

The Terwilliger algebra of a Q -polynomial distance-regular graph with respect to a set of vertices

Hajime Tanaka

(joint work with Rie Tanaka and Yuta Watanabe)

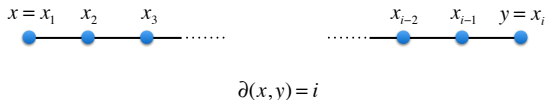
Research Center for Pure and Applied Mathematics
Graduate School of Information Sciences
Tohoku University

November 29, 2014

Algebraic Combinatorics Workshop

Notation

- $\Gamma = (X, R)$: a finite connected **simple** graph
 - X : the vertex set
 - R : the edge set (= a set of 2-element subsets of X)
- ∂ : the path-length distance on X



- $D := \max\{\partial(x, y) : x, y \in X\}$: the **diameter** of Γ
- $\Gamma_i(x) := \{y \in X : \partial(x, y) = i\}$: the i^{th} **subconstituent**

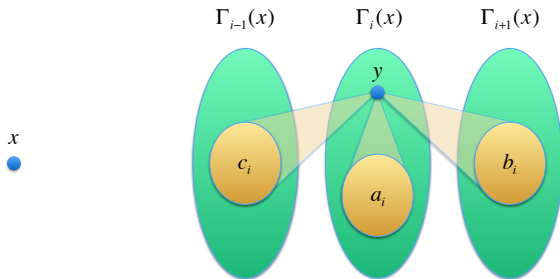
Distance-regular graphs

- Γ : distance-regular

$\stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} \exists a_i, b_i, c_i \ (0 \leq i \leq D) \ \mathbf{s.t.} \ \forall x, y \in X :$

- $|\Gamma_{i-1}(x) \cap \Gamma_1(y)| = c_i$
- $|\Gamma_i(x) \cap \Gamma_1(y)| = a_i$
- $|\Gamma_{i+1}(x) \cap \Gamma_1(y)| = b_i$

where $\partial(x, y) = i$.



The adjacency algebra

- $\text{Mat}_X(\mathbb{C})$: the set of square matrices over \mathbb{C} index by X
- The i^{th} distance matrix $A_i \in \text{Mat}_X(\mathbb{C})$ is

$$(A_i)_{x,y} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \partial(x,y) = i \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

[Note: $A_0 = I$]

- A_0, A_1, \dots, A_D satisfy the three-term recurrence

$$A_1 A_i = b_{i-1} A_{i-1} + a_i A_i + c_{i+1} A_{i+1} \quad (0 \leq i \leq D)$$

where $A_{-1} = A_{D+1} = 0$.

- Recall the three-term recurrence

$$A_1 A_i = b_{i-1} A_{i-1} + a_i A_i + c_{i+1} A_{i+1} \quad (0 \leq i \leq D)$$

where $A_{-1} = A_{D+1} = 0$.

- $M := \mathbb{C}[A_1] \subseteq \text{Mat}_X(\mathbb{C})$: the **adjacency algebra** of Γ
 - $\exists v_i \in \mathbb{Q}[t]$ s.t. $\deg v_i = i$ and $A_i = v_i(A_1)$ ($0 \leq i \leq D$)
 - $M = \langle A_0, A_1, \dots, A_D \rangle$
 - A_1 has $D + 1$ distinct eigenvalues $\theta_0, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_D \in \mathbb{R}$.

The Q -polynomial property

- Recall
 - $\theta_0, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_D \in \mathbb{R}$: the distinct eigenvalues of A_1
 - Γ : regular with valency $k_1 := |\Gamma_1(x)|$ ($= b_0$)
- Always set $\theta_0 = k_1$.
- $E_\ell \in \text{Mat}_X(\mathbb{C})$: the orthogonal projection onto the eigenspace of θ_ℓ [Note: $E_0 = \frac{1}{|X|}J$ (J : the all-ones matrix)]
- $M = \mathbb{C}[A_1] = \langle A_0, A_1, \dots, A_D \rangle = \langle E_0, E_1, \dots, E_D \rangle$
- E_0, E_1, \dots, E_D : the primitive idempotents of M

The Q -polynomial property

- Recall the three-term recurrence

$$A_1 A_i = b_{i-1} A_{i-1} + a_i A_i + c_{i+1} A_{i+1} \quad (0 \leq i \leq D).$$

- Γ : Q -polynomial w.r.t. $\{E_\ell\}_{\ell=0}^D$

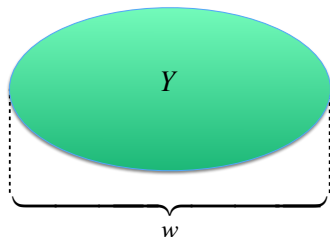
$\stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} \exists a_\ell^*, b_\ell^*, c_\ell^* \quad (0 \leq \ell \leq D)$ s.t. $b_{\ell-1}^* c_\ell^* \neq 0 \quad (1 \leq \ell \leq D)$ and

$$|X| E_1 \circ E_\ell = b_{\ell-1}^* E_{\ell-1} + a_\ell^* E_\ell + c_{\ell+1}^* E_{\ell+1} \quad (0 \leq \ell \leq D)$$

where $E_{-1} = E_{D+1} = 0$ and \circ is the **entrywise product**.

Width and dual width (Brouwer et al., 2003)

- We shall assume Γ is a Q -polynomial DRG.
- $Y \subseteq X$: a nonempty subset of X
- $\chi \in \mathbb{C}^X$: the characteristic vector of Y
- $w = \max\{i : \chi^\top A_i \chi \neq 0\}$: the **width** of Y
- $w^* = \max\{\ell : \chi^\top E_\ell \chi \neq 0\}$: the **dual width** of Y



Theorem (Brouwer–Godsil–Koolen–Martin, 2003)

- We have

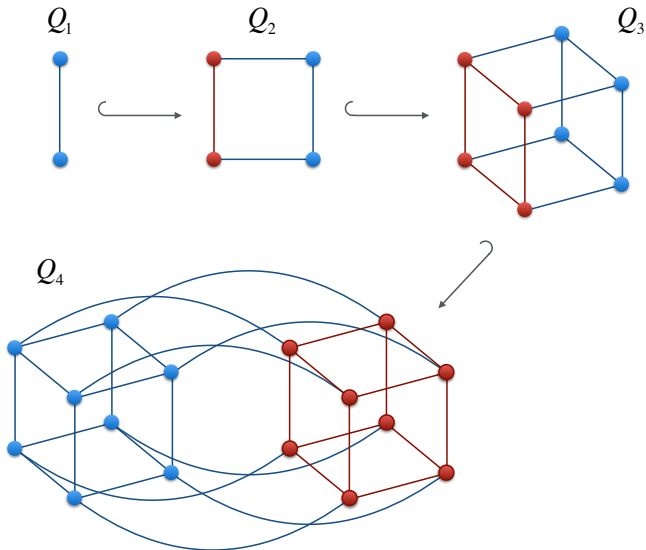
$$w + w^* \geq D.$$

- If $w + w^* = D$ then Y is completely regular, and the induced subgraph Γ_Y on Y is a Q -polynomial DRG with diameter w provided it is connected.

- Y : a **descendent** of $\Gamma \stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} w + w^* = D$
- Descendents play a role in the **Assmus–Mattson theorem** (T., 2009) and also in the **Erdős–Ko–Rado theorem** (T., 2006, 2012).

- $w = 0 : Y = \{x\}$ ($x \in X$)
- $w = D : Y = X$
- $w = 1 : \text{Delsarte cliques}$ ($\implies \theta_D = \theta_{\min}$) i.e., $|Y| = 1 - \frac{k_1}{\theta_D}$

A chain of descendants



Theorem (T., 2011)

- *Let Y be a descendent of Γ and suppose Γ_Y is connected. Then a nonempty subset of Y is a descendent of Γ_Y if and only if it is a descendent of Γ .*
- \mathcal{L} : the set of isomorphism classes of Q -polynomial DRGs
- $[\Delta] \preceq [\Gamma] \stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} \exists Y : \text{a descendent of } \Gamma \text{ s.t. } [\Delta] = [\Gamma_Y]$
- (\mathcal{L}, \preceq) : a **poset**

The structure of (\mathcal{L}, \preceq)

- The classification of descendents is complete for the 15 **known** infinite families of DRGs with unbounded diameter and with **classical parameters** (BGKM, 2003; T., 2006, 2011).
- The **ideal** $\mathcal{I}_{[\Gamma]} = \{[\Delta] \in \mathcal{L} : [\Delta] \preceq [\Gamma]\}$ is known if Γ belongs to one of the above families.

The structure of (\mathcal{L}, \preceq)

Problem

- Determine the **filter** $\mathcal{F}_{[\Gamma]} = \{[\Delta] \in \mathcal{L} : [\Gamma] \preceq [\Delta]\}$
- This has been solved at the **parameteric level**.
- The generic case is described in terms of **5** scalars (besides D) q, r_1, r_2, s, s^* where $r_1 r_2 = s s^* q^{D+1}$ (Leonard, 1982).

Theorem (T., 2009, 2011)

- *Suppose $[\Gamma] \preceq [\Delta]$ and Δ has diameter $C \geq D$. If $D \geq 3$ then the scalars corresponding to Δ are*

$$q, r_1, r_2, s q^{D-C}, s^*.$$


$$r_1 r_2 = (s q^{D-C}) s^* q^{C+1}$$

When Γ_Y is connected

Theorem (Brouwer–Godsil–Koolen–Martin, 2003)

- We have

$$w + w^* \geq D.$$

- If $w + w^* = D$ then Y is completely regular, and the induced subgraph Γ_Y on Y is a Q -polynomial DRG with diameter w provided it is connected.

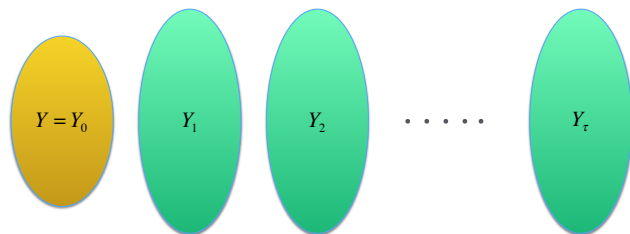
Theorem (T., 2011)

- Let Y be a descendent of Γ . Then Γ_Y is connected if and only if $q \neq -1$, or $q = -1$ and w^* is even.

▶ Jump to 21

The Terwilliger algebra

- $Y \subseteq X$: a nonempty subset of X
- $Y_i = \{z \in X : \partial(z, Y) = i\}$
- $\tau = \max\{i : Y_i \neq \emptyset\}$: the covering radius of Y



the distance partition of X

The Terwilliger algebra

- $\chi_i \in \mathbb{C}^X$: the characteristic vector of Y_i ($0 \leq i \leq \tau$)
- $E_i^* = \text{Diag}(\chi_i) \in \text{Mat}_X(\mathbb{C})$ ($0 \leq i \leq \tau$),

$$(E_i^*)_{zz} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } z \in Y_i, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \quad (z \in X).$$

- $\mathbf{T} = \mathbf{T}(Y) = \mathbb{C}[A_1, E_0^*, \dots, E_\tau^*]$: the **Terwilliger algebra** with respect to Y (Martin–Taylor, 1997; Suzuki, 2005)
- $Y = \{x\} \implies \mathbf{T} = \mathbf{T}(x)$: the Terwilliger algebra with respect to x (Terwilliger, 1992)

“subconstituent algebra”

The case when Y is a descendent

- We shall assume Y is a descendent of Γ .

- We have $\tau = |\{\ell \neq 0 : \chi^\top E_\ell \chi \neq 0\}| = w^*$.

Delsarte (1973)

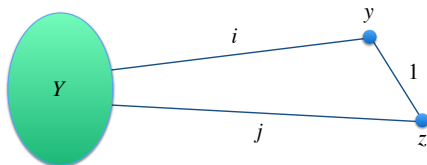
BGKM (2003)

“dual degree”

- $\mathbf{T} = \mathbb{C}[A_1, E_0^*, \dots, E_{w^*}^*]$

The dual adjacency matrix

- $E_i^* A_1 E_j^* = 0$ if $|i - j| > 1$



- $A_1^* = \frac{|X|}{|C|} \text{Diag}(E_1 \chi) \in \text{Mat}_X(\mathbb{C})$: the **dual adjacency matrix**
- Y : completely regular $\implies A_1^* \in \mathbf{M}^* := \langle E_0^*, E_1^*, \dots, E_{w^*}^* \rangle$
 ↖ “dual Bose–Mesner algebra”

Lemma (cf. Cameron–Goethals–Seidel, 1978)

- $E_i A_1^* E_j = 0$ if $|i - j| > 1$

Tridiagonal pairs

- W : a finite-dimensional complex vector space
- $\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{a}^* \in \text{End}(W)$: diagonalizable
- $(\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{a}^*)$: a **tridiagonal pair** (Ito–Tanabe–Terwilliger, 2001)
 - $\Leftrightarrow^{\text{def}}$ • $\exists W_0, W_1, \dots, W_d$: an ordering of the eigenspaces of A s.t.
$$\mathfrak{a}^* W_i \subset W_{i-1} + W_i + W_{i+1} \quad (0 \leq i \leq d);$$
 - $\exists W_0^*, W_1^*, \dots, W_{d^*}^*$: an ordering of the eigenspaces of A^* s.t.
$$\mathfrak{a} W_i^* \subset W_{i-1}^* + W_i^* + W_{i+1}^* \quad (0 \leq i \leq d^*);$$
 - W : irreducible as a $\mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{a}^*]$ -module.

Proposition (Ito–Tanabe–Terwilliger, 2001)

- $d = d^*$.

Do irreducible T -modules afford tridiagonal pairs?

- $E_i^* A_1 E_j^* = 0$ if $|i - j| > 1$
- $E_i A_1^* E_j = 0$ if $|i - j| > 1$
- W : an irreducible T -module
- $A_1 E_i^* W \subset E_{i-1}^* W + E_i^* W + E_{i+1}^* W$
- $A_1^* E_i W \subset E_{i-1} W + E_i W + E_{i+1} W$
- If $M^* = \mathbb{C}[A_1^*]$ then W is irreducible as a $\mathbb{C}[A_1, A_1^*]$ -module.


$$T = \mathbb{C}[A_1, A_1^*]$$

Theorem

- *Every irreducible T -module affords a tridiagonal pair if and only if $q \neq -1$, or $q = -1$ and w is even.*

▶ Jump to 15

Some general results

- We shall assume $q \neq -1$.
- W : an irreducible T -module
- $\rho = \min\{i : E_i^*W \neq 0\}$: the **endpoint** of W
- $\rho^* = \min\{\ell : E_\ell W \neq 0\}$: the **dual endpoint** of W
- $d = |\{i : E_i^*W \neq 0\}| = |\{\ell : E_\ell W \neq 0\}|$: the **diameter** of W
- $\{i : E_i^*W \neq 0\} = \{\rho, \dots, \rho + d\} \subset \{0, 1, \dots, w^*\}$
- $\{\ell : E_\ell W \neq 0\} = \{\rho^*, \dots, \rho^* + d\} \subset \{0, 1, \dots, D\}$

Proposition (cf. Caughman, 1999)

- $2\rho + d \geq w^*$
- $2\rho^* + d \geq w^*$

Some general results

- $\rho + d \leq w^*$
- $\rho^* + d \leq D$
- $2\rho + d \geq w^*$
- $2\rho^* + d \geq w^*$
- $\eta := \rho + \underbrace{\rho^* + d}_{\wedge w^*} - w^* : \text{the displacement of } W$
 $\quad \quad \quad \wedge \quad \quad \quad \wedge$
 $\quad \quad \quad w^* \quad \quad \quad D$
- $0 \leq \eta \leq D$

- We may generalize the **displacement** and **split decompositions** of \mathbb{C}^X due to Terwilliger (2005).
- In particular, it is likely that $U_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2) \twoheadrightarrow \boxtimes_q \xrightarrow{\exists} \mathbf{T}$ when Γ is a forms graph (cf. Ito–Terwilliger, 2009).

“ q -tetrahedron algebra”

Some general results

- W : thin $\stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} \dim E_i^* W \leq 1$ ($0 \leq i \leq D$)
 \iff the associated tridiagonal pair is a **Leonard pair**

Theorem (Hosoya–Suzuki, 2007)

- *There are precisely $w + 1$ inequivalent irreducible T -modules in \mathbb{C}^X with $\rho = 0$.*
- *Each of such modules is thin and is generated by an eigenvector of Γ_Y in $\mathbb{C}^Y = E_0^* \mathbb{C}^X$.*

 a Q -polynomial DRG with diameter w

Hamming graphs

- $[q] = \{0, 1, \dots, q-1\}$ ($q \geq 2$)
- $X = [q]^D$
- $y \sim z \stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} |\{i : y_i \neq z_i\}| = 1$
- $\Gamma = H(D, q)$: the **Hamming graph**

- The structure of $\mathbf{T}(x)$ has been well studied.
- $H(D, 2) = \mathcal{Q}_D \implies U(\mathfrak{sl}_2) \xrightarrow{\exists} \mathbf{T}(x)$ (Go, 2002)
- $H(D, q)$ ($q \geq 3$) \implies The method for the Doob graphs (Tanabe, 1997) works as well.

Hamming graphs

- $n \in \{0, 1, \dots, D\}$
- $Y = \{z \in X : z_1 = \dots = z_n = 0\}$: a descendent with $w = D - n$, $w^* = n$

$$z = (\underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_n \mid \underbrace{*, \dots, *}_{D-n})$$

- $\Gamma_Y \cong H(D - n, q)$

Theorem (Brouwer–Godsil–Koolen–Martin, 2003)

- *Every descendent of $\Gamma = H(D, q)$ with $w^* = n$ is isomorphic (under $\text{Aut } \Gamma$) to Y above.*

Hamming graphs

- $z = (\underbrace{0, 0, 0, \dots, 0}_n \mid \underbrace{*, \dots, *}_{D-n}) \in Y = Y_0$

- $z = (\underbrace{1, 0, 0, \dots, 0}_n \mid \underbrace{*, \dots, *}_{D-n}) \in Y_1$

- $z = (\underbrace{1, 1, 0, \dots, 0}_n \mid \underbrace{*, \dots, *}_{D-n}) \in Y_2$

- $Y_i = \Gamma'_i(\mathbf{0}) \times [q]^{D-n} \quad (0 \leq i \leq n)$


where $\Gamma' = H(n, q)$ and $\mathbf{0} = (\underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_n)$

Hamming graphs

- $\Gamma' = H(n, q), \quad \Gamma'' = H(D - n, q)$
- Use ' (resp. '') to denote objects associated with Γ' (resp. Γ'').
- $Y_i = \Gamma'_i(\mathbf{0}) \times [q]^{D-n} \quad (0 \leq i \leq n)$
- $E_i^* = E_i^{*'} \otimes I'' \in \mathbf{T}'(\mathbf{0}) \otimes \mathbf{M}'' \quad (0 \leq i \leq n)$
- $A_1 = A_1' \otimes I'' + I' \otimes A_1'' \in \mathbf{T}'(\mathbf{0}) \otimes \mathbf{M}''$
- $\mathbf{T} \subset \mathbf{T}'(\mathbf{0}) \otimes \mathbf{M}''$

Theorem

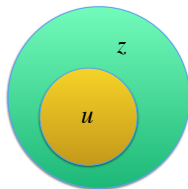
- *Every irreducible $(\mathbf{T}'(\mathbf{0}) \otimes \mathbf{M}'')$ -module is a thin irreducible \mathbf{T} -module.*

- Use $\tilde{}$ to denote objects associated with $Q_v = H(v, 2)$ ($v \geq 2D$).
- $X = \tilde{\Gamma}_D(\mathbf{0}) = \{z \in [2]^v : \partial(\mathbf{0}, z) = D\}$ where $\mathbf{0} = (0, \dots, 0)$
 in bijection with $\binom{[v]}{D}$
- $y \sim z \stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} \partial(y, z) = 2$
- $\Gamma = J(v, D)$: the **Johnson graph**

Johnson graphs

- $n \in \{0, 1, \dots, D\}$
- $u \in \tilde{\Gamma}_n(\mathbf{0}) \longleftrightarrow \binom{[v]}{n}$
- $Y = \{z \in X : \partial(u, z) = D - n\}$: a descendent with $w = D - n$, $w^* = n$

$$u = (\overbrace{1, \dots, 1}^n \mid \overbrace{0, \dots, 0, 0, \dots, 0}^{v-n})$$
$$z = (\overbrace{1, \dots, 1}^n \mid \underbrace{1, \dots, 1}_{D-n}, 0, \dots, 0)$$





- $\Gamma_Y \cong J(v - n, D - n)$

Theorem (Brouwer–Godsil–Koolen–Martin, 2003)

- *Every descendent of $\Gamma = J(v, D)$ with $w^* = n$ is isomorphic (under $\text{Aut } \Gamma$) to Y above.*

- $u = (\underbrace{1, \dots, 1, 1, 1}_n \mid \underbrace{0, \dots, 0, 0, 0, 0, \dots, 0}_{v-n})$
- $z = (\underbrace{1, \dots, 1, 1, 1}_n \mid \underbrace{1, \dots, 1, 0, 0, 0, \dots, 0}_{D-n}) \in Y = Y_0$
- $z = (\underbrace{1, \dots, 1, 1, 0}_{n-1} \mid \underbrace{1, \dots, 1, 1, 0, 0, \dots, 0}_{D-n+1}) \in Y_1$
- $z = (\underbrace{1, \dots, 1, 0, 0}_{n-2} \mid \underbrace{1, \dots, 1, 1, 1, 0, \dots, 0}_{D-n+2}) \in Y_2$
- $Y_i = \Gamma'_{n-i}(\mathbf{0}) \times \Gamma''_{D-n+i}(\mathbf{0}) \quad (0 \leq i \leq n)$
 where $\Gamma' = Q_n$ and $\Gamma'' = Q_{v-n}$

Johnson graphs

- $\Gamma' = \mathcal{Q}_n, \quad \Gamma'' = \mathcal{Q}_{v-n}$
- Use ' (resp. '') to denote objects associated with Γ' (resp. Γ'').
- $Y_i = \Gamma'_{n-i}(\mathbf{0}) \times \Gamma''_{D-n+i}(\mathbf{0}) \quad (0 \leq i \leq n)$
- $E_i^* = E_{n-i}^{*'} \otimes E_{D-n+i}^{*''} \in \tilde{E}_D^*(\mathbf{T}' \otimes \mathbf{T}'') \tilde{E}_D^*$

- $A_1 = \tilde{E}_D^* \tilde{A}_2 \tilde{E}_D^* \in \tilde{E}_D^*(\mathbf{T}' \otimes \mathbf{T}'') \tilde{E}_D^*$

- $\mathbf{T} \subset \tilde{E}_D^*(\mathbf{T}' \otimes \mathbf{T}'') \tilde{E}_D^*$

Theorem

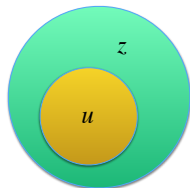
- Every irreducible $(\tilde{E}_D^*(\mathbf{T}' \otimes \mathbf{T}'') \tilde{E}_D^*)$ -module is a thin irreducible \mathbf{T} -module.

Grassmann graphs

- $\mathcal{V} = \mathbb{F}_q^v$ ($v \geq 2D$)
- $X = \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \mathcal{V} \\ D \end{smallmatrix} \right]_q$ ← the set of D -dimensional subspaces of \mathcal{V}
- $y \sim z \stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} \dim(y \cap z) = D - 1$
- $\Gamma = J_q(v, D)$: the **Grassmann graph**

Grassmann graphs

- $n \in \{0, 1, \dots, D\}$
- $u \in \binom{\mathcal{V}}{n}_q$
- $Y = \{z \in X : u \leq z\}$: a descendent with $w = D - n, w^* = n$
- $\Gamma_Y \cong J_q(v - n, D - n)$



Theorem (T., 2006)

- Every descendent of $\Gamma = J_q(v, D)$ with $w^* = n$ is isomorphic (under $\text{Aut } \Gamma$) to Y above.
- $Y_i = \{z \in X : \dim(u \cap z) = n - i\}$ ($0 \leq i \leq n$)

- $P(\mathcal{V}) = \prod_{i=0}^v [\mathcal{V}]_q^i$: the set of subspaces of \mathcal{V}
 - $G = \text{GL}(\mathcal{V}) \curvearrowright P(\mathcal{V})$
 - $K = G_u = \{g \in G : gu = u\}$
 - $\mathcal{H} = \{B \in \text{End}(\mathbb{C}^{P(\mathcal{V})}) : gB = Bg \text{ for } \forall g \in K\}$
- Dunkl (1978) decomposed $\mathbb{C}^{P(\mathcal{V})}$ into irreducible K -modules, and computed all the spherical functions, i.e., the structure of \mathcal{H} is (essentially) known.


Grassmann graphs

- $\mathcal{H} = \{B \in \text{End}(\mathbb{C}^{P(\mathcal{V})}) : gB = Bg \text{ for } \forall g \in K\}$ ← known
- $K \curvearrowright X = \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{V} \\ D \end{bmatrix}$
- $\mathcal{H}_X = \{B \in \text{End}(\mathbb{C}^X) : gB = Bg \text{ for } \forall g \in K\}$ ← known
- $Y_i = \{z \in X : \dim(u \cap z) = n - i\}$ ($0 \leq i \leq n$)
- $K \cdot Y_i = Y_i \implies E_i^* \in \mathcal{H}_X$
- $T \subset \mathcal{H}_X$

Theorem

- *Every irreducible \mathcal{H}_X -module is a thin irreducible T -module.*

Semilattice-type DRGs

- 
- done
- Γ : a Johnson, Hamming, Grassmann, bilinear forms, or a dual polar graph
 - (\mathcal{P}, \preceq) : the associated semilattice
 - $u \in \mathcal{P}$: rank n
 - $Y = \{z \in X : u \preceq z\}$: a descendent with $w = D - n, w^* = n$
- (very) hard

Theorem (BGKM, 2003; T., 2006)

- *Every descendent of Γ with $w^* = n$ is isomorphic (under $\text{Aut } \Gamma$) to Y above.*

The bipartite Q -polynomial DRGs

- Suppose Γ is bipartite.

Theorem (Caughman, 1999)

- *The structure of $T(x)$ depends only on the parameters of Γ .*

- The dual polar graphs $[D_D(q)]$ and the Hemmeter graphs $\text{Hem}_D(q)$ have the same parameters.

- Y : an edge of Γ ; a descendent with $w = 1, w^* = D - 1$

 a Delsarte clique

Problem

- Study $T(Y)$.