

# Symmetry and super-symmetry distribution for partitions

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# Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Main results
- 3 Super-Symmetry



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# Partitions

- A **partition**  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_\ell)$  of  $n$ , write  $\lambda \vdash n$ , if

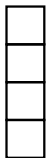
$$\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_\ell > 0$$

$$|\lambda| = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \dots + \lambda_\ell = n.$$

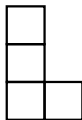
- $p(n)$  = the number of partitions of  $n$ .

# Ferrers diagram

$(1,1,1,1)$



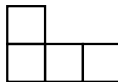
$(2,1,1)$



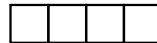
$(2,2)$



$(3,1)$

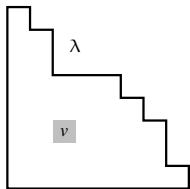


$(4)$



# Pointed Partitions

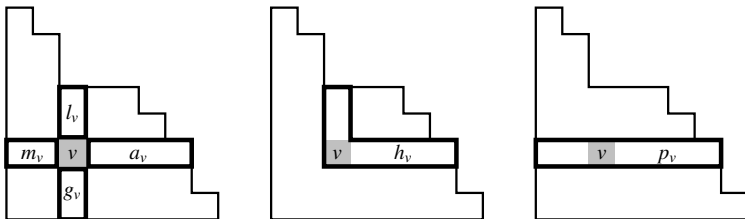
- A **pointed partition**  $(\lambda, v)$  of  $n$  if  $\lambda \vdash n$  and  $v$  is a cell in the Ferrers diagram of  $\lambda$ .



- $\mathcal{F}_n$  = the set of pointed partitions of  $n$ .

$$|\mathcal{F}_n| = p(n) \times n$$

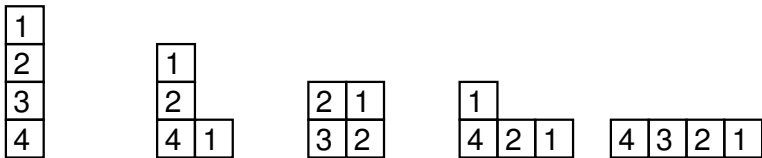
# The arm, leg, coarm, coleg, hook, and part of a pointed partition



$$h_v = l_v + a_v + 1 \quad \text{and} \quad p_v = m_v + a_v + 1$$

## The distribution of $h_v$

The distribution of  $h_v$  on  $\mathcal{F}_4$  is given below:



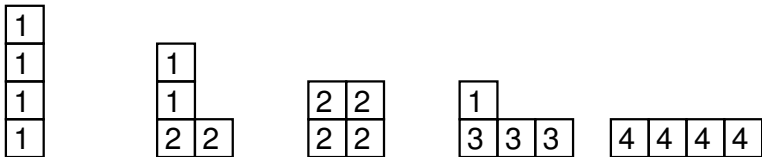
where  $h_v$  is written in a cell  $v$ .

$h_v$	1	2	3	4	$\Sigma$
$\#v$	7	6	3	4	20



# The distribution of $p_v$

The distribution of  $p_v$  on  $\mathcal{F}_4$  is given below:



where  $p_v$  is written in a cell  $v$ .

$p_v$	1	2	3	4	$\Sigma$
$\#v$	7	6	3	4	20

## $h_\nu$ and $p_\nu$ are equidistributed

$$\sum_{(\lambda, \nu) \in \mathcal{F}_4} x^{h_\nu} = 7x + 6x^2 + 3x^3 + 4x^4.$$

$$\sum_{(\lambda, \nu) \in \mathcal{F}_4} x^{p_\nu} = 7x + 6x^2 + 3x^3 + 4x^4.$$

Theorem (Bessenrodt, 1998; Bacher-Manivel, 2001)

*The hook length  $h_\nu$  and the part length  $p_\nu$  are equidistributed.*

$$\sum_{(\lambda, \nu) \in \mathcal{F}_n} x^{h_\nu} = \sum_{(\lambda, \nu) \in \mathcal{F}_n} x^{p_\nu}$$

$h_\nu$  and  $p_\nu$  are equidistributed

$$\sum_{(\lambda, \nu) \in \mathcal{F}_4} x^{h_\nu} = 7x + 6x^2 + 3x^3 + 4x^4.$$

$$\sum_{(\lambda, \nu) \in \mathcal{F}_4} x^{p_\nu} = 7x + 6x^2 + 3x^3 + 4x^4.$$

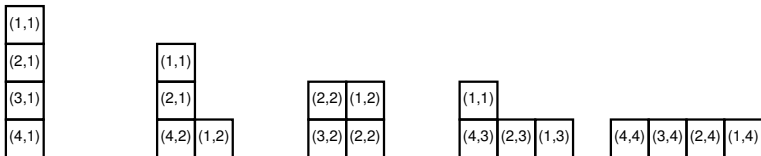
**Theorem (Bessenrodt, 1998; Bacher-Manivel, 2001)**

*The hook length  $h_\nu$  and the part length  $p_\nu$  are equidistributed.*

$$\sum_{(\lambda, \nu) \in \mathcal{F}_n} x^{h_\nu} = \sum_{(\lambda, \nu) \in \mathcal{F}_n} x^{p_\nu}$$

# The joint distribution of $h_v$ and $p_v$

The joint distribution of  $(h_v, p_v)$  on  $\mathcal{F}_4$  is given below:



where  $(h_v, p_v)$  is written in a cell  $v$ .

$h_v \backslash p_v$	1	2	3	4	$\Sigma$
1	3	2	1	1	7
2	2	2	1	1	6
3	1	1	0	1	3
4	1	1	1	1	4
$\Sigma$	7	6	3	4	20

### Theorem (Bessenrodt-Han, 2009)

*The hook length  $h_v$  and the part length  $p_v$  are symmetric.*

$$\sum_{(\lambda, \nu) \in \mathcal{F}_n} x^{h_\nu} y^{p_\nu} = \sum_{(\lambda, \nu) \in \mathcal{F}_n} x^{p_\nu} y^{h_\nu}.$$

$h_v \backslash p_v$	1	2	3	4	$\Sigma$
1	3	2	1	1	7
2	2	2	1	1	6
3	1	1	0	1	3
4	1	1	1	1	4
$\Sigma$	7	6	3	4	20

### Theorem (Bessenrodt-Han, 2009)

*The hook length  $h_v$  and the part length  $p_v$  are symmetric.*

$$\sum_{(\lambda, v) \in \mathcal{F}_n} x^{h_v} y^{p_v} = \sum_{(\lambda, v) \in \mathcal{F}_n} x^{p_v} y^{h_v}.$$

## Question

How to construct an involution on  $\mathcal{F}_n$  exchanging hook length and part length?

$a_v \backslash l_v$	0	1	2	3	$\Sigma$
0	7	3	1	1	12
1	3	1	1	0	5
2	1	1	0	0	2
3	1	0	0	0	1
$\Sigma$	12	5	2	1	20

Theorem (Bessenrodt, 1998; Bacher-Manivel, 2001)

*The arm length  $a_v$  and the leg length  $l_v$  are super-symmetric.*



$a_v \backslash l_v$	0	1	2	3	$\Sigma$
0	7	3	1	1	12
1	3	1	1	0	5
2	1	1	0	0	2
3	1	0	0	0	1
$\Sigma$	12	5	2	1	20

**Theorem (Bessenrodt, 1998; Bacher-Manivel, 2001)**

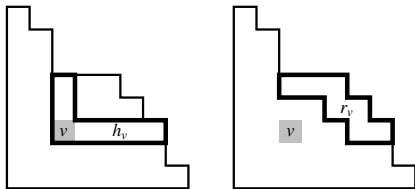
*The arm length  $a_v$  and the leg length  $l_v$  are super-symmetric.*

- $\mathcal{F}_n(\alpha, \beta)$  = the set of pointed partitions with arm length  $\alpha$  and leg length  $\beta$ .

## Question

How to construct a bijection from  $\mathcal{F}_n(\alpha, \beta)$  to  $\mathcal{F}_n(\alpha', \beta')$  where  $\alpha + \beta = \alpha' + \beta'$ ?

- The **rim hook**  $R_v$  or  $R_v(\lambda)$  is the contiguous border strip of  $\lambda$  connecting the rightmost and the uppermost cells of the hook  $H_v$ .



$$h_v = r_v = l_v + a_v + 1$$

- If  $\lambda$  be a partition, denote its **conjugate** by  $\lambda' = (\lambda'_1, \lambda'_2, \dots)$ , that is,  $\lambda'_i$  is the number of parts of  $\lambda$  that are  $\geq i$ .

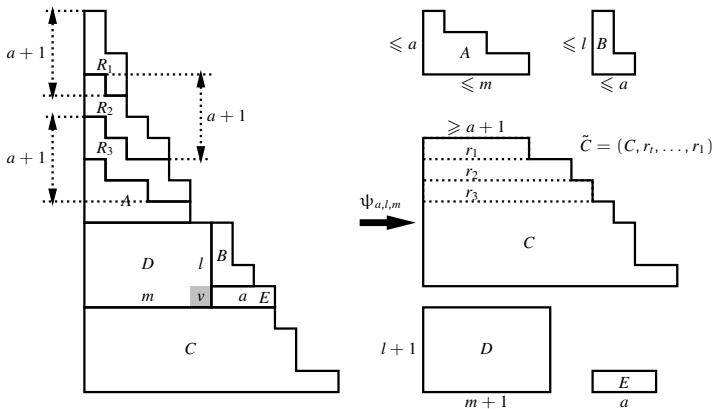
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# Pointed partition to quintuple

We can construct the mapping  $\psi_{a,l,m}$  and its inverse as follows:



- $\mathcal{F}_n(a, l, m)$  = the set of pointed partitions  $(\lambda, \nu)$  of  $n$  such that  $a_\nu = a$ ,  $l_\nu = l$  and  $m_\nu = m$ .
- $\mathcal{Q}_n(a, l, m)$  = the set of quintuples  $(A, B, \tilde{C}, D, E)$  such that
  - $A \subset a \times m$  rectangle,
  - $B \subset l \times a$  rectangle,
  - $\tilde{C}$  = a partition whose all parts are  $\geq a + 1$ ,
  - $D = (l + 1) \times (m + 1)$  rectangle,
  - $E = 1 \times a$  rectangle, and

$$|A| + |B| + |\tilde{C}| + |D| + |E| = n.$$

- $\mathcal{Q}_n$  = the set of such quintuples  $(A, B, \tilde{C}, D, E)$ .

Define the bijection  $\psi$  from  $\mathcal{F}_n$  to  $\mathcal{Q}_n$  by

$$\psi(\lambda, \nu) = \psi_{a,l,m}(\lambda, \nu) \quad \text{if } (\lambda, \nu) \in \mathcal{F}_n(a, l, m)$$

and the involution  $\rho$  on  $\mathcal{Q}_n$  by

$$\rho(A, B, \tilde{C}, D, E) = (B', A', \tilde{C}, D', E)$$

where  $X'$  is the conjugate of the partition  $X$ .



## Theorem (S.-Zeng, 2009)

For all  $n \geq 0$ , the mapping

$$\varphi = \psi^{-1} \circ \rho \circ \psi$$

is an involution on  $\mathcal{F}_n$  such that if  $\varphi : (\lambda, \nu) \mapsto (\mu, u)$  then

$$(a_\nu, l_\nu, m_\nu)(\lambda) = (a_u, m_u, l_u)(\mu). \quad (1)$$

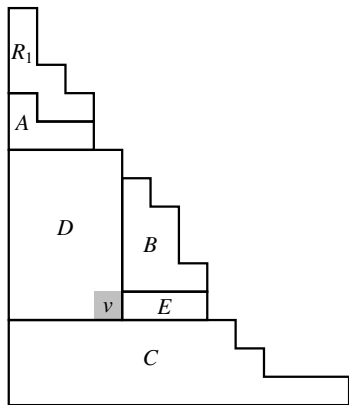
In particular, the mapping  $\varphi$  also satisfies

$$(h_\nu, p_\nu)(\lambda) = (p_u, h_u)(\mu). \quad (2)$$



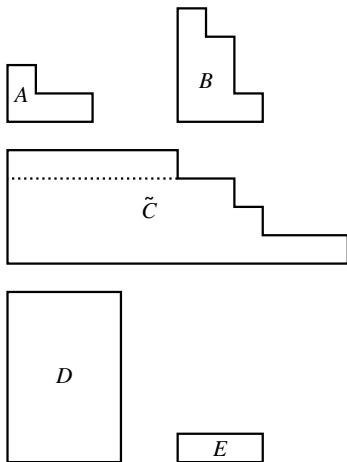
In other words, we have the following diagram:

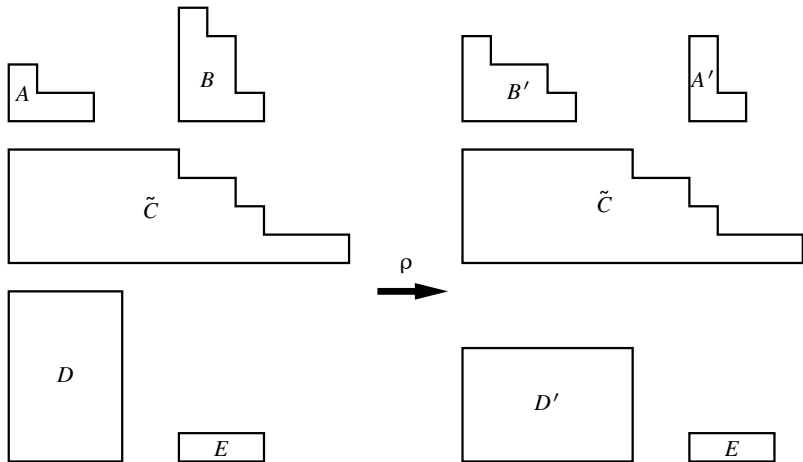
$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{F}_n(a, l, m) & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & \mathcal{F}_n(a, m, l) \\ \psi_{a,l,m} \downarrow & & \uparrow \psi_{a,m,l}^{-1} \\ \mathcal{Q}_n(a, l, m) & \xrightarrow{\rho} & \mathcal{Q}_n(a, m, l). \end{array}$$

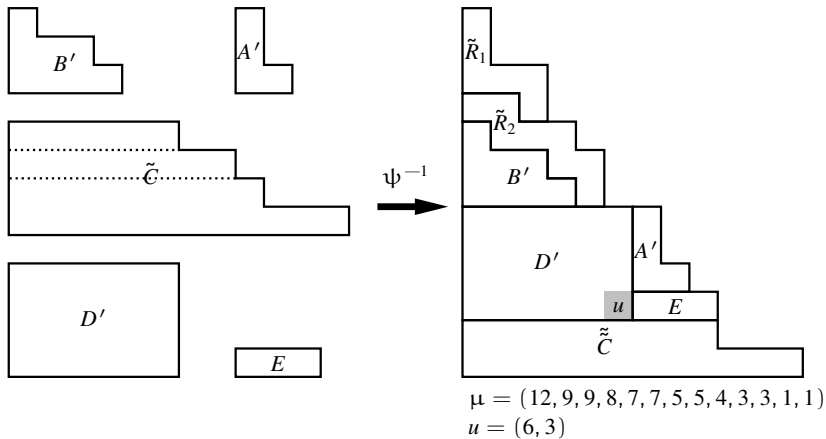


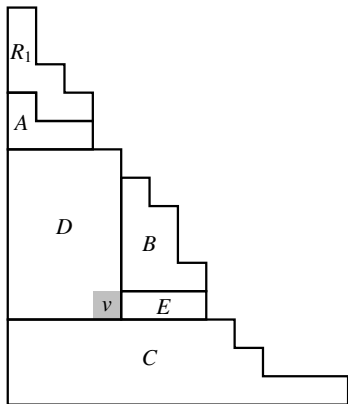
$$\lambda = (12, 9, 8, 7, 7, 6, 6, 5, 4, 3, 3, 2, 1, 1)$$

$$v = (4, 4)$$



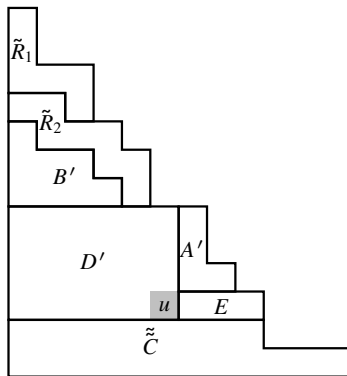






$$\lambda = (12, 9, 8, 7, 7, 6, 6, 5, 4, 3, 3, 2, 1, 1)$$

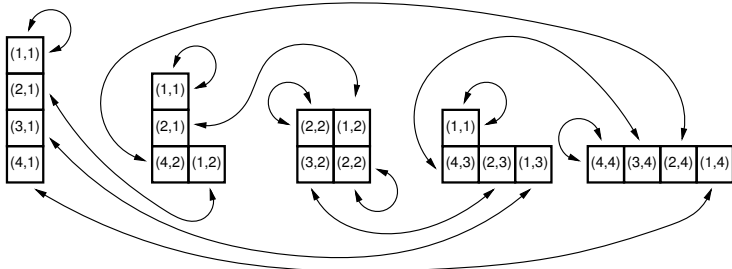
$$v = (4, 4)$$



$$\mu = (12, 9, 9, 8, 7, 7, 5, 5, 4, 3, 3, 1, 1)$$

$$u = (6, 3)$$

For example, the bijection  $\varphi$  on  $\mathcal{F}_4$  is illustrated below:



We derive immediately the following result of Bessenrodt and Han [BH09, Theorem 3].

### Corollary (Bessenrodt-Han, 2009)

*The triple statistic  $(a_\nu, l_\nu, m_\nu)$  has the same distribution as  $(a_\nu, m_\nu, l_\nu)$ . In other words,*

$$Q_n(x, y, z) = Q_n(x, z, y)$$

where

$$Q_n(x, y, z) = \sum_{(\lambda, \nu) \in \mathcal{F}_n} x^{a_\nu} y^{l_\nu} z^{m_\nu}.$$

*is the generating function for  $(a_\nu, l_\nu, m_\nu)$ .*

For nonnegative integers  $m$  and  $n$ ,

- $q$ -ascending factorial

$$(a; q)_n = (1 - a)(1 - aq) \cdots (1 - aq^{n-1})$$

- $q$ -binomial coefficient

$$\begin{bmatrix} n \\ m \end{bmatrix}_q = \frac{(q; q)_n}{(q; q)_m (q; q)_{n-m}} \quad \text{for } 0 \leq m \leq n.$$



It is easy (see [And98, Chapter 3]) to see that

$$A(q) = \begin{bmatrix} m+a \\ a \end{bmatrix}_q,$$

$$B(q) = \begin{bmatrix} l+a \\ a \end{bmatrix}_q,$$

$$\tilde{C}(q) = \frac{1}{(q^{a+1}; q)_\infty},$$

$$D(q) = q^{(m+1)(l+1)},$$

$$E(q) = q^a.$$

Let  $f_n(a, l, m)$  be the cardinality of  $\mathcal{F}_n(a, l, m)$ . We can apply the bijection  $\varphi$  to give a different proof of Bessenrodt and Han's formula [BH09, Theorem 2] for  $\sum_{n \geq 0} f_n(a, l, m)q^n$ .

### Corollary (Bessenrodt-Han, 2009)

*The generating function of  $f_n(a, l, m)$  is given by the following formula:*

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} f_n(a, l, m)q^n = \frac{1}{(q^{a+1}; q)_\infty} \begin{bmatrix} m+a \\ a \end{bmatrix}_q \begin{bmatrix} l+a \\ a \end{bmatrix}_q q^{(m+1)(l+1)+a}.$$

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A polynomial  $P(x, y)$  in two variables  $x$  and  $y$  is **super-symmetric** if

$$[x^\alpha y^\beta]P(x, y) = [x^{\alpha'} y^{\beta'}]P(x, y)$$

when  $\alpha + \beta = \alpha' + \beta'$ .

Theorem (Bessenrodt, 1998; Bacher-Manivel, 2001; Bessenrodt-Han, 2009)

*The generating function for the pointed partitions of  $\mathcal{F}_n$  by the two joint statistics arm length and coarm length (resp. leg length) is super-symmetric. In other words, the polynomial*

$$\sum_{(\lambda, \nu) \in \mathcal{F}_n} x^{a_\nu} y^{m_\nu} \quad (\text{resp.} \quad \sum_{(\lambda, \nu) \in \mathcal{F}_n} x^{a_\nu} y^{l_\nu})$$

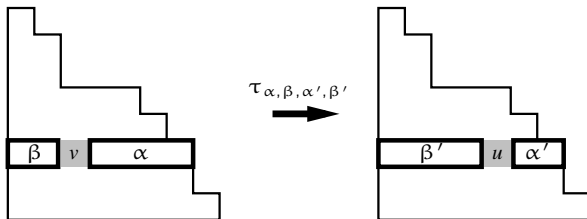
*is super-symmetric.*

Note that the above two polynomials are actually equal due to the corollary for the polynomial  $Q_n$ . [▶ Go](#)

- $\mathcal{F}_n(a, *, m)$  = the set of pointed partitions  $(\lambda, \nu)$  of  $n$  such that  $a_\nu = a$  and  $m_\nu = m$ .
- $\mathcal{F}_n(a, l, *)$  = the set of pointed partitions  $(\lambda, \nu)$  of  $n$  such that  $a_\nu = a$  and  $l_\nu = l$ .

$$\tau_{\alpha, \beta, \alpha', \beta'} : \mathcal{F}_n(\alpha, *, \beta) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_n(\alpha', *, \beta')$$

It is easy to give a combinatorial proof of the super-symmetry of the first polynomial  $\sum_{(\lambda, v) \in \mathcal{F}_n} x^{\alpha_v} y^{m_v}$ .



$$\zeta_{\alpha,\beta,\alpha',\beta'} : \mathcal{F}_n(\alpha, \beta, *) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_n(\alpha', \beta', *)$$

We can prove bijectively the super-symmetry of the polynomial  $\sum_{(\lambda,\nu) \in \mathcal{F}_n} x^{\alpha_\nu} y^{l_\nu}$ . The bijection  $\zeta_{\alpha,\beta,\alpha',\beta'}$  can be defined by

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{F}_n(\alpha, \beta, *) & \xrightarrow{\zeta_{\alpha,\beta,\alpha',\beta'}} & \mathcal{F}_n(\alpha', \beta', *) \\ \varphi \downarrow & & \uparrow \varphi \\ \mathcal{F}_n(\alpha, *, \beta) & \xrightarrow{\tau_{\alpha,\beta,\alpha',\beta'}} & \mathcal{F}_n(\alpha', *, \beta'). \end{array}$$



## Theorem (S.-Zeng, 2009)

If  $\alpha + \beta = \alpha' + \beta'$ , the mapping

$$\zeta_{\alpha, \beta, \alpha', \beta'} = \varphi \circ \tau_{\alpha, \beta, \alpha', \beta'} \circ \varphi$$





is a bijection from  $\mathcal{F}_n(\alpha, \beta, *)$  to  $\mathcal{F}_n(\alpha', \beta', *)$ .

This theorem yields that the generating function of  $\mathcal{F}_n$  by the bivariate joint distribution of arm length and leg length is super-symmetric.

# Summary

- 1  $h_v$  and  $p_v$  are symmetric.  $\leftarrow$  the involution  $\varphi$ .
- 2  $l_v$  and  $m_v$  are symmetric.  $\leftarrow$  the involution  $\varphi$ .
- 3  $a_v$  and  $m_v$  are super-symmetric.  $\leftarrow$  the bijection  $\tau_{\alpha, \beta, \alpha', \beta'}$ .
- 4  $a_v$  and  $l_v$  are super-symmetric.  $\leftarrow$  the bijection  $\zeta_{\alpha, \beta, \alpha', \beta'}$ .

# References

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-  Christine Bessenrodt and Guo-Niu Han, *Symmetry distribution between hook length and part length for partitions*, Discrete Mathematics (2009), doi:10.1016/j.disc.2009.05.012.
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*Thank you for your attention.*

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