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Strong Schur functions and down operators for the affine nilCoxeter algebra.

I will introduce the concepts of strong Schur functions, first defined by Lam, Lapointe, Morse and Shimozono. Taking the combinatorial concepts of their definition, I will introduce a family of operators on the nilCoxeter algebra which were used in the proofs of several conjectures on strong Schur functions. This is all joint work with Franco Saliola and Luis Serrano.