

# On $(B_N, A_{N-1})$ parabolic Kazhdan–Lusztig Polynomials

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## 1 Introduction

Kazhdan and Lusztig introduced Kazhdan–Lusztig polynomials  $P_{x,y}$  indexed by two elements  $x$  and  $y$  of an arbitrary Coxeter group [4]. These polynomials are the coefficients of the change of basis from the standard basis of the Hecke algebra to Kazhdan–Lusztig basis. In [3], Deodhar introduced the concept of parabolic Kazhdan–Lusztig polynomials  $P_{\alpha,\beta}^{\pm}$  for a Coxeter group. They are associated to the induced representation of the Hecke algebra by the one-dimensional representations of parabolic subgroups. Lascoux and Schützenberger gave an algorithm to compute  $P_{\alpha,\beta}^+$  by using the binary tree (recall this is for Grassmannian permutations) [5]. Brenti gave a description of  $P_{\alpha,\beta}^-$  via the concept of (shifted) “Dyck partition” through the analysis of  $R$ -polynomials and the poset structure of the Bruhat order [2]. Boe gave a binary tree algorithm to compute  $P_{\alpha,\beta}^+$  for all Hermitian symmetric pairs [1]. In this paper, we study the Kazhdan–Lusztig polynomials in the case of unequal Hecke parameters for the Hermitian symmetric pair  $(B_N, A_{N-1})$ . Our analysis has the flavour of the concept of tangles and link patterns used in statistical mechanics and that of Temperley–Lieb algebra [7]. The plan of the paper is as follows. In Section 2, we introduce Kazhdan–Lusztig polynomials and their parabolic analogues. In Section 3, we introduce a concept of Ballot strips and new diagrammatic rules 0, I and II to stack these strips in a skew Ferrers diagram. After defining generating functions  $Q_{\alpha,\beta}^{\pm}$  for stacking of strips, we provide the inversion relations for  $Q_{\alpha,\beta}^{\pm}$ . Section 4 is devoted to the analysis of Kazhdan–Lusztig polynomials  $P_{\alpha,\beta}^-$ . The point is that we are able to compute  $P_{\alpha,\beta}^-$  directly through link patterns. Together with the inversion formula for  $Q^{\pm}$ , we show  $Q^{\pm} = P^{\pm}$ . In Section 5, we generalize the binary tree algorithm introduced in [1, 5]. This gives an alternative combinatorial algorithm for the computation of  $P^+$ . Further, the generating

function  $Q^+$  introduced in Section 3 is shown to be equal to the generating function of a generalized binary tree.

## 2

Let  $S_N, S_N^C$  be the finite Weyl groups associated with the Dynkin diagram of type  $A$  and  $C$ . Let  $w = s_{i_1} \dots s_{i_r}$  be a reduced word in  $S_N^C$ . The length functions  $l, l', l_N : S_N^C \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  are defined by  $l'(w) = \text{Card}\{i_j : 1 \leq i_j \leq N-1\}$ ,  $l_N(w) = \text{Card}\{i_j : i_j = N\}$  and  $l(w) := l'(w) + l_N(w) = r$ . The symmetric group  $S_N$  of  $N$  letters is a subgroup of  $S_N^C$ . The restriction of  $l$  on  $S_N$  is the standard length function of  $S_N$ . We use a natural partial order in  $S_N^C$ , known as the (strong) *Bruhat* order. We write  $w' \leq w$  if and only if  $w'$  can be obtained as a subexpression of a reduced expression of  $w$ .

The Iwahori-Hecke algebra  $\mathcal{H}$  of type  $B_N$  is an unital, associative algebra over  $\mathbb{C}[t, t^{-1}, t_N, t_N^{-1}]$  satisfying

$$\begin{aligned} (T_i - t)(T_i + t^{-1}) &= 0, & 1 \leq i \leq N-1, \\ (T_N - t_N)(T_N + t_N^{-1}) &= 0, \\ T_i T_{i+1} T_i &= T_{i+1} T_i T_{i+1}, \\ T_{N-1} T_N T_{N-1} T_N &= T_N T_{N-1} T_N T_{N-1}, \\ T_i T_j &= T_j T_i, & |i - j| > 1. \end{aligned}$$

The set  $\{T_w\}_{w \in S_N^C}$  is the standard monomial basis of  $\mathcal{H}$ .

We consider the two cases for the Hecke parameters  $(t, t_N)$ :

**Case A**  $t$  and  $t_N$  are algebraically independent with the lexicographic order  $t > t_N$ ,

**Case B**  $t_N = t^m$  with some positive integer  $m$ .

We denote  $t^{l'(w)} t_N^{l_N(w)}$  for Case A, and  $t^{l'(w) + ml_N(w)}$  for Case B by  $\mathbf{t}^{l(w)}$ .

We define the bar involution of  $\mathcal{H}$ ,  $\mathcal{H} \ni a \mapsto \bar{a}$  by  $T_i \mapsto T_i^{-1}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq N$  together with  $t^p \mapsto t^{-p}$  for  $p \in \mathbb{N}_+$  (for Case A and B) and  $t_N \mapsto t_N^{-1}$ .

We consider the abelian group  $\Gamma^A = \{t^i t_N^j | i, j \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  and  $\Gamma^B = \{t^i | i \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ . Introduce the lexicographic order  $\Gamma^X = \Gamma_+^X \cup \{1\} \cup \Gamma_-^X$  ( $X = A, B$ ) where

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_+^A &:= \{t^i t_N^j | i > 0, j \in \mathbb{Z}\} \cup \{t_N^i | i > 0\}, \\ \Gamma_+^B &:= \{t^i | i > 0\}. \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 1** ([6]). *There exists a unique basis  $\{C_w : w \in S_N^C\}$  and a unique polynomial  $P_{v,w}$  such that  $\overline{C_w} = C_w$  and*

$$C_w = \sum_{v \leq w} \mathbf{t}^{l(v)-l(w)} P_{v,w} T_v,$$

where  $\mathbf{t}^{l(v)-l(w)} P_{v,w} \in \mathbb{Z}(\Gamma_-^X)$ .

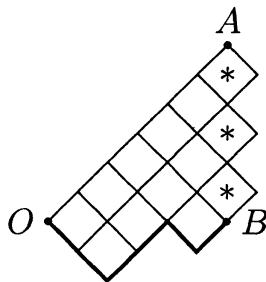
### 2.1 The coset space

Let  $W^N$  be the left coset space  $S_N^C/S_N$ . The following objects are bijective to each other:

- (i) A minimal (maximal) representative of the coset  $W^N$ .
- (ii) A binary string  $\{1, 2\}^N$ . Let  $\mathcal{P}_N$  be the set of binary strings in  $\{1, 2\}^N$ .
- (iii) A path from  $(0, 0)$  to  $(N, n)$  with  $|n| \leq N$  and  $N - n \in 2\mathbb{Z}$  where each step is in the direction  $(1, \pm 1)$ .
- (iv) A *shifted Ferrers diagram* specified by a path.

We introduce the sign  $\epsilon = \pm$ . The maximal (resp. minimal) representatives in  $W^N$  corresponds to  $\epsilon = +$  (resp.  $\epsilon = -$ ).

**Example 1.** *Let  $\alpha = 221121$  and  $\epsilon = +$ . The path  $\alpha$  is the lowest path from  $O$  to  $B$  and the path  $111111$  is the up-right one from  $O$  to  $A$ . As a maximal representation in  $W^N$ ,  $w^+(\alpha) = s_5 s_6 s_2 s_3 s_4 s_5 s_6 s_1 s_2 s_3 s_4 s_5 s_6$ . The boxes with  $*$  are called *anchor boxes*.*



### 2.2 Parabolic Kazhdan–Lusztig polynomials

An element  $w \in S_N^C$  is uniquely written as  $w = xw'$  such that  $x \in W^N$  and  $w' \in S_N$ . The projection  $\varphi : S_N^C \rightarrow W^N$  induces two natural projections  $\varphi^\pm : \mathcal{H} \cong \mathbb{C}[S_N^C] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}[W^N]$ ,  $T_w \mapsto (\pm t^{\pm 1})^{l(w')} m_{\varphi(w)}$ , where  $\{m_w\}_{w \in W^N}$  is the standard basis of  $\mathbb{C}[W^N]$ .

Let  $\alpha \in \{1, 2\}^N$  be a binary string and  $\mathcal{M}^\pm := \mathbb{C}[W^N]$ . The action of  $\mathcal{H}$  on the module  $\mathcal{M}^\epsilon$  with  $\epsilon \in \{+, -\}$  is given by

$$T_i m_\alpha = \begin{cases} \epsilon t^\epsilon m_\alpha & \alpha_i = \alpha_{i+1}, \\ m_{s_i \cdot \alpha} & \alpha_i < \alpha_{i+1}, \\ m_{s_i \cdot \alpha} + (t - t^{-1})m_\alpha & \alpha_{i+1} < \alpha_i, \end{cases} \text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq N - 1,$$

$$T_N m_\alpha = \begin{cases} m_{s_N \cdot \alpha} & \alpha_N = 1, \\ m_{s_N \cdot \alpha} + (t_N - t_N^{-1})m_\alpha & \alpha_N = 2, \end{cases}$$

for both Case A and B.

We introduce parabolic Kazhdan–Lusztig basis:

**Theorem 2** (Deodhar). *There exists a unique basis  $\{C_x^\pm\}_{x \in W^N}$  of  $\mathcal{M}^\pm$  and a unique polynomial  $P_{x,y}^{X,\pm}$  such that  $\overline{C_x^\pm} = C_x^\pm$  and*

$$C_y^\pm = \sum_{x \leq y} \mathbf{t}^{l(x)-l(y)} P_{x,y}^{X,\pm} m_x,$$

where  $X \in \{A, B\}$ ,  $P_{y,y}^\pm = 1$  and  $\mathbf{t}^{l(x)-l(y)} P_{x,y}^{X,\pm} \in \mathbb{Z}(\Gamma_-^X)$ .

The Kazhdan–Lusztig polynomials satisfy

**Theorem 3** (Inversion formula). *Let  $X \in \{A, B\}$ . We have the inversion formula for  $P^{X,\pm}$ :*

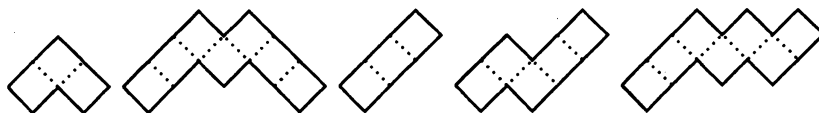
$$\sum_{\alpha} (-1)^{|\alpha|+|\beta|} P_{\alpha,\beta}^{X,-} P_{\alpha,\gamma}^{X,+} = \delta_{\beta,\gamma}$$

### 3 Combinatorics

#### 3.1 Ballot strips

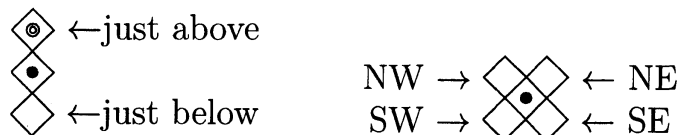
A *Ballot path* of length  $(l, l') \in \mathbb{N}^2$  is a path from  $(x, y) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$  to  $(x + 2l + l', y + l')$  and over the horizontal line  $y$ .

A *Ballot strip* of length  $(l, l') \in \mathbb{N}^2$  is obtained by putting unit boxes (45 degree rotated) whose center are at the vertices of a Ballot path of length  $(l, l')$ .



The length is  $(1, 0)$ ,  $(3, 0)$ ,  $(0, 2)$ ,  $(1, 2)$  and  $(2, 2)$  from left.

We name boxes around a box as follows:



For example, the box  $\diamond$  is said to be just above the box  $\diamond$

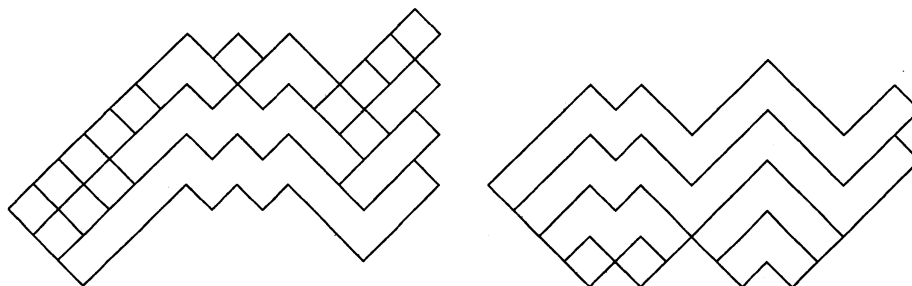
Recall the definition of an anchor box in the skew Ferrers diagram. We put a constraint for a Ballot strip as follows.

**Rule 0:** Case A and B: The rightmost box of a Ballot strip of length  $(l, l')$  with  $l' \geq 1$  is on an anchor box.

Let  $\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{D}'$  be Ballot strips. We define two rules to pile  $\mathcal{D}'$  on top of  $\mathcal{D}$  in addition to Rule 0.

- Rule I:** (a) Case A & B: If there exists a box of  $\mathcal{D}$  just below a box of  $\mathcal{D}'$ , then all boxes just below a box of  $\mathcal{D}'$  belong to  $\mathcal{D}$ .  
 (b) Case B: Suppose  $l' \geq m$ . The number of Ballot strips of length  $(l, l')$  is even for  $l' - m \in 2\mathbb{Z}$ , and zero for otherwise.

- Rule II:** (a) Case A& B: If there exists a box of  $\mathcal{D}'$  just above, NW or NE of a box of  $\mathcal{D}$ , then all boxes just above, NW and NE of a box of  $\mathcal{D}$  belong to  $\mathcal{D}$  or  $\mathcal{D}'$ .  
 (b) Case B: Suppose  $l' \geq m$ . If there exists a Ballot strip  $\mathcal{D}$  of length  $(l, l')$  with  $l' - m \in 2\mathbb{Z}$ , then there is a strip of length  $(l'', l' + 1), l'' \geq l$  just above  $\mathcal{D}$ .



**Example 2.**

*Examples of stacks of Ballot strips satisfying Rule I (left) and Rule II (right).*

Roughly speaking, Rule I (resp. Rule II) means that we are allowed to pile Ballot strips of smaller or equal (resp. longer) length on top of a Ballot strip. Further, there is at most one configuration satisfying Rule II.

### 3.2 Generating functions

Let  $\mathcal{B}$  be a Ballot strip of length  $(l, l') \in \mathbb{N}^2$ . The weight  $\text{wt}^X(\mathcal{B})$  for a Ballot strip  $\mathcal{B}$  is given by

$$\text{wt}^A(\mathcal{B}) := \begin{cases} t^{2l+l'}, & l' \text{ is even,} \\ -\sigma t^{2l} t_N^2 & l' \text{ is odd.} \end{cases} \quad \text{for Case A.}$$

$$\text{wt}^B(\mathcal{B}) := \begin{cases} \sigma^{l'} t^{2l+l'}, & 0 \leq l' \leq m-1 \\ t^{m+2l+l'} & l' \geq m, l' - m \in 2\mathbb{Z}, \\ t^{m+2l+l'-1} & l' \geq m, l' - m - 1 \in 2\mathbb{Z}, \end{cases} \quad \text{for Case B.}$$

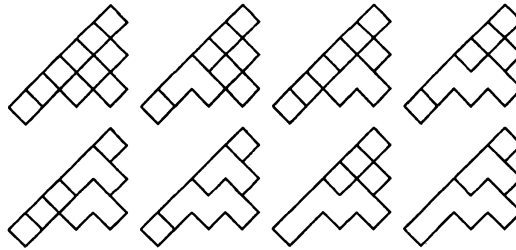
where  $\sigma = +$  (resp.  $-$ ) in case of Rule I (resp. Rule II).

**Definition 1.** The generating function of Ballot strips for the paths  $\alpha < \beta$  with the sign  $\epsilon$  is defined by

$$Q_{\alpha,\beta}^{X,Y,\epsilon} = \sum_{\mathcal{C} \in \text{Conf}^Y(\alpha,\beta)} \prod_{\mathcal{B} \in \mathcal{C}} \text{wt}^X(\mathcal{B}).$$

where  $X \in \{A, B\}$ ,  $Y \in \{I, II\}$  and  $\epsilon \in \{+, -\}$ . Define  $Q_{\alpha,\alpha}^{X,Y,\epsilon} = 1$ .

**Example 3.** Let  $(\alpha, \beta) = (111111, 211212)$ . The possible configurations of Ballot strips for Case A and Case B ( $m \geq 2$ ) are



The generating functions are

$$\begin{aligned} Q_{\alpha,\beta}^{A,I,+} &= 1 + 2t^2 + 2t^4 + t^6 - s^2t^4 - s^2t^6, \\ Q_{\alpha,\beta}^{B,I,+} &= (1 + t^2)^2(1 + t^4), \quad m \geq 2, \\ Q_{\alpha,\beta}^{B,I,+} &= 1 + 2t^2 + 2t^4 + t^6, \quad m = 1. \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 4** (Inversion Formula). The generating functions  $Q_{\alpha,\beta}^{X,Y,\epsilon}$  satisfy

$$\sum_{\beta} Q_{\alpha,\beta}^{X,I,-} Q_{\beta,\gamma}^{X,II,-} (-1)^{|\beta|+|\gamma|} = \delta_{\alpha,\gamma}$$

*The outline of the proof.* Let us fix a configuration of Ballot strips in the region delimited by paths  $\alpha$  and  $\gamma$ . This region is divided into two by a path  $\beta$ . The region delimited by paths  $\alpha$  (resp.  $\gamma$ ) and  $\beta$  satisfies Rule I (resp. Rule II). Note that  $\beta$  depends on the configuration and there may be several possible choices of  $\beta$ .  $\beta$  is specified by choices of “boundary” strips, which can belong to the region governed either by Rule I or Rule II. We have

$$\sum_{\beta} Q_{\alpha,\beta}^{X,I,-} Q_{\beta,\gamma}^{X,II,-} (-1)^{|\beta|+|\gamma|} = \sum_{\mathcal{C}} |\text{wt}(\mathcal{C})| \sum_{\beta \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C})} \text{sign}(\mathcal{C}) (-1)^{|\beta|+|\gamma|},$$

where  $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C})$  is the set of paths  $\beta$  between  $\alpha$  and  $\gamma$  such that the region below  $\beta$  satisfy Rule I and the one above  $\beta$  satisfy Rule II. By taking the sum over all possible  $\beta$ 's for the fixed configuration, we have  $\sum_{\beta \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C})} \text{sign}(\mathcal{C}) (-1)^{|\beta|+|\gamma|} = 0$ . Here, We take care about the sign  $\sigma = \pm$ .  $\square$

## 4 Kazhdan–Lusztig polynomials $P_{\alpha,\beta}^{\pm}$

The relations among the Kazhdan–Lusztig polynomials  $P_{\alpha,\beta}^{\pm}$  and the generating functions  $Q_{\alpha,\beta}^{X,\epsilon}$  that we shall establish in subsequent sections are summarized as:

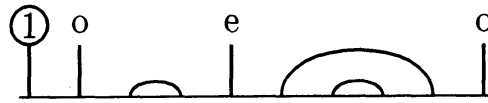
$$\begin{array}{ccc} P_{\alpha,\beta}^{-} = Q_{\alpha,\beta}^{II,-} & \xleftrightarrow{\text{transpose}} & Q_{\alpha,\beta}^{II,+} \\ \updownarrow \text{inverse} & & \updownarrow \text{inverse} \\ Q_{\alpha,\beta}^{I,-} & \xleftrightarrow{\text{transpose}} & P_{\alpha,\beta}^{+} = Q_{\alpha,\beta}^{I,+} \end{array}$$

### 4.1 Module $\mathcal{M}^{-}$ : link pattern for Case A

Let  $\alpha \in \mathcal{P}_N$  be a binary string of length  $N$ . We make a pair between adjacent 2 and 1 (in this order) in the string  $\alpha$  and remove it from  $\alpha$ . We continue this procedure until it becomes a sequence  $1 \dots 12 \dots 2$ . We call these remaining 1's (resp. 2's) as unpaired 1's (resp. 2's). The  $(2i - 1)$ -th (resp.  $2i$ -th) unpaired 2 from the right is called as an o-unpaired (resp. e-unpaired) 2.

We introduce a graphical notation for these pairs, an unpaired 1, an e- and o-unpaired 2. Consider a line with  $N$  points. If  $\alpha_i$  and  $\alpha_j$  make a pair, then we connect  $i$  and  $j$  via an arch. If  $\alpha_i$  is an unpaired 1, we put a vertical line with a circled 1. If  $\alpha_i$  is an e-unpaired (resp. o-unpaired) 2, we put a vertical line with a mark e (resp. o). We call this graphical notation as a *link pattern* for Case A.

**Example 4.** Let  $\alpha = 1221222112$ . The link pattern is



Recall that the module  $\mathcal{M}^-$  is spanned by the set of basis  $\{m_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \mathcal{P}_N}$ . The space is isomorphic to  $V^N$  where  $V \cong \mathbb{C}^2$  has the standard basis  $\{|1\rangle, |2\rangle\}$ . When  $i$ -th component of the tensor product is  $x \in \{1, 2\}$ , we denote it by  $|x\rangle_i$ . We simply write  $|xx'\rangle_{ij}$  for the tensor product  $|x\rangle_i \otimes |x'\rangle_j$  and sometimes denoted by  $|xx'\rangle$  if the components are obvious. Hereafter, we identify a base  $m_\alpha, \alpha \in \{1, 2\}^N$  with  $|\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_N\rangle$ .

An arch, vertical line with e,o and a circled 1 are building blocks of a link pattern corresponding to a string  $\alpha \in \{1, 2\}^N$ . We introduce a map  $\varpi^A$  from these building blocks to a vector in  $V^2$  or  $V$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \text{arch} &\mapsto |21\rangle + t^{-1}|12\rangle, \\ \text{o} \text{ on stem} &\mapsto |2\rangle + t_N^{-1}|1\rangle, \\ \text{e} \text{ on stem} &\mapsto |2\rangle + t^{-1}t_N|1\rangle, \\ \text{circled 1 on stem} &\mapsto |1\rangle \end{aligned}$$

Then, we extend the map  $\varpi^A$  to a link pattern for a string  $\alpha$ .

**Example 5.**

$$\begin{aligned} \varpi^A(1212) &= \text{Diagram: circled 1, arch, o} \\ &= |1\rangle_1 \otimes (|21\rangle_{23} + t^{-1}|12\rangle_{23}) \otimes (|2\rangle_4 + t_4^{-1}|1\rangle_4) \\ &= m_{1212} + t^{-1}m_{1122} + t_4^{-1}m_{1211} + t^{-1}t_4^{-1}m_{1121} \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 5.** An element  $\varpi^A(\alpha)$  is Kazhdan–Lusztig basis  $C_\alpha^{A,-}$ .

**Corollary 1.**

$$Q_{\alpha,\beta}^{A,II,-} = P_{\alpha,\beta}^{A,-}$$

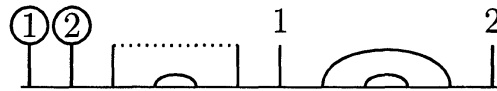
### 4.2 Module $\mathcal{M}^-$ : link pattern for Case B

Let  $\alpha \in \mathcal{P}_N$  be a binary string. We make pairs between 2's and 1's. Then, we have remaining unpaired 1's and 2's as Case A. If  $\alpha_i$  is the  $j$ -th ( $1 \leq j \leq m$ )



unpaired 2 from the right, put a vertical line with the integer  $m + 1 - j$ . If  $\alpha_i$  and  $\alpha_{i'}$  with  $i < i'$  are the  $j$ -th and  $(j + 1)$ -th unpaired 2's with  $j \geq m + 1$  and  $j - m + 1 \in 2\mathbb{Z}$ , put vertical lines (on the  $i$ -th and  $i'$ -th point) whose endpoints are connected by a dotted line. If  $\alpha_i$  is an unpaired 1 or a remaining unpaired 2 not classified above, then we put a vertical line with a circled 1 or a circled 2 respectively on the  $i$ -th point. We call this graph as a *link pattern* for Case B.

**Example 6.** Let  $\alpha = 122212222112$  and  $m = 2$ . The link pattern is



We define the map  $\varpi^B$  from the building blocks to a vector in  $V$  or  $V^2$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \text{arc} &\mapsto |21\rangle + t^{-1}|12\rangle, \\ \begin{array}{c} p \\ | \\ \square \end{array} &\mapsto |2\rangle + (-1)^{m-p}t^{-p}|1\rangle, \\ \begin{array}{c} \dots \\ | \\ \square \end{array} &\mapsto |22\rangle + t^{-1}|11\rangle, \\ \begin{array}{c} \textcircled{x} \\ | \\ \square \end{array} &\mapsto |x\rangle, \quad x \in \{1, 2\}. \end{aligned}$$

Together with the map from a binary string to a link pattern, we naturally extend the map  $\varpi^B$  from a binary string to a vector in  $\mathcal{M}^-$ , and denote it by  $\varpi^B$ .

**Theorem 6.** An element  $\varpi^B(\alpha)$  is Kazhdan–Lusztig basis  $C_\alpha^-$ .

**Corollary 2.**

$$Q_{\alpha,\beta}^{B,II,-} = P_{\alpha,\beta}^-.$$

### 4.3 Module $\mathcal{M}^+$ : Case A & B

We prove that the generating functions  $Q_{\alpha,\beta}^{X,II,-}$ ,  $X = A, B$  are equal to the Kazhdan–Lusztig polynomials  $P_{\alpha,\beta}^-$ . The generating function  $Q_{\alpha,\beta}^\pm$  satisfy the inversion relation which is exactly the same as the inversion formula (Theorem 3). Therefore, we have

**Theorem 7.**

$$Q_{\alpha,\beta}^{X,I,+} = P_{\alpha,\beta}^+.$$

## 5 Binary tree

Let  $\mathcal{Z}$  be a set such that  $\emptyset \in \mathcal{Z}$ ,  $z \in \mathcal{Z} \Rightarrow 1z2 \in \mathcal{Z}$  and if  $z_1, z_2 \in \mathcal{Z}$  then the concatenation  $z_1z_2 \in \mathcal{Z}$ .

A binary string  $\alpha$  is of the form  $\underline{2}z_1\underline{2}z_2 \dots \underline{2}z_p\underline{1}z_{p+1}\underline{1} \dots \underline{1}z_q$  for some integer  $p, q \geq 0$  with  $z_i \in \mathcal{Z}$ . We call an underlined 1 (resp. 2) as an unpaired 1 (resp. 2).

We denote by  $\|\alpha\|$  the length of a binary string  $\alpha$  and by  $\|\alpha\|_\sigma$  the number of  $\sigma$  in the string  $\alpha$ . Let  $\alpha = \alpha'v\underline{w}\alpha''$  and  $\beta = \beta'\underline{12}\beta''$  with  $\|\alpha'\| = \|\beta'\|$ ,  $v, w \in \{1, 2\}$ . A *capacity* of the edge corresponding to the underlined 1 and 2 in  $\beta$  is defined by

$$\text{cap}(12) := \|\alpha'v\|_1 - \|\beta'1\|_1.$$

Let  $\alpha = \alpha'v$  and  $\beta = \beta'\underline{1}$ . Similarly, the capacity of underlined 1 is defined by

$$\text{cap}(1) := \|\alpha\|_1 - \|\beta\|_1.$$

Note that the condition  $\alpha \leq \beta$  implies a capacity is always non-negative.

The capacity of  $\beta$  with respect to  $\alpha$  is the collection of capacities of pairs of adjacent 1 and 2 in  $\alpha$  and that of the rightmost 1 in  $\beta$  if it exists.

### 5.1 Case A

We divide unpaired 1's into two classes. In  $\alpha$ , the  $(2i - 1)$ -th (resp.  $2i$ -th) unpaired 1 from the right is called o-unpaired (resp. e-unpaired) 1.

A binary tree  $A(\alpha)$  satisfies

- ( $\diamond$ 1)  $A(\emptyset)$  is the empty tree.
- ( $\diamond$ 2)  $A(2w) = A(w)$ .
- ( $\diamond$ 3)  $A(zw)$ ,  $z \in \mathcal{Z}$  is obtained by attaching the tree for  $A(z)$  and  $A(w)$  at their roots.
- ( $\diamond$ 4)  $A(1z2)$ ,  $z \in \mathcal{Z}$  is obtained by attaching an edge just above the tree  $A(z)$ .
- ( $\diamond$ 5) If unpaired 1 in  $\underline{1}w$  is e-unpaired (resp. o-unpaired) 1,  $A(1w)$  is obtained by attaching an edge just above the tree  $A(w)$  and mark the edge with "e" (resp. "o").

The capacity of  $\beta$  with respect to  $\alpha$  is written as integers on leaves of  $A(\beta)$ . Denote by  $A(\beta/\alpha)$  a tree equipped with capacities.

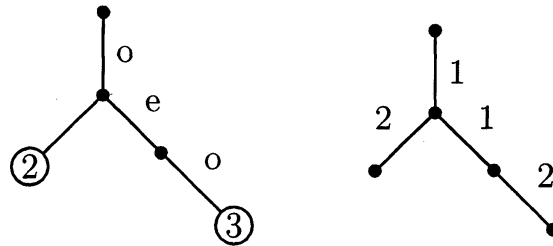
A *labelling* of  $A(\beta/\alpha)$  is a set of non-negative integers on edges of  $A(\beta)$  satisfying

- (♣1) An integer on an edge connecting to a leaf is less than or equal to its capacity.
- (♣2) Integers on edges are non-increasing from leaves to the root.

Let  $\sigma, \sigma_e, \sigma_o$  be the sum of labels on edges without “e” and “o”, with “e”, with “o”.

**Definition 2.** The generating function  $R_{\alpha,\beta}^A$  of labellings on  $A(\beta/\alpha)$  is defined by  $R_{\alpha,\beta}^A = \sum_{\nu} t^{2\sigma} (-t_N^2)^{\sigma_o} (-t^2/t_N^2)^{\sigma_e}$ , where the sum runs over all labellings of  $A(\beta/\alpha)$ .

**Example 7.** Let  $(\alpha, \beta) = (1111111, 2211211)$ . The binary tree  $A(\beta)$  and a labelling is



The capacities of a pair 12 and o-unpaired 2 are 2 and 3 respectively. The weight of the labelling is  $t^4 t_N^4$ .

**Theorem 8.**

$$Q_{\alpha,\beta}^{A,I,-} = R_{\alpha,\beta}^A$$

### 5.2 Case B

If  $\alpha_i$  is the  $(m + 1 - j)$ -th ( $1 \leq j \leq m$ ) unpaired 1 from the right, we call this as *j-terminal* 1. If  $\alpha_i$  and  $\alpha_{i'}$  with  $i < i'$  are the  $j$ -th and  $(j + 1)$ -th unpaired 1's with  $j \geq m + 1$  and  $j - m$  odd, we make a pair these 1's and call it a *11-pair*. If  $\alpha_i$  is an unpaired 1 and not classified above, we call this as an *extra-unpair* 1.

$A(\beta)$  is defined recursively by the following rules. The rules  $(\diamond 1)$ - $(\diamond 4)$  are the same as Case A. We replace  $(\diamond 5)$  by the following four conditions:

- ( $\diamond 5'$ ) If underlined 1 in  $\underline{1}w$  is the  $j$ -terminal with  $1 \leq j \leq m$ ,  $A(\underline{1}w)$  is obtained by putting an edge just above the tree  $A(w)$ . Then mark this edge with a plus “+” only when  $j = 1$ .
- ( $\diamond 6$ ) Suppose underlined 1 in  $\underline{1}z\underline{1}w$  is a 11-pair. The tree  $A(\underline{1}z\underline{1}w)$  is obtained by attaching an edge above the root of  $A(zw)$ . We mark the edge with a plus “+”.
- ( $\diamond 7$ ) If the underlined 1 in  $\underline{1}w$  is an extra-unpair 1, we have  $A(\underline{1}w) = A(w)$ .
- ( $\diamond 8$ ) When an edge  $e$  immediately “precedes” an edge  $e'$  in the binary tree  $A(w)$ , we put a dotted arrow from the edge  $e$  to the edge  $e'$ .

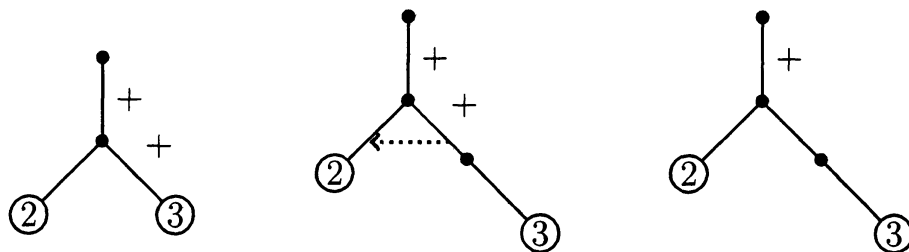
Further, we need an additional information on the tree. Suppose  $w = w'z_{m+2r}1 \dots z_11z_0$  with  $z_i \in \mathcal{Z}$  and  $r \geq 0$  ( $z_{m+2r}$  is non-empty and maximal). Set  $w'' = 1z_{m+2r-1}1 \dots z_11z_0$  such that  $w = w'z_{m+2r}w''$  and  $z_{m+2r} = x_sx_{s-1} \dots x_1$  with  $x_i \in \mathcal{Z}$ . Here, all  $x_i$ 's can not be decomposed further into a product of non-empty elements in  $\mathcal{Z}$ . Then the tree  $A(x_i)$  contains a unique maximal edge (the edge connecting to the root) corresponding to a pair 12.  $A(w'')$  contains a unique maximal edge corresponding to a 11-pair or a 1-terminal. Observe that  $A(x_i) \subseteq A(w)$ ,  $A(w'') \subseteq A(w)$  as binary trees. We say that the maximal edge of  $A(x_i)$  (resp.  $A(w'')$ ) *immediately precedes* the maximal edge of  $A(x_{i+1})$  (resp.  $A(x_1)$ ) for  $1 \leq i \leq s$ .

- ( $\diamond 8$ ) When an edge  $e$  immediately precedes an edge  $e'$  in the binary tree  $A(w)$ , we put a dotted arrow from the edge  $e$  to the edge  $e'$ .

In addition to ( $\clubsuit 1$ ) and ( $\clubsuit 2$ ) (the same as Case A), we require

- ( $\clubsuit 3$ ) An integer attached to any edge with a plus “+” must be even.
- ( $\clubsuit 4$ ) If the label on an edge is less than or equal to the labels on all “preceding” edges, then the former must be even.

**Example 8.** Let  $\alpha = 22111211$ . The binary trees for  $\alpha$  with  $m = 1, 2$  and 3 from left to right.



Given a labelling  $\nu$ , let  $|\nu|$  be the sum of the labels on all edges  $A(\beta/\alpha)$ .

**Definition 3.** The generating function  $R_{\alpha,\beta}^B$  of labellings on  $A(\beta, \alpha)$  is defined by  $R_{\alpha,\beta}^B = \sum_{\nu} t^{2|\nu|}$ .

**Theorem 9.**

$$P_{\alpha,\beta}^{B,+} = Q_{\alpha,\beta}^{B,I,+} = R_{\alpha,\beta}^B.$$

### 5.3 Outline of the proof of Theorems 8 and 9

**Theorem 10.** There exists a bijection between labellings of  $A(\beta/\alpha)$  and configurations of Ballot strips between paths  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  satisfying Rule I.

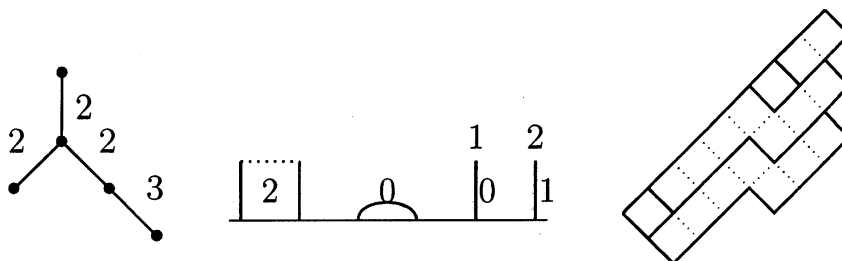


Figure 1: A bijection among a binary tree, a labelled link pattern and a configuration of Ballot strips.

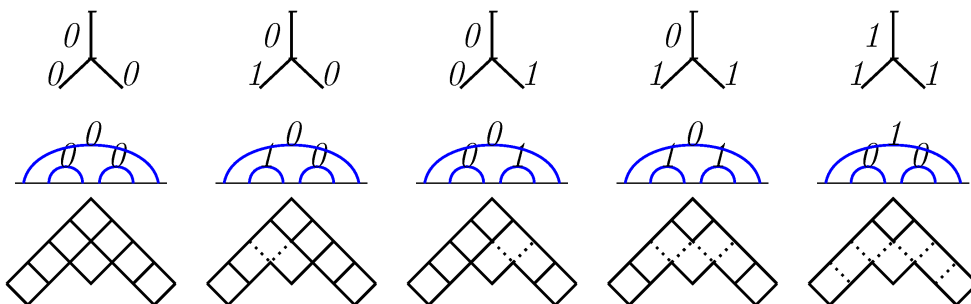
We take a “dual” graph of a binary tree  $A(\beta)$  to obtain a link pattern. In Case A, an edge without a mark (resp. with “o” or “e”) in a binary tree corresponds to an arch (resp. a vertical line with “o” or “e”) in the link pattern. In Case B, an edge without “+” in a binary tree corresponds to an arch (corresponding to a pair 12) or a vertical line with the integer  $p$  with  $2 \leq p \leq m$  in the link pattern. An edge with “+” in a binary tree corresponds to a vertical line with the integer 1 or to an arch for a paired 1’s in the link pattern. Notice that the map from link patterns to trees is not one-to-one without fixing the string  $\beta$ : for some cases in Case B, we cannot distinguish an arch from a vertical line in a link pattern by looking at only the binary tree (see Figure 1).

An edge of the binary tree corresponds to an arch of the link pattern. We put a non-negative integer on an arch of the obtained link pattern in the following way: 1) For a given arch, we put the difference of integers on the corresponding and parent edges of  $A(\beta)$ . 2) On the smallest arch, the integer is less than or equal to the capacity of the corresponding leaf of  $A(\beta)$ . We call the link pattern with non-negative integers on arches as labelled link pattern.

Note that we have a bijection between a labelling of  $A(\beta/\alpha)$  and a labelled link pattern (for a given binary string  $\beta$ ).

We stack Ballot strips according to the labelling of the link pattern. We put a corresponding Ballot strip starting from outer arches to inner ones. Then, we merge the overlapped boxes.

**Example 9.** A bijection for  $(\alpha, \beta) = (11112222, 21121221)$ .



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