

# From Klyachko models to perfect models

Eric Marberg (HKUST)

joint with Fabrizio Caselli, Zachary Hamaker, Brendan Pawlowski, and Yifeng Zhang

OIST Representation Theory Seminar  
December 5, 2023

## Outline of the talk

- Preliminaries and conventions
- Klyachko model for  $\mathbf{GL}_n(\mathbb{F}_q) \rightsquigarrow$  involution model for  $S_n$
- Involution models for Coxeter groups  $\rightsquigarrow$  Geland models for Iwahori-Hecke algebras
- Digression: another Iwahori-Hecke module on involutions and its surprising decomposition
- Canonical bases and  $W$ -graphs indexed by involutions

## Model representations

In this talk, we will always work over nice fields/rings so that reps are completely reducible.

**Irreducible** (in context of group representations or characters) means irreducible over  $\mathbb{C}$ .

Write  $\text{Irr}(G)$  for the set of irreducible characters of a finite group  $G$ .

Some more conventions when  $G$  is a finite group:

- For a repn  $\rho : H \rightarrow \mathbf{GL}(V)$  of a subgroup  $H \subseteq G$ , the **induced repn** is  $\text{Ind}_H^G(\rho)$ .  
As a  $G$ -module the induced representation can be realized as  $\mathbb{C}G \otimes_{\mathbb{C}H} V$ .
- A **model** for  $G$  is a set of 1-dimensional representations  $\{\lambda_i : H_i \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times\}$  of subgroups.
- The corresponding **model representation** is  $\rho = \bigoplus_i \text{Ind}_{H_i}^G(\lambda_i)$ . These are precisely the  $G$ -representations that have bases in which  $\rho(g)$  is a **monomial matrix**  $\forall g \in G$ .

A **Gelfand model** for  $G$  is a representation with character  $\sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)} \chi$ .

That is, a Gelfand model for a finite group has a **unique irreducible subrepresentation from every isomorphism class**. A **Gelfand model** for a semisimple algebra is defined analogously.

## Coxeter groups

We are going to talk a lot about **(finite) Coxeter systems**. A very brief refresher:

- Every Coxeter group  $W$  comes with a set of **simple generators**  $S$  that are **involutions**.
- Call  $(W, S)$  a **Coxeter system**. Its **length function**  $\ell : W \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$  counts the factors in any shortest expression for an element as a product of simple generators.
- Write  $s \sim t$  if  $s, t \in S$  and  $st \neq ts$ .  $(W, S)$  is **irreducible** if  $S$  has only one  $\sim$ -equiv class.

Finite irreducible **crystallographic types**:  $A_n, B_n/C_n, D_n, E_6, E_7, E_8, F_4, G_2$

- $W_{A_{n-1}}$  = the **symmetric group**  $S_n$  of permutations of  $\{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\}$ .
- $W_{B_n} = W_{C_n} = n \times n$  monomial matrices with all entries in  $\{-1, 0, 1\} \cong C_{S_{2n}}(w_0)$ .
- $W_{D_n}$  = subgroup of matrices  $W_{B_n}$  with even number of  $-1$  entries.

Finite irreducible **non-crystallographic types**:  $H_3, H_4, I_2(m)$  for  $m \notin \{2, 3, 4, 6\}$

- $W_{H_3} = \text{Alt}_5 \times S_2$ .
- $W_{I_2(m)}$  = dihedral group of order  $2m$ . (Gives  $A_1 \times A_1, A_2, B_2, G_2$  for  $m = 2, 3, 4, 6$ .)

## Model for finite general linear and symmetric groups

Klyachko found a surprisingly simple Gelfand model for  $\mathbf{GL}_n(\mathbb{F}_q)$ .

Let  $\mathbf{UT}_n(\mathbb{F}_q)$  be the group of  $n \times n$  **unipotent upper triangular matrices** over  $\mathbb{F}_q$

Choose a nontrivial homomorphism  $\psi : \mathbb{F}_q^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$ . For each  $0 \leq 2d \leq n$  let

$$H_d = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} g & h \\ 0 & x \end{bmatrix} : g \in \mathbf{Sp}_d(\mathbb{F}_q), x \in \mathbf{UT}_{n-2d}(\mathbb{F}_q) \right\} \text{ and } \lambda_d \left( \begin{bmatrix} g & h \\ 0 & x \end{bmatrix} \right) = \psi \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n-2d-1} x_{i,i+1} \right).$$

**Theorem (Klyachko, 1984).**  $\sum_{d=0}^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} \text{Ind}_{H_d}^{\mathbf{GL}_n(\mathbb{F}_q)}(\lambda_d) = \sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(\mathbf{GL}_n(\mathbb{F}_q))} \chi$ .

Inglis–Richardson–Saxl observed that a similar Gelfand model exists for symmetric group  $S_n$ .

Define  $W_{B_n} = C_{S_{2n}}(w_0) = \text{Weyl}(\mathbf{Sp}_n)$  for  $w_0 = 2n \cdots 321$ . For each  $0 \leq 2d \leq n$  redefine

$$H_d = W_{B_d} \times S_{n-2d}, \quad \lambda_d(w_{2d} \times \sigma_{n-2d}) = \text{sgn}(\sigma_{n-2d}), \quad \tilde{\lambda}_d(w_{2d} \times \sigma_{n-2d}) = \text{sgn}(w_{2d}).$$

**Theorem (IRS, 1990).**  $\sum_{d=0}^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} \text{Ind}_{H_d}^{S_n}(\lambda_d) = \sum_{d=0}^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} \text{Ind}_{H_d}^{S_n}(\tilde{\lambda}_d) = \sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(S_n)} \chi$ .

## Involution models and generalized involution models

Both  $\{\lambda_d : H_d \rightarrow \mathbb{C}\}$  and  $\{\tilde{\lambda}_d : H_d \rightarrow \mathbb{C}\}$  are **involution models** for  $S_n$ : the subgroups  $H_d$  are centralizers of the distinct conjugacy classes of **involutions**  $w = w^{-1} \in S_n$ , and every irreducible representation of  $S_n$  appears once as constituent of induced 1-dim repps.

Natural to ask **which finite Coxeter groups  $W$  have involution models**, since:

- involution model for  $W \leftrightarrow$  Gelfand model defined on span of  $\{w = w^{-1} \in W\}$ ,
- all irreducible representations of finite Coxeter groups are realizable over  $\mathbb{R}$ ,
- for finite groups  $G$  with this property  $\sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)} \chi(1) = |\{g = g^{-1} \in G\}|$ ,

**Theorem (Baddeley, 1990s; Vinroot, 2008).** A finite Coxeter group  $W$  has an involution model iff all of its irreducible factors are of type  $A_n$ ,  $B_n$ ,  $D_{2n+1}$ ,  $H_3$ , or  $I_2(m)$ .

**Theorem (M.–Caselli, 2014).** A finite Coxeter group  $W$  has inv. model iff it has a **generalized involution model (GIM)**, and  $G(r, p, n)$  has a GIM iff  $G(r, p, n) \cong G(r, n)/\mathbb{Z}_p$ .

Example:  $W_{D_{2n}}$  has no GIM since  $W_{D_n} = G(2, 2, n) \cong G(2, n)/\mathbb{Z}_2 = W_{B_n}/\{\pm 1\}$  iff  $n$  odd.

## Gelfand models for the symmetric group

Let  $s_i = (i, i + 1) \in S_n$  so that  $S_n$  is generated by  $S = \{s_1, s_2, \dots, s_{n-1}\}$ .

IRS involution models  $\leftrightarrow$  two Gelfand  $S_n$ -reps spanned by  $\{M_w : w = w^{-1} \in S_n\}$  with

$$H_s M_w = \begin{cases} M_{s_w s} & \text{if } s \in \text{Asc}^<(w) \sqcup \text{Des}^<(w) \\ \pm M_w & \text{if } s \in \text{Des}^=(w) \\ \mp M_w & \text{if } s \in \text{Asc}^=(w) \end{cases} \quad \text{for } s \in S, w = w^{-1} \in S_n$$

for certain **strict/weak ascent/descent sets**  $\text{Asc}^<(w)$ ,  $\text{Des}^<(w)$ ,  $\text{Des}^=(w)$  and  $\text{Asc}^=(w)$ .

Extend  $w = w^{-1} \in S_n$  fixing  $i_1 < \dots < i_k$  to  $\underline{w} = \underline{w}^{-1} \in S_{n+k}$  by  $\underline{w}(i_j) := n + j$ . Then

$$\text{Des}^=(w) = \{s \in S : \underline{w} s \underline{w} = s\},$$

$$\text{Asc}^=(w) = \{s \in S : \underline{w} s \underline{w} \in \{s_{n+1}, s_{n+2}, \dots, s_{n+k-1}\}\},$$

$$\text{Des}^<(w) = \{s_i \in S : w(i) > w(i + 1)\} - \text{Des}^=(w) \sqcup \text{Asc}^=(w),$$

$$\text{Asc}^<(w) = \{s_i \in S : w(i) < w(i + 1)\} - \text{Des}^=(w) \sqcup \text{Asc}^=(w).$$

## Involution models for Iwahori-Hecke algebras

Let  $(W, S)$  be a Coxeter system with length function  $\ell$ . If  $W = S_n$  then  $S = \{s_1, \dots, s_{n-1}\}$ . The corresponding **Iwahori-Hecke algebra**  $\mathcal{H}(W) = \mathbb{Q}[x^{\pm 1}]$ -span $\{H_w : w \in W\}$  has

$$H_s H_w = \begin{cases} H_{sw} & \text{if } \ell(sw) > \ell(w) \\ H_{sw} + (x - x^{-1})H_w & \text{if } \ell(sw) < \ell(w) \end{cases} \quad \text{for } w \in W \text{ and } s \in S.$$

**Theorem (Adin–Postnikov–Roichman, 2008).** Let  $W = S_n$ . For each sign  $\alpha \in \{\pm 1\}$ , there is a Gelfand  $\mathcal{H}(W)$ -module **GMod $^\alpha$**  with basis  $\{M_w : w = w^{-1} \in W\}$  such that

$$H_s M_w = \begin{cases} M_{s w s} & \text{if } s \in \text{Asc}^<(w) \\ M_{s w s} + (x - x^{-1})M_w & \text{if } s \in \text{Des}^<(w) \\ x_\alpha M_w & \text{if } s \in \text{Des}^=(w) \\ -x_\alpha^{-1} M_w & \text{if } s \in \text{Asc}^=(w) \end{cases} \quad \text{for } s \in S, w = w^{-1}, \text{ where } x_\alpha := \alpha x^\alpha.$$

**Theorem (M.–Zhang, 2022).** Same result holds if  $W$  is any finite Coxeter group with an involution model, for certain explicit sets  $\text{Asc}^<(w)$ ,  $\text{Des}^<(w)$ ,  $\text{Des}^=(w)$ ,  $\text{Asc}^=(w)$ .



## Perfect models

The Gelfand models  $\mathbf{GMod}^+$  and  $\mathbf{GMod}^-$  are not produced directly from an involution model. Instead, they are features of a more technical construction called a **perfect model**.

**Theorem (M.–Zhang, 2022).** A finite Coxeter group has an involution model if and only if it has a perfect model.

Any perfect model  $\mathcal{P}$  determines a pair of Gelfand  $\mathcal{H}(W)$ -models analogous to  $\mathbf{GMod}^\pm$ . These modules then gives rise to a pair of  **$W$ -graphs**  $\Gamma_{\mathcal{P}}^+$  and  $\Gamma_{\mathcal{P}}^-$  which will be discussed later. There is a notion of **equivalence**, with  $\mathcal{P}_1 \equiv \mathcal{P}_2 \Rightarrow \mathbf{cells} \left( \Gamma_{\mathcal{P}_1}^+ \sqcup \Gamma_{\mathcal{P}_1}^- \right) \cong \mathbf{cells} \left( \Gamma_{\mathcal{P}_2}^+ \sqcup \Gamma_{\mathcal{P}_2}^- \right)$ .

**Theorem (M.–Zhang, 2022).** Outside rank 3, and ignoring a trivial family of exceptions in type  $B_n$ , each irreducible  $W$  has at most one equivalence class of perfect models.

To find perfect model  $\mathcal{P}$ : choose  $J \subseteq S$ , “**perfect**”  $w = w^{-1} \in W_J$ , repn  $\sigma : W_J \rightarrow \{\pm 1\}$  so

$$\sum_{(J,w,\sigma) \in \mathcal{P}} \text{Ind}_{C_{W_J}(w)}^W \text{Res}_{C_{W_J}(w)}^{W_J}(\sigma) = \sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(W)} \chi \left[ \text{perfect} \Leftrightarrow (wt)^4 = 1 \ \forall t \in T \right].$$

## Bar operators and canonical bases

An **antilinear map**  $L : \mathcal{H}(W) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}(W)$  is a  $\mathbb{Q}$ -linear map with  $L(x^n h) = x^{-n} L(h)$ .

The **bar involution** of  $\mathcal{H}(W)$  is the **antilinear ring automorphism**  $h \mapsto \bar{h}$  with  $\overline{H_w} = (H_{w^{-1}})^{-1}$ .

**Theorem (Kazhdan–Lusztig, 1979).**  $\mathcal{H}(W)$  has a unique basis  $\{\underline{H}_w\}_{w \in W}$  satisfying

$$\underline{H}_w = \overline{H_w} \in H_w + \sum_{\ell(y) < \ell(w)} x^{-1} \mathbb{Z}[x^{-1}] H_y.$$

Assume  $W$  is finite & has involution model  $\rightsquigarrow$  Gelfand  $\mathcal{H}(W)$ -models  $\mathbf{GMod}^\pm$  are defined.

**Theorem (M.-Zhang, 2022).**  $\mathbf{GMod}^\pm$  has an antilinear **bar involution**  $m \mapsto \bar{m}$  with

$$\overline{M_w} = M_w \text{ if } w = w^{-1} \text{ has } \text{Des}^<(w) = \emptyset \quad \text{and} \quad \overline{hm} = \bar{h}\bar{m} \text{ for all } h \in \mathcal{H}(W).$$

$\mathbf{GMod}^\pm$  has a unique **canonical basis**  $\{\underline{M}_w\}_{w=w^{-1}}$  with (for a certain **height map**  $\text{ht}$ )

$$\underline{M}_w = \overline{M_w} \in M_w + \sum_{\text{ht}(y) < \text{ht}(w)} x^{-1} \mathbb{Z}[x^{-1}] M_y. \quad \left[ \text{e.g., if } W = S_n \text{ then } \text{ht}(w) = \ell(\underline{w}) \right]$$

Elias–Williamson (2013):  $\underline{H}_w \in \mathbb{N}[x^{-1}]$ -span $\{H_y : y \in W\}$ . No such general positivity for  $\underline{M}_w$ .

# Involution representations for all Iwahori-Hecke algebras

There is another way of lifting the IRS involution representations to Iwahori-Hecke algebra.

**Theorem (Lusztig, 2012).** Let  $(W, S)$  be any Coxeter system. Choose  $\alpha \in \{\pm 1\}$ . Then there is an  $\mathcal{H}(W)$ -module  $\mathbf{Invol}^\alpha$  with basis  $\{I_w : w = w^{-1} \in W\}$  such that

$$H_s I_w = \begin{cases} I_{s w s} & \text{if } s w \neq w s > w \\ I_{s w s} + (x - x^{-1}) I_w & \text{if } s w \neq w s < w \\ (x^{\frac{1}{2}} + x^{-\frac{1}{2}}) I_{s w} + \alpha I_w & \text{if } s w = w s > w \\ \alpha (x^{\frac{1}{2}} - x^{-\frac{1}{2}}) I_{s w} + (x - \alpha - x^{-1}) I_w & \text{if } s w = w s < w \end{cases} \quad \text{for } s \in S, w = w^{-1} \in W;$$

here  $v < w$  means  $\ell(v) < \ell(w)$ .

When  $x = 1$  we have  $\mathbf{Invol}^\alpha \cong \mathbf{Invol}^{-\alpha} \otimes \text{sgn}$  as  $W$ -representations.

**Theorem (M., 2013).** For finite  $W$ , these  $W$ -representations are Gelfand models if and only if all irreducible factors of  $(W, S)$  are of type  $A_n$ ,  $H_3$ , or  $I_2(m)$  with  $m$  odd.

Natural to ask what is the irreducible decomposition of  $\mathbf{Invol}^+$  and  $\mathbf{Invol}^-$  in the typical case when they are not Gelfand models. The answer is known for finite  $W$ , and sort of amazing.

## Unipotent characters, formally

Lusztig attaches to each finite Coxeter group  $W$  a set of **unipotent characters**  $\text{Uch}(W)$ .

We consider  $\Phi \in \text{Uch}(W)$  to be a formal object with 3 properties:

- $\text{FakeDeg}(\Phi) \in \mathbb{N}[x]$ , called the **fake degree**.
- $\text{Deg}(\Phi) \in \mathbb{R}[x]$ , called the **generic degree**.
- $\text{Eig}(\Phi) \in \mathbb{C}^\times$ , called the **Frobenius eigenvalue**.

There is always an inclusion  $\text{Irr}(W) \subset \text{Uch}(W)$ , which is **equality only in type A**.

- $\text{FakeDeg}(\Phi) = 0$  for  $\Phi \in \text{Uch}(W) \setminus \text{Irr}(W)$ .
- $\text{FakeDeg}(\Phi)$  is graded multiplicity of  $\Phi \in \text{Irr}(W)$  in coinvariant algebra of  $W$ .
- $\text{Deg}(\Phi)|_{x=1} = \Phi(1)$  and  $\text{Eig}(\Phi) = 1$  for all  $\Phi \in \text{Irr}(W) \subset \text{Uch}(W)$ .

$\text{Uch}(W)$  has further a decomposition into disjoint **families**.

For crystallographic types,  $\text{Uch}(W)$  is the set of irreducible characters in a finite group of Lie type  $G$  not orthogonal to all **Deligne-Lusztig generalized characters**  $R_\psi$  for  $\psi \in \text{Irr}(W)$ .

## Fourier transform on unipotent characters

Each  $W$  has an involution  $\mathbf{FT} \in \mathbf{GL}(\{\text{maps } \text{Uch}(W) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\})$  called its **Fourier transform**.

$\mathbf{FT}$  is a real matrix with rows/columns indexed by  $\text{Uch}(W)$ .  $\mathbf{FT} = 1$  in type  $A$ .

For  $(W, S)$  crystallographic,  $\mathbf{FT}$  is essentially matrix of scalar products  $\langle \Phi, R_\psi \rangle$ .

Distinguished (almost determining) properties of  $\mathbf{FT}$  in all types:

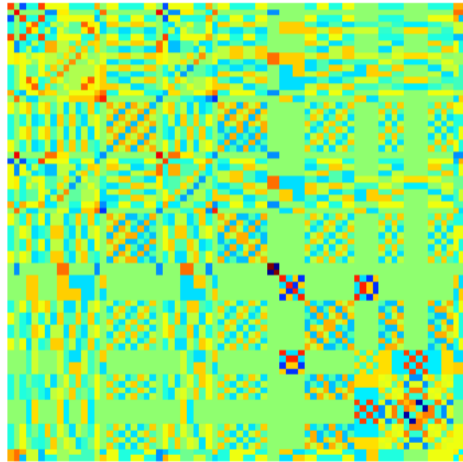
- $\mathbf{FT}$  sends fake degrees of  $\text{Uch}(W)$  to (a certain permutation of) its generic degrees.
- $\mathbf{FT}$  is block diagonal with respect to the division of  $\text{Uch}(W)$  into families.
- $\mathbf{FT}$  fixes vector of irreducible multiplicities of **left cell representations** of  $W$ .
- $\mathbf{FT}$  and diagonal matrix of Frobenius eigenvalues determine a “**fusion datum**.”

Even in crystallographic types, Lusztig's original definition of  $\mathbf{FT}$  is heuristic.

In non-crystallographic types, listed properties determine  $\mathbf{FT}$  except on two large families of unipotent characters of size 74 in type  $H_4$  and size  $\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor \lceil \frac{m}{2} \rceil$  in type  $I_2(m+2)$ .

Matrices for these families were found experimentally by Malle (1994) and Lusztig (1994).

# Malle's $74 \times 74$ Fourier transform matrix block in type $H_4$



## An amazing decomposition

Recall that we have two  $\mathcal{H}(W)$ -modules  $\mathbf{Invol}^\pm$  spanned by  $\{I_w : w = w^{-1} \in W\}$ .

When we specialize  $x = 1$  these become  $W$ -representations. **These turn out to be isomorphic.**

Building off and summarizing prior work of Casselman, Geck, Kottwitz, and Lusztig:

**Theorem (M., 2013).** There is a unique function  $\varepsilon : \text{Uch}(W) \rightarrow \{-1, 0, 1\}$  such that

(a)  $\varepsilon(\Phi) = 0$  if and only if  $\text{Eig}(\Phi) \notin \mathbb{R}$ ,

(b)  $\mathbf{FT}(\varepsilon)$  gives the multiplicities in irreducible decomposition of  $\mathbf{Invol}^\pm$  when  $x = 1$ .

And when  $(W, S)$  is crystallographic, the map  $\varepsilon$  is exactly the **Frobenius-Schur indicator**

$$\varepsilon(\Phi) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \Phi(g^2) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \Phi \text{ is character of a representation defined over } \mathbb{R} \\ 0 & \text{if } \Phi \text{ not real-valued} \\ -1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

There are only two unipotent characters  $\Phi$  with  $\varepsilon(\Phi) = -1$ , in type  $H_4$  only.

## Examples in classical types

Let  $\text{ch}(\mathbf{Invol}^\pm)$  be the character of the isomorphic  $W$ -modules  $\mathbf{Invol}^+$  or  $\mathbf{Invol}^-$  when  $x = 1$ .

- In type  $A_n$  one has  $\text{ch}(\mathbf{Invol}^\pm) = \sum_{\lambda \vdash n+1} \chi^\lambda = \text{ch}(\mathbf{GMod}^\pm)$ .
- In type  $B_n/C_n$  one has

$$\text{ch}(\mathbf{Invol}^\pm) = \sum_{(\lambda, \mu) \vdash n} 2^{d(\lambda, \mu)} \chi^{(\lambda, \mu)}$$

where in the sum it is required that  $\mu_i \leq \lambda_i + 1$  and  $\lambda_i^\top \leq \mu_i^\top + 1$  for all  $i$ .

- In type  $D_n$  one has

$$\text{ch}(\mathbf{Invol}^\pm) = \sum_{\lambda \vdash \frac{n}{2}} (\chi^{\{\lambda\}, 1} + \chi^{\{\lambda\}, 2}) + \sum_{(\lambda, \mu) \vdash n} 2^{e(\lambda, \mu)} \chi^{\{\lambda, \mu\}}$$

where in second sum  $\lambda \subsetneq \mu$  and skew diagram  $\mu \setminus \lambda$  must contain no  $2 \times 2$  squares.

Here  $d(\lambda, \mu)$  and  $e(\lambda, \mu)$  are certain combinatorially defined nonnegative integers.

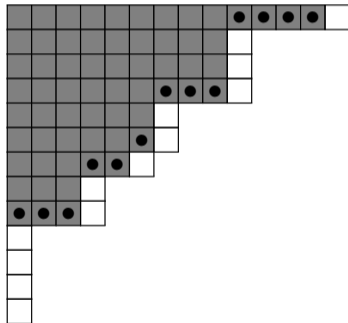
For example:  $e(\lambda, \mu)$  is the number of connected components of skew diagram  $\mu \setminus \lambda$  minus one.



# Pictures of constituents of $\text{ch}(\text{Invol}^\pm)$

type  $B_n/C_n$ :

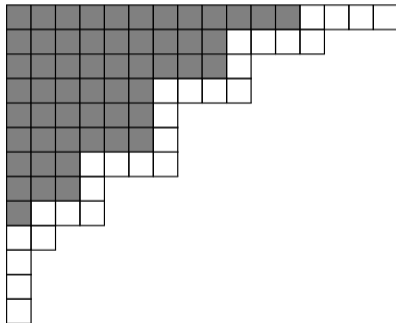
$\mu_i \leq \lambda_i + 1$  and  $\lambda_i^\top \leq \mu_i^\top + 1$  means:



$\lambda = \text{grey}$ ,  $\mu$  formed by adding  $\square$  or deleting  $\bullet$

type  $D_n$ :

$\mu \setminus \lambda$  has no  $2 \times 2$  squares means:



$\lambda = \text{grey}$ ,  $\mu$  formed by adding  $\square$ 's

## Two more canonical bases

$\mathcal{H}(W)$  has two 1-dim representations, generated by  $\sum_{w \in W} (\alpha x^\alpha)^{\ell(w)} w \in \mathcal{H}(W)$  for  $\alpha = \pm 1$ .

**Theorem (Lusztig, 2014).**  $\mathbf{Invol}^\alpha$  is generated by  $\sum_{w \in W} (\alpha x^{\frac{\alpha}{2}})^{\ell(w)} w$  for  $\alpha = \pm 1$ .

**Theorem (Lusztig, 2012).** Each  $\mathbf{Invol}^\pm$  has an antilinear **bar involution**  $m \mapsto \bar{m}$  with

$$\overline{1_1} = 1_1 \quad \text{and} \quad \overline{hm} = \bar{h}\bar{m} \quad \text{for all } h \in \mathcal{H}(W) \text{ and } m \in \mathbf{Invol}^\pm.$$

Also each  $\mathbf{Invol}^\pm$  has a unique **canonical basis**  $\{\underline{l}_w\}_{w=w^{-1}}$  with

$$\underline{l}_w = \overline{\underline{l}_w} \in l_w + \sum_{\ell(y) < \ell(w)} x^{-\frac{1}{2}} \mathbb{Z}[x^{-\frac{1}{2}}] l_y.$$

As with  $\underline{M}_w$ , coefficients of  $\underline{l}_w$  in standard basis  $\{l_y : y = y^{-1} \in W\}$  **not always positive**.

Now we have the **Kazhdan–Lusztig basis**  $\{\underline{H}_w\}$  for  $\mathcal{H}(W)$ , viewed as a left and right module.

Also have canonical bases  $\{\underline{M}_w\}$  for  $\mathbf{GMod}^+$  and  $\mathbf{GMod}^-$ , and  $\{\underline{l}_w\}$  for  $\mathbf{Invol}^+$  and  $\mathbf{Invol}^-$ .

What can one do with all of these constructions?

## $W$ -graphs in principle

Suppose  $\mathcal{A}$  is an  $R$ -algebra with generators  $\{a_s\}_{s \in S}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  is an  $\mathcal{A}$ -module with basis  $\{b_v\}_{v \in V}$ . Create a directed graph  $\Gamma$  with vertex set  $V$  and edges  $v \xrightarrow[s]{c(v,w)} w$  whenever

$$a_s b_v = \sum_{w \in V} c(v,w) b_w \quad \text{and} \quad 0 \neq c(v,w) \in R.$$

**Observations.** We can recover  $\mathcal{B}$  from  $\Gamma$ , and we can try to decompose  $\mathcal{B}$  using  $\Gamma$ :

- A **cell** in  $\Gamma$  is a strongly connected component.
- Cells don't span literal subreps of  $\mathcal{B}$ , but form vertices in a directed acyclic graph.
- This DAG defines a filtration of  $\mathcal{B}$ , in which each cell spans a successive quotient.
- When completely reducible,  $\mathcal{B}$  is direct sum of these quotient **cell representations**.

This talk: a  **$W$ -graph** means an instance of  $\Gamma$  for  $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{H}(W)$  with generators  $\{H_s : s \in S\}$ .

In literature, “ $W$ -graph” has more specific meaning: refers to  $\Gamma$ 's that determine  $\mathcal{B}$  even if we remove all  $s$ -labels from edges, as long as vertices remember a form of “**descent set**.”

## Standard basis $W$ -graphs: boring representations, interesting graphs

Let  $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{H}(W) = \langle H_s : s \in S \rangle$  and suppose  $\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{H}(W)$  or  $\mathbf{GMod}^\pm$  or  $\mathbf{Invol}^\pm$ .

Take  $\{b_v\}_{v \in V}$  to be the **standard bases**  $\{H_w\}_{w \in W}$  or  $\{M_w\}_{w=w^{-1}}$  or  $\{I_w\}_{w=w^{-1}}$ .

Resulting  $W$ -graphs  $\Gamma$  are boring for representation theory:

- Every edge is **bidirected**: if  $v \rightarrow w$  is an edge then so is  $w \rightarrow v$  (for some labels).
- Every connected component is **strongly connected**: one cell if  $\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{H}(W)$  or  $\mathbf{Invol}^\pm$ .
- If  $\mathcal{B} = \mathbf{GMod}^\pm$  then  $\#$  of cells is number of conjugacy classes of involutions in  $W$ .

But interesting for combinatorics:

- Form  $\vec{\Gamma}$  from  $\Gamma$  by retaining only edges  $v \xrightarrow{s} w$  with  $\ell(v) < \ell(w)$  or  $\text{ht}(v) < \text{ht}(w)$ .
- If  $\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{H}(W)$  then  $\vec{\Gamma}$  is **left weak order** lattice for  $W$ .
- If  $\mathcal{B} = \mathbf{Invol}^\pm$ ,  $W = S_n$  then  $\vec{\Gamma}$  is **weak order** on  $\mathbf{O}_n$ -orbit closures in  $\mathbf{FI}_n$ .
- If  $\mathcal{B} = \mathbf{GMod}^\pm$ ,  $W = S_{2n}$  then  $\vec{\Gamma} \leftrightarrow$  **weak order** on  $\mathbf{Sp}_n$ -orbit closures in  $\mathbf{FI}_{2n}$ .

## Maximal chains in standard basis $W$ -graphs

Write  $\vec{\Gamma}_{\mathcal{H}}$ ,  $\vec{\Gamma}_{\text{Invol}}$ ,  $\vec{\Gamma}_{\text{GMod}}$  for  $\vec{\Gamma}$  when  $\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{H}(W)$ ,  $\text{Invol}^{\pm}$ ,  $\text{GMod}^{\pm}$ . (Same for either  $\pm$ )

Maximal chains in  $\vec{\Gamma}_{\mathcal{H}}$  correspond to **reduced words** for longest element  $w_0 \in W$ .

- **Stanley (1984)**: if  $W = S_n$  then # of maximal chains in  $\vec{\Gamma}_{\mathcal{H}}$  is # of **standard Young tableaux** of “staircase shape”  $(n-1, n-2, n-3, \dots)$ .
- **M.–Pawlowski (2018)**: in type  $B_n$  this is also # of maximal chains in  $\vec{\Gamma}_{\text{Invol}}$ .
- **Hamaker–M.–Pawlowski (2015)**: if  $W = S_n$  then # of maximal chains in  $\vec{\Gamma}_{\text{Invol}}$  is # of **standard shifted tableaux** of shape  $(n-1, n-3, n-5, \dots)$ . This is also the # of maximal chains in component of  $w_0$  in  $\vec{\Gamma}_{\text{GMod}}$  if  $n$  is odd and  $W = S_{n+1}$ .
- **Conjecture (M.–Pawlowski, 2018)**: in type  $D_n$  the # maximal chains in  $\vec{\Gamma}_{\text{Invol}}$  is # of **standard Young tableaux** of shape  $(n-1, n-2, \dots, \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor, \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor, \dots, 2, 1)$ .

Many stronger results for **fundamental quasisymmetric descent generating functions** of maximal chains: these are always **symmetric, Schur positive, Schur  $P$ -positive**, etc.

## Canonical basis $W$ -graphs: interesting representations, but mysterious

Now suppose instead  $\{b_v\}_{v \in V}$  is **canonical basis**  $\{\underline{H}_w\}_{w \in W}$ ,  $\{\underline{M}_w\}_{w=w^{-1}}$ , or  $\{\underline{L}_w\}_{w=w^{-1}}$ .

- Let  $\Gamma_L$  and  $\Gamma_R$  be resulting  $W$ -graphs when  $\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{H}(W)$  as left module or right module.
- Write  $\Gamma_{\mathbf{GMod}}^+$ ,  $\Gamma_{\mathbf{GMod}}^-$ ,  $\Gamma_{\mathbf{Invol}}^+$ ,  $\Gamma_{\mathbf{Invol}}^-$  for  $\Gamma$  when  $\mathcal{B} = \mathbf{GMod}^+$ ,  $\mathbf{GMod}^-$ ,  $\mathbf{Invol}^+$ , or  $\mathbf{Invol}^-$ .

Unlike in standard basis case, no automatic relationship  $\Gamma_{\mathbf{GMod}}^+ \leftrightarrow \Gamma_{\mathbf{GMod}}^-$  or  $\Gamma_{\mathbf{Invol}}^+ \leftrightarrow \Gamma_{\mathbf{Invol}}^-$ .

The  $W$ -graphs  $\Gamma_L$  and  $\Gamma_R$  are the classical **left and right Kazhdan-Lusztig  $W$ -graphs**.

Their cells are often referred to simply as the **left cells** and **right cells** in  $W$ .

**Theorem (Kazhdan–Lusztig, 1979).** Assume  $W = S_n$ .

- Then each left and right cell representation is irreducible.
- In fact, each left/right cell is a **molecule** (connected by bidirected edges).
- Moreover if  $w \xrightarrow{\text{RSK}} (P_{\text{RSK}}(w), Q_{\text{RSK}}(w))$  is the **RSK correspondence** then the left (resp. right) cells are the subsets where  $Q_{\text{RSK}}$  (resp.  $P_{\text{RSK}}$ ) is constant.

## Cells in Gelfand models and involution modules

Some things are known about cells in  $\Gamma_{\text{GMod}}^+$  and  $\Gamma_{\text{GMod}}^-$  when  $W$  has type  $A_n, B_n, D_{2n+1}$ :

**Theorem (M.–Zhang, 2022).** Assume  $W = S_n$  is of type  $A$ .

- The **molecules** in  $\Gamma_{\text{GMod}}^+$  are classified by  $P_{\text{RSK}}(w) = Q_{\text{RSK}}(w)$  for  $w = w^{-1}$ .
- The **molecules** in  $\Gamma_{\text{GMod}}^-$  are classified by a novel RSK-like insertion algorithm.

**Conjecture.** In type  $A$  all cells in  $\Gamma_{\text{GMod}}^\pm$  are molecules and all cell reps are irreducible.

Neither property is true in other classical types. However:

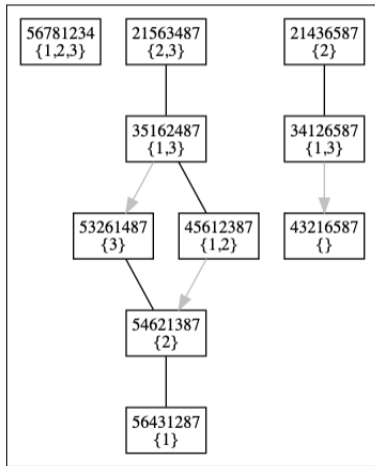
**Theorem (M.–Zhang, 2022).** For types  $B_n$  and  $D_{2n+1}$ ,  $\Gamma_{\text{GMod}}^+$  and  $\Gamma_{\text{GMod}}^-$  are **dual**: one graph is obtained from the other by reversing all edges. **This is not true in type  $A_n$ .**

**Theorem (Lusztig, 2012).** If  $W = S_n$  then every cell repn in  $\Gamma_{\text{Invol}}^+$  is irreducible.

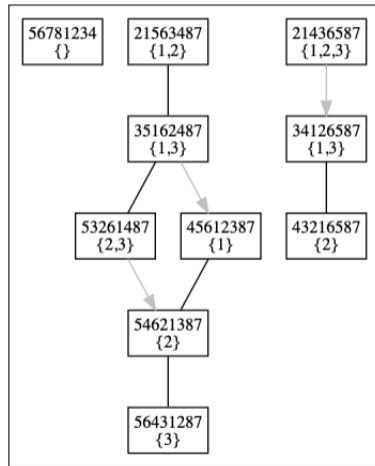
Proof is very indirect, more concrete argument is desired! Nothing seems known about  $\Gamma_{\text{Invol}}^-$ .

# Gelfand model $W$ -graphs for $W = S_4 = W_{A_3}$

$\Gamma_{\text{GMod}}^+$   $\cong$



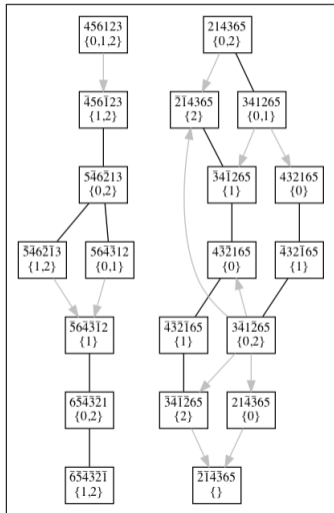
$\cong \Gamma_{\text{GMod}}^-$



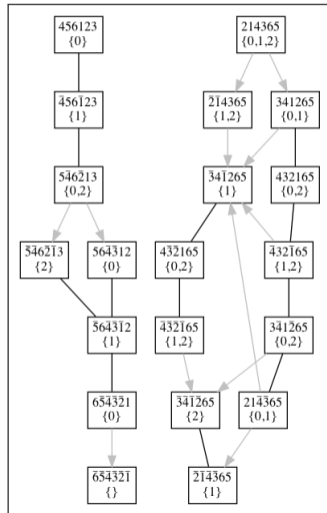


# Gelfand model $W$ -graphs for $W = W_{B_3} = W_{C_3}$

$\Gamma^+_{\text{GMod}}$   $\cong$

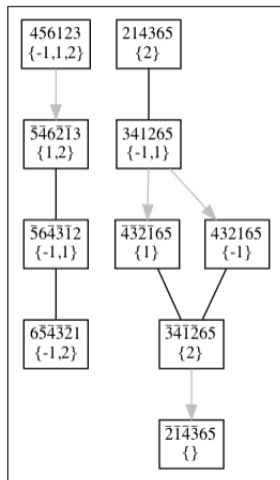


$\cong$   $\Gamma^-_{\text{GMod}}$

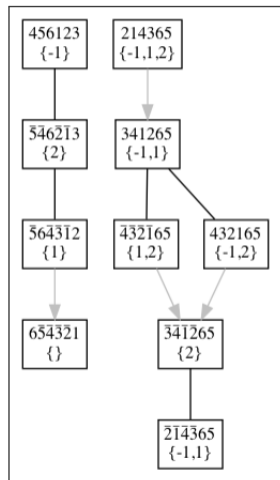


# Gelfand model $W$ -graphs for $W = W_{D_3}$

$\Gamma_{\text{GMod}}^+$   $\cong$



$\cong \Gamma_{\text{GMod}}^-$



Thanks for listening!