

# 2-roots for simply laced Weyl groups

Tianyuan Xu

Haverford College

(Joint work with Richard Green)

## Outline

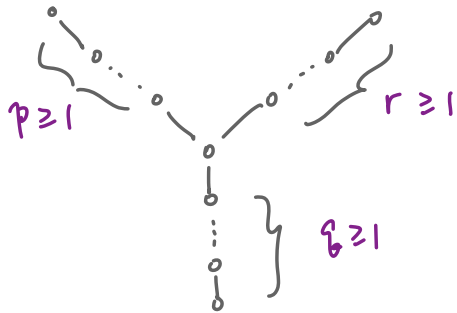
- Background: Weyl groups, reflection representations, and the module  $M$ .
- $2$ -roots: canonical basis, actions, and orbits.
- Selected results: semisimplicity, sign-coherence, and highest  $2$ -roots.

## Convention / Assumptions:

- To simplify statements, we assume that  $k$  is a field w/  $\text{char } k = 0$ .
- All Coxeter systems will be simply-laced.

## The groups $Y_{p,q,r}$

We will be interested in the Coxeter groups of type " $Y_{p,q,r}$ ":



→

$$W = W(Y_{p,q,r}) = \langle S \mid R \rangle$$

$S$  = the vertex set

$$R = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} s^2 = 1 \quad \forall s \in S, \\ st = ts \quad \text{if } s+t, \\ sts = tst \quad \text{if } s-t. \end{array} \right\}$$

### Special cases:

•  $Y_{1,1,r} = D_{r+3}$  •  $E_r, \tilde{E}_r$  ( $6 \leq r \leq 8$ ), " $E_n$ " ( $n > 8$ ).

•  $Y_{3,4,4} / \langle \text{one extra rel} \rangle = C_2 \times M$  (Monster)

## The reflection representation

• Let  $V = \bigoplus_{s \in S} k \alpha_s$  and let  $B$  be the bilinear form on  $V$  given by

$$B(\alpha_s, \alpha_t) = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } s=t, \\ -1 & \text{if } s-t, \\ 0 & \text{if } s+t. \end{cases}$$

"simple roots"

• Facts : (a)  $V$  affords a reflection representation of  $W$ , given by

$$s \cdot \alpha_t = \alpha_t - \frac{2B(\alpha_t, \alpha_s)}{B(\alpha_s, \alpha_s)} \alpha_s = \begin{cases} -\alpha_t & \text{if } s=t, \\ \alpha_t + \alpha_s & \text{if } s-t, \\ \alpha_t & \text{if } s+t. \end{cases}$$

(b) invariance :  $\forall g \in W, v, w \in V, \quad B(g \cdot v, g \cdot w) = B(v, w).$



## The module $M$

• View  $B$  as a linear map  $B: V \otimes V \rightarrow k$ .

• Think of  $S^2(V)$  as the subspace of  $V \otimes V$  spanned by the elts

$$x \vee y := x \otimes y + y \otimes x.$$

• Now consider the restriction  $B: S^2(V) \rightarrow k$ , and define

$$M := \ker B = \{ v \in S^2(V) : B(v) = 0 \}.$$

• Then  $M$  is a  $W$ -submodule of  $S^2(V)$  with codimension 1.

Q: Is  $M$  simple? Completely reducible?

## The canonical basis

Def: We define a 2-root (of  $W, V$ , etc) to be an element of the form  $\alpha \vee \beta$  where  $\alpha, \beta$  are roots in  $V$  w/  $B(\alpha, \beta) = 0$ .  
 $\downarrow$   
 $w \cdot \alpha_s, w \in W, s \in S$ .

E.g. Subgraph



2-root

a) nonadjacent  $\begin{matrix} \circ & \circ \\ i & j \end{matrix}$

b)  $i - j - k$

c)  $1 - 2 - \dots - m \begin{matrix} / s \\ \backslash t \end{matrix}$

$\alpha_i \vee \alpha_j$

$\alpha_j \vee (\alpha_i + \alpha_j + \alpha_k)$

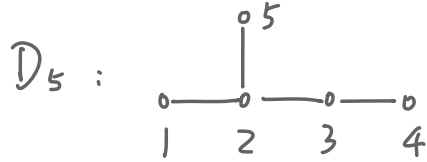
$\alpha_i \vee \theta_1, \text{ w/ } \theta_1 = \alpha_s + \alpha_m + \dots + \alpha_2 + \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \dots + \alpha_m + \alpha_t$

Prop. (Green-x.)

The above 2-roots form a basis of  $M$ .

$\downarrow$   
"the canonical basis,  $\beta$ "

## Example actions



$$\begin{aligned} S_2 \cdot (\alpha_1 \vee \alpha_3) &= (S_2 \cdot \alpha_1) \vee (S_2 \cdot \alpha_3) = (\alpha_1 + \alpha_2) \vee (\alpha_3 + \alpha_2) \\ &= \alpha_1 \vee \alpha_3 + \alpha_1 \vee \alpha_2 + \alpha_2 \vee \alpha_3 + \alpha_2 \vee \alpha_2 \\ &= \underbrace{\alpha_1 \vee \alpha_3}_{\hat{\beta}} + \underbrace{\alpha_2 \vee (\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3)}_{\hat{\beta}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} S_3 \cdot \left( \alpha_3 \vee \underbrace{(\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3)}_{\downarrow \theta_3} \right) &= (-\alpha_3) \vee (\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3 - \alpha_3 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3 + \alpha_3) \\ &= \underline{-\alpha_3 \vee \theta_3} \end{aligned}$$

More generally ...

Thm 1. (GX) (1) For any  $\gamma \in S$  and  $\alpha \vee \beta \in \beta$ , we have

$$S_{\gamma}(\alpha \vee \beta) = \begin{cases} \alpha \vee \beta & \text{if } B(\gamma, \alpha) = B(\gamma, \beta) = 0, \\ -\alpha \vee \beta & \text{if } \gamma \in \{\alpha, \beta\}, \\ \alpha \vee \beta + \gamma \vee \vee & \text{otherwise, for some } (\gamma \vee \vee) \in \beta. \end{cases}$$

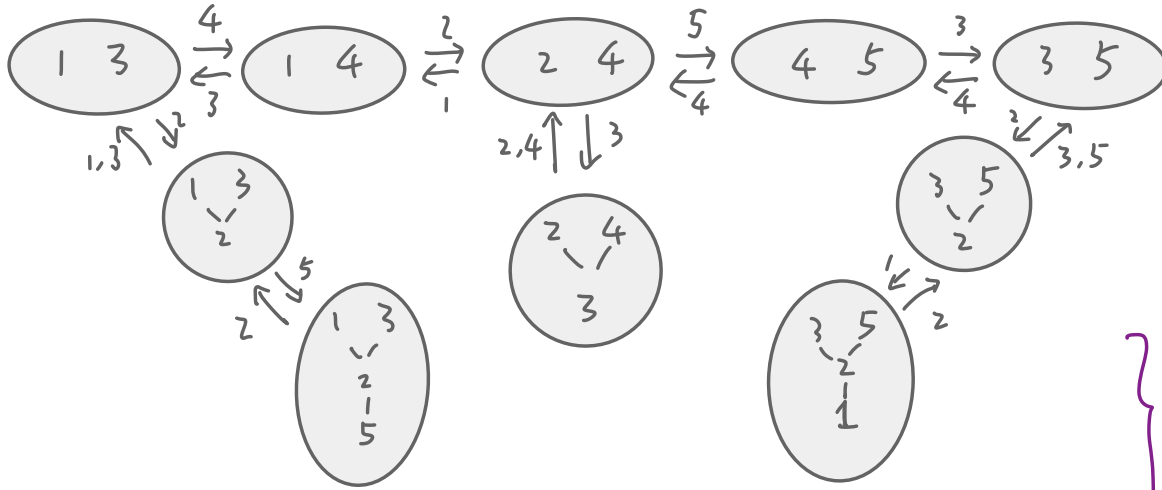
Moreover, in the last case we have  $\gamma \vee \vee = g \cdot (\alpha \vee \beta)$  for some  $g \in W$ .

---

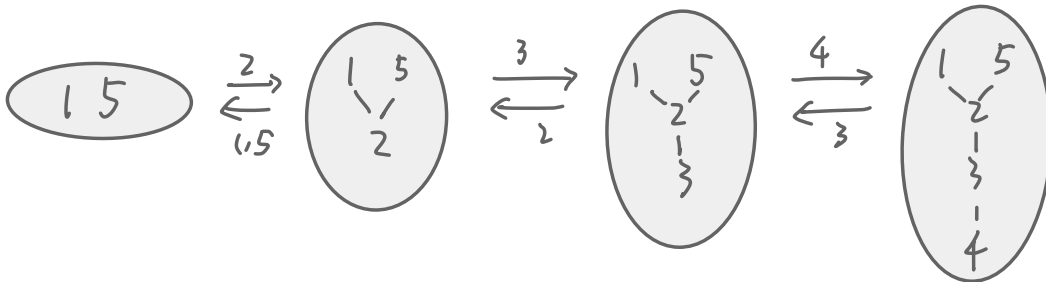
(2) We understand the orbits of the  $W$ -action on 2-roots, including the number of them and how they intersect with  $\beta$ .

Example

$$W = W(D_5) \rightsquigarrow |\mathcal{B}| = 14, \# \text{ 2-roots} = 140, \# \text{ orbits} = 2$$



actions on  $\mathcal{B}$  of  
the form  
 $S_i \cdot x = x + y$   
( $\cdot x^i \rightarrow y \cdot$ )



One motivation for studying  $\mathcal{B}$ : In type  $Y_{1,q,r}$ ,

- $M$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  are specializations of certain Kazhdan-Lusztig (KL) cell modules and their KL bases, respectively.

Example: For any  $W = W(\bar{E}_n)$  with  $n \geq 6$  and any left cell  $\Gamma$  of  $W$  with  $a$ -value 2, there is a natural bijection  $\Gamma \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$   
 $w \mapsto b_w$

$$C_s \cdot [C_w] = \sum_{y \in \Gamma} \lambda_y \cdot [C_y]$$

s.t.  $\forall s \in S, w \in \Gamma$ :



↓ "set  $v = -1$ "

$$(s-1) \cdot b_w = \sum_{y \in \Gamma} \lambda_y \cdot b_y.$$

## Semisimplicity

Facts:  $V$  is irreducible  $\iff B$  is nondegenerate  $\iff Y_{p,q,r} \notin \{\tilde{E}_6, \tilde{E}_7, \tilde{E}_8\}$ .

• When  $B$  is nondegenerate, we can identify  $V^*$  with  $V$  and define

$$\text{the Virasoro element } \omega = \sum_{s \in S} \alpha_s^* \vee \alpha_s.$$

Thm 2. (GX) Suppose  $(W, \mathfrak{g})$  is not affine. Then  $S^2(V)$  and  $M$  are both completely reducible, with  $S^2(V) = M \oplus k\omega$  and  $M = \bigoplus_i k(\beta \cap X_i)$ ,

where the  $X_i$ 's are the  $W$ -orbits of  $\alpha$ -roots and  $k(\beta \cap X_i)$  is a simple  $W$ -module for each  $i$ .

## Sign-coherence

Prop (GX): Every  $\alpha$ -root of  $W$  is  $W$ -conjugate to an element in  $\mathcal{B}$ .

Thm 3 (GX): The basis  $\mathcal{B}$  of  $M$  is column-sign-coherent:



$$\forall w \in W, b \in \mathcal{B}, w \cdot b \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} \mathcal{B} \cup \mathbb{Z}_{\leq 0} \mathcal{B}.$$

Thm 3' (GX): Every  $\alpha$ -root of  $W$  is a linear combination of elements of  $\mathcal{B}$  with integer coefficients of like sign.



## Highest 2-roots

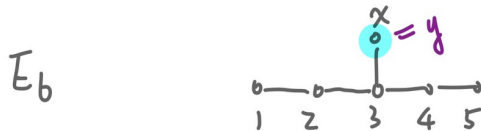
Def: For  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}\beta$ , define  $x \leq_2 y$  if  $y - x \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}\beta$ .

Thm 4. (GX) If  $W$  is finite, then every  $W$ -orbit of 2-roots contains a unique max. element w.r.t.  $\leq_2$ .

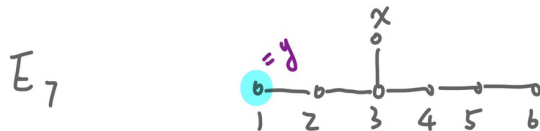
Examples:

$\theta$ : h.r.

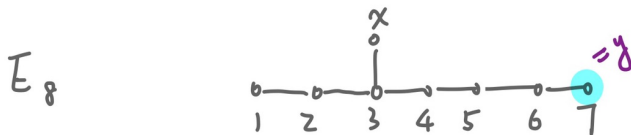
$$\alpha_{ij} = \sum_{k \in \beta_{ij}} \alpha_k$$



$$(\theta - \alpha_{2,y}) \vee (\theta - \alpha_{4,y})$$



$$(\theta - \alpha_{x,y}) \vee (\theta - \alpha_{4,y})$$



$$(\theta - \alpha_{2,y}) \vee (\theta - \alpha_{x,y})$$

Thank you !

Type	Coxeter diagram	Orbit	Highest 2-root
$D_4$		"1" "3" "4"	$\alpha_{1,3} \vee \alpha_{1,4}$ $\alpha_{3,1} \vee \alpha_{3,4}$ $\alpha_{4,1} \vee \alpha_{4,3}$
$D_n, n > 4$		small large	$\alpha_{1,n-1} \vee \alpha_{1,n}$ $(\theta - \alpha_{1,2}) \vee (\theta - \alpha_{2,3})$
$E_6$		—	$(\theta - \alpha_{2,y}) \vee (\theta - \alpha_{4,y})$
$E_7$		—	$(\theta - \alpha_{x,y}) \vee (\theta - \alpha_{4,y})$
$E_8$		—	$(\theta - \alpha_{2,y}) \vee (\theta - \alpha_{x,y})$

$$(\alpha_{i,j} = \sum_{p \in P_{ij}} \alpha_p)$$

# Connection to Temperley-Lieb algebras

In type  $D_n$  (and  $A_n$ ), the expansion of a 2-root into  $\mathbb{B}$  dictates reductions in suitable Temperley-Lieb diagrams:

$$D_4: \text{TL diagram with 2 arcs and 2 dots} = \text{TL diagram with 2 arcs} + \text{TL diagram with 1 arc and 1 dot} + \text{TL diagram with 2 arcs and 2 dots}$$

$$(\epsilon_1 + \epsilon_4) \vee (\epsilon_2 + \epsilon_3)$$

↑  
a 2-root

$$(\epsilon_1 - \epsilon_2) \vee (\epsilon_3 - \epsilon_4)$$

$$\parallel \\ \alpha_1 \vee \alpha_3$$

$$(\epsilon_2 - \epsilon_3) \vee (\epsilon_1 - \epsilon_4)$$

$$\parallel \\ \alpha_2 \vee (\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3)$$

$$(\epsilon_3 + \epsilon_4) \vee (\epsilon_1 + \epsilon_2)$$

$$\parallel \\ \alpha_4 \vee \theta_4$$

$$\left( D_4: \begin{array}{c} \circ & & \circ & & \circ & & \circ \\ & & | & & / & & \backslash \\ & & 1 & & 2 & & 3 \\ & & & & & & 4 \end{array} \right)$$