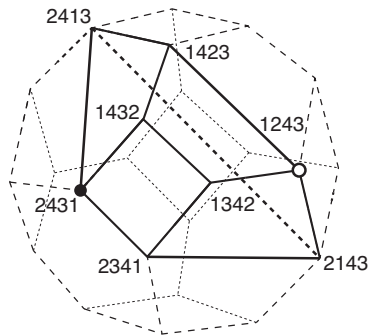
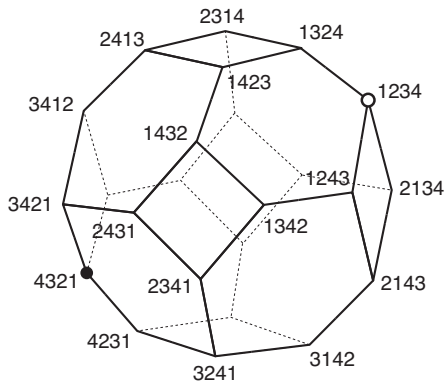


The Toda lattice and Bruhat interval polytopes

Lauren K. Williams, UC Berkeley



Plan of the talk

- Introduction to the Toda lattice
- The sorting property
- The positive flag variety, and generalized sorting.
- Bruhat interval polytopes and their faces
- The generalized lifting property and R -polynomials
- Combinatorics of Bruhat interval polytopes
- Bruhat interval polytopes for G/P

References

- (joint with Yuji Kodama) The full Kostant-Toda hierarchy on the positive flag variety, to appear in Comm. Math. Phys.
- (joint with Emmanuel Tsukerman) Bruhat Interval Polytopes, arXiv:1406.5202

The Toda lattice

The Toda lattice is defined by

$$\frac{dL}{dt} = [\pi(L), L],$$

where $L = L(t)$ is a tridiagonal symmetric matrix and $\pi(L)$ is its skew-symmetric projection:

$$L = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 & a_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ a_1 & b_2 & a_2 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & a_2 & b_3 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & \cdots & a_{n-1} & b_n \end{pmatrix}, \pi(L) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & a_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ -a_1 & 0 & a_2 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & -a_2 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & \cdots & -a_{n-1} & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- Model introduced by Toda in 1967 (Def above due to Flaschka 1974)
- Represents dynamics of n particles of unit mass, moving on a line under influence of exponential repulsive forces.
- Eigenvalues of $L(t)$ are independent of t .

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Sorting property of the Toda lattice

Suppose the initial matrix $L(0)$ is generic: it has distinct eigenvalues $\lambda_1 < \lambda_2 < \dots < \lambda_n$ and $a_k(0) \neq 0$ for all k . Then the time evolution of the Toda lattice sorts the eigenvalues of L !

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} L(t) = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix}$$

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The complete flag variety

Let $G = \mathrm{SL}_n(\mathbb{R})$, $B^+ = B$ and B^- be the subgroups of upper and lower triangular matrices. Then G/B is the *complete flag variety*. Can identify elements with flags

$$\mathrm{Fl}_n = \{V_1 \subset V_2 \subset \cdots \subset V_n = \mathbb{R}^n \mid \dim V_i = i\}.$$

Let $W = S_n$ the symmetric group. For $w \in W$, let \dot{w} denote a representative in G . Have two opposite Schubert decompositions of G/B :

$$G/B = \bigsqcup_{w \in W} B\dot{w}B/B = \bigsqcup_{v \in W} B^-\dot{v}B/B.$$

Define the intersection of opposite Schubert cells (Richardson variety):

$$\mathcal{R}_{v,w} := (B\dot{w}B/B) \cap (B^-\dot{v}B/B)$$

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The totally non-negative (tnn) flag variety (Lusztig)

Let U^+ and U^- be the subgroups of upper and lower triangular matrices in G with 1's on diagonal. Let $y_i(m) \in U^-$ be the element

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & & & & \\ & \ddots & & & & & \\ & & 1 & & & & \\ & & m & 1 & & & \\ & & & & \ddots & & \\ & & & & & & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Let $U_{\geq 0}^-$ of U^- be the semigroup in U^- generated by the $y_i(p)$ for $p \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$. The *tnn flag variety* $(G/B)_{\geq 0}$ is

$$(G/B)_{\geq 0} := \overline{\{uB \mid u \in U_{\geq 0}^-\}},$$

where the closure is taken inside G/B in its real topology.

$$\text{For comparison: } G/B = \overline{\{uB \mid u \in U^-\}}.$$

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The cell decomposition of the tnn flag variety

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Rietsch's theorem

For $v, w \in W$ with $v \leq w$ in Bruhat order, let

$$\mathcal{R}_{v,w}^{>0} := \mathcal{R}_{v,w} \cap (G/B)_{\geq 0}.$$

This is a topological cell of dimension $\ell(w) - \ell(v)$.

So the tnn flag variety $(G/B)_{\geq 0}$ has a cell decomposition,

$$(G/B)_{\geq 0} = \bigsqcup_{w \in S_n} \left(\bigsqcup_{v \leq w} \mathcal{R}_{v,w}^{>0} \right). \quad (1)$$

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From $(G/B)_{\geq 0}$ to the full symmetric Toda lattice

Fix real numbers $\lambda_1 < \lambda_2 < \dots < \lambda_n$, and let \mathcal{F}_Λ be the set of symmetric matrices with fixed eigenvalues $\{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n\}$.

Let $\Lambda := \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$.

To each $gB \in (G/B)_{\geq 0}$, we associate an initial matrix $\mathcal{L}^0 \in \mathcal{F}_\Lambda$ as follows:

- Use the QR-decomposition to write $g = q_0 b_0$ where $q_0 \in SO_n(\mathbb{R})$ and $b_0 \in B$. This uniquely defines q_0 .
- Set $\mathcal{L}^0 = q_0^T \Lambda q_0 \in \mathcal{F}_\Lambda$.
- We can now consider the solution $\mathcal{L}(t)$ to the full symmetric Toda lattice, with initial data $\mathcal{L}(0) := \mathcal{L}^0$.

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Let $\mathcal{L}^0 \in \mathcal{F}_\Lambda$ be the initial matrix associated to $gB \in \mathcal{R}_{v,w}^{>0}$, defined by:

- Factoring $g = q_0 b_0$ where $q_0 \in SO_n(\mathbb{R})$ and $b_0 \in B$
- Setting $\mathcal{L}^0 = q_0^T \Lambda q_0$.

Then

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} \mathcal{L}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_{v(1)} & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_{v(2)} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_{v(n)} \end{pmatrix}$$

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Recall that $(G/B)_{\geq 0} = \bigsqcup_{w \in S_n} \left(\bigsqcup_{v \leq w} \mathcal{R}_{v,w}^{>0} \right)$.

Let $\mathcal{L}^0 \in \mathcal{F}_\Lambda$ be the initial matrix associated to $gB \in \mathcal{R}_{v,w}^{>0}$, defined by:

- Factoring $g = q_0 b_0$ where $q_0 \in SO_n(\mathbb{R})$ and $b_0 \in B$
- Setting $\mathcal{L}^0 = q_0^T \Lambda q_0$.

Then

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Other extensions

The full symmetric Toda hierarchy

The full symmetric Toda hierarchy has $n - 1$ parameters t_1, \dots, t_{n-1} , and is given by

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial t_k} = [\pi(L^k), L], \quad \text{for } k = 1, 2, \dots, n - 1.$$

Theorem (Kodama - W.)

Suppose that $gB \in \mathcal{R}_{v,w}^{>0}$ and consider the corresponding solution to the full symmetric Toda hierarchy. Then for each permutation z such that $v \leq z \leq w$, there exists a direction $\mathbf{t}(s)$ such that $\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{t}(s))$ tends to

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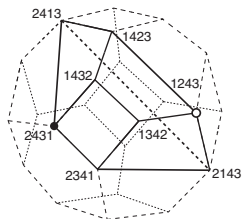
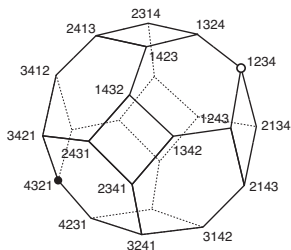
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After analyzing the moment map images of flows in the full symmetric Toda hierarchy, we were led to study the following polytopes:

Definition (Kodama -W.)

Let $u \leq v$ in the Bruhat order on S_n . The Bruhat interval polytope $Q_{u,v}$ is

$$Q_{u,v} = \text{Conv}\{(z(1), \dots, z(n)) \mid u \leq z \leq v\}.$$



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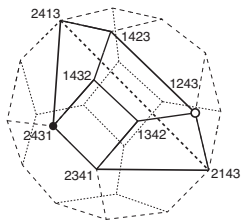
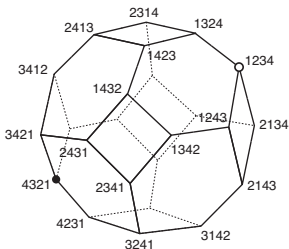
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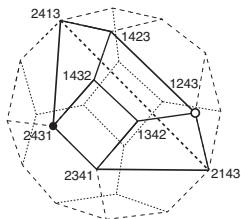
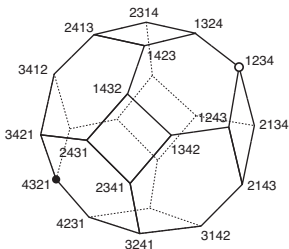
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Combinatorics of Bruhat interval polytopes

Remark: Recall that the edges of the permutohedron correspond to cover relations in the weak Bruhat order. Faces of permutohedra are isomorphic to products of smaller permutohedra.

Theorem (Tsukerman-W.)

The face of every Bruhat interval polytope $Q_{u,v}$ has the form $Q_{x,y}$ where $u \leq x \leq y \leq v$. In particular, each edge of $Q_{u,v}$ comes from a cover relation in the (strong) Bruhat order.

Our proof uses:

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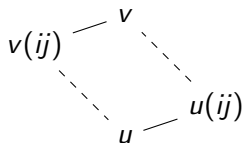
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Lifting property: Suppose $u < v$ in Bruhat order and s is a simple reflection such that $vs \triangleleft v$ and $us \triangleright u$. Then $u \leq vs \triangleleft v$ and $u \triangleleft us \leq v$.

Caution: *such an s may not exist.*



Def: Say a transposition (ij) is *inversion-minimal* on (u, v) if $[i, j]$ is minimal (with respect to inclusion) such that $v(ij) < v$ and $u(ij) > u$.

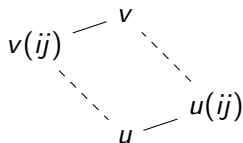
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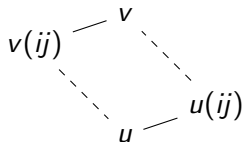
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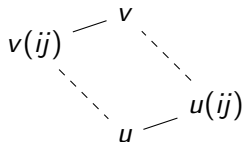
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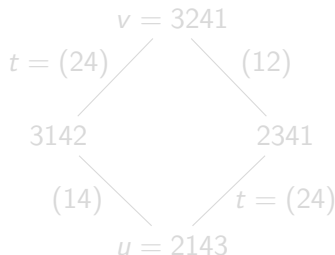
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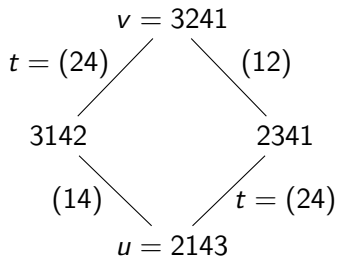
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Generalization of the recurrence for R -polynomials $R_{u,v}(q)$

Kazhdan and Lusztig introduced R -polynomials as a tool for computing Kazhdan-Lusztig polynomials. Geometric interpretation:
 $R_{u,v}(q) = \#\mathcal{R}_{u,v}(\mathbb{F}_q)$, the number of \mathbb{F}_q -points in the Richardson variety.

They showed that R -polynomials can be defined by the conditions:

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$$R_{u,v}(q) = \begin{cases} R_{us,vs}(q) & \text{if } us < u, \\ qR_{us,vs}(q) + (q-1)R_{u,vs}(q) & \text{if } us > u. \end{cases}$$

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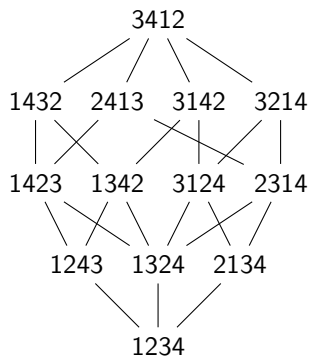
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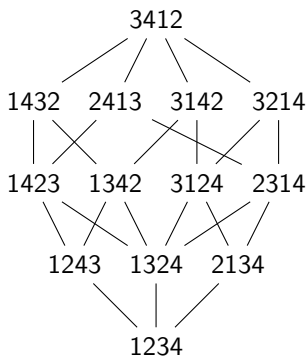
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Def/Lemma: Let $u \leq v$ in S_n , and let $\mathcal{C} : u = x_{(0)} \triangleleft x_{(1)} \cdots \triangleleft x_{(\ell)} = v$ be any maximal chain in $[u, v]$. Label each edge of \mathcal{C} by the transposition (ab) indicating the positions which are swapped. Then say $a \sim b$ for each edge label on \mathcal{C} . Let $B_{u,v} = \{B^1, \dots, B^r\}$ be the blocks of the equivalence relation on $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ that \sim generates. Then $B_{u,v}$ is independent of \mathcal{C} .



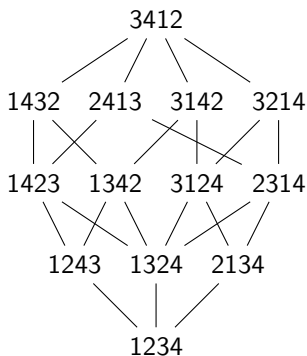
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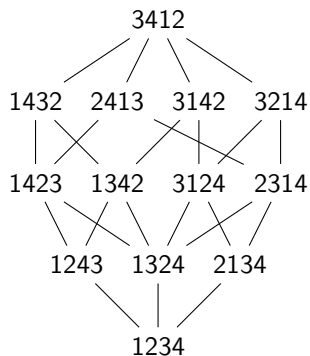
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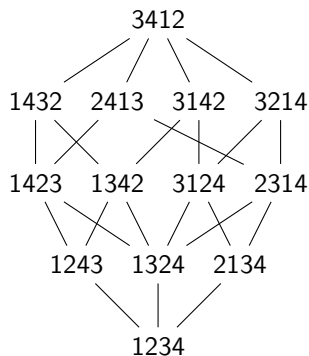
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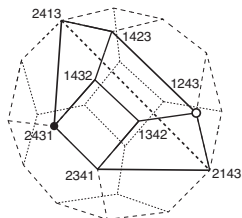
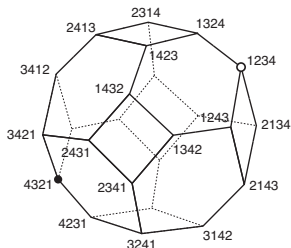
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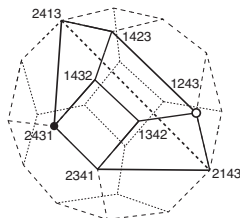
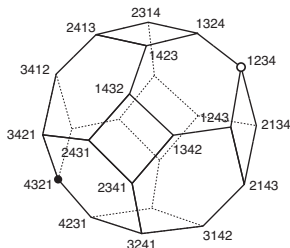
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An inequality description for Bruhat interval polytopes

If \mathcal{M} is a matroid on $[n]$ and $A \subset [n]$, let $r_{\mathcal{M}}(A)$ denote the rank of A . Since $Q_{u,v}$ is a Minkowski sum of matroid polytopes, we get the following.

Theorem (T.W.)

Choose $u \leq v \in S_n$, and for each $1 \leq k \leq n-1$, define the matroid \mathcal{M}_k whose bases are

$$\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{M}_k) = \left\{ I \in \binom{[n]}{k} \mid \exists z \in [u, v] \text{ such that } I = \{z(1), \dots, z(k)\} \right\}.$$

Then

$$Q_{u,v} = \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \sum_{i \in [n]} x_i = \binom{n+1}{2}, \sum_{i \in A} x_i \leq \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} r_{\mathcal{M}_j}(A) \forall A \subset [n] \right\}$$

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Bruhat interval polytopes for G/P

When $G = \mathrm{SL}_n(\mathbb{R})$, the Bruhat interval polytope $Q_{u,v}$ has a natural interpretation in terms of the moment map $\mu : G/B \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$:

$$Q_{u,v} = \mu(\mathcal{R}_{u,v}) = \mu(\overline{\mathcal{R}_{u,v}^{>0}}).$$

This leads to the notion of Bruhat interval polytope for G/P .

- G – a semisimple simply connected algebraic group with torus T and Weyl group W
- $P = P_J$ – a parabolic subgroup of G
- ρ_J – sum of fund. weights corresp. to J , so that $G/P \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}(V_{\rho_J})$.
- Choose $u \leq v$ in W , where v is a min-length coset rep in W/W_J .

We define the *Bruhat interval polytope* for G/P to be

$$Q_{u,v}^J := \mathrm{Conv}\{z \cdot \rho_J \mid u \leq z \leq v\} \subset t_{\mathbb{R}}^+.$$

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Bruhat interval polytopes for G/P include:

- Bruhat interval polytopes
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Theorem (T.W.)

The face of a Bruhat interval polytopes for G/P is again a Bruhat interval polytope for G/P .

Tools in proof:

- work of Rietsch and Marsh-Rietsch,
- the moment map, and the *Gelfand-Serganova* stratification of G/P (which generalizes the matroid stratification of the Grassmannian).

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As part of the proof, we also show:

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Each cell of $(G/P)_{\geq 0}$ is contained in one Gelfand-Serganova stratum.^a

^aThis was conjectured by Rietsch and partially proved in an unpublished manuscript of Marsh-Rietsch.

Moreover, Rietsch's cell decomposition of $(G/B)_{\geq 0}$ is the restriction of the Gelfand-Serganova stratification to G/B . This is analogous to the fact that Postnikov's cell decomposition of $Gr_{k,n}^+$ is the restriction of the matroid stratification to $Gr_{k,n}$.

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Happy birthday Richard!

