

## Lecture 2.1: The classical approach to Soergel bimodules

Def: "classical" = known to more than two people for more than two years.

Recall:  $y$  is a realization of  $W$  (e.g. geometric rep)

$$R = S(y^*) = \text{polynomial functions on } y \hookrightarrow W.$$

Standard bimodules: For any  $x \in W$  consider  $R_x \in R\text{-Bim}$  defined as follows

$R_{xc} \cong R$  as left  $R$ -module,  $m \cdot r = xc(r)m$  for  $m \in R_x$ ,  $r \in R$ .

$R_x$  can be viewed as a completely porous wall!

Obviously  $R_x \otimes_R R_y = R_{xy} \in R\text{-Bim}$ . Also

$$\text{Hom}(R_x, R_y) = \begin{cases} R & \text{if } x=y, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

$\text{StdBim} = \text{full } \otimes, (\cup) \text{ subcat of } R\text{-Bim generated by } \{R_x | x \in W\}$ .

Then  $\text{StdBim} \cong 2\text{-groupoid of } W \text{ over } R$ .

Remark: One can draw  $\text{StdBim}$  as in Ben's lecture. Only difference now is that  $\text{End}(R_x) = R$ , hence one has polynomials in boxes.  $(\boxed{\quad}) = \boxed{\quad}$ .

Soergel bimodules:  $\mathbb{S}\text{Bim} \subset R\text{-Bim}$  is the full  $\otimes, \oplus, (\cup)$  Karoubian subcat generated by  $B_S := R \otimes_R R(1)$ .

Hence objects of  $\mathbb{S}\text{Bim}$  are isomorphic to sums of summands of  $BS(w) = R \otimes_{R^S} \dots \otimes_{R^S} R(w)$ .

Verbal: associated to each direct sum simple reflection one has a Frobenius object, one looks at the full subcategory generated by these!

Examples: a) If  $W = S_2$  we have seen  $B_S B_S \cong B_S(1) \oplus B_S(-1)$ . Hence

$$\text{ind. Soergel bimodules } / \cong_{(\cup)} = \{R, B_S\}.$$

b) if  $W = S_3$ ,  $R, B_S, B_T, B_{ST} := B_S B_T, B_{TS} := B_T B_S$  are indecomposable. (Ben's lecture)

Exercise:  $B_S B_T B_S \cong B_{STS} \oplus B_S$ .  $B_T B_S B_T \cong B_{STS} \oplus B_T$ . Hence (give the argument verbally)

$$\text{ind. Soergel bimod.} = \{B_{id} = R, B_S, B_T, B_{ST}, B_{TS}, B_{STS}\}.$$

$\$Bim$  is not abelian. For example one has exact sequences

$$\begin{array}{c}
 1 \xrightarrow{\alpha_s \otimes 1 - 1 \otimes \alpha_s} R_s(-1) \hookrightarrow B_s \twoheadrightarrow R \\
 \text{unit} \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{counit} \\
 f \otimes g \mapsto fg \\
 \downarrow \\
 1 \xrightarrow{\frac{1}{2}(\alpha_s \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes \alpha_s)} R(-1) \xrightarrow{\text{unit}} B_s \twoheadrightarrow R_s(1) \\
 f \otimes g \mapsto fs(g)
 \end{array}$$

If we tensor these exact sequences together we see that any Bott-Samelson bimodule has a filtration  $0 \subset B^1 \subset \dots \subset B^m = BS(w)$  s.t.  $B^m/B^{m-1} \cong \bigoplus R_x(?)$ 's.

In general the order in which summands  $R_x$  appear has nothing to do with the Bruhat order.

Fix an enumeration  $w_0, w_1, \dots$  of  $W$  s.t.  $w_i \leq w_j \Rightarrow i \leq j$ .

Def: A standard filtration on a Soergel bimodule is a filtration  $0 \subseteq B^0 \subseteq \dots \subseteq B^m = B$  s.t.  $B^i/B^{i-1} \cong \bigoplus R_{x_i}^{\oplus h_{x_i}}$  for some  $h_{x_i} \in \mathbb{N}[v^{\pm 1}]$ .

Notation:  $p = \sum a_i v^i \in \mathbb{N}[v^{\pm 1}]$ ,  $M^{\oplus p} = \bigoplus M(-i)^{\oplus a_i}$ .

Soergel: any Soergel bimodule admits a unique standard filtration.  
tricky exercise!  
(its a support filtration)

$$\text{ch}: \$Bim \rightarrow \mathbb{M}: B \mapsto \sum_{x \in W} v^{+\ell(x)} h_{x_0} H_x.$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Eg: } \text{ch}(B_s) &= H_s. & B_s B_t &\approx R^{\oplus v^2} \\
 &\text{B_s B_t} && \\
 &\Rightarrow \text{ch}(B_s B_t) &= v^2 H_{id} + v H_s + v H_t + H_{st} &= H_{st}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Localization: Let  $Q$  denote the fraction field of  $R$ .

$$\text{Lemma: } BS(w) \underset{R}{\otimes} Q = R \underset{R^S}{\otimes} R \underset{R^T}{\otimes} \dots \underset{R^U}{\otimes} R \underset{R}{\otimes} Q \cong Q \underset{Q^S}{\otimes} Q \underset{Q^T}{\otimes} \dots \underset{Q^U}{\otimes} Q$$

Hence  $BS(w) \underset{R}{\otimes} Q$  is actually a  $Q$ -bimodule.

Proof: Consider the inclusion  $R \underset{R^S}{\otimes} R \underset{R}{\otimes} Q \cong R \underset{R^S}{\otimes} Q \xrightarrow{i} Q \underset{Q^S}{\otimes} Q$ . Enough to show  $i$  is an iso.

We have  $\frac{1}{f} \otimes 1 = s(f) \otimes \frac{1}{fs(f)} \in \text{im } i$ . Hence  $i$  is an isomorphism.  $\square$

It follows that localization gives a monoidal functor

$$\mathbb{S}\text{Bim} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}\text{-Bim}.$$

Also, both sequences split ( $\Delta$ ) and ( $\nabla$ ). (In fact they split each other!)

In fact, the standard filtration on any Soergel bimodule splits after localisation.

Remark: Localization categorifies the specialization  $v \mapsto 1$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{S}\text{Bim} & \xrightarrow{\text{ch}} & \mathbb{Z}\mathcal{B} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathbb{S}\text{Bim}_{\mathbb{Q}} & \xrightarrow{\text{ch}} & \mathbb{Z}\mathcal{W} \end{array}$$

Soergel's categorification theorem:

$[\mathbb{S}\text{Bim}]$  Split Grothendieck group of  $\mathbb{S}\text{Bim}$ : subject to  $[M] = [M'] + [M'']$  if  $M \cong M' \oplus M''$ . generated by symbols  $[M]$  for  $M \in \mathbb{S}\text{Bim}$ . Ring:  $[M][N] = [M \otimes N] = [M \underset{\mathbb{R}}{\otimes} N]$ .  $\mathbb{Z}[v^{\pm 1}]$  algebra:  $v[M] = [M(-1)]$ .

Thm a)  $\exists!$  homomorphism  $H \hookrightarrow [\mathbb{S}\text{Bim}] : H_s \mapsto [B_s]$ .

b) One has a bijection:

$$\begin{array}{c} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{indecomposable} \\ \text{Soergel bimodules} \end{array} \right\} / \sim \xleftrightarrow{\text{ch}} W \\ \Downarrow \\ B_w \xleftrightarrow{\text{ch}} \underline{w} \end{array}$$

Moreover  $B_w$  is the unique summand of  $BS(\underline{w})$  which does not occur as a summand  $BS(\underline{y})$  for any  $\underline{y}$  with  $\ell(\underline{y}) < \ell(\underline{w})$ .

c)  $\text{ch}$  is an isomorphism with inverse  $\text{ch}$ . For any  $B, B' \in \mathbb{S}\text{Bim}$   $\text{Hom}(B, B')$  is a free left (or right)  $\mathbb{R}$ -module of graded rank

$$\text{gr rank } \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{S}\text{Bim}}(B, B') = (\text{ch}(B), \text{ch}(B')) \quad \xrightarrow{\text{standard pairing}}$$

Soergel's conjecture:  $\boxed{\text{ch}(B_x) = H_x} : S(x)$  (implies KL positivity + KL conjecture).

Assume Soergel's conjecture. Check:  $(H_x, H_y) \in \begin{cases} 1 + v^2 \mathbb{Z}[v] & \text{if } x=y \\ v \mathbb{Z}[v] & \text{if } x \neq y. \end{cases}$

"asymptotic orthogonality"

Hence if Soergel's conjecture implies that

$$\text{Hom}^0(B_x, B_y) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{R} & \text{if } x=y, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

↑  
degree 0  
maps.

Exercise: This is if and only if.