# Introduction to W-Graphs

## 1. Kazhdan-Lusztig W-Graphs

Recall that, in [KL79], Kazhdan and Lusztig found a pair of self-dual bases over  $\mathcal{H}(W, S)$  in terms of the standard basis  $\{T_x : x \in W\}$ . These are the Kazhdan-Lusztig (or canonical) basis

$$C_x = (-1)^{\ell(x)} q^{\frac{1}{2}\ell(x)} \sum_{y \le x} (-1)^{\ell(y)} q^{-\ell(y)} \overline{P_{y,x}(q)} T_y$$

and the dual Kazhdan-Lusztig (or dual canonical) basis

$$C'_{x} = q^{-\frac{1}{2}\ell(x)} \sum_{y \le x} P_{y,x}(q) T_{y}.$$

Let  $\mathscr{D}_x := \{s \in S : sx < x\}$  denote the (left) descent set of x. It was also shown in [KL79] that

$$T_s C_x = \begin{cases} -C_x, & \text{if } s \in \mathcal{D}_x; \\ qC_x + q^{1/2} \sum_{\{y \in W: s \in \mathcal{D}_y\}} \mu(y, x) y, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

and

$$T_s C_x' = \begin{cases} qC_x, & \text{if } s \in \mathscr{D}_x; \\ -C_x + q^{1/2} \sum_{\{y \in W: s \in \mathscr{D}_y\}} \mu(y, x)y, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Is this true? Why are we missing the term  $q^{1/2}C_{sx}$ ? This motivates the following definition.

**Definition 1.** (W-Graph). Let (W,S) be a Coxeter system and  $\mathcal{H}(W,S)$  its associated Iwahori–Hecke algebra. A W-graph is a triple  $(X,I,\mu)$  consisting of a set X of vertices, a function  $I:X\to \mathscr{P}(S)$  that assigns to each vertex  $x\in X$  a descent set  $I_x\subseteq S$ , and a function

$$\mu: X \times X \to \mathbb{Z}$$

such that the edge weight  $\mu(y,x)$  is non-zero if and only if  $y \to x$  is an edge of the graph. Moreover, if  $E \coloneqq \mathbb{Z}[q^{\pm 1/2}]X$  is the free  $\mathbb{Z}[q^{\pm 1/2}]$ -module with basis X, we ask that the  $\mathbb{Z}[q^{\pm 1/2}]$ -endomorphisms of E of the form

$$\tau_s(x) := \begin{cases} -x, & \text{if } s \in I_x; \\ qx + q^{1/2} \sum_{\{y \in X: s \in I_y\}} \mu(y, x) y, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

for each  $s \in S$  satisfy the braid relations

$$\underbrace{\tau_s \tau_t \tau_s \cdots}_{m_{st} \ factors} = \underbrace{\tau_t \tau_s \tau_t \cdots}_{m_{st} \ factors},$$

for all  $s, t \in S$  such that  $m_{st} \neq \infty$ . We define dual W-graphs similarly, where we instead use  $\mathbb{Z}[q^{\pm 1/2}]$ -endomorphisms of E of the form

$$\tau_s'(x) := \begin{cases} qx, & \text{if } s \in I_x; \\ -x + q^{1/2} \sum_{\{y \in X: s \in I_y\}} \mu(y, x)y, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Asking that the A-endomorphisms  $\tau_s$  defined above satisfy the braid relations is exactly equivalent to asking that E admit a  $\mathcal{H}(W,S)$ -module structure given by  $T_s \cdot x := \tau_s(x)$ . This is because all  $\mathbb{Z}[q^{\pm 1/2}]$ -endomorphisms of the form  $\tau_s$  satisfy the quadratic relation  $(\tau_s + 1)(\tau_s - q) = 0$ , provided the sums are finite. To see that this is true, observe that when  $s \notin I_x$ , we have

$$(\tau_{s}+1)(\tau_{s}-q)x$$

$$=\tau_{s}^{2}(x)-q\tau_{s}(x)+\tau_{s}(x)-qx$$

$$=q\tau_{s}(x)+q^{1/2}\sum_{\{y\in X:s\in I_{y}\}}\mu(y,x)\tau_{s}(y)-q\tau_{s}(x)+qx+q^{1/2}\sum_{\{y\in X:s\in I_{y}\}}\mu(y,x)y-qx$$

$$=q^{1/2}\sum_{\{y\in X:s\in I_{y}\}}\mu(y,x)\tau_{s}(y)+q^{1/2}\sum_{\{y\in X:s\in I_{y}\}}\mu(y,x)y$$

$$=q^{1/2}\sum_{\{y\in X:s\in I_{y}\}}\mu(y,x)(-y)+q^{1/2}\sum_{\{y\in X:s\in I_{y}\}}\mu(y,x)y$$

$$=0.$$

Conversely, when  $s \in I_x$ , the result follows trivially. It follows that every W-graph (and dual W-graph) corresponds to a representation  $\varphi : \mathcal{H}(W,S) \to \operatorname{End}(E)$  given on the generators by  $\varphi : T_s \mapsto \tau_s$ .

It is sometimes convenient to look at the transposes of  $\tau_s$  and  $\tau'_s$ . In particular, suppose we fix  $s \in S$  and choose an ordering  $X = \{x_1, \ldots, x_n\}$  such that  $s \in I_{x_i}$  for all  $1 \le i \le k$  and  $s \notin I_{x_j}$  for all  $j \ge k$ . Then we can express  $\tau_s$  and  $\tau'_s$  as the matrices

$$\tau_s = \begin{pmatrix} -I_k & 0 \\ * & qI_{n-k} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \tau_s' = \begin{pmatrix} qI_k & 0 \\ * & -I_{n-k} \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $I_k$  is the  $k \times k$  identity matrix and the block labelled by the asterisk \* has elements that are either 0 or of the form  $q^{1/2}\mu(y,x)$ . The transposes of  $\tau_s$  and  $\tau_s'$  thus involve moving only the sums, giving us

$$\tau_s^T(x) = \begin{cases} -x + q^{1/2} \sum_{\{y \in X : s \notin I_y\}} \mu(y, x) y, & \text{if } s \in I_x; \\ qx, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

and

$$(\tau'_s)^T(x) = \begin{cases} qx + q^{1/2} \sum_{\{y \in X : s \notin I_y\}} \mu(y, x) y, & \text{if } s \in I_x; \\ -x, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

respectively. These also produce representations of  $\mathcal{H}(W,S)$ , and hence W-graphs, of their own.

The (one-sided) W-graphs constructed in [KL79] are defined by taking

$$X := W$$
,  $I_x := \mathcal{D}_x$  and  $\mu(y, x) := c(y, x) + c(x, y)$ ,

where c(y, x) is defined to be the coefficient of  $q^{(\ell(x)-\ell(y)-1)/2}$  (the power of q of maximal degree) in the Kazhdan–Lusztig polynomial  $P_{y,x}(q)$ . Note that either c(y,x)=0 or c(x,y)=0 (usually both), so these W-graphs are not directed. They correspond to the left regular representation of  $\mathcal{H}(W,S)$ .

From now on, we will be working with the normalized standard basis  $\delta_w := v^{\ell(w)} T_w$  for  $\mathscr{H}(W, S)$ , where  $v := q^{-1/2}$ . Normalizing the dual Kazhdan–Lusztig basis, we obtain

$$b_x = v^{\ell(x)} \sum_{y \le x} P_{y,x}(v^{-2}) v^{-\ell(y)} \delta_y = \sum_{y \le x} h_{y,x}(v) \delta_y,$$

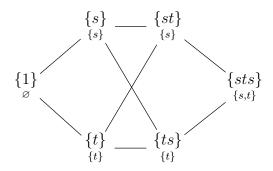
where  $h_{y,x}: v \mapsto v^{\ell(x)-\ell(y)} P_{y,x}(v^{-2})$ . Recall that  $P_{y,x}(q)$  has maximal degree  $\frac{1}{2}(\ell(x)-\ell(y)-1)$  in q. It therefore has degree greater than or equal to  $1+\ell(y)-\ell(x)$  in v, meaning  $h_{y,x}(v) \in v\mathbb{Z}[v]$ , where the coefficient of  $q^{\frac{1}{2}(\ell(x)-\ell(y)-1)}$  in  $P_{y,x}(q)$  is now the coefficient of v in  $h_{y,x}(v)$ . Because  $\tau'_s(x)$  corresponds to  $T_s \cdot x$ , converting to the normalized basis involves multiplying by a factor of  $v^{\ell(s)} = v$ , whence

$$\delta_x \cdot x := \begin{cases} v^{-1}x, & \text{if } s \in I_x; \\ -vx + \sum_{\{y \in X : s \in I_y\}} \mu(y, x)y, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Using  $b_s = \delta_s + v$ , we have an action of the normalized Kazhdan-Lusztig basis given pleasantly by

$$b_s \cdot x := \begin{cases} (v + v^{-1})x, & \text{if } s \in I_x; \\ \sum_{\{y \in X: s \in I_y\}} \mu(y, x)y, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

**Example 2.**  $(W = S_2)$ . Let's look at the situation when  $W = S_2$ . In this case,  $P_{y,x}(q) \in \{0,1\}$  for all  $x, y \in W$ . Perhaps unsurprisingly, the graph recovers the Bruhat order.



Naturally, all of the edges of this graph have unit weight. We could illustrate the action of  $b_s$  by drawing an arrow labelled s from x to y whenever y appears in  $b_s \cdot x$ , but this would get messy!

#### 2. The Harish-Chandra Picture

Let's briefly mention the connection between admissible representations and  $(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ -modules. Good resources for what follows are [Vog81] and [Bin10].

**Definition 3.** (Continuous Representation). Let G be a Lie group. A continuous representation of G is a pair  $(\pi, \mathcal{H})$ , where  $\mathcal{H}$  is a complex Hilbert space and  $\pi : G \to \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$  is a continuous homomorphism of G into the semigroup  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$  of bounded operators on  $\mathcal{H}$ , where  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$  is endowed with the weak topology. An invariant subspace of  $(\pi, \mathcal{H})$  is a closed subspace of  $\mathcal{H}$  that is left invariant under all the operators in  $\pi(G)$ . The continuous representation  $(\pi, \mathcal{H})$  is said to be irreducible if  $\mathcal{H} \neq \{0\}$  and there are no proper, non-trivial invariant subspaces.

**Definition 4.** (Bounded Equivalence). Let  $(\pi, \mathcal{H})$  and  $(\pi', \mathcal{H}')$  be continuous representations of a Lie group G. We define the space of intertwining operators between  $(\pi, \mathcal{H})$  and  $(\pi', \mathcal{H}')$  to be

 $\operatorname{Hom}_G(\pi, \pi') := \{L : \mathcal{H} \to \mathcal{H}' : L \text{ is continuous, linear and } \pi'(g) \circ L = L \circ \pi(g) \text{ for all } g \in G\}.$ 

We say that two continuous representations are boundedly equivalent if there exists an invertible intertwining operator between them.

**Definition 5.** (Dual Object). Let G be a Lie group that is the direct product of a compact group and an Abelian group, such that every irreducible continuous representation of G is finite-dimensional. We define the dual object  $\widehat{G}$  of G to be the set of bounded equivalence classes of irreducible continuous representations of G.

**Definition 6.** (Admissible Representation). Let G be a real Lie group with K a maximal compact subgroup. A continuous representation  $(\pi, \mathcal{H})$  of G is said to be K-admissible if  $\operatorname{Hom}_K(V_{\delta}, \mathcal{H})$  is finite-dimensional for all irreducible continuous representations  $(\delta, V_{\delta}) \in \widehat{K}$  of K.

**Definition 7.** (( $\mathfrak{g}$ , K)-Module). Let G be a real Lie group with complexified Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  and maximal compact subgroup K. A ( $\mathfrak{g}$ , K)-module is a complex vector space V together with a map  $\pi: \mathfrak{g} \sqcup K \to \operatorname{End}(V)$  that restricts to a Lie algebra representation  $\pi|_{\mathfrak{g}}$  (that is, V is a  $\mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{g})$ -module) and a group representation  $\pi|_K$  satisfying certain compatibility conditions. A ( $\mathfrak{g}$ , K)-module V is said to be K-admissible if  $\operatorname{Hom}_K(V_{\delta}, V)$  is finite-dimensional for all irreducible continuous representations  $(\delta, V_{\delta}) \in \widehat{K}$  of K. A K-admissible ( $\mathfrak{g}$ , K)-module which is finitely-generated over  $\mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{g})$  is called a Harish-Chandra module.

**Definition 8.** (K-Finiteness). Let G be a real Lie group with K a maximal compact subgroup and  $(\pi, \mathcal{H})$  a continuous representation of G. A vector  $v \in \mathcal{H}$  is said to be K-finite if  $\operatorname{span}\{\pi(k)v : k \in K\}$  is finite-dimensional. We denote  $\mathcal{H}_K := \{v \in \mathcal{H} : v \text{ is } K\text{-finite}\}.$ 

**Theorem 9.** ([Vog81, Theorem 0.3.5]). Let G be a real Lie group with Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  and maximal compact subgroup K. If  $(\pi, \mathcal{H})$  is a K-admissible representation of G, the limit

$$\widehat{\pi}_0(x)v := \lim_{t \to 0} \frac{\pi(\exp(tx))v - v}{t}$$

exists for all  $x \in \mathfrak{g}_0$  and  $v \in \mathcal{H}_K$ , where  $\exp : \mathfrak{g}_0 \to G$  is the exponential map. In particular, this defines a Lie algebra representation  $\widehat{\pi}_0 : \mathfrak{g}_0 \to \operatorname{End}(\mathcal{H}_K)$ . Let  $\widehat{\pi}|_{\mathfrak{g}} : \mathfrak{g} \to \operatorname{End}(\mathcal{H}_K)$  be its complexification, which exists since  $\mathcal{H}$  is complex. By definition  $\mathcal{H}_K$  induces a group representation  $\widehat{\pi}|_K : K \to \operatorname{End}(\mathcal{H}_K)$ , whence these representations endow  $\mathcal{H}_K$  with the structure of a  $(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ -module.

**Definition 10.** (Infinitesimal Equivalence). Let  $(\pi, V)$  and  $(\pi', V')$  be  $(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ -modules. We define the space of intertwining operators between  $(\pi, V)$  and  $(\pi', V')$  to be

 $\operatorname{Hom}_{(\mathfrak{g},K)}(\pi,\pi')\coloneqq\{L:V\to V':L\text{ is complex, linear and }\pi'(x)\circ L=L\circ\pi(x)\text{ for all }x\in\mathfrak{g}\sqcup K\}.$ 

We say that two  $(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ -modules are equivalent if there exists an invertible intertwining operator between them. Two continuous representations are said to be infinitesimally equivalent if their corresponding Harish-Chandra modules are equivalent.

**Theorem 11.** ([Vog81, Theorem 0.3.10]). Let G be a real Lie group with complexified Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  and maximal compact subgroup K. Then every irreducible  $(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ -module is the Harish-Chandra module of an irreducible K-admissible representation of G. In particular, every irreducible  $(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ -module is automatically K-admissible, and we have a bijective correspondence

$$\frac{\{\text{irreducible }K\text{-admissible representations of }G\}}{\text{infinitesimal equivalence}}\longleftrightarrow \frac{\{\text{irreducible Harish-Chandra modules}\}}{\text{equivalence}} \longleftrightarrow \frac{\{\text{irreducible }(\mathfrak{g},K)\text{-modules}\}}{\text{equivalence}}$$

via Theorem 9.

From now on, we shall assume the following notation. Let  $\mathbb{G}$  be a connected, complex, reductive algebraic group defined over  $\mathbb{R}$  and G its group of  $\mathbb{R}$ -rational points. Let  $\theta$  be the Cartan involution corresponding to G, and write  $\mathbb{K} := \mathbb{G}^{\theta}$  and  $K := G^{\theta}$  for the corresponding fixed-point subgroups, where we recall that K is necessarily maximal compact (see [AC09, §3] or my notes on categorical representation theory). Denote by  $\mathfrak{g}$  the complexification of the Lie algebra of G and let  $\mathfrak{h}$  be a Cartan subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{g}$ . Finally, let W be the Weyl group of  $\mathfrak{h}$  in  $\mathfrak{g}$  ([Vog81, Definition 0.2.5]).

If V is an irreducible  $(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ -module, Dixmier's generalization of Schur's lemma ([Kna13, Proposition 5.19]) tells us that every endomorphism of an irreducible  $(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ -module V is a scalar. In particular, by treating V as a  $\mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{g})$ -module, the center  $Z(\mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{g}))$  acts on V by

$$z \cdot v = \chi_V(z)v$$

for all  $z \in Z(\mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{g}))$  and  $v \in V$ , where  $\chi_V(z) \in \mathbb{C}$ . The resulting homomorphism  $\chi_V : Z(\mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{g})) \to \mathbb{C}$  is known as the *infinitesimal character of* V. Two equivalent  $(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ -modules will always share the same infinitesimal character.

By [Vog81, Theorem 0.2.8], we have an algebra isomorphism  $\xi: Z(\mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{g})) \to \mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{h})^W$  known as the Harish-Chandra isomorphism. Suppose we let  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{h}^*$ . This corresponds to an algebra homomorphism  $\lambda: \mathfrak{h} \to \mathbb{C}$  and hence lifts to an algebra homomorphism  $\lambda: \mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{h}) \to \mathbb{C}$ . Composing the latter map with the Harish-Chandra isomorphism, we obtain a map  $\xi_{\lambda}: Z(\mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{g})) \to \mathbb{C}$ . In fact, we have the following surprising result.

**Theorem 12.** ([Vog81, Corollary 0.2.10]). Every homomorphism from  $Z(\mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{g}))$  to  $\mathbb{C}$  is of the form  $\xi_{\lambda}$ , for some  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{h}^*$ . Moreover,  $\xi_{\lambda} = \xi_{\lambda'}$  if and only if there exists some  $w \in W$  for which  $\lambda' = w\lambda$ .

In other words, if we have a map  $\chi: \mathsf{Adm}_K(G) \to \mathfrak{h}^*/W$  that takes equivalence classes of irreducible K-admissible representations of G to W-conjugacy classes of elements in  $\mathfrak{h}^*$ . Given some  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{h}^*/W$ , we will write

$$Adm_K(G, \lambda) := \{ \pi \in Adm_K(G) : \chi(\pi) = \lambda \}$$

for the set of equivalence classes of irreducible K-admissible representations of G with infinitesimal character  $\lambda$ . By [Vog81, Corollary 5.4.17], this set is finite.

We shall henceforth fix  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{h}^*$  non-singular and integral  $(\langle \lambda, \check{\alpha} \rangle \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  for all simple coroots  $\check{\alpha} \in \dot{\Delta})$ .

**Definition 13.** (Block). Two irreducible  $(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ -modules V and V' are said to be block equivalent if there exists an indecomposable  $(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ -module  $V_B$  together with a non-split short exact sequence

$$0 \to V \to V_B \to V' \to 0.$$

Block equivalence classes are known as blocks.

By [Vog81, Lemma 9.2.3], every  $(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ -module V of finite length (that is, every  $(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ -module admitting a notion of a Jordan-Hölder series) can be written as a direct sum

$$V = \bigoplus_{\text{blocks } B} V_B,$$

where each  $V_B$  is some  $(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ -module whose irreducible sub- $(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ -modules all belong to the block B. Moreover, blocks of irreducible  $(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ -modules are somehow determined by their infinitesimal characters ([Vog81, Theorem 9.2.11]).

The original definition of a block from [Vog81, Definition 9.2.1] is that two irreducible  $(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ -modules are block equivalent if and only if their first cohomology group is non-zero. Blocks give us a way of computing the composition series of certain standard representations, generalizing the algorithm given by Kazhdan and Lusztig for Verma modules in [KL79].

Remark 14. We have been primarily living in the Harish-Chandra world. Atlas, on the other hand, uses a more geometric language, owing to the Langlands classification. Here, every irreducible admissible representation corresponds to a pair (x, y), where x is a  $\mathbb{K}$ -orbit in  $\mathbb{G}/\mathbb{B}$  and y is a  $\mathbb{K}^{\vee}$ -orbit in  $\mathbb{G}^{\vee}/\mathbb{B}^{\vee}$  (see [AC09, §10] and [Ada08, §8]). Here  $\mathbb{B}$  is some Borel subgroup of  $\mathbb{G}$ ,  $\mathbb{G}^{\vee}$  is the Langlands dual of  $\mathbb{G}$ ,  $\mathbb{B}^{\vee}$  is a Borel subgroup of  $\mathbb{G}^{\vee}$  and  $\mathbb{K}^{\vee}$  is the complexification of a maximal compact subgroup  $K^{\vee}$  of a real form  $G^{\vee}$  of  $\mathbb{G}^{\vee}$ . In this language, a block is a set of the form

$$B(G^\vee) := \{(x,y) \in \mathbb{K} \backslash \mathbb{G} / \mathbb{B} \times \mathbb{K}^\vee \backslash \mathbb{G}^\vee / \mathbb{B}^\vee : \theta^t_{x,H} = -\theta^\vee_{y,H} \},$$

arising from a real form  $G^{\vee}$ . Here  $\theta_{x,H}^t = -\theta_{y,H}^{\vee}$  is a technical compatibility condition. Moreover,

$$\mathsf{Adm}_K(G,\lambda) \longleftrightarrow \bigsqcup_{\text{dual real forms } G^{\vee}} B(G^{\vee}).$$

Similarly, the irreducible admissible representations of a real form  $G^{\vee}$  can be broken up into blocks corresponding to real forms of  $\mathbb{G}$ ; Vogan duality tells us that if  $(x,y) \in \mathbb{K} \backslash \mathbb{G} / \mathbb{B} \times \mathbb{K}^{\vee} \backslash \mathbb{G}^{\vee} / \mathbb{B}^{\vee}$  corresponds to an admissible representation of G, then (y,x) will correspond to an admissible representation of the real form  $G^{\vee}$  of  $\mathbb{G}^{\vee}$  corresponding to  $\mathbb{K}^{\vee}$ .

Before we can start building W-graphs from blocks of irreducible Harish-Chandra modules, we need two more ingredients. The first is a notion of cells within these blocks, first appearing in [BV83].

**Definition 15.** (Harish-Chandra Cell). Let x, y be two irreducible Harish-Chandra modules with infinitesimal character  $\lambda$ . Write  $y \geq x$  if there exists an irreducible finite-dimensional representation f of G such that y is isomorphic to a composition factor of  $f \otimes y$ . We say that  $x \sim y$  if  $y \geq x$  and  $x \geq y$ . The resulting equivalence classes are known as Harish-Chandra cells.

**Remark 16.** Harish-Chandra cells are sometimes called W-cells, since the Harish-Chandra cells of infinitesimal character  $\lambda$  admit an action of the integral Weyl group  $W(\lambda)$  and hence correspond to so-called Harish-Chandra cell representations of  $W(\lambda)$ .

**Definition 17.** (Borho–Jantzen–Duflo  $\tau$ -Invariant). Let x be an irreducible Harish-Chandra module with infinitesimal character  $\lambda$  and  $R^+(\lambda) := \{\alpha \in \Phi : \langle \lambda, \check{\alpha} \rangle \in \mathbb{Z}_+ \}$  the system of positive integral roots defined by  $\lambda$ . The Borho-Jantzen-Duflo  $\tau$ -invariant of x is the set  $\tau(x) \subseteq R^+(\lambda)$  of simple roots satisfying the equivalent conditions of [Vog81, Corollary 7.2.27].

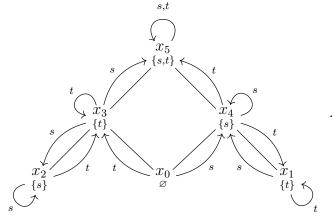
## 3. The Atlas Construction

Let B be a block of irreducible Harish-Chandra modules of infinitesimal character  $\lambda$ . Using the setup from the previous section, we build a W-graph from this block as follows.

- The vertices are the elements  $x \in B$ .
- Define  $\mu(y,x)$  to be the coefficient of v in the Kazhdan-Lusztig-Vogan polynomial  $h_{y,x}(v)$ .
- Define  $I_x$  to be the Borho-Jantzen-Duflo  $\tau$ -invariant of x (see [Vog81, Definition 7.3.8]).

Unlike the Kazhdan-Lusztig W-graph, this W-graph is directed. Moreover, the strongly connected components of this graph with respect to the Kazhdan-Lusztig-Vogan basis in fact exhaust the Harish-Chandra cells of B, and the multiplicity  $\mu(x,y)$  of an edge  $x \to y$  corresponds to the multiplicity with which the representation x appears in  $\mathfrak{g} \otimes y$ .

**Example 18.**  $(G = \mathrm{SU}(2,1))$ . Let's compute the Kazhdan-Lusztig-Vogan W-graph for  $\mathrm{SU}(2,1)$ . This W-graph only has one block, the trivial block, consisting of 6 irreducible representations. Let's write  $B = \{x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5\}$ . The complexification of the Lie algebra of  $\mathrm{SU}(2,1)$  is  $\mathfrak{sl}(3,\mathbb{C})$ , which has simple roots  $\{\alpha,\beta\}$  that we identify with simple reflections  $\{s,t\}$ . Once again, the multiplicities are all 1 in this example too, and in fact the edges are all bidirectional. Recalling the action of  $b_s$  on our vertices induced by  $\tau'_s$ , we have



We see that the W-cells of this block are  $\{x_0\}$ ,  $\{x_1, x_4\}$ ,  $\{x_2, x_3\}$  and  $\{x_5\}$ .

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