

Sandpiles and Hopf algebras

Vic Reiner
Univ. of Minnesota

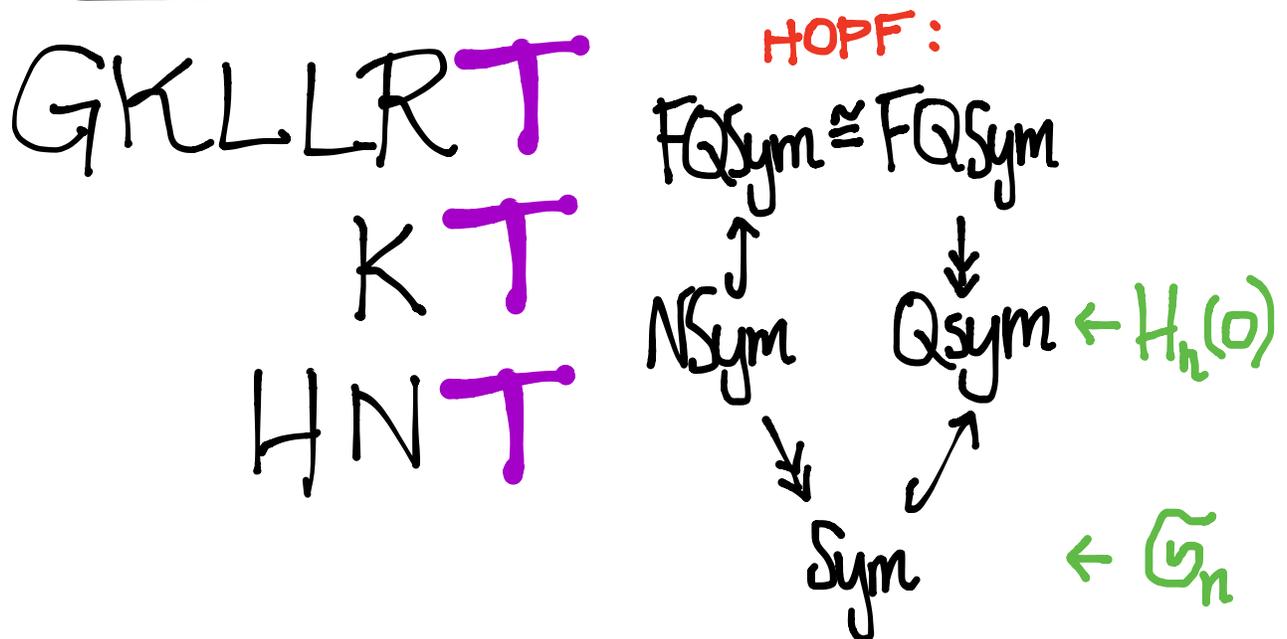
(joint with Benkart & Kivans,
Gaetz,
Grinberg & Huang)

ThibonFest March 27, 2017
Séminaire Lotharingien 78, Ottrott

Hommage à T...

T Unimodal permutations
Lie idempotents

LT
LLT Rep theory



OUTLINE

Laplacian &
sandpile group for a...

- ... graph
- ... group representation
- ... module over a
Hopf algebra

Graphs

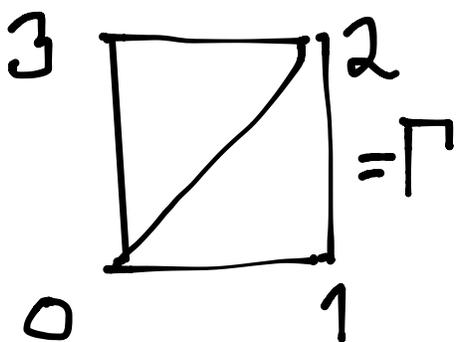
$\Gamma = (V, E)$ an undirected multigraph
 $V = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, \ell\}$

$$L_{\Gamma} := D_{\Gamma} - A_{\Gamma}$$

graph Laplacian diagonal matrix of vertex degrees adjacency matrix

$$(L_{\Gamma})_{ij} = \begin{cases} \deg_{\Gamma}(i) & \text{if } i=j \\ -\#\{\text{edges } i \text{ to } j\} & \text{if } i \neq j \end{cases}$$

EXAMPLE



$$L_{\Gamma} = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & 3 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

The graph Laplacian L_Γ is

- symmetric, positive semi-definite

$$(L_\Gamma = \partial\partial^T \text{ where } \mathbb{R}^E \xrightarrow{\partial} \mathbb{R}^V)$$

- has $\mathbb{R} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \subseteq \ker(L_\Gamma)$

- equality here $\iff \Gamma$ connected

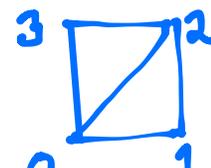
- and then its eigenvalues
 $0 \leq \lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_\ell$

let one count the spanning trees in Γ

$$\tau(\Gamma) = \frac{\lambda_1 \lambda_2 \dots \lambda_\ell}{\ell + 1}$$

Alternatively,

$$\tau(\Gamma) \stackrel{\text{Kirchhoff's Matrix-Tree Theorem}}{=} \det \left(\underbrace{L_\Gamma - \begin{Bmatrix} 0^{\text{th}} \text{ row,} \\ 0^{\text{th}} \text{ column} \end{Bmatrix}}_{\text{reduced Laplacian } \bar{L}_\Gamma} \right)$$

EXAMPLE $\Gamma =$  has

$$\tau(\Gamma) = 8 = \# \{ \Gamma, \square, \sqsupset, \sqsubset, \sqcap, \sqcup, \rceil, \lrcorner \}$$

$$L_\Gamma = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & 3 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix} \text{ with eigenvalues}$$
$$0 \leq 2 \leq 4 \leq 4$$
$$\lambda_0 \quad \lambda_1 \quad \lambda_2 \quad \lambda_3$$

$$\tau(\Gamma) = \frac{\lambda_1 \lambda_2 \lambda_3}{4} = \frac{2 \cdot 4 \cdot 4}{4} = 8 \checkmark$$

$$\tau(\Gamma) = \det \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = 2(3 \cdot 2 - 1) + (-1 \cdot 2 - 0)$$
$$\bar{L}_\Gamma \rightsquigarrow \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = 10 - 2 = 8 \checkmark$$

REMARK:

Eigenvalues of L_{Γ} are known
for many families of graphs,
letting one compute $\tau(\Gamma)$:

graphs with large symmetry

- complete graphs,
complete multipartite graphs
- distance-regular graphs

graphs with inductive structure

- threshold graphs, co-graphs
- cubes, Cartesian products

What about L_Γ as a **integral** map

$$\mathbb{Z}^V \xrightarrow{L_\Gamma} \mathbb{Z}^V \quad ?$$

e.g. its **rank** when **reduced mod p** ?

This can be encoded by

$$\text{coker}(\mathbb{Z}^V \xrightarrow{L_\Gamma} \mathbb{Z}^V) := \mathbb{Z}^V / \text{im}(L_\Gamma)$$

$$\cong \mathbb{Z} \oplus K(\Gamma)$$

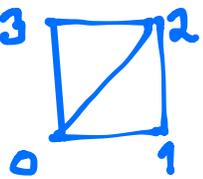
or **critical group**
sandpile group

Alternatively,

$$K(\Gamma) = \text{coker}(\mathbb{Z}^l \xrightarrow{\bar{L}_\Gamma} \mathbb{Z}^l)$$

and $K(\Gamma)$ is finite $\iff \Gamma$ connected

$$\# K(\Gamma) = \tau(\Gamma) = \# \text{spanning trees in } \Gamma$$

EXAMPLE $\Gamma =$  has

$$L_{\Gamma} = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & 3 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix} \text{ with } \text{coker} \left(\mathbb{Z}^4 \xrightarrow{L_{\Gamma}} \mathbb{Z}^4 \right) \\ \cong \mathbb{Z} \oplus \underbrace{\mathbb{Z}/8\mathbb{Z}}_{K(\Gamma)}$$

because L_{Γ} has Smith normal form

$$PL_{\Gamma}Q = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 8 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad P, Q \in GL_4(\mathbb{Z})$$

Alternatively, using reduced Laplacian \bar{L}_{Γ}

$$K(\Gamma) = \text{coker} \left(\mathbb{Z}^3 \xrightarrow{\begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}} \mathbb{Z}^3 \right) \\ \cong \mathbb{Z}/8\mathbb{Z}$$

via an equivalent Smith calculation.

So, e.g., $\text{rank}_{\mathbb{F}_2}(L_{\Gamma}) = 2$ (not 0 or 1)

Why sandpile or critical group?
The reduced Laplacian \bar{L}_Γ is an
avalanche-finite matrix:

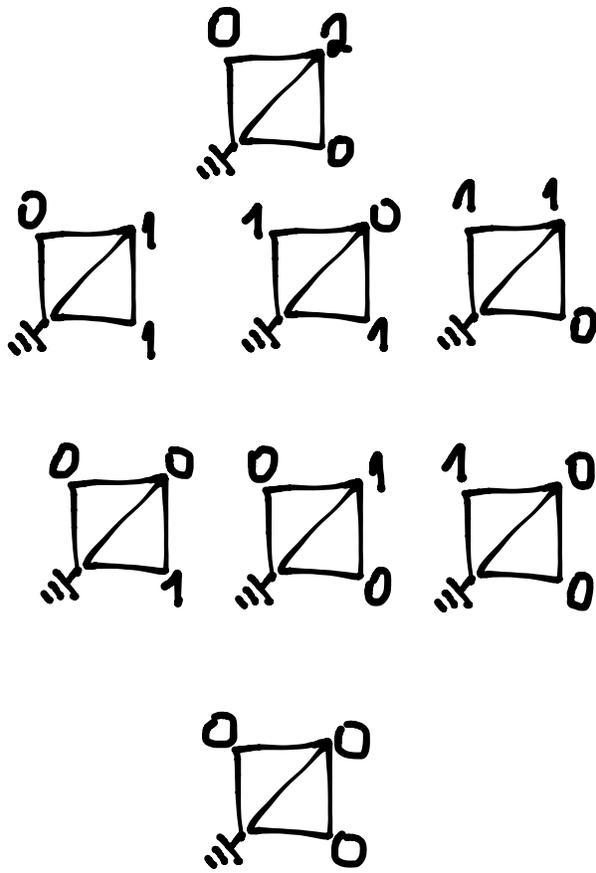
- entries in \mathbb{Z}
- off-diagonal entries ≤ 0
- invertible, with inverse entries ≥ 0

$\implies \exists$ two interesting classes
of coset representatives for

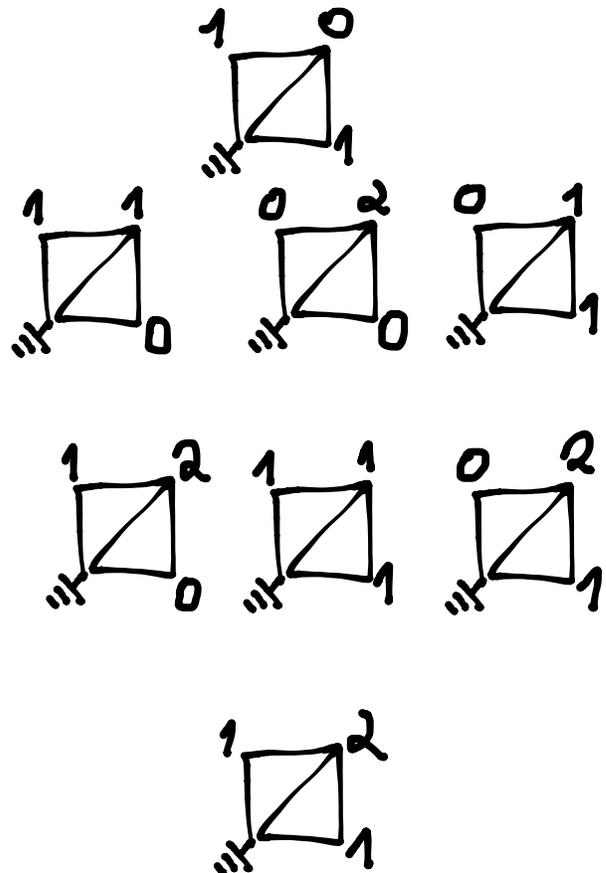
$$K(\Gamma) = \mathbb{Z}^l / \text{im } \bar{L}_\Gamma$$

(lying in \mathbb{N}^l , namely the

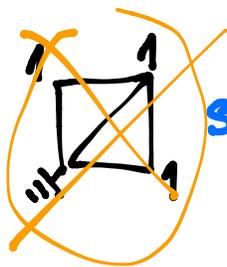
- critical (= stable, recurrent) configurations
- superstable configurations



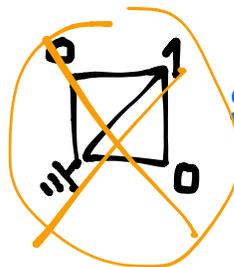
superstable configurations



critical configurations



stable, but not superstable



stable, but not recurrent

Now for (ordinary)

Finite group representations

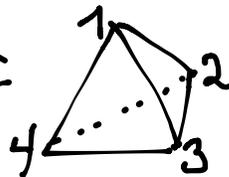
- G a finite group
- irreducible/simple complex G -representations / $\mathbb{C}G$ -modules

trivial $\mathbb{1}_G = S_0, S_1, S_2, \dots, S_l$
 G -rep

- characters $\chi_0, \chi_1, \dots, \chi_l$

EXAMPLE

$G = C_4 =$ rotational symmetries of



	e	(123)	(132)	$(12)(34)$
$\mathbb{1}_G = \chi_0$	1	1	1	1
χ_1	1	ω	ω^2	1
χ_2	1	ω^2	ω	1
χ_3	3	0	0	-1

$\omega = e^{2\pi i/3}$

DEFINITION: Given a representation

$G \xrightarrow{\rho} GL_n(\mathbb{C})$, define...

- McKay matrix $M_\rho = (m_{ij})$

$$\left(\chi_{\rho \circ \sigma} \right) \chi_i \chi_\rho = \sum_{j=0}^l m_{ij} \chi_j$$

- $L_\rho := nI_{l+1} - M_\rho$

- $\overline{L}_\rho := L_\rho - \begin{Bmatrix} \chi_\rho \text{ row} \\ \chi_\rho \text{ column} \end{Bmatrix}$

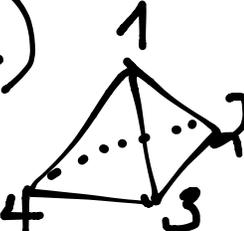
- $K(\rho) := \text{coker}(\mathbb{Z}^l \xrightarrow{\overline{L}_\rho} \mathbb{Z}^l)$

or

$$\mathbb{Z} \oplus K(\rho) = \text{coker}(\mathbb{Z}^{l+1} \xrightarrow{L_\rho} \mathbb{Z}^{l+1})$$

EXAMPLE

$$G = \mathcal{O}_4 \xrightarrow{\rho} \text{SO}_3(\mathbb{R}) \cong \text{GL}_3(\mathbb{C})$$

via rotational symmetries of 

	e	(123)	(132)	(12)(34)
$\chi_0 = \mathbb{1}_G$	1	1	1	1
χ_1	1	ω	ω^2	1
χ_2	1	ω^2	ω	1
χ_3	3	0	0	-1

$$\chi_0 \chi_\rho = \chi_1 \chi_\rho = \chi_2 \chi_\rho = \chi_\rho = 1 \chi_3$$

$$\chi_3 \chi_\rho = 1 \chi_0 + 1 \chi_1 + 1 \chi_2 + 2 \chi_3$$



$$M_\rho =$$

$$\begin{matrix} \chi_0 & \chi_1 & \chi_2 & \chi_3 \\ \chi_0 & \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \\ \chi_1 & \\ \chi_2 & \\ \chi_3 & \end{matrix}$$

$$M_p = \begin{matrix} & \chi_0 & \chi_1 & \chi_2 & \chi_3 \\ \chi_0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ \chi_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ \chi_2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ \chi_3 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 2 \end{matrix}$$

McKay matrix

$$L_p = 3I_4 - M_p = \begin{matrix} & \chi_0 & \chi_1 & \chi_2 & \chi_3 \\ \chi_0 & 3 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ \chi_1 & 0 & 3 & 0 & -1 \\ \chi_2 & 0 & 0 & 3 & -1 \\ \chi_3 & -1 & -1 & -1 & 1 \end{matrix}$$

$$\bar{L}_p = \begin{matrix} & \chi_1 & \chi_2 & \chi_3 \\ \chi_1 & 3 & 0 & -1 \\ \chi_2 & 0 & 3 & -1 \\ \chi_3 & -1 & -1 & 1 \end{matrix} \xrightarrow{\text{Smith normal form}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$K(p) = \text{coker } \bar{L}_p \cong \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$$

Sandpile group

Why is $\text{coker } L_\rho = \mathbb{Z} \oplus \underbrace{\text{coker } \bar{L}_\rho}_{K(\rho)}$?

Because L_ρ has

$$\bar{s} = \begin{bmatrix} \chi_0(e) \\ \chi_1(e) \\ \vdots \\ \chi_\rho(e) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ s_1 \\ \vdots \\ s_\rho \end{bmatrix}$$

as both **right** and **left**-nullvector.

EXAMPLE

$$L_\rho \bar{s} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

THEOREM

The inclusion $\mathbb{R}\bar{s} \subseteq \ker L_\rho$ is an **equality**

$\Leftrightarrow G \xrightarrow{\rho} \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{C})$ is **faithful**!

More generally, the columns of the character table

$$\bar{s}(g) := \begin{bmatrix} \chi_0(g) \\ \chi_1(g) \\ \vdots \\ \chi_l(g) \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{and re-ordered columns}$$
$$\bar{s}^*(g) := \begin{bmatrix} \chi_0^*(g) \\ \chi_1^*(g) \\ \vdots \\ \chi_l^*(g) \end{bmatrix}$$

give right and left eigenbases for M_ρ, L_ρ :

$$\sum_{j=0}^l m_{ij} \chi_j(g) = \chi_i(g) \chi_\rho(g)$$

$$\Rightarrow M_\rho \bar{s}(g) = \chi_\rho(g) \bar{s}(g)$$

$$L_\rho \bar{s}(g) = \underbrace{(n - \chi_\rho(g))}_{\text{eigenvalues of } L_\rho} \bar{s}(g)$$

THEOREMS & EXAMPLES

THEOREM (Benkart-Klivans-R.)

Faithful **abelian** group reps $G \xrightarrow{\rho} GL_n(\mathbb{C})$

$$\text{have } K(\rho) = \underbrace{K(\Gamma)}_{\substack{\text{(di-)graph} \\ \text{sandpile group}}}$$

where Γ is the **Cayley digraph** for
the group of G -characters

$G = \{\chi_0, \chi_1, \dots, \chi_\ell\}$ with respect to the

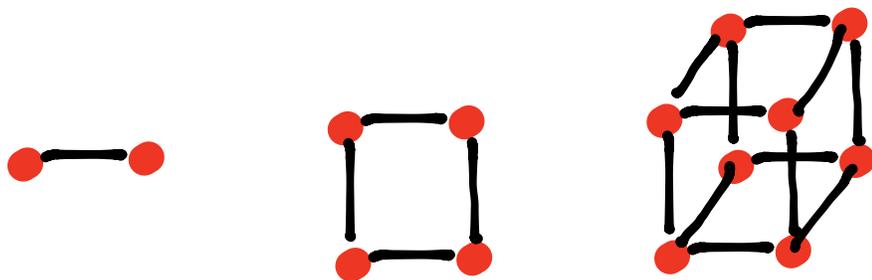
generating multiset $\{\chi_{i_1}, \dots, \chi_{i_n}\}$,

where $\chi_\rho = \chi_{i_1} + \dots + \chi_{i_n}$.

EXAMPLE

$$G = (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^n \xrightarrow{\rho} \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{C})$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_1 \\ \epsilon_2 \\ \vdots \\ \epsilon_n \end{bmatrix} \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} (-1)^{\epsilon_1} & & & \\ & (-1)^{\epsilon_2} & & \\ & & \bigcirc & \\ & & \vdots & \\ \bigcirc & & & (-1)^{\epsilon_n} \end{bmatrix}$$

has $K(\rho) = K(n\text{-cube})$



THEOREM (Gaetz) For any faithful representation ρ of G ,

$$\#K(\rho) = \frac{1}{\#G} \cdot \prod_{\substack{G\text{-conj. classes} \\ [g] \neq \{e\}}} (n - \chi_\rho(g))$$

EXAMPLE $G = U_4 \xrightarrow{\rho} SO_3(\mathbb{R}) \subset GL_3(\mathbb{C})$

had $K(\rho) = 74/372$

	e	(123)	(132)	(12)(34)
χ_ρ	3	0	0	-1

$$\#K(\rho) = \frac{1}{12} (3-0)(3-0)(3-(-1)) = 3$$

EXAMPLE (Guetz)

The regular representation of G

$$G \xrightarrow{\text{reg}_G} \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{C})$$

where $n = \#G$, has $\#(G\text{-conjugacy classes}) - 2$

$$K(\text{reg}_G) \cong (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})$$

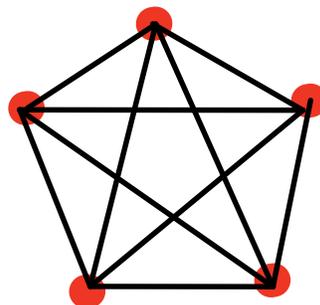
\Downarrow G abelian

$$K(\text{reg}_G) \cong (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^{n-2}$$

\Downarrow $G = \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$

$$K(K_n) \cong (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^{n-2}$$

complete graph



K_5

THEOREM (Benkart-Kivans-R)

For faithful G -reps ρ ,
 \bar{L}_ρ is an **avalanche-finite** matrix,
so one can compute in
 $K(\rho) = \text{coker}(\bar{L}_\rho)$ via topping
with **superstable** or **critical**
coset representatives in \mathbb{N}^3

EXAMPLE (continued)

$$\bar{L}_\rho = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 3 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix} \quad \text{with } K(\rho) = \langle \langle 2, 2, 0 \rangle \rangle$$

x_1	x_2	x_3
0	0	0
1	0	0
0	1	0

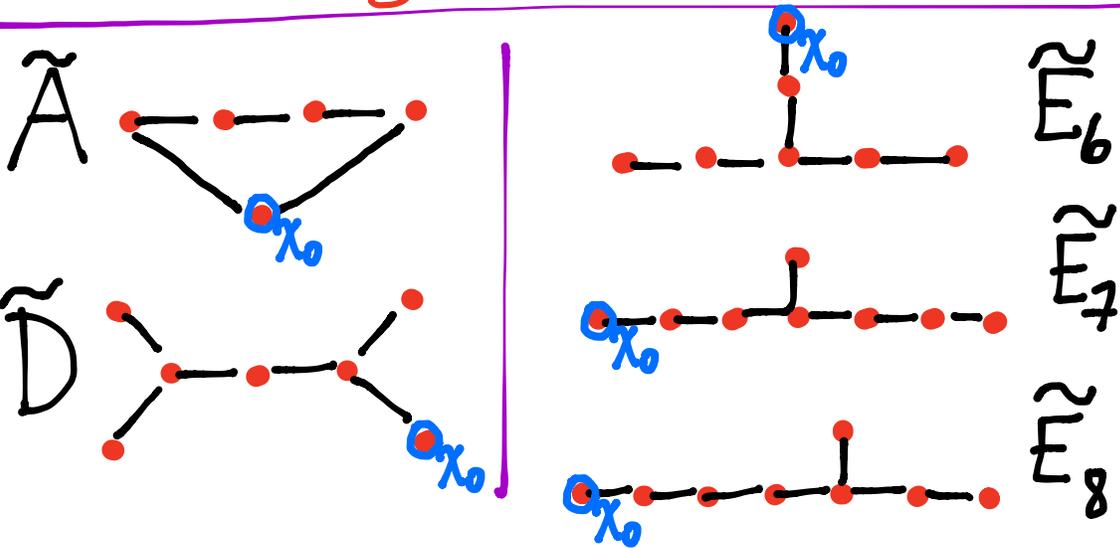
superstables

x_1	x_2	x_3
2	2	0
1	2	0
2	1	0

criticals

McKay's original setting:

THEOREM (McKay 1980) If $G_1 \hookrightarrow \mathcal{P} \rightarrow SL_2(\mathbb{C})$ then \bar{L}_ρ, L_ρ are the **Cartan** and **extended Cartan** matrices for Φ a simply-laced finite **root system**, and the McKay digraph is the (bidirected) **affine Dynkin diagram** for Φ .



THEOREM (Benkart-Klivans-R)

In McKay's original setting of

$$G \hookrightarrow \mathcal{P} \rightarrow SL_2(\mathbb{C}), \quad \text{one has}$$

$$K(\mathcal{P}) \cong G^{ab} = G/[G, G]$$

abelianization
of G

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \cong \text{weight lattice } (\Phi) \\ \hline \text{root lattice } (\Phi) \\ \text{fundamental group of } \underline{\mathbb{C}} \\ \cong \pi_1 \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{adjoint} \\ \text{compact Lie} \\ \text{group for } \Phi \end{array} \right) \end{array} \right]$$

Hopf algebras

Let A be a finite dimensional algebra over an algebraically closed field \mathbb{F}

$$\Rightarrow A \cong \bigoplus_{i=0}^l P_i \oplus \dim S_i$$

left-regular
A-module

where S_0, S_1, \dots, S_l are the simple A-modules

P_0, P_1, \dots, P_l the indecomposable projective A-modules

Now assume A is also a Hopf algebra:

• coproduct $A \xrightarrow{\Delta} A \otimes A$ defines A -mod $V \otimes W$

• counit $A \xrightarrow{\epsilon} \mathbb{F}$ Trivial A -mod S_0 on \mathbb{F}

• antipode $A \xrightarrow{\alpha} A$ Left and right duals ${}^*V, V^*$

EXAMPLE $A = \mathbb{F}G$ = group algebra for a finite group G , with

• coproduct $g \mapsto g \otimes g$

• counit $g \mapsto 1$

• antipode $g \mapsto g^{-1}$

Instead of working with characters χ_V ,
work in Grothendieck group $G_0(A)$,

where A -module sequences

$$0 \rightarrow U \rightarrow V \rightarrow W \rightarrow 0$$

give relations $[V] = [U] + [W]$.

Then $G_0(A) \cong \mathbb{Z}^{l+1}$ with

\mathbb{Z} -basis $[S_0], [S_1], \dots, [S_l]$

$$\text{and } [V] = \sum_{i=0}^l [v : s_i] [S_i].$$

composition
multiplicity of
 S_i in V

One has multiplication from

$$[V][W] := [V \otimes W].$$

DEFINITION: For an A -module V , let

- $M_V \in \mathbb{Z}^{(l+1) \times (l+1)}$ express the map
McKay matrix

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G_0(A) & \xrightarrow{(-) \cdot [V]} & G_0(A) \\ \parallel & & \parallel \\ \mathbb{Z}^{l+1} & & \mathbb{Z}^{l+1} \end{array}$$

that is, $(M_V)_{ij} := [S_j \otimes V : S_i]$

- $L_V = \underset{l+1}{nI} - M_V$ where $n := \dim V$

- $\mathbb{Z} \oplus K(V) := \text{coker} \left(\mathbb{Z}^{(l+1)} \xrightarrow{L_V} \mathbb{Z}^{(l+1)} \right)$
sandpile group

When is $K(V)$ finite?
 Need to generalize $G \hookrightarrow \mathcal{P} \rightarrow GL_n(\mathbb{C})$
 being faithful:

THEOREM (Grinberg-Huang-R)

$K(V)$ is finite

$\iff V$ is tensor-rich

every A -simple S_i occurs
 in at least one $V^{\otimes k} = \underbrace{V \otimes \dots \otimes V}_{k\text{-fold}}$

$\iff L_V := L_V - \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{row, column} \\ \text{indexed by} \\ S_0 = e \end{array} \right\}$
 is avalanche-finite

REMARK: For G -modules V

V tensor-rich $\iff V$ faithful
 Burnside

REMARK: In general,
 $\mathbb{Z} \oplus \underbrace{K(V)} = \text{coker}(L_V)$
 ~~\cong~~
 $\text{coker}(\bar{L}_V)$

unless A is **semisimple** as an algebra
(e.g. $A = \mathbb{F}G$ with $\mathbb{F}G \in \mathbb{F}^x$).

But in the **semisimple** case, one can
again compute in $K(V) = \text{coker}(\bar{L}_V)$ via
sandpiles in \mathbb{N}^l and \bar{L}_V .

Nullvectors & eigenvectors

PROPOSITION

Let $\bar{s} := [s_0, s_1, \dots, s_l]^t$ where $s_i = \dim S_i$
 $\bar{p} := [p_0, p_1, \dots, p_l]^t$ $p_i = \dim P_i$

Then \bar{p}, \bar{s} are left, right **nullvectors** for L_V .

PROPOSITION For $A = \mathbb{F}G$, the Brauer character table columns

$\bar{s}(g) := [\chi_{S_0}(g), \dots, \chi_{S_l}(g)]^t$ for **regular** $g \in G$

and (permuted) indecomposable **projective**

Brauer character table columns

$\bar{p}(g) := [\chi_{*P_0}(g), \dots, \chi_{*P_l}(g)]^t$

give left and right **eigenbases** for L_V .

For tensor-rich A -modules V ,
what is $\#K(V)$?

A lemma of Lorenzini implies this:

PROPOSITION If L_V has eigenvalues

$0 = \lambda_0, \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_l$ then

$$\#K(V) = \frac{\chi(A)}{\dim A} \lambda_1 \lambda_2 \cdots \lambda_l$$

where $\chi(A) := \gcd\{\dim P_i\}_{i=0,1,\dots,l}$

QUESTION:

Does $\chi(A)$ have more meaning
in terms of structure of A ?

PROPOSITION: For $A = \mathbb{F}G$, with $\text{char } \mathbb{F} = p$
 $\chi(A)$ = the size of any p -Sylow subgroup
 $= p^a$ where $\#G = p^a q$
 with $\text{gcd}(p, q) = 1$

COROLLARY: For $A = \mathbb{F}G$,
 and an A -module V of dimension n ,

$$\#K(V) = \frac{p^a}{\#G} \prod_{\substack{p\text{-regular} \\ G\text{-conj. classes} \\ [g] \neq \{e\}}} (n - \chi_V(g))$$

Brauer character

The left regular A -module A itself is always tensor-rich.

THEOREM (Ginzberg-Huang-R)

For any finite dim'l Hopf algebra A ,

$$K(A) \cong \mathbb{Z}/\gamma\mathbb{Z} \oplus \left(\mathbb{Z}/d\mathbb{Z} \right)^{\ell-1}$$

where $\gamma := \gamma(A)$

$d := \dim A$

$\ell := \# \{ \text{non-trivial simple } A\text{-modules } S_1, \dots, S_\ell \}$

Various questions on finite-dimensional Hopf algebras arise...

Thanks to the

S.L.C.,

and a big

THANKS

to Jean-Yes!