Kazhdan-Lusztig polynomials

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1 Bar invariant bases

Proposition 1. Let (W, \leq) be a poset such that for $u, v \in W$ the interval [u, v] is finite. Let M be the free $\mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}]$ modules with basis $\{T_w \mid w \in W\}$,

$$M = \mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}] \operatorname{-span}\{T_w \mid w \in W\},$$

and let $: M \to M$ be a \mathbb{Z} -linear involution such that

$$\overline{q} = q^{-1}$$
 and $\overline{T_w} = T_w + \sum_{v < w} a_{wv} T_v$,

where $a_{vw} \in \mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}]$. Then

(a) There is a unique basis $\{C_w^- \mid w \in W\}$ such that

$$\overline{C_w} = C_w \quad and \quad C_w^- = T_w + \sum_{v < w} P_{vw}^- T_v \quad with \ P_{vw}^- \in q^{-1}\mathbb{Z}[q^{-1}].$$

(b) There is a unique basis $\{C_w^- \mid w \in W\}$ such that

$$\overline{C_w} = C_w \quad and \quad C_w^+ = T_w + \sum_{v < w} P_{vw}^+ T_v \quad with \ P_{vw}^+ \in q\mathbb{Z}[q].$$

 $\mathit{Proof.}$ (a) The p_{vw}^- are dertermined by induction:

$$P_{ww}^- = 1$$
 and $P_{uw}^- = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\leq 0}} f_k q^k$

where

$$f = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} f_k q^k = \sum_{u < z \le w} a_{uz} \overline{P_{zw}^-} \quad (= P_{uw}^- - \overline{P_{uw}^-}).$$

(b) The P_{vw}^+ are determined by induction:

$$P_{ww}^+ = 1$$
 and $P_{uw}^+ = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}} f_k q^k$

where

$$f = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} f_k q^k = \sum_{u < z \le w} a_{uz} \overline{P_{zw}^+} \quad (= P_{uw}^+ - \overline{P_{uw}^+}).$$

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The dual module

$$M^* = \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}[q,q^{-1}]}(M, \mathbb{Z}[q,q^{-1}])$$

is given a bar involution

$$-: M^* \to M^*$$
 defined by $\langle \overline{\varphi}, m \rangle = \overline{\langle \varphi, \overline{m} \rangle}$

If $\{T^w \mid w \in W\}$ is the dual basis to $\{T_w \mid w \in W\}$ then

$$\overline{T^w} = \sum_{v} b_{vw} T^v \qquad \text{where} \qquad b_{vw} = \langle \overline{T^w}, T_v \rangle = \overline{\langle T^w, \overline{T_v} \rangle} = \overline{\langle T^w, \sum_{z \le v} a_{zv} T_z \rangle}$$

so that $B = \overline{A^t}$. If $\{C^w \mid w \in W\}$ is the dual basis to $\{C_w \mid w \in W\}$ then

$$\overline{C^w} = C^w \quad \text{since} \quad \langle \overline{C^w}, C_v \rangle = \overline{\langle C^w, \overline{C_v} \rangle} = \overline{\langle C^w, C_v \rangle} = \delta_{vw},$$

and

$$C^{w} = \sum P^{vw}T^{v} \qquad \text{where} \qquad \delta_{vw} \qquad \langle C^{w}, C_{v} \rangle = \left\langle \sum_{u} P^{uw}T_{u}, \sum_{z} P_{zv}T_{z} \right\rangle = \sum_{u} P^{uw}P_{uv}$$

so that

$$(P^{uw}) = ((P_{uv})^{-1})^t = (P^t)^{-1}.$$

$\mathbf{2}$ The affine Hecke algebra

The affine Hecke algebra \tilde{H} has $\mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}]$ basis $\{T_w \mid w \in \tilde{W}\},\$

$$\tilde{H} = \mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}]$$
-span $\{T_w \mid w \in \tilde{W}\}$

with relations

$$\begin{split} T_{w_1} T_{w_2} &= T_{w_1 w_2}, & \text{if } \ell(w_1 w_2) = \ell(w_1) + \ell(w_2), \\ T_{s_i} T_w &= (q - q^{-1}) T_w + T_{s_i w}, & \text{if } \ell(s_i w) < \ell(w), \quad (0 \le i \le n). \end{split}$$

The algebra \tilde{H} also has bases

$$\{X^{\lambda}T_w \mid w \in W, \lambda \in P\} \quad \text{and} \quad \{T_v X^{\mu} \mid v \in W, \mu \in P\},\$$

where

$$X^{\lambda} = T_{t_{\lambda}}, \text{ if } \lambda \in P^+, \text{ and } X^{\lambda} = X^{\mu}(X^{\nu})^{-1},$$

 $\begin{array}{l} \text{if } \lambda = \mu - \nu \text{ with } \mu, \nu \in P^+. \\ \text{The bar involution on } \tilde{H} \text{ is the } \mathbb{Z}\text{-linear map } \text{-: } \tilde{H} \to \tilde{H} \text{ given by} \end{array}$

$$\overline{q} = q^{-1}$$
 and $\overline{T_w} = T_{w^{-1}}^{-1}$ for $w \in \tilde{W}$.

Define elements $\mathbf{1}_0, \varepsilon_0 \in H$ by

$$\begin{array}{ll} \mathbf{1}_0^2 = \mathbf{1}_0, & \text{and} & T_{s_i} \mathbf{1}_0 = q \mathbf{1}_0, & \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq n, \\ \varepsilon_0^2 = \varepsilon_0, & \text{and} & T_{s_i} \varepsilon_0 = q^{-1} \varepsilon_0, & \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq n, \end{array}$$

and let

$$A_{\mu} = \varepsilon_0 X^{\mu} \mathbf{1}_0, \quad \text{for } \mu \in P.$$

Proposition 2.

(a)
$$\overline{X^{\lambda}} = T_{w_0} X^{w_0 \lambda} T_{w_0}^{-1}$$
, for $\lambda \in P$,
(b) $\overline{\mathbf{1}_0} = \mathbf{1}_0$ and $\overline{\varepsilon_0} = \varepsilon_0$.
(c) If $z \in \mathbb{Z}[P]^W$ then $\overline{z} = z$.
(d) $\overline{q^{-\ell(w_0)} A_{\lambda+\rho}} = q^{-\ell(w_0)} A_{\lambda+\rho}$.

The τ -operators are given by

$$\tau_i = T_i - \frac{q - q^{-1}}{1 - X^{-\alpha_i}}.$$

Then

(a)
$$X^{\lambda}\tau_i = \tau_i X^{s_i\lambda}$$
,
(b) $\tau_i^2 = \frac{(q - q^{-1}X^{\alpha_i})(q - q^{-1}X^{-\alpha_i})}{(1 - X^{\alpha_i})(1 - X^{-\alpha_i})}$
(c) $displaystyle \underbrace{\tau_i \tau_j \tau_i \cdots}_{m_{ij} \text{ factors}} = \underbrace{\tau_j \tau_i \tau_j \cdots}_{m_{ij} \text{ factors}}$

$$m_{ij}$$
 factors m_{ij} factor

The *shift operator* is

$$\Delta = \prod_{\alpha \in R^+} (qX^{\alpha/2} - q^{-1}X^{-\alpha/2}).$$

Then

$$(T_i + q)\Delta = (s_i\Delta)(T_i - q) \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta \mathbb{C}[P]^W = \{h \in \tilde{H} \mid (t_i + q^{-1}h = 0 \text{ for } 1 \le i \le n\}$$
$$\varepsilon_0 E_\lambda = \Delta \mathbf{1}_0 E_{\lambda - \rho} \quad \text{and} \quad \langle \Delta f, \Delta g \rangle_k = q^{Nk} \langle f, g \rangle_{k+1}.$$

The $\ref{eq:trace}$ on \tilde{H} is the linear map $\tau\colon\tilde{H}\to\mathbb{C}$ given by

 $\operatorname{tr}(h) = h|_1,$ or, more precisely, $\operatorname{tr}(T_w) = \delta_{w1}.$

Define an inner product on \tilde{H} by

$$\langle h_1, h_2 \rangle = \operatorname{tr}(h_1 h_2),$$

so that

$$\langle T_u, T_v \rangle = [T_{u^{-1}}T_v]_1$$
 and $\langle T_u, T_v \rangle = q^{\ell(u)??}\delta_{uv^{-1}}.$

The generic degrees are $d_\lambda(q)$ given by

$$\operatorname{tr} = \sum_{\lambda \in \hat{H}} d_{\lambda}(q) \chi_{H}^{\lambda}.$$

The Kazhdan-Lusztig basis is defined by

$$\{h \in H \mid \langle h, h^{\#} \rangle \in 1 + q^{-1} \mathbb{Z}[q^{-1}], h = \overline{h}\}$$

or by the usual bar invariance and triangularity conditions.

3 Kazhdan-Lusztig polynomials

The *Iwahori-Hecke* algebra is the algebra over $\mathbb{Z}[q]$ given by generators $T_w, w \in W$ and relations

$$T_{s_i}T_w = \begin{cases} T_{s_iw}, & \text{if } s_iw > w, \\ qT_{s_iw} + (q-1)T_w, & \text{if } s_iw < w. \end{cases}$$

The bar involution on H is the \mathbb{Z} -algebra involution given by

$$\overline{q} = q^{-1}$$
 and $\overline{T_w} = T_{w^{-1}}^{-1}$,

for $w \in W$. The Kazhdan-Lusztig basis of H is the basis $\{C_w \mid w \in W\}$ given by

(a) $\overline{C_w} = C_w$, and (b) $C_w = T_w + \sum_{v \le w} p_{vw}(q) T_v$, where $p_{vw}(q) \in q\mathbb{Z}[q]$.

Kazhdan-Lusztig polynomials

- (1) $P_{ww}(q) = 1$,
- (2) $P_{xw}(q) = 0$, if $x \not< w$,
- (3) $\deg(P_{xw}(q)) \le \frac{1}{2}(\ell(w) \ell(x) 1)$, if $x \ne w$.

Define

 $\mu(x, w) = \text{coefficient of the highest degree term in } P_{xw}(q),$

which is the term of degree $\frac{1}{2}(\ell(w) - \ell(x) - 1)$. Then, if sw < w

$$P_{xw}(q) = \begin{cases} P_{sx,w}(q), & \text{if } sx > x, \\ P_{sx,sw}(q) + qP_{x,sw} - \sum_{sz < z} q^{\frac{1}{2}(\ell(w) - \ell(z))} \mu(z, sw) P_{x,z}, & \text{if } sx < x. \end{cases}$$

The W-graph has

Vertices: W

Edges:
$$x \leftrightarrow y$$
 if $\mu[x, y] = \begin{cases} \mu(x, y), & \text{if } x < y, \\ \mu(y, x), & \text{if } y < x, \end{cases}$

Then

$$KL(s)_{xx} = \begin{cases} -1, & \text{if } sx < x, \\ 1, & \text{if } sx > x, \end{cases}$$
$$KL(s)_{xy} = \begin{cases} \mu[x, y], & \text{if } sx < x, sy > y \text{ and } x \leftrightarrow y, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

Define a relation \leq_L by taking the closure of the relation

 $x \leq_L y$ if $D_\ell(x) \not\subseteq D_\ell(y)$ and $x \leftrightarrow y$ is an edge.

and define

$$x =_L y$$
 if $x \leq_L y$ and $y \leq_L x$.

3.1 The case of dihedral groups

In type A_1 ,

$$H = \text{span}\{1, T_1\}$$
 with $T_1^2 = (q-1)T_1 + q.$

 So

$$\overline{T_1} = T_1^{-1} = (q^{-1} - 1) + q^{-1}T_1,$$
 and $C_1 = q^{-\frac{1}{2}}(1 + T_1),$

since \mathbf{s}

$$q^{-\frac{1}{2}}(1+T_1) = q^{\frac{1}{2}}(1+T_1^{-1}) = q^{\frac{1}{2}}(1+q^{-1}T_1 + (q^{-1}-1)) = q^{\frac{1}{2}}q^{-1}(1+T_1) = q^{-\frac{1}{2}}(1+T_1)$$

In type A_2 , $H = \text{span}\{1, T_1, T_2, T_1T_2, T_2T_1, T_1T_2T_2\}$ and

$$\begin{split} C_1 &= q^{-\frac{1}{2}}(1+T_1), \\ C_2 &= q^{-\frac{1}{2}}(1+T_2), \\ C_1C_2 &= q^{-1}(1+T_1+T_2+T_1T_2) = C_{12}, \\ C_2C_1 &= q^{-1}(1+T_1+T_2+T_2T_1) = C_{21}, \\ C_1C_{21} &= q^{-\frac{3}{2}}(T_1T_2T_1+T_1T_2+(q-1)T_1+q+T_1+T_2T_1+T_1+T_2+1), \\ &= q^{-\frac{3}{2}}(T_1T_2T_1+T_1T_2+T_2T_1+T_1+T_2+1) + C_1, \end{split}$$

so that

$$C_{121} = C_1 C_{12} - C_1 = q^{-\frac{3}{2}} (T_1 T_2 T_1 + T_1 T_2 + T_2 T_1 + T_1 + T_2 + 1)$$

Note that $C_1^2 = (q^{\frac{1}{2}} + q^{-\frac{1}{2}})C_1$. Then, using that $T_i = q^{\frac{1}{2}}C_i - 1$, to produce the matrices for the regular representation in the KL-basis,

$$\rho(T_1) = \begin{pmatrix}
-1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
q^{\frac{1}{2}} & q & q^{\frac{1}{2}} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & q^{\frac{1}{2}} & q & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & q^{\frac{1}{2}} & q & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & q^{\frac{1}{2}} & 0 & 0 & q
\end{pmatrix} \qquad \text{and} \qquad \rho(T_2) = \begin{pmatrix}
-1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & q^{\frac{1}{2}} & q & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
q^{\frac{1}{2}} & 0 & 0 & q & q^{\frac{1}{2}} & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & q^{\frac{1}{2}} & q
\end{pmatrix}$$

with rows and columns indexed by $1, C_1, C_{21}, C_2, C_{12}, C_{121}$.

In type B_2 , $H = \text{span}\{1, T_1, T_2, T_1T_2, T_2T_1, T_1T_2T_1, T_2T_1T_2, T_1T_2T_1T_2\}$, and

 $C_1C_2 = C_{12}, \quad C_2C_1 = C_{21}, \quad C_1C_{21} = C_{121} + C_1, \quad C_2C_{12} = C_{212} + C_2, \quad C_2C_{121} = C_{2121} + C_{21}.$ where

$$\begin{split} C_1 &= q^{-\frac{1}{2}}(1+T_1), \\ C_2 &= q^{-\frac{1}{2}}(1+T_2), \\ C_{12} &= q^{-1}(1+T_1+T_2+T_1T_2), \\ C_{21} &= q^{-1}(1+T_1+T_2+T_2T_1), \\ C_{121} &= q^{-\frac{3}{2}}(1+T_1+T_2+T_1T_2+T_2T_1+T_1T_2T_1), \\ C_{212} &= q^{-\frac{3}{2}}(1+T_1+T_2+T_1T_2+T_2T_1+T_2T_1T_2), \\ C_{1212} &= q^{-2}(1+T_1+T_2+T_1T_2+T_2T_1+T_1T_2T_1+T_2T_1T_2+T_2T_1T_2T_1). \end{split}$$

and the matrices of the regular representation in the KL-basis are

$$\rho(T_1) = \begin{pmatrix}
-1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
q^{\frac{1}{2}} & q & q^{\frac{1}{2}} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & q^{\frac{1}{2}} & q & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & q^{\frac{1}{2}} & q & q^{\frac{1}{2}} & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & q^{\frac{1}{2}} & q & q^{\frac{1}{2}} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
q^{\frac{1}{2}} & 0 & 0 & 0 & q & q^{\frac{1}{2}} & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & q & 0 & q^{\frac{1}{2}} & q & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & q^{\frac{1}{2}} & 0 & 0 & 0 & q
\end{pmatrix}$$

with rows and columns indexed by $1, C_1, C_{21}, C_{121}, C_2, C_{12}, C_{212}, C_{1212}$.

Proposition 3. Let W be the dihedral group of order 2m. Then

$$C_w = q^{-\frac{1}{2}\ell(w)} \Big(\sum_{v \le w} T_v\Big),$$
 so that $p_{vw}(q) = 1,$ for all $v \le w.$

Proof. Let C_w be defined by the formula in the statement of the Theorem. If $s_1w > w$ so that $w = s_2s_1s_2s_1\cdots$ then

$$\begin{split} C_{s_1} C_w &= q^{-\ell(w)/2} q^{-1/2} \left(\sum_{v \le w} T_v + \sum_{\substack{v \le s_1 w \\ s_1 v < v}} T_v + (q-1) \sum_{\substack{v < w \\ s_1 v < v}} T_v + q \sum_{\substack{v < w \\ s_2 v < v}} T_v \right) \\ &= q^{-\ell(w)/2} q^{-1/2} \left(\sum_{\substack{v \le s_1 w \\ s_2 v < v}} T_v + \sum_{\substack{v < w \\ s_1 v < v}} T_v + \sum_{\substack{v \le s_1 w \\ s_1 v < v}} T_v - \sum_{\substack{v < w \\ s_1 v < v}} T_v + q \sum_{\substack{v \le s_2 w \\ s_1 v < v}} T_v \right) \\ &= C_{s_1 v} + q^{-\ell(w)/2} q^{1/2} \left(\sum_{\substack{v \le s_2 w \\ v \le s_2 w}} T_v \right) \\ &= C_{s_1 w} + C_{s_2 w}, \end{split}$$

and, if $s_1w < w$ so that $w = s_1s_2s_1s_2\cdots$ then let $w' = s_1w$ and $w'' = s_2s_1w$ so that

$$C_{s_1}C_w = C_{s_1}C_{s_1w'} = C_{s_1}(C_{s_1}C_{w'} - C_{s_2w'})$$

= $C_{s_1}(C_{s_1}C_{w'} - C_{w''}) = (q^{1/2} + q^{-1/2})C_{s_1}C_{w'} - C_{s_1}C_{w''}$
= $(q^{1/2} + q^{-1/2})C_{s_1}C_{w'} - (q^{1/2} + q^{-1/2})C_{w''}$, by induction,
= $(q^{1/2} + q^{-1/2})(C_{s_1}C_{w'} - C_{w''}) = (q^{1/2} + q^{-1/2})C_w$.

So,

$$C_{s_1}C_w = \begin{cases} C_{s_1w} + C_{s_2w}, & \text{if } s_1w > w, \text{ i.e. } w = s_2s_1s_2s_1\cdots, \\ (q^{\frac{1}{2}} + q^{-\frac{1}{2}})C_w, & \text{if } s_1w < w, \text{ i.e. } w = s_1s_2s_1s_2\cdots. \end{cases}$$
(3.1)

In the first case, $\ell(s_2w) < \ell(w)$ and so, by induction, $C_{s_1w} = C_{s_1}C_w - C_{s_2w}$ is bar invariant. \Box

From equation (???)

$$T_1 C_w = \begin{cases} q C_w, & \text{if } s_1 w < w, \text{ i.e. } w = s_1 s_2 s_1 s_2 \cdots, \\ q^{\frac{1}{2}} C_{s_1 w} - C_w + q^{\frac{1}{2}} C_{s_2 w}, & \text{if } s_1 w > w, \text{ i.e. } w = s_2 s_1 s_2 s_1 \cdots. \end{cases}$$

For example, in the case $I_2(5)$,

$$\begin{split} C_2C_1 &= C_{21}, \quad C_1C_{21} = C_{121} + C_1, \quad C_2C_{121} = C_{2121} + C_{21}, \quad C_1C_{2121} = C_{12121} + C_{121}, \\ C_1C_2 &= C_{12}, \quad C_2C_{12} = C_{212} + C_2, \quad C_1C_{212} = C_{1212} + C_{12}, \quad C_2C_{1212} = C_{21212} + C_{212}, \end{split}$$

and the matrices of the regular representation in the KL-basis are

References

[Cu1] Curtis, C. "Representations of Hecke algebras." Astérisque 9 (1988): 13-60.