Canonical systems and non-commutative geometry

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ABSTRACT: Inspired by ideas from non-commutative geometry, unions of moduli spaces of linear control systems are identified as open subsets of infinite Grassmannians.

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For Michiel Hazewinkel on his 60th birthday.

1. Introduction

A *linear control system* Σ of type $(m, n, p) \in \mathbb{N}^3$ is determined by the system of linear differential equations

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dx}{dt} &= Ax + Bu\\ y &= Cx, \end{cases}$$

where $u(t) \in \mathbb{C}^m$ is the *input or control* at time $t, x(t) \in \mathbb{C}^n$ is the *state* of the system and $y(t) \in \mathbb{C}^p$ is its *output*. That is, Σ is described by a triple of matrices

$$\Sigma = (A, B, C) \in M_n(\mathbb{C}) \times M_{n \times m}(\mathbb{C}) \times M_{p \times n}(\mathbb{C}) = V_{m, n, p}$$

and is said to be equivalent to a system $\Sigma' = (A', B', C') \in V_{m,n,p}$ if and only if there is a basechange matrix $g \in GL_n = GL_n(\mathbb{C})$ in the state-space such that

$$\Sigma \sim \Sigma' \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad A' = gAg^{-1}, \quad B' = gB \quad \text{and} \quad C' = Cg^{-1}$$

A system $\Sigma = (A, B, C) \in V_{m,n,p}$ is said to be *completely controllable* (resp. *completely observ-able*) if and only if the matrix

$$c(\Sigma) = \begin{bmatrix} B & AB & A^2B & \dots & A^{n-1}B \end{bmatrix} \quad (\text{resp.} \quad o(\Sigma) = \begin{bmatrix} C \\ CA \\ CA^2 \\ \vdots \\ CA^{n-1} \end{bmatrix})$$

is of maximal rank. These conditions define GL_n -open subsets $V_{m,n,p}^{cc}$, resp. $V_{m,n,p}^{co}$, consisting of systems with trivial GL_n -stabilizer, whence we have corresponding orbit spaces

$$\operatorname{sys}_{m,n,p}^{cc} = V_{m,n,p}^{cc}/GL_n$$
 and $\operatorname{sys}_{m,n,p}^{co} = V_{m,n,p}^{co}/GL_n$,

which are known to be smooth quasi-projective varieties of dimension (m + p)n, see for example [13, Part IV]. A system $\Sigma = (A, B, C) \in V_{m,n,p}$ is said to be *canonical* if it is both completely controllable and completely observable. The corresponding moduli space

$$\mathtt{sys}_{m,n,p}^c = (V_{m,n,p}^{cc} \cap V_{m,n,p}^{co})/GL_n$$

classifies canonical systems having the same input-output behavior, that is, such that all the $p \times m$ matrices CA^iB for $i \in \mathbb{N}$ are equal [13, Part VI - VII]. Conversely, if $F = \{F_j : j \in \mathbb{N}_+\}$ is a sequence of $p \times m$ matrices such that the corresponding *Hankel matrices*

$$H_{ij}(F) = \begin{bmatrix} F_1 & F_2 & \dots & F_j \\ F_2 & F_3 & \dots & F_{j+1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ F_i & F_{i+1} & \dots & F_{i+j-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

are such that there exist integers r and s such that $rk H_{rs}(F) = rk H_{r+1,s+j}(F)$ for all $j \in \mathbb{N}_+$, then F is *realizable* by a canonical system $\Sigma = (A, B, C) \in V_{m,n,p}^c$ (for some n which is equal to $rk H_{rs}(F)$), that is,

$$F_j = CA^{j-1}B$$
 for all $j \in \mathbb{N}_+$,

see for example [13, Part VI - VII] for connections between this realization problem and classical problems in analysis. These problems would be facilitated if there was an infinite dimensional manifold X together with a natural stratification

$$X = \bigsqcup_{n} \mathtt{sys}_{m,n,p}^{c}$$

by the moduli spaces of canonical systems (for fixed m and p and varying n).

Non-commutative geometry, as outlined by M. Kontsevich in [9], offers a possibility to glue together closely related moduli spaces into an infinite dimensional variety controlled by a non-commutative algebra. The individual moduli spaces are then recovered as moduli spaces of simple representations (of specific dimension vectors) of the non-commutative algebra. An illustrative example is contained in the recent work by G. Wilson and Yu. Berest [15] [1] relating Calogero-Moser spaces to the adelic Grassmannian (see also [3] and [6] for the connection with non-commutative geometry). The main aim of the present paper is to offer another (and more elementary) example :

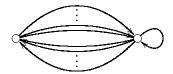
Theorem 1 The equivalence classes of canonical systems with fixed input- and output-dimensions m and p form a specific open submanifold

$$\bigsqcup_n \operatorname{sys}_{m,n,p}^c \hookrightarrow \operatorname{Gras}_{m+p}(\infty)$$

of the infinite Grassmannian of m + p-dimensional subspaces.

This paper is organized as follows. In section two we show that Kontsevich's approach is applicable to moduli spaces of canonical systems by proving that there is a natural one-to-one correspondence between equivalence classes of canonical systems with n-dimensional state space and

isomorphism classes of simple representations of dimension vector (1, n) of the formally smooth path algebra of the quiver



with m arrows pointing right and p arrows pointing left. This observation gives a short proof of the following result, due to M. Hazewinkel ([13, thm. VI.2.5] or [8, (2.5.7)]):

Theorem 2 (Hazewinkel) The moduli space $sys_{m,n,p}^c$ of canonical systems is a quasi-affine variety.

In section 3 we prove that the moduli spaces $sys_{m,n,p}^{cc}$ (resp. $sys_{m,n,p}^{co}$) of completely controllable (resp. completely observable) systems are isomorphic to moduli spaces (in the sense of A. King [10]) of θ -stable representations of dimension vector (1, n) for this quiver, where $\theta = (-n, 1)$ (resp. $\theta = (n, -1)$). By computing the cohomology of these moduli spaces, as in [14], we were then led to

Theorem 3 The moduli space $sys_{m,n,p}^{cc}$ of completely controllable systems has a cell decomposition identical to the natural cell decomposition of a vector bundle of rank (p+1)n on the Grassmannian $Gras_n(m+n-1)$ with respect to the Schubert cells on the Grassmannian.

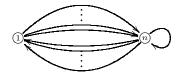
In an earlier version of this note we claimed that the moduli space itself is a vector bundle over the Grassmannian. However, this cannot be the case when m = n as the referee kindly pointed out.

Acknowledgments:

This paper was written while the second author enjoys a research stay at the University of Antwerp, with the aid of a grant of the European Science Foundation in the frame of the Priority Programme "Noncommutative Geometry". We thank the anonymous referee for pointing out a mistake in the first version of this note.

2. Proof of theorem 2

Consider the quiver setting (Q, α) where the dimension vector is $\alpha = (1, n)$ and the quiver Q



has m arrows $\{b_1, \ldots, b_m\}$ from left to right and p arrows $\{c_1, \ldots, c_p\}$ from right to left. We can identify $V_{m,n,p}$ with $\operatorname{rep}_{\alpha} Q$, where we associate to a system $\Sigma = (A, B, C)$ the representation V_{Σ} which assigns to the arrow b_i (resp. c_j) the *i*-th column B_i of B (resp. the *j*-th row C^j of C) and the matrix A to the loop. The basechange action of $(\lambda, g) \in GL(\alpha) = \mathbb{C}^* \times GL_n$ acts on the representation $V_{\Sigma} = (A, B_1, \ldots, B_m, C^1, \ldots, C^p)$ as follows:

$$(\lambda \cdot g) \cdot V_{\Sigma} = (gAg^{-1}, gB_1\lambda^{-1}, \dots, gB_m\lambda^{-1}, \lambda C^1g^{-1}, \dots, \lambda C^pg^{-1}),$$

and as the central subgroup $\mathbb{C}^*(1, \mathbf{1}_n)$ acts trivially on $\operatorname{rep}_{\alpha} Q$, there is a natural one-to-one correspondence between equivalence classes of systems in $V_{m,n,p}$ and isomorphism classes of α dimensional representations in $\operatorname{rep}_{\alpha} Q$. If $\mathbb{C}Q$ denotes the *path algebra* of the quiver Q, then it is well known that $\mathbb{C}Q$ is a formally smooth algebra in the sense of [4], and that there is an equivalence of categories between finite dimensional right $\mathbb{C}Q$ -modules and representations of Q. It is perhaps surprising that the system theoretic notion of canonical system corresponds under these identifications to the algebraic notion of simple module.

Lemma 1 The following are equivalent:

- 1. $\Sigma = (A, B, C) \in V_{m,n,p}$ is a canonical system,
- 2. $V_{\Sigma} = (A, B_1, \dots, B_m, C^1, \dots, C^p) \in \operatorname{rep}_{\alpha} Q$ is a simple representation.

Proof. $1 \Rightarrow 2$: If V_{Σ} has a proper subrepresentation of dimension vector $\beta = (1, l)$ for some l < n, then the rank of the control-matrix $c(\Sigma)$ is at most l, contradicting complete controllability. If V_{Σ} has a proper subrepresentation of dimension vector $\beta' = (0, l)$ with $l \neq 0$, then the observationmatrix $o(\Sigma)$ has rank at most n - l, contradicting complete observability. $2 \Rightarrow 1$: If $rk \ c(\Sigma) = l < n$ then there is a proper subrepresentation of dimension vector (1, l) of V_{Σ} . If $rk \ o(\Sigma) = n - l$ with l > 0, then there is a proper subrepresentation of dimension vector (0, l) of V_{Σ} .

From [12] we recall that for a general quiver setting (Q, α) the isomorphism classes of α dimensional semi-simple representations are classified by the *affine* algebraic quotient variety

$$extsf{rep}_lpha \; Q//GL(lpha) = extsf{iss}_lpha \; Q$$

whose coordinate ring is generated by all traces along oriented cycles in the quiver Q. If α is the dimension vector of a simple representation, this affine quotient has dimension $1 - \chi_Q(\alpha, \alpha)$ where χ_Q is the *Euler form* of Q. Moreover, the isomorphism classes of *simple* representations form a Zariski open *smooth subvariety* of $iss_{\alpha} Q$. Specializing these general results from [12] to the case of interest, we recover Hazewinkels theorem.

Theorem 4 (Hazewinkel) The moduli space $sys_{m,n,p}^c$ of canonical systems is a smooth quasiaffine variety of dimension (m + p)n.

In fact, combining the theory of local quivers (see for example [11]) with the classification of all quiver settings having a smooth quotient variety due to Raf Bocklandt [2], it follows that (unless m = p = 1) sys^c_{m,n,p} is precisely the smooth locus of the affine quotient variety $iss_{\alpha} Q$.

3. Proof of theorem 3

For (Q, α) a quiver setting on k vertices and if $\theta \in \mathbb{Z}^k$, a representation $V \in \operatorname{rep}_{\alpha} Q$ is said to be θ -semistable (resp. θ -stable) if and only if for every proper non-zero subrepresentation W of V we have that $\theta.\beta \ge 0$ (resp. $\theta.\beta > 0$), where β is the dimension vector of W. In the special case when $\alpha = (1, n)$ and Q is the quiver introduced before, there are essentially two different *stability* structures on $rep_{\alpha} Q$ determined by the integral vectors

$$\theta_{+} = (-n, 1)$$
 and $\theta_{-} = (n, -1)$

By the identification of $\operatorname{rep}_{\alpha} Q$ with $V_{m,n,p}$ and the proof of lemma 1 we have

Lemma 2 For $\theta_+ = (-n, 1)$ the following are equivalent:

- 1. $\Sigma \in V_{m,n,p}$ is completely controllable,
- 2. $V_{\Sigma} \in \operatorname{rep}_{\alpha} Q$ is θ_+ -stable.

For $\theta_{-} = (n, -1)$ the following are equivalent:

- 1. $\Sigma \in V_{m,n,p}$ is completely controllable,
- 2. $V_{\Sigma} \in \operatorname{rep}_{\alpha} Q$ is θ_{-} -stable.

For a general stability structure θ and quiver setting (Q, α) , A. King [10] introduced and studied the *moduli space* moduli^{θ} Q of θ -semistable representations, the points of which classify isomorphism classes of direct sums of θ -stable representations. In the case of interest to us we have

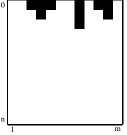
$$\operatorname{sys}_{m,n,p}^{cc} = \operatorname{moduli}_{lpha}^{ heta_+} Q$$
 and $\operatorname{sys}_{m,n,p}^{co} = \operatorname{moduli}_{lpha}^{ heta_-} Q$.

In [14] the Harder-Narasinham filtration associated to a stability structure was used to compute the cohomology of the moduli spaces $moduli_{\alpha}^{\theta} Q$ (at least if the quiver Q has no oriented cycles). For general quivers the same methods can be applied to compute the number of \mathbb{F}_q -points of these moduli spaces, where \mathbb{F}_q is the finite field of $q = p^l$ elements. In the case of interest to us, we get the rational functions

$$\begin{cases} \# \operatorname{moduli}_{\alpha}^{\theta_{+}} Q\left(\mathbb{F}_{q}\right) &= q^{n(p+1)} \prod_{i=1}^{n} \frac{q^{m+i-1}-1}{q^{i}-1} \\ \\ \# \operatorname{moduli}_{\alpha}^{\theta_{-}} Q\left(\mathbb{F}_{q}\right) &= q^{n(m+1)} \prod_{i=1}^{n} \frac{q^{p+i-1}-1}{q^{i}-1}, \end{cases}$$

which suggests that the moduli space $sys_{m,n,p}^{cc}$ is a vector bundle of rank n(p+1) over the Grassmannian $Gras_n(m+n-1)$, and that the moduli space $sys_{m,n,p}^{co}$ is a vector bundle of rank n(m+1) over $Gras_n(p+n-1)$.

To a completely controllable $\Sigma = (A, B, C)$ one associates its Kalman code K_{Σ} , which is an array of $n \times m$ boxes $\{(i, j) \mid 0 \leq i < n, 1 \leq j \leq\}$, ordered lexicographically, with exactly n boxes painted black. If the column A^iB_j is linearly independent of all column vectors A^kB_l with (k, l) < (i, j) we paint box (i, j) black. From this rule it is clear that if (i, j) is a black box so are (i', j) for all $i' \leq i$. That is, the Kalman code K_{Σ} (which only depends on the GL_n -orbit of Σ) looks like



Assume $\kappa = K_{\Sigma}$ has k black boxes on its first row at places $(0, i_1), \ldots, (0, i_k)$. Then we assign to κ the strictly increasing sequence

$$1 \le j_{\kappa}(1) = i_1 < j_{\kappa}(2) = i_2 < \ldots < j_{\kappa}(k) = i_k \le m$$

and another sequence $p_{\kappa}(1), \ldots, p_{\kappa}(k)$, where $p_{\kappa}(j)$ is the total number of black boxes in the i_j -th column of κ , that is,

$$p_{\kappa}(1) + p_{\kappa}(2) + \ldots + p_{\kappa}(k) = n.$$

It is clear that there is a one-to-one correspondence between Kalman codes and pairs of functions satisfying these conditions. Further, define the strictly increasing sequence

$$h_{\kappa}(0) = 0 < h_{\kappa}(1) = p_{\kappa}(1) < \ldots < h_{\kappa}(j) = \sum_{i=1}^{j} p_{\kappa}(i) < \ldots < h_{\kappa}(k) = n.$$

With these notations we have the following canonical form for $\Sigma = (A, B, C) \in V_{m,n,p}^{cc}$ which is essentially [5, lemma 3.2]:

Lemma 3 For a completely reachable system $\Sigma = (A, B, C)$ with Kalman code $\kappa = K_{\Sigma}$, there is a unique $g \in GL_n$ such that g(A, B, C) = (A', B', C') with

- $B'_{i_{\kappa}(i)} = \mathbf{1}_{h_{\kappa}(i-1)+1}$ for all $1 \le i \le k$.
- $A'_i = \mathbf{1}_{i+1}$ for all $i \notin \{h_{\kappa}(1), h_{\kappa}(2), \dots, h_{\kappa}(k)\}.$
- All entries in the remaining columns of A' and B' are determined as the quotient of two specific n × n minors of c(Σ).
- $C' = Cg^{-1}$.

This allows us to prove theorem 3 :

Theorem 5 The moduli space $sys_{m,n,p}^{cc}$ of completely controllable systems has a cell decomposition identical to the natural cell decomposition of a vector bundle of rank n(p + 1) over the Grassmann manifold $Gras_n(m + n - 1)$.

Proof. Define a map $V_{m,n,p}^{cc} \xrightarrow{\phi} \operatorname{Gras}_n(m+n-1)$ by sending a completely reachable system $\Sigma = (A, B, C)$ to the point in $\operatorname{Gras}_n(m+n-1)$ determined by the $n \times (m+n-1)$ matrix

$$M_{\Sigma} = \left| B'_1 \ldots B'_m A'_1 \ldots A'_{n-1} \right|,$$

where (A', B', C') is the canonical form of Σ given by the previous lemma. By construction, M_{Σ} has rank n with invertible $n \times n$ matrix determined by the columns

$$I_{\kappa} = \{j_{\kappa}(1) < \ldots < j_{\kappa}(k) < m + c_1 < \ldots < m + c_{n-k}\} \subset \{1, \ldots, m + n - 1\},\$$

where $\{c_1, \ldots, c_{n-k}\} = \{1, \ldots, n\} - \{h_{\kappa}(1), \ldots, h_{\kappa}(k)\}$. As all remaining entries of (A', B') are determined by $c(\Sigma)$ it follows that $\phi(\Sigma)$ depends only on the GL_n -orbit of Σ , whence the map factorizes through

$$\operatorname{sys}_{m,n,p}^{cc} \xrightarrow{\psi} \operatorname{Gras}_n(m+n-1),$$

and we claim that ψ is surjective. To begin, all multi-indices $I = \{1 \le d_1 < d_2 < \ldots < d_n \le n + m - 1\}$ are of the form I_{κ} for some Kalman code κ . Define

$$\{d_1, \dots, d_n\} = \{i_1, \dots, i_k\} \cup \{m + c_1, \dots, m + c_{n-k}\}$$

with $i_j \leq m$ and $1 \leq c_j < n$, and let $\{e_1 < \ldots < e_k\} = \{1, \ldots, n\} - \{c_1, \ldots, c_{n-k}\}$, and set $e_0 = 0$. Construct the Kalman code κ having $e_j - e_{j-1}$ black boxes in the i_j -th column and verify that I is indeed I_{κ} .

 $\operatorname{Gras}_n(m+n-1)$ is covered by modified Schubert cells S_I (isomorphic to some affine space) consisting of points such that the *I*-minor is invertible, where *I* is a multi-index $\{d_1, \ldots, d_n\}$, and the dimension of the subspace spanned by the first k columns is i iff $k < d_{i+1}$. A point in S_I can be taken such that the d_i -th column is equal to

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{1}_{h_{\kappa}(i-1)+1} & \text{for } d_i \leq m \\ \mathbf{1}_{j+1} & \text{for } d_i = m+i \end{cases}$$

where $I = I_{\kappa}$. This determines a $n \times (n+m-1)$ matrix $\begin{bmatrix} B_1 \\ \dots \\ B_m \\ A_1 \\ \dots \\ A_{n-1} \end{bmatrix}$, and choosing any last column A_n and any $p \times n$ matrix C we obtain a system $\Sigma = (A, B, C)$ which is completely controllable, and which is mapped to the given point under ψ . This finishes the proof.

Because the map $(A, B, C) \longrightarrow (A^{tr}, C^{tr}, B^{tr})$ defines a duality between $V_{m,n,p}^{co}$ and $V_{p,n,m}^{cc}$, we have a similar result for the moduli spaces of completely observable systems.

Theorem 6 The moduli space of completely observable systems $sys_{m,n,p}^{co}$ has a cell decomposition identical to that of a vector bundle of rank n(p+1) over the Grassmann manifold $Gras_n(p+n-1)$.

4. Proof of theorem 1

The counting argument of the previous section gives us also a conjectural description of the infinite dimensional variety admitting a stratification by the moduli spaces $sys_{m,n,p}^{cc}$. It follows from the explicit rational form of $\# sys_{m,n,p}^{cc}$ (\mathbb{F}_q) and the *q*-binomial theorem that

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \ \# \operatorname{sys}_{m,n,p}^{cc} \left(\mathbb{F}_{q} \right) t^{n} = \prod_{i=1}^{m} \frac{1}{1 - q^{p+i}t}$$

In the special case when p = 0 we recover the cohomology of the infinite Grassmannian $\operatorname{Gras}_m(\infty)$ of *m*-dimensional subspaces of a countably infinite dimensional vectorspace. For $p \ge 1$ we only get a factor of the cohomology of $\operatorname{Gras}_{m+p}(\infty)$, which led to the following result.

Theorem 7 The disjoint union $\bigsqcup_n \operatorname{sys}_{m,n,p}^{cc}$ is the open subset of the infinite dimensional Grassmann manifold $\operatorname{Gras}_{m+p}(\infty)$ which is the union of all standard affine open sets corresponding to a multi-index set $I = \{1 \le d_1 < d_2 < \ldots < d_{m+p}\}$ such that

$$\{m+1, m+2, \dots, m+p, m+p+n\} \subset I.$$

Proof. Let $\Sigma = (A, B, C)$ be a completely controllable system in canonical form represented by the point $p_{\Sigma} \in sys_{m,n,p}^{cc}$. Consider the $n \times (m + p + n)$ matrix

$$L_{\Sigma} = \left[B \ C^{tr} \ A \right].$$

The submatrix $M_{\Sigma} = \begin{bmatrix} B_1 \dots B_m & A_1 \dots & A_{n-1} \end{bmatrix}$ has rank n, whence so has L_{Σ} , and p_{Σ} determines a point in $\operatorname{Gras}_n(n+m+p)$. Under the natural duality

$$\operatorname{Gras}_n(m+p+n) \xrightarrow{D} \operatorname{Gras}_{m+p}(m+p+n),$$

the point p_{Σ} is mapped to the point determined by the $(m + p) \times (m + p + n)$ matrix N_{Σ} whose rows give a basis for the linear relations holding among the columns of L_{Σ} . Because M_{Σ} has rank n it follows that the columns of C^{tr} and the last column A_n of A are linearly dependent of those of M_{Σ} . As a consequence the matrix

$$N_{\Sigma} = \begin{bmatrix} U_1 \ \dots \ U_m \ V_1 \ \dots \ V_p \ W_1 \ \dots \ W_n \end{bmatrix}$$

has the property that the submatrix $\begin{bmatrix} V_1 \\ \dots \\ V_p \end{bmatrix} W_n$ has rank p + 1. This procedure defines a morphism

$$\operatorname{sys}_{m,n,p}^{cc} \xrightarrow{\gamma_n} \operatorname{Gras}_{m+p}(m+p+n),$$

the image of which is the open union of all standard affine opens determined by a multi-index set $I = \{1 \le d_1 < d_2 < \ldots < d_{m+p} \le m+p+n\}$ satisfying

$${m+1, m+2, \dots, m+p, m+p+n} \subset I.$$

Therefore, the image of the morphism

$$\exists \operatorname{sys}_{m,n,p}^{cc} \xrightarrow{\Box \gamma_n} \operatorname{Gras}_{m+p}(\infty)$$

is the one of the statement of the theorem. The dimension n of the system corresponding to a point in this open set of $\operatorname{Gras}_{m+p}(\infty)$ is determined by $d_{m+p} = m + p + n$.

By the duality between $V_{m,n,p}^{cc}$ and $V_{p,n,m}^{co}$ used in the previous section we deduce:

Theorem 8 The disjoint union $\bigsqcup_n \operatorname{sys}_{m,n,p}^{co}$ is the open subset of $\operatorname{Gras}_{m+p}(\infty)$ which is the union of all standard affine opens corresponding to a multi-index set $I = \{1 \le d_1 < d_2 < \ldots < d_{m+p}\}$ such that

$$\{1, 2, \ldots, m, m+p+n\} \subset I.$$

This, in turn, proves theorem 1 :

Theorem 9 The disjoint union $\bigsqcup_n \operatorname{sys}_{m,n,p}^c$ of all moduli spaces of canonical systems with fixed input- and output-dimension m and p is the open subset of the infinite Grassmannian $\operatorname{Gras}_{m+p}(\infty)$ of m + p-dimensional subspaces of a countably infinite dimensional vectorspace which is the intersection of all possible standard open subsets X_I and X_J , where I and J are multi-index sets satisfying the conditions

$$\{m+1, m+2, \dots, m+p, m+p+n\} \subset I$$
 and $\{1, 2, \dots, m, m+p+n\} \subset J$.

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