

# Diagrammatic singular Soergel bimodules

or, the circles in ICERM corridor

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joint with Ben Elias, Nicolas Libedinsky, Leonardo Patimo

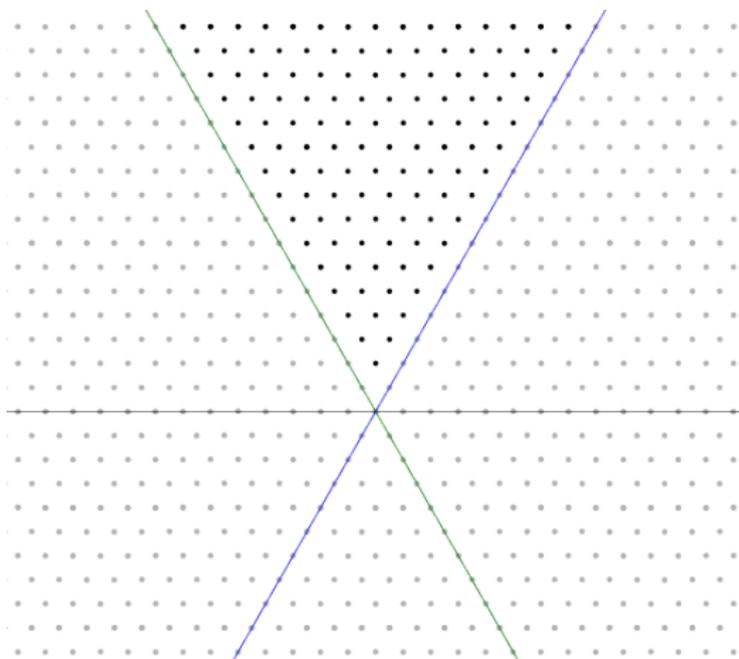
October 24, 2025

## Some representation theory

Let  $G$  be a reductive group in characteristic  $p > 0$ .

Let  $Rep = RepG$  be the category of rational representations of  $G$ .

The simples in  $RepG$  are indexed by the dominant weights, for  $G = SL_3$  :



# Some representation theory

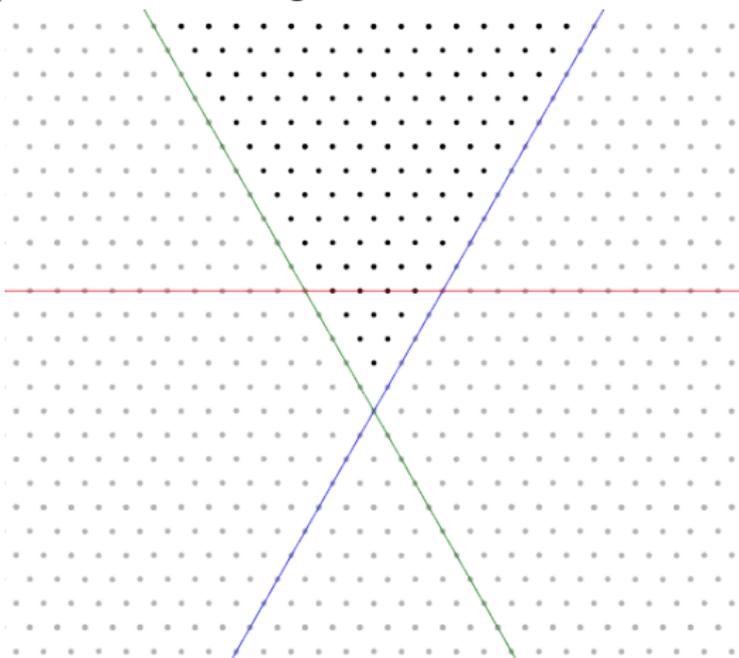
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Let  $\text{Rep}G$  be the category of rational representations of  $G$ .

The affine Weyl group  $(W, S)$  acts on the weights.

For  $SL_3$  ( $p = 5$ ):

$$S = \{r, g, b\}$$



# Some representation theory

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The affine Weyl group  $(W, S)$  acts on the weights.

For  $SL_3$  ( $p = 5$ ):

$S = \{r, g, b\}$  generates

$W = \tilde{S}_3$

Coxeter presentation

$rgr = grg$

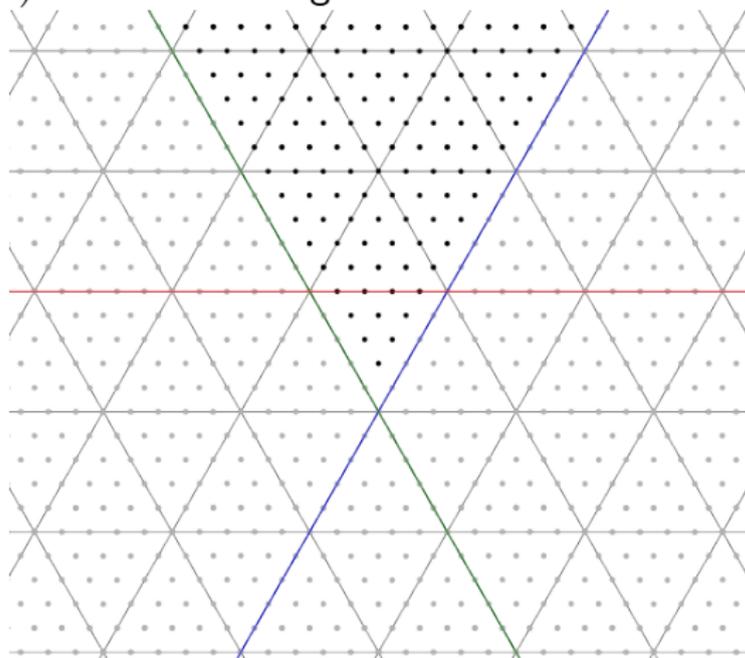
$rbr = brb$

$gbg = bgb$

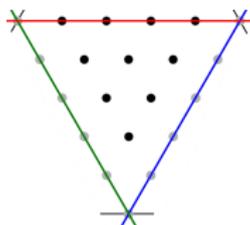
$rr = e$

$gg = e$

$bb = e$



# From weight lattice to $(W, S)$



For  $\lambda \in \bar{C}$  (for  $SL_3$  such  $\lambda$  is any weight/dot in  $\bar{C}$ ), let

$Rep_\lambda =$  Serre subcategory generated by (dominant weights in  $\bar{C}$ )  $W \cdot \lambda$ .

Then

$$Rep = \bigoplus_{\lambda \in \bar{C}} Rep_\lambda$$

and

$$Rep_\lambda \cong Rep_\mu \quad \text{when} \quad I(\lambda) := \{s \in S \mid s \cdot \lambda = \lambda\} = I(\mu).$$

We thus get

$$Rep \cong \bigoplus_{I \in \bar{S}} Rep_I^{\oplus m_I} \quad \text{for} \quad Rep_{I(\lambda)} \cong Rep_\lambda.$$

For  $SL_3$  with  $(W, S) = (\tilde{S}_3, \{r, g, b\})$  in characteristic 5 as above:

$$Rep \cong Rep_\emptyset^{\oplus 6} \oplus Rep_r^{\oplus 4} \oplus Rep_g^{\oplus 4} \oplus Rep_b^{\oplus 4} \oplus Rep_{r,g} \oplus Rep_{r,b} \oplus Rep_{g,b}$$

Between  $\text{Rep}_I$ , for various  $I \subset S$ , we have functors

$$U_s : \text{Rep}_I \rightarrow \text{Rep}_{I \sqcup s}, \quad D_s : \text{Rep}_{I \sqcup s} \rightarrow \text{Rep}_I$$

and their compositions.

The **(singular) Hecke category**  $\mathcal{SH}(W, S)$  is the category of these functors (more or less). It has

- ▶ objects  $I \subsetneq S$
- ▶ 1-morphisms generated by '+ $s$ ' (= ' $I + s$ ') and '- $s$ ' (= ' $I - s$ ')  $s \in S$   
(do  $+s \mapsto U_s, -s \mapsto D_s$  when act on  $\text{Rep}$ )
- ▶ 2-morphisms (later).

**Special examples:**

$$\Theta_s : \text{Rep}_\emptyset \xrightarrow{U_s^\emptyset} \text{Rep}_s \xrightarrow{D_s^\emptyset} \text{Rep}_\emptyset$$

These  $\Theta_s$  follow the combinatorics of the Kazhdan-Lusztig generators in the Hecke algebra.

The **regular Hecke category**  $\mathcal{H}(W, S)$  encodes the natural transformations between and decompositions of the endofunctors  $\Theta_s \Theta_t \cdots \Theta_u$  on  $\text{Rep}_\emptyset$ .

# Parabolic cosets

Let  $(W, S)$  be a Coxeter group.

For  $I \subset S$ , denote by  $W_I$  the subgroup generated by  $I \subset W$ .

Then  $(W_I, I)$  is a Coxeter group.

**Example.**  $(W_\emptyset = \{e\}, \emptyset)$  is the trivial Coxeter group.

**We assume throughout:**  $I \subset S$  is *finitary* i.e.,  $W_I$  is finite.

For  $I, J \subset S$ , consider the **finitary (parabolic) double cosets**:

$$p = W_I w W_J = \{xwy \in W \mid x \in W_I, y \in W_J\}$$

- ▶ Each  $p$  contains a unique Bruhat maximal element  $\bar{p}$
- ▶ Each  $p$  contains a unique Bruhat minimal element  $\underline{p}$

# Singular expressions in $(W, S)$

A singular *expression* is a string

$$l_\bullet = [l_0, l_1, l_2, \dots, l_r]$$

of finitary subsets of  $S$  such that, for each  $i$ , either

$$\text{either } l_i = l_{i-1} \setminus \{s\} \quad \text{“} - s \text{”} \quad \text{or} \quad l_i = l_{i-1} \sqcup s \quad \text{“} + s \text{”}$$

(That is, a singular expression is a 1-morphism in  $\mathcal{SH}$ .)

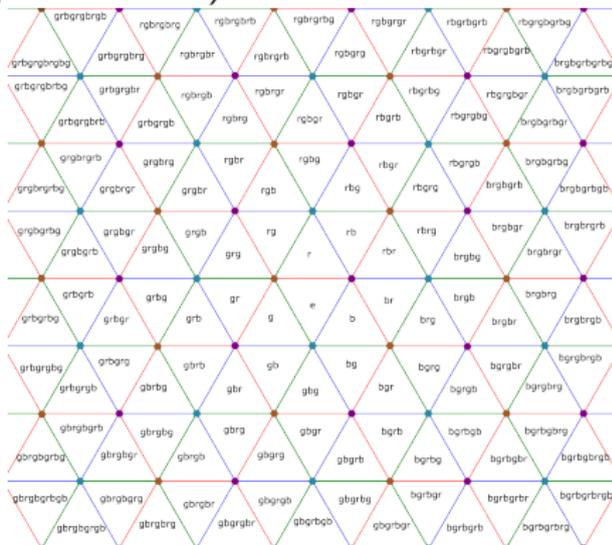
Equivalently, an expression is a forward path in the *Coxeter complex*

Max cells  $\leftrightarrow W/W_\emptyset = W$ ;

codim. 1 cells  $\leftrightarrow W/W_s$ ;

codim. 2 cells  $\leftrightarrow W/W_{s,t}$ ;

$\vdots$



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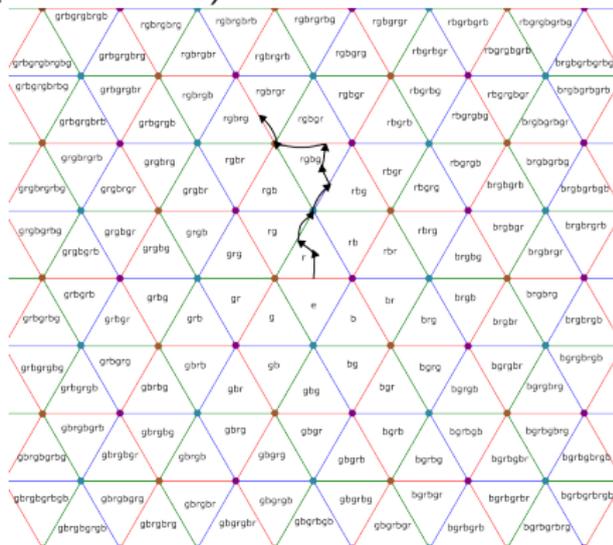
(That is, a singular expression is a 1-morphism in  $\mathcal{SH}$ .)

Equivalently, an expression is a *forward path* in the Coxeter complex

Example.

$$\begin{aligned} & [\{r\} - r + g + b - g - b + r + g - g] \\ &= [r, \emptyset, g, \{g, b\}, b, \emptyset, r, \{r, g\}, r] \end{aligned}$$

It expresses the coset  $W_r r g b r g W_r$ .





# Bott-Samelson bimodules

$R$  is the polynomial ring  $\text{Sym}(V)$  where  $W$  acts nicely on  $V$  (reflection faithful,...)

For  $I \subset S$ , let  $R^I$  be the invariants under  $I \subset W$ .

To a (singular) expression  $I_\bullet = [I_0, I_1, I_2, I_3, \dots, I_r]$

associate the *Bott-Samelson* bimodule

$$\text{BS}(I_\bullet) = R^{I_0} \otimes R^{I_1} \otimes R^{I_2} \otimes \dots \otimes R^{I_r}$$

where each  $\otimes$  is over the smaller  $R^{I_i}$ , e.g.,

$$\text{BS}([\emptyset, s, \emptyset]) = R \otimes_{R^s} R^s \otimes_{R^s} R \cong R \otimes_{R^s} R.$$

Note that  $\text{BS}(I_\bullet)$  is an  $(R^{I_0}, R^{I_r})$ -bimodule.

We will consider the 2-category  $\mathcal{SBSBim} = \mathcal{SBSBim}(W, S)$  with

- ▶ objects  $I \subset S$
- ▶ 1-morphisms (shifts of)  $\text{BS}(I_\bullet)$
- ▶ 2-morphisms (graded) bimodule maps.

# Soergel bimodules

The 2-category of *singular Soergel bimodules*  $\mathcal{SSBim}$  is the additive idempotent completion of  $\mathcal{BSBim}$ . It has

- ▶ objects  $I \subset S$
- ▶ 1-morphisms direct sum of summands of (shifts of)  $BS(I_\bullet)$
- ▶ 2-morphisms (graded) bimodule maps.

**Theorem (Williamson).** The indecomposable 1-morphisms in  $\mathcal{SSBim}(I, J)$  are  $B_p$  indexed by the double cosets  $p \in W_I \backslash W / W_J$ . If  $I_\bullet$  is a reduced expression of  $p$  then

$$BS(I_\bullet) \in B_p \oplus \langle B_q \rangle_{q < \bar{p}}.$$

**Regular Theorem (Soergel):** The indecomposable Soergel bimodules in  $\mathcal{SSBim}(\emptyset, \emptyset)$  are  $B_w$  indexed by  $w \in W$ . If  $w = st \cdots u$  is a reduced expression then  $BS(st \cdots u) \in B_w \oplus \langle B_x \rangle_{x < w}$ .

These are not true for the same construction over a field of positive characteristic. We need another construction of the Hecke categories.

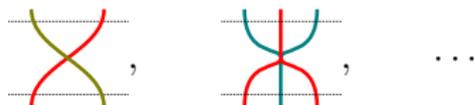
# Regular answer

The **Elias-Williamson category**  $\mathcal{H}(W, S)$  is a graded 2-category (with adjunctions, cyclic) category with one object and

- ▶ generating 1-morphisms  $B_s$  for  $s \in S$  (other objects:  $B_s B_t B_u B_u B_s, \dots$ );
- ▶ generating 2-morphisms



for each  $s \in S$  and



for each braid relation  $su = us$ ,  $sts = tst$ ,  $\dots$ , and polynomials in  $R$ ;

- ▶ (an explicit list of) generating relations. “Soergel Calculus”

Then  $\mathcal{H}(W, S) \cong \mathbb{B}S\text{Bim}$ , but this definition works over  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

We have (over  $\mathbb{Z}$  or any) that  $[\mathcal{H}(W, S)]$  is the Hecke algebra, where  $[B_s] = b_s$  is the Kazhdan-Lusztig generator.

Riche-Williamson, ... : decomposition numbers for  $\text{Rep}_\emptyset G$  from this.

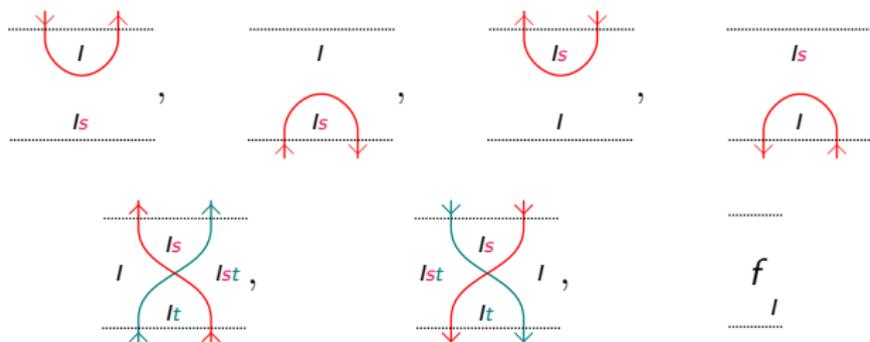
# Singular Hecke category

The singular Hecke category  $\mathcal{SH} = \mathcal{SH}(W, S)$  is a 2-category with

- ▶ objects  $I \subset S$
- ▶ 1-generators ' $\pm s$ ' (= ' $I \pm s$ ') for ( $I \subset S$  and  $s \in S \setminus I$ )

which, when  $R$  is appropriate over  $\mathbb{R}$ , is equivalent to  $\mathcal{SBSBim}$ .

Some 2-morphisms in  $\mathcal{SBSBim}$  :



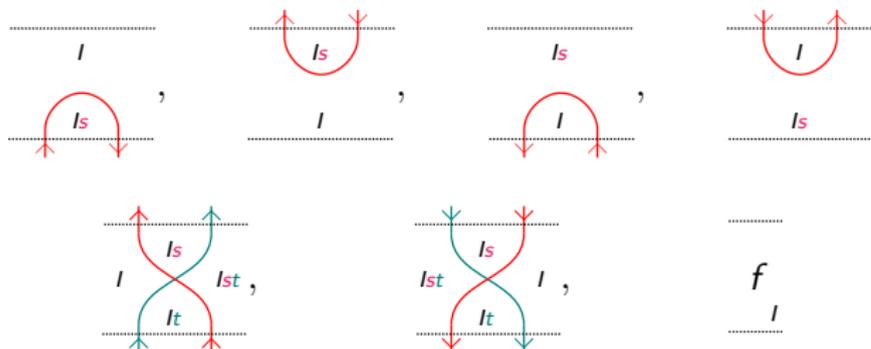
for each  $s, t \in S \setminus I$  and  $f \in R^I$ .

**Theorem (Elias-K-Libedinsky-Patimo 2024)** Certain diagrams made out of these (light leaves) form a basis of each graded hom space between  $\text{BS}(I_\bullet)$  and  $\text{BS}(J_\bullet)$ . In particular, these form 2-generators of  $\mathcal{SH}$ .

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- ▶ 2-generators



for each  $s, t \in S \setminus I$  and  $f \in R^I$

- ▶ relations (next slide)

# Relations in $\mathcal{SH}$

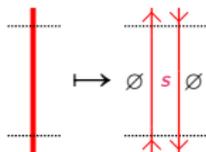
Some relations were given already by the ‘Frobenius diagrammatics’ of Elias-Snyder-Williamson (2013):

Some more relations known to Elias and Williamson around 2010

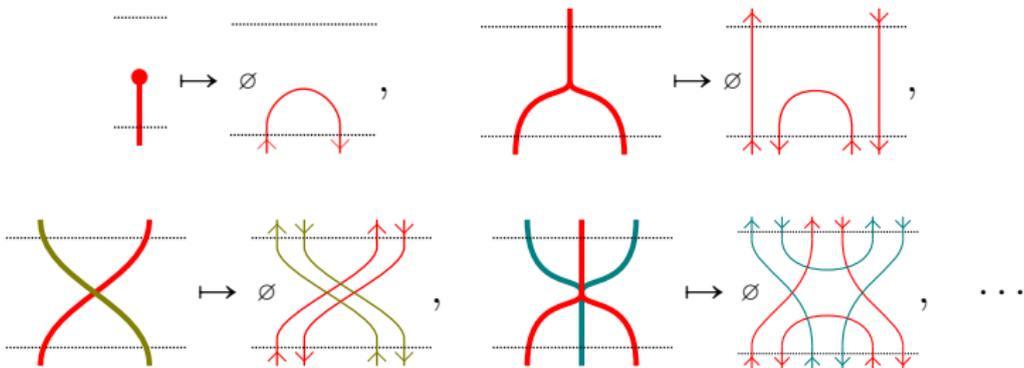
More work is needed for presentation (with ELP “Singular Soergel calculus” in progress at ICERM)

# Comparison to regular diagrams

The natural embedding  $\mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{SH}(\emptyset, \emptyset) \subset \mathcal{SH}$  is given by



on 1-morphisms and



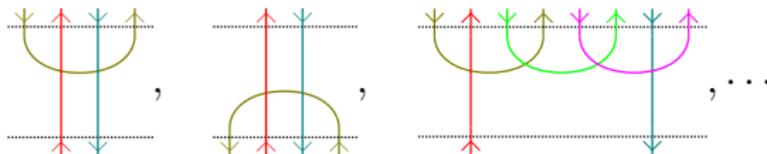
on 2-morphisms.

# Singular braid morphisms

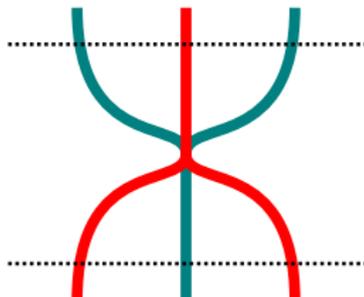
We have *upup* morphisms and we have *downdown* morphisms



The *switchback* morphisms are of the form



The singular braid morphisms generates the regular braid morphisms:

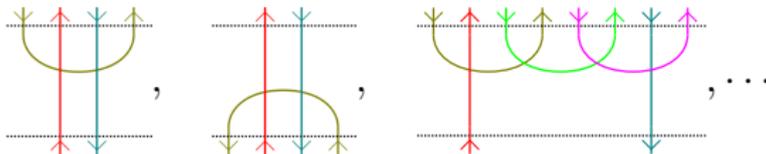


# Singular braid morphisms

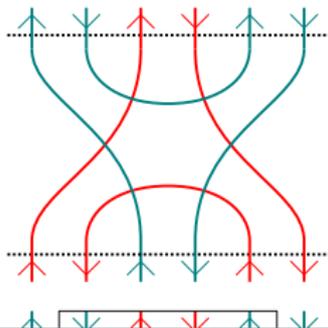
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The singular braid relations generates the regular braid relations:

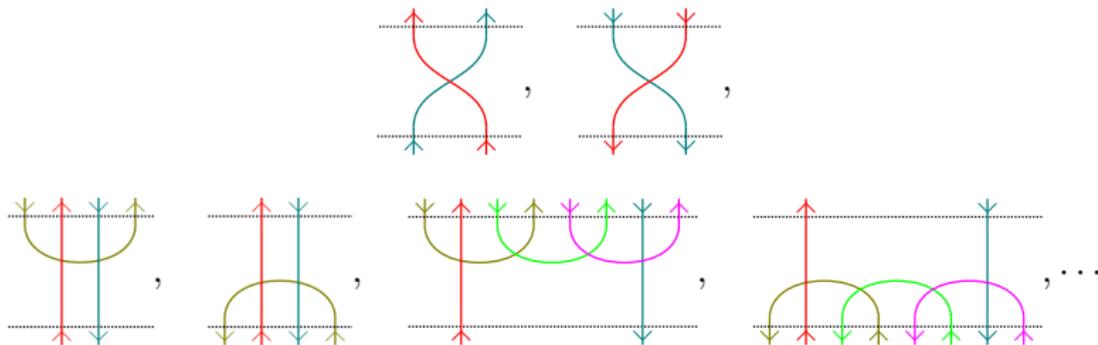


# R(educed) ex(pression) moves

## Singular Matsumoto Theorem [Elias-K.]

For  $I, J \subset S$  and a double coset  $p \in W_I \backslash W / W_J$ , any two reduced expressions of  $p$  are related by braid relations (upup, downdown, and switchback).

That is, the *rex moves*, generated by



give morphisms between any two  $BS(I_\bullet)$  for rexs  $I_\bullet$  of  $p$ .

**Recall:** For any rex  $I_\bullet$  of  $p$ , we have  $BS(I_\bullet) = B_p \oplus$  some lower terms.

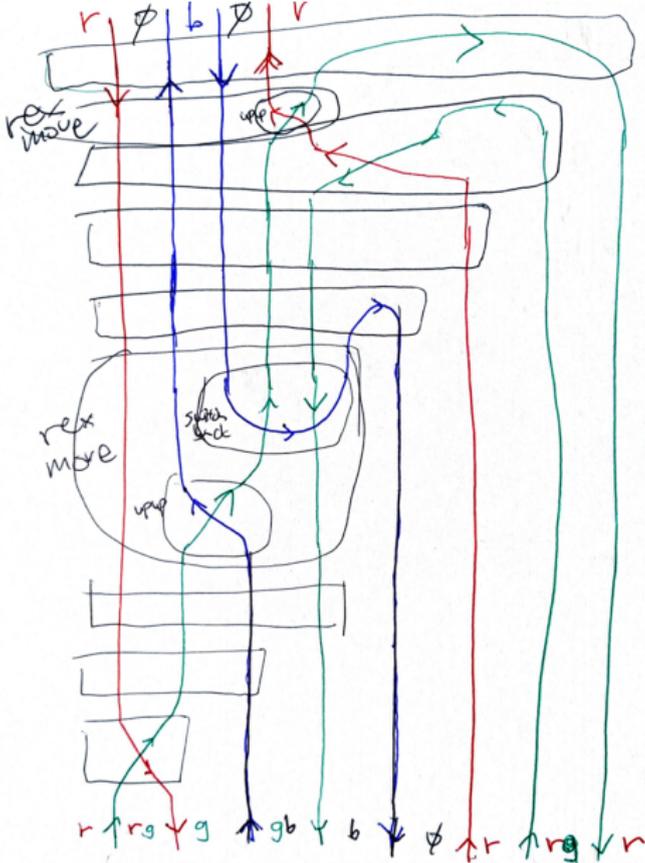
**Proposition (EKLP).** A rex move restricts to isomorphism on  $B_p$ .

# A light leaf

$$[\{r\} - r + b - b + r] \text{ a rex for } q$$

$B_q$

↑



$$BS(\{r\} + g - r + b - g - b + r + g - g)$$

(modulo lower terms)

$$[\{r\} + g - r + b - g - b + r + g - g]$$

# The series (with Elias, Libedinsky, Patimo)

Elias-K., **A Singular Coxeter presentation**, 2105.08563

*Circleland, Season 1 (2023-2024)*

EKLP, Demazure operators for double cosets, 2307.15021

EKLP, Subexpressions and the Bruhat order for double cosets, 2307.15726

EKLP, On reduced expressions for core double cosets, 2402.08673

EKLP, **Singular Light Leaves**, 2401.03053

K, An Atomic Coxeter presentation, 2312.16666

*Circleland, Season 2 (2024-)*

EKLP, The Atomic Leibniz rule, 2407.13128

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EKLP, **Singular Soergel calculus (in progress)**

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