
COMBINATORICS OF NORMAL SEQUENCES OF BRAIDS



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Laboratoire de Mathématiques Nicolas Oresme, Caen



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- Many different induction schemes occur.

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 \rightsquigarrow **degree** of a positive braid := this d ; (e.g., simple \Leftrightarrow degree ≤ 1)

- Corollary: Each braid admits a unique expression $t_e^{-1} \dots t_1^{-1} s_1 \dots s_d$ with $(s_1, \dots, s_d), (t_1, \dots, t_e)$ normal sequences s.t. $s_d, t_e \neq 1$ and $\gcd(s_1, t_1) = 1$.

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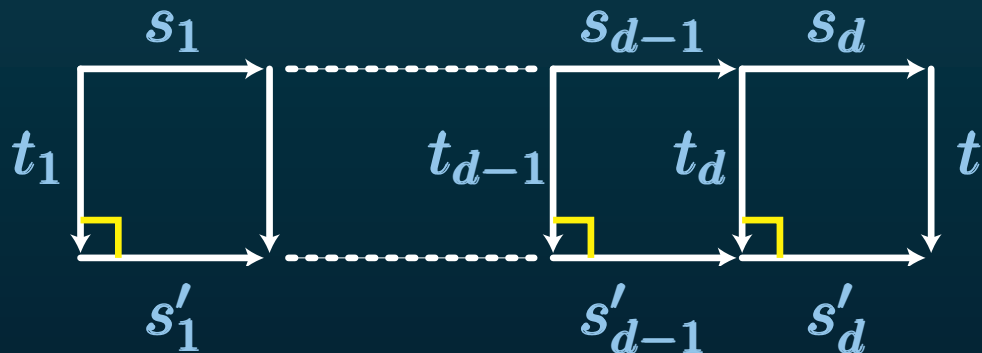
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- Remark: *id.* in every **Garside** group: group of fractions for a monoid M with an element Δ s.t.
 - the left and right divisors of Δ coincide (↪ **simple**) and generate M ;
 - the family of all simple elements is a finite **lattice** w.r.t. left divisibility;
 - if s, t are simple and divide x in M , then $\text{lcm}(s, t)$ divides x as well.
 Normality condition: "each simple left divisor of $s_i s_{i+1}$ is a left divisor of s_i ".

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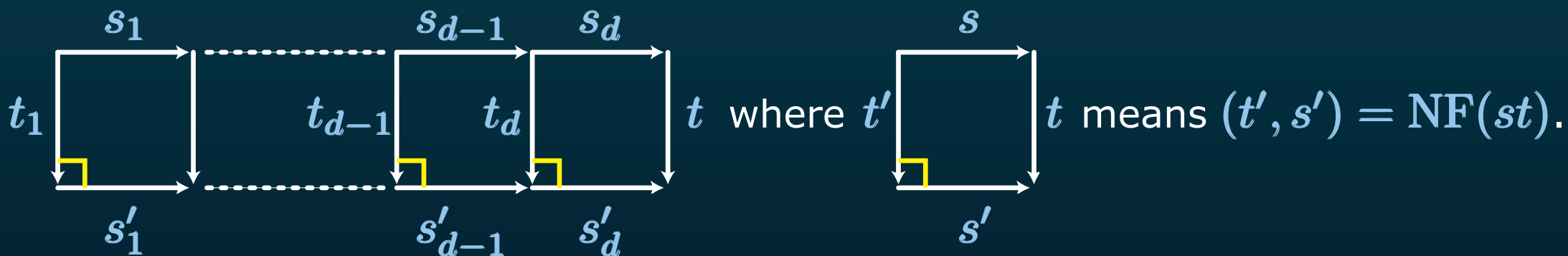
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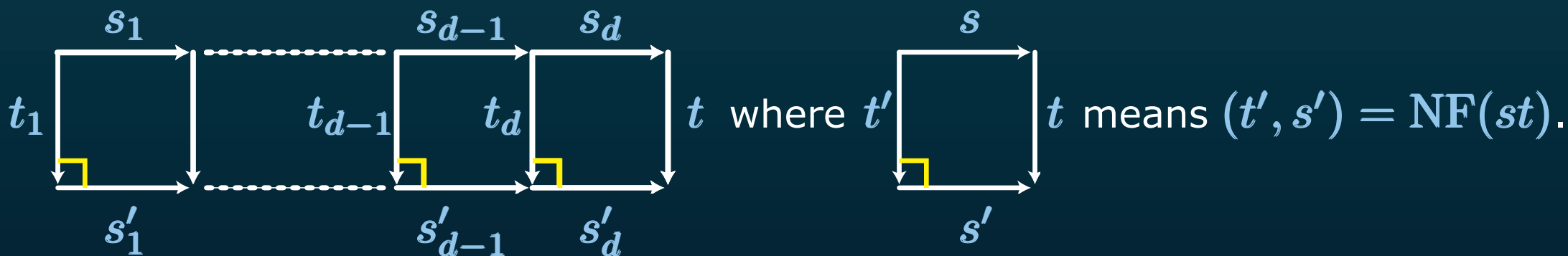
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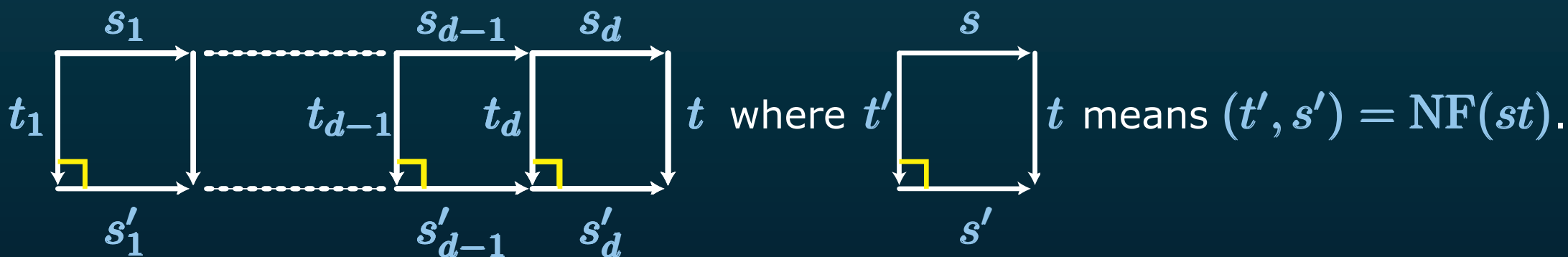
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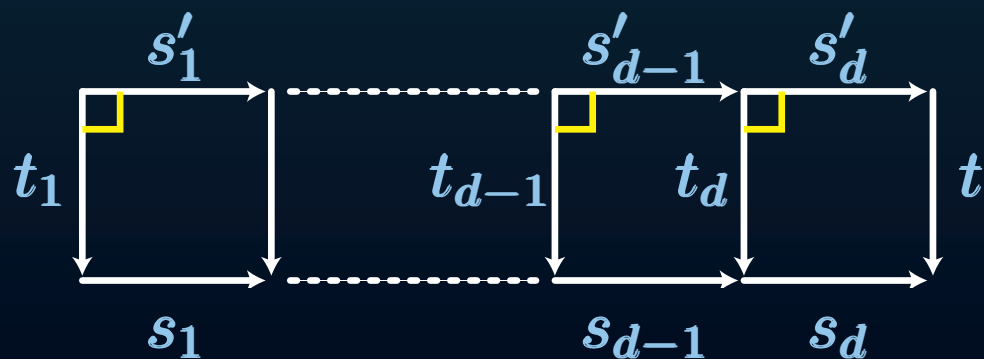


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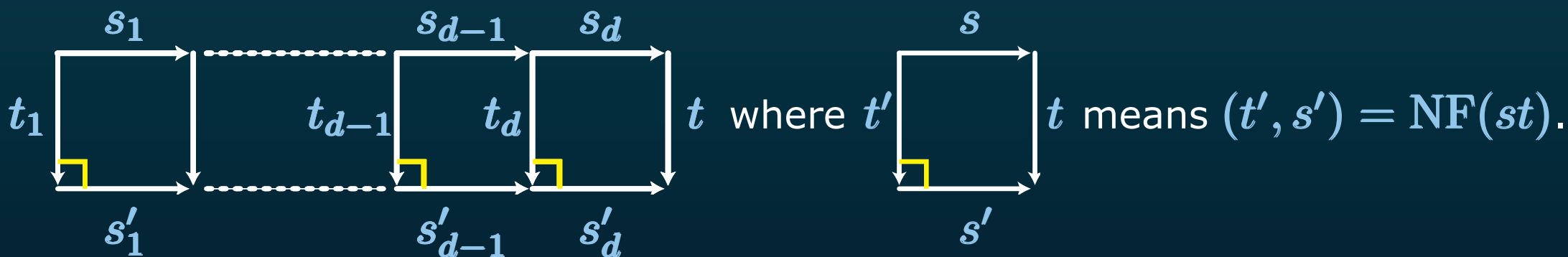


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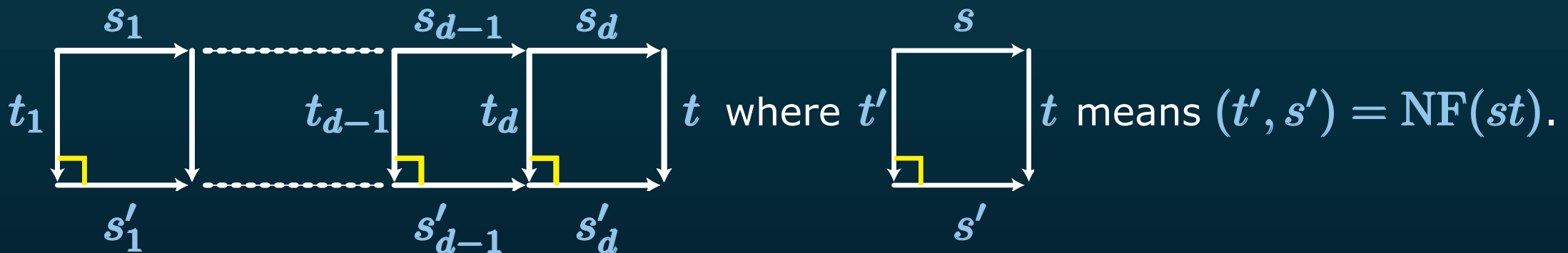


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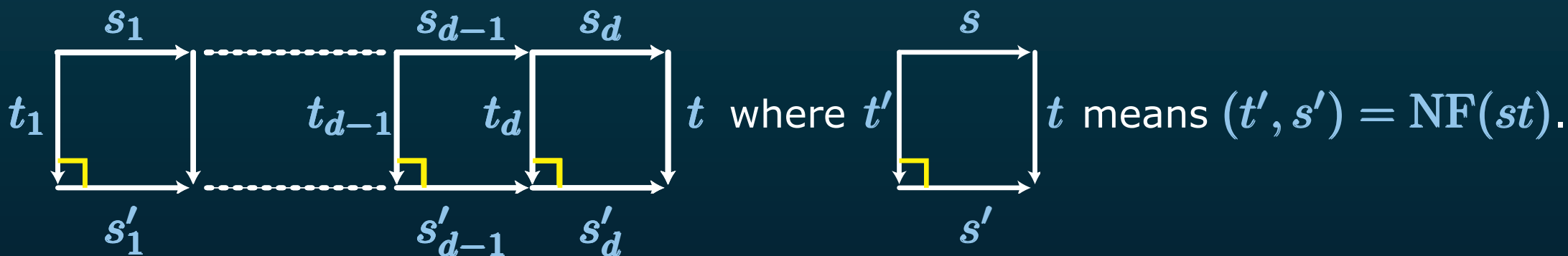


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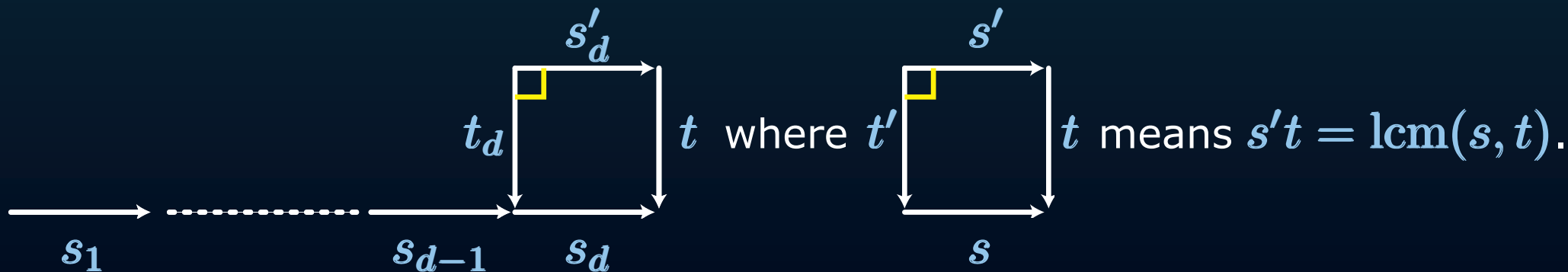


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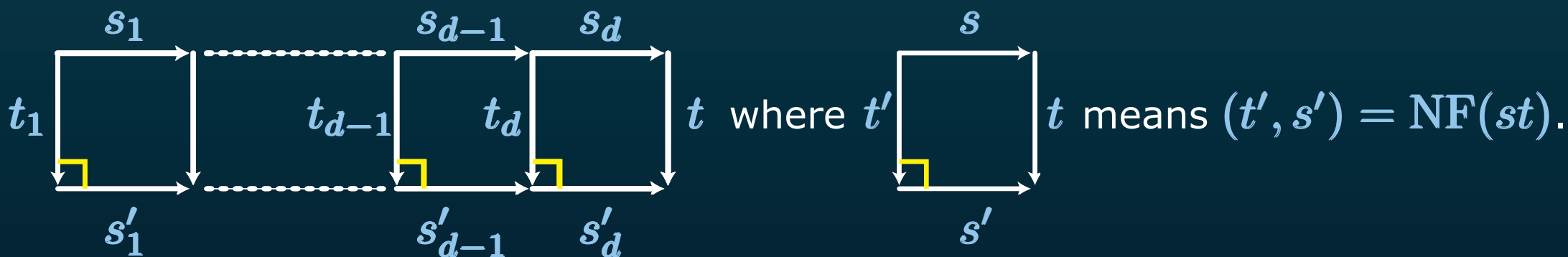


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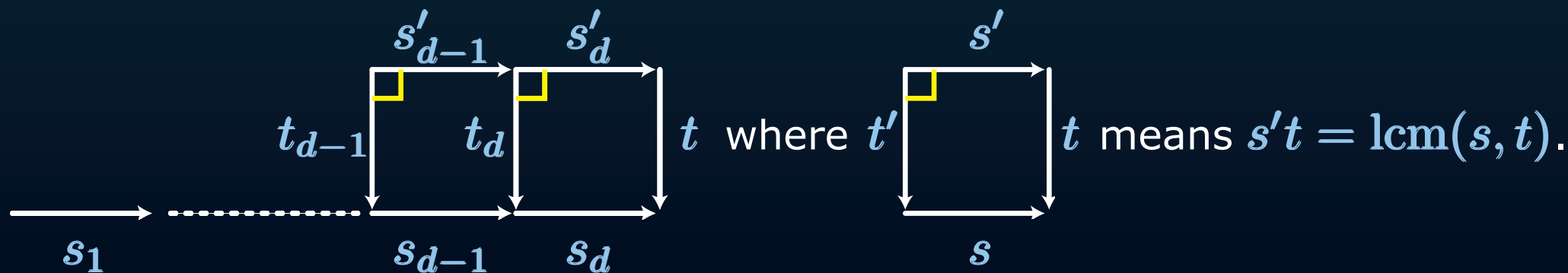


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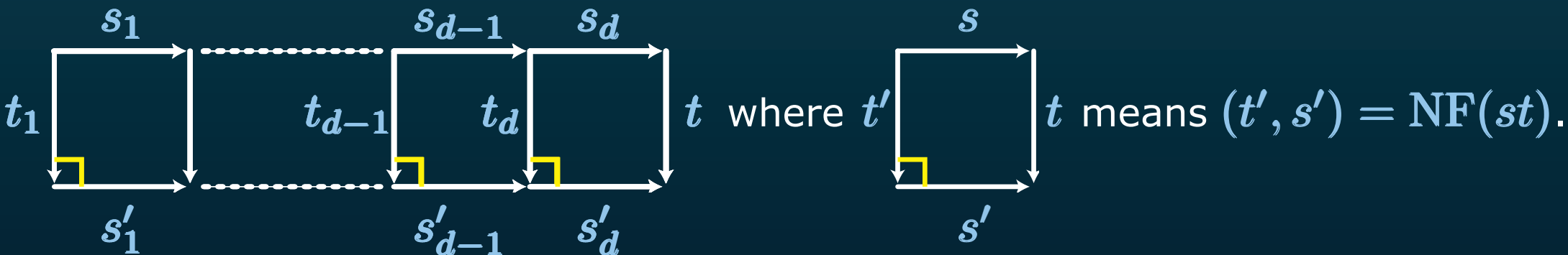


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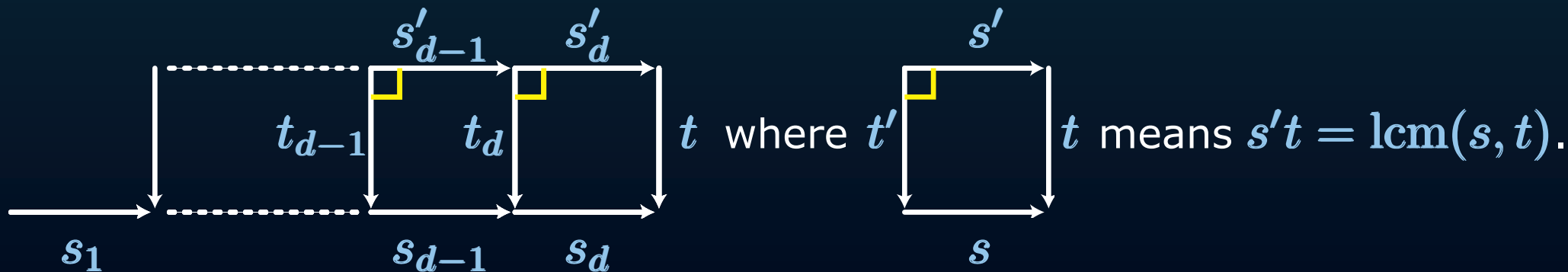


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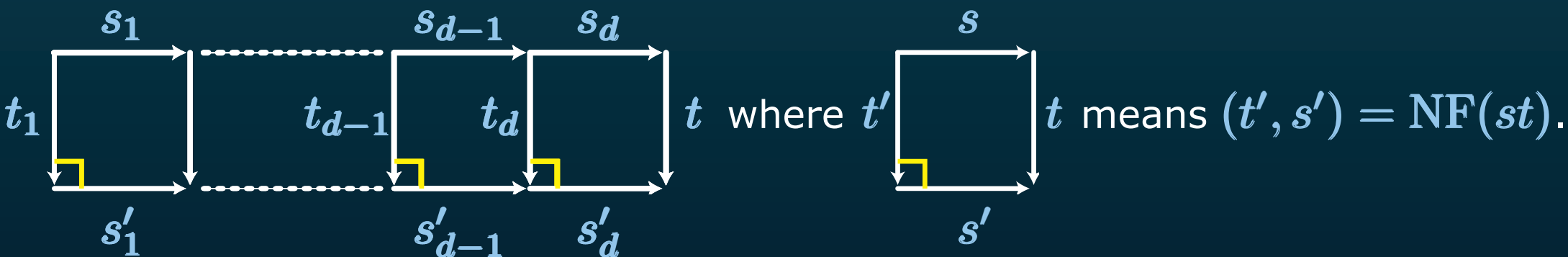


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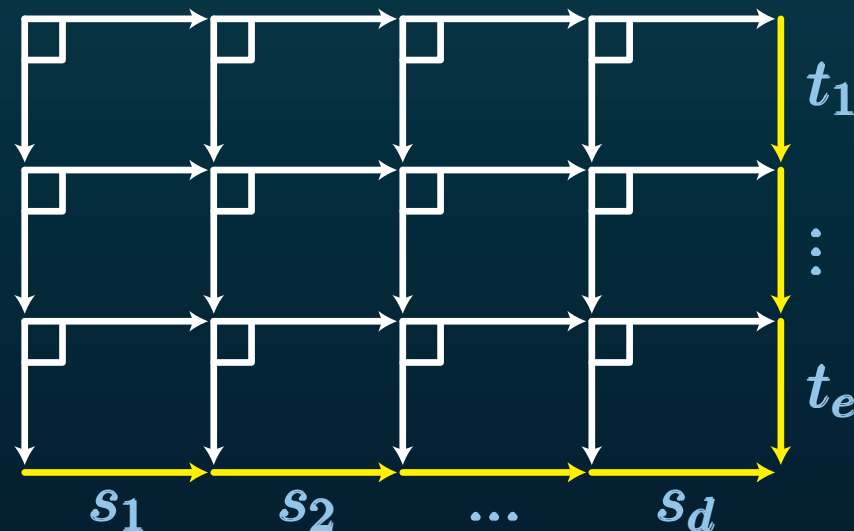
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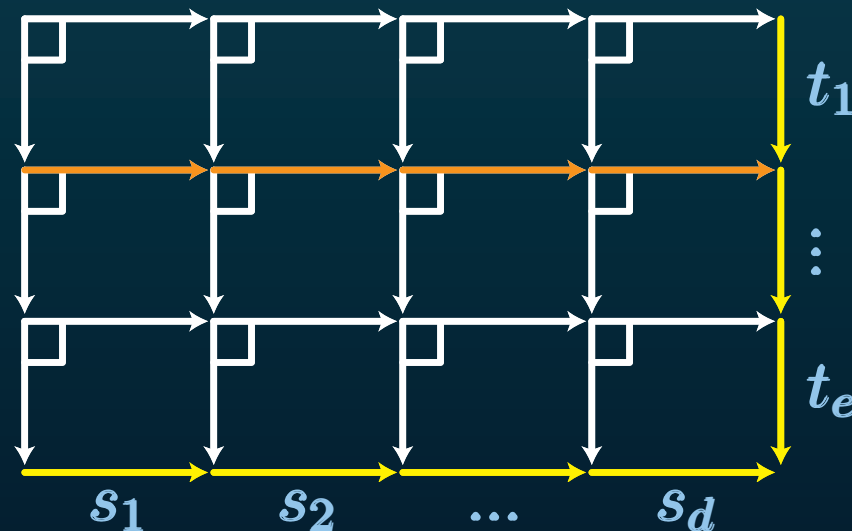


- Proposition: Let (M, Δ) be a Garside system, and $(s_1, \dots, s_d), (t_1, \dots, t_e)$ be normal. Then every diagonal-then-horizontal and diagonal-then-vertical sequence in



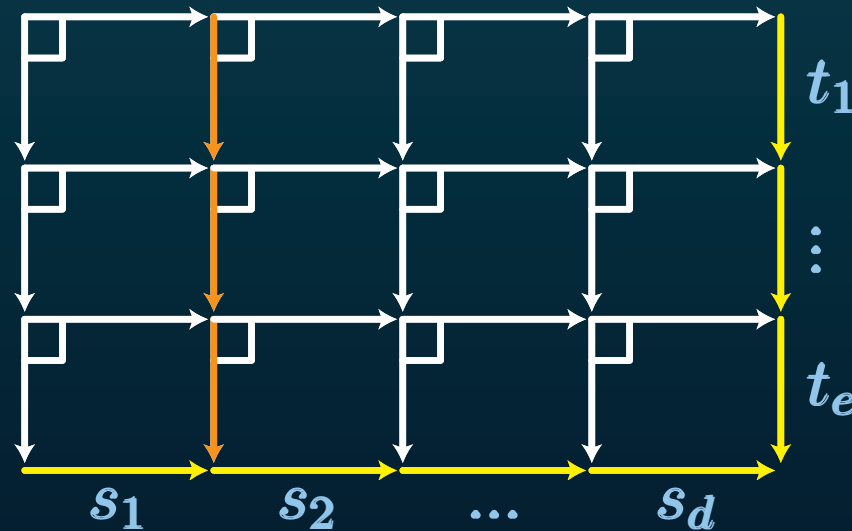
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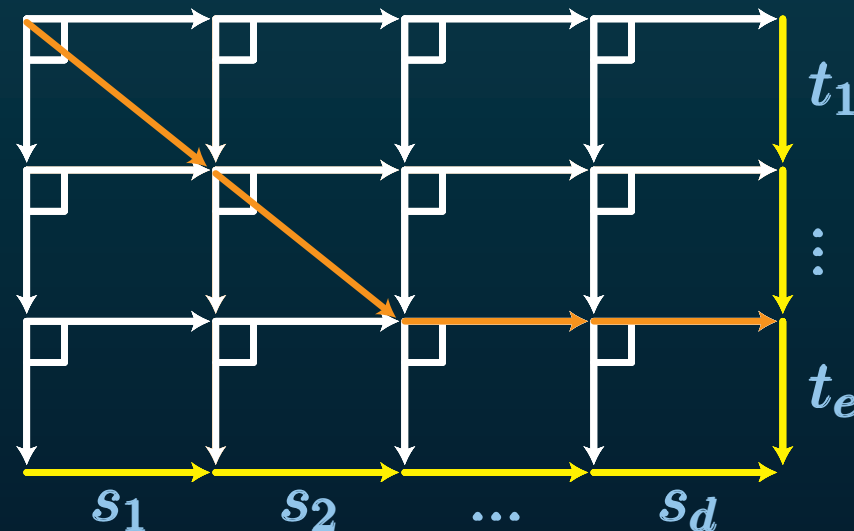
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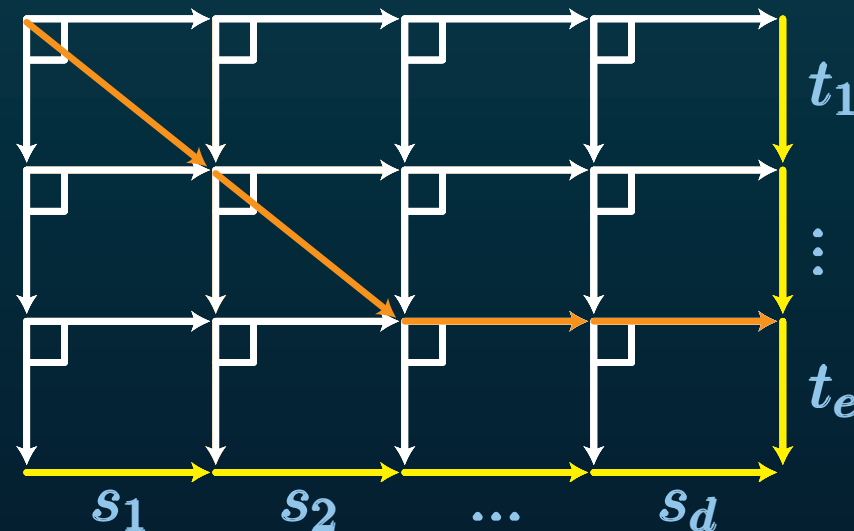
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↪ Computation of the normal form of a product, or of an lcm.

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- Remark: $N_{n,d} = \sum_{s \text{ simple}} N_{n,d}(s) = N_{n,d+1}(1)$.

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• Hence: $N_{3,d} = 8 \cdot 2^d - 3d - 7$ (↪ 1, 6, 19, 48, 109, ...).

↪ An easy question, because normality is **local**:

Proposition (**Charney, folklore**): Let M_n be the $n! \times n!$ matrix with entries indexed by simple n -braids s.t. $(M_n)_{s,t} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } (s,t) \text{ is normal,} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

Then $N_{n,d}(s)$ is the s -entry in $(1, \dots, 1) \cdot M_n^{d-1}$.

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- Hence: $N_{3,d} = 8 \cdot 2^d - 3d - 7$ (↪ 1, 6, 19, 48, 109, ...).
- For fixed n , the generating series of $N_{n,d}$ is rational.

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- Example: $M'_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ (\rightsquigarrow size 4 instead of 6)

- Lemma: Let $a_{I,J} := \# f$ in \mathfrak{S}_n s.t. $D(f) \supseteq I$ and $D(f^{-1}) \supseteq J$. Then $a_{I,J} = \# k \times \ell$ integral matrices s.t. the sum of the i th row is p_i and the sum of the j column is q_j , where (p_1, \dots, p_k) is the composition of I , and (q_1, \dots, q_ℓ) is the **composition** of J .

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• Example: $M''_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 4 & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ (\rightsquigarrow size 3 instead of 4)

- Going from M_n to M_n'' = reducing the size of the automata involved in the automatic structure of B_n from $n!$ to $p(n)$.

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- (Hivert–Novelli) M_n'' interprets in the context of quasi-symmetric functions (Malvenuto–Reutenauer).

↪ LU decomposition of M_n''

- Back to the counting problem: all numbers $N_{n,d}(s)$ express in terms of the powers of the **eigenvalues** of M_n , hence of M_n'' .

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$$\rightsquigarrow N_{4,d} = c_1(3 + \sqrt{6})^d + c_2(3 - \sqrt{6})^d + c_32^d + c_4d + c_5 \text{ with } c_1 = \dots$$

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- A few more experiments:

n	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
$\lambda_{max}(M_n)$	1	2	5.5	18.7	77.4	373.9	2066.6
$\frac{\lambda_{max}(M_n)}{n \cdot \lambda_{max}(M_{n-1})}$	0.5	0.667	0.681	0.687	0.689	0.690	0.691

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- Question: What is the asymptotic behaviour of $\lambda_{max}(M_n)$?

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- $N_{n,4}(\Delta_{n-1}) = \lfloor n!e \rfloor - 1$, corresponding to $x_n = nx_{n-1} + 2n - 1$.

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