

# Chapter 2: Kashiwara crystals

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# Outline

1. 2.1 Root systems ✓
2. 2.2 Kashiwara crystals ✓
3. 2.3 Tensor products of crystals ✓
4. 2.4 The signature rule *ek*
5. 2.5 Root strings *~*
6. 2.6 The character *~*
7. 2.7 and 2.8: skipped

## 2.1 Root systems

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# Root systems

Denote  $V$  a Euclidean space with inner product  $\langle -, - \rangle$ . For  $\alpha \in V$

$$r_\alpha(x) = x - \langle x, \alpha^\vee \rangle \alpha, \quad \alpha^\vee := \frac{2\alpha}{\langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle} \quad \text{co-vector}$$

$$r_\alpha(x) = x - 2 \frac{\langle x, \alpha \rangle}{\langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle} \alpha = -x$$

## Definition

A root system  $\Phi \subseteq V$  is a finite set of vectors such that  $\alpha, \beta \in \Phi$

- $\alpha \neq 0$
- $r_\alpha(\Phi) = \Phi$ ,  $\alpha, \beta \in \Phi \implies \alpha + \beta \in \Phi$
- $\langle \alpha, \beta^\vee \rangle \in \mathbb{Z}$  *crystallographic*
- if  $\beta = c\alpha$  then  $c = \pm 1$ . *reduced*

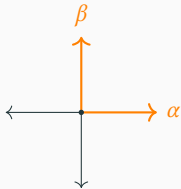
$$r_\alpha: \mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{\text{Id}}$$



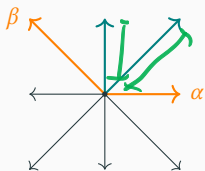
# All crystallographic root systems in 2D

reducible

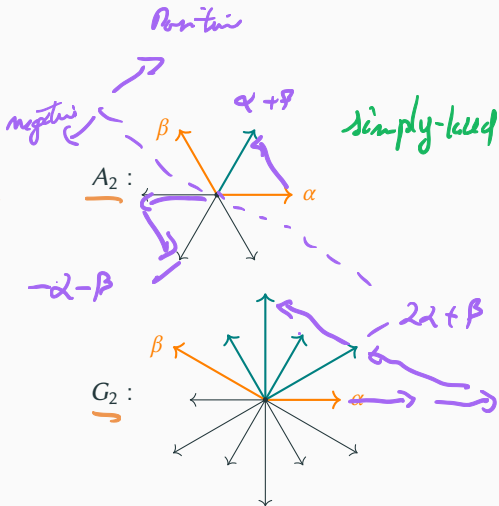
$A_1 \oplus A_1$  :



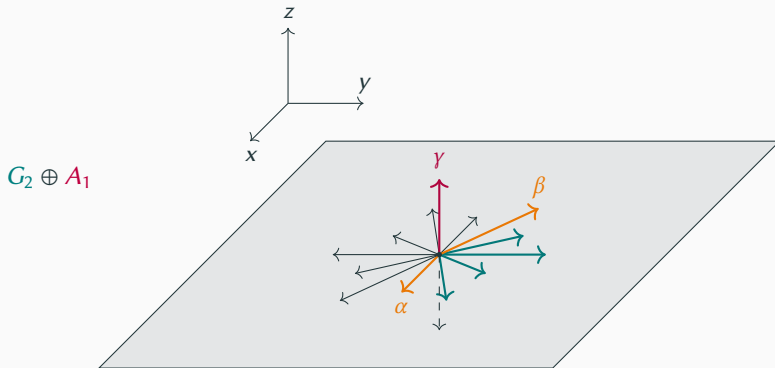
$B_2$  :



irreducible

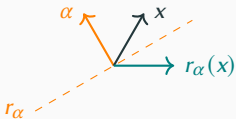


# A reducible root system in 3D



# Reflection groups

$$r_\alpha(x) = x - 2 \frac{\langle \alpha, x \rangle}{\langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle} \alpha$$



## Weyl group

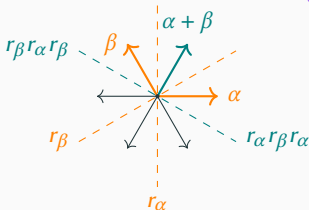
The reflection group  $W(\Phi) = \langle r_\alpha \mid \alpha \in \Phi^+ \rangle \subset O(N)$  is the Coxeter group of the root system.

$$W = \langle r_\alpha \mid r_\alpha \text{ simple roots} \rangle$$

$$\langle r_\alpha \mid r_\alpha^2 = 1, (r_\alpha r_\beta)^{m_{\alpha\beta}} = 1 \rangle$$

$m_{\alpha\beta} \in \mathbb{N}$

$\Phi := A_2 :$



$$W(\Phi) = \mathbb{S}_3 \simeq D_6.$$

$$r_\alpha r_\beta r_\alpha = r_\beta r_\alpha r_\beta \quad (r_\alpha r_\beta)^3 = 1$$

# Weight lattice

## Definition

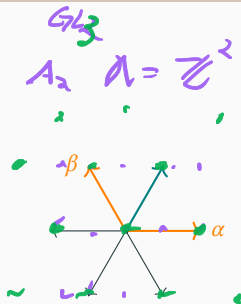
$\Lambda \subset V$  is a lattice if

$\lambda \in \Lambda$  is a weight

1. it spans  $V$
2.  $\Phi \subset \Lambda$
3. if  $\lambda \in \Lambda$  and  $\alpha \in \Phi$  then  $\langle \lambda, \alpha^\vee \rangle \in \mathbb{Z}$

semisimple: if  $\mathbb{F}$  spans  $\Lambda$

$$\Lambda \supset \Lambda_{\mathbb{F}}$$





# Order

$I$ : index set of the simple roots  $\subset \Phi^+$

## Definition

A partial order  $\geq$  is defined on  $\Lambda$  by  $\lambda \geq \mu$  if

$$\lambda - \mu = \sum_{i \in I} c_i \alpha_i, \quad c_i \geq 0$$

$$\Lambda^+ : \left\{ \lambda \in \Lambda \mid \langle \lambda, \alpha_i^\vee \rangle \geq 0 \forall i \in I \right\}$$

Dominant weights  
strictly

The fundamental weights  $\omega_i$

$$\langle \omega_i, \alpha_j^\vee \rangle = \delta_{ij} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{simple root} \\ i, j \in I \end{array}$$

$$\Lambda_{\omega_i} \supseteq \Lambda \supseteq \Lambda_{\Phi}$$

lattice generated by fundamental weights

# Example: $GL(r+1)$

$\approx \hookrightarrow r+2$  eqs

$$\Phi^- : \{e_i - e_j \mid i \neq j\}$$

$e_i$ : unit vector

$$\Phi^+ : \{e_i - e_j \mid i < j\}$$

$$1 = \sum^{r+1}$$

$\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_{r+1})$  is dominant if  $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_{r+1}$

simple roots  $e_1 - e_2, \dots, e_r - e_{r+1}$

fundamental weights are

$$\omega_i = (\underbrace{1, \dots, 1}_{i}, 0, \dots, 0)$$

## 2.2 Kashiwara crystals

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# Crystals



# Crystals

$$\Phi + \Lambda$$

## Definition

A Kashiwara crystal of type  $\Phi$  is a set  $\mathcal{B}$  with maps  $i \in I$

$$e_i, f_i : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{B} \cup \{0\}$$

$$\varepsilon_i, \varphi_i : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \cup \{-\infty\}$$

$$\text{wt} : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \Lambda$$

respecting

# elements degree

Crystal operators  $0 \notin \mathcal{B}$

string length  
weight



A1  $e_i(x) = y$  iff  $f_i(y) = x$  and then

$$\text{wt}(y) = \text{wt}(x) + \alpha_i, \varepsilon_i(y) = \varepsilon_i(x) - 1, \varphi_i(y) = \varphi_i(x) + 1$$

A2  $\varphi_i(x) = \langle \text{wt}(x), \alpha_i^\vee \rangle + \varepsilon_i(x)$

$\rightarrow \varphi_i(x) = -\infty$  then  $\varepsilon_i(x) = -\infty$  and then  $e_i(x) > f_i(x) = 0$

# Seminormal

## Definition

If  $-\infty$  is not in the image of  $\varepsilon_i, \varphi_i$ , then  $\mathcal{B}$  is of **finite type**.

It is **seminormal** if

$$\varphi_i(x) = \max\{k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} \mid f_i^k(x) \neq 0\}$$

$$\varepsilon_i(x) = \max\{k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} \mid e_i^k(x) \neq 0\}$$

⚠  $\mathcal{B}$  finite type  $\not\Rightarrow$  finite

seminormal  $\Rightarrow$  finite type

## Proposition

$\Phi$  semisimple and  $C$  crystal of finite type.

$$\text{wt}(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{i \in I} (\varphi_i(\mathbf{x}) - \varepsilon_i(\mathbf{x})) \varpi_i.$$

## Definition

Construct a quiver from  $\mathcal{B}$  by drawing an edge  $x \xrightarrow{i} y$  if  $f_i(x) = y$ .

Can have an equivalence relation on  $\mathcal{B}$  if two elements are linked. The equivalence classes are connected components of the graph.

$$f_i(x) = y \\ x \xrightarrow{i} y \xrightarrow{2} z$$



# Some propositions on highest weight

## Highest weight

An element  $u \in \mathcal{B}$  such that  $e_i(u) = 0, \forall i \in I$  is called **highest weight element** and  $\text{wt}(u)$  a highest weight.

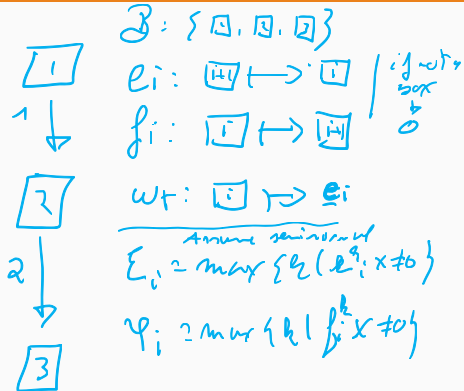
## Lemma

If  $\text{wt}(u)$  is maximal with respect to  $\succcurlyeq$  then  $u$  is a highest weight element.

## Proposition

$\mathcal{B}$  seminormal. If  $u$  highest weight element, then  $\text{wt}(u)$  is dominant.

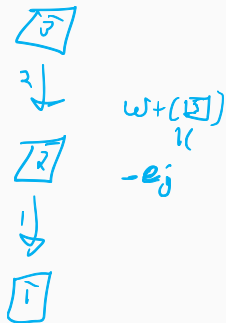
# Examples: $A_r$ and dual crystal



$$\begin{aligned} \Sigma_1 \boxed{1} &= 0 \\ \Sigma_1 \boxed{2} &= 1 \\ \Sigma_1 \boxed{3} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi_1 \boxed{1} &= 1 \\ \Psi_1 \boxed{2} &= 0 \\ \Psi_1 \boxed{3} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$\mathcal{B}^\vee$ : dual



# Example: crystal of rows

row 1.  $\mathbb{F} = A_2 \uparrow = \mathbb{Z}^3$

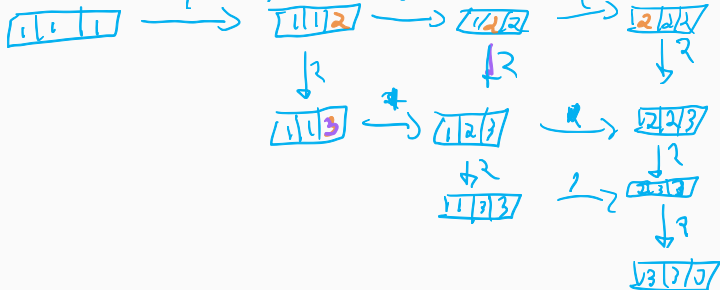
rows in Young tableaux



$\mathcal{D}_{\{1,2\}} =$  set of rows of length 3

$\varphi_i = \#i$  in  $\{i_1, i_2, i_3\}$

$\varepsilon_i = \#i+1$  in  $\{i_1, i_2, i_3\}$



if  $\varphi_i > 0$   $f_i R =$  row rightward  
 if  $\varphi_i < 0$  then  $f_i = 0$

if  $\varepsilon_i > 0$   $e_i(R) =$  row with  
 leftmost  $i+1 \rightarrow i$

if  $\varepsilon_i < 0$   $e_i R = 0$

## **2.3 Tensor products of crystals**

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# Tensor product

$\mathcal{B}$  and  $\mathcal{C}$  crystal associated to  $\Phi$ .  $\mathcal{B} \otimes \mathcal{C}$  with maps

$$f_i(x \otimes y) = \begin{cases} f_i(x) \otimes y & \varphi_i(y) \leq \varepsilon_i(x) \\ x \otimes f_i(y) & \varphi_i(x) > \varepsilon_i(x) \end{cases}$$

$$e_i(x \otimes y) = \begin{cases} e_i(x) \otimes y & \varphi_i(y) < \varepsilon_i(x) \\ x \otimes e_i(y) & \varphi_i(x) \geq \varepsilon_i(x) \end{cases}$$

$$\varphi_i(x \otimes y) = \max(\varphi_i(x), \varphi_i(y) + \langle \text{wt}(x), \alpha_i^\vee \rangle)$$

$$\varepsilon_i(x \otimes y) = \max(\varepsilon_i(y), \varepsilon_i(x) - \langle \text{wt}(y), \alpha_i^\vee \rangle)$$

## Proposition

It is a crystal.

$$A) \quad f_i(x \otimes y) = z \otimes w$$

$$\Downarrow$$

$$e_i(z \otimes w) = x \otimes y$$

$$q) \quad \Downarrow$$

$$\text{case 1} \quad \varphi_i(y) \leq \varepsilon_i(x)$$

$$f_i(x \otimes y) = f_i(x) \otimes y = z \otimes w$$

$$e_i(z \otimes w) = e_i(z) \otimes w$$

$$\begin{matrix} B^A & \cup & \\ & & x \otimes y \end{matrix}$$

# Tensor product

$\mathcal{B}$  and  $\mathcal{C}$  crystal associated to  $\Phi$ .  $\mathcal{B} \otimes \mathcal{C}$   
with maps

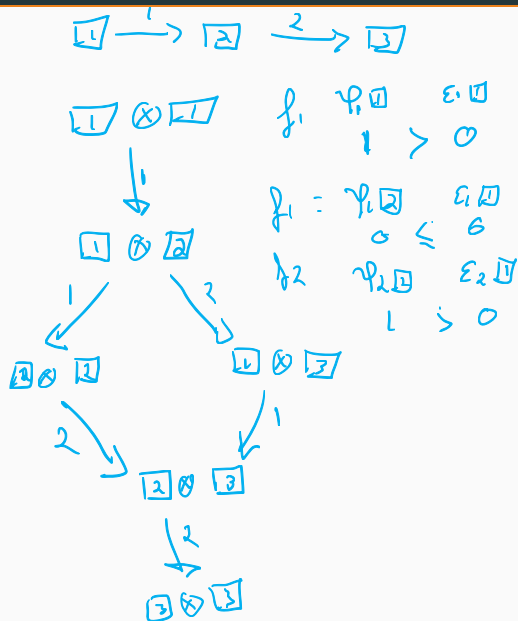
$$f_i(x \otimes y) = \begin{cases} f_i(x) \otimes y & \varphi_i(y) \leq \varepsilon_i(x) \\ x \otimes f_i(y) & \varphi_i(x) > \varepsilon_i(x) \end{cases}$$

$$e_i(x \otimes y) = \begin{cases} e_i(x) \otimes y & \varphi_i(y) < \varepsilon_i(x) \\ x \otimes e_i(y) & \varphi_i(x) \geq \varepsilon_i(x) \end{cases}$$

$$\varphi_i(x \otimes y) = \max(\varphi_i(x), \varphi_i(y) + \langle \text{wt}(x), \alpha_i^\vee \rangle)$$

$$\varepsilon_i(x \otimes y) = \max(\varepsilon_i(y), \varepsilon_i(x) - \langle \text{wt}(y), \alpha_i^\vee \rangle)$$

# Example: Two GL(3) crystals



$$f_i(x \otimes y) = \begin{cases} f_i(x) \otimes y & \varphi_i y \leq \varepsilon_i x \\ x \otimes f_i(y) & \varphi_i y > \varepsilon_i x \end{cases}$$

?

$f_1 \psi_1 \square = \varepsilon_1 \square$   
 $1 \leq 1$   
 $f_1 \square = 0$

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$f_2 \psi_2 \square = \varepsilon_2 \square$   
 $0 \leq 0$

$\boxed{2} \otimes \boxed{1} \xrightarrow{1} \boxed{3} \otimes \boxed{1} \xrightarrow{1} \boxed{1} \otimes \boxed{2}$

# Morphisms and monoidal

## Definition

*Crystal morphism*

A morphism between two crystals is a map  $\psi : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{C} \cup \{0\}$  such that

1.  $b \in \mathcal{B}, \psi(b) \in \mathcal{C}$  then:

1.1  $\text{wt}(\psi(b)) = \text{wt}(b)$

1.2  $\varepsilon_i(\psi(b)) = \varepsilon_i(b)$

1.3  $\varphi_i(\psi(b)) = \varphi_i(b)$ .

2.  $b, e_i b \in \mathcal{B}$  with  $\psi(b), \psi(e_i b) \in \mathcal{C}$  then  $\psi(e_i b) = e_i \psi(b)$

3.  $b, f_i b \in \mathcal{B}$  with  $\psi(b), \psi(f_i b) \in \mathcal{C}$  then  $\psi(f_i b) = f_i \psi(b)$

*it is an iso of  
 $\mathcal{B} \cup \{0\} \xrightarrow{\psi} \mathcal{C} \cup \{0\}$*

## Tensor product associativity

The set bijection  $(\mathcal{B} \otimes \mathcal{C}) \otimes \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{B} \otimes (\mathcal{C} \otimes \mathcal{D})$  is a crystal isomorphism.



## **2.4 The signature rule**

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## 2.5 Root strings

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# One definition

## A map

Let  $k = \langle \text{wt}(x), \alpha_i^\vee \rangle$ .

$$\sigma_i(x) = \begin{cases} f_i^k(x) & k > 0 \\ x & k = 0 \\ e_i^{-k}(x) & k < 0 \end{cases}$$

$\sigma_i \mathcal{B} = \mathcal{B}$  and  $\text{wt}(\sigma_i(x)) = s_i(\text{wt}(x))$ .

## 2.6 The character

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# The character

Let  $\mathcal{E}$  be the free abelian group on  $\Lambda$  with basis element  $t^\mu, \mu \in \Lambda$ . The character is

$$\chi_{\mathcal{B}}(t) = \sum_{\nu \in \mathcal{B}} t^{\text{wt}(\nu)}.$$

The character is invariant under  $W$ .

$$\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}^{r+1}, \quad \mathcal{E} \sim \text{Laurent poly in } t_1 \dots t_{r+1}$$

ex in  $A_r$  for the crystal of roots.

$$t^{\text{wt}(\boxed{1 \ 2 \ 3})} = \prod_i t_{d_i}$$

$$t^\rho = \prod_{i=1}^{r+1} K_{\alpha_i}$$

$$\chi_{\mathcal{B}(W)} t = \sum_{j_1 \leq j_2 \leq \dots \leq j_r} t_{j_1} \dots t_{j_r}$$

$\mathbb{K}$  symmetric polynomial

**2.7 and 2.8: skipped**

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**Questions?**



