

# Week 3.

Last time: Weyl gp.

length function  $\rightarrow$  (i) via reduced expressions  
generators of order 2.  
 $\downarrow$  (ii) via root system  
 $|\Phi^+ \cap w(\Phi^-)|$ .

Exchange property: If  $w = s_{i_1} \dots s_{i_n}$  reduced.

$l(sw) < l(w)$ , then

$$sw = s_{i_1} \dots \hat{s}_{i_j} \dots s_{i_n}$$

Characterisation: For any gp gen. by ele. of order 2. It is a Coxeter gp iff the exchange property holds.

Word problem: If  $w = s_{i_1} \dots s_{i_n}$  reduced

$$= s_{j_1} \dots s_{j_m} \text{ reduced}$$

then  $s_{i_1} \dots s_{i_n} = s_{j_1} \dots s_{j_m}$  in braid gps.

(A braid gp is Coxeter gp without  $s_i^2=1$  relation and only with Coxeter relations).

## Bruhat decomposition

(Ref. Kumar's Kac-Moody gps, their flag varieties and rep. theory.)

Def. (Tits system).

A Tits system (or BN-pairs) is  $(G, B, N, S)$  where

$G$  is a gp

$B, N \leq G$  subgps s.t.  $B \cap N \triangleleft N$  normal.

$S: S \subseteq W := N/B \cap N$  a finite subset of

s.t. Weyl gp.

(BN1)  $S$  generates  $W$ . ( $S$  big enough)

(BN2)  $B, N$  generates  $G$ . ( $B, N$  big enough).

(BN3)  $\forall s \in S, sBs^{-1} \not\subseteq B$  (no redundancy for  $s$ ).

(BN4)  $C(s)C(w) \subseteq C(w) \cup C(sw) \forall s \in S, w \in W$ .

where  $C(w) = BwB$ .

$\uparrow$  We usually use  $w \in N$  as a representative.

Proof of Bruhat Decomposition.

Thm. Let  $(G, B, N, S)$  be a Tits system. Then.

- (i).  $G = \coprod_{w \in W} C(w)$  is a disjoint union.
- (ii).  $(W, S)$  is a Coxeter group.

Pf. ① Claim:  $s^2 = 1 \quad \forall s \in S$ .

pf. of ①.  $C(s)C(s^{-1}) \subseteq C(s^{-1}) \cup C(1)$ . (BN4)

Taking inverse on both sides

$$\begin{aligned} C(s^{-1})^{-1} C(s)^{-1} &\subseteq C(s) \cup C(1) \\ \parallel & \\ C(s) &C(s^{-1}) \end{aligned}$$

①-1 Claim.  $C(s)C(s^{-1}) = C(s) \sqcup C(1)$ .

pf. of ①-1. First,  $C(s) \cap C(1) = \emptyset$ .

Otherwise,  $C(s) \cap C(1) \neq \emptyset$

$\Rightarrow C(s) = C(1)$

$\Rightarrow s = 1$  in  $W$

$\Rightarrow \Leftarrow$  to (BN3).

$\Rightarrow \Leftarrow$  to (BN3).

Second, we show this is equality.

Indeed,  $C(1) = Bs s^{-1} B \in C(s)C(s^{-1})$

$$C(s)C(s^{-1}) = \underbrace{BsBs^{-1}B}_{\neq B} \neq B = C(1)$$

by (BN3).

As  $C(s)C(s^{-1})$  is a union of

double cosets, it must be

the union of two cosets  $C(s) \sqcup C(1)$ .  $\square$

Similarly,  $C(s)C(s^{-1}) = C(s^{-1})C(1)$ .

Hence  $C(s) = C(s^{-1})$ .

Now by (BN4), taking  $w = s$ ,

$$C(s)C(s) \subseteq C(s) \cup C(s^2)$$

and together with previous results,

$$C(s) \sqcup C(1) \subseteq C(s) \cup C(s^2)$$

Hence  $C(s^2) = C(1)$ .

Then  $(s)^2 \in B \cap N$ . Hence  $s^2 = 1$  in  $W$ .  $\square$

$$\textcircled{2}. G = \cup_{w \in W} C(w).$$

Pf. of ②. Set  $G' = \cup_{w \in W} C(w)$ .

By (BN1) and (BN2),

$G$  is generated by  $B$  and  $s$ ,  $s \in S$ .

Therefore, to prove  $G \subseteq G'$  it suffices to show

$\cdot B \cdot G' \subseteq G'$  and

$\cdot s \cdot G' \subseteq G'$

The first one is obvious since  $G'$  is union of double  $B$ -cosets. For the second, by (BN4)

$$s \cdot C(w) \subseteq C(s) \cdot C(w) \subseteq C(w) \cup C(sw) \subseteq G'. \quad \square$$

③  $G = \coprod_{w \in W} C(w)$  is disjoint union, i.e.,

if  $C(v) = C(w)$  then  $v = w$ , for  $v, w \in W$ .

Pf. of ③. By part ①, length is well-defined.

Assume  $l(w) \leq l(v)$ .

If  $l(w) = 0$ , then  $w = 1$ .  $C(1) = C(v) \Rightarrow v = 1$ .

If  $l(w) > 0$ , then  $\exists s \in S$  s.t.

$$w = sw' \text{ and } l(w) = l(w') + 1.$$

$$w' B \in s C(w) = s C(v) \subseteq C(v) \cup C(sv).$$

Hence  $C(w') \subseteq C(v) \cup C(sv)$ .

If  $C(w') = C(v)$  then by induction on length

$$l(v) = l(w') < l(w) \Rightarrow \Leftarrow$$

If  $C(w') = C(sv)$ , then by induction on length

$$w' = sv \text{ and so } w = sw' = v. \quad \square$$

④ (BN4) is actually in two cases.

$$C(s)C(w) = \begin{cases} C(sw) & \text{if } l(sw) \geq l(w) \\ C(w) \cup C(sw) & \text{if } l(sw) < l(w) \end{cases}$$

④-1.  $C(s)C(w) = C(sw)$  if  $l(sw) \geq l(w)$ .

Pf. of ④-1. If  $l(w) = 0$  this is obvious.

If  $l(w) > 0$ , write  $w = w't$  for some  $t \in S$  and

$$l(w) = l(w') + 1.$$

By induction,  $C(t)C(w'^{-1}) = C(w'^{-1})$ .

$$\text{Thus } C(w) = C(w')C(t).$$

$$\text{Now } C(s)C(w')C(t) = C(s)C(w) \subseteq C(w) \cup C(sw).$$

If  $C(s)C(w) \neq C(sw)$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} C(s)C(w) \cap C(w) &\neq \emptyset \\ \Rightarrow sBw \cap C(w) &\neq \emptyset \\ \Rightarrow sBw' \cap C(w) &\neq \emptyset \quad (\#1) \end{aligned}$$

As  $l(sw) \geq l(w)$ ,  $l(sw') \geq l(w')$   
 $\Rightarrow sBw' \subseteq C(sw')$  by induction. (#2)

Also  $C(w) \not\subseteq C(w) \cup C(w')$ . (BN4)  
 We know  $sw' \neq w'$ , so  $C(sw') \cap C(w') = \emptyset$

We claim  $sw' \neq w$  also, for otherwise,  
 $l(w') = l(sw) \geq l(w) \Rightarrow \Leftarrow$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{so } C(sw') \cap C(w) &= \emptyset \\ \Rightarrow C(sw') \cap (C(w) \cup C(w')) &= \emptyset \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow C(sw') \cap C(w) &\neq \emptyset \\ (\#2) \Rightarrow C(w) \cap sBw' &= \emptyset \Rightarrow \Leftarrow \text{ with } (\#1). \quad \square \\ &\quad \text{④-1} \end{aligned}$$

(④-2 cont'd on right hand side).  
 Remark: ④ has a variation

$$\text{④}' \quad C(w)C(s) = \begin{cases} C(ws) & \text{if } l(ws) \geq l(w) \\ C(w) \perp C(ws) & \text{if } l(ws) < l(w) \end{cases}$$

(take the inverse of ④).

⑤ (W, S) satisfies exchange property, i.e.,  
 for  $w = s_{i_1} \dots s_{i_n}$  a reduced expression,  $s \in S$ .

Assume  $l(sw) < l(w)$ . We want to show

$$sw = s_{i_1} \dots \hat{s}_{i_j} \dots s_{i_n}$$

pf of ⑤.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{By } \text{④}, C(w) &= C(s_{i_1}) \dots C(s_{i_n}) \\ \text{so } C(s)C(w) &= C(s)C(s_{i_1}) \dots C(s_{i_n}) \end{aligned}$$

By ④, the left-hand side

$$\begin{aligned} C(s)C(w) &= C(w) \perp C(sw) \\ &= C(w) \perp C(ss_{i_1} \dots s_{i_n}) \end{aligned}$$

By (BN4), the right hand side full sequence.

$$C(s)C(s_{i_1}) \dots C(s_{i_n}) \subseteq \bigcup_{\substack{1 \leq j_1 < j_2 < \dots < j_r \leq n \\ \text{all subsequences}}} C(ss_{i_{j_1}} \dots s_{i_{j_r}})$$

(Note that this is not disjoint as different  $j$ 's may give same ele in  $W$ ).

Thus,  $C(w) = C(ss_{i_{j_1}} \dots s_{i_{j_r}})$  for some proper subsequence

then  $w = ss_{i_{j_1}} \dots s_{i_{j_r}}$  by ③.

As  $l(w) = n$ ,  $l(ss_{i_{j_1}} \dots s_{i_{j_r}}) \leq 1 + (n-1) = n$ .  
 ↑  
 length of subseq.

We see

$$w = s \underbrace{s_{i_{j_1}} \dots s_{i_{j_r}}}_{\text{length } n-1} \text{ is a reduced expression}$$

where  $s_{i_{j_1}} \dots s_{i_{j_r}} = s_{i_1} \dots \hat{s}_{i_j} \dots s_{i_n}$ .

$$\text{so } sw = s_{i_1} \dots \hat{s}_{i_j} \dots s_{i_n}$$

□

□

Thm.

④-2.  $C(s)C(w) = C(w) \cup C(sw)$  if  $l(sw) < l(w)$ .

pf of ④-2.

Write  $w' = sw$ .  $l(sw') > l(w')$ .

By ④-1 we have

$$C(s)C(w') = C(w')$$

$$\text{so } C(s)C(w) = C(s)C(s)C(w')$$

$$\stackrel{\text{①}}{=} (C(s) \perp C(1))C(w')$$

$$= C(s)C(w') \cup C(1)C(w')$$

$$= C(w) \cup C(sw).$$

□

④-2

□

Remark.  $G = \bigsqcup_{w \in W} C(w)$  is called Bruhat decomposition.

Ex:  $G = GL_n(\mathbb{F})$ :  $\mathbb{F}$  any field.

$$B = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} * & * \\ 0 & * \end{pmatrix} \right\} \subseteq G \text{ Borel subgroup}$$

$$T = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} * & 0 \\ 0 & * \end{pmatrix} \right\} \subseteq G \text{ maximal torus.}$$

$N = N_G(T)$  consists of matrices with exactly one non-zero entry in each row and each column.

Then  $T = B \cap N$ .  $W = N/T \cong S_n$ .

$$S = \{s_1 = (12), \dots, s_{n-1} = (n-1, n)\} \subseteq W.$$

Thm:  $(G, B, N, S)$  is a Tits system.

pf. (BN1) - (BN3) is easy.

(BN4):  $C(s)C(w) \subseteq C(w)C(sw)$

Since we already know  $(W, S)$  is a Coxeter gp it suffices to prove

①  $C(s)C(s) = C(s) \cup C(1) \quad \forall s \in S.$

$$s_i = \begin{pmatrix} I & & & \\ & 0 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & I \end{pmatrix} \begin{matrix} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{matrix}$$

(i, i+1)-position

(i+1, i)-position

This is calculation of  $GL_2$ .

② If  $l(sw) > l(w)$  then

$$C(s)C(w) = C(sw).$$

To prove this, we want to

$$B \subseteq BwB \stackrel{?}{=} BswB$$

move the middle B to left and right.

Decompose  $B = UT$ .

$$U = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & * \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

$$BsUtB = BsUwTB \text{ as } w \in N_G(T).$$

We claim U can be moved to the sides by quoting the following

Fact:  $U = \prod_{\alpha \in \Phi^+} U_\alpha$  for any given order on  $\Phi^+$

↑  
root subgroup

In case of  $GL_n$ ,  $U_{e_i - e_j} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & * & 0 \\ & 1 & \\ & & 1 \end{pmatrix} (i, j)\text{-pos} \right\}$ .

pf (cont'd)

Now choose an order on  $\Phi^+$  so that

$\gamma$  occurs in the end, where  $s = S_\gamma$  simple reflection.

Then

$$U = \prod_{\substack{\alpha \in \Phi^+ \\ \alpha \neq \gamma}} U_\alpha U_\gamma$$

As  $s_\gamma(\alpha) \in \Phi^+$ ,  $\forall \alpha \neq \gamma$ ,

$$B_s \left( \prod_{\substack{\alpha \in \Phi^+ \\ \alpha \neq \gamma}} U_\alpha \right) = B \prod_{\substack{\alpha \in \Phi^+ \\ \alpha \neq \gamma}} U_{s_\gamma(\alpha)} S_\gamma = B S_\gamma$$

(c.f. 8.1.12(2) of Springer's alg. gps)

Since  $l(sw) > l(w)$  we have

$$w^{-1}(\gamma) \in \Phi^+$$

so

$$U_\gamma wB = wU_{w^{-1}(\gamma)}B = wB$$

Thus

$$BS_\gamma U wB = BS_\gamma wB = C(S_\gamma w) \quad \square$$

(BN4)

□  
Thm

Remark. Similar construction works for any reductive gps split over  $\mathbb{F}$ .

Def. (flag variety, Schubert variety)

Let  $G$  be a reductive grp split over  $\mathbb{F}$ .

We have Bruhat decomposition

$$G = \coprod_{w \in W} BwB \quad B \subseteq G \text{ Borel subgroup}/\mathbb{F}.$$

In particular:

(i)  $G/B = \coprod_{w \in W} BwB/B$  called flag variety

(ii) Each piece  $BwB/B$  is called Schubert cell

(iii) Over any alg. closed field, the closure

$$\overline{BwB/B}$$

is called Schubert variety.

Remark. In general, schubert varieties are singular, and their singularity play a crucial role in representation theory (Kazhdan-Lusztig theory).

Resolution of singularities (Bott-Samelson variety)

Def. (minimal parabolic subgroup). Assume  $\mathbb{F} = \overline{\mathbb{F}}$ .

Let  $(G, B, N, S)$  be a Bruhat decomposition (of Kac-Moody gps).

For any  $s \in S$ . Define the minimal parabolic subgroup corresponding to  $s$ :

$$P_s = C(s) \amalg C(1) \\ (= Bw_{s_0}B)$$

This is a group by  $\mathcal{O}$  of pf of Bruhat decomposition).

Remark.  $(P_s/B) \cong \mathbb{P}^1$

$$C(s)/B \cong \mathbb{A}^1$$

$$C(1)/B \cong \text{pt.}$$

Construction of Bott-Samelson variety:

Let  $w = s_{i_1} \dots s_{i_n}$  be a reduced expression.

Consider  $P_{i_1} \times P_{i_2} \times \dots \times P_{i_n} \hookrightarrow B^n$

with action defined by

$$(b_1, \dots, b_n) \cdot (P_{i_1}, \dots, P_{i_n}) = (P_{i_1} b_1^{-1}, b_1 P_{i_2} b_2^{-1}, \dots, b_{n-1} P_{i_n} b_n)$$

Let  $P_{i_1} \times^B P_{i_2} \times^B \dots \times^B (P_{i_n}/B)$

then we have a well-defined map

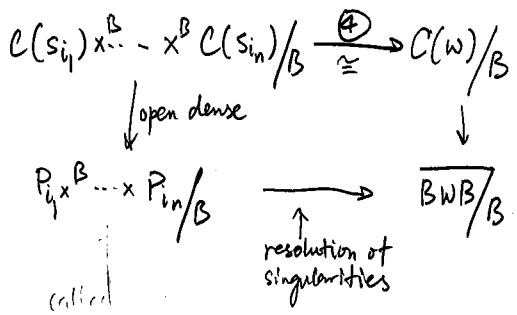
$$\pi: P_{i_1} \times^B \dots \times^B (P_{i_n}/B) \xrightarrow{\pi} G/B \\ (P_{i_1}, \dots, P_{i_n}) \longmapsto P_{i_1} P_{i_2} \dots P_{i_n} B/B.$$

$\pi$  is proper over its image.

As a consequence,

$$\text{Im } \pi = \overline{BwB/B}$$

Now

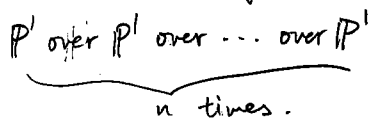


Define  $BS(w) = P_{i_1} \times^B \dots \times^B P_{i_n}/B$

$w = s_{i_1} \dots s_{i_n}$  reduced exp.

called the Bott-Samelson variety

It is a smooth variety as it is



Another consequence is

$$\text{Im } (\pi) = \bigcup_{1 \leq j_1 < \dots < j_n \leq n} B s_{j_1} \dots s_{j_n} B/B$$

indep. of choice of reduced exp.

Bruhat order

Thm: Let  $w \in W, w' \in W$ . The followings are equivalent.

(i).  $w' = s_{j_1} \dots s_{j_n}$  for some subexpression of a reduced exp.  $w = s_{i_1} \dots s_{i_n}$  of  $w$ .

(ii).  $w'$  can be realized as subexp of any reduced exp. of  $w$

Def. (Bruhat order).

In the above case, we write  $w' \leq w$  called  
Bruhat order.

Thm.

$$\overline{C(w)} = \coprod_{w' \leq w} C(w') \quad (\mathbb{F} = \overline{\mathbb{F}}).$$