

# Bruhat orders: classical and for Lusztig-Vogan

## Outline

- Classical Bruhat Order

- On the Weyl group
- $B\backslash G/B$

- LV's Bruhat order

- $K\backslash G/B$  order
- several definitions for the module

- Atlas

### ① Classical Bruhat order

First, combinatorially.

- Fix a Coxeter system  $(W, S)$ . For all our examples we take  $W = S_3 = \langle s, t \mid s^2 = 1, sts = tst \rangle$

$$S = \{s, t\}$$

- An expression of  $w \in W$  is a tuple  $(s_1, \dots, s_k) \in \coprod_{n \geq 0} S^n$   
such that  $w = s_1 s_2 \dots s_k$ .

e.g.  $(s, t, s, s, t)$  is an expression of  $stsst = stt = s$

We say an expression of  $w$  is reduced if it has minimal length

- Rk: Reduced expressions may not be unique  
e.g.  $(s, t, s)$  and  $(t, s, t)$  are reduced expressions of  $sts = tst \in W$ .

THM (Matsumoto 1964)

Any two reduced expressions of  $w \in W$  are related by braid relations.

- The length of  $w \in W$ , denoted  $\ell(w)$ , is the length of its reduced expression.

DEF The (strong) Bruhat order on  $W$  is a partial order  $\leq$  defined as follows.

For  $u, v \in W$ , say  $u \leq v$  iff some subexpression of a reduced expression of  $v$  is a (reduced) expression of  $u$ .

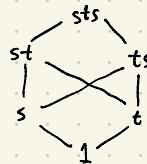
e.g.  $sts \in W$  has reduced expr.  $(t, s, t)$

which has subexpressions  $\emptyset, (t), (s), (t, s), (s, t), (t, s, t)$

e.g.  $st \in W$  has reduced expr.  $(s, t)$

which has subexpressions  $\emptyset, (s), (t), (s, t)$

The Hasse diagram of the Bruhat order on  $S_3$  is



Why do we care?

- The Bruhat order controls terms appearing in  $KL$ -basis of Hecke alg.  $\mathcal{H}(W, S)$ :

$$b_x = \delta_x + \sum_{y \leq x} h_{y,x} b_y$$

and these are related to  $\text{KL}$ -cells and decomposition numbers.

## On $B$ -orbits of $G/B$

We do an example to illustrate the idea

- let  $B = \text{SL}_3(\mathbb{C}) = \{M \in M_{3 \times 3}(\mathbb{C}) : \det M = 1\}$

Take standard Borel subgroup

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} * & * & * \\ * & * & * \\ * & * & * \end{pmatrix} \subset \text{SL}_3(\mathbb{C})$$

Take standard maximal torus

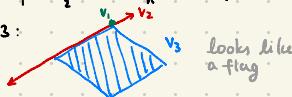
$$T = \begin{pmatrix} * & & \\ & * & \\ & & * \end{pmatrix} \subset B \subset \text{SL}_3(\mathbb{C})$$

- The full flag variety is  $X := G/B$

↳ A full flag of vector space  $V$  is a chain of inclusions of subspaces

$$\{0\} \subset V_1 \subset V_2 \subset \dots \subset V_n = V \quad \text{where } \dim V_i = i$$

e.g.  $n=3$ :



-  $G/B$  has points given by full flags in  $\mathbb{C}^3$ .

Q How do we see this?

- Fix a basis for  $V = \mathbb{C}^3$ . Let any  $3 \times 3$  invertible matrix  $g \in GL_3(\mathbb{C})$  act on a complete flag

$$\{0\} \subset V_1 \subset V_2 \subset V_3 = \mathbb{C}^3$$

by sending it to another full flag.

$$\{0\} \subset gV_1 \subset gV_2 \subset gV_3 = \mathbb{C}^3.$$

Think of  $g$  as "changing the basis". For example: the standard flag

$$\{0\} \subset \langle e_1 \rangle \subset \langle e_1, e_2 \rangle \subset \langle e_1, e_2, e_3 \rangle = \mathbb{C}^3 \quad \text{where } \{e_i\} \text{ are the standard basis,}$$

is sent to

$$\{0\} \subset \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle \subset \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle \subset \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle = \mathbb{C}^3$$

by the action of

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 3 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in GL_3(\mathbb{C}).$$

• It is clear that  $GL_3(\mathbb{C})$  acts transitively on the set of flags in  $\mathbb{C}^3$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 0 = \langle e_1 \rangle \subset \langle e_1, e_2 \rangle \subset \langle e_1, e_2, e_3 \rangle & \xrightarrow{\text{any flag}} & 0 = \langle e_1 \rangle \subset \langle e_1, e_2, e_3 \rangle \xrightarrow{\text{std. flag}} 0 = \langle e_1 \rangle \subset \langle e_1, e_2 \rangle \subset \langle e_1, e_2, e_3 \rangle \\ \text{any flag} & & \text{std. flag} & \xrightarrow{\text{any other flag}}$$

You can also think about any matrix in  $GL_3(\mathbb{C})$  as a flag. This is not unique:  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & & \\ & 1 & \\ & & 2 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $\begin{pmatrix} 2 & & \\ & 2 & \\ & & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  represent the same flag.

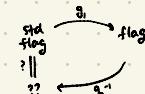
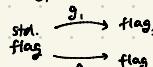
• We have  $\text{Stab}_{GL_3(\mathbb{C})}(0 = \langle e_1 \rangle \subset \langle e_1, e_2 \rangle \subset \langle e_1, e_2, e_3 \rangle) = \begin{pmatrix} * & * & * \\ * & * & * \\ * & * & * \end{pmatrix} \subset GL_3(\mathbb{C})$

" $\supset$ " is clear

" $\subseteq$ " because if  $g \in GL_3(\mathbb{C})$  and  $g \langle e_1, \dots, e_i \rangle \subset \langle e_1, \dots, e_i \rangle$ , then  $ge_i = \alpha_1 e_1 + \dots + \alpha_i e_i$  because  $ge_i \in g \langle e_1, \dots, e_i \rangle \subset \langle e_1, \dots, e_i \rangle$  so  $g$  must be upper triangular.

• Then  $GL_3^{(G)} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} * & * & * \\ * & * & * \\ * & * & * \end{pmatrix} \right\}$  = set of flags up to iso. of vector spaces

This is because  $g_1, g_2 \in GL_3(\mathbb{C})$  define the same flag if  $g_2^{-1}g_1$  stabilises std.flag, i.e. if  $g_2^{-1}g_1 \in \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} * & * & * \\ * & * & * \\ * & * & * \end{pmatrix} \right\} \subset GL_3(\mathbb{C})$



If you were watching closely, you may notice that  $aI$  for  $a \in \mathbb{C}$  act trivially on flags (just scale the bases).

So we may rescale all the matrices to have  $\det=1$ , i.e. look at  $SL_3(\mathbb{C})$  instead. The whole story is the same

-  $B$  acts on  $G/B$  on the left by matrix multiplication, i.e. by usual matrix action on flags.  
What are the  $B$  orbits? i.e. What is  $BG/B$ ?

### THM (Bruhat decomposition)

Let  $G$  be conn. reductive alg. group over alg. closed field,  $B \subseteq G$  a Borel subgroup,  $W$  a Weyl group of  $G$  correspond to a maximal torus in  $B$ . Then

$$G = \coprod_{w \in W} BwB.$$

e.g.  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$  ↑ "Bruhat cells"

#### Remark

In  $GL_n(\mathbb{C})$ , the Bruhat decomposition is effectively "Gaussian elimination"  
because we have  $W = S_n = \{\text{permutation matrices in } GL_n(\mathbb{C})\}$ , so

$$g = b_1 w b_2 \iff w^{-1} b_1^{-1} g = b_2$$

should be read as

"Take invertible matrix  $g$ ,

add and multiply rows with  $b_i^{-1}$  (adding lower rows to higher),  
then permute the rows with  $w^{-1}$ .

The result is an invertible upper triangular matrix".

Hence  $B^{\circ} S_3(\mathbb{C})/B \cong W = S_3$ .

- This decomposition gives a stratification

$$G/B = \coprod_{w \in W} BwB/B$$

into Schubert cells  $C_w := BwB/B$ , which are the  $B$  orbits in  $G/B$ .  
Schubert varieties are the topological closures  $\overline{C_w}$  inside  $G/B$ .

DEF The Bruhat order on the Weyl group of  $G$  is given by

$$v \leq w \text{ iff } \overline{C_v} \subseteq \overline{C_w} \text{ (or equiv. } C_v \subseteq \overline{C_w})$$

where  $v, w \in W$ .

THM The two definitions of "Bruhat order" agree.

#### Some facts

1. Let  $\Delta_w$  be Verma module correspond to weight  $w \cdot 0$  in category  $\mathcal{O}$  (principal block).

Then  $v \leq w$  iff  $\Delta_v \subseteq \Delta_w$ .

2. Let  $\Delta_w$  be as above and  $L_w$  be the unique simple quotient of  $\Delta_w$ .

Then  $[\Delta_v : L_w] \neq 0$  iff  $v \leq w$  (Verma, BGG, van den Bergh)

- KL-conjecture says  $[\Delta_v : L_w] = P_{v,w}(1)$ , evaluation of KL-pol. (Beitman-Bernstein, Brylinski-Kashiwara)

## (2) Bruhat Order on the LV-module

For  $K$  orbits on  $G/B$

- We can work out  $K \backslash G/B$  by a similar example

- $G_c = \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$ ,  $\sigma: g \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} & -1 \\ 1 & \end{pmatrix} \tilde{g} \begin{pmatrix} & -1 \\ 1 & \end{pmatrix}$  antiholomorphic involution

$$\theta: g \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} & 1 \\ 1 & \end{pmatrix} g \begin{pmatrix} & 1 \\ 1 & \end{pmatrix} \text{ holomorphic involution}$$

$$G_K = G_c^\theta = \mathrm{SU}(2,1)$$

$$K = G_c^{\theta\circ\sigma} = \left( \begin{matrix} M & 0 \\ 0 & M^{-1} \end{matrix} \right) \text{ where } M \in \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{C})$$

- Picture

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G_c = \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C}) & & \\ \downarrow \theta & & \downarrow \sigma \\ K = \left( \begin{matrix} M & 0 \\ 0 & M^{-1} \end{matrix} \right) & & G_K = G_c^\theta = \mathrm{SU}(2,1) \end{array}$$

- We get the same flag variety  $X = G_c/B$  where  $B \subset \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$  a standard Borel

- We can calculate  $K \backslash G/B$  explicitly

- See  $G_c/B = \{ \text{flags } 0 \neq V_1 \neq V_2 \subset \mathbb{C}^2 \} = \{ \text{line} \subset \text{plane in } \mathbb{C}^2 \} = \{ \text{point} \subset \text{line in } \mathbb{CP}^2 \}$

- Notice that  $K$  stabilises the  $\langle e_1, e_2 \rangle$  plane and the  $\langle e_3 \rangle$  line.

In  $\mathbb{CP}^2$ , we draw this as (following Anna's notes)



Flags in  $G/B$  we draw as



An example of a  $K$ -orbit is



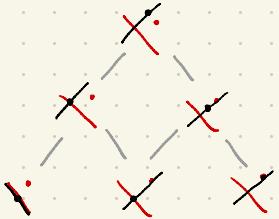
of flags whose 1-dimensional part lie on the  $\langle e_1, e_2 \rangle$ -plane and whose 2-dimensional part does not.

Q: Why is  $K$  transitive on this set? Also on the below sets?

We have these orbits altogether



which, taking closures has this inclusion order



However this is not enough for the module

Order on the  $LV$ -module

The module has a basis indexed by

$$D = \{ (\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{L}) : \mathcal{O} \text{ is a } K\text{-orbit of } \mathfrak{g}_B^* \text{ and } \mathcal{L} \text{ is a } K\text{-equivariant local system on } \mathcal{O} \}$$

i.e. there is more information than just  $K\mathcal{G}/B$

The Bruhat order here is an imitation of the Bruhat order in the  $B\mathcal{G}/B$  case

DEF (Lusztig-Vogan 1983)

The Bruhat  $G_R$ -order on  $D$  is smallest order such that the following holds.

Let  $\delta, \delta' \in D$  where  $\delta$  appears in  $H_\delta \delta'$  w/ non-zero coeff and  $\ell(\delta) = \ell(\delta') + 1$ .

Let  $\gamma, \gamma' \in D$  where  $\gamma$  appears in  $H_\gamma \gamma'$  w/ non-zero coeff and  $\ell(\gamma) = \ell(\gamma') + 1$ .

If  $\gamma' \leq \delta'$  then  $\gamma \leq \delta$  and  $\delta \leq \delta'$ .

$$\ell((\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{L})) = \dim \mathcal{O}$$

One basic case is if  $\gamma = \delta$  and  $\gamma' = \delta'$  then we immediately get  $\delta \leq \delta'$ .

The paper states this reduces to the  $B\mathcal{G}/B$  case.

Another Bruhat order on a block  $B$  of regular characters for  $G$  w/ infinitesimal character  $\chi$ .  
Unlike last week where  $B = \text{blocks of irred. He-modules}$

DEF (Vogan (IV), 1982; Def 12.9)

The Bruhat order on  $B$  is the smallest ordering such that

$$\phi \leq \gamma \text{ if } m(\bar{\pi}(\phi), \pi(\gamma)) \neq 0$$

where  $\pi(\phi)$  is std. rep corresp to  $\phi$ ,

$\bar{\pi}(\phi)$  is irred. corresp to std. rep  $\pi(\phi)$

and  $m(\bar{\pi}(\phi), \pi(\gamma))$  is composition multiplicity of  $\bar{\pi}(\phi)$  in  $\pi(\gamma)$ .

Vogan: this is a theorem for usual Bruhat order and Verma's taken as def.

In the same paper, Vogan defines the Bruhat  $r$ -order:

the smallest order containing the Bruhat order and constant on each  $\mathcal{G}^r(\gamma)$

where  $\mathcal{G}^r(\gamma)$  is smallest subset of  $B$  containing  $\gamma$  and closed under cross action of simple real reflections  
 $s \in S(\gamma)$

Also the Bruhat  $c$ -order w/  $\mathcal{G}^c(\gamma)$  and simple complex roots.

These last two are related to

DEF (Vogan (IV), 1982; Def 12.7)

Let  $\phi, \phi' \in B$  and  $s \in B^a$ , we say  $\phi \xrightarrow{s} \phi'$  iff

$$(a) \ell^T(\phi') = \ell^T(\phi) - 1$$

(b)  $\phi'$  appears in  $T_s \phi$

(see Lemma 12.13, 12.18).

③ Comment on Atlas's order on  $KG/B$

• Let  $P_\alpha$  be parabolic subgroup of  $G$  corresponding to root  $\alpha$ .

• We have a natural projection

$$\pi_\alpha : G/B \rightarrow G/P_\alpha$$

and can define

$$\pi^\alpha := \pi_\alpha^{-1} \circ \pi_\alpha$$

that sends  $B$ -cosets to  $P_\alpha$ -cosets modulo  $B$ .

• Atlas'  $KG/B$  graph is given by

- Vertices =  $K\backslash G/B$ , writing  $Q_v$  for  $G/B$  orbit of vertex  $v$ .

- edges:  $v_1 \rightarrow v_2$  iff  $\dim(Q_{v_2}) = \dim(Q_{v_1}) + 1$  and

$$Q_{v_1} \subset \pi^\alpha(Q_{v_2}) \text{ for some simple root } \alpha$$