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A proof of Lusztig’s conjectures for affine type G_2 with arbitrary parameters

J eremie Guilhot, James Parkinson

Abstract

We prove Lusztig’s conjectures **P1–P15** for the affine Weyl group of type \tilde{G}_2 for all choices of parameters. Our approach is based on the notion of a “balanced system of representations” for the Hecke algebra. Moreover we show that for arbitrary Coxeter type the existence of such a system is sufficient to compute Lusztig’s **a**-function. We also describe connections between the cell decomposition and the structure of the Plancherel Theorem in type \tilde{G}_2 .

Introduction

The theory of Kazhdan-Lusztig cells plays a fundamental role in the representation theory of Coxeter groups and Hecke algebras. In their celebrated paper [12] Kazhdan and Lusztig introduced the theory in the equal parameter case, and in [17] Lusztig generalised the construction to the case of arbitrary parameters. A very specific feature in the equal parameter case is the geometric interpretation of Kazhdan-Lusztig theory, which implies certain “positivity properties” (such as the positivity of the structure constants with respect to the Kazhdan-Lusztig basis). This was proved in the finite and affine cases by Kazhdan and Lusztig in [13], and the case of arbitrary Coxeter groups settled only very recently by Elias and Williamson in [5]. However, simple examples show that these positivity properties no longer hold for unequal parameters, hence the need to develop new methods to deal with the general case.

A major step in this direction was achieved by Lusztig in his book on Hecke algebras with unequal parameters [18, Chapter 14] where he introduced 15 conjectures **P1–P15** which capture essential properties of cells for all choices of parameters. In the case of equal parameters these conjectures can be proved using the above mentioned geometric interpretation. In the case of general parameters **P1–P15** are only known to hold in the following situations:

- finite dihedral type [7] and infinite dihedral type [18, Chapter 17];
- type B_n in the “asymptotic case” [3, 7];
- F_4 for arbitrary parameters [7].

Note that the only example of an affine Weyl group where **P1–P15** are known for arbitrary parameters is the infinite dihedral group, where the proof proceeds by explicit computations. In this paper we prove Lusztig’s conjectures in type \tilde{G}_2 for arbitrary parameters. This provides the very first example of an affine Weyl group of rank greater than 1 in which the conjectures have been proved. Furthermore, our methods provide a theoretical framework that one may hope to apply to other types of affine Weyl groups. For instance, the approach outlined in this paper could readily be applied to the case \tilde{B}_2 .

Our approach to proving Lusztig’s conjectures is based on the notion of a *balanced system of representations* inspired by the work of Geck [7] in the finite case. This notion can be defined for an arbitrary Coxeter group (W, S) with associated Hecke algebra \mathcal{H} defined over $\mathbb{Z}[\{\mathfrak{q}^{\pm L(s)} \mid s \in S\}]$, where $L : W \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ is a weight function. Let Λ be the set of two-sided cells of W with respect to L , and let $\Gamma \in \Lambda$. We say that a representation π is Γ -balanced if it admits a basis such that (1) the maximal degree of the coefficients that appear in the matrix $\pi(T_w)$ is bounded by a constant \mathfrak{a}_Γ (here T_w denotes the standard basis of \mathcal{H}) and (2) this bound is attained if and only if $w \in \Gamma$. A system of balanced representations is a family $(\pi_\Gamma)_{\Gamma \in \Lambda}$ of Γ -balanced representations that satisfy some extra axioms (see Section 2). We show that the existence of such a system is sufficient to compute Lusztig’s **a**-function, and as a byproduct we obtain an explicit construction of Lusztig’s asymptotic algebra \mathcal{J} .

Our strategy to prove Lusztig’s conjectures for \tilde{G}_2 is to construct a balanced system of representations for \tilde{G}_2 with arbitrary parameters. Our starting point is the partition of W into Kazhdan-Lusztig cells that was proved by the first author in [10]. It turns out that the representations associated to finite cells naturally give rise to a balanced representation and so most of our work is concerned with the infinite cells. In type \tilde{G}_2 there are 3 such cells for each choice of parameters, the lowest two-sided cell Γ_0 and two other cells Γ_1 and Γ_2 . To each of these cells we associate a natural finite dimensional representation π_i admitting an elegant combinatorial description in terms of alcove walks, which allows us to establish the balancedness of these representations.

Once we have established the existence of a balanced system for \tilde{G}_2 for each choice of parameters the conjectures involving the **a**-function and the γ -coefficients follow very naturally, essentially from combinatorics of Weyl characters of types G_2 and A_1 . The conjectures **P1** and **P15** have been established in type \tilde{G}_2 by Xie in [29], and indeed these two conjectures do not follow from the techniques of this paper (instead they are based on the process of generalised induction). For finite cells we compute the Kazhdan-Lusztig modules explicitly from which the conjectures follows easily.

After completing the proof of Lusztig's conjectures for \tilde{G}_2 we investigate connections between Kazhdan-Lusztig cells and the Plancherel Theorem. In particular, we show that in type \tilde{G}_2 there is a natural correspondence, in each parameter range, between two-sided cells appearing in the cell decomposition, and the representations appearing in the Plancherel Theorem (these are the *tempered* representations). Moreover we define a \mathfrak{q} -valuation on the Plancherel measure, and show that in type \tilde{G}_2 the \mathfrak{q} -valuation of the mass of a tempered representation is twice the value of Lusztig's \mathfrak{a} -function on the associated cell (this is a direct analogue of the finite dimensional case). In type \tilde{G}_2 we show that this observation implies that the Plancherel theorem "descends" to give an inner product on Lusztig's asymptotic algebra \mathcal{J} from [18, Chapter 18]. We conclude with a series of conjectures relating to the existence of balanced systems in arbitrary affine type and the connections between the Plancherel Theorem and the cell decomposition.

We conclude this introduction with an outline of the structure of this paper. In Section 1 we recall the basics of Kazhdan-Lusztig theory. In Section 2 we introduce the axioms of a balanced system of representations, and show in Theorem 2.5 that given these axioms Lusztig's \mathfrak{a} -function can be computed. Section 3 provides background on affine Weyl groups and the affine Hecke algebra. In Section 4 we recall the partition of \tilde{G}_2 into cells for all choices of parameters, and discuss cell factorisation properties for the infinite cells. In Section 5 we prove that each finite cell admits a balanced cell representation. We also associate certain finite dimensional representations to the infinite cells.

Section 6 deals with the case of the lowest two-sided cell. We note that this case has already been investigated by [30], however we include our analysis here since it illustrates very clearly in this simple case the combinatorial methodology that we will employ for the remaining more complicated infinite cells. Section 7 deals with these remaining cells. We introduce a model based on alcove walks to study the representations associated to these cells. This allows us to give combinatorial proofs of bounds for matrix coefficients and to compute leading matrices for these representations. The analysis of this section is involved due to interesting complications arising in the case of non-generic parameters.

In Section 8 we provide our proof of Lusztig's conjectures, and we conclude the paper in Section 9 with an analysis of the connections between the Plancherel Theorem and cell decompositions.

1 Kazhdan-Lusztig theory

In this section we recall the setup of Kazhdan-Lusztig theory, including the Kazhdan-Lusztig basis, Kazhdan-Lusztig cells, and the Lusztig's conjectures **P1**–**P15**. In this section (W, S) denotes an arbitrary Coxeter system (with $|S| < \infty$) with length function $\ell : W \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$. For $I \subseteq S$ let W_I be the standard parabolic subgroup generated by I . Let $L : W \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ be a *positive weight function* on W . Thus $L : W \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ satisfies $L(w w') = L(w) + L(w')$ whenever $\ell(w w') = \ell(w) + \ell(w')$. Let \mathfrak{q} be an indeterminate and let $\mathbb{R} = \mathbb{Z}[\mathfrak{q}, \mathfrak{q}^{-1}]$ be the ring of Laurent polynomial in \mathfrak{q} .

1.1 The Kazhdan-Lusztig basis

The *Hecke algebra* \mathcal{H} associated to (W, S, L) is the algebra over \mathbb{R} with basis $\{T_w \mid w \in W\}$ and multiplication given by

$$T_w T_s = \begin{cases} T_{ws} & \text{if } \ell(ws) = \ell(w) + 1 \\ T_{ws} + (\mathfrak{q}^{L(s)} - \mathfrak{q}^{-L(s)})T_w & \text{if } \ell(ws) = \ell(w) - 1. \end{cases}$$

The basis $\{T_w \mid w \in W\}$ is called the *standard basis* of \mathcal{H} . We set $\mathfrak{q}_s = \mathfrak{q}^{L(s)}$ for $s \in S$.

The involution $\bar{}$ on \mathbb{R} which sends \mathfrak{q} to \mathfrak{q}^{-1} can be extended to an involution on \mathcal{H} by setting

$$\overline{\sum_{w \in W} a_w T_w} = \sum_{w \in W} \overline{a_w} T_w^{-1}.$$

In [12], Kazhdan and Lusztig proved that there exists a unique basis $\{C_w \mid w \in W\}$ of \mathcal{H} such that, for all $w \in W$,

$$\overline{C_w} = C_w \quad \text{and} \quad C_w = T_w + \sum_{y < w} P_{y,w} T_y \quad \text{where } P_{y,w} \in \mathfrak{q}^{-1} \mathbb{Z}[\mathfrak{q}^{-1}].$$

This basis is called the *Kazhdan-Lusztig basis* of \mathcal{H} . The polynomials $P_{y,w}$ are called the *Kazhdan-Lusztig polynomials*, and to complete the definition we set $P_{y,w} = 0$ whenever $y \not\leq w$ (here \leq denotes Bruhat order on W). We note that the Kazhdan-Lusztig polynomials depend on the weight function L . For example, in the dihedral group $I_2(2m)$ with $m \geq 2$, $L(s_1) = a$, and $L(s_2) = b$, we have

$$P_{s_1, s_1 s_2 s_1} = \begin{cases} \mathfrak{q}^{-(b-a)} + \mathfrak{q}^{-a-b} & \text{if } a < b \\ \mathfrak{q}^{-2a} & \text{if } a = b \\ \mathfrak{q}^{-(a+b)} - \mathfrak{q}^{-(a-b)} & \text{if } a > b. \end{cases}$$

In particular, this example shows that the positivity properties enjoyed by $P_{y,z}$ in the equal parameter case (that is, $L = \ell$) do not transfer across to the general case.

Let $x, y \in W$. We denote by $h_{x,y,z} \in \mathbb{R}$ the structure constants associated to the Kazhdan-Lusztig basis:

$$C_x C_y = \sum_{z \in W} h_{x,y,z} C_z.$$

Definition 1.1 ([18, Chapter 13]). The *Lusztig a-function* is the function $\mathbf{a} : W \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ defined by

$$\mathbf{a}(z) := \min\{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid \mathbf{q}^{-n}h_{x,y,z} \in \mathbb{Z}[\mathbf{q}^{-1}] \text{ for all } x, y \in W\}.$$

When W is infinite it is, in general, unknown whether the \mathbf{a} -function is well-defined. However in the case of affine Weyl groups it is known that \mathbf{a} is well-defined, and that $\mathbf{a}(z) \leq L(w_0)$ where w_0 is the longest element of the underlying finite Weyl group W_0 (see [18]). The \mathbf{a} -function is an very important tool in the representation theory of Hecke algebras, and plays a crucial role in the work of Lusztig on the unipotent characters of reductive groups.

Definition 1.2. For $x, y, z \in W$ let $\gamma_{x,y,z^{-1}}$ denote the constant term of $\mathbf{q}^{-\mathbf{a}(z)}h_{x,y,z}$.

The coefficients $\gamma_{x,y,z^{-1}}$ are the structure constants of the *asymptotic algebra* \mathcal{J} introduced by Lusztig in [18, Chapter 18].

1.2 Kazhdan-Lusztig cells and associated representations

Define preorders $\leq_{\mathcal{L}}, \leq_{\mathcal{R}}, \leq_{\mathcal{LR}}$ on W extending the following by transitivity:

$$\begin{aligned} x \leq_{\mathcal{L}} y &\iff \text{there exists } h \in \mathcal{H} \text{ such that } C_x \text{ appears in the decomposition in the KL basis of } hC_y \\ x \leq_{\mathcal{R}} y &\iff \text{there exists } h \in \mathcal{H} \text{ such that } C_x \text{ appears in the decomposition in the KL basis of } C_y h \\ x \leq_{\mathcal{LR}} y &\iff \text{there exists } h, h' \in \mathcal{H} \text{ such that } C_x \text{ appears in the decomposition in the KL basis of } hC_y h'. \end{aligned}$$

We associate to these preorders equivalence relations $\sim_{\mathcal{L}}, \sim_{\mathcal{R}},$ and $\sim_{\mathcal{LR}}$ by setting (for $* \in \{\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{R}, \mathcal{LR}\}$)

$$x \sim_* y \text{ if and only if } x \leq_* y \text{ and } y \leq_* x$$

The equivalence classes of $\sim_{\mathcal{L}}, \sim_{\mathcal{R}},$ and $\sim_{\mathcal{LR}}$ are called *left cells*, *right cells*, and *two-sided cells*.

We denote by Λ the set of all two-sided cells (note that Λ depends on the choice of parameters). Given any cell Γ (left, right, or two-sided) we set

$$\Gamma_{\leq_*} := \{w \in W \mid \text{there exists } x \in \Gamma \text{ such that } w \leq_* x\}$$

and we define $\Gamma_{\geq_*}, \Gamma_{>_*}$ and $\Gamma_{<_*}$ similarly.

Example 1.3. The following table records the decomposition of the dihedral group $W = I_2(m) = \langle s_1, s_2 \rangle$ into two-sided cells for all choices of weight function $L(s_1) = a$ and $L(s_2) = b$ (up to duality). Lusztig's conjectures are known to hold for dihedral groups. In particular the \mathbf{a} -function is constant on two-sided cells, and we list these values below. This example turns out to be particularly useful – for all affine rank 3 (dimension 2) Weyl groups every two-sided cell intersects a finite parabolic subgroup (hence a dihedral group), and so assuming the Lusztig conjectures **P4** and **P12** the table below gives conjectural values of the \mathbf{a} -function on all cells. These ‘conjectures’ become ‘theorems’ for type \tilde{G}_2 due to the results of this paper.

W	two-sided cells	values of the \mathbf{a} -function
$I_2(2), a \geq b$	$\{e\}, \{s_1\}, \{s_2\}, \{w_0\}$	$0, a, b, a + b$
$I_2(m), a = b, m \geq 2$	$\{e\}, W \setminus \{e, w_0\}, \{w_0\}$	$0, a, ma$
$I_2(2m), a > b, m \geq 2$	$\{e\}, W \setminus \{e, s_2, w_0 s_2, w_0\}, \{s_2\}, \{w_0 s_2\}, \{w_0\}$	$0, a, b, ma - (m - 1)b, ma + mb$
$I_2(\infty), a = b$	$\{e\}, W \setminus \{e\}$	$0, a$
$I_2(\infty), a > b$	$\{e\}, W \setminus \{e, s_2\}, \{s_2\}$	$0, a, b$

Tab. 1: Cells and the \mathbf{a} -function for dihedral groups

To each right cell Υ of W there is a natural right \mathcal{H} -module \mathcal{H}_{Υ} constructed as follows. Let $\mathcal{H}_{\leq \Upsilon}$ and $\mathcal{H}_{< \Upsilon}$ be the \mathcal{R} -modules

$$\mathcal{H}_{\leq \Upsilon} = \langle C_x \mid x \in \Upsilon_{\leq \mathcal{R}} \rangle \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{H}_{< \Upsilon} = \langle C_x \mid x \in \Upsilon_{< \mathcal{R}} \rangle.$$

Then $\mathcal{H}_{\leq \Upsilon}$ and $\mathcal{H}_{< \Upsilon}$ are naturally right \mathcal{H} -modules. For $\mathcal{H}_{\leq \Upsilon}$ this is immediate from the definition of $\leq_{\mathcal{R}}$. For $\mathcal{H}_{< \Upsilon}$ we note that if $x \leq_{\mathcal{R}} y$ with $y \in \Upsilon$ and if $x \notin \Upsilon$ then, for $h \in \mathcal{H}$,

$$C_x h = \sum_{z \leq_{\mathcal{R}} x} a_z C_z.$$

If $z \in \Gamma$ then necessarily $a_z = 0$ (for otherwise $y \sim_{\mathcal{R}} z \leq_{\mathcal{R}} x$ and so $y \leq_{\mathcal{R}} x$ and $x \leq_{\mathcal{R}} y$ giving $x \in \Gamma$). Thus $\mathcal{H}_{< \Upsilon}$ is a right \mathcal{H} -module. Hence the quotient

$$\mathcal{H}_{\Upsilon} := \mathcal{H}_{\leq \Upsilon} / \mathcal{H}_{< \Upsilon}$$

is naturally a right \mathcal{H} -module with basis $\{\overline{C_w} \mid w \in \Upsilon\}$ where $\overline{C_w}$ is the class of C_w in \mathcal{H}_{Υ} .

1.3 Lusztig conjectures

Define $\Delta : W \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ and $n_z \in \mathbb{R}$ by the relation

$$P_{e,z} = n_z \mathbf{q}^{-\Delta(z)} + \text{strictly smaller powers of } \mathbf{q}.$$

This is well defined because $P_{x,y} \in \mathbf{q}^{-1}\mathbb{Z}[\mathbf{q}^{-1}]$ for all $x, y \in W$. Let

$$\mathcal{D} = \{w \in W \mid \Delta(w) = \mathbf{a}(w)\}.$$

In [18, Chapter 13], Lusztig has formulated the following 15 conjectures, now known as **P1–P15**.

- P1.** For any $z \in W$ we have $\mathbf{a}(z) \leq \Delta(z)$.
- P2.** If $d \in \mathcal{D}$ and $x, y \in W$ satisfy $\gamma_{x,y,d} \neq 0$, then $x = y^{-1}$.
- P3.** If $y \in W$ then there exists a unique $d \in \mathcal{D}$ such that $\gamma_{y^{-1},y,d} \neq 0$.
- P4.** If $z' \leq_{\mathcal{LR}} z$ then $\mathbf{a}(z') \geq \mathbf{a}(z)$. In particular the \mathbf{a} -function is constant on two-sided cells.
- P5.** If $d \in \mathcal{D}$, $y \in W$, and $\gamma_{y^{-1},y,d} \neq 0$, then $\gamma_{y^{-1},y,d} = n_d = \pm 1$.
- P6.** If $d \in \mathcal{D}$ then $d^2 = 1$.
- P7.** For any $x, y, z \in W$, we have $\gamma_{x,y,z} = \gamma_{y,z,x}$.
- P8.** Let $x, y, z \in W$ be such that $\gamma_{x,y,z} \neq 0$. Then $x \sim_{\mathcal{L}} y^{-1}$, $y \sim_{\mathcal{L}} z^{-1}$, and $z \sim_{\mathcal{L}} x^{-1}$.
- P9.** If $z' \leq_{\mathcal{L}} z$ and $\mathbf{a}(z') = \mathbf{a}(z)$, then $z' \sim_{\mathcal{L}} z$.
- P10.** If $z' \leq_{\mathcal{R}} z$ and $\mathbf{a}(z') = \mathbf{a}(z)$, then $z' \sim_{\mathcal{R}} z$.
- P11.** If $z' \leq_{\mathcal{LR}} z$ and $\mathbf{a}(z') = \mathbf{a}(z)$, then $z' \sim_{\mathcal{LR}} z$.
- P12.** If $I \subseteq S$ then the \mathbf{a} -function of W_I is the restriction of the \mathbf{a} -function of W .
- P13.** Each right cell Γ of W contains a unique element $d \in \mathcal{D}$. We have $\gamma_{x^{-1},x,d} \neq 0$ for all $x \in \Gamma$.
- P14.** For each $z \in W$ we have $z \sim_{\mathcal{LR}} z^{-1}$.
- P15.** If $x, x', y, w \in W$ are such that $\mathbf{a}(w) = \mathbf{a}(y)$ then

$$\sum_{y' \in W} h_{w,x',y'} \otimes h_{x,y',y} = \sum_{y' \in W} h_{y',x',y} \otimes h_{x,w,y'} \text{ in } \mathbb{R} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{R}.$$

As noted in the introduction, these conjectures have been established in the following cases: (1) when W is a Weyl group or an affine Weyl group with equal parameters (see [18] and the updated version available on ArXiv), (2) when W is a dihedral group (finite or infinite) for all choices of parameters (see [7, 18]), (3) when $W = B_n$ in the ‘‘asymptotic case’’ (see [3, 7]), and (4) when $W = F_4$ for any choices of parameters (see [7]). We note that in case (1) the proof relies on deep results including the positivity of the Kazhdan-Lusztig polynomials. This approach is unlikely to work for the general case, since, for example, as noted above the positivity of the Kazhdan-Lusztig polynomial fails. Finally, we note that Xie [29] has shown that the conjectures **P1** and **P15** hold in \tilde{G}_2 for all choices of parameters.

In this paper we prove all conjectures **P1–P15** for \tilde{G}_2 for all choices of parameters. Our approach extends naturally to all rank 2 affine Weyl groups, although the details in the three parameter case \tilde{B}_2 becomes rather involved due to the large number of distinct regimes of cell decompositions.

2 Systems of balanced representations and Lusztig \mathbf{a} -function

In this section we define a *balanced system of cell representations*, inspired by the work of Geck [6, 7] in the finite case. We show that the existence of such a system, plus one additional axiom, is sufficient for the computation of Lusztig’s \mathbf{a} -function. This gives us our primary strategy for resolving Lusztig’s conjectures in type \tilde{G}_2 .

2.1 System of balanced representation

We now introduce the central notion of this paper, based on the work of Geck [7] in the finite case.

Definition 2.1. We say that \mathcal{H} admits a *balanced system of cell representations* if for each $\Gamma \in \Lambda$ there exists a representation (π_Γ, V_Γ) defined over an \mathbb{R} -polynomial ring \mathbb{R}_Γ (where we could have $\mathbb{R}_\Gamma = \mathbb{R}$) and a basis (\mathbf{e}_j) of V_Γ such that the following holds, where $[\pi_\Gamma(C_w)]_{i,j}$ denotes the matrix entries of $\pi_\Gamma(C_w)$ with respect to the basis (\mathbf{e}_j) :

- B1.** If $w \notin \Gamma_{\geq_{\mathcal{LR}}} \Gamma$ then $\pi_\Gamma(C_w) = 0$.
- B2.** There exists bounds $\mathbf{a}_{\pi_\Gamma} \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $\deg[\pi_\Gamma(C_w)]_{i,j} \leq \mathbf{a}_{\pi_\Gamma}$ for all $w \in W$ and all $1 \leq i, j \leq \dim(V_\Gamma)$.
- B3.** We have $\max_{i,j} \deg[\pi_\Gamma(C_w)]_{i,j} = \mathbf{a}_{\pi_\Gamma}$ if and only if $w \in \Gamma$. We define the *leading matrices* by

$$\mathbf{c}_{\pi_\Gamma, w} = \text{sp}_{\mathbf{q}^{-1}=0} \left(\mathbf{q}^{-\mathbf{a}_{\pi_\Gamma}} [\pi_\Gamma(C_w)] \right).$$

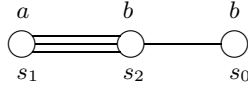
- B4.** The set $\{\mathbf{c}_{\pi_\Gamma, w} \mid w \in \Gamma\}$ is free over \mathbb{Z} .
- B5.** If $\Gamma' \leq_{\mathcal{LR}} \Gamma$ then $\mathbf{a}_{\pi_{\Gamma'}} \geq \mathbf{a}_{\pi_\Gamma}$.

The natural numbers \mathbf{a}_{π_Γ} are called the *bounds* for the system of balanced cell representations. The main approach of this paper hinges on the construction of a system of balanced cell representations for the Hecke algebra of type \tilde{G}_2 in each parameter regime.

Note that **B1** above does not depend on the special choice of basis. A representation with property **B1** is called a *cell representation* for the two-sided cell Γ . It is clear the representations associated to cells that we introduced in Section 1.2 are cell representations. To see this, let Υ be a right cell, and let \mathcal{H}_Υ be as in Section 1.2. If C_w acts nontrivially on \mathcal{H}_Υ then there exist $u, v \in \Upsilon$ such that $C_u \cdot C_w = \sum_z h_{u,w,z} C_z$ with $h_{u,w,v} \neq 0$. Thus $v \leq_{\mathcal{LR}} w$.

We say that a representation (π, V) is Γ -balanced for the two-sided cell Γ if V admits a basis such that **B2**, **B3** and **B4** hold. We note that in **B2** and **B3** it is equivalent to replace C_w by T_w , because $C_w = T_w + \sum_{v <_w} p_{v,w} T_v$ with $p_{v,w} \in \mathfrak{q}^{-1}\mathbb{Z}[\mathfrak{q}^{-1}]$. However in **B1** one cannot replace C_w by T_w .

Example 2.2. Let W be an affine Weyl group of type \tilde{G}_2 with diagram and weight function defined by



where a, b are positive integers. Let $I \subseteq S$ be a union of conjugacy classes in S . We define the one dimensional representation ρ_I of W by

$$\rho_I(T_s) = \begin{cases} \mathfrak{q}_s & \text{if } s \in I, \\ -\mathfrak{q}_s^{-1} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

With this notation ρ_\emptyset is the sign representation and ρ_S is the trivial representation. It is easy to see that (1) ρ_\emptyset is Γ_e -balanced where Γ_e is the two-sided cell that contains the identity and (2) ρ_S cannot be balanced for any two-sided cell Γ .

Consider the representation ρ_I where $I = \{s_0, s_2\}$. We will see in Section 4 that $\Gamma_5 := \{s_0 s_2 s_0\}$ is a two-sided cell in W when $a/b > 2$. For $w \in W$ we have $\rho_I(w) = \mathfrak{q}^{b\ell_2(w)} (-\mathfrak{q})^{-a\ell_1(w)}$ where $\ell_2(w)$ is the number of s_2 and s_0 in any reduced expression of w and $\ell_1(w)$ is the number of s_1 . Saying that the representation ρ_I is Γ_5 -balanced for $a/b > 2$ means that $b\ell_2(w) - a\ell_1(w) \leq 3b$ for all w and that there is equality if and only if $w = s_0 s_2 s_0$. This can be done by studying reduced expressions in W , and we will see another proof using Kazhdan-Lusztig theory in Section 5.

Proceeding as above, one can show that the representation ρ_I where $I = \{s_1\}$ is Γ_7 -balanced whenever $a/b < 1$. Once again we will see in Section 4 that $\Gamma_7 := \{s_1\}$ is a two-sided cell in W for this parameter range.

2.2 Computing the \mathbf{a} -function

In this section we show that axioms **B1**–**B5**, along with an additional axiom **B4'** introduced below, are sufficient to show that Lusztig's \mathbf{a} -function is constant on two-sided cells, and moreover we are able to compute the value of the \mathbf{a} -function in terms of the bounds $(\mathbf{a}_{\pi_\Gamma})_{\Gamma \in \Lambda}$ from **B2**.

Let $(\pi_\Gamma)_{\Gamma \in \Lambda}$ be a system of balanced cell representations for \mathcal{H} with bounds \mathbf{a}_{π_Γ} for all $\Gamma \in \Lambda$. We have

$$C_x C_y = \sum_{\Gamma \in \Lambda} \sum_{z \in \Gamma} h_{x,y,z} C_z. \quad (2.1)$$

Proposition 2.3. *Let $x, y \in W$ and $w \in \Gamma$ where $\Gamma \in \Lambda$. We have $\deg(h_{x,y,w}) \leq \mathbf{a}_{\pi_\Gamma}$.*

Proof. We proceed by downwards induction. Let $\Gamma \in \Lambda$ and suppose that $\deg(h_{x,y,z}) \leq \mathbf{a}_{\pi_{\Gamma'}}$ for all $z \in \Gamma'$ where $\Gamma' >_{\mathcal{LR}} \Gamma$. Then applying π_Γ to (2.1) using the fact that π_Γ is a cell representation gives

$$\pi_\Gamma(C_x C_y) = \sum_{z \in \Gamma} h_{x,y,z} \pi_\Gamma(C_z) + \sum_{\substack{\Gamma' \in \Lambda, \\ \Gamma' >_{\mathcal{LR}} \Gamma}} \sum_{z \in \Gamma'} h_{x,y,z} \pi_\Gamma(C_z). \quad (2.2)$$

By **B2** the degree of the matrix coefficients of $\pi_\Gamma(C_x C_y) = \pi_\Gamma(C_x) \pi_\Gamma(C_y)$ is bounded by $2\mathbf{a}_{\pi_\Gamma}$. By the induction hypothesis and properties of balanced representations the degree of the matrix coefficients for each term in the double sum on the right is strictly bounded by $\mathbf{a}_{\pi_{\Gamma'}} + \mathbf{a}_{\pi_\Gamma} \leq 2\mathbf{a}_{\pi_\Gamma}$. Indeed the maximal degree that can appear in $\pi_\Gamma(C_z)$ is strictly less than \mathbf{a}_{π_Γ} since $z \notin \Gamma$ and the bounds of the balanced system are decreasing with respect to $\leq_{\mathcal{LR}}$. We now show that

$$\deg(h_{x,y,z}) \leq \mathbf{a}_{\pi_\Gamma} \text{ for all } z \in \Gamma.$$

Let $m := \max\{\deg(h_{x,y,z}) \mid z \in \Gamma\}$ and let $\mathcal{Z} := \{z' \in \Gamma \mid \deg(h_{x,y,z'}) = m\} \neq \emptyset$. For $z \in \mathcal{Z}$ write $h_{x,y,z} = \mathfrak{q}^m \tilde{\gamma}_{x,y,z-1} + \text{lower terms}$. By **B3** we have $\pi_\Gamma(C_z) = \mathfrak{q}^{\mathbf{a}_{\pi_\Gamma}} \mathbf{c}_{\pi_\Gamma, z} + \text{lower terms}$, with $\mathbf{c}_{\pi_\Gamma, z} \neq 0$ the leading matrix. Then the right hand side of (2.2) is of the form

$$\mathfrak{q}^{m+\mathbf{a}_{\pi_\Gamma}} \sum_{z \in \mathcal{Z}} \tilde{\gamma}_{x,y,z-1} \mathbf{c}_{\pi_\Gamma, z} + \text{lower terms,}$$

and by **B4** the expression in the sum (that is, the coefficient of $\mathfrak{q}^{m+\mathbf{a}_{\pi_\Gamma}}$) is nonzero. By comparing with the lefthand side in (2.2) it follows that $m + \mathbf{a}_{\pi_\Gamma} \leq 2\mathbf{a}_{\pi_\Gamma}$ that is $m \leq \mathbf{a}_{\pi_\Gamma}$ as required. \square

Corollary 2.4. *The subset \mathcal{J}_Γ of $\mathcal{M}_{\dim(\pi_\Gamma)}(\mathbb{R}\Gamma)$ generated by $\{c_{\pi_\Gamma, w} \mid w \in \Gamma\}$ is a \mathbb{Z} -subalgebra.*

Proof. Let Γ be the two-sided cell and let $x, y \in \Gamma$. Applying π_Γ to $C_x C_y$ and using **B1** we get

$$\pi_\Gamma(C_x C_y) = \sum_{z \in \Gamma} h_{x,y,z} \pi_\Gamma(C_z) + \sum_{\substack{\Gamma' \in \Lambda, \\ \Gamma' > \mathcal{L}\mathcal{R}\Gamma}} \sum_{z \in \Gamma'} h_{x,y,z} \pi_\Gamma(C_z).$$

Multiplying this equality by $q^{-2a_{\pi_\Gamma}}$ and specialising at $q^{-1} = 0$ will annihilate all the terms in the double sum. Indeed we have $\deg(h_{x,y,z}) \leq a_{\pi_{\Gamma'}} \leq a_{\pi_\Gamma}$ and the maximal degree that can appear in $\pi_\Gamma(C_z)$ is strictly less than a_{π_Γ} . Thus we obtain

$$c_{\pi_\Gamma, x} c_{\pi_\Gamma, y} = \sum_{z \in \Gamma} \tilde{\gamma}_{x,y,z^{-1}} c_{\pi_\Gamma, z}$$

where $\tilde{\gamma}_{x,y,z^{-1}} \in \mathbb{Z}$ is the coefficient of degree a_{π_Γ} of $h_{x,y,z}$. \square

We introduce the following additional axiom.

B4'. Let $\Gamma \in \Lambda$. For each $z \in \Gamma$, there exists $(x, y) \in \Gamma^2$ such that $\tilde{\gamma}_{x,y,z^{-1}} \neq 0$.

We can now show that if all axioms **B1–B5** and **B4'** are satisfied, then we can compute Lusztig's \mathbf{a} -function in terms of the bounds \mathbf{a}_{π_Γ} .

Theorem 2.5. *Suppose that **B1–B5** and **B4'** are satisfied. Then $\mathbf{a}(w) = \mathbf{a}_{\pi_\Gamma}$ for all $w \in \Gamma$.*

Proof. According to Proposition 2.3, we only need to show that $\mathbf{a}_{\pi_\Gamma} \geq \mathbf{a}(w)$. To do so it is enough to find $x, y \in W$ such that $\deg(h_{x,y,w}) = \mathbf{a}_{\pi_\Gamma}$ or equivalently, to find $x, y \in W$ such that $\tilde{\gamma}_{x,y,w} \neq 0$. Hence the result using **B4'**. \square

Corollary 2.6. *Assuming **B1–B5** and **B4'**, the ring \mathcal{J}_Γ is isomorphic to Lusztig's asymptotic algebra associated to Γ .*

Proof. The elements $\tilde{\gamma}_{x,y,z^{-1}}$ are the coefficients of $h_{x,y,z}$ of degree \mathbf{a}_{π_Γ} , and are the structure constants of \mathcal{J}_Γ with respect to the basis $\{c_{\pi_\Gamma, w} \mid w \in \Gamma\}$. Indeed once we know that $\mathbf{a}_{\pi_\Gamma} = \mathbf{a}(\Gamma)$ we know that the structure constants of \mathcal{J}_Γ are $\gamma_{x,y,z^{-1}}$. \square

We note that our construction above parallels Geck's construction from [8, §1.5]. Another construction of the asymptotic algebra has been obtained by Koenig and Xi [14] in the case that \mathcal{H} is affine cellular.

3 Affine Weyl groups, affine Hecke algebras, and alcove walks

We begin this section by recalling basic definitions and terminology concerning affine Weyl groups. While we are primarily interested in \tilde{G}_2 in this paper, some of our results apply in arbitrary type, and in any case the general language turns out to be more appropriate for the formulation of some of our results and their proofs. Next we recall the Bernstein-Lusztig basis of the affine Hecke algebra, and its combinatorial interpretation using alcove walks, following [26]. Finally we present a combinatorial formula for the Weyl character that will be used in Section 6.

3.1 Root systems, Weyl groups, and affine Weyl groups

Let Φ be a reduced, irreducible, finite, crystallographic root system with simple roots $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$ in an n -dimensional real vector space V with inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$. Let Φ^+ be the set of positive roots relative to the simple roots $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$. Let W_0 be the *Weyl group*; the subgroup of $GL(V)$ generated by the reflections s_α , $\alpha \in \Phi$, where

$$s_\alpha \lambda = \lambda - \langle \lambda, \alpha \rangle \alpha^\vee \quad \text{with} \quad \alpha^\vee = 2\alpha / \langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle.$$

The group W_0 is a finite Coxeter group with distinguished generators s_1, \dots, s_n , where $s_i = s_{\alpha_i}$. Let w_0 be the longest element of W_0 .

Let \mathcal{F}_0 denote the union of the hyperplanes $H_\alpha = \{x \in V \mid \langle x, \alpha \rangle = 0\}$ with $\alpha \in \Phi$. The closures of the open connected components of $V \setminus \mathcal{F}_0$ are geometric cones, called *Weyl chambers*. The *fundamental Weyl chamber* is given by

$$C_0 = \{x \in V \mid \langle x, \alpha \rangle \geq 0 \text{ for all } \alpha \in \Phi^+\}.$$

The Weyl group W_0 acts simply transitively on the set of Weyl chambers, and we sometimes use this action to identify the set of Weyl chambers with W_0 via $w \leftrightarrow wC_0$.

The *dual root system* is $\Phi^\vee = \{\alpha^\vee \mid \alpha \in \Phi\}$ and the *coroot lattice* of Φ is $Q = \mathbb{Z}$ -span of R^\vee . The *fundamental coweights* of R are the vectors $\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n$ where $\langle \omega_i, \alpha_j \rangle = \delta_{ij}$. The coweight lattice is $P = \mathbb{Z}\omega_1 + \dots + \mathbb{Z}\omega_n$, and the cone of *dominant coweights* is $P^+ = P \cap C_0 = \mathbb{N}\omega_1 + \dots + \mathbb{N}\omega_n$. Note that $Q \subseteq P$.

The Weyl group W_0 acts on Q and the *affine Weyl group* is $W = Q \times W_0$ where we identify $\lambda \in Q$ with the translation $t_\lambda(x) = x + \lambda$. We have the following standard facts:

- 1) W is generated by the orthogonal reflections $s_{\alpha, k}$ in the affine hyperplanes $H_{\alpha, k} = \{x \in V \mid \langle x, \alpha \rangle = k\}$ with $\alpha \in \Phi$ and $k \in \mathbb{Z}$. Explicitly, $s_{\alpha, k}(x) = x - (\langle x, \alpha \rangle - k)\alpha^\vee$, so that $s_{\alpha, k} = t_{k\alpha^\vee} s_\alpha$.

- 2) The affine Weyl group W is a Coxeter group with generating set $S = \{s_0, s_1, \dots, s_n\}$, where $s_0 = t_{\varphi^\vee} s_\varphi$, with φ the highest root of Φ .

Each hyperplane $H_{\alpha,k}$ with $\alpha \in \Phi^+$ and $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ divides V into two half spaces, denoted

$$H_{\alpha,k}^+ = \{x \in V \mid \langle x, \alpha \rangle \geq k\} \quad \text{and} \quad H_{\alpha,k}^- = \{x \in V \mid \langle x, \alpha \rangle \leq k\}.$$

This ‘‘orientation’’ of the hyperplanes is called the *periodic orientation*, since it is invariant under translation by $\lambda \in Q$.

If $w \in W$ we define the *final direction* $\theta(w) \in W_0$ and the *translation weight* $\text{wt}(w) \in Q$ by the equation $w = t_{\text{wt}(w)} \theta(w)$. Here we use the fact that each element $w \in W$ can be written uniquely as $w = t_\lambda v$ with $v \in W_0$ and $\lambda \in Q$.

Let \mathcal{F} denote the union of the hyperplanes $H_{\alpha,k}$ with $\alpha \in \Phi$ and $k \in \mathbb{Z}$. The closures of the open connected components of $V \setminus \mathcal{F}$ are called *alcoves*. The *fundamental alcove* is given by

$$A_0 = \{x \in V \mid 0 \leq \langle x, \alpha \rangle \leq 1 \text{ for all } \alpha \in \Phi^+\}.$$

The hyperplanes bounding A_0 are called the *walls* of A_0 . Explicitly these walls are $H_{\alpha_i,0}$ with $i = 1, \dots, n$ and $H_{\varphi,1}$. We say that a *face* of A_0 (that is, a codimension 1 facet) has type s_i for $i = 1, \dots, n$ if it lies on the wall $H_{\alpha_i,0}$ and of type s_0 if it lies on the wall $H_{\varphi,1}$.

The affine Weyl group W acts simply transitively on the set of alcoves, and we use this action to identify the set of alcoves with W via $w \leftrightarrow wA_0$. Moreover, we use the action of W to transfer the notions of walls, faces, and types of faces to arbitrary alcoves. Alcoves A and A' are called *s-adjacent*, written $A \sim_s A'$, if $A \neq A'$ and A and A' share a common type s face. Under the identification of alcoves with elements of W , the alcoves w and ws are *s-adjacent*.

For any sequence $\vec{w} = (s_{i_1}, s_{i_2}, \dots, s_{i_\ell})$ of elements of S we have

$$e \sim_{s_{i_1}} s_{i_1} \sim_{s_{i_2}} s_{i_1} s_{i_2} \sim_{s_{i_3}} \dots \sim_{s_{i_\ell}} s_{i_1} s_{i_2} \dots s_{i_\ell}.$$

In this way, sequences \vec{w} of elements of S determine *alcove walks* of type \vec{w} starting at the fundamental alcove $e = A_0$. We will typically abuse notation and refer to alcove walks of type $\vec{w} = s_{i_1} s_{i_2} \dots s_{i_\ell}$ rather than $\vec{w} = (s_{i_1}, s_{i_2}, \dots, s_{i_\ell})$. Thus ‘‘the alcove walk of type $\vec{w} = s_{i_1} s_{i_2} \dots s_{i_\ell}$ ’’ is the sequence $(v_0, v_1, \dots, v_\ell)$ of alcoves, where $v_0 = e$ and $v_k = s_{i_1} \dots s_{i_k}$ for $k = 1, \dots, \ell$.

We are, of course, primarily interested in the case where Φ is a root system of type G_2 . We outline this example below.

Example 3.1. Let Φ be a root system of type G_2 with simple roots α_1 and α_2 . We have $P = Q$, and the dual root system is

$$\Phi^\vee := \pm\{\alpha_1^\vee, \alpha_2^\vee, \alpha_1^\vee + \alpha_2^\vee, \alpha_1^\vee + 2\alpha_2^\vee, \alpha_1^\vee + 3\alpha_2^\vee, 2\alpha_1^\vee + 3\alpha_2^\vee\}.$$

The fundamental alcove is shaded in Figure 1, and the periodic orientation on some hyperplanes is shown.

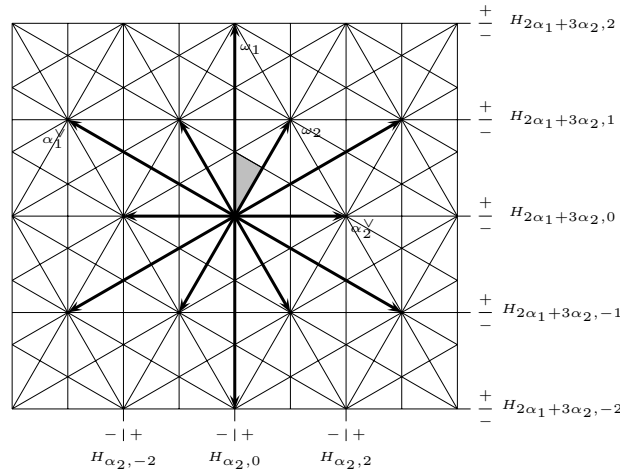


Fig. 1: The root system of type G_2

3.2 Alcove walks and the Bernstein-Lusztig basis of \mathcal{H}

Let W be an affine Weyl group as in the previous section. Let L be a weight function on W . The standard basis of \mathcal{H} is well adapted to the Coxeter structure of the affine Weyl group. We now describe another basis of \mathcal{H} , due to Bernstein and Lusztig, that is well adapted to the semi-direct product structure of W .

Our approach here follows Ram’s alcove walk model [26]. Let $\vec{w} = s_{i_1} s_{i_2} \dots s_{i_\ell}$ be an expression for $w \in W$, and let $v \in W$. A *positively folded alcove walk of type \vec{w} starting at v* is a sequence $p = (v_0, v_1, \dots, v_\ell)$ with $v_0, \dots, v_\ell \in W$ such that

- 1) $v_0 = v$,
- 2) $v_k \in \{v_{k-1}, v_{k-1}s_{i_k}\}$ for each $k = 1, \dots, \ell$, and
- 3) if $v_{k-1} = v_k$ then v_{k-1} is on the positive side of the hyperplane separating v_{k-1} and $v_{k-1}s_{i_k}$.

The end of p is $\text{end}(p) = v_\ell$. Let

$$\mathcal{P}(\vec{w}, v) = \{\text{all positively folded alcove walks of type } \vec{w} \text{ starting at } v\}.$$

Less formally, a *positively folded alcove walk of type \vec{w} starting at v* is a sequence of steps from alcove to alcove in W , starting at v , and made up of the symbols (where the k th step has $s = s_{i_k}$ for $k = 1, \dots, \ell$):

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \begin{array}{c} - \\ | \\ x \rightarrow xs \\ | \\ + \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} - \\ | \\ xs \rightarrow x \\ | \\ + \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} - \\ | \\ xs \leftarrow x \\ | \\ + \end{array} \\ \text{(positive } s\text{-crossing)} & \text{(positive } s\text{-fold)} & \text{(negative } s\text{-crossing)} \end{array}$$

If p has no folds we say that p is *straight*.

If p is a positively folded alcove walk we define, for each $s \in S$,

$$f_s(p) = \#(\text{positive } s\text{-folds in } p) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{Q}(p) = \prod_{s \in S} (\mathfrak{q}_s - \mathfrak{q}_s^{-1})^{f_s(p)}.$$

Let $v \in W$ and choose any expression $v = s_{i_1} \cdots s_{i_\ell}$ (not necessarily reduced). Consider the associated straight alcove walk $(v_0, v_1, \dots, v_\ell)$, where $v_0 = 1$ and $v_k = s_{i_1} \cdots s_{i_k}$. Let $\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_\ell$ be defined using the periodic orientation on hyperplanes as follows:

$$\varepsilon_k = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{if } v_{k-1} \text{ } -|^{+} \text{ } v_k \quad (\text{that is, a positive crossing}) \\ -1 & \text{if } v_k \text{ } -|^{+} \text{ } v_{k-1} \quad (\text{that is, a negative crossing}). \end{cases}$$

It turns out that the element

$$X_v = T_{s_{i_1}}^{\varepsilon_1} \cdots T_{s_{i_\ell}}^{\varepsilon_\ell}$$

of \mathcal{H} does not depend on the particular expression $v = s_{i_1} \cdots s_{i_\ell}$ we have chosen (see [9]). If $\lambda \in Q$ we write

$$X^\lambda = X_{t_\lambda}.$$

It follows from the above definitions that

$$X_v = X_{t_{\text{wt}(v)\theta(v)}} = X^{\text{wt}(p)} X_{\theta(v)} = X^{\text{wt}(v)} T_{\theta(v)^{-1}}^{-1}$$

(the second equality follows since $t_{\text{wt}(v)}$ is on the positive side of every hyperplane through $\text{wt}(v)$, and the third equality follows since $X_u = T_{u^{-1}}^{-1}$ for all $u \in W_0$). Moreover since $X_v = T_v + (\text{lower terms})$ the set $\{X_v \mid v \in W\}$ is a basis of \mathcal{H} , called the *Bernstein-Lusztig basis*.

Let $\mathbb{R}[Q]$ be the free \mathbb{R} -module with basis $\{X^\lambda \mid \lambda \in Q\}$. We have a natural action of W_0 given by $wX^\lambda = X^{w\lambda}$. We set

$$\mathbb{R}[Q]^{W_0} = \{p \in \mathbb{R}[Q] \mid w \cdot p = p \text{ for all } w \in W_0\}.$$

It is a well-known result that the centre of \mathcal{H} is $\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{H}) = \mathbb{R}[Q]^{W_0}$.

The combinatorics of positively folded alcove walks encodes the change of basis from the standard basis $(T_w)_{w \in W}$ of \mathcal{H} to the basis $(X_v)_{v \in W}$. This is seen by taking $u = e$ in the following proposition.

Proposition 3.2. (c.f. [26, Theorem 3.3]) *Let $w, u \in W$, and let \vec{w} be any reduced expression for w . Then*

$$X_u T_w = \sum_{p \in \mathcal{P}(\vec{w}, u)} \mathcal{Q}(p) X_{\text{end}(p)}.$$

Proof. Suppose that $\ell(ws) = \ell(w) + 1$. Then

$$X_u T_{ws} = X_u T_w T_s = \sum_{p \in \mathcal{P}(\vec{w}, u)} \mathcal{Q}(p) X_{\text{end}(p)} T_s.$$

Now, using the formula $T_s = T_s^{-1} + (\mathfrak{q}_s - \mathfrak{q}_s^{-1})$ in the second case below, we have

$$X_{\text{end}(p)} T_s = \begin{cases} X_{\text{end}(p \cdot \varepsilon_s^+)} & \text{if } \text{end}(p) \text{ } -|^{+} \text{ } \text{end}(p)s \\ X_{\text{end}(p \cdot \varepsilon_s^-)} + (\mathfrak{q}_s - \mathfrak{q}_s^{-1}) X_{\text{end}(p \cdot f_s^+)} & \text{if } \text{end}(p)s \text{ } -|^{+} \text{ } \text{end}(p) \end{cases}$$

where $p \cdot \varepsilon_s^+$, $p \cdot \varepsilon_s^-$, and $p \cdot f_s^+$ denote, respectively, the path p followed by a positive s -crossing, a negative s -crossing, and a positive s -fold. The result follows by induction. \square

Example 3.3. Let (W, S) be the affine Weyl group of type \tilde{G}_2 with diagram and weight function as in Example 2.2. Write $\mathbf{q}_1 = \mathbf{q}^{L(s_1)}$ and $\mathbf{q}_2 = \mathbf{q}^{L(s_2)} = \mathbf{q}^{L(s_0)}$. The coroot system Φ^\vee is as in Example 3.1. Writing $X_1 = X^{\alpha_1^\vee}$ and $X_2 = X^{\alpha_2^\vee}$, the Hecke algebra \mathcal{H} associated to W has generators $T_1 = T_{s_1}$, $T_2 = T_{s_2}$, X_1 and X_2 with relations

$$\begin{aligned} T_1^2 &= 1 + (\mathbf{q}_1 - \mathbf{q}_1^{-1})T_1 & T_1 X_1 &= X_1^{-1}T_1 + (\mathbf{q}_1 - \mathbf{q}_1^{-1})(1 + X_1) \\ T_2^2 &= 1 + (\mathbf{q}_2 - \mathbf{q}_2^{-1})T_2 & T_2 X_2 &= X_2^{-1}T_2 + (\mathbf{q}_2 - \mathbf{q}_2^{-1})(1 + X_2) \\ (T_1 T_2)^3 &= (T_2 T_1)^3 & T_2 X_1 &= X_1 X_2^3 T_2^{-1} - (\mathbf{q}_2 - \mathbf{q}_2^{-1})X_1 X_2 (1 + X_2) \\ X_1 X_2 &= X_2 X_1 & T_1 X_2 &= X_1 X_2 T_1^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

3.3 A formula for the Weyl character

In this subsection we use the Hecke algebra as a tool to establish a combinatorial formula for the Weyl character $s_\lambda(X)$. It is sufficient for this purpose to consider the Hecke algebra \mathcal{H} with weight function $L = \ell$ (that is, the equal parameter case). Let

$$\mathbf{1}_0 = \sum_{w \in W_0} \mathbf{q}^{\ell(w)} T_w.$$

We have $T_w \mathbf{1}_0 = \mathbf{1}_0 T_w = \mathbf{q}^{\ell(w)} \mathbf{1}_0$ for all $w \in W_0$. For dominant λ , the *Macdonald spherical function* is the unique element $P_\lambda(X, \mathbf{q}^{-1})$ of $\mathbb{R}[Q]$ such that

$$P_\lambda(X, \mathbf{q}^{-1}) \mathbf{1}_0 = \mathbf{q}^{-2\ell(w_0)} \mathbf{1}_0 X^\lambda \mathbf{1}_0.$$

The well known explicit formula for $P_\lambda(X, \mathbf{q}^{-1})$, due to Macdonald (see [20], and also [27] for a proof in the Hecke algebra context) is

$$P_\lambda(X, \mathbf{q}^{-1}) = \sum_{w \in W_0} w \left(X^\lambda \prod_{\alpha \in \Phi^+} \frac{1 - \mathbf{q}^{-2} X^{-\alpha^\vee}}{1 - X^{-\alpha^\vee}} \right),$$

from which we see that $P_\lambda(X, \mathbf{q}^{-1}) \in \mathbb{R}[Q]^{W_0}$ and that $P_\lambda(X, 0) = s_\lambda(X)$.

Let $w, u \in W$ and let \vec{w} be any reduced expression for w . Let

$$\mathbb{P}(\vec{w}, u) = \{p \in \mathcal{P}(\vec{w}, u) \mid f(p) = \ell(w_0)\}.$$

That is, $\mathbb{P}(\vec{w}, u)$ consists of the paths $p \in \mathcal{P}(\vec{w}, u)$ with $\deg(\mathcal{Q}(p)) = \ell(w_0)$. The following theorem is well known, however we sketch the proof for completeness.

Theorem 3.4. *If $\lambda \in Q \cap P^+$ then*

$$s_\lambda(X) = \sum_{p \in \mathbb{P}(w_0, \vec{t}_\lambda, e)} X^{\text{wt}(p)},$$

Proof. Let \mathcal{H} be the Hecke algebra with $L = \ell$. Since $T_u T_{t_\lambda} = T_{ut_\lambda}$ for all $u \in W_0$ we have, by Proposition 3.2,

$$P_\lambda(X, \mathbf{q}^{-1}) \mathbf{1}_0 = \mathbf{q}^{-2\ell(w_0)} \sum_{u \in W_0} \mathbf{q}^{\ell(u)} T_u T_{t_\lambda} \mathbf{1}_0 = \mathbf{q}^{-2\ell(w_0)} \sum_{u \in W_0} \sum_{p \in \mathcal{P}(\vec{u}, \vec{t}_\lambda, 1)} \mathbf{q}^{\ell(u)} (\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}^{-1})^{f(p)} X_{\text{end}(p)} \mathbf{1}_0.$$

Since $X_{\text{end}(p)} \mathbf{1}_0 = X^{\text{wt}(p)} T_{\theta(p)^{-1}}^{-1} \mathbf{1}_0 = \mathbf{q}^{-\ell(\theta(p))} X^{\text{wt}(p)} \mathbf{1}_0$ it follows that

$$P_\lambda(X, \mathbf{q}^{-1}) = \sum_{u \in W_0} \sum_{p \in \mathcal{P}(\vec{u}, \vec{t}_\lambda, 1)} (\mathbf{q}^{-1})^{2\ell(w_0) - \ell(u) - f(p) + \ell(\theta(p))} (1 - \mathbf{q}^{-2})^{f(p)} X^{\text{wt}(p)}.$$

For each positively folded alcove walk $p \in \mathcal{P}(\vec{u}, \vec{t}_\lambda, e)$, let $p_0, \dots, p_{f(p)}$ be the *partial folding sequence* of p , where p_j is the positively folded alcove walk that agrees with p up to (and including) the j th fold of p , and is straight thereafter. It is simple to see (either using the technique of Lemma 6.2 in this paper, or see [26]) that $\ell(\theta(p_{j+1})) < \ell(\theta(p_j))$ for all $j = 0, \dots, f(p) - 1$. Thus $\ell(\theta(p_j)) - \ell(\theta(p_{j+1})) - 1 \geq 0$, and it follows by summing that $\ell(\theta(p_0)) - \ell(\theta(p_{f(p)})) - f(p) \geq 0$, and hence

$$f(p) \leq \ell(u) - \ell(\theta(p)),$$

with equality if and only if $\ell(\theta(p_j)) - \ell(\theta(p_{j+1})) - 1 = 0$ for each $j = 0, \dots, f(p) - 1$. Thus the exponent of \mathbf{q}^{-1} in the above formula for $P_\lambda(X, \mathbf{q}^{-1})$ is

$$2\ell(w_0) - \ell(u) - f(p) + \ell(\theta(p)) \geq 2(\ell(w_0) - \ell(u) + \ell(\theta(p))) = 2(\ell(w_0 u^{-1}) + \ell(\theta(p))) \geq 0,$$

with equality if and only if $f(p) = \ell(u) - \ell(\theta(p))$, $\ell(w_0 u^{-1}) = 0$, and $\ell(\theta(p)) = 0$. Thus equality occurs if and only if $u = w_0$, $\theta(p) = e$, and $f(p) = \ell(w_0)$. Therefore, upon specialising at $\mathbf{q}^{-1} = 0$ only the terms with $u = w_0$ and $f(p) = \ell(w_0)$ survive, hence the result. \square

4 Kazhdan-Lusztig cells in type \tilde{G}_2

Let W be an affine Weyl group of type \tilde{G}_2 as in Example 2.2. In this section we recall the decomposition of W into right cells and two-sided cells for all choices of parameters $(a, b) \in \mathbb{N}^2$ from [10]. We also recall some ‘‘cell factorisation’’ properties for the infinite two-sided cells from [11].

4.1 The partition of \tilde{G}_2 into cells

Let W be an affine Weyl group of type \tilde{G}_2 with diagram and weight function $L(s_1) = a$ and $L(s_2) = L(s_0) = b$ as in Example 2.2. The partition of W into two-sided cells depends only on the ratio $r = a/b$ of the parameters, and it turns out that there are precisely 7 distinct regimes. We recall these decompositions in the diagrams below where

- w and w' are in the same two-sided cell if and only if they have the same colour;
- w and w' are in the same right cell if and only if they have the same colour and lie in a common connected component;
- the graphs represent the two-sided order on two-sided cells for all regimes from $a/b > 2$ on the left to $a/b < 1$ on the right.

Let Γ be a two-sided cell for the parameter $r \in \mathbb{Q}$. We say that r is generic for Γ if there exists $\eta > 0$ such that Γ is a cell for all parameters $r' \in \mathbb{Q}$ such that $r \in]r - \eta, r + \eta[$. Looking at the decomposition of \tilde{G}_2 into cells, it is easy to see that the only triples (Γ, r) such that r is non-generic for Γ are $(\Gamma_2, 2)$, $(\Gamma_1, 3/2)$ and $(\Gamma_4, 1)$.

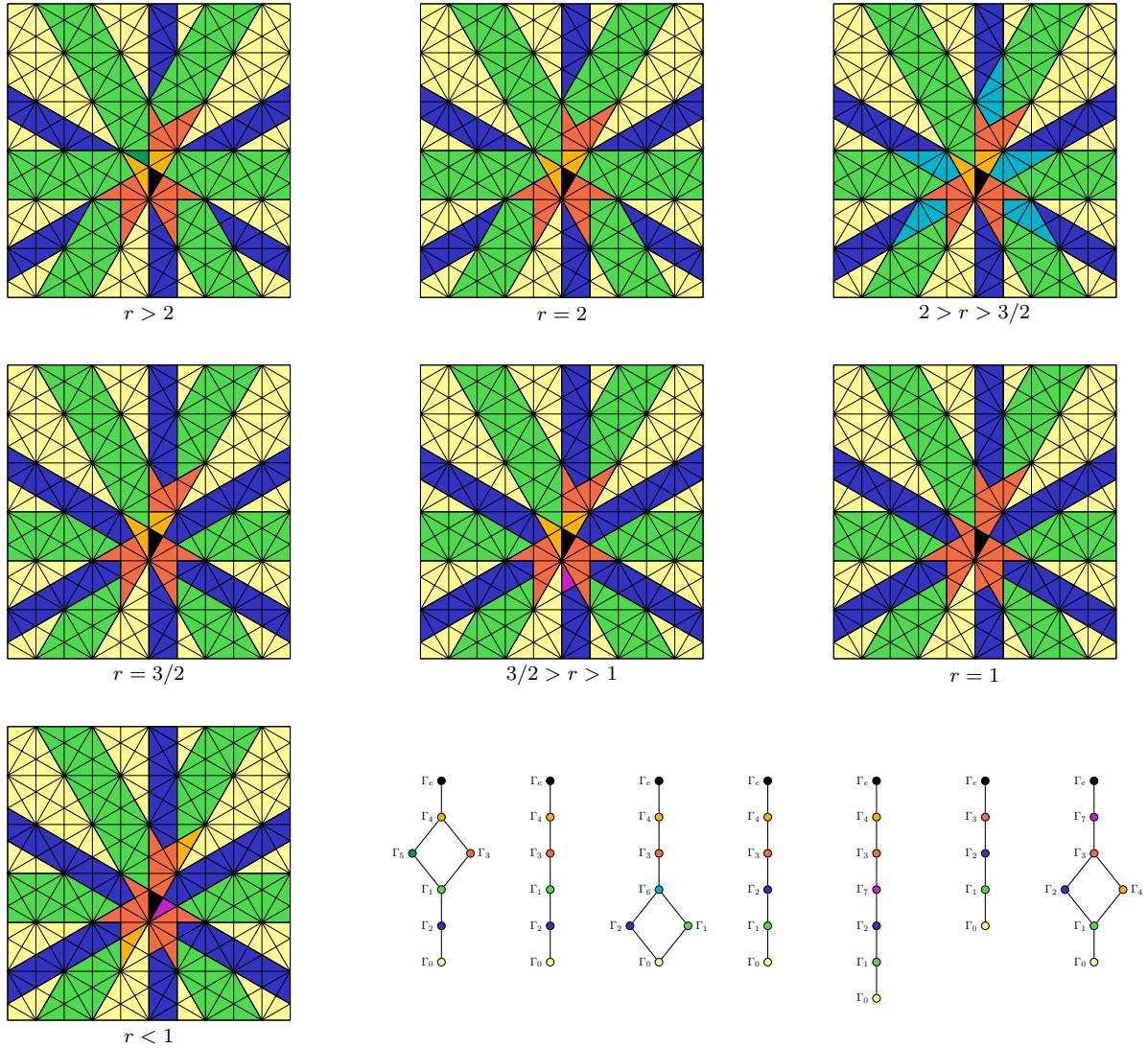


Fig. 2: Partition of \tilde{G}_2 into Kazhdan-Lusztig cells, $r = a/b$

4.2 Cell factorisation for the lowest two-sided cell Γ_0

Note that the yellow two-sided cell is constant for all choices of r (see Figure 2). This cell is called the *lowest two-sided cell*, and is denoted Γ_0 . By direct inspection we have the following representation of elements of Γ_0 (see Figure 3):

- Each right cell $\Gamma^k \subseteq \Gamma$ ($1 \leq k \leq 12$) contains a unique element w_{Γ^k} of minimal length.
- The longest element w_0 of G_2 is a suffix of each w_{Γ^k} , $1 \leq k \leq 12$. Let $u_k = w_0 w_{\Gamma^k}^{-1}$ for $1 \leq k \leq 12$ (these elements are the inverses of the grey elements on the left). Let $\mathbf{B}_0 = \{u_k \mid 1 \leq k \leq 12\}$ (this “box” is illustrated on the right).
- We have

$$\Gamma_0 = \{u^{-1}w_0t_{\lambda}v \mid u, v \in \mathbf{B}_0, \lambda \in P^+\}.$$

Moreover, each $w \in \Gamma_0$ has a unique expression in the form $w = u^{-1}w_0t_\lambda v$ with $u, v \in B_0$ and $\lambda \in P^+$, and this expression is reduced (that is, $\ell(w) = \ell(u^{-1}) + \ell(w_0) + \ell(t_\lambda) + \ell(v)$). This expression is called the *cell factorisation* of $w \in \Gamma_0$. It should be understood in the following way: The element u^{-1} indicates in which connected component (right cell) of Γ_0 the alcove w lies. The element λ indicates in which translate of the box $u^{-1}w_0B_{\Gamma_0}$ the alcove w lies. The element v indicates location of w in the box $u^{-1}w_0t_\lambda B_{\Gamma_0}$.

Note that the translates of B_{Γ_0} cover W . An analogue of the above cell factorisation applies to the lowest two-sided cell in arbitrary type, see [28, Proposition 4.3] and [1, Proposition 3.1].

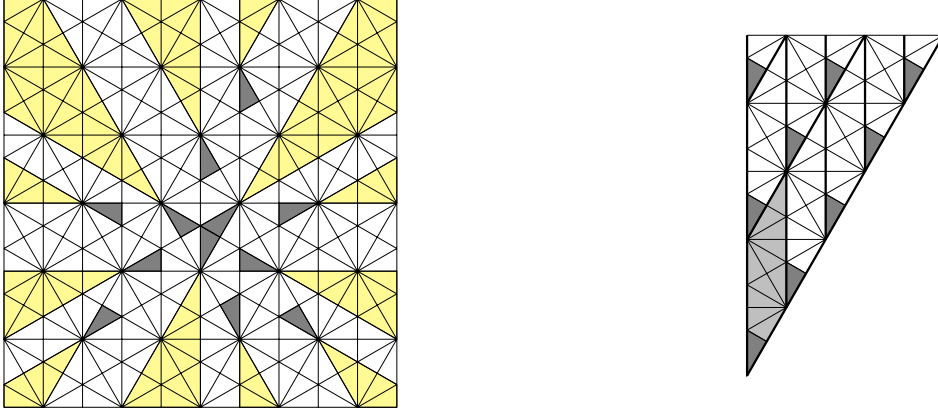


Fig. 3: The lowest two-sided cell Γ_0

We use the third property to define functions $u, v : \Gamma_0 \rightarrow B_{\Gamma_0}$ and $\tau : \Gamma_0 \rightarrow \{t_\lambda \mid \lambda \in P^+\}$ by the equation $w = u(w)^{-1}w_0\tau(w)v(w)$. We will usually write u_w, v_w and τ_w in place of $u(w), v(w)$ and $\tau(w)$. Thus the cell factorisation of $w \in \Gamma_0$ is the expression

$$w = u_w^{-1}w_0\tau_w v_w.$$

4.3 Cell factorisation for the cells Γ_1 and Γ_2 with generic parameters

Note that for each value of $r = a/b$ there are precisely three infinite two-sided cells (including the lowest two-sided cell Γ_0). With reference to Figure 2, let Γ_1 be the green cell, and let Γ_2 be the blue cell. Note that the two-sided cells Γ_1 and Γ_2 are dependent on the choice of r .

It turns out that for most parameters (a, b) the infinite two-sided cells Γ_1 and Γ_2 admit analogous cell factorisations to Γ_0 . Recall from above that:

Convention: When speaking about the cell Γ_i in the “non-generic case”, we will mean either the cell Γ_1 in the case $r_1 = a/b = 2$ or the cell Γ_2 in the case $r_2 = a/b = 3/2$. All other parameter values are generic for these cells.

With this convention, if $\Gamma \in \{\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2\}$ and r is generic for Γ then we have the following cell factorisation properties: Let $\Gamma^1, \dots, \Gamma^6$ be the right cells contained in Γ . Then

- Each right cell Γ^k contains a unique element w_{Γ^k} of minimal length.
- There exists a unique element $w_\Gamma \in \Gamma$ such that w_Γ lies in a finite parabolic subgroup of W and w_Γ is a suffix of each w_{Γ^k} for all $1 \leq k \leq 6$. The element w_Γ is called the *generating element* of Γ . We set $u_k = w_\Gamma w_{\Gamma^k}^{-1}$ for all k and $B_\Gamma = \{u_k \mid 1 \leq k \leq 6\}$.
- There exists $t_\Gamma \in \Gamma$ such that

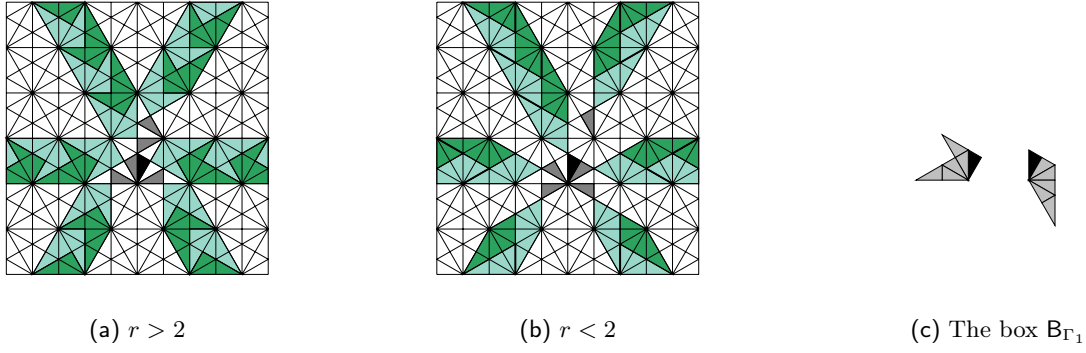
$$\Gamma = \{u^{-1}w_\Gamma t_\Gamma^n v \mid u, v \in B_\Gamma, n \in \mathbb{N}\},$$

and moreover each $w \in \Gamma$ has a unique expression in the form $w = u^{-1}w_\Gamma t_\Gamma^n v$ with $u, v \in B_\Gamma$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Explicitly, in each case the elements w_Γ and t_Γ , and the “box” B_Γ are as follows. For Γ_1 there are 2 distinct generic regimes, given by $r > 2$, and $r < 2$ (see Figure 4). We have

$$w_{\Gamma_1} = \begin{cases} 01 & \text{if } r > 2 \\ 020 & \text{if } r < 2 \end{cases} \quad t_{\Gamma_1} = \begin{cases} 210 & \text{if } r > 2 \\ 120 & \text{if } r < 2 \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad B_{\Gamma_1} = \begin{cases} \{e, 2, 20, 21, 212, 2120\} & \text{if } r > 2 \\ \{e, 1, 12, 121, 1212, 12120\} & \text{if } r < 2. \end{cases}$$

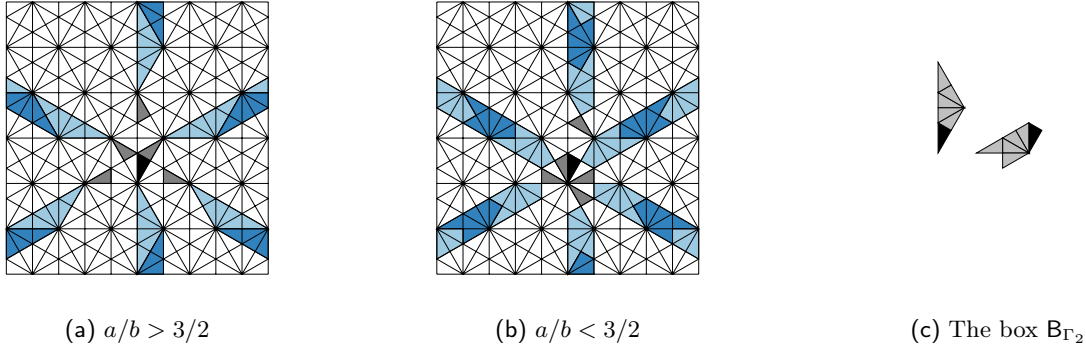
Note that the translates of B_{Γ_1} by t_{Γ_1} tessellate a “strip” in W .

Fig. 4: The green cell Γ_1 in generic regimes ($r \neq 2$)

For Γ_2 there are 2 distinct generic regimes, given by $r > 3/2$, and $r < 3/2$ (see Figure 5). We have

$$w_{\Gamma_2} = \begin{cases} 12121 & \text{if } r > 3/2 \\ 01 & \text{if } r < 3/2 \end{cases} \quad t_{\Gamma_2} = \begin{cases} 02121 & \text{if } r > 3/2 \\ 21210 & \text{if } r < 3/2 \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad B_{\Gamma_2} = \begin{cases} \{e, 0, 02, 021, 0212, 02120\} & \text{if } r > 3/2 \\ \{e, 2, 21, 212, 2121, 2120\} & \text{if } r < 3/2. \end{cases}$$

Note that the translates of B_{Γ_2} by t_{Γ_2} tessellate a “strip” in W .

Fig. 5: The blue cell Γ_2 in generic regimes ($r \neq 3/2$)

We will typically write w_i and B_i in place of w_{Γ_i} and B_{Γ_i} (for $i = 0, 1, 2$) and t_i in place of t_{Γ_i} (for $i = 1, 2$).

For $i \in \{1, 2\}$ we use the third property of cell factorisation to define functions $u, v : \Gamma_i \rightarrow B_i$ and $\tau : \Gamma_i \rightarrow \{t_i^n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ by the equation $w = u(w)^{-1}w_i\tau(w)v(w)$. We will usually write u_w, v_w and τ_w in place of $u(w), v(w)$ and $\tau(w)$. Thus the cell factorisation of $w \in \Gamma_i$ is the expression

$$w = u_w^{-1}w_i\tau_w v_w.$$

Remark 4.1. Let $w, w' \in \Gamma_i$ where $i \in \{0, 1, 2\}$. Then we have

$$w \sim_{\mathcal{L}} w' \iff v_w = v_{w'} \quad \text{and} \quad w \sim_{\mathcal{R}} w' \iff u_w = u_{w'}.$$

Further, we notice that $\tau(w^{-1}) = \tau(w)$. Indeed if $w \in \Gamma_i$ then $w^{-1} = v^{-1}\tau_w^{-1}w_i u = v^{-1}w_i\tau_w u$.

4.4 Cell factorisation for the cells Γ_1 and Γ_2 with non-generic parameters

Let $r_1 = 2$ and $r_2 = 3/2$. The behaviour of the cell Γ_1 when $r = r_1$ is similar to the behaviour of the cell Γ_2 when $r = r_2$. The two-sided cell Γ_i is the union of Γ_i^+ , the two-sided cell in the generic case $a/b > r_i$ and Γ_i^- , the two-sided cell in the generic case $a/b < r_i$ (in line with the *semicontinuity conjecture* of Bonnafé [2]). More precisely we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_1^+ \setminus \Gamma_1^- &= \{u^{-1}w_1^+v \mid u, v \in B_1^+ \cap s_1 B_1^-\}, & \Gamma_1^- \setminus \Gamma_1^+ &= \{w_1^-\}, \\ \Gamma_2^+ \setminus \Gamma_2^- &= \{u^{-1}w_1^+v \mid u, v \in B_2^- \cap s_0 B_2^+\}, & \Gamma_2^- \setminus \Gamma_2^+ &= \{w_1^+\}. \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore, each right cell $\Upsilon \subset \Gamma_i$ is either

- equal to a right cell in the case $a/b > r_i$, in which case we say Υ is of positive type;
- equal to a right cell in the case $a/b < r_i$, in which case we say Υ is of negative type;

Definition 4.2. Let $w \in \Gamma_i$. We say that w is of type $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2)$ where $\varepsilon_k = \pm$ if w belongs to a right cell of type ε_1 and w^{-1} belongs to a right cell of type ε_2 .

It is easy to see from the definition that if w is of type $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2)$ then w^{-1} will be of type $(\varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_1)$. We represent the types of the elements of Γ_i in Figure 6: the dark blue, light blue, light red, dark red alcoves are respectively of type $(-, -)$, $(-, +)$, $(+, -)$ and $(+, +)$.

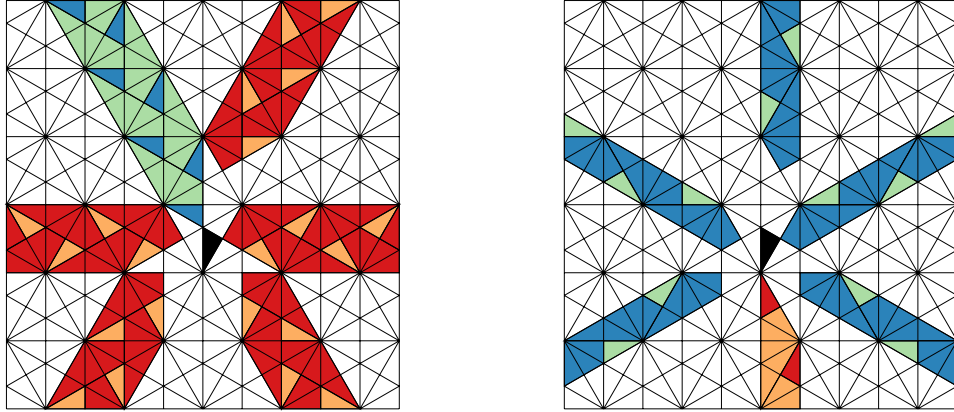


Fig. 6: $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2)$ -type in Γ_i .

We denote by w_i^ε , B_i^ε , and P_i^ε the data associated to Γ_i^ε where $\varepsilon = \pm$. We define $u_\varepsilon, v_\varepsilon : \Gamma_i^\varepsilon \rightarrow B_i^\varepsilon$ and $\tau^\varepsilon : \Gamma_i^\varepsilon \rightarrow \{t_{i,\varepsilon}^n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ by the equation $w = u_\varepsilon(w)^{-1} w_i^\varepsilon \tau_\varepsilon(w) v_\varepsilon(w)$. In the case where $i = 1$, we extend the definition of $u_\varepsilon, v_\varepsilon$ and τ_ε by setting for all $u, v \in B_1^+ \cap s_1 B_1^-$

$$\begin{aligned} u_+(w_1^-) &:= s_2 s_0 & u_-(u^{-1} w_1^+ v) &= s_1 u, \\ v_+(w_1^-) &:= s_2 s_0 & u_-(u^{-1} w_1^+ v) &= s_1 v, \\ \tau_+(w_1^-) &:= -1 & \tau_-(u^{-1} w_1^+ v) &= -1. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly when $i = 2$, we extend the definition of $u_\varepsilon, v_\varepsilon$ and τ_ε by setting for all $u, v \in B_2^- \cap s_0 B_2^+$

$$\begin{aligned} u_-(w_2^+) &:= s_2 s_1 s_2 s_1 & u_+(u^{-1} w_2^- v) &= s_0 u, \\ v_-(w_2^+) &:= s_2 s_1 s_2 s_1 & u_+(u^{-1} w_2^- v) &= s_0 v, \\ \tau_-(w_2^+) &:= -1 & \tau_+(u^{-1} w_2^- v) &= -1. \end{aligned}$$

These definitions are coherent since we have

- for all $w \in \Gamma_i$ and $\varepsilon = \pm$ we have $w = u_\varepsilon^{-1}(w) w_i^\varepsilon \tau_\varepsilon(w) v_\varepsilon(w)$;
- for all $w, w' \in \Gamma_i$, $w \sim_{\mathcal{L}} w'$ if and only if $v_\varepsilon(w) = v_\varepsilon(w')$;
- for all $w, w' \in \Gamma_i$, $w \sim_{\mathcal{R}} w'$ if and only if $u_\varepsilon(w) = u_\varepsilon(w')$.

The relation between those two expressions when $i = 1$ are as follows

- if w is of type $(+, +)$ then $u_-(w) = s_1 u_+(w)$, $v_-(w) = s_1 v_+(w)$ and $\tau_-(w) = \tau_+(w) - 1$;
- if w is of type $(-, -)$ then $u_+(w) = s_0 s_2 = v_+(w)$ and $\tau_+(w) = \tau_-(w) - 1$;
- if w is of type $(+, -)$ then $u_-(w) = s_1 u_+(w)$, $v_-(w) = s_0 s_2$ and $\tau_-(w) = \tau_+(w)$;
- if w is of type $(-, +)$ then $u_-(w) = s_0 s_2$, $v_-(w) = s_1 v_+(w)$ and $\tau_-(w) = \tau_+(w)$.

There are similar formulas for $i = 2$.

5 Cell representations in type G_2

In this section we prove that each finite cell admits a finite dimensional representation satisfying **B1–B4** and **B4'**. Moreover, we show that each infinite cell admits a finite dimensional representation satisfying **B1**.

We will use the following notation. We write $E_{i,j}$ for the square matrix with 1 in the (i, j) place, and zeros elsewhere (the dimension of the matrix will be clear from context). For $i, j \in \mathbb{Z}$ we write $\mu_{i,j} = \mathbf{q}^{ia-jb} + \mathbf{q}^{-ia+jb}$.

5.1 Finite cells

Let Γ be a finite two-sided cell and let Υ be a right cell lying in Γ . By Table 2, Γ intersects a dihedral parabolic subgroup W_I , and we set $\tilde{\mathbf{a}}_\Gamma = \mathbf{a}_I(z)$ for any $z \in \Gamma \cap W_I$ (here \mathbf{a}_I is Lusztig's \mathbf{a} -function on W_I). It is easily verified that this is well defined. We write $\rho \sim \Upsilon$ to indicate that ρ is the cell module over \mathbf{R} associated to Υ equipped with the natural Kazhdan-Lusztig basis as in Section 1.2. From the data in Figure 2, we see that $\Upsilon_{\geq \mathcal{L}\mathcal{R}}$ and $\Upsilon_{> \mathcal{L}\mathcal{R}}$ are also finite subsets of W .

Theorem 5.1. *Let Γ be a finite two-sided cell. If $(\Gamma, r) \neq (\Gamma_3, 1)$ let Υ be any right cell contained in Γ and let $\rho \sim \Upsilon$. If $(\Gamma, r) = (\Gamma_3, 1)$ let ρ be the direct sum of the cell representations for each of the right cells contained in Γ . Then ρ satisfies **B1–B4** and **B4'** with $\mathbf{a}_\rho = \tilde{\mathbf{a}}_\Gamma$. Thus ρ is Γ -balanced over \mathbf{R} .*

Proof. We have already noted in Section 2 that ρ satisfies **B1**. To check **B2**, note that the set $\Upsilon_{\geq \mathcal{LR}}$ is finite, and hence it is clear that there exists $M \geq 0$ such that $\deg([\rho(C_w)]_{i,j}) \leq M$ for all $w \in \Upsilon_{\geq \mathcal{LR}}$. Since ρ satisfies **B1** we have $\rho(C_w) = 0$ if $w \notin \Upsilon_{\geq \mathcal{LR}}$, so **B2** holds.

We now verify **B3**, **B4** and **B4'**. Since $\rho(C_w) = 0$ if $w \notin \Upsilon_{\geq \mathcal{LR}}$ it is sufficient to look at the matrices $\rho(T_w)$ where w lies in the finite set $\Upsilon_{\geq \mathcal{LR}}$.

We start by treating the 1-dimensional cells. There are 4 such two-sided cells, $\Gamma_e = \{e\}$ (in all parameter regimes) and the cells $\Gamma_5 = \{s_0 s_2 s_0\}$ (for $r > 2$), $\Gamma_7 = \{s_1 s_2 s_1 s_2 s_1\}$ (for $3/2 > r > 1$) and $\Gamma_7 = \{s_1\}$ (for $r < 1$). The associated cell modules are ρ_I where $I = \emptyset, \{s_1\}$ or $\{s_0, s_2\}$ (see Example 2.2). We now verify **B3** for each of these cells. Then **B4** and **B4'** are obvious since there is only one leading matrix, and it is just a nonzero element of \mathbb{R} .

- We have $\rho_\emptyset \sim \Gamma_e$ and since $\max \deg(\rho_\emptyset(\Gamma_e)) = 0 = \tilde{\mathbf{a}}_{\Gamma_e}$ the result is clear.
- When $r > 2$, we have $\rho_I \sim \Gamma_5$ where $I = \{0, 2\}$. We have $\Gamma_{5 \leq \mathcal{LR}} = \Gamma_5 \cup \Gamma_4 \cup \Gamma_e$ and by direct calculation $\max \deg(\rho(\Gamma_5)) = 3b$ and $\max \deg(\rho(\Gamma_4)) = 2b$. This shows that $\mathbf{a}_\rho = 3b = \tilde{\mathbf{a}}_{\Gamma_5}$ and hence **B3**.
- When $3/2 > r > 1$, we have $\rho_I \sim \Gamma_7$ where $I = \{1\}$. We have $\Gamma_{7 \leq \mathcal{LR}} = \Gamma_7 \cup \Gamma_3 \cup \Gamma_4 \cup \Gamma_e$ and

$$\max \deg(\rho(\Gamma_7)) = 3a - 2b, \quad \max \deg(\rho(\Gamma_3)) = 2a - b, \quad \text{and} \quad \max \deg(\rho(\Gamma_4)) = -b.$$

This shows that $\mathbf{a}_\rho = 3a - 2b = \tilde{\mathbf{a}}_{\Gamma_7}$ and hence **B3** holds.

- When $r < 1$, we have $\rho_I \sim \Gamma_7$ where $I = \{1\}$. We have $\Gamma_{7 \leq \mathcal{LR}} = \Gamma_7 \cup \Gamma_e$ and $\max \deg(\rho(\Gamma_7)) = a$. This shows that $\mathbf{a}_\rho = a = \tilde{\mathbf{a}}_{\Gamma_7}$ and hence **B3** holds.

We now consider the remaining finite cells. Consider Γ_6 , which occurs in the regime $2 > r > 3/2$ only. Let $\rho \sim \Upsilon$ where Υ is a right cell included in Γ_6 . Thus ρ is a 5-dimensional representation with basis indexed by the elements of Υ . To be concrete we will take $\Upsilon = \{s_1 s_0, s_1 s_0 s_2, s_1 s_0 s_2 s_1, s_1 s_0 s_2 s_1 s_2, s_1 s_0 s_2 s_1 s_2 s_0\}$, however it turns out that the representations for the right cells are pairwise isomorphic. Then the matrices of T_{s_1} , T_{s_2} , and T_{s_0} are, respectively,

$$\begin{pmatrix} q^a & \mu_{1,1} & 0 & 1 & -\mu_{2,3} \\ 0 & -q^{-a} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & q^a & \mu_{1,1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -q^{-a} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -q^{-a} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -q^{-b} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & q^b & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -q^{-b} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & q^b & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -q^{-b} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} q^b & 1 & -\mu_{1,2} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -q^{-b} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -q^{-b} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -q^{-b} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & q^b \end{pmatrix}.$$

We have $\Gamma_{6 \leq \mathcal{LR}} = \Gamma_6 \cup \Gamma_3 \cup \Gamma_4 \cup \Gamma_e$ and we check by direct computation that

$$\max \deg(\rho(\Gamma_6)) = a + b, \quad \max \deg(\rho(\Gamma_3)) = a, \quad \text{and} \quad \max \deg(\rho(\Gamma_4)) = b.$$

This shows that $\mathbf{a}_\rho = a + b = \tilde{\mathbf{a}}_{\Gamma_6}$ and **B3** holds. To verify **B4** requires further computation. Note that any $w \in \Gamma_6$ can be written in a unique way in the form $u^{-1} s_1 s_0 v$ where $u, v \in \mathbf{B}_6 = \{e, s_2, s_2 s_1, s_2 s_1 s_2, s_2 s_1 s_2 s_0\}$ (this is a version of cell factorisation for this finite cell). Again by direct computation we see that

$$\mathbf{c}_{\rho, w} = E_{s_1 s_0 u, s_1 s_0 v} \quad \text{if } w = u^{-1} s_1 s_0 v \text{ with } u, v \in \mathbf{B}_6$$

(recall that the rows and columns of the matrices for $\rho(T_w)$ are indexed by the elements of $\Upsilon = \{s_1 s_0 v \mid v \in \mathbf{B}_6\}$). Thus **B4** holds. To verify **B4'** we note that if $w = u^{-1} s_1 s_0 v \in \Gamma_6$ with $u, v \in \mathbf{B}_6$ then writing $x = u^{-1} s_1 s_0 \in \Gamma_6$ and $y = s_1 s_0 v \in \Gamma_6$ we have

$$\mathbf{c}_{\rho, x} \mathbf{c}_{\rho, y} = E_{s_1 s_0 u, s_1 s_0} E_{s_1 s_0, s_1 s_0 v} = E_{s_1 s_0 u, s_1 s_0 v} = \mathbf{c}_{\rho, w},$$

and hence **B4'** holds.

We are left with the red cells Γ_3 . When $r > 1$ all the representations afforded by the right cells are isomorphic and the matrices of T_{s_1} , T_{s_2} and T_{s_0} are given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} q^a & \mu_{1,1} & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -q^{-a} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -q^{-a} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & q^a & \mu_{1,1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -q^{-a} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -q^{-a} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -q^{-b} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & q^b & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -q^{-b} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -q^{-b} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & q^b & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -q^{-b} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -q^{-b} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -q^{-b} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & q^b & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -q^{-b} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -q^{-b} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & q^b \end{pmatrix}.$$

A direct check shows that $\deg([\rho(T_w)]_{i,j})$ is bounded by $\tilde{\mathbf{a}}_{\Gamma_3} = a$ and that **B3** holds. Moreover,

$$\{\mathbf{c}_{\rho, w} \mid w \in \Gamma_3\} = \{E_{1+i, 1+j} + E_{4+i, 4+j}, E_{1+i, 4+j} + E_{4+i, 1+j} \mid 0 \leq i, j \leq 2\},$$

from which **B4** and **B4'** follow. The case $r < 1$ can be treated similarly.

The case $(\Gamma, r) = (\Gamma_3, 1)$ is slightly different since the right cells contained in Γ do not give rise to isomorphic cell representations (there are two right cells with 8 elements, and one with 7). However in this case it turns out, by calculation, that the direct sum of these representations is bounded by $\tilde{\mathbf{a}}_{\Gamma_3} = 1$ and **B3**, **B4** and **B4'** hold. Explicit matrices for all finite cells can be found on the authors' webpage. \square

Remark 5.2. In the above theorem we could define ρ to be the direct sum of the representations afforded by each right cell in Γ in all cases, however this only appears to be necessary in the interesting case of Γ_3 with equal parameters.

5.2 The principal series representation π_0

We now associate a representation π_0 to the lowest two-sided cell Γ_0 . It is convenient to set this section up in arbitrary type, and so \mathcal{H} is an affine Hecke algebra of rank n . Recall that $R[Q]$ denotes the subalgebra of \mathcal{H} spanned by the elements $\{X^\lambda \mid \lambda \in Q\}$. We use this large commutative subalgebra to construct finite dimensional representations of \mathcal{H} as follows. Let ζ_1, \dots, ζ_n be commuting indeterminants, and let M_0 be the 1-dimensional right $R[Q]$ -module over the ring $R[\zeta_1, \dots, \zeta_n, \zeta_1^{-1}, \dots, \zeta_n^{-1}]$, with generator ξ_0 and $R[Q]$ -action given by linearly extending

$$\xi_0 \cdot X^\mu = \xi_0 \zeta^\mu \quad \text{where } \zeta^\mu = \zeta_1^{k_1} \cdots \zeta_n^{k_n} \text{ if } \mu = k_1 \alpha_1^\vee + \cdots + k_n \alpha_n^\vee \in Q.$$

Now let (π_0, \mathcal{M}_0) be the induced right \mathcal{H} -module. That is,

$$\mathcal{M}_0 = \text{Ind}_{R[Q]}^{\mathcal{H}}(M_0) = M_0 \otimes_{R[Q]} \mathcal{H}.$$

Since $\{X^\mu T_{u^{-1}}^{-1} \mid \mu \in Q, u \in W_0\}$ is a basis of \mathcal{H} , and since $\xi_0 \otimes X^\mu = (\xi_0 \otimes 1)\zeta^\mu$, we see that $\{\xi_0 \otimes X_u \mid u \in W_0\}$ is a basis of \mathcal{M}_0 . Thus \mathcal{M}_0 is a $|W_0|$ -dimensional right \mathcal{H} -module, called the *principal series representation* with *central character* $\zeta = (\zeta_1, \dots, \zeta_n)$.

Since Γ_0 is the lowest two-sided cell, the representation π_0 trivially satisfies **B1** with respect to $\Gamma = \Gamma_0$

5.3 The induced representations π_1 and π_2

For each $i \in \{1, 2\}$ let \mathcal{H}_i be the subalgebra of \mathcal{H} generated by T_i, X_1, X_2 (where $X_j = X^{\alpha_j^\vee}$). Let ζ be an indeterminant, and for each $i \in \{1, 2\}$ let M_i be the 1-dimensional right \mathcal{H}_i -module over the ring $R[\zeta, \zeta^{-1}]$ with generator ξ_i and \mathcal{H}_i -action given by

$$\begin{aligned} \xi_1 \cdot T_1 &= \xi_1(-\mathfrak{q}^{-a}) & \xi_1 \cdot X_1 &= \xi_1 \mathfrak{q}^{-2a} & \xi_1 \cdot X_2 &= \xi_1(-\mathfrak{q}^a \zeta) \\ \xi_2 \cdot T_2 &= \xi_2(-\mathfrak{q}^{-b}) & \xi_2 \cdot X_1 &= \xi_2(-\mathfrak{q}^{3b} \zeta) & \xi_2 \cdot X_2 &= \xi_2 \mathfrak{q}^{-2b} \end{aligned}$$

(One checks directly using the formulae in Example 3.3 that these are representations.)

For $i \in \{1, 2\}$, let (π_i, \mathcal{M}_i) be the induced right \mathcal{H} -module. Thus $\mathcal{M}_i = M_i \otimes_{\mathcal{H}_i} \mathcal{H}$. For $i \in \{1, 2\}$ let $W_i = \langle s_i \rangle$ and let W_0^i denote the set of minimal length coset representatives for cosets in $W_i \backslash W_0$. Note that the module \mathcal{M}_i has basis $\{\xi_i \otimes X_v \mid v \in W_0^i\}$ for $i = 1, 2$.

Theorem 5.3. *Let $i \in \{1, 2\}$. The representation π_i satisfies **B1** with respect to $\Gamma = \Gamma_i$.*

Proof. We need to show that $\pi_i(C_w) = 0$ for all $w \in \Gamma$ with $\Gamma \not\leq_{\mathcal{LR}} \Gamma_i$. The set of such Γ is determined by the Hasse diagrams in Figure 2. It suffices to show that $\pi_i(C_{w_j}) = 0$ whenever $\Gamma_j \not\leq_{\mathcal{LR}} \Gamma_i$ (here $j \in \{0, 1, 2\}$), plus in the regime $r < 1$ we need to show that $\pi_2(C_w) = 0$ for all w in the finite cell Γ_4 . For example, in the parameter regime $2 > r > 3/2$ we need to check that $\pi_1(C_{w_0}) = \pi_1(C_{w_2}) = 0$ and $\pi_2(C_{w_0}) = \pi_2(C_{w_1}) = 0$.

In the cases that w_i is the longest element of some dihedral parabolic subgroup W_J we have the uniform description

$$C_{w_i} = \mathfrak{q}^{-L(w_i)} \sum_{w \in W_J} \mathfrak{q}^{L(w)} T_w.$$

The only case required when w_i is not the longest element of a dihedral parabolic subgroup is w_2 in the parameter regime $2 > r > 3/2$. In this case

$$\begin{aligned} C_{w_2} &= (\mathfrak{q}^{-3a-2b} - \mathfrak{q}^{-3a} + \mathfrak{q}^{-3a+2b})T_e + (\mathfrak{q}^{-3a-b} - \mathfrak{q}^{-3a+b})T_{s_2} \\ &\quad + (-\mathfrak{q}^{-2a-2b} + \mathfrak{q}^{-2a} + \mathfrak{q}^{-2a+2b})T_{s_1} + (\mathfrak{q}^{-2a-b} + \mathfrak{q}^{-2a+b})(T_{s_2 s_1} + T_{s_1 s_2}) \\ &\quad + \mathfrak{q}^{-3a}T_{s_2 s_1 s_2} + (\mathfrak{q}^{-a-b} + \mathfrak{q}^{-a+b})T_{s_1 s_2 s_1} + \mathfrak{q}^{-a}(T_{s_2 s_1 s_2 s_1} + T_{s_1 s_2 s_1 s_2}) + T_{s_1 s_2 s_1 s_2 s_1} \end{aligned}$$

For the case $r < 1$, to show that $\pi_2(C_w) = 0$ for $w \in \Gamma_4$ it is sufficient to show that $\pi_2(C_{s_2 s_1 s_2 s_1 s_2}) = 0$. The formula for $C_{s_2 s_1 s_2 s_1 s_2}$ in the T_w basis is as in the C_{w_2} formula above with the roles of s_1 and s_2 interchanged. The result now follows by direct computation. \square

6 The lowest two-sided cell Γ_0

In this section we show that the principal series representation π_0 , equipped with certain natural bases, satisfies **B2–B4** and **B4'** with bound $\mathfrak{a}_{\pi_0} = L(w_0)$. It is convenient to work more generally than \tilde{G}_2 . However since ultimately we are interested in \tilde{G}_2 , and in this case $Q = P$, we will work in this setting here. Thus the analysis below applies verbatim to the cases \tilde{G}_2, \tilde{F}_4 , and \tilde{E}_8 , however we note that by slight modifications (in particular to the definition of \mathbf{B}_0) the analysis below applies to all affine Weyl groups.

We first show that the degree of the matrix coefficients of $\pi_0(T_w)$ are bounded by $L(w_0)$ for all $w \in W$ (verifying **B2**), and then we determine explicitly the set of $w \in W$ for which this bound is attained: it turns out to be precisely the lowest two-sided cell Γ_0 (hence **B3**). Finally we will compute the leading matrices $\mathfrak{c}_{\pi_0, w}$ in terms of Schur functions, verifying **B4** and **B4'**.

6.1 Path formula for the principal series representation π_0

Let \mathbf{B} be any fundamental domain for the action of the group Q of translations on the set of alcoves (for example, both W_0 and \mathbf{B}_0 are fundamental domains). Thus any $w \in W$ can be written uniquely as $w = t_\mu u$ for some $u \in \mathbf{B}$, and we set $\text{wt}_{\mathbf{B}}(w) = \mu$ and $\theta_{\mathbf{B}}(w) = u$. If p is a positively folded alcove walk we write

$$\text{wt}_{\mathbf{B}}(p) = \text{wt}_{\mathbf{B}}(\text{end}(p)) \quad \text{and} \quad \theta_{\mathbf{B}}(p) = \theta_{\mathbf{B}}(\text{end}(p)).$$

The following theorem generalises the formula presented in [24, Theorem 5.16].

Theorem 6.1. *Let \mathbf{B} be a fundamental domain for Q . The set $\{\xi_0 \otimes X_u \mid u \in \mathbf{B}\}$ is a basis for \mathcal{M}_0 , and with respect to this basis the matrix entries of $\pi_0(T_w)$, $w \in W$, are given by*

$$[\pi_0(T_w)]_{u,v} = \sum_{\{p \in \mathcal{P}_{\mathbf{B}}(\bar{w}, u) \mid \theta_{\mathbf{B}}(p) = v\}} \mathcal{Q}(p) \zeta^{\text{wt}_{\mathbf{B}}(p)}$$

where \bar{w} is any reduced expression for w .

Proof. Since W_0 is a fundamental domain for Q , each $u \in \mathbf{B}$ can be written as $u = t_{\mu_u} u'$ for some $\mu_u \in Q$ and some $u' \in W_0$. Then $\xi_0 \otimes X_u = \xi_0 \otimes X^{\mu_u} X_{u'} = (\xi_0 \otimes X_{u'}) \zeta^{\mu_u}$. The first claim follows since $\{\xi_0 \otimes X_{u'} \mid u' \in W_0\}$ is clearly a basis of \mathcal{M}_0 .

Let \bar{w} be any reduced expression for w . Using Proposition 3.2 we have

$$(\xi_0 \otimes X_u) \cdot T_w = \sum_{p \in \mathcal{P}(\bar{w}, u)} (\xi_0 \otimes X^{\text{wt}_{\mathbf{B}}(p)} X_{\theta_{\mathbf{B}}(p)}) \mathcal{Q}(p) = \sum_{v \in W_0} \left(\sum_{\{p \in \mathcal{P}_{\mathbf{B}}(\bar{w}, u) \mid \theta_{\mathbf{B}}(p) = v\}} (\xi_0 \otimes X_v) \mathcal{Q}(p) \zeta^{\text{wt}_{\mathbf{B}}(p)} \right),$$

hence the result. \square

6.2 Leading matrix coefficients for π_0

We begin with some definitions in preparation for the following lemma. Let $u, w \in W$, let \bar{w} be a reduced expression, and let $p \in \mathcal{P}(\bar{w}, u)$. The *partial foldings* of p are the positively folded alcove walks $p_0, p_1, \dots, p_{f(p)}$, where p_j is the positively folded alcove walk of type \bar{w} starting at u that agrees with p up to (and including) the j th fold of p , and is straight thereafter. Thus p_0 is the straight path of type \bar{w} starting at u , and $p_{f(p)} = p$. The *pivots* of p are the alcoves $u_0, \dots, u_{f(p)}$ in which the folds occur, with $u_0 = u$. More formally, if the folds of p occur at positions $k_1 < \dots < k_{f(p)}$ in the reduced expression $\bar{w} = r_1 \cdots r_\ell$ (with $r_j \in S$) then the pivots of p are the alcoves $u_0 = u$, $u_1 = ur_1 \cdots r_{k_1-1}$, and

$$u_{j+1} = u_j r_{k_{j+1}} \cdots r_{k_{j+1}-1} \quad \text{for } j = 1, \dots, f(p) - 1.$$

Lemma 6.2. *Let $u, w \in W$ and let $\text{wt}(u) = \mu$. Let $v \in W_0$ be such that $uw \in t_\mu v C_0$. Let $p \in \mathcal{P}(\bar{w}, u)$, and suppose that the folds of p occur on the hyperplanes $H_{\beta_1, k_1}, \dots, H_{\beta_{f(p)}, k_{f(p)}}$, where $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_{f(p)} \in \Phi^+$. Then:*

- 1) $\ell(v_{j+1}) < \ell(v_j)$ for $j = 0, 1, \dots, f(p) - 1$, where $v_0 = v$ and $v_j = s_{\beta_j} \cdots s_{\beta_1} v$ for $j = 1, \dots, f(p)$.
- 2) $f(p) \leq \ell(v) - \ell(v_{f(p)})$ with equality if and only if $\ell(v_{j+1}) = \ell(v_j) - 1$ for all $j = 0, 1, \dots, f(p) - 1$.
- 3) If $f(p) = \ell(w_0)$ then $v = w_0$, $v_{f(p)} = e$, and β_1 and $\beta_{f(p)}$ are simple roots.
- 4) We have $\deg(\mathcal{Q}(p)) \leq L(w_0)$ with equality if and only if $f(p) = \ell(w_0)$.

Proof. 1) We may assume that $\mu = 0$ (if not, translate the entire proof by $t_{-\mu}$, and then translate back at the end). Thus $u \in W_0$. Let $p \in \mathcal{P}(\bar{w}, u)$, and let $f = f(p)$. Let p_0, \dots, p_f be the partial foldings of p . Let p_0^∞ be an ‘‘infinite continuation’’ of p_0 such that each finite segment of p_0^∞ is reduced, and p_0^∞ moves into the ‘‘interior’’ of the Weyl chamber vC_0 (that is, away from all walls). More formally, p_0^∞ can be constructed by first extending p_0 to $y = t_{\text{wt}(uw)} v$ (the longest element of $uwW_0 \cap vC_0$) and then appending infinitely many copies of a fixed reduced expression for t_ρ , where $\rho = \omega_1 + \dots + \omega_n$ (or any other choice of strictly dominant coweight). Verifying that any finite segment of the resulting infinite path p_0^∞ is reduced is a straightforward exercise in computing separating hyperplanes.

Let $p_1^\infty, \dots, p_f^\infty$ be the infinite extensions of p_1, \dots, p_f induced from p_0^∞ . In other words, $p_1^\infty, \dots, p_f^\infty$ are generated by successively performing the folds of p to p_0^∞ . The hyperplane $H_{\beta_{j+1}, k_{j+1}}$ separates the pivot u_j from all alcoves of p_j^∞ occurring after u_j , and u_j is on the positive side of this hyperplane. Thus the linear hyperplane $H_{\beta_{j+1}, 0}$ separates the identity alcove e from all alcoves sufficiently far along p_j^∞ (this is because the former is on the positive side of this hyperplane, and the latter are on the negative side). It is clear that all alcoves sufficiently far along p_j^∞ lie in $v_j C_0$ (here it is important that ρ is strictly dominant). Thus $H_{\beta_{j+1}, 0}$ separates the Weyl chamber C_0 from the Weyl chamber $v_j C_0$. By the strong exchange condition $s_{\beta_{j+1}} v_j$ is obtained from a reduced expression of v_j by deleting a generator, and thus $\ell(s_{\beta_{j+1}} v_j) < \ell(v_j)$. Therefore $\ell(v_{j+1}) < \ell(v_j)$ for all $j = 0, 1, \dots, f - 1$.

2) By the above we have $\ell(v_{j+1}) - \ell(v_j) + 1 \leq 0$ for all $j = 0, \dots, f - 1$, and hence

$$0 \geq \sum_{j=0}^{f-1} (\ell(v_{j+1}) - \ell(v_j) + 1) = \ell(v_f) - \ell(v) + f(p),$$

with equality if and only if $\ell(v_{j+1}) = \ell(v_j) - 1$ for all $j = 0, \dots, f-1$.

3) If $f(p) = \ell(\mathbf{w}_0)$ then by 2) we have $v = \mathbf{w}_0$ and $v_f = e$. Applying the equality $\ell(v_{j+1}) = \ell(v_j) - 1$ in the cases $j = 0$ and $j = f-1$ gives $\ell(s_{\beta_1} \mathbf{w}_0) = \ell(\mathbf{w}_0) - 1$ and $\ell(e) = \ell(s_{\beta_f}) - 1$, which forces β_1 and β_f to be simple roots.

4) The conditions $\ell(v_{j+1}) < \ell(v_j)$ and $v_{j+1} = s_{\beta_{j+1}} v_j$ imply, by the strong exchange condition, that v_{j+1} is obtained from a reduced expression of v_j by deleting a single generator. Moreover, by the proof of the strong exchange condition this deleted generator is conjugate to $s_{\beta_{j+1}}$, and thus $L(v_{j+1}) \leq L(v_j) - L(s_{\beta_{j+1}})$. It follows that

$$\deg(\mathcal{Q}(p)) = \sum_{j=0}^{f-1} L(s_{\beta_j}) \leq \sum_{j=0}^{f(p)-1} (L(v_j) - L(v_{j+1})) = L(v) - L(\theta(p)).$$

Hence $\deg(\mathcal{Q}(p)) \leq L(\mathbf{w}_0)$, and the condition for equality is clear. \square

Corollary 6.3. *The representation π_0 , equipped with any basis of the form $\{\xi_0 \otimes X_u \mid u \in \mathbf{B}\}$ with \mathbf{B} a fundamental domain for the action of Q on W , satisfies **B2** with $\mathbf{a}_{\pi_0} = L(\mathbf{w}_0)$.*

Proof. This follows immediately from Theorem 6.1 and Lemma 6.2. \square

Remark 6.4. Note that part 3) of Lemma 6.2 says that if $p \in \mathcal{P}(\vec{w}, u)$ with $f(p) = \ell(\mathbf{w}_0)$ then the first and last folds of p occur on simple root directions. Here we mean ‘simple direction’ when p is drawn, as usual, in ‘folded form’. One can also draw p in ‘unfolded form’ by drawing the unfolded path p_0 and marking the positions on this path where the folds of p occur. We may then ask if $f(p) = \ell(\mathbf{w}_0)$ forces the first and last folds in the unfolded form to also be on simple root directions. Indeed this is the case. The first fold is on the same hyperplane in both the folded and unfolded forms. We note that in the notation of Lemma 6.2 the last fold in unfolded form occurs on a hyperplane whose linear root is $s_{\beta_{f(p)-1}} \cdots s_{\beta_1}(\beta_{f(p)}) = s_{\beta_{f(p)}} v_{f(p)}(\beta_{f(p)}) = s_{\beta_{f(p)}}(\beta_{f(p)}) = -\beta_{f(p)}$, which is a negative simple root.

Corollary 6.5. *Let p be a positively folded alcove walk of reduced type \vec{w} starting at $u \in W$. If $f(p) = \ell(\mathbf{w}_0)$ then the straight path from u to uw of type \vec{w} crosses at least one hyperplane of each direction.*

Proof. In the notation of the lemma, we see that the set of hyperplanes on which the infinite extensions p_j^∞ make negative crossings has strictly decreasing cardinality as j increases. It follows that if $f(p) = \ell(\mathbf{w}_0)$ then p_0 crosses at least one hyperplane of each of the $\ell(\mathbf{w}_0)$ directions. \square

The main result of this section is the following. Recall that the lowest two-sided cell Γ_0 is

$$\Gamma_0 = \{u^{-1} \mathbf{w}_0 t_\lambda v \mid u, v \in \mathbf{B}_0, \lambda \in P^+\},$$

and for $w \in \Gamma_0$ we define $\mathbf{u}_w, \mathbf{v}_w \in \mathbf{B}_0$ and $\tau_w \in P^+$ by $w = \mathbf{u}_w^{-1} \mathbf{w}_0 \tau_w \mathbf{v}_w$.

Theorem 6.6. *The representation π_0 , equipped with the basis $\{\xi_0 \otimes X_u \mid u \in \mathbf{B}_0\}$, satisfies **B3**, **B4** and **B4'**. Moreover,*

$$\mathbf{c}_{\pi_0, w} = \mathbf{s}_{\tau_w}(\zeta) E_{\mathbf{u}_w, \mathbf{v}_w} \quad \text{for all } w \in \Gamma_0.$$

Proof. Suppose that $w \in W$ is such that $[\pi_0(T_w)]_{u, v}$ has degree $L(\mathbf{w}_0)$ for some $u, v \in \mathbf{B}_0$. Thus by Theorem 6.1 we see that for every reduced expression \vec{w} there exists a path $p \in \mathcal{P}(\vec{w}, u)$ such that $\deg(\mathcal{Q}(p)) = L(\mathbf{w}_0)$ and $f(p) = \ell(\mathbf{w}_0)$. By Corollary 6.5 the straight path from u to uw of type \vec{w} crosses every hyperplane direction. It follows that uw lies in the anti-dominant sector based at 0 (to see this, recall that there are no simple directions available in \mathbf{B}_0 as $Q = P$, and thus if all hyperplane directions are crossed then the hyperplanes H_{α_i} are crossed for each $1 \leq i \leq n$). Thus we may choose a reduced expression for \vec{w} such that the straight path from u to uw of type \vec{w} passes through the alcoves 1 and \mathbf{w}_0 . It follows that w admits a reduced expression of the form $\vec{w} = \vec{u}^{-1} \cdot \vec{\mathbf{w}}_0 \cdot \vec{t}_\lambda \cdot \vec{v}$ for some $\lambda \in P^+$ and $v \in \mathbf{B}_0$, and hence $w \in \Gamma_0$.

We now consider the converse. Let $w \in \Gamma_0$ and write $\vec{w} = \vec{u}_w \cdot \vec{\mathbf{w}}_0 \cdot \vec{\tau}_w \cdot \vec{v}_w$. If there exists $p \in \mathcal{P}(\vec{w}, \mathbf{u}_w)$ with $f(p) = \ell(\mathbf{w}_0)$ then p has no folds in the initial \vec{u}_w^{-1} part (since the first fold must be on a simple direction by Lemma 6.2). Thus $\mathbb{P}(\vec{w}, \mathbf{u}_w) = \mathbb{P}(\vec{\mathbf{w}}_0 \cdot \vec{\tau}_w \cdot \vec{v}_w, e)$. Moreover there are no folds in the final \vec{v}_w part (from Lemma 6.2 and Remark 6.4) and thus

$$\{p \in \mathbb{P}(\vec{\mathbf{w}}_0 \cdot \vec{\tau}_w \cdot \vec{v}_w, e) \mid \theta_{\mathbf{B}_0}(p) = \mathbf{v}_w\} = \mathbb{P}(\vec{\mathbf{w}}_0 \cdot \vec{\tau}_w \cdot \vec{v}_w, e).$$

Finally, there is a bijection from $\mathbb{P}(\vec{\mathbf{w}}_0 \cdot \vec{\tau}_w \cdot \vec{v}_w, e)$ to $\mathbb{P}(\vec{\mathbf{w}}_0 \cdot \vec{\tau}_w, e)$ by simply removing the final \vec{v}_w part, and it follows from Theorem 6.1, Theorem 3.4, and the above observations, that

$$[\mathbf{c}_{\pi_0, w}]_{\mathbf{u}_w, \mathbf{v}_w} = \sum_{p \in \mathbb{P}(\vec{\mathbf{w}}_0 \cdot \vec{\tau}_w \cdot \vec{v}_w, e)} \zeta^{\text{wt}_{\mathbf{B}_0}(p)} = \sum_{p \in \mathbb{P}(\vec{\mathbf{w}}_0 \cdot \vec{\tau}_w, e)} \zeta^{\text{wt}(p)} = \mathbf{s}_{\tau_w}(\zeta).$$

From this formula it follows, in particular, that $\mathbb{P}(\vec{w}, \mathbf{u}_w) \neq \emptyset$, and hence **B3** holds. Moreover, if $\mathbf{u}_w \neq u$ then by the first paragraph of the proof that $f(p) < L(\mathbf{w}_0)$ for all $p \in \mathcal{P}(\vec{w}, u)$ and hence $[\mathbf{c}_{\pi_0, w}]_{u, v} = 0$. If $u = \mathbf{u}_w$ and $v \neq \mathbf{v}_w$ then by an observation above we have $\{p \in \mathcal{P}(\vec{\mathbf{w}}_0 \cdot \vec{\tau}_w \cdot \vec{v}_w, e) \mid \theta_{\mathbf{B}_0}(p) = v\} = \emptyset$, and so again $[\mathbf{c}_{\pi_0, w}]_{u, v} = 0$. This proves that $\mathbf{c}_{\pi_0, w} = \mathbf{s}_{\tau_w}(\zeta) E_{\mathbf{u}_w, \mathbf{v}_w}$ for all $w \in \Gamma_0$.

We also see that **B4** holds, because the set of matrices $\{\mathbf{s}_\lambda(\zeta) E_{u, v} \mid \lambda \in P^+, u, v \in \mathbf{B}_0\}$ is free over \mathbb{Z} (using linear independence of the Schur characters).

Finally, to check $\mathbf{B4}'$, let $w \in \Gamma_0$, and let $x = u_w^{-1}w_0 \in \Gamma_0$ and $y = w_0\tau_w v_w \in \Gamma_0$. Then

$$c_{\pi_0, x} c_{\pi_0, y} = s_0(\zeta) s_{\tau_w}(\zeta) E_{u_w, e} E_{e, v_w} = s_{\tau_w}(\zeta) E_{u_w, v_w} = c_{\pi_0, w},$$

completing the proof. \square

In particular, we note that the formula $c_{\pi_0, w} = s_{\tau_w}(\zeta) E_{u_w, v_w}$ recovers a result of Xie [30, Corollary 5.4].

7 The infinite cells Γ_1 and Γ_2

In this section we carry out an analogue of the work of Section 6 for the other infinite cells Γ_i with $i = 1, 2$. We begin by introducing and developing a combinatorial model of “ α_i -folded alcove walks”. We then show that this model encodes the matrix coefficients of $\pi_i(T_w)$, and use this formula to derive bounds on the degree of the matrix coefficients. Eventually we prove that our representations are balanced for the cells Γ_1 and Γ_2 , compute the bounds for the degree of matrix coefficients in each parameter regime, and compute the leading matrix coefficients in terms of Schur functions of type A_1 . This section is necessarily more involved than the previous section, since we need to pay careful attention to the non-generic parameter regimes.

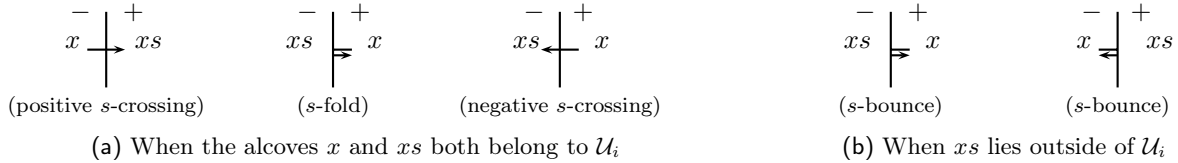
7.1 α_i -folded alcove walks

The following definitions apply to any affine Coxeter group. Let α_i be a fixed simple root, and let $\mathcal{U}_i = \{x \in V \mid 0 \leq \langle x, \alpha_i \rangle \leq 1\}$ be the region between the hyperplanes $H_{\alpha_i, 0}$ and $H_{\alpha_i, 1}$. Let $w \in W$ and write $\vec{w} = s_{i_1} \cdots s_{i_\ell}$. An α_i -folded alcove walk of type \vec{w} starting at $v \in \mathcal{U}_i$ is a sequence $p = (v_0, v_1, \dots, v_\ell)$ with $v_0, \dots, v_\ell \in \mathcal{U}_i$ such that

- 1) $v_0 = v$, and $v_k \in \{v_{k-1}, v_{k-1}s_{i_k}\}$ for each $k = 1, \dots, \ell$, and
- 2) if $v_{k-1} = v_k$ then either:
 - (a) $v_{k-1}s_{i_k} \notin \mathcal{U}_i$, or
 - (b) v_{k-1} is on the positive side of the hyperplane separating v_{k-1} and $v_{k-1}s_{i_k}$.

We note that condition 2)(a) can only occur if v_{k-1} and $v_{k-1}s_{i_k}$ are separated by either $H_{\alpha_i, 0}$ or $H_{\alpha_i, 1}$. The end of $p = (v_0, \dots, v_\ell)$ is $\text{end}(p) = v_\ell$.

Less formally, α_i -folded alcove walks are made up of the following symbols, where $x \in \mathcal{U}_i$ and $s \in S$:



We refer to the two symbols in (b) as “ s -bounces” rather than folds, since they play a different role in the theory. Note that bounces only occur on the hyperplanes $H_{\alpha_i, 0}$ and $H_{\alpha_i, 1}$. Moreover, note that there are no folds on the walls $H_{\alpha_i, 0}$ and $H_{\alpha_i, 1}$ – the only interactions with these walls are bounces. We note that in all cases except for \tilde{A}_1 and \tilde{C}_n every s -bounce necessarily has $\mathbf{q}_s = \mathbf{q}_{s_i}$ (although it is not necessarily true that $s = s_i$). In type \tilde{A}_1 and \tilde{C}_n this property holds under the assumption that $L(s_0) = L(s_n)$. In any case, here we are interested in \tilde{G}_2 , and in this case we have $\mathbf{q}_s = \mathbf{q}_{s_i}$ for all s -bounces. Thus we will typically simply say *bounces*.

Let p be an α_i -folded alcove walk. Let

$$f_s(p) = \#(s\text{-folds in } p) \quad \text{and} \quad b(p) = \#(bounces in p).$$

Define a modified \mathbf{q} -weight for p by

$$\mathcal{Q}_i(p) = (-\mathbf{q}_{s_i}^{-1})^{b(p)} \prod_{s \in S} (\mathbf{q}_s - \mathbf{q}_s^{-1})^{f_s(p)}.$$

Finally, for each $1 \leq i \leq n$ define

$$\theta^i(p) = \psi_i(\theta(p)) \quad \text{and} \quad \text{wt}^i(p) = \langle \text{wt}(p), \omega_i \rangle,$$

where $\psi_i : W_0 \rightarrow W_0^i$ is the natural projection map taking $u \in W_0$ to the minimal length representative of $W_i u$, and $\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n$ are the fundamental coweights of Φ . Thus if $\text{wt}(p) = m_1 \alpha_1^\vee + \cdots + m_n \alpha_n^\vee$ then $\text{wt}^i(p) = m_i$. We refer to $\theta^i(p)$ as the *final direction* of p , and $\text{wt}^i(p)$ as the *weight* of p (with respect to α_i).

We now specialise to the case \tilde{G}_2 . Let

$$\sigma_1 = s_{\alpha_1, 1} t_{\alpha_1^\vee + \alpha_2^\vee} = t_{\alpha_1^\vee + \alpha_2^\vee} s_1 \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma_2 = s_{\alpha_2, 1} t_{\alpha_1^\vee + 2\alpha_2^\vee} = t_{\alpha_1^\vee + 2\alpha_2^\vee} s_2.$$

Observe that for each $i \in \{1, 2\}$ the “glide reflection” σ_i preserves \mathcal{U}_i , and that W_0^i is a fundamental domain for the action of $\langle \sigma_i \rangle$ on \mathcal{U}_i . Let \mathbf{B} be any other fundamental domain for this action. For $w \in \mathcal{U}_i$ we define $\text{wt}_{\mathbf{B}}^i(w) \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $\theta_{\mathbf{B}}^i(w) \in \mathbf{B}$ by the equation

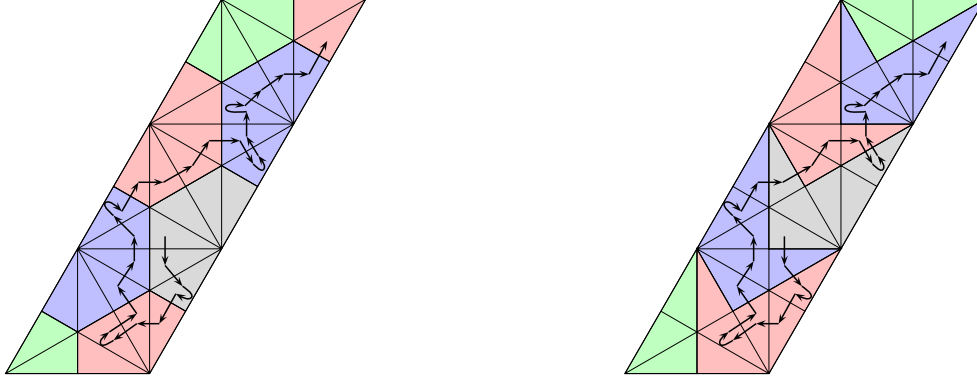
$$w = \sigma_i^{\text{wt}_{\mathbf{B}}^i(w)} \theta_{\mathbf{B}}^i(w),$$

and for α_i -folded alcove walks p we define

$$\text{wt}_{\mathbb{B}}^i(p) = \text{wt}_{\mathbb{B}}^i(\text{end}(p)) \quad \text{and} \quad \theta_{\mathbb{B}}^i(p) = \theta_{\mathbb{B}}^i(\text{end}(p)).$$

It is easy to see that in the case $\mathbb{B} = W_0^i$ these definitions agree with those for $\text{wt}^i(p)$ and $\theta^i(p)$ made above.

Example 7.1. Let $i = 1$. Let $\vec{w} = 1210212102121021210212102120$. Figure 8 illustrates an α_1 -folded alcove walk of type \vec{w} , with two choices of fundamental domain \mathbb{B} (the gray shaded regions). The tessellation of \mathcal{U}_1 by \mathbb{B} is shown. The alcove walk has 2 folds and 3 bounces, and $\mathcal{Q}_1(p) = -\mathbf{q}^{-3a}(\mathbf{q}^a - \mathbf{q}^{-a})(\mathbf{q}^b - \mathbf{q}^{-b})$. The weight of p is 4 with respect to the first fundamental domain, and 2 with respect to the second fundamental domain.



(a) $\mathbb{B} = W_0^1$, $\text{wt}^1(p) = 4$, $\theta^1(p) = 21212$

(b) $\mathbb{B} = \{e, 0, 2, 21, 212, 2121, 2120\}$, $\text{wt}_{\mathbb{B}}^1(p) = 2$, $\theta_{\mathbb{B}}^1(p) = s_0$

Fig. 8: An α_1 -folded alcove walk p , with two choices of fundamental domain \mathbb{B}

We now prove an analogue of Theorem 6.1, giving a combinatorial formula for the matrix entries of $\pi_i(T_w)$ in terms of α_i -folded alcove walks. We first consider the fundamental domain W_0^i , and then deduce the general case in Corollary 7.3 below.

Theorem 7.2. Let $i \in \{1, 2\}$ and let $w \in W$. With respect to the basis $\{\xi_i \otimes X_u \mid u \in W_0^i\}$ of \mathcal{M}_i , the matrix entries of $\pi_i(T_w)$ are given by

$$[\pi_i(T_w)]_{u,v} = \sum_{\{p \in \mathcal{P}_i(\vec{w}, u) \mid \theta^i(p) = v\}} \mathcal{Q}_i(p) \zeta^{-\text{wt}^i(p)}$$

where \vec{w} is any reduced expression for w .

Proof. We will prove the case $i = 1$. The case $i = 2$ is completely analogous. We first prove the following formula by induction on $\ell(w)$:

$$(\xi_1 \otimes X_u) = \sum_{p \in \mathcal{P}_1(\vec{w}, u)} (\xi_1 \otimes X_{\text{end}(p)}) \mathcal{Q}_1(p). \quad (7.1)$$

Suppose that $\ell(ws) = \ell(w) + 1$. Then by the induction hypothesis

$$(\xi_1 \otimes X_u) \cdot T_{ws} = \sum_{p \in \mathcal{P}_1(\vec{w}, u)} (\xi_1 \otimes X_{\text{end}(p)}) T_s \mathcal{Q}_1(p).$$

Let $p \in \mathcal{P}_1(\vec{w}, u)$. Consider the following cases:

- 1) If $\text{end}(p) \neg |^+ \text{end}(p)s$ with $\text{end}(p) \in \mathcal{U}_1$ then

$$(\xi_1 \otimes X_{\text{end}(p)}) T_s \mathcal{Q}_1(p) = (\xi_1 \otimes X_{\text{end}(p \cdot \epsilon_s^+)}) \mathcal{Q}_1(p \cdot \epsilon_s^+),$$

where $p \cdot \epsilon_s^+$ denotes the path obtained from p by appending a positive s -crossing.

- 2) If $\text{end}(p) \neg |^- \text{end}(p)s$ with $\text{end}(p) \in \mathcal{U}_1$ then using $T_s = T_s^{-1} - (\mathbf{q}_s - \mathbf{q}_s^{-1})$ gives

$$(\xi_1 \otimes X_{\text{end}(p)}) T_s \mathcal{Q}_1(p) = (\xi_1 \otimes X_{\text{end}(p \cdot \epsilon_s^-)}) \mathcal{Q}_1(p \cdot \epsilon_s^-) + (\xi_1 \otimes X_{\text{end}(p \cdot f_s)}) \mathcal{Q}_1(p \cdot f_s),$$

where $p \cdot f_s$ denotes the path obtained from p by appending an s -fold.

- 3) If $\text{end}(p) \neg |^+ \text{end}(p)s$ with $\text{end}(p) \notin \mathcal{U}_1$ then necessarily $\text{end}(p) \cap \text{end}(p)s$ is a face of $H_{\alpha_1, 1}$ (since the crossing is positive). Then $\text{end}(p)s = s_{\alpha_1, 1} \text{end}(p \cdot b_s)$ where $p \cdot b_s$ denotes the path obtained from p by appending an s -bounce, and since $s_{\alpha_1, 1} = t_{\alpha_1} \vee s_1$ and $X_{s_{\alpha_1, 1} \text{end}(p \cdot b_s)} = X_{\alpha_1} \vee T_{s_1}^{-1} X_{\text{end}(p \cdot b_s)}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (\xi_1 \otimes X_{\text{end}(p)}) T_s \mathcal{Q}_1(p) &= (\xi_1 \otimes X_{\text{end}(p)s}) \mathcal{Q}_1(p) \\ &= (\xi_1 \cdot X_{\alpha_1} \vee T_{s_1}^{-1} \otimes X_{\text{end}(p \cdot b_s)}) \mathcal{Q}(p) \\ &= (\xi_1 \otimes X_{\text{end}(p \cdot b_s)}) \mathcal{Q}_1(p) (-\mathbf{q}_1) (\mathbf{q}_1^{-2}) \\ &= (\xi_1 \otimes X_{\text{end}(p \cdot b_s)}) \mathcal{Q}_1(p \cdot b_s). \end{aligned}$$

- 4) If $\text{end}(p)^+ |^- \text{end}(p)s$ with $\text{end}(p)s \notin \mathcal{U}_1$ then necessarily $\text{end}(p) \cap \text{end}(p)s$ is a face of $H_{\alpha_1,0}$ (since the crossing is negative). Using the formula $T_s = T_s^{-1} + (\mathbf{q}_1 - \mathbf{q}_1^{-1})$, and the fact that $\text{end}(p)s = s_1 \text{end}(p) = s_1 \text{end}(p \cdot b_s)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (\xi_1 \otimes X_{\text{end}(p)})T_s \mathcal{Q}_1(p) &= (\xi_1 \otimes X_{\text{end}(p)s})\mathcal{Q}_1(p) + (\xi_1 \otimes X_{\text{end}(p)})(\mathbf{q}_1 - \mathbf{q}_1^{-1})\mathcal{Q}_1(p) \\ &= (\xi_1 \otimes X_{s_1 \text{end}(p \cdot b_s)})\mathcal{Q}_1(p) + (\xi_1 \otimes X_{\text{end}(p \cdot b_s)})(\mathbf{q}_1 - \mathbf{q}_1^{-1})\mathcal{Q}_1(p) \\ &= (\xi_1 \cdot T_{s_1}^{-1} \otimes X_{\text{end}(p \cdot b_s)})\mathcal{Q}_1(p) + (\xi_1 \otimes X_{\text{end}(p \cdot b_s)})(\mathbf{q}_1 - \mathbf{q}_1^{-1})\mathcal{Q}_1(p) \\ &= (\xi_1 \otimes X_{\text{end}(p \cdot b_s)})(-\mathbf{q}_1)\mathcal{Q}_1(p) + (\xi_1 \otimes X_{\text{end}(p \cdot b_s)})(\mathbf{q}_1 - \mathbf{q}_1^{-1})\mathcal{Q}_1(p) \\ &= (\xi_1 \otimes X_{\text{end}(p \cdot b_s)})\mathcal{Q}_1(p \cdot b_s). \end{aligned}$$

Equation (7.1) follows.

Let $p \in \mathcal{P}_1(\vec{w}, u)$ and write $\text{end}(p) = t_\mu v$ with $\mu \in Q$ and $v \in W_0$. Then $\mu \in H_{\alpha_1,0} \cup H_{\alpha_1,1}$ (since $\text{end}(p) \in \mathcal{U}_1$). If $\mu \in H_{\alpha_1,0}$ then $\mu = k\alpha_1^\vee + 2k\alpha_2^\vee$ for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $v \in W_0^1$. Thus

$$\xi_1 \otimes X_{\text{end}(p)} = \xi_1 \cdot X^\mu \otimes X_v = (\xi_1 \otimes X_v)\zeta^{2k} = (\xi_1 \otimes X_{\theta^1(p)})\zeta^{\text{wt}^1(p)}.$$

If $\mu \in H_{\alpha_1,1}$ then $\mu = k\alpha_1^\vee + (2k-1)\alpha_2^\vee$ for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, and $v \notin W_0^1$. Thus $\theta^1(p) = s_1 v$, and hence

$$\begin{aligned} \xi_1 \otimes X_{\text{end}(p)} &= \xi_1 \cdot X^\mu \otimes X_v \\ &= (\xi_1 \otimes X_{s_1 \theta^1(p)})\mathbf{q}_1^{-1}(-\zeta^{2k-1}) \\ &= (\xi_1 \cdot T_{s_1}^{-1} \otimes X_{\theta^1(p)})\mathbf{q}_1^{-1}(-\zeta^{2k-1}) \\ &= (\xi_1 \otimes X_{\theta^1(p)})\zeta^{2k-1} = (\xi_1 \otimes X_{\theta^1(p)})\zeta^{\text{wt}^1(p)}, \end{aligned}$$

and the theorem follows. \square

It is convenient to have a version of Theorem 7.2 for other choices of fundamental domain. It is not hard to see that for each $p \in \mathcal{P}_i(\vec{w}, u)$ the path $\sigma_i(p)$ obtained by applying σ_i to each part of p is again a valid α_i -folded alcove walk starting at $\sigma_i u$ (the main point here is that the reflection part of σ_i is in the simple root direction α_i , and thus sends $\Phi^+ \setminus \{\alpha_i\}$ to itself). Moreover, $\mathcal{Q}_i(p)$ and $\theta^i(p)$ are preserved under the application of σ_i , and a direct calculation shows that $\text{wt}^i(\sigma_i^k(p)) = k + \text{wt}^i(p)$.

Corollary 7.3. *Let $w \in W$, $i \in \{1, 2\}$, and let \mathbf{B} be a fundamental domain for the action of σ_i on \mathcal{U}_i . Then the matrix entries of $\pi_i(T_w)$ with respect to the basis $\{\xi_i \otimes X_b \mid u \in \mathbf{B}\}$ are*

$$[\pi_i(T_w)]_{u,v} = \sum_{\{p \in \mathcal{P}_i(\vec{w}, u) \mid \theta_{\mathbf{B}}^i(p) = v\}} \mathcal{Q}_i(p)\zeta^{\text{wt}_{\mathbf{B}}^i(p)},$$

where \vec{w} is any choice of reduced expression for w .

Proof. We will prove the result for $i = 1$, with the case $i = 2$ being similar. For each $u \in \mathbf{B}$ define $k(u) \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $u' \in W_0^1$ by the formula $u = \sigma_1^{k(u)} u'$. A direct calculation, using the formulae $\sigma_1^{2k} = t_{k\alpha_1^\vee + 2k\alpha_2^\vee}$ and $\sigma_1^{2k-1} = t_{k\alpha_1^\vee + (2k-1)\alpha_2^\vee} s_1$ shows that

$$\xi_1 \otimes X_u = \xi_1 \otimes X_{\sigma_1^{k(u)} u'} = (\xi_1 \otimes X_{u'})\zeta^{k(u)}.$$

It follows from Theorem 7.2 (by applying change of basis) that

$$[\pi_1(T_w)]_{u,v} = \sum_{\{p \in \mathcal{P}_1(\vec{w}, u') \mid \theta^1(p) = v'\}} \mathcal{Q}_1(p)\zeta^{\text{wt}^1(p) + k(u) - k(v)}.$$

By definition we have $\theta^1(p) = v'$ if and only if $\theta_{\mathbf{B}}^1(p) = v$. Recall that $\sigma_1^{k(u)}(\mathcal{P}_1(\vec{w}, u')) = \mathcal{P}_1(\vec{w}, u)$ and that for each $p \in \mathcal{P}_1(\vec{w}, u')$ the value of $\mathcal{Q}_1(p)$ is preserved under this transformation. Thus

$$[\pi_1(T_w)]_{u,v} = \sum_{\{p \in \mathcal{P}_1(\vec{w}, u) \mid \theta_{\mathbf{B}}^1(p) = v\}} \mathcal{Q}_1(p)\zeta^{\text{wt}^1(p) - k(v)},$$

and the result follows since $\text{wt}_{\mathbf{B}}^1(p) = \text{wt}^1(p) - k(v)$ if $\theta_{\mathbf{B}}^1(p) = v$. \square

7.2 Folding tables and admissible sequences

In this subsection we show that for all parameter values the representation π_i satisfies **B2**. By our combinatorial formula for the matrix coefficients of $\pi_i(T_w)$ in terms α_i -folded alcove walks it is equivalent to show that $\deg(\mathcal{Q}_i(p))$ is bounded by some numbers \mathbf{a}_{π_i} for all α_i -folded alcove walks p .

We begin by explaining our approach to bounding the degree of α_i -folded alcove walks. Note that every $w \in W$ admits a reduced expression of the form

$$\vec{w} = \vec{v} \cdot \vec{t}_{\omega_1}^m \cdot \vec{t}_{\omega_2}^n \cdot \vec{b} \quad \text{with } v \in W_0, m, n \in \mathbb{N}, \text{ and } \mathbf{b} \in \mathbf{B}_0, \quad (7.2)$$

and each walk $p \in \mathcal{P}_i(\vec{w}, u)$ with $u \in W_0^i$ and \vec{w} as above can naturally be decomposed as $p = p_0 \cdot p^0$ where

$$p_0 \in \mathcal{P}_i(\vec{v}, u) \quad \text{and} \quad p^0 \in \mathcal{P}_i(\vec{w}_1, \text{end}(p_0)) \quad \text{where} \quad \vec{w}_1 = \vec{t}_{\omega_1}^m \cdot \vec{t}_{\omega_2}^n \cdot \vec{b}.$$

Since $\mathcal{Q}_i(p) = \mathcal{Q}_i(p_0)\mathcal{Q}_i(p^0)$ it is sufficient to bound the degrees of $\mathcal{Q}_i(p_0)$ and $\mathcal{Q}_i(p^0)$. The former is straight forward (since v is in the dihedral group G_2). Thus the main effort is involved in bounding the degree of $\mathcal{Q}_i(p^0)$. For this purpose we will fix reduced expressions for \vec{t}_{ω_1} and \vec{t}_{ω_2} , and construct *folding tables* that record the possible degrees of $\mathcal{Q}_i(p^0)$.

We now explain the construction of our folding tables, via an analogue of the *admissible sets* of Lenart and Postnikov [15, 16]. Let $v \in W_0^i$ and $x \in W$ with reduced expression $\vec{x} = s_{i_1} \dots s_{i_n}$. We denote by $p(\vec{x}, v) \in \mathcal{P}_i(\vec{x}, v)$ the unique α_i -folded alcove walk of type \vec{x} starting at v with no folds. Of course $p(\vec{x}, v)$ may still have bounces, because α_i -folded alcove walks are required to say in the strip \mathcal{U}_i . Nonetheless, we refer to $p(\vec{x}, v)$ as the *straight walk* of type \vec{x} starting at v . Let

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}^-(\vec{x}, v) &= \{k \in \{1, \dots, n\} \mid p(\vec{x}, v) \text{ makes a negative crossing at the } k\text{th step}\} \\ \mathcal{I}^+(\vec{x}, v) &= \{k \in \{1, \dots, n\} \mid p(\vec{x}, v) \text{ makes a positive crossing at the } k\text{th step}\} \\ \mathcal{I}^*(\vec{x}, v) &= \{k \in \{1, \dots, n\} \mid p(\vec{x}, v) \text{ bounces at the } k\text{th step}\}. \end{aligned}$$

Note that $\mathcal{I}^- \cup \mathcal{I}^+ \cup \mathcal{I}^* = \{1, \dots, n\}$. We define a function

$$\varphi_{\vec{x}}^v : \mathcal{I}^-(\vec{x}, v) \rightarrow W_0^i \times \mathbb{Z}$$

as follows. For $k \in \mathcal{I}^-(\vec{x}, v)$ let p_k be the α_i -folded alcove walk obtained from the straight walk $p_0 = p(\vec{x}, v)$ by folding at the k th step (note that after performing this fold one may need to include bounces at places where the folded walk p_k attempts to exit the strip \mathcal{U}_i ; also note that this notation differs from the partial foldings defined earlier). Let

$$\varphi_{\vec{x}}^v(k) = \text{the unique } (u, n) \in W_0^i \times \mathbb{Z} \text{ such that } p(\vec{x}, \sigma_i^n u) \text{ and } p_k \text{ agree after the } k\text{th step.}$$

Equivalently, (u, n) is the unique pair such that $\text{end}(p(\vec{x}, \sigma_i^n u)) = \text{end}(p_k)$, and thus $\sigma_i^n u$ is simply the end of the straight alcove walk $p(\text{rev}(\vec{x}), \text{end}(p_k))$, where $\text{rev}(\vec{x})$ is the expression \vec{x} read backwards.

Definition 7.4 (Folding table). Fix the enumeration y_1, \dots, y_6 of W_0^i with $\ell(y_j) = j - 1$ for $j = 1, \dots, 6$. For each (j, k) with $1 \leq j \leq 6$ and $1 \leq k \leq \ell(x)$ define $f_{j,k}(\vec{x}) \in \{-, *, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ by

$$f_{j,k}(\vec{x}) = \begin{cases} - & \text{if } k \in \mathcal{I}^+(\vec{x}, y_j) \\ * & \text{if } k \in \mathcal{I}^*(\vec{x}, y_j) \\ j' & \text{if } k \in \mathcal{I}^-(\vec{x}, y_j) \text{ and } \varphi_{\vec{x}}^{y_j} = (y_{j'}, n) \text{ for some } n \in \mathbb{Z}. \end{cases}$$

The α_i -folding table of \vec{x} is the $6 \times \ell(x)$ array $\mathbb{F}(\vec{x})$ with $(j, k)^{\text{th}}$ entry equal to $f_{j,k}(\vec{x})$.

Remark 7.5. If \vec{y} is a prefix of \vec{x} then $\mathbb{F}(\vec{y})$ is the subarray of $\mathbb{F}(\vec{x})$ consisting of the first $\ell(y)$ columns. Also note that of course any other enumeration of W_0^i can be used in the definition.

Example 7.6. We will need the α_i -folding tables of

$$\vec{t}_{\omega_1} = 0212012121, \quad \vec{t}_{\omega_2} = 021212, \quad \text{and each element } \mathbf{b} \text{ in } \mathbf{B}_0.$$

For efficiency, we note that 10 of the 12 elements of \mathbf{B}_0 are prefixes of \vec{t}_{ω_1} , and one of the remaining elements of \mathbf{B}_0 is a prefix of \vec{t}_{ω_2} . Thus the folding tables of these 11 elements of \mathbf{B}_0 are ‘contained’ in the folding tables $\mathbb{F}(\vec{t}_{\omega_1})$ and $\mathbb{F}(\vec{t}_{\omega_2})$ (see Remark 7.5). The final element of \mathbf{B}_0 (namely the longest element \mathbf{B}_0) is $\vec{b}_0 = 0212012120$ and thus agrees with \vec{t}_{ω_1} except in the last step. Thus in the tables below we will record the folding tables of \vec{t}_{ω_1} and \vec{b}_0 simultaneously, with the table for \vec{t}_{ω_1} obtained by deleting the last column, and the table for \vec{b}_0 obtained by deleting the penultimate column.

The α_i -folding tables of \vec{t}_{ω_1} , \vec{t}_{ω_2} , and elements of \mathbf{B}_0 are given in Tables 2 and 3 below. This a direct calculation, and we have also automated the process in a computational algebra package.

The connection between the α_i -folding tables and the degree $\mathcal{Q}_i(p)$ of an α_i -folded alcove walk is understood through the notion of (\vec{x}, v) -admissible sequences defined below.

Definition 7.7. Let $x \in W$ with reduced expression $\vec{x} = s_{i_1} \dots s_{i_\ell}$ and let $v \in W_0^i$. We say that a sequence (k_1, \dots, k_r) with $1 \leq k_1 < k_2 < \dots < k_r \leq \ell$ is (\vec{x}, v) -admissible if, for all $0 \leq j \leq r - 1$,

$$k_{j+1} \in \mathcal{I}^-(\vec{x}, \sigma_i^{n_j} v_j) \quad \text{where} \quad (v_0, n_0) = (v, 0) \text{ and } (v_j, n_j) = \varphi_{\vec{x}}^{v_{j-1}}(k_j) \text{ for } j > 0.$$

Proposition 7.8. Let $x \in W$ with reduced expression $\vec{x} = s_{i_1} \dots s_{i_n}$ and let $v \in W_0^i$. There is a bijection between the set of all (\vec{x}, v) -admissible sequences and the set $\mathcal{P}_i(\vec{x}, v)$.

Proof. It is clear that if $p \in \mathcal{P}_i(\vec{x}, v)$ with $v \in W_0^i$, and if the folds of p occur at indices $k_1 < k_2 < \dots < k_r$, then $J = (k_1, \dots, k_r)$ is an (\vec{x}, v) -admissible sequence.

Consider the converse. If $p = (w_t)_{t=0}^\ell$ is an α_i -folded alcove walk and $j \leq k$ we write $p[j, k] = (w_r)_{t=j}^k$ (this is the segment of p between the j^{th} and k^{th} steps). Let $J = (k_1, \dots, k_r)$ be an (\vec{x}, v) -admissible sequence. Define $(v_0, n_0) = (v, 0)$ and let $(v_j, n_j) = \varphi_{\vec{x}}^{v_{j-1}}(k_j)$. Induction shows that the concatenation of paths

$$p_J = p(\vec{x}, v_0)[0, k_1 - 1] \cdot p(\vec{x}, \sigma_i^{n_1} v_1)[k_1, k_2 - 1] \cdots \cdots p(\vec{x}, \sigma_i^{n_r} v_r)[k_r, \ell]$$

is an α_i -folded alcove walk, and that J is the set of indices where the walk p_J folds. \square

	0	2	1	2	0	1	2	1	2	1	0
1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	*	–
2	–	–	–	–	–	*	–	–	–	–	–
3	–	1	*	–	1	–	–	*	1	2	–
4	2	–	*	2	–	1	2	*	–	–	2
5	3	2	1	3	2	*	3	1	2	4	3
6	1	4	2	1	4	3	1	2	4	*	1

(a) α_1 -folding table of \vec{t}_{ω_1} and \vec{b}_0

	0	2	1	2	1	2
1	–	–	–	–	–	–
2	–	–	–	–	*	1
3	–	1	*	–	–	–
4	2	–	*	2	1	3
5	3	2	1	3	*	–
6	1	4	2	1	3	5

(b) α_1 -folding table of \vec{t}_{ω_2} Tab. 2: α_1 -folding tables for $B_0 \cup \{\vec{t}_{\omega_1}, \vec{t}_{\omega_2}\}$.

	0	2	1	2	0	1	2	1	2	1	0
1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
2	–	*	–	–	*	–	–	–	*	1	–
3	*	–	–	*	–	1	*	–	–	–	*
4	*	1	2	*	1	–	*	2	1	3	*
5	1	*	3	1	*	2	1	3	*	–	1
6	2	3	1	2	3	4	2	1	3	5	2

(a) α_2 -folding table of \vec{t}_{ω_1} and \vec{b}_0

	0	2	1	2	1	2
1	–	–	–	–	–	*
2	–	*	–	–	–	–
3	*	–	–	*	1	2
4	*	1	2	*	–	–
5	1	*	3	1	2	4
6	2	3	1	2	4	*

(b) α_2 -folding table of \vec{t}_{ω_2} Tab. 3: α_2 -folding tables of $B_0 \cup \{\vec{t}_{\omega_1}, \vec{t}_{\omega_2}\}$.

The above proposition encodes how one uses folding tables to compute $\mathcal{Q}_i(p)$ for all $p \in \mathcal{P}_i(\vec{w}, u)$ with $u \in W_0^i$. Let us explain this in an example. In fact we are mainly interested in $\deg(\mathcal{Q}_i(p))$, and so we consider this below. Let $\vec{w} = \vec{t}_{\omega_1}^m \cdot \vec{t}_{\omega_2}^n$ where $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$, and let $u \in W_0^i$. Let \mathcal{T} be the table obtained by concatenating the α_i -folding tables of \vec{t}_{ω_1} and \vec{t}_{ω_2} with m copies of the \vec{t}_{ω_1} table followed by n copies of the \vec{t}_{ω_2} table. The elements of $\mathcal{P}_i(\vec{w}, u)$ correspond to the excursions through \mathcal{T} with the properties described below. We begin the excursion by entering the table \mathcal{T} at the first cell on row $\ell(u) + 1$, and at each step we move to a cell strictly to the right of the current cell according to the following rules. Suppose we are currently at the N^{th} cell of row r , and this cell contains the symbol $x \in \{-, *, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$.

- 1) If $x = -$ then we move to the $(N + 1)^{\text{st}}$ cell of row r . These steps correspond to positive crossings, and have no contribution to $\deg(\mathcal{Q}_i(p))$.
- 2) If $x = *$ then we move to the $(N + 1)^{\text{st}}$ cell of row r , and we have a contribution of $-L(s_i)$ to $\deg(\mathcal{Q}_i(p))$. These steps correspond to bounces on either $H_{\alpha_i, 0}$ or $H_{\alpha_i, 1}$.
- 3) If $x = j \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ then we have two options.
 - (a) We can move to the $(N + 1)^{\text{st}}$ cell of row r . These steps correspond to negative crossings, with no contribution to $\deg(\mathcal{Q}_i(p))$.
 - (b) We can move to the $(N + 1)^{\text{st}}$ cell of row j . These steps correspond to folds, and give a contribution of $L(s_k)$ to $\deg(\mathcal{Q}_i(p))$, where $k \in \{0, 1, 2\}$ is the entry in the N^{th} cell of the “0-row” (the header) of \mathcal{T} .

In the case that N is the last cell of the table, moving to the $(N + 1)^{\text{st}}$ cell should be interpreted as exiting the table and completing the excursion. We note that the above process can be regarded as m passes through the α_i -folding table of \vec{t}_{ω_1} , followed by n passes through the α_i -folding table of \vec{t}_{ω_2} , rather than concatenating the $m + n$ tables into one table.

Remark 7.9. In the above explanation, concatenating the folding tables relied on the constituent pieces \vec{t}_{ω_1} and \vec{t}_{ω_2} being translations. If $\vec{w} = \vec{w}_1 \cdot \vec{w}_2$ is a reduced expression with w_1 and w_2 not necessarily translations, then one needs to make a correction when combining the individual tables for \vec{w}_1 and \vec{w}_2 into the table for $\vec{w}_1 \cdot \vec{w}_2$. Specifically, one adds an extra column at the end of the \vec{w}_1 table with j^{th} entry $\theta^i(y_j w_1)$. This records the “exit orientation” of the path, and when concatenating the tables for \vec{w}_1 and \vec{w}_2 , the rows of the \vec{w}_2 table are permuted so that they match with the exit column of \vec{w}_1 . Alternatively, to interpret this process as one pass through \vec{w}_1 followed by one pass through \vec{w}_2 one should simply take the exit column entry of \vec{w}_2 to indicate the row on which to enter the \vec{w}_1 table.

7.3 Bounding the degree of matrix coefficients

We are now able to establish bounds on the degree of $\mathcal{Q}_i(p)$ for all α_i -folded alcove walks.

Theorem 7.10. *Let p be an α_i -folded alcove walk of reduced type. Then $\deg(\mathcal{Q}_i(p)) \leq \mathbf{a}_{\pi_i}$ where*

$$\mathbf{a}_{\pi_1} = \begin{cases} a + b & \text{if } a \geq 2b, \\ 3b & \text{if } a \leq 2b \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{a}_{\pi_2} = \begin{cases} 3a - 2b & \text{if } 2a \geq 3b, \\ a + b & \text{if } 2a \leq 3b. \end{cases}$$

Moreover, if $p \in \mathcal{P}_i(\vec{w}, u)$ with $u \in W_0^i$ is such that $\deg(\mathcal{Q}_i(p)) = \mathbf{a}_{\pi_i}$ then $uw \in \mathcal{U}_i$.

Proof. Using the action of σ_i on α_i -folded paths we may assume that p starts at $u \in W_0^i$. We note that if \vec{w} and \vec{w}' are two reduced expressions for the same element w and if $\deg(\mathcal{Q}_i(p)) \leq \mathbf{a}_{\pi_i}$ for all $p \in \mathcal{P}_i(\vec{w}, u)$, then Theorem 7.2 implies that $\deg(\mathcal{Q}_i(p)) \leq \mathbf{a}_{\pi_i}$ for all $p \in \mathcal{P}_i(\vec{w}', u)$. Thus we are free to choose any reduced expression for w . We choose a reduced expression for \vec{w} as in (7.2). Let $\vec{w}_1 = \vec{t}_{\omega_1}^m \cdot \vec{t}_{\omega_2}^n \cdot \vec{b}$, and decompose $p \in \mathcal{P}_i(\vec{w}, u)$ as $p = p_0 \cdot p^0$ where $p_0 \in \mathcal{P}_i(\vec{v}, u)$ and $p^0 \in \mathcal{P}_i(\vec{w}_1, u_0)$, where $u_0 = \text{end}(p_0) \in W_0^i$. The bounds for $\mathcal{Q}_i(p_0)$ in Table 4 are elementary (the left hand columns represent the elements of W_0^i in the natural order of increasing length).

$u_0 = \text{end}(p_0)$	$a \geq b$	$a < b$
1	a	$3b - 2a$
2	a	$2b - a$
3	a	$2b - a$
4	a	b
5	b	b
6	0	0

(a) $i = 1$

$u_0 = \text{end}(p_0)$	$b \geq a$	$b < a$
1	b	$3a - 2b$
2	b	$2a - b$
3	b	$2a - b$
4	b	a
5	a	a
6	0	0

(b) $i = 2$

Tab. 4: Bounds $\deg(\mathcal{Q}_i(p_0))$ where $p_0 \in \mathcal{P}_i(\vec{v}, u)$ with $u \in W_0^i$ and $v \in W_0$.

One can now use the folding tables from Example 7.6 to produce bounds for $\deg(\mathcal{Q}_i(p^0))$. The following observations make this possible. Firstly, all folding tables for \vec{t}_{ω_1} , \vec{t}_{ω_2} , and \vec{b} with $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbf{B}_0$ have the property that for $1 \leq j \leq 6$, all entries in the j^{th} row are either $-$, $*$, or are strictly smaller than j . This means that with each fold we move to a strictly lower row. Secondly, if one makes a full pass of a table without making any folds (that is, without changing row) then the contribution to $\deg(\mathcal{Q}_i(p))$ is at most 0 and since the entry and exit rows are the same this pass can be ignored for the purpose of bounding $\deg(\mathcal{Q}_i(p))$. Thus we may assume that at least one row change is made on each pass through a table, and therefore, by the above observation, we need only consider $\vec{w}_1 = \vec{t}_{\omega_1}^m \cdot \vec{t}_{\omega_2}^n$ with $m + n \leq 6$ and $\vec{w}_1 = \vec{t}_{\omega_1}^m \cdot \vec{t}_{\omega_2}^n \cdot \vec{b}$ with $m + n \leq 5$. This reduces the work to a finite problem. As a third observation, we note that every row in the α_1 -folding table of \vec{t}_{ω_1} , and every row in the α_2 -folding table of \vec{t}_{ω_2} , contains a $*$, and thus these tables tend to have a negative influence on $\deg(\mathcal{Q}_1(p))$ and $\deg(\mathcal{Q}_2(p))$, respectively.

With the above observations in mind we find the bounds on $\deg(\mathcal{Q}_i(p))$ for $p \in \mathcal{P}_i(\vec{w}_1, u_0)$ with $u_0 \in W_0^i$ and $\vec{w}_1 = \vec{t}_{\omega_1}^m \cdot \vec{t}_{\omega_2}^n \cdot \vec{b}$ listed in Table 5 below. We have checked these both by hand, and also implemented the process in MAGMA. Moreover we see that if these bounds are attained then if $i = 1$ then $m = 0$, and if $i = 2$ then $n = 0$ (intuitively this is due to the third observation above).

u_0	$a \geq 2b$	$a \leq 2b$
1	0	0
2	0	$\max\{0, -a + b\}$
3	b	b
4	b	$2b$
5	a	$2b$
6	$a + b$	$3b$

(a) $i = 1$

u_0	$2a \geq 3b$	$2a \leq 3b$
1	0	0
2	$\max\{0, a - 3b\}$	0
3	$\max\{0, a - 2b\}$	0
4	$2a - 3b$	$\max\{0, a - b\}$
5	$2a - 2b$	b
6	$3a - 2b$	$a + b$

(b) $i = 2$

Tab. 5: Bounds $\deg(\mathcal{Q}_i(p^0))$ where $p_0 \in \mathcal{P}_i(\vec{w}_1, u_0)$ with $u_0 \in W_0^i$ and $\vec{w}_1 = \vec{t}_{\omega_1}^m \cdot \vec{t}_{\omega_2}^n \cdot \vec{b}$.

The bounds \mathbf{a}_{π_1} and \mathbf{a}_{π_2} follow by combining the bounds in Tables 4 and 5.

We now analyse paths such that $\deg(\mathcal{Q}_i(p)) = \mathbf{a}_{\pi_i}$. We claim that in this case $uw \in \mathcal{U}_i$. We have already shown that $\vec{w} = \vec{v} \cdot \vec{t}_{\omega_j}^n \cdot \vec{b}$ for some $v \in W_0$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$, and $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbf{B}_0$, where $\{j\} = \{1, 2\} \setminus \{i\}$. In combining the bounds in Tables 4 and 5 we see that if $\deg(\mathcal{Q}_i(p)) = \mathbf{a}_{\pi_i}$ then either:

- 1) $i = 1$, $a \geq 2b$, and $u_0 \in \{3, 4, 5, 6\}$, or $a < 2b$ and $u_0 \in \{4, 5, 6\}$, or
- 2) $i = 2$ and $u_0 \in \{5, 6\}$.

Consider the case $i = 1$ and $a \geq 2b$. If $u_0 = 6$ (that is $u_6 = s_2s_1s_2s_1s_2$) then $\deg(\mathcal{Q}_1(p_0)) = 0$, and it follows that the walk p_0 is straight with no bounces, and thus $uw = s_2s_1s_2s_1s_2$ (with u and \vec{v} as in Table 4). Therefore $uw = s_2s_1s_2s_1s_2t_{\omega_2}^n \mathbf{b}$ for some $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbf{B}_0$, and all such elements are obviously in \mathcal{U}_i .

Suppose now that $u_0 = 5$. In this case we see that for the bound in Table 4 to be attained we see, by direct observation, that $(u, \vec{v}) = (e, s_2s_1s_2s_1s_2)$, $(s_2, s_1s_2s_1s_2)$, $(s_2s_1, s_2s_1s_2)$, $(s_2s_1s_2, s_1s_2)$, or $(s_2s_1s_2s_1, s_2)$ with the last step of \vec{v} a fold. Thus $uw = s_2s_1s_2s_1s_2t_{\omega_2}^n \mathbf{b}$ for some $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbf{B}_0$, and so again $uw \in \mathcal{U}_i$.

Suppose now that $u_0 = 4$. Since the bound $\deg(\mathcal{Q}_1(p_0)) = a$ in Table 4 is attained we see that $(u, \vec{v}) = (e, s_2s_1s_2s_1)$, $(s_2, s_1s_2s_1)$, (s_2s_1, s_2s_1) , or $(s_2s_1s_2, s_1)$ with the last term of \vec{v} being a fold. Thus $uw = s_2s_1s_2s_1t_{\omega_2}^n \mathbf{b}$ for some $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbf{B}_0$. However an easy check using the folding table shows that if $n \geq 1$ then the maximum bound in $\deg(\mathcal{Q}_1(p^0))$ is not attained. Moreover, again by the folding tables, we see that \mathbf{b} is such that $uw = s_2s_1s_2s_1\mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{U}_1$.

The remaining cases are similar. \square

Corollary 7.11. *Let $i \in \{1, 2\}$. For generic parameters the representation π_i , equipped with any basis of the form $\{\xi_i \otimes X_u \mid u \in \mathbf{B}\}$ with \mathbf{B} a fundamental domain for the action of σ_i on \mathcal{U}_i , satisfies **B2** with \mathbf{a}_{π_i} as in Theorem 7.10.*

Proof. This is immediate from Corollary 7.3 and Theorem 7.10. \square

7.4 Leading matrix coefficients for generic parameters

In this subsection we assume generic parameters. Thus, by convention, if $i = 1$ then $a \neq 2b$ and if $i = 2$ then $2a \neq 3b$. If $p \in \mathcal{P}_i(\vec{w}, u)$ with $\deg(\mathcal{Q}_i(p)) = \mathbf{a}_{\pi_i}$ then p is called a *maximal path*. In this section we determine all maximal paths, and show that $\pi_i(T_w)$ has a matrix coefficient of maximal degree if and only if $w \in \Gamma_i$, for $i = 1, 2$. Finally, we compute the leading matrices $c_{\pi_i, w}$ in terms of Schur functions of type A_1 and deduce that **B3**, **B4**, and **B4'** hold.

To tighten the connection between π_i and Γ_i it is convenient to work with the following fundamental domains in Corollary 7.3. Of course, using the action of σ_i on \mathcal{U}_i , the choice of fundamental domain does not change the bounds on $\deg(\mathcal{Q}_i(p))$. We define

$$g_1 = \begin{cases} s_2s_1s_2 & \text{if } a/b > 2 \\ s_2s_1s_2s_1 & \text{if } a/b < 2 \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad g_2 = \begin{cases} e & \text{if } a/b > 3/2 \\ s_1s_2s_1s_2 & \text{if } a/b < 3/2, \end{cases}$$

and set $\mathbf{B}'_i = g_i\mathbf{B}_i$, where $\mathbf{B}_i = \mathbf{B}_{\Gamma_i}$ is as in Section 4.3. Then \mathbf{B}'_i is a fundamental domain for the action of σ_i on \mathcal{U}_i , represented as the green region in Figure 9. The blue and red regions are translates of \mathbf{B}'_i by σ_i , and the ‘‘base alcove’’ g_i of \mathbf{B}'_i is heavily shaded. We fix an indexing of \mathbf{B}'_i in Figure 9 in two cases for later use. Generally we write $\mathbf{b}_u = g_i u$ for $u \in \mathbf{B}_i$, and so $\mathbf{B}'_i = \{\mathbf{b}_u \mid u \in \mathbf{B}_i\}$.

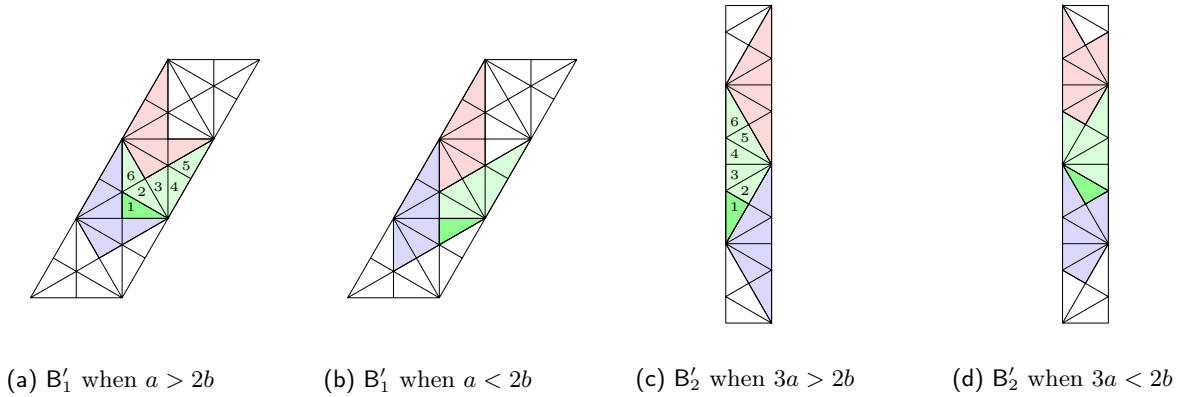


Fig. 9: The set \mathbf{B}'_i and translates by σ_i .

Lemma 7.12. *Let $w \in W$ and $u \in \mathbf{B}_i$ with $i \in \{1, 2\}$. Let \vec{w} be any reduced expression for w . If $\mathcal{P}_i(\vec{w}, \mathbf{b}_u)$ contains a maximal path then $w = u^{-1}\mathbf{w}_i t_i^N v$ for some $u, v \in \mathbf{B}_i$ and $N \in \mathbb{N}$, and hence $w \in \Gamma_i$.*

Proof. Let p be a maximal path. Thus $\mathbf{b}_u w \in \mathcal{U}_i$ by Theorem 7.10. Note that the second sentence in the proof of Theorem 7.10 we may choose any reduced expression \vec{w} for w . We first claim that there is a minimal length (straight) path from \mathbf{b}_u to $\mathbf{b}_u w$ passing through the element $\mathbf{b}_u u^{-1}\mathbf{w}_i$ (geometrically this element is the element ‘‘opposite’’ the base alcove of \mathbf{B}'_i , and is shaded yellow in Figure 10). If no minimal length path passes through $\mathbf{b}_u u^{-1}\mathbf{w}_i$ then $\mathbf{b}_u w$ lies in either the red, green, or blue region in Figure 10. It is clear that if $\mathbf{b}_u w$ lies in the red region then $\deg(\mathcal{Q}_i(p)) = 0$ since there are no negative crossings in the straight path from \mathbf{b}_u to $\mathbf{b}_u w$. Thus $\mathbf{b}_u w$ lies in either the green region (that is, \mathbf{B}'_i) or in the blue region. Hence there are finitely many possibilities for w , and quick check shows that for these w there is no path attaining the degree bound \mathbf{a}_{π_i} .

Thus w admits a reduced expression with $\vec{u}^{-1} \cdot \vec{w}_1$ as a prefix. Since $\mathbf{b}_u w$ lies in \mathcal{U}_i it follows that w admits a reduced expression of the form $\vec{w} = \vec{u}^{-1} \cdot \vec{w}_i \cdot \vec{t}_i^N \cdot \vec{v}$ for some $u, v \in \mathbf{B}_i$ and $N \in \mathbb{N}$, and thus $w \in \Gamma_i$ by the cell factorisation of Section 4.3. \square

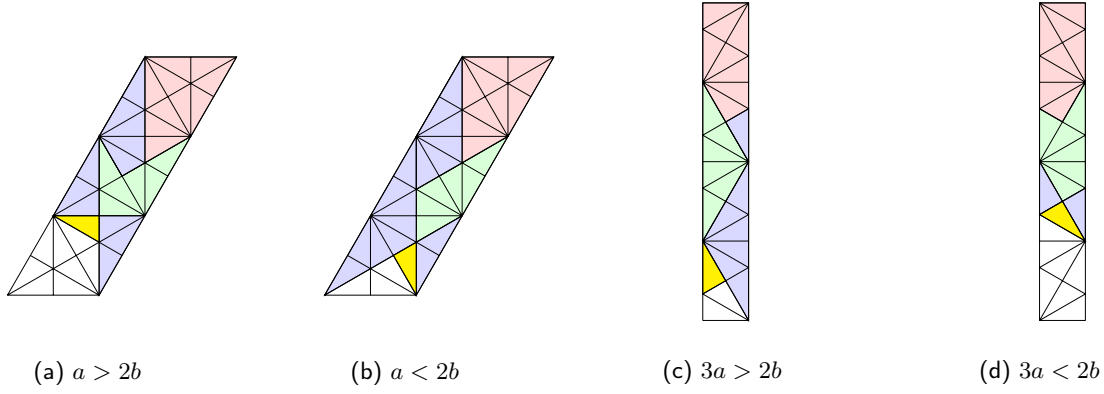


Fig. 10: Configuration for Lemma 7.12

The following Theorem, along with Theorem 7.10 and Lemma 7.12, verifies that π_i satisfies **B3** for generic parameters. Recall that if $w \in \Gamma_i$ with generic parameters then $w = \mathbf{u}_w^{-1} \mathbf{w}_i \mathbf{t}_i^{\tau_w} \mathbf{v}_w$ with $\mathbf{u}_w, \mathbf{v}_w \in \mathbf{B}_i$ and $\tau_w \in \mathbb{N}$ (we sometimes write τ_w in place of $\mathbf{t}_i^{\tau_w}$ by identifying \mathbb{N} with $\{\mathbf{t}_i^k \mid k \in \mathbb{N}\}$).

Theorem 7.13. *Let $w \in \Gamma_i$ with reduced expression $\vec{w} = \vec{u}_w^{-1} \cdot \vec{w}_i \cdot \vec{t}_i^{\tau_w} \cdot \vec{v}_w$. For generic parameters we have:*

- 1) *There exist precisely $\tau_w + 1$ maximal paths in $\mathcal{P}_i(\vec{w}, \mathbf{b}_{\mathbf{u}_w})$.*
- 2) *For each $0 \leq n \leq \tau_w$ there is a unique maximal path $p \in \mathcal{P}_i(\vec{w}, \mathbf{b}_{\mathbf{u}_w})$ such that $\text{wt}_{\mathbf{B}'_i}^i(p) = \tau_w - 2n$.*
- 3) *For all maximal paths we have $\theta_{\mathbf{B}'_i}^i(p) = \mathbf{v}_w$.*

Proof. Write $u = \mathbf{u}_w$, $v = \mathbf{v}_w$, and $N = \tau_w$. Let p be maximal. We claim that there are no folds in the initial \vec{u}^{-1} segment. This is easily checked directly in each case. For example, consider $i = 1$ and $a > 2b$, and suppose that $u = s_2 s_1 s_2 s_0$. Then $\mathbf{b}_u = s_0$ is the “top right” element of \mathbf{B}'_1 . Suppose that the path p of type $\vec{u}^{-1} \cdot \vec{w}_1 \cdot \vec{t}_1^N \cdot \vec{v}$ folds in the initial \vec{u}^{-1} part. If this fold occurs on the 4th step, then the remainder of the path consists of positive crossings only, and hence has degree b . If the fold occurs on the 3rd step, then the 4th, 5th, and 6th steps (the last two coming from $\vec{w}_1 = s_0 s_1$) are forced to be, respectively, a positive crossing, a positive crossing, and a bounce. After this the path consists of positive crossings (and perhaps bounces) and so the degree is bounded by $a - b$. The remaining cases are similar.

Writing $p = p_0 \cdot p^0$, with p_0 corresponding to the initial \vec{u}^{-1} segment, the previous paragraph shows that $\deg(\mathcal{Q}_i(p_0)) = 0$, and that p^0 starts at $\text{end}(p_0) = \mathbf{b}_u u^{-1} = g_i$ (the “base” alcove of \mathbf{B}'_i). Note that p^0 has type $\vec{w}_1 = \vec{w}_i \cdot \vec{t}_i^N \cdot \vec{v}$.

Consider the case $i = 1$ and $a > 2b$. We construct the α_1 -folding tables of the elements w_1 , t_1 , and $v \in \mathbf{B}'_1$ in Table 6 below. We construct these tables with respect to the fundamental domain \mathbf{B}'_i (rather than W_0^i), and thus we modify the definition of $\varphi_{\vec{x}}^v(k)$ given in the previous section (and in the notation of that section) to be

$$\varphi_{\vec{x}}^v(k) = \text{the unique } (u, n) \in \mathbf{B}'_i \times \mathbb{Z} \text{ such that } p(\vec{x}, \sigma_i^n u) \text{ and } p_k \text{ agree after the } k\text{th step.}$$

Note that the elements of \mathbf{B}'_1 are the prefixes of $s_2 s_1 s_2 s_0$, along with the element $v' = s_2 s_0$, and so it suffices to provide the tables for these two elements of \mathbf{B}'_1 . These are given in Table 6 below. See Remark 7.9 for the meaning of the final “exit columns” in these tables, and note that we use the indexing of \mathbf{B}'_1 as shown in Figure 9.

	0	1	
1	3	6	2
2	–	–	1
3	–	2	6
4	–	*	5
5	4	*	4
6	2	–	3

(a) $w_1 = s_0 s_1$

	2	1	0	
1	–	–	–	1
2	1	5	4	2
3	–	*	–	5
4	3	1	–	6
5	–	–	1	3
6	5	*	3	4

(b) $t_1 = s_2 s_1 s_0$

	2	1	2	0	
1	–	–	–	–	5
2	1	5	6	1	4
3	–	1	*	–	1
4	3	1	5	3	3
5	–	–	–	–	6
6	5	*	–	5	2

(c) $v = s_2 s_1 s_2 s_0$

	2	0	
1	–	–	6
2	1	4	3
3	–	–	5
4	3	–	1
5	–	1	2
6	5	3	4

(d) $v' = s_2 s_0$

Tab. 6: α_1 -folding tables for $\vec{w}_1 = \vec{w}_1 \cdot \vec{t}_1^N \cdot \vec{v}$ with respect to \mathbf{B}'_1 , in regime $a > 2b$.

Note that a path p^0 of type $\vec{w}_1 \cdot \vec{t}_1^N \cdot \vec{v}$ starting at g_1 enters the w_1 table on row 1, and it is then elementary to check that such a path is maximal if and only if it either folds at both places of the w_1 -part, or at both places of the $s_1 s_0$ part of

t_1 in on of the passes of t_1 . That is,

$$\text{end}(p^0) = \begin{cases} \hat{s}_0 \hat{s}_1 t_1^N v & \text{if both folds in } \vec{w}_1 \text{ occur} \\ w_1 t_1^{n-1} s_2 \hat{s}_1 \hat{s}_0 t_1^{N-n} v & \text{if the two folds occur in the } n^{\text{th}} \text{ pass of } \vec{t}_1, \end{cases}$$

where as usual \hat{s}_j indicates that the term is omitted. In the first case we have $\text{wt}_{B'_1}^1(p) = N$ and $\theta_{B'_1}^1(p) = v$. In the second case the equality $w_1 t_1^{n-1} s_2 t_1^n = e$ for all n shows that $\text{wt}_{B'_1}^1(p) = N - 2n$ and again $\theta_{B'_1}^1(p) = v$. This establishes the theorem in this case.

Now consider the case $i = 2$ with $3a > 2b$. The α_2 -folding tables of $w_2 = s_1 s_2 s_1 s_2 s_1$ and $t_2 = s_0 s_2 s_1 s_2 s_1$ and $v' \in B'_2$ with respect to B'_2 are given in Table 7 below (note that every element of B'_2 is a prefix of $v' = s_0 s_2 s_1 s_2 s_0$).

	1	2	1	2	1	
1	5	3	6	2	4	6
2	6	*	-	-	-	4
3	-	-	-	*	6	5
4	3	6	2	*	-	2
5	-	*	3	6	2	3
6	-	-	-	-	-	1

(a) $w_2 = s_1 s_2 s_1 s_2 s_1$

	0	2	1	2	1	
1	-	-	-	-	-	1
2	1	*	4	1	5	3
3	*	1	5	*	-	2
4	*	-	-	*	1	5
5	-	*	-	-	-	4
6	5	4	1	5	3	6

(b) $t_2 = s_0 s_2 s_1 s_2 s_1$

	0	2	1	2	0	
1	-	-	-	-	-	6
2	1	*	4	1	*	4
3	*	1	5	*	1	5
4	*	-	-	*	-	2
5	-	*	-	-	*	3
6	5	4	1	5	4	1

(c) $v' = s_0 s_2 s_1 s_2 s_0$

Tab. 7: α_2 -folding tables for \vec{w}_2 , \vec{t}_2 , and $v' \in B'_2$ with respect to B'_2 , in regime $3a > 2b$.

Using these tables it is easy to check that a path p^0 of type $\vec{w}_2 \cdot \vec{t}_2^N \cdot \vec{v}$ starting at g_2 is maximal if and only if one of the following occur (recall we enter the \vec{w}_2 table on row 1):

- There are three folds in the \vec{w}_2 part, at positions 1, 3, 5 (and hence no further folds).
- There is one fold in the \vec{w}_2 part at position 5, followed by 2 folds in the subsequent \vec{t}_2 at positions 3 and 5.
- There are three folds distributed over two consecutive \vec{t}_2 cycles, at position 5 in the pass cycle, and then positions 3 and 5 in the next pass.

The theorem follows in this case in a similar way to the previous example. The two remaining cases are similar. \square

Corollary 7.14. *Let $w \in \Gamma_i$ with generic parameters. Then*

$$c_{\pi_i, w} = s_{\tau_w}(\zeta) E_{u_w, v_w},$$

where $s_k(\zeta)$ is the Schur function of type A_1 . Thus π_i satisfies **B4** and **B4'**.

Proof. Let $\mathbb{P}_i(\vec{w}, uu) = \{p \in \mathcal{P}_i(\vec{w}, uu) \mid \deg(\mathcal{Q}_i(p)) = \mathbf{a}_{\pi_i}\}$ be the set of maximal paths. By Corollary 7.3 and the definition of $c_{\pi_i, w}$ we have

$$[c_{\pi_i, w}]_{u, v} = \text{SP}_{|q_{-1}=0} (q^{-\mathbf{a}_{\pi_i}} [\pi_i(T_w)]_{u, v}) = \sum_{\{p \in \mathbb{P}_i(\vec{w}, uu) \mid \theta_{B'_i}^i(p) = v\}} \zeta^{\text{wt}_{B'_i}^i(p)}$$

(note that there are either no bounces, or precisely two bounces in maximal paths p , and thus $\mathcal{Q}_i(p)$ is positive, and so $q^{-\mathbf{a}_{\pi_i}} \mathcal{Q}_i(p)$ specialises to +1). Theorem 7.13 gives $\{\mathbb{P}_i(\vec{w}, uu) \mid \theta_{B'_i}^i(p) = v\} = \emptyset$ unless $u = u_w$ and $v = v_w$, and thus $[c_{\pi_i, w}]_{u, v} = 0$ unless $u = u_w$ and $v = v_w$. Moreover Theorem 7.13 gives

$$[c_{\pi_i, w}]_{u_w, v_w} = \sum_{n=0}^{\tau_w} \zeta^{2\tau_w - n} = s_{\tau_w}(\zeta).$$

The verification of **B4** and **B4'** follows from $c_{\pi_i, w} = s_{\tau_w}(\zeta) E_{u_w, v_w}$ in an analogous way to Theorem 6.6. \square

7.5 Leading matrix coefficients for non-generic parameters

In this final subsection we compute the leading matrix coefficients for π_i with non-generic parameters. This if $i = 1$ and $r = 2$, and if $i = 2$ and $r = 3/2$. In fact most of the work has been done in the previous sections, and all that remains is to piece together the paths from the generic regimes on either side of the generic parameter.

Recall the notations of Section 4.4. We define g_i^\pm , b_u^\pm where $u \in B_i^\varepsilon$ and $B_i^{\varepsilon} := \{\xi_1 \otimes x_{b_i^\varepsilon} \mid u \in W_0^i\}$ in a similar fashion. When working in the case where $i = 1$ all the matrices will be written in the basis B_i^{ε} . Since the case $i = 2$ is completely analogous we will only present the results for $i = 1$.

Corollary 7.15. *Let $w \in \Gamma_1$ and $r = 2$ and let $u^{-1}\mathbf{w}_1^+\mathbf{t}_{1,+}^N v$ be the positive cell factorisation of w . We have*

$$\mathbf{c}_{\pi_1, w} = \begin{cases} (\mathfrak{s}_N(\zeta) + \mathfrak{s}_{N-1}(\zeta)) E_{u,v} & \text{if } w \text{ is of type } (+, +); \\ (\mathfrak{s}_N(\zeta) + \mathfrak{s}_{N+1}(\zeta)) E_{u,v} & \text{if } w \text{ is of type } (-, -); \\ (1 + \zeta^{-1})\mathfrak{s}_N(\zeta) E_{u,v} & \text{if } w \text{ is of type } (+, -); \\ (1 + \zeta)\mathfrak{s}_N(\zeta) E_{u,v} & \text{if } w \text{ is of type } (-, -) \end{cases}$$

where by definition we set $\mathfrak{s}_{-1}(\zeta) := 0$.

Proof. First assume that w is of type $(+, +)$. Then there exists $(u, v) \in \mathbf{B}_1^+ \cap s_1\mathbf{B}_1^-$ such that

$$w = u^{-1}\mathbf{w}_1^+\mathbf{t}_{1,+}^N v = u^{-1}s_1\mathbf{w}_1^-\mathbf{t}_{1,-}^{N-1}s_1v.$$

According to Theorem 7.13, we see that there will be two families of maximal paths starting at \mathbf{b}_u^+ , one with endpoints of the form $\mathbf{b}_e^+\mathbf{t}_{1,+}^{N-2r}v$ for all $0 \leq r \leq N$ and one with endpoints of the form $\mathbf{b}_e^-\mathbf{t}_{1,-}^{N-1-2r}s_1v$ for all $0 \leq r \leq N-1$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{wt}_{\mathbf{B}_1^+}^1(\mathbf{b}_e^+\mathbf{t}_{1,+}^{N-2r}v) &= N - 2r, & \theta_{\mathbf{B}_1^+}^1(\mathbf{b}_e^+\mathbf{t}_{1,+}^{N-2r}v) &= v, \\ \text{wt}_{\mathbf{B}_1^+}^1(\mathbf{b}_e^-\mathbf{t}_{1,-}^{N-1-2r}s_1v) &= N - 2r - 1 & \text{and} & \theta_{\mathbf{B}_1^+}^1(\mathbf{b}_e^-\mathbf{t}_{1,-}^{N-1-2r}s_1v) = v. \end{aligned}$$

It follows that $\mathbf{c}_{\pi_1, w} = (\mathfrak{s}_N(\zeta) + \mathfrak{s}_{N-1}(\zeta)) E_{u,v}$ in this case.

Assume that w of type $(-, -)$. Then we have

$$w = s_0s_2\mathbf{w}_1^+\mathbf{t}_{1,+}^N s_2s_0 = \mathbf{w}_1^-\mathbf{t}_{1,-}^{N+1}.$$

We see that there will be two families of maximal paths starting at $\mathbf{b}_{s_2s_0}^+ = \mathbf{b}_e^-\mathbf{t}_{1,-}$, one with endpoints of the form $\mathbf{b}_e^+\mathbf{t}_{1,+}^{N-2r}s_2s_0$ for all $0 \leq r \leq N$ and one with endpoints of the form $\mathbf{b}_e^-\mathbf{t}_{1,-}^{N+2-2r}$ for all $0 \leq r \leq N+1$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{wt}_{\mathbf{B}_1^+}^1(\mathbf{b}_e^+\mathbf{t}_{1,+}^{N-2r}s_2s_0) &= N - 2r, & \theta_{\mathbf{B}_1^+}^1(\mathbf{b}_e^+\mathbf{t}_{1,+}^{N-2r}s_2s_0) &= s_2s_0, \\ \text{wt}_{\mathbf{B}_1^+}^1(\mathbf{b}_e^-\mathbf{t}_{1,-}^{N+2-2r}) &= N + 1 - 2r & \text{and} & \theta_{\mathbf{B}_1^+}^1(\mathbf{b}_e^-\mathbf{t}_{1,-}^{N+2-2r}) = s_2s_0 \end{aligned}$$

since $\mathbf{b}_e^-\mathbf{t}_{1,-}^{N+2-2r} = \mathbf{b}_{s_2s_0}^+\mathbf{t}_{1,-}^{N+1-2r}$. It follows that $\mathbf{c}_{\pi_1, w} = (\mathfrak{s}_N(\zeta) + \mathfrak{s}_{N+1}(\zeta)) E_{u,v}$ in this case.

Assume that w is of type $(+, -)$. Then there exists $u \in \mathbf{B}_1^+ \cap s_1\mathbf{B}_1^-$ such that

$$w = u^{-1}\mathbf{w}_1^+\mathbf{t}_{1,+}^N s_2s_0 = u^{-1}s_1\mathbf{w}_1^-\mathbf{t}_{1,-}^N.$$

We see that there will be two families of maximal paths starting at \mathbf{b}_u^+ , one with endpoints of the form $\mathbf{b}_e^+\mathbf{t}_{1,+}^{N-2r}s_2s_0$ and one with endpoints of the form $\mathbf{b}_e^-\mathbf{t}_{1,-}^{N-2r}$ for all $0 \leq r \leq N$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{wt}_{\mathbf{B}_1^+}^1(\mathbf{b}_e^+\mathbf{t}_{1,+}^{N-2r}s_2s_0) &= N - 2r, & \theta_{\mathbf{B}_1^+}^1(\mathbf{b}_e^+\mathbf{t}_{1,+}^{N-2r}s_2s_0) &= s_2s_0, \\ \text{wt}_{\mathbf{B}_1^+}^1(\mathbf{b}_e^-\mathbf{t}_{1,-}^{N-2r}) &= N - 2r - 1 & \text{and} & \theta_{\mathbf{B}_1^+}^1(\mathbf{b}_e^-\mathbf{t}_{1,-}^{N-2r}) = s_2s_0. \end{aligned}$$

It follows that $\mathbf{c}_{\pi_1, w} = (1 + \zeta^{-1})\mathfrak{s}_N(\zeta)$ in this case.

Assume that w is of type $(-, +)$. Then there exists $v \in \mathbf{B}_1^+ \cap s_1\mathbf{B}_1^-$ such that

$$w = s_0s_2\mathbf{w}_1^+\mathbf{t}_{1,+}^N v = \mathbf{w}_1^-\mathbf{t}_{1,-}^N s_1v.$$

We see that there will be two families of maximal paths starting at $\mathbf{b}_{s_2s_0}^+ = \mathbf{b}_e^-\mathbf{t}_{1,-}$, one with endpoints of the form $\mathbf{b}_e^+\mathbf{t}_{1,+}^{N-2r}v$ for all $0 \leq r \leq N$ and one with endpoints of the form $\mathbf{b}_e^-\mathbf{t}_{1,-}^{N+1-2r}s_1v$ for all $0 \leq r \leq N$. But we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{wt}_{\mathbf{B}_1^+}^1(\mathbf{b}_e^+\mathbf{t}_{1,+}^{N-2r}v) &= N - 2r, & \theta_{\mathbf{B}_1^+}^1(\mathbf{b}_e^+\mathbf{t}_{1,+}^{N-2r}v) &= v, \\ \text{wt}_{\mathbf{B}_1^+}^1(\mathbf{b}_e^-\mathbf{t}_{1,-}^{N+1-2r}s_1v) &= N + 1 - 2r & \text{and} & \theta_{\mathbf{B}_1^+}^1(\mathbf{b}_e^-\mathbf{t}_{1,-}^{N+1-2r}s_1v) = v. \end{aligned}$$

It follows that $\mathbf{c}_{\pi_1, w} = (1 + \zeta)\mathfrak{s}_N(\zeta)$ in this case. \square

Remark 7.16. Note that the formulae in Corollary 7.15 show how the two leading matrices from the generic regimes on either side of the parameter $r = r_1$ combine to give the leading matrix at $r = r_1$. This suggests an approach to understanding the semicontinuity conjecture of Bonnafé [2].

We define the following sets which are the sets of non-zero leading matrix coefficients of the elements w of $(\varepsilon, \varepsilon')$ -type

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{B}_{\varepsilon, \varepsilon} &= \{\mathfrak{s}_N(\zeta) + \mathfrak{s}_{N-1}(\zeta) \mid N \geq 0\}, \\ \mathcal{B}_{\varepsilon, -\varepsilon} &= \{(1 + \zeta^\varepsilon)\mathfrak{s}_N(\zeta) \mid N \geq 0\}. \end{aligned}$$

We will write $\mathfrak{s}_N^{\varepsilon, \varepsilon'} \in \mathcal{B}_{\varepsilon, \varepsilon'}$ to denote the element corresponding to N in $\mathcal{B}_{\varepsilon, \varepsilon'}$.

The following proposition is useful at a later stage.

Proposition 7.17. *Let $\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3 \in \{-, +\}$ and $k, \ell \in \mathbb{N}$.*

- 1) *We have $\mathbf{s}_k^{(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2)} \cdot \mathbf{s}_\ell^{(\varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3)} = \sum_{m \in \mathbb{N}} \mu_{k, \ell}^m(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3) \mathbf{s}_m^{(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_3)}$ for some integers $\mu_{k, \ell}^m(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3)$.*
- 2) *We have $\mu_{k, \ell}^m(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3) = \mu_{m, k}^\ell(\varepsilon_3, \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2)$ for all $k, \ell, m \in \mathbb{N}$.*
- 3) *We have $\mu_{k, \ell}^0(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_1) \neq 0$ if and only if $\varepsilon_1 = \varepsilon_2$ and $k = \ell$.*

Proof. By obvious symmetry and commutativity it is sufficient to check the cases $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3) = (+, +, +)$, $(+, +, -)$, and $(+, -, +)$. We first recall that the Schur functions $\mathbf{s}_\lambda = \mathbf{s}_\lambda(\zeta)$ form an orthonormal basis with respect to the Hall inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$, and in type A_1 they are self adjoint with respect to this inner product. Therefore if $\mathbf{s}_k \mathbf{s}_\ell = \sum_m c_{k, \ell}^m \mathbf{s}_m$ we have $c_{k, \ell}^m = \langle \mathbf{s}_m \mathbf{s}_\ell, \mathbf{s}_k \rangle = \langle \mathbf{s}_m \mathbf{s}_k, \mathbf{s}_\ell \rangle = \langle \mathbf{s}_\ell \mathbf{s}_m, \mathbf{s}_k \rangle$, and thus $c_{k, \ell}^m = c_{m, k}^\ell = c_{\ell, m}^k$. Furthermore, if $\ell \leq k$ we have $\mathbf{s}_k \mathbf{s}_\ell = \sum_{j=0}^\ell \mathbf{s}_{k-\ell+2j}$, and thus $c_{k, \ell}^0 = \delta_{k, \ell}$ (if $k < \ell$ then interchange the roles of k and ℓ).

Consider the case $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3) = (+, +, +)$. Using the formula for Schur functions of type A_1 we compute $\mathbf{s}_k^{(+, +)} = \mathbf{s}_k(\zeta) + \mathbf{s}_{k-1}(\zeta) = \mathbf{s}_{2k}(\zeta^{1/2})$, where we introduce a new formal indeterminate $\zeta^{1/2}$ with $(\zeta^{1/2})^2 = \zeta$. It follows that $\mathbf{s}_k^{(+, +)} \mathbf{s}_\ell^{(+, +)} = \mathbf{s}_k(\zeta^{1/2}) \mathbf{s}_\ell(\zeta^{1/2})$ can be expressed as a linear combination of $\mathbf{s}_m(\zeta^{1/2})$, and that the coefficients in this expansion are $\mu_{k, \ell}^m(+, +, +) = c_{2k, 2\ell}^m$. Thus (1) and (2) hold, and the ‘if’ part of (3).

Consider the case $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3) = (+, +, -)$. Then

$$\mathbf{s}_k^{(+, +)} \mathbf{s}_\ell^{(+, -)} = (1 + \zeta)(\mathbf{s}_k + \mathbf{s}_{k-1}) \mathbf{s}_\ell = \sum_m (c_{k, \ell}^m + c_{k-1, \ell}^m)(1 + \zeta) \mathbf{s}_m,$$

and so $\mu_{k, \ell}^m(+, +, -) = c_{k, \ell}^m + c_{k-1, \ell}^m$. Similarly, $\mu_{m, k}^\ell(-, +, +) = c_{m, k}^\ell + c_{m, k-1}^\ell$, and thus $\mu_{m, k}^\ell(-, +, +) = \mu_{k, \ell}^m(+, +, -)$.

Consider the case $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3) = (+, -, +)$. Then

$$\mathbf{s}_k^{(+, -)} \mathbf{s}_\ell^{(-, +)} = (2\mathbf{s}_0 + \mathbf{s}_1) \mathbf{s}_k \mathbf{s}_\ell = \sum_m c_{k, \ell}^m (2\mathbf{s}_0 + \mathbf{s}_1) \mathbf{s}_m = \sum_m (c_{k, \ell}^m + c_{k, \ell}^{m-1})(\mathbf{s}_m + \mathbf{s}_{m-1}) = \sum_m (c_{k, \ell}^m + c_{k, \ell}^{m-1}) \mathbf{s}_m^{(+, +)},$$

and so $\mu_{k, \ell}^m(+, -, +) = c_{k, \ell}^m + c_{k, \ell}^{m-1}$ (here $c_{k, \ell}^{-1} = 0$ by definition). An easy calculation gives $\mu_{m, k}^\ell(+, -, +) = c_{m, k}^\ell + c_{m-1, k}^\ell$, and hence (2). The ‘only if’ part of (3) also follows. \square

Thus, finally we have:

Theorem 7.18. *For each choice of parameters there exists a balanced system of cell representations $(\pi_\Gamma)_{\Gamma \in \Lambda}$.*

Proof. This follows from Theorem 5.1, Theorem 6.6, Corollary 7.11, Corollary 7.14 and Corollary 7.15. Property **B5** is checked directly. \square

Corollary 7.19. *In type \tilde{G}_2 we have $\mathbf{a}(w) = \mathbf{a}_{\pi_\Gamma}$ if $w \in \Gamma$.*

Proof. This follows from Theorem 7.18 and Theorem 2.5. \square

8 Proof of Lusztig conjectures

In this section we prove Lusztig’s conjectures for \tilde{G}_2 . We will denote by Λ_∞ the set of infinite two-sided cells and by Λ_f the set of finite two-sided cells.

Let $(\pi_\Gamma)_{\Gamma \in \Lambda}$ be the system of balanced cell representations afforded by Theorem 7.18. When $\Gamma_i \in \Lambda_\infty$ we have $\pi_{\Gamma_i} = \pi_i$ and when $\Gamma \in \Lambda_f$ the representation π_Γ is the Kazhdan-Lusztig representation associated to Γ with its natural basis. We have seen that $(\pi_\Gamma)_{\Gamma \in \Lambda}$ satisfies the extra axiom **B4’** and as a consequence, we know that $\mathbf{a}_{\pi_\Gamma} = \mathbf{a}(w)$ for all $w \in \Gamma$ and that the coefficients γ are the structure constants of the ring \mathcal{J}_Γ generated by $\{\mathbf{c}_{\pi_\Gamma, w} \mid w \in \Gamma\}$.

Knowing the value of Lusztig’s \mathbf{a} -function, and the partition of W into cells, it is elementary that **P4**, **P9–P12** and **P14** hold. By the work of Xie [29], we know that **P1** and **P15** hold. Thus we are left with proving the conjectures that involve the γ -coefficients and the set \mathcal{D} .

Theorem 8.1. *Let $x, y, z \in W$.*

- 1) *We have $\gamma_{x, y, w^{-1}} \neq 0$ if and only if $x \sim_{\mathcal{R}} w$, $y \sim_{\mathcal{L}} w$ and $x \sim_{\mathcal{L}} y^{-1}$.*
- 2) *We have $\gamma_{x, y, w} = \gamma_{y, w, x} = \gamma_{w, x, y}$.*

Proof. Let $w \in \Gamma$ and $x, y \in W$ be such that $\gamma_{x, y, w^{-1}} \neq 0$. In the case where $\Gamma \in \Lambda_f$, the result can be checked by explicit computations using the (finite) set of matrices $\mathcal{B}_\Gamma := \{\mathbf{c}_{\pi_\Gamma, w} \mid w \in \Gamma\}$. For example to prove (1), we simply need to check that if $\mathbf{c}_{\pi_\Gamma, w}$ appears in the expansion of $\mathbf{c}_{\pi_\Gamma, x} \mathbf{c}_{\pi_\Gamma, y}$ in the basis \mathcal{B}_Γ then we have $x \sim_{\mathcal{R}} w$, $y \sim_{\mathcal{L}} w$ and $x \sim_{\mathcal{L}} y^{-1}$. This is easily checked using the explicit matrices provided on the authors’ webpages.

Assume that $\Gamma \in \Lambda_\infty$ and that r is generic for Γ . By Theorem 6.6 and Corollary 7.14, the equality $\mathbf{c}_{\pi_\Gamma, x} \mathbf{c}_{\pi_\Gamma, y} = \sum_z \gamma_{x, y, z^{-1}} \mathbf{c}_{\pi_\Gamma, z}$ becomes

$$\mathbf{s}_{r_x} E_{u_x, v_x} \cdot \mathbf{s}_{r_y} E_{u_y, v_y} = \sum_{z \in \Gamma} \gamma_{x, y, z^{-1}} \mathbf{s}_{r_z} E_{u_z, v_z}.$$

Since $\gamma_{x,y,w^{-1}} \neq 0$, the term indexed by w on the righthand side is nonzero and this implies that the whole sum is nonzero by **B4**. It follows that the lefthand side is nonzero hence it is equal to $s_{\tau_x} s_{\tau_y} E_{u_x, v_y}$ and we have $v_x = u_y$ (or in other words $x \sim_{\mathcal{L}} y^{-1}$). From there we see that if $\gamma_{x,y,z^{-1}} \neq 0$ then we must have (a) $u_z = u_x$ and $v_z = v_y$ and (b) $c_{\tau_x, \tau_y}^{\tau_z} \neq 0$ where $c_{\tau_x, \tau_y}^{\tau_z} = \langle s_{\tau_x} s_{\tau_y}, s_{\tau_z} \rangle$. In particular, since $\gamma_{x,y,w^{-1}} \neq 0$ we have $u_w = u_x$ and $v_w = v_y$ or in other words $x \sim_{\mathcal{R}} w$ and $y \sim_{\mathcal{L}} w$. This completes the proof of (1).

We now show that $\gamma_{x,y,w} = \gamma_{y,w,x} = \gamma_{w,x,y}$. We may assume that $\gamma_{x,y,w} \neq 0$ since if $\gamma_{x,y,w} = 0$ then $\gamma_{w,x,y} = \gamma_{y,w,x} = 0$ by (1). We know that $\gamma_{x,y,w}$ is the coefficient of $s_{\tau_{w^{-1}}}$ in the product $s_{\tau_x} s_{\tau_y}$, which is equal to the coefficient of s_{τ_w} since by Remark 4.1 we have $s_{\tau_{w^{-1}}} = s_{\tau_w}$. Then using standard results on Weyl characters we get that $\gamma_{x,y,w} = \gamma_{w,x,y} = \gamma_{y,w,x}$.

Consider the case where r is not generic for Γ_i , with $i \in \{1, 2\}$. Consider the case $i = 1$, and so $r = 2$ (the case $i = 2$ is similar). Recall the notation of Corollary 7.15. Let x be of $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2)$ type, and let y be of $(\varepsilon'_2, \varepsilon_3)$ type. If $\varepsilon_2 \neq \varepsilon'_2$ then $\gamma_{x,y,z} = 0$ (this follows from Corollary 7.15 and the cell factorisation in Section 4.4). Thus suppose that $\varepsilon_2 = \varepsilon'_2$. Moreover, if $\gamma_{x,y,w} \neq 0$ then w^{-1} is of type $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_3)$. Then $\gamma_{x,y,w}$ is the coefficient of $s_{\tau_{w^{-1}}}^{(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_3)}$ in the expansion of $s_{\tau_x}^{(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2)} s_{\tau_y}^{(\varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3)}$ in the $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_3)$ 'basis'. Similarly $\gamma_{w,x,y}$ is the coefficient of $s_{\tau_{y^{-1}}}^{(\varepsilon_3, \varepsilon_2)}$ in the expansion of $s_{\tau_w}^{(\varepsilon_3, \varepsilon_1)} s_{\tau_x}^{(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2)}$. Hence by Proposition 7.17 we have $\gamma_{x,y,w} = \gamma_{w,x,y}$. \square

Hence **P7** and **P8** are proven.

For each $\Gamma \in \Lambda$ we set $\mathcal{D}_{\Gamma} = \mathcal{D} \cap \Gamma$. By [29] we have the following. When $\Gamma \in \Lambda_f$ we have

- if Γ contains a single element w then $w^2 = e$ and $\mathcal{D}_{\Gamma} = \{w\}$;
- $\mathcal{D}_{\Gamma_3} = \{s_1, s_2 s_1 s_2, s_0 s_2 s_1 s_2 s_0\}$ if $r > 1$, $\mathcal{D}_{\Gamma_3} = \{s_0, s_1, s_2\}$ if $r = 1$ and $\mathcal{D}_{\Gamma_3} = \{s_0, s_2, s_1 s_2 s_1\}$ if $r < 1$;
- $\mathcal{D}_{\Gamma_4} = \{s_0, s_2\}$ if $r > 1$ and $\mathcal{D}_{\Gamma_4} := \{s_2 s_1 s_2 s_1 s_2, s_0 s_2 s_1 s_2 s_1 s_2 s_0\}$ if $r < 1$;
- $\mathcal{D}_{\Gamma_6} = \{u^{-1}(s_0 s_1) v \mid u, v \in \mathbf{B}_6\}$ where $\mathbf{B}_6 := \{e, s_2, s_2 s_1, s_2 s_1 s_2, s_2 s_1 s_2 s_0\}$ if $2 > r > 3/2$.

When $\Gamma \in \Lambda_{\infty}$ we have

- If r is generic for Γ then $\mathcal{D}_{\Gamma} := \{u^{-1} w v \mid u, v \in \mathbf{B}_i\}$;
- If $r = 2$ then $\mathcal{D}_{\Gamma_1} := \{u^{-1} w v \mid u, v \in \mathbf{B}_1^+ \cap s_1 \mathbf{B}_1^-\} \cup \{s_0 s_2 s_0\}$;
- If $r = 3/2$ then $\mathcal{D}_{\Gamma_2} := \{u^{-1} w v \mid u, v \in \mathbf{B}_2^- \cap s_0 \mathbf{B}_2^+\} \cup \{s_1 s_2 s_1 s_2 s_1\}$.

Note that for all $d \in \mathcal{D}_{\Gamma}$, we have $u_d = v_d$ and $\tau_d = 0$. Therefore we have $c_{\pi_{\Gamma}, d} = s_0$ for all $d \in \mathcal{D}$, this will be of crucial importance in the proof below.

Corollary 8.2. *We have the following.*

- 1) If $d \in \mathcal{D}$ and $x, y \in W$ are such that $\gamma_{x,y,d} \neq 0$ then $x = y^{-1}$
- 2) If $y \in W$, there exists a unique $d \in \mathcal{D}$ such that $\gamma_{y^{-1}, y, d} \neq 0$.
- 3) If $d \in \mathcal{D}$, $y \in W$, $\gamma_{y^{-1}, y, d} \neq 0$, then $\gamma_{y^{-1}, y, d} = n_d = \pm 1$.
- 4) Any left cell C of W contains a unique element $d \in \mathcal{D}$. We have $\gamma_{x^{-1}, x, d} \neq 0$ for all $x \in C$.

Proof. If $\Gamma \in \Lambda_f$, the results can be proved by explicit computations so we focus on the case where $\Gamma \in \Lambda_{\infty}$. Let $d \in \mathcal{D}_{\Gamma}$ and assume that r is generic for Γ . Let $x, y \in W$ be such that $\gamma_{x,y,d} \neq 0$. We have the equality

$$s_{\tau_x} E_{u_x, v_x} \cdot s_{\tau_y} E_{u_y, v_y} = \sum \gamma_{x,y,z^{-1}} s_{\tau_z} E_{u_z, v_z}.$$

Arguing as in the proof of the previous theorem we obtain:

- the lefthand side is equal to $s_{\tau_x} s_{\tau_y} E_{u_d, v_d}$;
- If $\gamma_{x,y,z^{-1}} \neq 0$ then $u_z = u_d = v_z$ and $c_{\tau_x, \tau_y}^{\tau_z} \neq 0$.

In particular since $\tau_d = 0$ we have $c_{\tau_x, \tau_y}^0 \neq 0$ which implies that $\tau_x = \tau_y$. Finally we have

$$x^{-1} = (u_x^{-1} w_i \tau_x v_x)^{-1} = v_x^{-1} \tau_x^{-1} w_i u_y^{-1} = u_y^{-1} w_i \tau_y v_y = y$$

as required in (1). In the case where r is not generic, we can argue in the same fashion using the result of Proposition 7.17 to get that $\tau_x = \tau_y$.

Let $y \in W$ and let $\Gamma_i \in \Lambda_{\infty}$ be such that $y \in \Gamma_i$. If r is generic for Γ_i then setting $d = v_y^{-1} w_i v_y$ we easily see arguing as above that $\gamma_{y^{-1}, y, d} = 1$ since $c_{\tau_y, \tau_y}^0 \neq 1$. In the case where $r = 2$ and $y \in \Gamma_1$ then we have using Proposition 7.17

- if y is of type $(\varepsilon, -)$ then $\gamma_{y^{-1}, y, d} = 1$ where $d = s_0 s_2 s_0$;
- if y is of type $(\varepsilon, +)$ then $\gamma_{y^{-1}, y, d} = 1$ where $d = v_y^{-1} s_1 s_0 v_y$.

The case $r = 3/2$ and $y \in \Gamma_2$ is similar. Statement (2), (3) and (4) follows. \square

This completes the proof of Lusztig conjecture in type \tilde{G}_2 .

9 On the Plancherel formula

In this final section we describe some observed connections between the cell decomposition in type \tilde{G}_2 and the structure of the Plancherel Theorem. Primarily this section is meant to be suggestive of deeper links rather than a rigorous analysis of the connections, and thus we are at times somewhat informal. We conclude the section with conjectures, based on our \tilde{G}_2 observations.

Let $\text{Tr} : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the canonical trace functional on \mathcal{H} , defined by $\text{Tr}(\sum a_w T_w) = a_e$. Recall that in a finite dimensional Hecke algebra (ie, when W is a finite Coxeter group) one has

$$\text{Tr}(h) = \sum_{\pi \in \text{Irrep}(\mathcal{H})} m_\pi \chi_\pi(h) \quad \text{for all } h \in \mathcal{H}, \quad (9.1)$$

where the elements m_π are the *generic degrees* of \mathcal{H} (see [19, Chapter 11]). This formula was a crucial ingredient in Geck's proof [7] of Lusztig's conjectures for spherical type F_4 . In particular, the observation that the " q -valuation" $\nu_q(m_\pi)$ (see below) of m_π was equal to $2\mathbf{a}_\pi$ for certain integers \mathbf{a}_π playing the role of the bounds \mathbf{a}_π in the present paper.

We note that there is an analogue of (9.1) for affine Hecke algebras in the form of the remarkable *Plancherel formula* of Opdam [21], and Opdam and Solleveld [22]. The summation in (9.1) becomes an integral over irreducible representations of a C^* -algebra completion of \mathcal{H} , and the generic degrees become the *Plancherel measure* $d\mu$.

In this section we recall the explicit formulation of the Plancherel formula in type \tilde{G}_2 computed by the second author in [23], and show that in this case there is an analogue of the formula $\nu_q(m_\pi) = 2\mathbf{a}_\pi$ in terms of the Plancherel measure. While this fact has not played a role in our proof of Lusztig's conjectures (mainly due to technical issues with the dual Kazhdan-Lusztig basis for affine Hecke algebras), we believe that it provides an intriguing connection between Kazhdan-Lusztig cells and the Plancherel formula. In fact, we conclude this section, and the paper, with a series of conjectures, primarily relating to the structure of Kazhdan-Lusztig cells and the Plancherel formula.

9.1 The Plancherel formula

The main references for this section are [21] and [23]. The Plancherel Theorem is an analytic concept, and therefore we now take a slightly different view of the affine Hecke algebra. We extend the scalars to \mathbb{C} , and specialise q to a real number $q > 1$.

Let (π, V) be a finite dimensional \mathcal{H} -module (now over \mathbb{C}). Recall that

$$V = \bigoplus_{\zeta \in \text{Hom}(P, \mathbb{C}^\times)} V_\zeta^{\text{gen}}$$

where $V_\zeta^{\text{gen}} = \{v \in V \mid \text{for each } \lambda \in P \text{ we have } (X^\lambda - \zeta^\lambda)^k v = 0 \text{ for some } k \in \mathbb{N}\}$ is the *generalised ζ -weight space* of V . Let $\text{supp}(\pi) = \{\zeta \in \text{Hom}(P, \mathbb{C}^\times) \mid V_\zeta^{\text{gen}} \neq \{0\}\}$ be the *support* of (π, V) . A representation (π, V) is *tempered* if $|\zeta^\lambda| \leq 1$ for all $\zeta \in \text{supp}(\pi)$ and all $\lambda \in P^+$, and it is *square integrable* if $|\zeta^\lambda| < 1$ for all $\zeta \in \text{supp}(\pi)$ and all $\lambda \in P^+ \setminus \{0\}$.

Define an involution $*$ on \mathcal{H} and the *canonical trace functional* $\text{Tr} : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ by

$$\left(\sum_{w \in W} a_w T_w \right)^* = \sum_{w \in W} \overline{a_w} T_{w^{-1}} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Tr} \left(\sum_{w \in W} a_w T_w \right) = a_e$$

where now $\overline{a_w}$ denotes complex conjugation. An induction on $\ell(v)$ shows that $\text{Tr}(T_u T_v^*) = \delta_{u,v}$ for all $u, v \in W$, and hence $\text{Tr}(h_1 h_2) = \text{Tr}(h_2 h_1)$ for all $h_1, h_2 \in \mathcal{H}$. It follows that $(h_1, h_2) = \text{Tr}(h_1 h_2^*)$ defines a Hermitian inner product on \mathcal{H} . Let $\|h\|_2 = \sqrt{(h, h)}$ be the ℓ^2 -norm. The algebra \mathcal{H} acts on itself by left multiplication, and the corresponding operator norm is $\|h\| = \sup\{\|hx\|_2 : x \in \mathcal{H}, \|x\|_2 \leq 1\}$. Let $\overline{\mathcal{H}}$ denote the completion of \mathcal{H} with respect to this norm. Thus $\overline{\mathcal{H}}$ is a non-commutative C^* -algebra. The irreducible representations of $\overline{\mathcal{H}}$ are precisely the (unique) extensions of the irreducible representations of \mathcal{H} that are continuous with respect to the ℓ^2 -operator norm, and it is known that these are the irreducible tempered representations of \mathcal{H} (see [21, §2.7 and Corollary 6.2]). In particular, every irreducible representation of $\overline{\mathcal{H}}$ is finite dimensional, and it follows from the general theory of traces on "liminal" C^* -algebras that there exists a unique positive Borel measure μ , called the *Plancherel measure*, such that (see [4, §8.8])

$$\text{Tr}(h) = \int_{\text{Irrep}(\overline{\mathcal{H}})} \chi_\pi(h) d\mu(\pi) \quad \text{for all } h \in \overline{\mathcal{H}}.$$

The Plancherel formula has been obtained in general by Opdam [21]. We now recall the explicit formulation in type \tilde{G}_2 from [23]. We first describe the representations that appear in the Plancherel formula.

We define the representations π_0 , π_1 , and π_2 as in Sections 5.2 and 5.3, however now the ring of scalars is \mathbb{C} , and $\zeta \in \text{Hom}(P, \mathbb{C}^\times)$ in the case π_0 , and $\zeta \in \text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{C}^\times)$ in the cases π_1 and π_2 . To emphasise the dependence on the central character ζ we write $\pi_i = \pi_i^\zeta$ for $i = 0, 1, 2$, and we write χ_i^ζ for the corresponding characters. These representations are tempered if and only if $|\zeta^\lambda| = 1$ for all $\lambda \in P$ (in the case $i = 0$) and $|\zeta^n| = 1$ for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ (in the cases $i = 1, 2$). Therefore the tempered representations correspond to $\zeta \in \mathbb{T}^2$ (in the case $i = 0$) and $\zeta \in \mathbb{T}$ (in the case $i = 1, 2$), where $\mathbb{T} = \{t \in \mathbb{C} \mid |t| = 1\}$.

Let $\pi_3 = \rho_0$ be the 1-dimensional representation of \mathcal{H} with $\pi_3(T_j) = -q^{-L(s_j)}$ for $j = 0, 1, 2$ (using the notation of Example 2.2). Let π_4 and π_5 be the two three dimensional irreducible representations constructed in [23, §3.6] (with π_4 being the “+–representation”), and let π_6 be the 2-dimensional irreducible representation constructed in [23, §3.6]. Finally, let π_7 be the following representation, depending on the parameter regime:

$$\pi_7 = \begin{cases} \text{the 1-dimensional representation } \rho_{\{1\}} & \text{if } a/b < 3/2 \\ \text{the 5-dimensional representation constructed in [23, §3.6]} & \text{if } 3/2 < a/b < 2 \\ \text{the 1-dimensional representation } \rho_{\{0,2\}} & \text{if } 2 < a/b. \end{cases}$$

Let χ_3, \dots, χ_7 be the characters of the above representations.

We now describe the Plancherel measure. Let $\omega = e^{2\pi i/3}$ and define functions $c_j(\zeta)$, $j = 0, 1, 2$, by

$$\begin{aligned} c_0(\zeta) &= \frac{(1 - q^{-2a}\zeta_1^{-1})(1 - q^{-2a}\zeta_1^{-2}\zeta_2^{-3})(1 - q^{-2a}\zeta_1^{-1}\zeta_2^{-3})(1 - q^{-2b}\zeta_2^{-1})(1 - q^{-2b}\zeta_1^{-1}\zeta_2^{-2})(1 - q^{-2b}\zeta_1^{-1}\zeta_2^{-1})}{(1 - \zeta_1^{-1})(1 - \zeta_1^{-2}\zeta_2^{-3})(1 - \zeta_1^{-1}\zeta_2^{-3})(1 - \zeta_2^{-1})(1 - \zeta_1^{-1}\zeta_2^{-2})(1 - \zeta_1^{-1}\zeta_2^{-1})} \\ c_1(\zeta) &= \frac{(1 - q^{-a}\omega\zeta^{-1})(1 - q^{-a}\omega^{-1}\zeta^{-1})(1 - q^{-2b}\zeta^{-2})(1 - q^{-a-2b}\zeta^{-1})(1 - q^{-a-2b}\zeta^{-1})}{(1 - \zeta^{-2})(1 - q^{-a}\zeta^{-1})(1 - q^{-a}\zeta^{-3})} \\ c_2(\zeta) &= \frac{(1 - q^{-2a}\zeta^{-2})(1 - q^{-2a-3b}\zeta^{-1})(1 - q^{-2a+3b}\zeta^{-1})}{(1 - \zeta^{-2})(1 - q^{3b}\zeta^{-1})(1 - q^b\zeta^{-1})}. \end{aligned}$$

Write $F(x) = x - 1$, $G(x) = x + 1$, $H(x) = x^2 + x + 1$, and $H'(x) = x^2 - x + 1$ and define

$$\begin{aligned} C_3 &= \frac{F(q^{2a+4b})F(q^{4a+6b})}{G(q^{2a})G(q^{2b})H(q^{2b})H(q^{2a+2b})} & C_4 &= \frac{q^{2a}F(q^{2a})F(q^{2b})}{2G(q^{2a})G(q^{2b})H(q^{a-b})H(q^{a+b})} & C_5 &= \frac{q^{2a}F(q^{2a})F(q^{2b})}{2G(q^{2a})G(q^{2b})H'(q^{a-b})H'(q^{a+b})} \\ C_6 &= \frac{q^{2b}F(q^{2a})F(q^{6a})}{H(q^{2b})H(q^{2a-2b})H(q^{2a+2b})} & C_7 &= \frac{q^{2a-4b}F(q^{-2a+4b})F(q^{4a-6b})}{G(q^{2a})G(q^{-2b})H(q^{-2b})H(q^{2a-2b})}. \end{aligned}$$

The Plancherel Theorem for \tilde{G}_2 from [23, §3.6] gives, for $h \in \overline{\mathcal{H}}$,

$$\mathrm{Tr}(h) = \frac{1}{12q^{6a+6b}} \int_{\mathbb{T}^2} \frac{\chi_0^2(h)}{|\zeta_0(\zeta)|^2} d\zeta_1 d\zeta_2 + \frac{F(q^{2a})^2}{2q^{2a+6b}F(q^{4a})} \int_{\mathbb{T}} \frac{\chi_1^2(h)}{|\zeta_1(\zeta)|^2} d\zeta + \frac{F(q^{2b})^2}{2q^{6a+4b}F(q^{4b})} \int_{\mathbb{T}} \frac{\chi_2^2(h)}{|\zeta_2(\zeta)|^2} d\zeta + \sum_{k=3}^7 |C_k| \chi_k(h)$$

where $d\zeta$ denotes the normalised Haar measure on the group \mathbb{T} (thus $\int_{\mathbb{T}} f(\zeta) d\zeta = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(e^{i\theta}) d\theta$).

9.2 The Plancherel formula, the cell decomposition, and tempered representations

It is convenient to group the representations that appear under integral signs in the Plancherel formula into classes $\Pi_0 = \{\pi_0^{\zeta} \mid \zeta \in \mathbb{T}^2\}$ and $\Pi_i = \{\pi_i^{\zeta} \mid \zeta \in \mathbb{T}\}$ for $i = 1, 2$. We make the following observations comparing the cell decomposition and the Plancherel formula in type \tilde{G}_2 . Consider the infinite cells Γ_i , $i = 0, 1, 2$. We have already seen that the (finite dimensional) cell representations associated to these cells are isomorphic to the representations π_0 , π_1 , and π_2 of the ‘generic’ Hecke algebra, and thus we associate these cells to the classes Π_0 , Π_1 , and Π_2 . Consider the finite cells. For example, suppose that $2 > r > 3/2$. In this case there are 4 finite cells. The cell representation afforded by the cell Γ_e is, of course, π_3 (in the above notation), and thus Γ_e is paired with π_3 . The cell representations constructed using any right cell contained in Γ_6 are pairwise isomorphic, and by computing weight spaces we have verified that this representation is isomorphic to the 5-dimensional representation π_7 (after extending scalars and specialising, of course). Finally, the cell representations constructed using right cells contained in Γ_3 (the red cell) are mutually isomorphic, and have dimension 6. Using a version of cell factorisation of Γ_3 it is not hard to see that this 6-dimensional representation naturally decomposes into two 3-dimensional representations, and we have checked that these representations are isomorphic to the representations π_4 and π_5 described above. Thus Γ_3 is paired with $\pi_4 \oplus \pi_5$.

This pattern also holds for all parameter regimes.

Observation 9.1. *For \tilde{G}_2 in each parameter regime there is a correspondence between the cells appearing in the cell decomposition of \mathcal{H} and the classes appearing in the Plancherel Theorem.*

As described above, this correspondence is not necessarily bijective, for example $\Gamma_3 \leftrightarrow \pi_4 \oplus \pi_5$. Let us describe the correspondence in one further interesting parameter case, when $a/b = 1$. Here there are only two finite cells. The cell Γ_e again corresponds to π_3 . There are two (non-isomorphic) cell modules associated to the right cells in Γ_3 , one of dimension 8, and one of dimension 7. It turns out that π_4 , π_5 , and π_6 appear as constituents of the 8-dimensional representation, and π_4 , π_5 and π_7 in the 7-dimensional representation.

We note that the tempered irreducible representations of \mathcal{H} are precisely the representations that appear in the Plancherel Theorem. This can be seen directly by classifying, via central characters and weight spaces, all irreducible tempered representations of \mathcal{H} in an analogous way to [25] and comparing with the Plancherel Theorem stated above. Thus, using Observation 9.1, we have the following.

Observation 9.2. *Every tempered irreducible representation in type \tilde{G}_2 is a submodule of a finite dimensional module afforded by a cell.*

9.3 The q -valuation of the Plancherel measure

Each rational function $f(q) = a(q)/b(q)$ can be written as $f(q) = q^{-N}a'(q^{-1})/b'(q^{-1})$ with $N \in \mathbb{Z}$ where $a'(q^{-1})$ and $b'(q^{-1})$ polynomials in q^{-1} nonvanishing at $q^{-1} = 0$. The integer N in this expression is uniquely determined, and is called the q -valuation of f , written $\nu_q(f) = N$. For example, $\nu_q((q^2 + 1)(q^3 + 1)/(q^7 - q + 1)) = 2$.

Definition 9.3. Let π be a representation appearing in the Plancherel formula, and let C be the ‘coefficient’ of the character χ_π in the Plancherel formula. Consider this coefficient as a rational function $C = C(q)$ in q by setting $q = q$. We define the q -valuation of π to be $\nu_q(\pi) = \nu_q(C(q))$.

For example the coefficient of χ_2^ζ in the \tilde{G}_2 Plancherel Theorem, considered as a rational function in q , is

$$\frac{(q^{2b} - 1)^2(1 - s^{-2})(1 - s^2)(1 - q^{3b}s^{-1})(1 - q^{3b}s)(1 - q^b s^{-1})(1 - q^b s)}{2q^{6a+4b}(q^{4b} - 1)(1 - q^{-2a}s^{-2})(1 - q^{-2a}s^2)(1 - q^{-2a-3b}s^{-1})(1 - q^{-2a-3b}s)(1 - q^{-2a+3b}s^{-1})(1 - q^{-2a+3b}s)},$$

and thus

$$\nu_q(\pi_2^\zeta) = \begin{cases} 2(a+b) & \text{if } a/b \leq 3/2 \\ 2(3a-2b) & \text{if } a/b > 3/2. \end{cases}$$

Note that we are really computing ν_q on ‘generic’ elements of Π_0 , Π_1 and Π_2 . For another example, we compute

$$\nu_q(\pi_7) = \nu_q \left(\frac{q^{2a-4b}(q^{-2a+4b} - 1)(q^{4a-6b} - 1)}{(q^{2a} + 1)(q^{-2b} + 1)(q^{-4b} + q^{-2b} + 1)(q^{4a-4b} + q^{2a-2b} + 1)} \right) = \begin{cases} 2a & \text{if } r < 1 \\ 2(3a-2b) & \text{if } 1 < r < 3/2 \\ 2(a+b) & \text{if } 3/2 < r < 2 \\ 2(3b) & \text{if } 2 < r. \end{cases}$$

Note that the values of the \mathbf{a} -function are arising in these examples. Indeed we have the following theorem by direct observation (note the similarity to the finite dimensional case).

Theorem 9.4. For all representations π appearing in the Plancherel formula for type \tilde{G}_2 we have $\nu_q(\pi) = 2\mathbf{a}_\pi$.

We now show that Theorem 9.4 allows us to endow Lusztig’s asymptotic algebra \mathcal{J}_Γ with a natural inner product inherited from the Plancherel Theorem. Recall that we have proved in Corollary 2.6 that for each $\Gamma \in \Lambda$ we have that \mathcal{J}_Γ is isomorphic to the \mathbb{Z} -algebra spanned by the leading matrices $\{\mathbf{c}_{\pi_\Gamma, w} \mid w \in \Gamma\}$. We thus identify \mathcal{J}_Γ with this concrete algebra, with $J_w \leftrightarrow \mathbf{c}_{\pi_\Gamma, w}$. Define an involution $*$ on \mathcal{J}_Γ by linearly extending $J_w^* = J_{w^{-1}}$.

From Theorem 9.4 we can define a measure $d\mu'$ on $\text{Irrep}(\overline{\mathcal{H}})$ by $d\mu(\pi) = q^{-2\mathbf{a}_\pi}(1 + \mathcal{O}(q^{-1}))d\mu'(\pi)$. For example, for $\pi \in \Pi_0$ we have

$$q^{-2\mathbf{a}_\pi} d\mu(\pi) = \frac{1}{12|c_0(\zeta)|^2} d\zeta = \frac{1}{12}(1 + \mathcal{O}(q^{-1})) \prod_{\alpha \in \Phi} |1 - \zeta^{\alpha^\vee}| d\zeta \quad \text{hence} \quad d\mu'(\pi) = \frac{1}{12} \prod_{\alpha \in \Phi} |1 - \zeta^{\alpha^\vee}| d\zeta.$$

Theorem 9.5. Let Γ be a two sided cell of \tilde{G}_2 and let Π be the representations in the Plancherel Theorem corresponding to Γ (under Observation 9.1). Let $g_1, g_2 \in \mathcal{J}_\Gamma$. The definition

$$\langle g_1, g_2 \rangle_\Gamma = \int_\Pi \text{tr}(g_1 g_2^*) d\mu'(\pi)$$

defines an inner product on \mathcal{J}_Γ with $\{J_w \mid w \in \Gamma\}$ an orthonormal basis.

Proof. It is clear that this formula defines a skew linear form. For $x, y \in W$ we have

$$\delta_{x,y} = \langle T_x, T_y \rangle = \int_{\text{Irrep}(\overline{\mathcal{H}})} \text{tr}(\pi(T_x)\pi(T_{y^{-1}}))d\mu(\pi) = \int_{\text{Irrep}(\overline{\mathcal{H}})} \text{tr}(q^{-\mathbf{a}_\pi}\pi(T_x) \cdot q^{-\mathbf{a}_\pi}\pi(T_{y^{-1}}))(1 + \mathcal{O}(q^{-1}))d\mu'(\pi).$$

Taking limits as $q \rightarrow \infty$, and using the explicit expression for the Plancherel Theorem for \tilde{G}_2 to see that the limit may be passed inside the integral. Thus we have

$$\delta_{x,y} = \int_{\text{Irrep}(\overline{\mathcal{H}})} \text{tr}(\mathbf{c}_{\pi, x}\mathbf{c}_{\pi, y^{-1}}) d\mu'.$$

Note that here we are using the direct observation that in \tilde{G}_2 the indexing set for the irreducible representations of $\overline{\mathcal{H}}$ does not depend on q (it only depends on a/b , and this is fixed throughout). Moreover, we interpret the process of specialising $q^{-1} = 0$ as $q \rightarrow \infty$. Note that the terms $\mathbf{c}_{\pi, x}\mathbf{c}_{\pi, y^{-1}}$ are zero if $x, y \notin \Gamma_\pi$, and hence $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_\Gamma$ defines an inner product on \mathcal{J}_Γ , and $\{J_w \mid w \in \Gamma\}$ is an orthonormal basis. \square

We note that the above theorem gives a conceptual reason (and alternative proof) of **P7**, for if $x, y, z \in \Gamma$ then

$$\gamma_{x,y,z} = \langle J_x J_y, J_{z^{-1}} \rangle_\Gamma = \langle J_y, J_{x^{-1}} J_{z^{-1}} \rangle_\Gamma = \langle J_y J_z, J_{x^{-1}} \rangle_\Gamma = \gamma_{y,z,x}.$$

9.4 Conjectures

We conclude this paper with some conjectures and their consequences.

Conjecture 9.6. *For each affine Hecke algebra in each parameter range there exists a system of balanced cell representations.*

The work of this paper shows that this result is true in type \tilde{G}_2 . Moreover, as seen in Section 2, assuming the truth of this conjecture one can show that Lusztig's \mathbf{a} -function satisfies $\mathbf{a}(w) \leq \mathbf{a}_\Gamma$ if $w \in \Gamma$ where $(\mathbf{a}_\Gamma)_{\Gamma \in \Lambda}$ are the bounds in **B2**. Further, we have equality if the balanced system satisfies the extra axiom **B4'**.

Conjecture 9.7. *Every tempered irreducible representation appears as a constituent of some cell representation. Thus there is a map Ω from the irreducible tempered representations to the set of cells.*

Conjecture 9.8. *Let π be an irreducible tempered representation and let $\Gamma = \Omega(\pi)$. Then $\mathbf{a}(w) = \nu_{\mathfrak{q}}(\pi)/2$ for all $w \in \Gamma$, where $\nu_{\mathfrak{q}}(\pi)$ denotes the \mathfrak{q} -valuation of the coefficient of π in the Plancherel Theorem.*

Conjecture 9.9. *The construction of the inner product in Theorem 9.5 generalises to arbitrary affine type.*

The analysis of this paper proves all four conjectures in type \tilde{G}_2 .

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