n; q-1, r; \overline{\infty}) = \binom{r+n}{n} + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \binom{q+i-1}{i+1} \binom{r+n-i}{n-i}$.

Proof. By Theorem 3.3,

$$\begin{aligned}
N_q(2, n; q-1, r; \overline{\infty}) &= N_q(2, n-1; q-1, r; \overline{\infty}) \\
&\quad + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} (N_q(1, 1; r; \infty) \dot{-} N_q(1, 1; r; q-1-j)) \cdot N_q(1, n-1; q-1-j; \overline{\infty}) \\
&\quad + \sum_{i=1}^2 \sum_{j=1}^{r_i} N_q(2-i, 1; \overline{q-1}, r; q-1-j) \\
&\quad \quad \cdot (N_q(i, n-1; r_1, \dots, r_{i-1}, r_i-j; \overline{q-1}) \dot{-} N_q(i, n-1; r_1, \dots, r_{i-1}, q-1-j; \overline{q-1})) \\
&\quad + \sum_{i=1}^2 \sum_{j=1}^{r_i} N_q(2-i, 1; \overline{q-1}, r; q-1-j) \cdot N_q(i, n-1; r_1, \dots, r_{i-1}, r_i-j; \overline{\infty}) \\
&= N_q(2, n-1; q-1, r; \overline{\infty}) \\
&\quad + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} (N_q(1, 1; r; \infty) - N_q(1, 1; r; q-1-j)) \cdot N_q(1, n-1; q-1-j; \overline{\infty}) \\
&\quad + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} N_q(1, 1; r; q-1-j) \cdot N_q(1, n-1; q-1-j; \overline{\infty}) \\
&\quad + \sum_{j=1}^r N_q(0, 1; q-1-j) \cdot N_q(2, n-1; q-1, r-j; \overline{\infty})
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \sum_{j=0}^r N_q(2, n-1; q-1, r-j; \overline{\infty}) + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} N_q(1, 1; r; \infty) \cdot N_q(1, n-1; q-1-j; \overline{\infty}) \\
&= \sum_{j=0}^r N_q(2, n-1; q-1, r-j; \overline{\infty}) + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} (r+1) \cdot \binom{q-1-j+n-1}{n-1} \\
&= \sum_{j=0}^r N_q(2, n-1; q-1, r-j; \overline{\infty}) + (r+1) \cdot \binom{q+n-2}{n}.
\end{aligned}$$

When $n = 2$, this equals

$$\begin{aligned}
N_q(2, 2; q-1, r; \overline{\infty}) &= \sum_{j=0}^r N_q(2, 1; q-1, r-j; \overline{\infty}) + (r+1) \cdot \binom{q}{2} \\
&= \sum_{j=0}^r (r-j+1) + (r+1) \cdot \binom{q}{2} = \binom{r+2}{2} + (r+1) \cdot \binom{q}{2},
\end{aligned}$$

which fits the pattern, and for $n > 2$,

$$\begin{aligned}
N_q(2, n; q-1, r; \overline{\infty}) &= \sum_{j=0}^r N_q(2, n-1; q-1, r-j; \overline{\infty}) + (r+1) \binom{q+n-2}{n} \\
&= \sum_{j=0}^r \left(\binom{r-j+n-1}{n-1} + \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} \binom{q+i-1}{i+1} \binom{r-j+n-1-i}{n-1-i} \right) + (r+1) \binom{q+n-2}{n} \\
&= \binom{r+n}{n} + \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} \binom{q+i-1}{i+1} \binom{r+n-i}{n-i} + (r+1) \binom{q+n-2}{n} \\
&= \binom{r+n}{n} + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \binom{q+i-1}{i+1} \binom{r+n-i}{n-i}.
\end{aligned}$$

■

Theorem 4.8. For all $r < q$, $N_q(2, n; \infty, r; \infty, \overline{q-1}) = q^n(r+1)$.

Proof. By Theorem 3.3,

$$\begin{aligned}
N_q(2, n; \infty, r; \infty, \overline{q-1}) &= N_q(2, n-1; \infty, r; \overline{q-1}) \\
&+ \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} (N_q(1, 1; r; \infty) \dot{-} N_q(1, 1; r; q-1-j)) \cdot N_q(1, n-1; q-1-j; \overline{q-1}) \\
&+ \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} N_q(1, 1; r; q-1-j) \cdot (N_q(1, n-1; \infty; \overline{q-1}) \dot{-} N_q(1, n-1; q-1-j; \overline{q-1})) \\
&+ \sum_{j=1}^r N_q(0, 1; ; q-1-j) \cdot (N_q(2, n-1; \infty, r-j; \overline{q-1}) \dot{-} N_q(2, n-1; \infty, q-1-j; \overline{q-1})) \\
&+ \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} N_q(1, 1; r; q-1-j) \cdot N_q(1, n-1; q-1-j; \overline{q-1}) \\
&+ \sum_{j=1}^r N_q(0, 1; ; q-1-j) \cdot N_q(2, n-1; \infty, r-j; \overline{q-1})
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \sum_{j=0}^r N_q(2, n-1; \infty, r-j; \overline{q-1}) \\
&+ \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} N_q(1, 1; r; \infty) \cdot N_q(1, n-1; q-1-j; \overline{q-1}) \\
&+ \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} N_q(1, 1; r; q-1-j) \cdot (N_q(1, n-1; \infty; \overline{q-1}) - N_q(1, n-1; q-1-j; \overline{q-1})) \\
&= \sum_{j=0}^r N_q(2, n-1; \infty, r-j; \overline{q-1}) + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} (r+1) \cdot \binom{q-1-j+n-1}{n-1} \\
&+ \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} \min\{r+1, q-j\} \cdot \left(q^{n-1} - \binom{q-1-j+n-1}{n-1} \right) \quad (\text{by Theorem 3.2}) \\
&= \sum_{j=0}^r N_q(2, n-1; \infty, r-j; \overline{q-1}) + (r+1) \cdot \binom{q-2+n}{n} \\
&+ q^{n-1} \left(q(r+1) - \binom{r+2}{2} \right) - (r+1) \binom{q+n-2}{n} + \binom{r+n}{n+1} \quad (\text{by Lemma A.2}) \\
&= \sum_{j=0}^r N_q(2, n-1; \infty, r-j; \overline{q-1}) + q^n(r+1) - q^{n-1} \binom{r+2}{2} + \binom{r+n}{n+1}.
\end{aligned}$$

When $n = 2$, by Theorem 3.2 and Lemma A.4, this equals

$$\begin{aligned}
N_q(2, 2; \infty, r; \infty, q-1) &= \sum_{j=0}^r \sum_{i=0}^{q-1} \min\{q-i, r-j+1\} + q^2(r+1) - q \binom{r+2}{2} + \binom{r+2}{3} \\
&= q \binom{r+2}{2} - \binom{r+2}{3} + q^2(r+1) - q \binom{r+2}{2} + \binom{r+2}{3} \\
&= q^2(r+1),
\end{aligned}$$

and when $n > 2$, by Theorem 4.3 this equals

$$\begin{aligned}
N_q(2, 2; \infty, r; \infty, q-1) &= \sum_{j=0}^r \left((r-j+1)q^{n-1} - \binom{r-j+n-1}{n} \right) + q^n(r+1) - q^{n-1} \binom{r+2}{2} + \binom{r+n}{n+1} \\
&= \binom{r+2}{2} q^{n-1} - \binom{r+n}{n+1} + q^n(r+1) - q^{n-1} \binom{r+2}{2} + \binom{r+n}{n+1} \\
&= q^n(r+1),
\end{aligned}$$

which proves the theorem. □

APPENDIX A. SOME BINOMIAL FORMULAS

This section contains some binomial formulas used in the main calculations. The reader may want to read this section only as needed.

Lemma A.1. For any $q \geq 1$,

$$\sum_{j=0}^{q-1} j \binom{j+n-1}{n-1} = n \binom{q+n-1}{n+1} \text{ and } \sum_{j=1}^q j \binom{q-j+n-1}{n-1} = \binom{q+n}{n+1}.$$

Proof. Note $\sum_{j=0}^{q-1} j \binom{j+n-1}{n-1} = \sum_{j=0}^{q-1} j \frac{(j+n-1)!}{(n-1)!j!} = n \sum_{j=0}^{q-1} \frac{(j+n-1)!}{n!(j-1)!} = n \sum_{j=0}^{q-1} \binom{j+n-1}{n} = n \binom{q+n-1}{n+1}$, so that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j=1}^q j \binom{q-j+n-1}{n-1} &= \sum_{k=0}^{q-1} (q-k) \cdot \binom{k+n-1}{n-1} \\ &= q \sum_{j=0}^{q-1} \binom{j+n-1}{n-1} - \sum_{j=0}^{q-1} j \binom{j+n-1}{n-1} \\ &= q \binom{q+n-1}{n} - n \binom{q+n-1}{n+1} \\ &= q \frac{(q-1+n)!}{n!(q-1)!} - n \frac{(q-1+n)!}{(n+1)!(q-2)!} \\ &= q(n+1) \frac{(q-1+n)!}{(n+1)!(q-1)!} - n(q-1) \frac{(q-1+n)!}{(n+1)!(q-1)!} \\ &= (n+q) \frac{(q-1+n)!}{(n+1)!(q-1)!} = \binom{q+n}{n+1}. \end{aligned} \quad \blacksquare$$

Lemma A.2. For all $r < q$, we have the following equalities

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} \min\{r+1, q-j\} &= (q-1)(r+1) - \binom{r+1}{2} = q(r+1) - \binom{r+2}{2}, \\ \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} \min\{r+1, q-j\} \cdot \binom{q-1-j+n-1}{n-1} &= (r+1) \binom{q+n-2}{n} - \binom{r+n}{n+1}, \\ \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} \min\{r+1, q-j\} \cdot \binom{q-1-j+n-1}{n} &= (r+1) \binom{q+n-2}{n+1} - (r-1) \binom{r+n-1}{n+1} + (n+1) \binom{r+n-1}{n+2}. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. By direct computation

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} \min\{r+1, q-j\} &= \sum_{j=1}^{q-r-1} (r+1) + \sum_{j=q-r}^{q-1} (q-j) = (q-r-1)(r+1) + \binom{r+1}{2} \\ &= (q-1)(r+1) - \binom{r+1}{2}, \\ \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} \min\{r+1, q-j\} \cdot \binom{q-1-j+n-1}{n-1} &= \sum_{j=1}^{q-r-1} (r+1) \cdot \binom{q-1-j+n-1}{n-1} + \sum_{j=q-r}^{q-1} (q-j) \cdot \binom{q-1-j+n-1}{n-1} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= (r+1) \left(\binom{q+n-2}{n} - \binom{r+n-1}{n} \right) \\
&\quad + \sum_{j=q-r}^{q-1} (q-1-j) \binom{q-1-j+n-1}{n-1} + \sum_{j=q-r}^{q-1} \binom{q-1-j+n-1}{n-1} \\
&= (r+1) \left(\binom{q+n-2}{n} - \binom{r+n-1}{n} \right) + \sum_{k=0}^{r-1} k \binom{k+n-1}{n-1} + \binom{r+n-1}{n} \\
&= (r+1) \binom{q+n-2}{n} - r \binom{r+n-1}{n} + n \binom{r+n-1}{n+1} \text{ (by Lemma A.1)} \\
&= (r+1) \binom{q+n-2}{n} - \binom{r+n}{n+1}, \\
&\sum_{j=1}^{q-1} \min\{r+1, q-j\} \cdot \binom{q-1-j+n-1}{n} \\
&= \sum_{j=1}^{q-r-1} (r+1) \cdot \binom{q-1-j+n-1}{n} + \sum_{j=q-r}^{q-1} (q-j) \cdot \binom{q-1-j+n-1}{n} \\
&= (r+1) \left(\binom{q+n-2}{n+1} - \binom{r+n-1}{n+1} \right) + \sum_{j=q-r}^{q-2} (q-j) \cdot \binom{q-2-j+n}{n} \\
&= (r+1) \binom{q+n-2}{n+1} - (r+1) \binom{r+n-1}{n+1} \\
&\quad + \sum_{j=q-r}^{q-2} (q-2-j) \cdot \binom{q-2-j+n}{n} + 2 \sum_{j=q-r}^{q-2} \binom{q-2-j+n}{n} \\
&= (r+1) \binom{q+n-2}{n+1} - (r+1) \binom{r+n-1}{n+1} + \sum_{k=0}^{r-2} k \cdot \binom{k+n}{n} + 2 \binom{r-1+n}{n+1} \\
&= (r+1) \binom{q+n-2}{n+1} - (r-1) \binom{r+n-1}{n+1} + (n+1) \binom{r+n-1}{n+2} \text{ (by Lemma A.1)}. \quad \blacksquare
\end{aligned}$$

Lemma A.3. *The sum $\sum_{j=1}^{q-1} \sum_{i=1}^{q-1} \min\{q-i, q-j\} = 2 \binom{q+1}{3}$.*

Proof. By direct computation $\sum_{j=1}^{q-1} \sum_{i=1}^{q-1} \min\{q-i, q-j\} = \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} \sum_{i=0}^{j-1} (q-j) + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} \sum_{i=j}^{q-1} (q-i) = \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} j \binom{q-1-j+1}{1} + \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} \binom{q-j+1}{2} = \binom{q+1}{3} + \binom{q+1}{3}$. \square

Lemma A.4. *For all $r < q$ the sum $\sum_{i=0}^r \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} \min\{r-i+1, q-j\} = q \binom{r+2}{2} - \binom{r+3}{3}$ and the sum $\sum_{i=0}^r \sum_{j=0}^{q-1} \min\{r-i+1, q-j\} = q \binom{r+2}{2} - \binom{r+2}{3}$.*

Proof. By Lemma A.2,

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{i=0}^r \sum_{j=1}^{q-1} \min\{r-i+1, q-j\} &= \sum_{i=0}^r \left(q(r-i+1) - \binom{r-i+2}{2} \right) = q \binom{r+2}{2} - \binom{r+3}{3}, \\
\sum_{i=0}^r \sum_{j=0}^{q-1} \min\{r-i+1, q-j\} &= q \binom{r+2}{2} - \binom{r+3}{3} + \sum_{i=0}^r (r-i+1)
\end{aligned}$$

$$= q \binom{r+2}{2} - \binom{r+3}{3} + \binom{r+2}{2} = q \binom{r+2}{2} - \binom{r+2}{3}. \quad \blacksquare$$

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