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## Symmetries on plabic graphs and associated polytopes

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## ABSTRACT

For Grassmann varieties, we explain how the duality between the Gelfand–Tsetlin polytopes and the Feigin–Fourier–Littelmann–Vinberg polytopes arises from different positive structures.

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## R É S U M É

Nous expliquons, pour les variétés grassmanniennes, comment la dualité entre les polytopes de Gelfand–Tsetlin et les polytopes de Feigin–Fourier–Littelmann–Vinberg émerge dans différentes structures positives.

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## 1. Introduction

Plabic graphs (planar bicoloured graphs) were introduced by Postnikov [8] to parametrize cells in the totally non-negative (TNN) Grassmannians  $(\text{Gr}_{k,n}(\mathbb{R}))_{\geq 0}$ . These graphs are drawn inside a disk with boundary vertices labelled by  $1, 2, \dots, n$  in a fixed orientation and internal vertices coloured black and white. For a reduced plabic graph  $\mathcal{G}$  corresponding to the top cell in the TNN-Grassmannian  $(\text{Gr}_{n-k,n}(\mathbb{R}))_{\geq 0}$ , Rietsch and Williams [10] constructed a family of polytopes for positive integers  $r$  as Newton–Okounkov bodies [5,7] associated with the line bundle  $r \in \mathbb{Z} \cong \text{Pic}(\text{Gr}_{n-k,n}(\mathbb{C}))$ .

When the plabic graph  $\mathcal{G} := \mathcal{G}_{k,n}^{\text{rec}}$  is chosen as in [10] (see Section 4.2), the corresponding Newton–Okounkov body  $\text{NO}_{\mathcal{G}}$  is unimodularly equivalent to the Gelfand–Tsetlin polytope  $\text{GT}_{n-k,n}^1$ .

The Newton–Okounkov body is by definition a closed convex hull of points; even when it is a polytope, to read off its defining inequalities is a hard problem. In [10], the authors used mirror symmetry of Grassmannians to obtain these inequalities from the tropicalization of the super-potential on an open set of the mirror Grassmannian arising from the Landau–Ginzburg model. By applying this symmetry, they give explicit defining inequalities of  $\text{NO}_{\mathcal{G}}$ .

Lattice points in Gelfand–Tsetlin polytopes parametrize the bases of finite-dimensional irreducible representations of the Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{sl}_n$ . Motivated by a conjecture of Vinberg, another family of polytopes, called FFLV polytopes, is found by Feigin,

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the second author, and Littelmann [3], whose lattice points also parametrize the bases of finite-dimensional irreducible representations of  $\mathfrak{sl}_n$ .

For a plabic graph  $\mathcal{G}$ , its mirror  $\mathcal{G}^\vee$  is defined by swapping the black/white colouring of internal vertices in  $\mathcal{G}$ . When the plabic graph  $\mathcal{G}$  corresponds to the top cell in  $(\text{Gr}_{n-k,n}(\mathbb{R}))_{\geq 0}$ ,  $\mathcal{G}^\vee$  parametrizes the top cell in  $(\text{Gr}_{k,n}(\mathbb{R}))_{\geq 0}$ .

**Theorem 1.** *The Newton–Okounkov body  $NO_{\mathcal{G}^\vee}$  is unimodularly equivalent to  $\text{FFLV}_{k,n}^1$  (see Section 4.1 for definition).*

Another way to relate Gelfand–Tsetlin polytopes to FFLV polytopes is via a connection between the corresponding clusters in different cluster algebras. Each reduced plabic graph  $\mathcal{G}$  gives a cluster  $\mathcal{C}$  consisting of Plücker coordinates  $\Delta_{I_1}, \dots, \Delta_{I_m}$  where  $I_1, \dots, I_m$  are some  $(n - k)$ -element subsets of  $[n] = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ .

For  $I \subset [n]$ , let  $I^c$  denote its complement. Then the set  $\mathcal{C}' = \{\Delta_{I_1^c}, \dots, \Delta_{I_m^c}\}$  is a cluster for  $\text{Gr}_{k,n}(\mathbb{C})$ , corresponding to a plabic graph  $\mathcal{G}^\vee$ .

**Corollary 1.** *The Newton–Okounkov body  $NO_{\mathcal{G}^\vee}$  is unimodularly equivalent to  $\text{FFLV}_{k,n}^1$ .*


## 2. Plabic graphs

We recall the definition and basic properties of plabic graphs, following [8,10].

**Definition 1.** A plabic graph is an undirected planar graph  $\mathcal{G}$  satisfying:

- (1)  $\mathcal{G}$  is embedded in a closed disk and considered up to homotopy;
- (2)  $\mathcal{G}$  has  $n$  vertices on the boundary of the disk, called *boundary vertices*, which are labelled clockwise by  $1, 2, \dots, n$ ;
- (3) all other vertices of  $\mathcal{G}$  are strictly inside the disk, they are called *internal vertices* and coloured in black and white;
- (4) each boundary vertex is incident to a single edge.

In [8] (see also [10]), there are three *local moves* defined on plabic graphs: gluing two vertices of the same colour, removing redundant vertices, and mutating a square. For a plabic graph  $\mathcal{G}$ , let  $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{G})$  denote the set of its faces, which is invariant under the local moves.

**Definition 2.** A plabic graph  $\mathcal{G}$  is called *reduced* if there are no parallel edges  after applying any sequences of local moves.

**Definition 3.** Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a reduced plabic graph. The *trip*  $T_i$  starting from a boundary vertex  $i$  is the path going through the edges of  $\mathcal{G}$ , obeying the following rules:

- (1) at each internal black vertex, the path turns to the rightmost direction;
- (2) at each internal white vertex, the path turns to the leftmost direction.

The trip  $T_i$  ends at a boundary vertex  $\pi(i)$ . We associate in this way a *trip permutation*  $\pi_{\mathcal{G}} := (\pi(1), \dots, \pi(n))$  with  $\mathcal{G}$ . Let  $\pi_{k,n} = (n - k + 1, n - k + 2, \dots, n, 1, 2, \dots, n - k)$ . The *face labelling* of  $\mathcal{G}$  is the injective map  $\lambda_{\mathcal{G}} : \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{G}) \rightarrow \binom{[n]}{k}$  (the set of  $k$ -element subsets of  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ ) defined as follows: for a face  $F \in \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{G})$ ,  $\lambda_{\mathcal{G}}(F)$  consists of those  $i$  such that  $F$  is to the left of the trip  $T_i$ . We set  $\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{G}} := \lambda_{\mathcal{G}}(\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{G}))$ .

See Fig. 1 for an example.

## 3. Polytopes arising from plabic graphs

We associate polytopes with plabic graphs following [10]. Let  $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{R}$  or  $\mathbb{C}$  be the base field.

### 3.1. Positive Grassmannians

For  $0 < k < n$ , let  $\text{Mat}_{k,n}$  denote the set of  $k \times n$ -matrices with entries in  $\mathbb{K}$ . For  $J \in \binom{[n]}{k}$  and  $A \in \text{Mat}_{k,n}$ , let  $\Delta_J(A)$  denote the maximal minor of  $A$  corresponding to columns in  $J$ .

Let  $\text{Gr}_{k,n}$  be the Grassmann variety embedded into  $\mathbb{P}^{N-1}$  via the Plücker embedding where  $N = \binom{[n]}{k}$ . The minors  $\{\Delta_J \mid J \in \binom{[n]}{k}\}$  give the Plücker coordinates on  $\text{Gr}_{k,n}$ . When the base field is  $\mathbb{R}$ , the *totally non-negative* (resp. *totally positive*) *Grassmannian*  $(\text{Gr}_{k,n}(\mathbb{R}))_{\geq 0}$  consists of those elements in  $\text{Gr}_{k,n}$  having non-negative (resp. positive) Plücker coordinates.

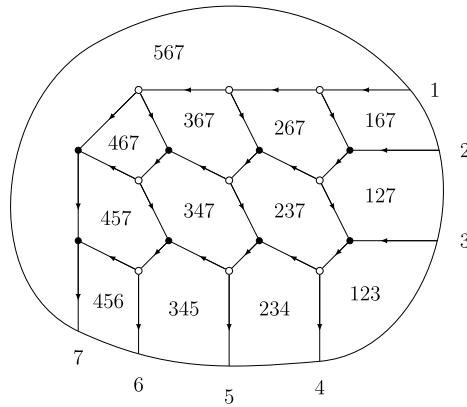


Fig. 1. Plabic graph  $\mathcal{G}$  of trip permutation  $\pi_{4,7}$  and face labelling  $\lambda_{\mathcal{G}}$ .

### 3.2. Perfect orientations

To study flow models on plabic graphs, we fix a perfect orientation  $\mathcal{O}$  on  $\mathcal{G}$ . Such an orientation requires that, at each black (resp. white) internal vertex, there is exactly one edge going out (resp. going in). It is shown in [9] that each reduced plabic graph admits an acyclic perfect orientation. Once such an orientation is fixed, we denote the source set by  $I_{\mathcal{O}} := \{i \in [n] \mid i \text{ is a boundary source of } \mathcal{O}\}$ ; its complement  $I_{\mathcal{O}}^c$  is the set of boundary sinks.

For  $I \in \binom{[n]}{k}$ , let  $x_I$  be a variable. For  $i \in I_{\mathcal{O}}$  and  $j \in I_{\mathcal{O}}^c$ , let  $\mathcal{P}_{i,j}$  be the set of directed paths from  $i$  to  $j$ . For such a directed path  $\gamma$ , let  $\mathcal{F}_{\gamma}(\mathcal{G})$  denote the set of faces to the left of  $\gamma$ . A flow  $\mathfrak{F}$  from  $I_{\mathcal{O}}$  to  $J \in \binom{[n]}{k}$  is a collection of pairwise vertex-disjoint directed paths in  $\mathcal{G}$  going from  $I_{\mathcal{O}} \setminus (I_{\mathcal{O}} \cap J)$  to  $J \setminus (I_{\mathcal{O}} \cap J)$ .

For a directed path  $\gamma \in \mathcal{P}_{i,j}$ , we define the weight of  $\gamma$  in  $\mathbb{C}[x_I \mid I \in \binom{[n]}{k}]$  by:

$$\text{wt}(\gamma) := \prod_{F \in \mathcal{F}_{\gamma}(\mathcal{G})} x_{\lambda_{\mathcal{G}}(F)}.$$

The weight of a flow is the product of the weights of the paths it contains. For  $J \in \binom{[n]}{k}$ , we define  $P_J$  to be the sum of the weights of all flows from  $I_{\mathcal{O}}$  to  $J$ .

For a reduced plabic graph  $\mathcal{G}$  of trip permutation  $\pi_{n-k,k}$  with perfect orientation  $\mathcal{O}$ , there exists only one face  $F_{\emptyset}$  to the right of all directed paths with  $\lambda_{\mathcal{G}}(F_{\emptyset}) = \{n-k+1, \dots, n\}$ . We set  $\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{G}}^{\circ} := \mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{G}} \setminus \{\lambda_{\mathcal{G}}(F_{\emptyset})\}$ ,  $\Delta_{\mathcal{G}} := \{x_I \mid I \in \mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{G}}\}$  and  $\Delta_{\mathcal{G}}^{\circ} := \{x_I \mid I \in \mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{G}}^{\circ}\}$ .

**Theorem 2** ([8,12]). *Let  $\mathbb{X} := \text{Gr}_{k,n}(\mathbb{C})$  and  $\mathbb{C}(\mathbb{X})$  be the field of rational functions on  $\mathbb{X}$ . There exists an isomorphism of fields:*

$$\mathbb{C}(\mathbb{X}) \cong \mathbb{C}(x_I \mid x_I \in \Delta_{\mathcal{G}}^{\circ}), \quad \Delta_J \mapsto P_J.$$

The choice of the perfect orientation  $\mathcal{O}$  will only change the formula of  $P_J$  by a scalar. We always assume that the choice  $I_{\mathcal{O}} = \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$  is made.

Let  $<$  be a total order on  $\Delta_{\mathcal{G}}$ . It induces a term order  $<$  on monomials in  $\Delta_{\mathcal{G}}$  by taking the lexicographic order. Let  $f$  be a polynomial in Plücker coordinates of  $\mathbb{X}$ . By Theorem 2,  $f$  can be written as a polynomial in  $\Delta_{\mathcal{G}}^{\circ}$ :

$$f = \sum_{\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{Z}^{\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{G}}^{\circ}}} c_{\mathbf{a}} x^{\mathbf{a}}, \quad \text{where } x^{\mathbf{a}} = \prod_{I \in \mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{G}}^{\circ}} x_I^{a_I} \text{ if } \mathbf{a} = (a_I)_{I \in \mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{G}}^{\circ}}.$$

Let  $v_{\mathcal{G}} : \mathbb{C}(\mathbb{X})^* \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^{\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{G}}^{\circ}}$  be the minimal term valuation on  $\mathbb{C}(\mathbb{X})$  with respect to the above total order.

Let  $\mathcal{L}_k$  denote the very ample line bundle on  $\mathbb{X}$  generating  $\text{Pic}(\mathbb{X})$ . It gives the Plücker embedding. The space of global sections  $H^0(\mathbb{X}, \mathcal{L}_k^r)$ , as a representation of  $\text{GL}_n(\mathbb{C})$ , is isomorphic to  $V(r\varpi_k)^*$ , where the latter is the dual of the finite-dimensional irreducible representation of highest weight  $r\varpi_k$  ( $\varpi_k$  is the  $k$ -th fundamental weight). The homogeneous coordinate ring  $\mathbb{C}[\mathbb{X}] := \bigoplus_{r \geq 0} H^0(\mathbb{X}, \mathcal{L}_k^r)$  is embedded into  $\mathbb{C}(\mathbb{X})$  by sending  $s \in H^0(\mathbb{X}, \mathcal{L}_k^r)$  to  $s/\Delta_{[k]}^r$ .

**Definition 4.** The Newton–Okounkov body associated with  $\mathcal{L}_k$ ,  $v_{\mathcal{G}}$  and the lexicographic order is defined by:

$$\text{NO}_{\mathcal{G}} := \overline{\text{conv} \left( \bigcup_{r \geq 1} \{v_{\mathcal{G}}(s)/r \mid s \in H^0(\mathbb{X}, \mathcal{L}_k^r) \setminus \{0\}\} \right)}.$$

We set  $\text{NO}_G^1 := \text{conv}(\{\nu_G(s) \mid s \in H^0(\mathbb{X}, \mathcal{L}_k) \setminus \{0\}\}) \subseteq \text{NO}_G$ . For the issue on whether this inclusion is proper (i.e., whether  $\text{NO}_G$  is integral), see [10, Theorem 15.17].

#### 4. Duality between Newton–Okounkov bodies

##### 4.1. Order polytopes and chain polytopes

Let  $(P, \leq_P)$  be a poset with covering relation  $\prec$ . Stanley [11] associated two Ehrhart equivalent polytopes, the order polytope and the chain polytope, with this poset. We recall here a dilated version of them.

For  $r \in \mathbb{N}_{>0}$ , we denote the dilated order polytope  $\mathcal{O}(P, r)$  to be the representation of the poset  $P$  on the interval  $[0, r]$  with the order on real numbers:

$$\mathcal{O}(P, r) := \text{Hom}_{\text{Poset}}((P, \leq_P), ([0, r], \leq)) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^P.$$

The dilated chain polytope  $\mathcal{C}(P, r) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^P$  has the following facets: for any  $p \in P$ ,  $x_p \geq 0$ ; for any maximal chain  $p_1 \prec \dots \prec p_s$ ,  $x_{p_1} + \dots + x_{p_s} \leq r$ , where  $x_p$  is the coordinate of  $p \in P$  in  $\mathbb{R}^P$ .

Stanley [11] showed that the integral points of the chain polytope  $\mathcal{C}(P, 1)$  are given by the characteristic functions of the anti-chains in  $P$ . In particular, the element  $p \in P$  gives an integral point  $\chi_p$  in  $\mathcal{C}(P, 1)$ .

In the following, we fix  $1 \leq k \leq n - 1$ , and let  $(P_{k,n}, \leq)$  be the poset given by the elements  $p_{i,j}$ , where  $1 \leq i \leq k$  and  $k + 1 \leq j \leq n$ , with covering relations

$$p_{i+1,j} \prec p_{i,j} \text{ and } p_{i,j+1} \prec p_{i,j}.$$

The polytope  $\mathcal{O}(P_{k,n}, r)$  is the Gelfand–Tsetlin polytope  $\text{GT}_{k,n}^r$  for the representation  $V(r\overline{\omega}_k)$  of  $\mathfrak{sl}_n$  ([4]); while  $\mathcal{C}(P_{k,n}, r)$  is the Feigin–Fourier–Littelmann–Vinberg polytope  $\text{FFLV}_{k,n}^r$  ([1,3]) of the same representation.

For a polytope  $Q \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ , let  $S(Q) := Q \cap \mathbb{Z}^m$  denote the set of integral points in it. The following integer decomposition properties hold: the  $r$ -fold Minkowski sum of  $S(\mathcal{O}(P_{k,n}, 1))$  (resp.  $S(\mathcal{C}(P_{k,n}, 1))$ ) coincides with  $S(\mathcal{O}(P_{k,n}, r))$  (resp.  $S(\mathcal{C}(P_{k,n}, r))$ ).

Moreover, if  $\mathbf{a} = \{p_{i_1, j_1}, \dots, p_{i_s, j_s}\}$  is an anti-chain in  $P_{k,n}$ , then one has, for the corresponding lattice points,  $\chi_{\mathbf{a}} = \chi_{p_{i_1, j_1}} + \dots + \chi_{p_{i_s, j_s}} \in \mathcal{C}(P_{k,n}, 1)$ .

**Proposition 1.** *Suppose that  $Q$  is an integral polytope in  $\mathbb{R}^{P_{k,n}}$  such that*

- $\#S(Q) = \#S(\text{FFLV}_{k,n}^1)$ ;
- *there is a parametrization of the lattice points in  $Q$  by anti-chains in  $P_{k,n}$  sending an anti-chain  $\mathbf{a}$  to  $y_{\mathbf{a}} \in \mathbb{R}^{P_{k,n}}$  such that, for any anti-chain  $\mathbf{a} = \{p_{i_1, j_1}, \dots, p_{i_s, j_s}\}$ , the relation  $y_{\mathbf{a}} = y_{p_{i_1, j_1}} + \dots + y_{p_{i_s, j_s}}$  holds;*
- *there is a linear map of determinant 1 expressing  $y_{p_{i,j}}$  in terms of  $\chi_{p_{i,j}}$ .*

*Then the assignment  $\chi_{p_{i,j}} \mapsto y_{p_{i,j}}$  induces a unimodularly equivalence from  $\text{FFLV}_{k,n}^1$  to  $Q$ .*

##### 4.2. Duality of polytopes from positive structures

We refer the reader to [10, Section 7.1] for the definition of the rec-plabic graph  $\mathcal{G}_{k,n}^{\text{rec}}$ . For example, the plabic graph in Fig. 1 is  $\mathcal{G}_{4,7}^{\text{rec}}$ .

The following has been shown in [10, Lemma 15.2]:

**Proposition 2.** *The Newton–Okounkov body  $\text{NO}_{\mathcal{G}_{k,n}^{\text{rec}}}$  is unimodularly equivalent to the Gelfand–Tsetlin polytope  $\text{GT}_{n-k,n}^1$ .*

We define the dual rec-plabic graph  $(\mathcal{G}_{k,n}^{\text{rec}})^{\vee}$  by swapping the black/white colour of the internal vertices, reversing the perfect orientation and changing the boundary labelling  $r \mapsto r + n - k \pmod n$ . The dual rec-plabic graph is a plabic graph of trip permutation  $\pi_{k,n}$  with a perfect orientation. The face labelling in  $(\mathcal{G}_{k,n}^{\text{rec}})^{\vee}$  of a face  $F$  in  $\mathcal{G}_{k,n}^{\text{rec}}$  is given by the complement:

$$\lambda_{(\mathcal{G}_{k,n}^{\text{rec}})^{\vee}}(F) = (\lambda_{\mathcal{G}_{k,n}^{\text{rec}}}(F))^c.$$

Notice that in  $(\mathcal{G}_{k,n}^{\text{rec}})^{\vee}$ , for a boundary source  $i$  and a boundary sink  $j$ , the flow from  $i$  to  $j$  of strongly minimal weight (we borrow the notion of strongly minimal from [10, Definition 5.13]) is given by a “vertical” path starting from  $i$  followed by a “horizontal” path ending in  $j$ . We denote this path by  $\gamma_{i,j}^{\min}$  (see Fig. 2 for an example for  $\gamma_{3,6}^{\min}$ ).

**Proposition 3.** *In the dual rec-plabic graph  $(\mathcal{G}_{k,n}^{\text{rec}})^{\vee}$ , let  $\{i_1 < \dots < i_r\}$  be a subset of the sources and  $\{j_1 > \dots > j_r\}$  be a subset of the sinks. Let  $J = \{i_1, \dots, i_r, j_1, \dots, j_r\}$ . Then the unique flow  $\mathcal{F}(J)$  of strongly minimal weight is given by  $\{\gamma_{i_1, j_1}^{\min}, \dots, \gamma_{i_r, j_r}^{\min}\}$ .*

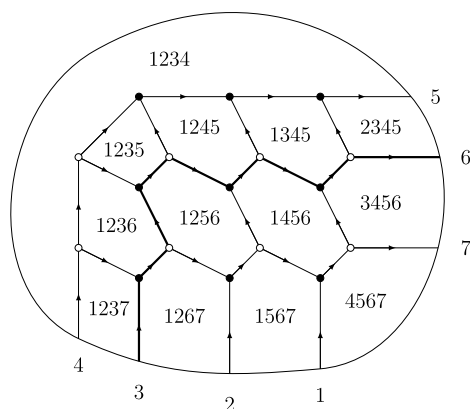


Fig. 2. Plabic graph  $\mathcal{G}^\vee$ , with a minimal path from 3 to 6.

**Proof.** Since the paths of strongly minimal weight do not intersect, the flow of minimal weight is given by the union of these paths.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.** The Newton–Okounkov body  $\text{NO}_{(\mathcal{G}_{k,n}^{\text{rec}})^\vee}$  is unimodularly equivalent to the FFLV polytope  $\text{FFLV}_{k,n}^1$ .

**Proof.** We first set  $Q = \text{NO}_{(\mathcal{G}_{k,n}^{\text{rec}})^\vee}$  and verify the conditions in Proposition 1 to show that  $Q$  is unimodularly equivalent to  $\text{FFLV}_{k,n}^1$  by a linear map.

The polytope  $Q$  is a lattice polytope satisfying  $\#S(Q) = \#S(\text{FFLV}_{k,n}^1)$  (the valuation images of the Plücker coordinates are different). Let  $f_{i \times j} := \nu_{(\mathcal{G}_{k,n}^{\text{rec}})^\vee}(\gamma_{i,j}^{\text{min}})$ . We define a linear map

$$\psi : \text{FFLV}_{k,n}^1 \longrightarrow Q, \chi_{p_{i,j}} \mapsto f_{i \times j}.$$

We label a basis on the right-hand side indexed by the faces of the plabic graph and a basis on the left-hand side indexed by the elements  $p_{i,j}$ . Using row operations, one can show straightforwardly, that the matrix of  $\psi$  corresponding to these bases has determinant 1.

Since  $\psi$  is linear,  $\text{NO}_{(\mathcal{G}_{k,n}^{\text{rec}})^\vee}$  is unimodularly equivalent to  $\text{FFLV}_{k,n}^1$ .  $\square$

**Remark 1.** We set  $(\mathcal{G}_{k,n}^{\text{rec}})_{w_0}$  to be the plabic graph obtained from  $\mathcal{G}_{k,n}^{\text{rec}}$  by replacing each  $I = \{i_1, \dots, i_{n-k}\}$  by  $I_{w_0} = \{n+1-i_{n-k}, \dots, n+1-i_1\}$ . This is nothing but applying a maximal Green sequence of mutations [6] to the cluster variables in  $\mathcal{G}_{k,n}^{\text{rec}}$ . Then one can show similarly to the theorem above, that the Newton–Okounkov body  $\text{NO}_{(\mathcal{G}_{k,n}^{\text{rec}})_{w_0}}$  is unimodularly equivalent to  $\text{FFLV}_{n-k,n}^1$ .

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