

REPRESENTATION THEORY OF SYMMETRIC GROUPS AND RELATED HECKE ALGEBRAS

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ABSTRACT. We survey some fundamental trends in representation theory of symmetric groups and related objects which became apparent in the last fifteen years. The emphasis is on connections with Lie theory via categorification. We present results on branching rules and crystal graphs, decomposition numbers and canonical bases, graded representation theory, connections with cyclotomic and affine Hecke algebras, Khovanov-Lauda-Rouquier algebras, category \mathcal{O} , W -algebras, etc.

1. INTRODUCTION

The *symmetric group* Σ_d on d letters is a classical, fundamental, deep, well-studied, and much-loved mathematical object. It has natural connections with combinatorics, group theory, Lie theory, geometry, topology, \dots , natural sciences. Since the work of Frobenius in the end of the nineteenth century, *representation theory* of symmetric groups has developed into a large and important area of mathematics.

In this expository article we survey *some* fundamental trends in representation theory of symmetric groups and related objects which became apparent in the last fifteen years. The emphasis is on connections with Lie theory via categorification. We present results on branching rules and crystal graphs, decomposition numbers and canonical bases, graded theory, connections with cyclotomic and affine Hecke algebras, Khovanov-Lauda-Rouquier algebras, category \mathcal{O} , W -algebras, etc.

The main problem of representation theory is to understand irreducible modules. Let us mention up front that over fields of positive characteristic the dimensions of irreducible Σ_d -modules are not known. Trying to approach this problem of *modular representation theory* by induction led us to studying restrictions of irreducible modules from Σ_d to Σ_{d-1} , which resulted in a discovery of *modular branching rules* [119]–[124].

These branching rules turned out to provide only partial information on dimensions of irreducible modules. However, the underlying subtle combinatorics led to a discovery by Lascoux, Leclerc and Thibon [135] of some surprising and deep connections between representation theory of Σ_d and representations of *quantum Kac-Moody algebras*. Roughly speaking, it turned out that the modular branching

Received by the editors March 30, 2009, and, in revised form, August 17, 2009.

2000 *Mathematics Subject Classification*. Primary 20C30, 20C08, 17B37, 20C20, 17B67.

Supported in part by the NSF grant DMS-0654147. The paper was completed while the author was visiting the Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences in Cambridge, U.K. The author thanks the Institute for hospitality and support.

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rule corresponds to the *crystal graph* in the sense of Kashiwara of the basic module over a certain Kac-Moody algebra \mathfrak{g} . This observation turned out to be the beginning of an exciting development which continues to this day.

Since the work of Dipper and James [53] it has been known that representation theory of Σ_d over a field F of characteristic p resembles representation theory of the corresponding *Iwahori-Hecke algebra* over the complex field \mathbb{C} at a p th root of unity.

In fact it makes sense to work more generally from the beginning with the algebra $H_d = H_d(F, \xi)$ over an arbitrary field F with a parameter $\xi \in F^\times$, which is given by generators

$$T_1, \dots, T_{d-1}$$

and relations

$$(1.1) \quad T_r^2 = (\xi - 1)T_r + \xi \quad (1 \leq r < d),$$

$$(1.2) \quad T_r T_{r+1} T_r = T_{r+1} T_r T_{r+1} \quad (1 \leq r < d - 1),$$

$$(1.3) \quad T_r T_s = T_s T_r \quad (1 \leq r, s < d, |r - s| > 1).$$

Denote by e the smallest positive integer such that

$$1 + \xi + \dots + \xi^{e-1} = 0,$$

setting $e := 0$ if no such integer exists. We refer to e as the *quantum characteristic*. The Kac-Moody algebra \mathfrak{g} which we have alluded to above is

$$\mathfrak{g} = \begin{cases} \widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}_e(\mathbb{C}) & \text{if } e > 0, \\ \mathfrak{sl}_\infty(\mathbb{C}) & \text{if } e = 0. \end{cases}$$

Note that when $\xi = 1$, we have $H_d = F\Sigma_d$. If the field F has characteristic $p > 0$, then the relationship between the symmetric group algebra $H_d(F, 1) = F\Sigma_d$ and the Hecke algebra $H_d(\mathbb{C}, e^{2\pi i/p})$ can be made precise using a reduction modulo p procedure, which to every irreducible $H_d(\mathbb{C}, e^{2\pi i/p})$ -module associates an $F\Sigma_d$ -module.

Even though reductions modulo p of irreducible modules over the Hecke algebra are not always irreducible, *James Conjecture* [92] predicts that they are in the *James region*. At any rate, irreducible modules over the Hecke algebra $H_d(\mathbb{C}, e^{2\pi i/p})$ can be considered as good “approximations” of irreducible modules over the symmetric group algebra $F\Sigma_d$. It turns out that the story originating in the Lascoux-Leclerc-Thibon paper leads to a rather satisfactory understanding of at least the irreducible modules over $H_d(\mathbb{C}, e^{2\pi i/p})$.

To be more precise, Lascoux, Leclerc and Thibon conjectured a very precise connection between the *canonical bases* of modules over affine Kac-Moody algebras \mathfrak{g} in the sense of Lusztig [141] and Kashiwara [106]–[109] on the one hand, and *projective indecomposable modules* over the Iwahori-Hecke algebras $H_d(\mathbb{C}, e^{2\pi i/p})$ on the other. Lascoux, Leclerc and Thibon also conjectured an explicit combinatorial algorithm for computing *decomposition numbers*, that is the multiplicities of the irreducible $H_d(\mathbb{C}, e^{2\pi i/p})$ -modules in the corresponding *Specht modules*.

It is easy to see that knowing decomposition numbers is sufficient for computing the dimensions and even characters of irreducible modules. The Lascoux-Leclerc-Thibon algorithm yields certain polynomials with non-negative coefficients which, when evaluated at 1, conjecturally compute the decomposition numbers for $H_d(\mathbb{C}, e^{2\pi i/p})$.

Building on powerful geometric results of Kazhdan and Lusztig [110] and Ginzburg [45, Chapter 8], Ariki [3] has proved the conjecture of Lascoux, Leclerc and Thibon, thus giving us a good understanding of modules over the complex Iwahori-Hecke algebras at roots of unity. A proof was also announced, but not published, by Grojnowski. Later on, Varagnolo and Vasserot [190] proved a similar theorem for Schur algebras.

A nice feature of Ariki's work is that he gets his results for a more general class of algebras than Iwahori-Hecke algebras. These algebras, known as *cyclotomic Hecke algebras* or *Ariki-Koike algebras*, were discovered independently by Cherednik [44], Broué-Malle [26], and Ariki-Koike [9]. They can be thought of as the Hecke algebras of complex reflection groups of types $G(\ell, 1, d)$ in the Shephard-Todd classification.

The cyclotomic Hecke algebras are denoted

$$H_d^\Lambda = H_d^\Lambda(F, \xi),$$

where d is a non-negative integer, F is the ground field, $\xi \in F^\times$ is a parameter, and Λ is a dominant integral weight for the Kac-Moody algebra \mathfrak{g} defined above. For the case where Λ is the fundamental dominant weight Λ_0 , we have $H_d^{\Lambda_0}(F, \xi) = H_d(F, \xi)$, and so we incorporate the Iwahori-Hecke algebras and the group algebras of the symmetric groups naturally into the more general class of cyclotomic Hecke algebras.

A useful way to think of the connection between cyclotomic Hecke algebras and Lie theory is in terms of the idea of *categorification*, which goes back to I. Frenkel. It turns out that the finite dimensional modules over the cyclotomic Hecke algebras $H_d^\Lambda(F, \xi)$ for all $d \geq 0$ categorify the irreducible highest weight module $V(\Lambda)$ over \mathfrak{g} .

This statement can be made much more precise, connecting various important stories in representation theory of cyclotomic Hecke algebras to important invariants of the module $V(\Lambda)$. For example:

- (1) the action of the Chevalley generators of \mathfrak{g} corresponds to the functors of i -induction and i -restriction on the categories of modules over the cyclotomic Hecke algebras [5, 135, 81];
- (2) the weight spaces of $V(\Lambda)$ correspond to the blocks of the cyclotomic Hecke algebras [5, 81];
- (3) the crystal graph of $V(\Lambda)$ corresponds to the socle branching rule for the cyclotomic Hecke algebras [135, 120, 121, 152, 81, 6];
- (4) the Shapovalov form on $V(\Lambda)$ corresponds to the Cartan pairing on the Grothendieck group of modules over the cyclotomic Hecke algebras [81];
- (5) the action of the Weyl group of \mathfrak{g} on $V(\Lambda)$ corresponds to certain derived equivalences between blocks conjectured by Rickard and constructed by Chuang and Rouquier [48];
- (6) elements of a standard spanning set of $V(\Lambda)$ coming from the construction of $V(\Lambda)$ in terms of a higher level Fock space correspond to the classes of the Specht modules over cyclotomic Hecke algebras [5];
- (7) provided $F = \mathbb{C}$, elements of the dual canonical basis in $V(\Lambda)$ correspond to the classes of the irreducible $H_d^\Lambda(\mathbb{C}, \xi)$ -modules [3, 5];
- (8) provided $F = \mathbb{C}$, elements of the canonical basis in $V(\Lambda)$ correspond to the classes of projective indecomposable $H_d^\Lambda(\mathbb{C}, \xi)$ -modules [3, 5].

One thing which remains unexplained in the picture described above is the role of the *quantum group*. The categorification by Ariki and Grojnowski is only a categorification of $V(\Lambda)$ as a module over \mathfrak{g} , not over the *quantized enveloping algebra* $U_q(\mathfrak{g})$. On the other hand, appearance of canonical bases evaluated at $q = 1$ suggests that the quantized enveloping algebra $U_q(\mathfrak{g})$, which so far remained invisible, should be relevant. So the picture seems to be incomplete unless one actually categorifies a q -analogue of $V(\Lambda)$. A standard way of doing this is to find an appropriate grading on the cyclotomic Hecke algebras and then consider *graded representation theory*, with the action of the parameter q on the Grothendieck group corresponding to the “grading shift” on modules.

The existence of important well-hidden gradings on the blocks of cyclotomic Hecke algebras and, in particular, group algebras of symmetric groups, has been predicted by Rouquier [173] and Turner [188]. Recently Brundan and the author [38] were able to construct such gradings. More precisely, we construct an explicit isomorphism between the cyclotomic Hecke algebras and certain cyclotomic Khovanov-Lauda-Rouquier algebras defined independently by Khovanov-Lauda [113, 114] and Rouquier [174]. The Khovanov-Lauda-Rouquier algebras are naturally \mathbb{Z} -graded, so combining with our isomorphism, we obtain an explicit grading on the blocks of cyclotomic Hecke algebras.

In [42] we then grade Specht modules, which allows us to define *graded decomposition numbers*. Finally, in [40], we prove that, for the cyclotomic Hecke algebras over \mathbb{C} , these graded decomposition numbers are precisely the *polynomials* coming from the conjecture of Lascoux, Leclerc, and Thibon (generalized to the cyclotomic case).

We also use graded representation theory of the cyclotomic Hecke algebras to categorify $V(\Lambda)$ as a module over $U_q(\mathfrak{g})$, and to obtain graded analogues of the results (1)–(8) described above. This categorification result (except for (6)) has also been announced by Rouquier in a more general setting of Khovanov-Lauda-Rouquier algebras of general type. Related results on canonical bases of $U_q^-(\mathfrak{g})$ have been obtained by Varagnolo and Vasserot [191].

The gradings also allowed Brundan and the author to define the *q -characters* of modules over cyclotomic Hecke algebras and to determine the q -characters of Specht modules. As a consequence, we obtain a graded dimension formula for the blocks of cyclotomic Hecke algebras. Finding q -characters of irreducible modules of the symmetric group can be considered the main problem of its representation theory. This problem is equivalent to finding the corresponding graded decomposition numbers.

The paper is organized as follows:

1. Introduction
2. Main Objects
 - 2.1. Ground field and parameters
 - 2.2. Graded representation theory
 - 2.3. Symmetric groups and Iwahori-Hecke algebras
 - 2.4. Homogeneous generators
 - 2.5. Weights and roots
 - 2.6. Homogeneous presentation
 - 2.7. Affine Hecke algebras
 - 2.8. Cyclotomic Hecke algebras

- 2.9. Blocks
- 2.10. The Main Problem
- 2.11. Affine Khovanov-Lauda-Rouquier algebras
- 3. Combinatorics
 - 3.1. Partitions and Young diagrams
 - 3.2. Tableaux
 - 3.3. Degree of a standard tableau
 - 3.4. Good nodes and restricted multipartitions
- 4. Solution of the Main Problem for type A_∞ at level 1
- 5. Cyclotomic Hecke algebras as cellular algebras
 - 5.1. Review of cellular algebras
 - 5.2. Cellular structures on cyclotomic Hecke algebras
 - 5.3. Specht modules and irreducible modules
 - 5.4. Blocks again
- 6. Graded modules over cyclotomic Hecke algebras
 - 6.1. Graded irreducible modules
 - 6.2. Homogeneous bases of Specht modules
 - 6.3. Graded branching rule for Specht modules
 - 6.4. Graded dimension of a block
 - 6.5. Graded cellular structure on cyclotomic Hecke algebras
- 7. Graded induction, restriction, and branching rules
 - 7.1. Affine induction and restriction
 - 7.2. Affine i -induction and i -restriction
 - 7.3. Affine divided powers
 - 7.4. Cyclotomic i -induction and i -restriction
 - 7.5. Cyclotomic divided powers
 - 7.6. Graded branching rules for irreducible modules
- 8. Quantum groups
 - 8.1. The algebra \mathbf{f}
 - 8.2. The quantized enveloping algebra $U_q(\mathfrak{g})$
 - 8.3. The module $V(\Lambda)$
 - 8.4. Fock spaces
 - 8.5. Canonical bases
- 9. Categorifications
 - 9.1. Categorification of \mathbf{f}
 - 9.2. Categorification of $V(\Lambda)$
 - 9.3. Monomial bases and Specht modules
 - 9.4. Canonical bases and graded decomposition numbers
 - 9.5. An algorithm for computing decomposition numbers for $H_d(\mathbb{C}, \xi)$
- 10. Reduction modulo p and the James Conjecture
 - 10.1. Realizability over prime subfields
 - 10.2. Reduction modulo p
 - 10.3. Graded adjustment matrices
 - 10.4. James Conjecture
- 11. Some other results
 - 11.1. Blocks of symmetric groups: Broué's conjecture and Chuang-Rouquier equivalences
 - 11.2. Branching and labeling of irreducible modules

- 11.3. Extremal sequences
- 11.4. More on branching for symmetric groups
- 11.5. Mullineux involution
- 11.6. Higher level Schur-Weyl duality, W -algebras, and category \mathcal{O}
- 11.7. Projective representations
- 11.8. Problems on symmetric groups related to the Aschbacher-Scott program

2. MAIN OBJECTS

2.1. Ground field and parameters. Let F be an algebraically closed field and $\xi \in F^\times$ be an invertible element. Denote by e the *quantum characteristic*; i.e. the smallest positive integer such that

$$1 + \xi + \cdots + \xi^{e-1} = 0,$$

setting $e := 0$ if no such integer exists. For example, if $\xi = 1$, then $e = \text{char } F$. If $\xi \neq 1$, then ξ is a primitive e th root of unity if $e > 0$, and ξ is *generic* if $e = 0$. Define

$$I := \mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z}.$$

For $i \in I$, we have a well-defined element $\nu(i)$ of F defined as follows:

$$(2.1) \quad \nu(i) := \begin{cases} i & \text{if } \xi = 1, \\ \xi^i & \text{if } \xi \neq 1. \end{cases}$$

Throughout the paper, q is an indeterminate and $\mathcal{A} := \mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}]$. As usual, set

$$(2.2) \quad [n] := \frac{q^n - q^{-n}}{q - q^{-1}}, \quad [n]! := [n][n-1] \cdots [1], \quad \begin{bmatrix} n \\ m \end{bmatrix} := \frac{[n]!}{[n-m]![m]}.$$

2.2. Graded representation theory. Later in this article we explain how to grade symmetric group algebras and more generally cyclotomic Hecke algebras and advocate the idea of studying their *graded representation theory*. Since all the “usual” irreducible modules over finite dimensional \mathbb{Z} -graded algebras are gradable, by studying graded irreducible modules we “do not lose any information” but actually gain additional insight.

To explain this precisely, let, more generally, H be a \mathbb{Z} -graded F -algebra and $H\text{-Mod}$ denote the abelian category of all graded left H -modules, with morphisms being *degree-preserving* module homomorphisms, which we denote by Hom . Let $\text{Rep}(H)$ denote the abelian subcategory of all finite dimensional graded H -modules and $\text{Proj}(H)$ denote the additive subcategory of all finitely generated projective graded H -modules.

Denote the corresponding Grothendieck groups by $[\text{Rep}(H)]$ and $[\text{Proj}(H)]$, respectively. We view these as \mathcal{A} -modules via

$$(2.3) \quad q^m[M] := [M\langle m \rangle],$$

where $M\langle m \rangle$ denotes the module obtained by shifting the grading up by m :

$$(2.4) \quad M\langle m \rangle_n = M_{n-m}.$$

Given $f = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} f_n q^n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}[[q, q^{-1}]]$ and $M \in H\text{-Mod}$, we write

$$f \cdot M := \bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} M\langle n \rangle^{\oplus f_n}.$$

For $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, we let

$$\text{Hom}_H(M, N)_n := \text{Hom}_H(M\langle n \rangle, N) = \text{Hom}_H(M, N\langle -n \rangle)$$

denote the space of all homomorphisms that are homogeneous of degree n ; i.e. they map M_i into N_{i+n} for each $i \in \mathbb{Z}$. Set

$$\text{HOM}_H(M, N) := \bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \text{Hom}_H(M, N)_n, \quad \text{END}_H(M) := \text{HOM}_H(M, M).$$

There is a canonical *Cartan pairing*

$$\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : [\text{Proj}(H)] \times [\text{Rep}(H)] \rightarrow \mathcal{A}, \quad \langle [P], [M] \rangle := \text{qdim HOM}_H(P, M),$$

where $\text{qdim } V$ denotes $\sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} q^n \dim V_n$ for any finite dimensional graded vector space V . Note that the Cartan pairing is *sesquilinear*, i.e. anti-linear in the first argument and linear in the second.

We denote the category of finite dimensional ungraded H -modules (resp. finitely generated projective ungraded H -modules) by $\underline{\text{Rep}}(H)$ (resp. $\underline{\text{Proj}}(H)$), with Grothendieck group $[\underline{\text{Rep}}(H)]$ (resp. $[\underline{\text{Proj}}(H)]$). We denote homomorphisms in these categories by $\underline{\text{Hom}}$. Given a graded module M , we write \underline{M} for the ungraded module obtained from it by forgetting the grading. For $M, N \in \text{Rep}(H)$, we have that

$$(2.5) \quad \underline{\text{Hom}}_H(\underline{M}, \underline{N}) = \underline{\text{HOM}}_H(M, N).$$

Informally speaking, the following standard lemmas show that in studying graded representation theory, we do not lose any information compared to the ungraded representation theory, but actually gain an additional insight.

Lemma 2.1 ([158, Theorem 4.4.6, Remark 4.4.8]). *If M is any finitely generated graded H -module, the radical of \underline{M} is a graded submodule of M .*

Lemma 2.2 ([158, Theorem 4.4.4(v)]). *If $L \in \text{Rep}(H)$ is irreducible, then $\underline{L} \in \underline{\text{Rep}}(H)$ is irreducible too.*

Lemma 2.3 ([158, Theorem 9.6.8], [24, Lemma 2.5.3]). *Assume that H is finite dimensional. If $K \in \underline{\text{Rep}}(H)$ is irreducible, then there exists an irreducible $L \in \text{Rep}(H)$ such that $\underline{L} \cong K$. Moreover, L is unique up to isomorphism and grading shift.*

Given $M, L \in \text{Rep}(H)$ with L irreducible, we write $[M : L]_q$ for the q -composition multiplicity; i.e.

$$[M : L]_q := \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} a_n q^n,$$

where a_n is the multiplicity of $L\langle n \rangle$ in a graded composition series of M . In view of Lemma 2.2, we recover the ordinary composition multiplicity $[\underline{M} : \underline{L}]$ from $[M : L]_q$ on setting q to 1.

2.3. Symmetric groups and Iwahori-Hecke algebras. Always, Σ_d is the symmetric group on d letters with transpositions (r, s) and simple transpositions

$$s_r := (r, r + 1) \quad (1 \leq r < d).$$

Denote by $F\Sigma_d$ the group algebra of Σ_d over the ground field F .

The *Iwahori-Hecke algebra* of Σ_d with the parameter ξ is the F -algebra $H_d = H_d(F, \xi)$ given by generators T_1, \dots, T_{d-1} and the relations (1.1)–(1.3). We will

normally use the short version of the notation H_d rather than $H_d(F, \xi)$, with the understanding that the ground field F and the parameter ξ are fixed. Only when F and ξ are not clear from the context or when we have more than one pair (F, ξ) in play, will we specify the field and the parameter explicitly.

If $\xi = 1$, then H_d is identified with $F\Sigma_d$ so that the generator T_r corresponds to the simple transposition s_r for each $1 \leq r < d$. Thus the main object of our interest, the symmetric group algebra, is incorporated into the family of algebras H_d depending on the fixed parameter $\xi \in F^\times$.

Define the *Jucys-Murphy elements* $L_1, \dots, L_d \in H_d$:

$$(2.6) \quad L_r := \begin{cases} (1, r) + (2, r) + \dots + (r - 1, r) & \text{if } \xi = 1, \\ \xi^{1-r} T_{r-1} \dots T_2 T_1 T_2 \dots T_{r-1} & \text{if } \xi \neq 1 \end{cases} \quad (1 \leq r \leq d).$$

It is well known and easy to check that the Jucys-Murphy elements commute; see e.g. [103, 104, 155, 150]. The *Gelfand-Zetlin subalgebra* is the commutative subalgebra $\langle L_1, \dots, L_d \rangle \subset H_d$ generated by the Jucys-Murphy elements.

Okounkov and Vershik [161] (cf. also [52]) have advocated the idea of studying representation theory of H_d by exploiting the Gelfand-Zetlin subalgebra as a ‘‘Cartan subalgebra’’. In particular, one should study the corresponding ‘‘weight spaces’’ in H_d -modules. The following comes from [81, Lemma 4.7] and [125, Lemma 7.1.2].

Lemma 2.4. *Let M be a finite dimensional H_d -module. Then all eigenvalues of L_1, \dots, L_d in M are of the form $\nu(i)$ for $i \in I$.*

Let $\mathbf{i} = (i_1, \dots, i_d) \in I^d$, and M be a finite dimensional H_d -module. Define the \mathbf{i} -weight space of M as follows:

$$M_{\mathbf{i}} = \{v \in M \mid (L_r - \nu(i_r))^{N} v = 0 \text{ for } N \gg 0 \text{ and } r = 1, \dots, d\}.$$

By Lemma 2.4, we have a *weight space decomposition*:

$$M = \bigoplus_{\mathbf{i} \in I^d} M_{\mathbf{i}}.$$

2.4. Homogeneous generators. Using the weight space decomposition of the left regular H_d -module, one gets a system of orthogonal idempotents

$$(2.7) \quad \{e(\mathbf{i}) \mid \mathbf{i} \in I^d\}$$

in H_d , almost all of which are zero, such that

$$\sum_{\mathbf{i} \in I^d} e(\mathbf{i}) = 1,$$

and

$$e(\mathbf{i})M = M_{\mathbf{i}} \quad (\mathbf{i} \in I^d)$$

for any finite dimensional H_d -module M (cf. [156, 38, 151]).

Now define a family of (nilpotent) elements $y_1, \dots, y_r \in H_d$ via

$$(2.8) \quad y_r := \begin{cases} \sum_{\mathbf{i} \in I^d} (1 - \xi^{-i_r} L_r) e(\mathbf{i}) & \text{if } \xi \neq 1, \\ \sum_{\mathbf{i} \in I^d} (L_r - i_r) e(\mathbf{i}) & \text{if } \xi = 1 \end{cases} \quad (1 \leq r \leq d).$$

In [38], for every $\mathbf{i} \in I^d$ and $1 \leq r < d$, we define explicitly power series $P_r(\mathbf{i}), Q_r(\mathbf{i}) \in F[[y_r, y_{r+1}]]$ such that $Q_r(\mathbf{i})$ has non-zero constant term. As y_r 's are nilpotent in H_d , we can interpret $P_r(\mathbf{i})$ and $Q_r(\mathbf{i})$ as elements of H_d , with $Q_r(\mathbf{i})$

being invertible. The precise form of these elements is not going to be important—we just mention that there is some freedom in choosing $Q_r(\mathbf{i})$ and refer the interested reader to [38, sections 3.3, 4.3] for details. Set

$$(2.9) \quad \psi_r := \sum_{\mathbf{i} \in I^d} (T_r + P_r(\mathbf{i}))Q_r(\mathbf{i})^{-1}e(\mathbf{i}) \quad (1 \leq r < d).$$

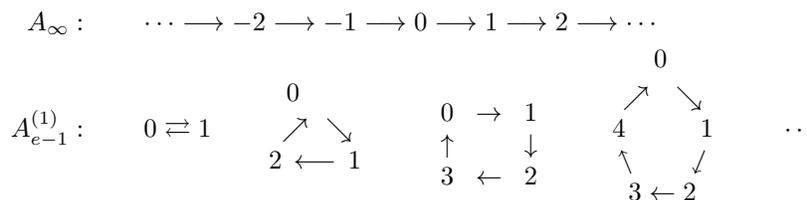
The main result of [38] claims that H_d is generated by the elements

$$(2.10) \quad \{e(\mathbf{i}) \mid \mathbf{i} \in I^d\} \cup \{y_1, \dots, y_d\} \cup \{\psi_1, \dots, \psi_{d-1}\}$$

and describes defining relations between these generators. This presentation turns out to yield a hidden grading on H_d which plays a fundamental role. Existence of such gradings was conjectured by Rouquier [173, Remark 3.11] and Turner [188].

In order to describe the graded presentation of H_d , we need some rudimentary Lie theoretic notation introduced in the next subsection. At first, this Lie theoretic terminology will play a purely notational or combinatorial role. However, it will gradually become clear that connections with Lie theory hinted at here are deep and natural.

2.5. Weights and roots. Let Γ be the quiver with vertex set I and a directed edge from i to j if $j = i + 1$. Thus Γ is the quiver of type A_∞ if $e = 0$ or $A_{e-1}^{(1)}$ if $e > 0$, with a specific orientation:



The corresponding *Cartan matrix* $(a_{i,j})_{i,j \in I}$ is defined by

$$(2.11) \quad a_{i,j} := \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } i = j, \\ 0 & \text{if } i \neq j, \\ -1 & \text{if } i \rightarrow j \text{ or } i \leftarrow j, \\ -2 & \text{if } i \rightleftharpoons j. \end{cases}$$

Here the symbol $i \neq j$ indicates that $j \neq i, i \pm 1$.

Following [105], let $(\mathfrak{h}, \Pi, \Pi^\vee)$ be a realization of the Cartan matrix $(a_{i,j})_{i,j \in I}$, so we have the simple roots

$$\{\alpha_i \mid i \in I\},$$

the fundamental dominant weights

$$\{\Lambda_i \mid i \in I\},$$

and the normalized invariant form (\cdot, \cdot) such that

$$(\alpha_i, \alpha_j) = a_{ij}, \quad (\Lambda_i, \alpha_j) = \delta_{ij} \quad (i, j \in I).$$

Let P_+ be the set of dominant integral weights, and let

$$Q_+ := \bigoplus_{i \in I} \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} \alpha_i$$

denote the positive part of the root lattice. For $\alpha \in Q_+$, we write $\text{ht}(\alpha)$ for the *height of α* , i.e. the sum of its coefficients when expanded in terms of the α_i 's.

In this paper we will always work with a fixed positive integer l , referred to as the *level*, and an ordered l -tuple

$$(2.12) \quad \kappa = (k_1, \dots, k_l) \in I^l.$$

We will also need the corresponding dominant weight Λ (of level l) defined as

$$(2.13) \quad \Lambda = \Lambda(\kappa) := \Lambda_{k_1} + \dots + \Lambda_{k_l} \in P_+.$$

2.6. Homogeneous presentation. Now we can state the main result of [38]:

Theorem 2.5. *The algebra H_d is generated by the elements (2.10) subject only to the following relations for $\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j} \in I^d$ and all admissible r, s :*

$$(2.14) \quad e(\mathbf{i})e(\mathbf{j}) = \delta_{\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}}e(\mathbf{i});$$

$$(2.15) \quad \sum_{\mathbf{i} \in I^d} e(\mathbf{i}) = 1;$$

$$(2.16) \quad y_r e(\mathbf{i}) = e(\mathbf{i})y_r;$$

$$(2.17) \quad \psi_r e(\mathbf{i}) = e(s_r \mathbf{i})\psi_r;$$

$$(2.18) \quad y_r y_s = y_s y_r;$$

$$(2.19) \quad \psi_r y_s = y_s \psi_r \quad \text{if } s \neq r, r+1;$$

$$(2.20) \quad \psi_r y_{r+1} e(\mathbf{i}) = \begin{cases} (y_r \psi_r + 1)e(\mathbf{i}) & \text{if } i_r = i_{r+1}, \\ y_r \psi_r e(\mathbf{i}) & \text{if } i_r \neq i_{r+1}; \end{cases}$$

$$(2.21) \quad y_{r+1} \psi_r e(\mathbf{i}) = \begin{cases} (\psi_r y_r + 1)e(\mathbf{i}) & \text{if } i_r = i_{r+1}, \\ \psi_r y_r e(\mathbf{i}) & \text{if } i_r \neq i_{r+1}; \end{cases}$$

$$(2.22) \quad \psi_r^2 e(\mathbf{i}) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i_r = i_{r+1}, \\ e(\mathbf{i}) & \text{if } i_r \neq i_{r+1}, \\ (y_{r+1} - y_r)e(\mathbf{i}) & \text{if } i_r \rightarrow i_{r+1}, \\ (y_r - y_{r+1})e(\mathbf{i}) & \text{if } i_r \leftarrow i_{r+1}, \\ (y_{r+1} - y_r)(y_r - y_{r+1})e(\mathbf{i}) & \text{if } i_r \rightleftharpoons i_{r+1}; \end{cases}$$

$$(2.23) \quad \psi_r \psi_s = \psi_s \psi_r \quad \text{if } |r - s| > 1;$$

$$(2.24) \quad \psi_r \psi_{r+1} \psi_r e(\mathbf{i}) = \begin{cases} (\psi_{r+1} \psi_r \psi_{r+1} + 1)e(\mathbf{i}) & \text{if } i_{r+2} = i_r \rightarrow i_{r+1}, \\ (\psi_{r+1} \psi_r \psi_{r+1} - 1)e(\mathbf{i}) & \text{if } i_{r+2} = i_r \leftarrow i_{r+1}, \\ (\psi_{r+1} \psi_r \psi_{r+1} - 2y_{r+1} \\ \quad + y_r + y_{r+2})e(\mathbf{i}) & \text{if } i_{r+2} = i_r \rightleftharpoons i_{r+1}, \\ \psi_{r+1} \psi_r \psi_{r+1} e(\mathbf{i}) & \text{otherwise;} \end{cases}$$

$$(2.25) \quad y_1^{\delta_{i_1, 0}} e(\mathbf{i}) = 0.$$

Theorem 2.5, as well as its generalizations and refinements given in Theorems 2.8 and 2.12, establish an isomorphism between the Hecke algebras we are interested in and cyclotomic Khovanov-Lauda-Rouquier algebras to be discussed later in this article.

A remarkable feature of the given presentation is that it does not contain the parameter ξ . Rather, ξ comes in indirectly—it determines e , which in turn determines the “Lie type” Γ .

Note that if $\xi = 1$ and $\text{char } F = p > 0$, then $e = p$. On the other hand, if $F = \mathbb{C}$ and $\xi = e^{2\pi i/p}$, then again $e = p$. So the “Lie type” is the same, and we get the same relations in these two cases (but over different fields). This observation will be used in section 10.2 to define a reduction modulo p procedure.

Another important feature of our presentation is that it is obviously homogeneous with respect to the following grading:

Corollary 2.6. *There is a unique \mathbb{Z} -grading on H_d such that*

$$\deg(e(\mathbf{i})) = 0, \quad \deg(y_r) = 2, \quad \deg(\psi_r e(\mathbf{i})) = -a_{i_r, i_{r+1}}$$

for all admissible r and \mathbf{i} .

2.7. Affine Hecke algebras. Let H_d^{aff} denote the affine Hecke algebra over the ground field F associated to Σ_d if $\xi \neq 1$, or its rational degeneration if $\xi = 1$ [89, 140]. Thus, if $\xi \neq 1$, then H_d^{aff} is the F -algebra generated by

$$T_1, \dots, T_{d-1}, X_1^{\pm 1}, \dots, X_d^{\pm 1}$$

subject only to the relations (1.1)–(1.3) and the relations

$$(2.26) \quad X_r^{\pm 1} X_s^{\pm 1} = X_s^{\pm 1} X_r^{\pm 1} \quad (1 \leq r, s \leq d),$$

$$(2.27) \quad X_r X_r^{-1} = 1 \quad (1 \leq r \leq d),$$

$$(2.28) \quad T_r X_r T_r = \xi X_{r+1} \quad (1 \leq r < d),$$

$$(2.29) \quad T_r X_s = X_s T_r \quad (1 \leq r < d, 1 \leq s \leq d, s \neq r, r + 1).$$

If $\xi = 1$, then H_d^{aff} is the F -algebra generated by

$$T_1, \dots, T_{d-1}, X_1, \dots, X_d$$

subject only to the relations (1.1)–(1.3) and the relations

$$(2.30) \quad X_r X_s = X_s X_r \quad (1 \leq r, s \leq d),$$

$$(2.31) \quad T_r X_{r+1} = X_r T_r + 1 \quad (1 \leq r < d),$$

$$(2.32) \quad T_r X_s = X_s T_r \quad (1 \leq r < d, 1 \leq s \leq d, s \neq r, r + 1).$$

One motivation for introducing affine Hecke algebras is as follows. Consider for example the case $\xi = 1$. In section 2.3, we have mentioned the idea of using the Gelfand-Zetlin subalgebra $\langle L_1, \dots, L_d \rangle \subset H_d$ as a “Cartan subalgebra” of H_d . One problem with this approach is that the Gelfand-Zetlin subalgebra is in general rather complicated. It would be much nicer to “free” the generators L_1, \dots, L_d and consider algebraically independent commuting elements X_1, \dots, X_d instead. This has to be done “outside” of H_d , so we should form the tensor product $H_d \otimes F[X_1, \dots, X_d]$. However, we want to preserve the relations which we had between the Jucys-Murphy elements L_1, \dots, L_d and the standard generators T_1, \dots, T_{d-1} of H_d . The definition of Jucys-Murphy elements implies the relations $T_r L_{r+1} = L_r T_r + 1$ and $T_r L_s = L_s T_r$ for $s \neq r, r + 1$. This explains the relations (2.31) and (2.32).

2.8. Cyclotomic Hecke algebras. We now introduce the main class of algebras we are going to work with.

Definition 2.7. Let $\Lambda \in P_+$ be a dominant weight as in (2.13). The cyclotomic Hecke algebra $H_d^\Lambda = H_d^\Lambda(F, \xi)$ is the quotient

$$(2.33) \quad H_d^\Lambda := H_d^{\text{aff}} / \langle \prod_{i \in I} (X_1 - \nu(i))^{\langle \Lambda, \alpha_i \rangle} \rangle = H_d^{\text{aff}} / \langle \prod_{m=1}^l (X_1 - \nu(k_m)) \rangle.$$

Let us make it explicit again that the algebra H_d^Λ depends on the ground field F , the “rank” $d \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$, the parameter ξ (which determines e and the “Lie type” Γ), and the dominant weight Λ for Lie type Γ . In this paper we will mainly work in the generality of cyclotomic Hecke algebras.

The algebra H_d^Λ can be thought of as the Hecke algebra of the complex reflection group of type $G(l, 1, d)$. If the weight Λ is of level l , we say that H_d^Λ is a cyclotomic Hecke algebra of level l . The algebra H_d appears as a cyclotomic Hecke algebra of level 1:

$$(2.34) \quad H_d \cong H_d^{\Lambda_i} \quad (i \in I).$$

This is an easy consequence of the Basis Theorem 2.11 below.

It is easy to see that there exists an antiautomorphism $*$ of H_d^Λ defined on the generators by

$$(2.35) \quad * : H_d^\Lambda \rightarrow H_d^\Lambda, \quad T_r \mapsto T_r, \quad X_s \mapsto X_s \quad (1 \leq r < d, 1 \leq s \leq d).$$

The presentation from Theorem 2.5 generalizes to the whole class of cyclotomic Hecke algebras. Namely, in [38] we construct explicit elements

$$(2.36) \quad \{e(\mathbf{i}) \mid \mathbf{i} \in I^d\} \cup \{y_1, \dots, y_d\} \cup \{\psi_1, \dots, \psi_{d-1}\}$$

of H_d^Λ and prove:

Theorem 2.8. *The algebra H_d^Λ is generated by the elements (2.36) subject only to the relations (2.14)–(2.24) and one additional relation*

$$(2.37) \quad y_1^{(\Lambda, \alpha_{i_1})} e(\mathbf{i}) = 0 \quad (\mathbf{i} = (i_1, \dots, i_d) \in I^d).$$

Again, as in level 1, we can now get a grading on our algebra:

Corollary 2.9. *There is a unique \mathbb{Z} -grading on H_d^Λ such that*

$$(2.38) \quad \deg(e(\mathbf{i})) = 0, \quad \deg(y_r) = 2, \quad \deg(\psi_r e(\mathbf{i})) = -a_{i_r, i_{r+1}}$$

for all admissible r and \mathbf{i} .

Just as for H_d , a surprising feature of the presentation given in Theorem 2.8 is that it does not contain the parameter ξ . One corollary of this can already be stated here; this observation will also be used in section 10.2 to define a reduction modulo p procedure for cyclotomic Hecke algebras.

Corollary 2.10. *Suppose that F is of characteristic zero. Then the algebra H_d^Λ for ξ not a root of unity is isomorphic to the algebra H_d^Λ for $\xi = 1$. In other words, the cyclotomic Hecke algebra for generic ξ is isomorphic to its rational degeneration.*

Theorem 2.8 shows that the algebra H_d^Λ possesses a *graded* antiautomorphism

$$(2.39) \quad \circledast : H_d^\Lambda \rightarrow H_d^\Lambda, \quad e(\mathbf{i}) \mapsto e(\mathbf{i}), \quad y_r \mapsto y_r, \quad \psi_s \mapsto \psi_s$$

for all admissible r, s and \mathbf{i} . We write x^\circledast for the image of the element $x \in H_d^\Lambda$ under \circledast . Using this, we introduce a *graded duality* on $\text{Rep}(H_d^\Lambda)$, mapping a module M to

$$M^\circledast := \text{HOM}_F(M, F)$$

with the action defined by

$$(xf)(m) = f(x^\circledast m) \quad (m \in M, f \in M^\circledast, x \in H_d^\Lambda).$$

Let $w \in \Sigma_d$. Pick any reduced decomposition $w = s_{r_1} \cdots s_{r_\ell}$ in Σ_d , and define

$$(2.40) \quad T_w := T_{r_1} \cdots T_{r_\ell} \in H_d^\Lambda.$$

By Matsumoto’s Theorem on reduced decompositions, the element T_w is well defined. Moreover:

Theorem 2.11 ([9], [125, Theorem 7.5.6]).

$$\{T_w X_1^{a_1} \cdots X_d^{a_d} \mid w \in \Sigma_d, 0 \leq a_1, \dots, a_d < l\}$$

is a basis of the cyclotomic Hecke algebra H_d^Λ of level l . In particular,

$$\dim H_d^\Lambda = l^d d!.$$

2.9. Blocks. The group Σ_d acts on the left on the set I^d by place permutation. The Σ_d -orbits on I^d are the sets

$$I^\alpha := \{\mathbf{i} = (i_1, \dots, i_d) \in I^d \mid \alpha_{i_1} + \cdots + \alpha_{i_d} = \alpha\}$$

parametrized by all $\alpha \in Q_+$ of height d . Let

$$(2.41) \quad e_\alpha := \sum_{\mathbf{i} \in I^\alpha} e(\mathbf{i}) \in H_d^\Lambda.$$

As a consequence of [143] or [28, Theorem 1], e_α is either zero or it is a primitive central idempotent in H_d^Λ . Hence the algebra

$$(2.42) \quad H_\alpha^\Lambda := e_\alpha H_d^\Lambda$$

is either zero or it is a single *block* of the algebra H_d^Λ . For $h \in H_d^\Lambda$ let us write h again for the element $he_\alpha \in H_\alpha^\Lambda$. Then we get generators

$$(2.43) \quad \{e(\mathbf{i}) \mid \mathbf{i} \in I^\alpha\} \cup \{y_1, \dots, y_d\} \cup \{\psi_1, \dots, \psi_{d-1}\}$$

for H_α^Λ .

The presentation of Theorem 2.5 can be refined to produce a graded presentation of the individual blocks H_α^Λ :

Theorem 2.12 ([38]). *The block algebra H_α^Λ is generated by the elements (2.43) subject only to the relations (2.14)–(2.24) and (2.37) for all $\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j} \in I^\alpha$ and all admissible r, s . In particular, there is a unique \mathbb{Z} -grading on H_α^Λ such that*

$$(2.44) \quad \deg(e(\mathbf{i})) = 0, \quad \deg(y_r) = 2, \quad \deg(\psi_r e(\mathbf{i})) = -a_{i_r, i_{r+1}}$$

for all $\mathbf{i} \in I^\alpha$ and all admissible r .

We point out that Theorem 2.12 holds even for those α for which $H_\alpha^\Lambda = 0$; however, it is difficult to see from our presentation when $H_\alpha^\Lambda = 0$.

2.10. The Main Problem. Let \mathcal{C} be the free \mathcal{A} -module on I^d . If $M \in \text{Rep}(H_d^\Lambda)$, then the q -character of M is the formal expression

$$(2.45) \quad \text{ch}_q M := \sum_{\mathbf{i} \in I^\alpha} (\text{qdim } e(\mathbf{i})M) \cdot \mathbf{i} \in \mathcal{C}.$$

At a combinatorial level this goes back to Leclerc [136].

The main problem in representation theory of H_d^Λ can now be stated:

Main Problem. Classify irreducible graded modules over H_d^Λ and describe their q -characters.

The following theorem is established in [113, Theorem 3.17], going back to Bernstein at the ungraded level.

Theorem 2.13. *The map*

$$\text{ch}_q : [\text{Rep}(R)] \rightarrow \mathcal{C}, \quad [M] \mapsto \text{ch}_q M$$

is injective.

2.11. Affine Khovanov-Lauda-Rouquier algebras. If we drop the cyclotomic relation

$$\prod_{i \in I} (X_1 - \nu(i))^{\langle \Lambda, \alpha_i \rangle} = 0$$

from the definition of the cyclotomic Hecke algebra H_d^Λ , we get the affine Hecke algebra H_d^{aff} . On the other hand, let us drop the cyclotomic relation (2.37) from the presentation of H_d^Λ obtained in Theorem 2.8. Then we get the affine Khovanov-Lauda-Rouquier algebra:

Definition 2.14. The *affine Khovanov-Lauda-Rouquier algebra* H_d^∞ (of type Γ) is the graded F -algebra given abstractly by generators

$$(2.46) \quad \{e(\mathbf{i}) \mid \mathbf{i} \in I^d\} \cup \{y_1, \dots, y_d\} \cup \{\psi_1, \dots, \psi_{d-1}\}$$

and relations (2.14)–(2.24), with the degrees of the generators given by the formulas (2.38).

The affine Khovanov-Lauda-Rouquier algebras were introduced independently by Khovanov and Lauda [113, 114] and Rouquier [174]. The algebra H_d^∞ is *not* isomorphic to the affine Hecke algebra H_d^{aff} , although the two are isomorphic after some completions, cf. [174].

As in the cyclotomic case, for each $\alpha \in Q_+$ with $\text{ht}(\alpha) = d$, define the idempotent e_α by the formula (2.41). It follows from [113, Corollary 2.11] that e_α is a primitive central idempotent in H_d^∞ . Hence the algebra

$$H_\alpha^\infty := e_\alpha H_d^\infty$$

is a single *block* of the algebra H_d^∞ . The defining presentation of H_d^∞ can be refined to produce a graded presentation of the blocks H_α^∞ :

Theorem 2.15. *The block algebra H_α^∞ is generated by elements*

$$(2.47) \quad \{e(\mathbf{i}) \mid \mathbf{i} \in I^\alpha\} \cup \{y_1, \dots, y_d\} \cup \{\psi_1, \dots, \psi_{d-1}\}$$

subject only to the relations (2.14)–(2.24) for $\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j} \in I^\alpha$ and all admissible r, s . In particular, there is a unique \mathbb{Z} -grading on H_α^∞ such that

$$\deg(e(\mathbf{i})) = 0, \quad \deg(y_r) = 2, \quad \deg(\psi_r e(\mathbf{i})) = -a_{i_r, i_{r+1}}$$

for all $\mathbf{i} \in I^\alpha$ and all admissible r .

All algebras H_α^∞ are non-zero. In fact, unlike their cyclotomic quotients, they have a nice “PBW-type” bases [113, Theorem 2.5].

There is a duality denoted $\#$ on $\text{Proj}(H_\alpha^\infty)$ mapping a projective module P to

$$(2.48) \quad P^\# := \text{HOM}_{H_\alpha^\infty}(P, H_\alpha^\infty),$$

with the action defined by

$$(xf)(p) = f(p)x^{\otimes} \quad (x \in H_\alpha^\infty, f \in \text{HOM}_{H_\alpha^\infty}(P, H_\alpha^\infty), p \in P).$$

If, instead of the quiver Γ chosen in section 2.5, one considers any simply laced quiver Q without loops with the set of vertices I , generators (2.46) and relations (2.14)–(2.24) define the affine Khovanov-Lauda-Rouquier algebra $R_d(Q)$ of type Q .

If there are no cycles in the underlying graph of Q , then the affine Khovanov-Lauda-Rouquier algebras obtained using different orientations are all isomorphic, but if there are cycles this is not the case (cf. [114]). For non-simply laced Q , the algebras $R_d(Q)$ are not much harder to define; see [114] and [174]. Note that one

non-simply laced case, namely $A_1^{(1)}$, already occurs in Theorems 2.5 and 2.8—it corresponds to $e = 2$.

3. COMBINATORICS

In this section we fix our notation concerning multipartitions and related combinatorial objects. Throughout the section we continue working with a fixed positive integer l , referred to as the level, a tuple $\kappa = (k_1, \dots, k_l)$ as in (2.12), and the corresponding dominant weight $\Lambda = \Lambda_{k_1} + \dots + \Lambda_{k_l}$ as in (2.13). The reader, who is only interested in the case of symmetric groups or Iwahori-Hecke algebras, can assume that $\Lambda = \Lambda_0$, in particular $l = 1$, and all l -multipartitions appearing below will become usual partitions.

3.1. Partitions and Young diagrams. An l -multipartition of d is an ordered l -tuple of partitions $\mu = (\mu^{(1)}, \dots, \mu^{(l)})$ such that $\sum_{m=1}^l |\mu^{(m)}| = d$. We call $\mu^{(m)}$ the m th component of μ . The set of all l -multipartitions of d is denoted \mathcal{P}_d^κ , and we put

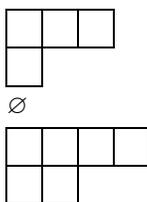
$$\mathcal{P}^\kappa := \bigsqcup_{d \geq 0} \mathcal{P}_d^\kappa.$$

This notation might seem excessive at the moment as the set \mathcal{P}^κ really only depends on l and not on κ . However, once we start considering residues of nodes of multipartitions, dependence on κ will become crucial.

The *Young diagram* of the multipartition $\mu = (\mu^{(1)}, \dots, \mu^{(l)}) \in \mathcal{P}^\kappa$ is

$$\{(a, b, m) \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0} \times \mathbb{Z}_{>0} \times \{1, \dots, l\} \mid 1 \leq b \leq \mu_a^{(m)}\}.$$

The elements of this set are called the *nodes* of μ . More generally, a *node* is an element of $\mathbb{Z}_{>0} \times \mathbb{Z}_{>0} \times \{1, \dots, l\}$. Usually, we identify the multipartition μ with its Young diagram and visualize it as a column vector of Young diagrams. For example, $((3, 1), \emptyset, (4, 2))$ is the following Young diagram:



To each node $A = (a, b, m)$, we associate its *residue*, which is defined to be the following element of $I = \mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z}$:

$$\text{res } A := k_m + (b - a) \pmod{e}.$$

We refer to the nodes of residue i as the i -nodes. Define the *residue content* of μ to be

$$(3.1) \quad \text{cont}(\mu) := \sum_{A \in \mu} \alpha_{\text{res } A} \in Q_+.$$

Denote

$$\mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa := \{\mu \in \mathcal{P}^\kappa \mid \text{cont}(\mu) = \alpha\} \quad (\alpha \in Q_+).$$

A node $A \in \mu$ is called *removable* (for μ) if $\mu \setminus \{A\}$ has the shape of a multipartition. A node $B \notin \mu$ is called *addable* (for μ) if $\mu \cup \{B\}$ has the shape of a multipartition. We use the notation

$$\mu_A := \mu \setminus \{A\}, \quad \mu^B := \mu \cup \{B\}.$$

For the example above, the removable nodes are $(1, 3, 1), (2, 1, 1), (1, 4, 3), (2, 2, 3)$, and addable nodes are $(1, 4, 1), (2, 2, 1), (3, 1, 1), (1, 1, 2), (1, 5, 3), (2, 3, 3), (3, 1, 3)$, in order from top to bottom in the diagram.

Let $\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{P}_d^\kappa$. We say that μ *dominates* ν , written $\mu \trianglerighteq \nu$, if

$$\sum_{a=1}^{m-1} |\mu^{(a)}| + \sum_{b=1}^c \mu_b^{(m)} \geq \sum_{a=1}^{m-1} |\nu^{(a)}| + \sum_{b=1}^c \nu_b^{(m)}$$

for all $1 \leq m \leq l$ and $c \geq 1$. In other words, μ is obtained from ν by moving nodes up in the diagram.

Let $<_{\text{lex}}$ denote the *lexicographic ordering* on partitions so, for partitions $\lambda, \mu \in \mathcal{P}$, we have that $\mu <_{\text{lex}} \lambda$ if and only if $\mu_1 = \lambda_1, \dots, \mu_{a-1} = \lambda_{a-1}$, and $\mu_a < \lambda_a$ for some $a \geq 1$. We extend this notion to l -multipartitions: for $\lambda, \mu \in \mathcal{P}^\kappa$, we have that $\mu <_{\text{lex}} \lambda$ if and only if $\mu^{(1)} = \lambda^{(1)}, \dots, \mu^{(m-1)} = \lambda^{(m-1)}$, and $\mu^{(m)} <_{\text{lex}} \lambda^{(m)}$ for some $1 \leq m \leq l$. This total order refines the dominance ordering on \mathcal{P}^κ in the sense that $\mu \triangleleft \lambda$ implies $\mu <_{\text{lex}} \lambda$.

3.2. Tableaux. Let $\mu = (\mu^{(1)}, \dots, \mu^{(l)}) \in \mathcal{P}_d^\kappa$. A μ -*tableau*

$$\mathbf{T} = (\mathbf{T}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{T}^{(l)})$$

is obtained from the diagram of μ by inserting the integers $1, \dots, d$ into the nodes, allowing no repeats. The tableaux $\mathbf{T}^{(m)}$ are called the *components* of \mathbf{T} . To each tableau \mathbf{T} we associate its *residue sequence*

$$(3.2) \quad \mathbf{i}^{\mathbf{T}} = (i_1, \dots, i_d) \in I^d,$$

where i_r is the residue of the node occupied by r in \mathbf{T} ($1 \leq r \leq d$).

A μ -tableau \mathbf{T} is *row-strict* (resp. *column-strict*) if its entries increase from left to right (resp. from top to bottom) along the rows (resp. columns) of each component of \mathbf{T} . A μ -tableau \mathbf{T} is *standard* if it is row- and column-strict. The set of all standard μ -tableaux will be denoted by $\mathcal{T}(\mu)$. The group Σ_d acts on the set of μ -tableaux on the left by its action on the entries.

Let \mathbf{T}^μ be the μ -tableau in which the numbers $1, 2, \dots, d$ appear in order along the successive rows, working from top to bottom. Set

$$(3.3) \quad \mathbf{i}^\mu := \mathbf{i}^{\mathbf{T}^\mu}.$$

If \mathbf{T} is a μ -tableau, then $w_{\mathbf{T}} \in \Sigma_d$ is defined from

$$(3.4) \quad w_{\mathbf{T}} \mathbf{T}^\mu = \mathbf{T}.$$

Example 3.1. Let $\mu = ((3, 1), \emptyset, (4, 2))$, $e = 3$, and $k_1 = 0, k_2 = 1, k_3 = 1$. The following are examples of standard μ -tableaux:

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline 1 & 2 & 3 \\ \hline 4 & & \\ \hline \end{array} \\
 T^\mu = \emptyset \\
 \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 \\ \hline 9 & 10 & & \\ \hline \end{array}
 \end{array}
 \qquad
 \begin{array}{l}
 \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline 2 & 5 & 6 \\ \hline 3 & & \\ \hline \end{array} \\
 T = \emptyset \\
 \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline 1 & 4 & 9 & 10 \\ \hline 7 & 8 & & \\ \hline \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{i}^\mu &= (0, 1, 2, 2, 1, 2, 0, 1, 0, 1), \\
 \mathbf{i}^T &= (1, 0, 2, 2, 1, 2, 0, 1, 0, 1), \\
 w_T &= (1\ 2\ 5)(3\ 6\ 4)(7\ 9)(8\ 10).
 \end{aligned}$$

Let $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_d^\kappa$. Recalling the Bruhat order “ \leq ” on Σ_d , the Bruhat order on $\mathcal{T}(\mu)$ is defined as follows:

$$(3.5) \qquad \mathbf{S} \leq \mathbf{T} \quad \text{if and only if} \quad w_{\mathbf{S}} \leq w_{\mathbf{T}}.$$

3.3. Degree of a standard tableau. Let $\mu \in \mathcal{P}^\kappa$, $i \in I$, A be a removable i -node and B be an addable i -node of μ . We set

$$(3.6) \qquad d_A(\mu) := \#\{\text{addable } i\text{-nodes of } \mu \text{ strictly below } A\} - \#\{\text{removable } i\text{-nodes of } \mu \text{ strictly below } A\};$$

$$(3.7) \qquad d^B(\mu) := \#\{\text{addable } i\text{-nodes of } \mu \text{ strictly above } B\} - \#\{\text{removable } i\text{-nodes of } \mu \text{ strictly above } B\};$$

$$(3.8) \qquad d_i(\mu) := \#\{\text{addable } i\text{-nodes of } \mu\} - \#\{\text{removable } i\text{-nodes of } \mu\}.$$

It is easy to see [42, Lemma 3.11] that:

$$(3.9) \qquad d_i(\mu) = (\Lambda - \alpha, \alpha_i) \qquad (\mu \in \mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa).$$

Finally, for $\alpha \in Q_+$, define the defect of α (relative to Λ) to be

$$(3.10) \qquad \text{def}(\alpha) = (\Lambda, \alpha) - (\alpha, \alpha)/2.$$

Given $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_d^\kappa$ and $\mathbf{T} \in \mathcal{T}(\mu)$, the degree of \mathbf{T} is defined inductively in [42, section 3.5] as follows. If $d = 0$, then \mathbf{T} is the empty tableau \emptyset , and we set $\text{deg}(\mathbf{T}) := 0$. Otherwise, let A be the node occupied by d in \mathbf{T} . Remove this node to get the standard tableaux $\mathbf{T}_{\leq(d-1)} \in \mathcal{T}(\mu_A)$, and set

$$(3.11) \qquad \text{deg}(\mathbf{T}) := d_A(\mu) + \text{deg}(\mathbf{T}_{\leq(d-1)}).$$

3.4. Good nodes and restricted multipartitions. Let $\mu \in \mathcal{P}^\kappa$. Set

$$(3.12) \qquad \text{wt}(\mu) = \Lambda - \text{cont}(\mu) \qquad (\mu \in \mathcal{P}^\kappa).$$

Further, given $i \in I$, let A_1, \dots, A_n denote the addable and removable i -nodes of μ ordered so that A_m is above A_{m+1} for each $m = 1, \dots, n-1$. Consider the sequence $(\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n)$ where $\sigma_r = +$ if A_r is addable or $-$ if A_r is removable. If we can find $1 \leq r < s \leq n$ such that $\sigma_r = -, \sigma_s = +$ and $\sigma_{r+1} = \dots = \sigma_{s-1} = 0$, then replace σ_r and σ_s by 0. Keep doing this until we are left with a sequence $(\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n)$ in which no $-$ appears to the left of a $+$. This is called the reduced i -signature of μ .

Now, let $(\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n)$ be the reduced i -signature of μ . Set

$$\varepsilon_i(\mu) = \#\{r = 1, \dots, n \mid \sigma_r = -\}, \quad \varphi_i(\mu) = \#\{r = 1, \dots, n \mid \sigma_r = +\}.$$

If $\varepsilon_i(\mu) > 0$, let r index the leftmost $-$ in the reduced i -signature. In this case the removable node A_r is called the *good i -node* of μ , and we set

$$\tilde{e}_i\mu = \mu_{A_r}.$$

Similarly, if $\varphi_i(\mu) > 0$, let s index the rightmost $+$ in the reduced i -signature. The addable node A_s is called the *cogood i -node* for μ , and we set

$$\tilde{f}_i\mu = \mu^{A_s}.$$

It is easy to check that a removable node A is good for μ if and only if A is cogood for μ_A . Similarly, an addable node B is cogood for μ if and only if B is good for μ^B . Hence

$$(3.13) \quad \mu = \tilde{f}_i\nu \text{ if and only if } \nu = \tilde{e}_i\mu \quad (\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{P}^\kappa).$$

Define the set \mathcal{RP}^κ of the (κ -)restricted multipartitions to be the set of all multipartitions $\mu \in \mathcal{P}^\kappa$ which can be obtained from the empty multipartition $\emptyset \in \mathcal{P}^\kappa$ by applying a series of \tilde{f}_i 's:

$$(3.14) \quad \begin{aligned} \mathcal{RP}^\kappa &= \{\tilde{f}_{i_1} \cdots \tilde{f}_{i_m} \emptyset \mid i_1, \dots, i_m \in I\} \\ &= \{\mu \in \mathcal{P}^\kappa \mid \tilde{e}_{j_1} \cdots \tilde{e}_{j_m} \mu = \emptyset \text{ for some } j_1, \dots, j_m \in I\}. \end{aligned}$$

Also for $\alpha \in Q_+$ set

$$\mathcal{RP}_\alpha^\kappa := \mathcal{RP}^\kappa \cap \mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa.$$

Example 3.2. (i) Suppose that $e > 0$ and $l = 1$. Then \mathcal{RP}^κ is the set of all e -restricted partitions, that is, partitions μ such that $\mu_a - \mu_{a+1} < e$ for all $a \geq 1$.

(ii) Suppose that $e = 0$ and $k_1 \geq \dots \geq k_l$. Then \mathcal{RP}^κ consists of all l -multipartitions μ such that $\mu_{a+k_m-k_{m+1}}^{(m)} \leq \mu_a^{(m+1)}$ for all $m = 1, \dots, l-1$ and $a \geq 1$; see [39, (2.52)] or [192]. Such multipartitions are closely related to combinatorics of standard tableaux (cf. [39, 36]).

(iii) Suppose that $e = 0$ and $k_1 \leq \dots \leq k_l$. Then \mathcal{RP}^κ consists of all l -multipartitions μ such that $\mu_a^{(m)} \leq \mu_a^{(m+1)} + k_{m+1} - k_m$ for all $m = 1, \dots, l-1$ and $a \geq 1$; see [39, (2.53)].

(iv) For more examples, see [7, 10].

In general a non-recurrent description of the set \mathcal{RP}^κ is not known.

4. SOLUTION OF THE MAIN PROBLEM FOR TYPE A_∞ AT LEVEL 1

In this small section we present what can be considered an ideal solution of the Main Problem from section 2.10 for the case where $e = 0$ and $l = 1$. In view of (2.34) this covers two classical cases: representation theory of symmetric groups in characteristic 0 and representation theory of Iwahori-Hecke algebra of the symmetric group with generic parameter (both algebras are semisimple). Theorem 4.1(i) in particular gives the formulas for the generators of H_d^Λ acting on a basis of an arbitrary irreducible H_d^Λ -module. The reader might note how unusually easy these formulas are. For example, the only scalars that ever appear are 0 and 1.

So assume throughout the section that $e = 0$ and $\Lambda = \Lambda_i$ is a dominant weight of level 1. Then the set \mathcal{P}_d^κ is just the set of usual partitions of d , with residue of the box in row a and column b being $b - a + i \in I = \mathbb{Z}$. Define the vector spaces

$$S(\mu) := \bigoplus_{\mathbf{T} \in \mathcal{T}(\mu)} F \cdot v_{\mathbf{T}} \quad (\mu \in \mathcal{P}_d^\kappa)$$

with basis elements labeled by the standard μ -tableaux.

Theorem 4.1. *Let $e = 0$ and $l = 1$.*

(i) *Let $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_d^\kappa$. The formulas*

$$\begin{aligned} e(\mathbf{j})v_{\mathbf{T}} &= \delta_{\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{j}}v_{\mathbf{T}} & (\mathbf{j} \in I, \mathbf{T} \in \mathcal{T}(\mu)), \\ y_r v_{\mathbf{T}} &= 0 & (1 \leq r \leq d, \mathbf{T} \in \mathcal{T}(\mu)), \\ \psi_r v_{\mathbf{T}} &= \begin{cases} v_{s_r \mathbf{T}} & \text{if } s_r \mathbf{T} \text{ is standard,} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} & (1 \leq r < d, \mathbf{T} \in \mathcal{T}(\mu)), \end{aligned}$$

define an action of H_d^Λ on $S(\mu)$ under which $S(\mu)$ is an irreducible H_d^Λ -module.

(ii) *$\{S(\mu) \mid \mu \in \mathcal{P}_d^\kappa\}$ is a complete and irredundant set of irreducible H_d^Λ -modules up to isomorphism.*

(iii) *Let us consider $S(\mu)$ as a graded vector space by declaring that it is concentrated in degree 0. Then*

$$\{S(\mu)\langle n \rangle \mid \mu \in \mathcal{P}_d^\kappa, n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

is a complete and irredundant set of irreducible graded H_d^Λ -modules up to isomorphism.

(iv) *Let $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_d^\kappa$ and $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then*

$$\text{ch}_q S(\mu)\langle n \rangle = q^n \sum_{\mathbf{T} \in \mathcal{T}(\mu)} \mathbf{i}^{\mathbf{T}}.$$

(v) *Let $\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{P}_d^\kappa$, $\mathbf{T} \in \mathcal{T}(\mu)$, and $\mathbf{S} \in \mathcal{T}(\nu)$. Then $\mathbf{i}^{\mathbf{T}} \neq \mathbf{i}^{\mathbf{S}}$, unless $\mu = \nu$ and $\mathbf{T} = \mathbf{S}$.*

We point out that the basis $\{v_{\mathbf{T}} \mid \mathbf{T} \in \mathcal{T}(\mu)\}$ of the irreducible module $S(\mu)$ is essentially the same as *Young’s seminormal basis*—this is explained in detail in [38, section 5]. However, the action of the standard generators T_r on Young’s seminormal basis is given by some well-known and rather tricky formulas (cf. for example [91, section 25] or [125, Theorem 2.3.1] for the symmetric group case or [85, 168, 195] for the Hecke algebras case). It is therefore somewhat miraculous that our new homogeneous generators act by the easy formulas of Theorem 4.1(i), which, moreover, are the *same* formulas for the symmetric groups and Hecke algebras!

Standard results on characters of symmetric groups such as the Murnaghan-Nakayama formulas follow easily from Theorem 4.1, as was noticed first by Okounkov and Vershik [161]; see also [125, section 2.3].

Another remark to be made here is that all graded irreducible modules turn out to be *pure*, i.e. concentrated in one degree. This is definitely special for the situation where $e = 0$ and $l = 1$ and does not hold in general. In some sense this phenomenon “explains” why representations of symmetric groups in characteristic zero are so “easy to understand”. The purity happens to be closely connected to the property described in Theorem 4.1(v), and has many other equivalent descriptions (cf. [127] and references therein).

One could consider more generally pure representations of Khovanov-Lauda-Rouquier algebras of any type, and they too turn out to be amenable to a beautiful combinatorial description similar to the one in Theorem 4.1; this is done in [127]. In particular, one can define shapes and skew shapes corresponding to any simply laced type Γ .

Then the (appropriately defined) standard tableaux of a given skew shape label a basis of an irreducible module, on which the generators act by the formulas similar to the ones in Theorem 4.1(i). Moreover, if our skew shape is a shape, there is a *hook formula for any Lie type* which computes the dimension of the corresponding irreducible module! We refer the reader to [127] for the details.

On the other hand, non-pure irreducible modules are much harder to understand. One way to approach them is via Specht modules, which will be discussed in the next section.

5. CYCLOTOMIC HECKE ALGEBRAS AS CELLULAR ALGEBRAS

Symmetric groups are known to possess a nice class of modules called Specht modules; see e.g. [91]. Specht modules are not irreducible in general, but they are very useful because they are defined over an arbitrary field, their dimensions and characters are well understood, and irreducible modules arise as the simple heads of Specht modules corresponding to a certain class of partitions depending on the characteristic of the ground field. In that sense Specht modules resemble Verma modules or other “standard” modules used in Lie theory. The goal of this section is to describe Specht modules and to explain how to grade them.

One way to approach Specht modules and to generalize them from symmetric group algebras to cyclotomic Hecke algebras is to use the framework of the theory of *cellular algebras* developed by Graham and Lehrer [77], where Specht modules arise naturally as *cell modules*.

5.1. Review of cellular algebras. Let H be a finite dimensional associative F -algebra.

Definition 5.1. A *cell datum* for H is a quadruple $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{T}, C, *)$, where

- \mathcal{P} is a partially ordered set;
- \mathcal{T} is a map from \mathcal{P} to finite sets;
- C is a map $\bigsqcup_{\mu \in \mathcal{P}} \mathcal{T}(\mu) \times \mathcal{T}(\mu) \rightarrow H$; if $\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{T} \in \mathcal{T}(\mu)$, denote $C(\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{T})$ by $C_{\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{T}}^{\mu}$;
- $*$ is an antiautomorphism of the F -algebra H ;

and the following axioms hold:

- (i) $\{C_{\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{T}}^{\mu} \mid \mu \in \mathcal{P}, \mathbf{S}, \mathbf{T} \in \mathcal{T}(\mu)\}$ is an F -basis of H ;
- (ii) $(C_{\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{T}}^{\mu})^* = C_{\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{S}}^{\mu}$;
- (iii) if $\mu \in \mathcal{P}$ and $\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{T} \in \mathcal{T}(\mu)$, then for every element $h \in H$ we have

$$hC_{\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{T}}^{\mu} \equiv \sum_{\mathbf{U} \in \mathcal{T}(\mu)} r_h(\mathbf{U}, \mathbf{S}) C_{\mathbf{U}, \mathbf{T}}^{\mu} \pmod{H(> \mu)},$$

where $r_h(\mathbf{U}, \mathbf{S})$ is independent of \mathbf{T} and $H(> \mu)$ denotes the F -span of the basis elements $\{C_{\mathbf{S}', \mathbf{T}'}^{\nu} \mid \nu > \mu, \mathbf{S}', \mathbf{T}' \in \mathcal{T}(\nu)\}$.

The basis $\{C_{\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{T}}^{\mu} \mid \mu \in \mathcal{P}, \mathbf{S}, \mathbf{T} \in \mathcal{T}(\mu)\}$ is referred to as a *cellular basis*, and the algebra H with a cell datum is called a *cellular algebra*.

Given $\mu \in \mathcal{P}$, define the *cell module* $S(\mu)$ be a free F -module with basis $\{C_{\mathbf{T}} \mid \mathbf{T} \in \mathcal{T}(\mu)\}$ and the H -action

$$hC_{\mathbf{T}} = \sum_{\mathbf{S} \in \mathcal{T}(\mu)} r_h(\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{T})C_{\mathbf{S}} \quad (h \in H, \mathbf{T} \in \mathcal{T}(\mu)),$$

where $r_h(\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{T})$ are the same as in Definition 5.1(iii) (and are easily checked to be uniquely defined). It is an easy consequence of the axioms that the formula above does define an H -module structure on $S(\mu)$.

For any $\mu \in \mathcal{P}$, let φ^μ be the F -bilinear form on $S(\mu)$ such that

$$\varphi^\mu(C_{\mathbf{S}}, C_{\mathbf{T}}) = r_{C_{\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{T}}}^\mu(\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{S}) \quad (\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{T} \in \mathcal{T}(\mu)).$$

Graham and Lehrer [77, Proposition 2.4] prove that the form φ^μ is symmetric and invariant in the following sense:

$$\varphi^\mu(hx, y) = \varphi^\mu(x, h^*y) \quad (h \in H, x, y \in S(\mu)).$$

The invariance of φ^μ implies that its radical $R(\mu)$ is an H -submodule of $S(\mu)$. Denote

$$D(\mu) := S(\mu)/R(\mu) \quad (\mu \in \mathcal{P}).$$

In practice, it is often not easy to determine when $D(\mu)$ is non-zero. However, we have the following fundamental theorem on cellular algebras:

Theorem 5.2 ([77]). *Let H be a cellular algebra as above, and put*

$$\mathcal{RP} := \{\mu \in \mathcal{P} \mid D(\mu) \neq 0\}.$$

- (i) $\{D(\mu) \mid \mu \in \mathcal{RP}\}$ is a complete and irredundant set of irreducible H -modules up to isomorphism.
- (ii) The head of $S(\mu)$ is isomorphic to $D(\mu)$ for any $\mu \in \mathcal{RP}$.
- (iii) The multiplicity

$$d_{\mu\nu} := [S(\mu) : D(\nu)]$$

is 0 unless $\nu \leq \mu$; moreover, $d_{\mu\mu} = 1$ for any $\mu \in \mathcal{RP}$.

The numbers $d_{\mu\nu}$ appearing in Theorem 5.2(iii) are called the *decomposition numbers* and the matrix

$$D = (d_{\mu\nu})_{\mu \in \mathcal{P}, \nu \in \mathcal{RP}}$$

is called the *decomposition matrix* (corresponding to the given cellular structure). Theorem 5.2 shows that the decomposition matrix is unitriangular (although not square in general).

Hence, knowing decomposition numbers, one can write the class $[D(\mu)]$ of an arbitrary irreducible H -module $D(\mu)$ in the Grothendieck group of finite dimensional H -modules as a linear combination of the classes of the cell modules $[S(\nu)]$ for $\nu \leq \mu$. In particular, one can compute the dimension of $D(\mu)$ in terms of the dimensions of cell modules which are given by $\dim S(\mu) = |\mathcal{T}(\mu)|$.

5.2. Cellular structures on cyclotomic Hecke algebras. Following the work of Murphy [157] in level 1, Dipper, James and Mathas [55] have exhibited cellular algebra structures on all cyclotomic Hecke algebras H_d^λ . Versions of these cellular structures for degenerate cyclotomic Hecke algebras are explained, for example, in [12, section 6].

To describe a Dipper-James-Mathas cellular structure on H_d^λ , first of all take \mathcal{P} to be \mathcal{P}_d^n , the set of l -multipartitions of d defined in section 3.1. Next, for any

$\mu \in \mathcal{P}_d^\kappa$, we take $\mathcal{T}(\mu)$ to be the set of standard μ -tableaux defined in section 3.2. Let “ $*$ ” be the antiautomorphism defined in (2.35).

To define a cellular basis, fix for the moment $\mu = (\mu^{(1)}, \dots, \mu^{(l)}) \in \mathcal{P}_d^\kappa$ with $d_m := |\mu^{(m)}|$ for $m = 1, \dots, l$. The *standard parabolic subgroup* $\Sigma_\mu \leq \Sigma_d$ is the row stabilizer of the leading tableaux \mathbf{T}^μ introduced in section 3.2. Recalling (2.1) and (2.40), set

$$x_\mu := \prod_{m=2}^l \prod_{r=1}^{d_1 + \dots + d_{m-1}} (X_r - \nu(k_r)) \left(\sum_{w \in \Sigma_\mu} T_w \right).$$

Let $\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{T} \in \mathcal{T}(\mu)$. Recalling 3.4, define

$$(5.1) \quad C_{\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{T}}^\mu := T_{w_{\mathbf{S}}} x_\mu T_{w_{\mathbf{T}}}^{-1}.$$

We now have

Theorem 5.3 ([55]). *The datum defined above is a cell datum for H_d^Λ .*

We have two comments on this theorem. First, we point out that the cell datum given in Theorem 5.3 depends on the fixed tuple $\kappa = (k_1, \dots, k_l)$ and not just the dominant weight $\Lambda = \Lambda(\kappa)$ (cf. (2.12), (2.13)). Second, the cellular basis appearing in (5.1) is, in general, *not* homogeneous with respect to our grading on the cyclotomic Hecke algebra. Very recently, Hu and Mathas [88] constructed *homogeneous cellular bases* in cyclotomic Hecke algebras; see section 6.5.

5.3. Specht modules and irreducible modules. Theorem 5.3 and the general theory of cellular algebras described in section 5.1 yield the family of cell modules

$$\{S(\mu) \mid \mu \in \mathcal{P}_d^\kappa\},$$

for the cyclotomic Hecke algebra H_d^Λ , which are usually called *Specht modules*. By definition, each Specht module $S(\mu)$ comes with the cellular basis

$$\{C_{\mathbf{T}} \mid \mathbf{T} \in \mathcal{T}(\mu)\}.$$

We note that the definition of the Specht module depends on our fixed tuple κ . We also point out that in level 1 the Specht modules defined here are actually *dual* to the Specht modules used in the older literature, such as [91] and [53].

By Theorem 5.2, in order to classify the irreducible H_d^Λ -modules, we need to be able to select the multipartitions μ for which $D(\mu) := S(\mu)/R(\mu)$ is non-zero. In level 1 this has been done by James [91] for $\xi = 1$ and Dipper and James [53] for $\xi \neq 1$. In higher levels, however, this turns out to be an arduous task. At the moment the only approach known to work in full generality relies on Ariki’s Categorification Theorem, and so it is proved rather late in the theory. Having said that, let us state the result here, as it fits naturally into the general theory of cellular algebras.

Recall the class \mathcal{RP}^κ of restricted partitions introduced in section 3.4.

Theorem 5.4. *Let $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_d^\kappa$. Then $D(\mu) \neq 0$ if and only if $\mu \in \mathcal{RP}_d^\kappa$. In particular,*

$$\{D(\mu) \mid \mu \in \mathcal{RP}_d^\kappa\}$$

is a complete and irredundant set of irreducible H_d^Λ -modules up to isomorphism.

Theorem 5.4 first appears in [4] (although compare a combinatorial claim made in the proof of [4, Theorem 3.4(2)] with examples in [40, section 3.5]). Another proof is given in [40, Theorems 5.12 and 5.17].

There is a more elementary approach to the classification of irreducible H_d^Λ -modules based on the socle branching rules; see [81] and [125]. In that approach, discussed in detail in section 11.2, one gets hold of irreducible modules over H_d^Λ inductively using the socles of the restrictions of the irreducible modules to H_{d-1}^Λ . Unfortunately, it is far from obvious that both approaches lead to the same labeling of irreducible modules, although this is known to be true; see section 11.2 for details.

Remark 5.5. Assume that $l = 1$ and $\xi = 1$. Then, by Example 3.2(i), the set $\mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_d^\kappa$ consists of the e -restricted partitions of d . Recall that the Specht module $S(\mu)$ used here is dual to the Specht module S^μ used in James’s book [91]. To see the relation between our $D(\mu)$ and the irreducible modules D^μ from [91], one uses [91, Theorem 8.15] to deduce

$$D^\mu \cong D(\mu^t) \otimes \text{sgn},$$

where sgn is the sign representation and μ^t is the partition obtained from μ by transposing with respect to the main diagonal. A similar relation holds in the case where $l = 1$ and $\xi \neq 1$, with D^μ as in [53].

5.4. Blocks again. Now that we have explicit constructions of Specht modules and an explicit labeling of irreducible modules, we can explain how these modules split into equivalence classes according to the blocks of H_d^Λ . Recall from section 2.9 that for any $\alpha \in Q_+$ of height d , we have defined a primitive central idempotent e_α , which could be zero, and the corresponding block algebra $H_\alpha^\Lambda = e_\alpha H_d^\Lambda$.

Theorem 5.6. *Let $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_d^\kappa$, $\nu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_d^\kappa$, and $\alpha \in Q_+$ be of height d .*

- (i) *We have $e_\alpha \neq 0$ if and only if there is $\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_d^\kappa$ such that $\text{cont}(\lambda) = \alpha$.*
- (ii) *The Specht module $S(\mu)$ belongs to the block H_α^Λ if and only if $\text{cont}(\mu) = \alpha$.*
- (iii) *The irreducible module $D(\nu)$ belongs to the block H_α^Λ if and only if $\text{cont}(\nu) = \alpha$.*

The proof of this theorem involves identifying the blocks of Specht modules, which is easy to do since their formal characters are known. In fact, it suffices to know that $S(\mu)$ is in a fixed block and then to determine only one weight of $S(\mu)$, which can be easily done; see for example [42, Lemma 4.1].

6. GRADED MODULES OVER CYCLOTOMIC HECKE ALGEBRAS

In this section we begin to systematically take gradings into account. In particular, we explain how to grade irreducible modules and Specht modules in a consistent way.

6.1. Graded irreducible modules. Since H_d^Λ is a finite dimensional graded algebra, it follows from general principles explained in section 2.2 that the irreducible modules $D(\mu)$ are gradable uniquely up to a grading shift. It has been pointed out by Khovanov and Lauda [113, section 3.2] that there is always a preferred choice of the shift which makes the modules self-dual with respect to the graded duality \otimes defined in section 2.8. To be more precise:

Theorem 6.1 ([40, Theorem 4.11]). *For each $\mu \in \mathcal{RP}^\kappa$, there exists a unique grading on $D(\mu)$ which makes it into a graded H_d^Λ -module such that*

$$D(\mu)^{\otimes} \cong D(\mu).$$

Moreover, the modules

$$\{D(\mu)\langle m \rangle \mid \mu \in \mathcal{RP}^\kappa, m \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

give a complete and irredundant set of irreducible graded H_d^Λ -modules.

Next, we would like to grade Specht modules so that the natural surjection $S(\mu) \twoheadrightarrow D(\mu)$ is a homogeneous map. This cannot be deduced from general theory, and so Specht modules have to be graded “by hand”.

6.2. Homogeneous bases of Specht modules. Let us fix a reduced decomposition for each element w of the symmetric group Σ_d :

$$w = s_{r_1} \cdots s_{r_m},$$

which we refer to as a *preferred reduced decomposition* of w . We define the elements

$$\psi_w := \psi_{r_1} \cdots \psi_{r_m} \in H_d^\Lambda \quad (w \in \Sigma_d).$$

Since the “Coxeter relation” (2.24) for ψ_r ’s could have an “error term”, in general, ψ_w depends on the choice of a preferred reduced decomposition of w .

Let $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_d^\kappa$. We want to define a basis of the Specht module $S(\mu)$ which is better adapted to the weight space decomposition and the grading than the cellular basis $\{C_T \mid T \in \mathcal{T}(\mu)\}$. Recall the leading tableau T^μ and the elements w_T defined in section 3.2. For any μ -tableau T , define the vector

$$(6.1) \quad v_T := \psi_{w_T} C_{T^\mu} \in S(\mu).$$

For example, $v_{T^\mu} = C_{T^\mu}$. Just like the elements ψ_w , the vectors v_T in general depend on the choice of preferred reduced decompositions in Σ_d . Recall the Bruhat order \leq on $\mathcal{T}(\mu)$ defined in section 3.2.

The following theorem describes a connection between the vectors v_T and the vectors C_T , and gives some nice properties of the vectors v_T similar to those that C_T are known to possess.

Theorem 6.2 ([42]). *Let $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_d^\kappa$. Then*

(i) *For any μ -tableau T we have*

$$v_T = \sum_{S \in \mathcal{T}(\mu), S \leq T} a_S C_S \quad (a_S \in F).$$

Moreover, if T is standard, then $a_T \neq 0$.

(ii) *$\{v_T \mid T \in \mathcal{T}(\mu)\}$ is a basis of $S(\mu)$. Moreover, for any μ -tableau T , we have*

$$v_T = \sum_{S \in \mathcal{T}(\mu), S \leq T} b_S v_S \quad (b_S \in F).$$

The first advantage of the vectors v_T over the vectors C_T is that they are actually weight vectors:

Lemma 6.3 ([42]). *Let $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_d^\kappa$ and T be a μ -tableau. Then v_T is an element of the weight space $S(\mu)_{\mathfrak{i}^T} = e(\mathfrak{i}^T)S(\mu)$.*

The second advantage of the vectors v_T is that they turn out to be homogeneous with respect to a grading of $S(\mu)$ as an H_d^Λ -module. To explain this, recall the notion of the degree $\deg(T)$ of a standard tableau T introduced in section 3.3. Define the *degree* of v_T to be

$$\deg(v_T) := \deg(T).$$

As $\{v_T \mid T \in \mathcal{T}(\mu)\}$ is a basis of $S(\mu)$, this makes $S(\mu)$ into a \mathbb{Z} -graded *vector space*. Since the vectors v_T in general depend on the choice of preferred reduced decompositions, our grading on $S(\mu)$ might also depend on it. However, the following theorem shows that it does not!

Theorem 6.4 ([42]). *Let $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_d^\kappa$ and $T \in \mathcal{T}(\mu)$. If*

$$w_T = s_{r_1} \cdots s_{r_m} = s_{t_1} \cdots s_{t_m}$$

are two reduced decompositions of w_T , then

$$\psi_{r_1} \cdots \psi_{r_m} C_{T^\mu} - \psi_{t_1} \cdots \psi_{t_m} C_{T^\mu} = \sum_{S \in \mathcal{T}(\mu), S < T, \mathbf{i}^S = \mathbf{i}^T, \deg(S) = \deg(T)} a_S v_S$$

for some scalars $a_S \in F$. In particular, our grading on $S(\mu)$ is independent of the choice of preferred reduced decompositions.

Moreover, the next result shows that our vector space grading makes $S(\mu)$ into a graded H_d^Λ -module:

Theorem 6.5 ([42]). *Let $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_d^\kappa$ and $T \in \mathcal{T}(\mu)$. For each admissible r , the vectors $y_r v_T$ and $\psi_r v_T$ are homogeneous and we have that*

$$\begin{aligned} e(\mathbf{i})v_T &= \delta_{\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{i}^T} v_T && (\mathbf{i} \in I^d), \\ \deg(y_r v_T) &= \deg(y_r) + \deg(v_T) && (1 \leq r \leq d), \\ \deg(\psi_r v_T) &= \deg(\psi_r e(\mathbf{i}^T)) + \deg(v_T) && (1 \leq r < d). \end{aligned}$$

In particular, our grading makes $S(\mu)$ into a graded H_d^Λ -module.

The q -characters of the graded Specht modules are not difficult to describe:

Corollary 6.6. *Let $\mu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_d^\kappa$. Then*

$$(6.2) \quad \text{ch}_q S(\mu) = \sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}(\mu)} q^{\deg T} \mathbf{i}^T.$$

It would be interesting to find different descriptions of the right-hand side of 6.2, which is of course a refinement of the number of standard μ -tableaux.

The explicit grading of the Specht module $S(\mu)$, coming from Theorem 6.5, and the grading of the irreducible module $D(\mu)$, obtained in section 6.1 using general principles, are consistent in the following sense:

Theorem 6.7 ([40, Theorem 5.9]). *Let $\mu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_d^\kappa$. Then the radical $R(\mu)$ of the Specht module $S(\mu)$ is a homogeneous submodule of $S(\mu)$, and there is a (homogeneous) isomorphism of graded modules $S(\mu)/R(\mu) \cong D(\mu)$.*

6.3. Graded branching rule for Specht modules. Once the Specht modules have been graded, it is natural to consider the *graded branching rule* for them. For the classical branching rule for Specht modules over cyclotomic Hecke algebras, see [11, Proposition 1.9], which for symmetric groups goes back to James [91].

It is very important that the grading shifts $d_{A_m}(\mu)$ occurring in this branching rule are the same combinatorial quantities which arise in the definition of the quantum Fock space; see section 8.4. This is an indication of the fact that the grading on the module category should correspond to the quantization of its Grothendieck group.

To state the branching rule, note that the natural embedding

$$(6.3) \quad H_{d-1}^\Lambda \hookrightarrow H_d^\Lambda,$$

sending X_r to X_r for $1 \leq r \leq d-1$ and T_s to T_s for $1 \leq s \leq d-2$, maps

$$\begin{aligned} e(\mathbf{i}) &\mapsto \sum_{i \in I} e(i_1, \dots, i_{d-1}, i) & (\mathbf{i} = (i_1, \dots, i_{d-1}) \in I^{d-1}), \\ y_r &\mapsto y_r & (1 \leq r \leq d-1), \\ \psi_s &\mapsto \psi_s & (1 \leq s \leq d-2). \end{aligned}$$

Hence this embedding is a degree-preserving homomorphism of graded algebras. Recall the integers $d_A(\mu)$ defined in (3.6) and the notation $M\langle m \rangle$ for a graded module M with grading shifted up by m .

Theorem 6.8 ([42]). *Let $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_d^\kappa$ and A_1, \dots, A_b be all the removable nodes of μ in order from bottom to top. Then the restriction of $S(\mu)$ to H_{d-1}^Λ has a filtration*

$$\{0\} = V_0 \subset V_1 \subset \dots \subset V_b = S(\mu)$$

as a graded H_{d-1}^Λ -module such that

$$V_m/V_{m-1} \cong S(\mu_{A_m})\langle d_{A_m}(\mu) \rangle$$

for all $1 \leq m \leq b$.

6.4. Graded dimension of a block. Here we present a combinatorial formula for the graded dimension of any block H_α^Λ of the cyclotomic Hecke algebra H_d^Λ . In fact, the next theorem provides us with even more delicate information:

Theorem 6.9 ([40, Theorem 4.20]). *For $\alpha \in Q_+$ and $\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j} \in I^\alpha$, we have that*

$$\text{qdim } e(\mathbf{i})H_\alpha^\Lambda e(\mathbf{j}) = \sum_{\substack{\mu \in \mathcal{P}^\kappa \\ \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{T} \in \mathcal{T}(\mu) \\ \mathbf{i}^{\mathbf{s}} = \mathbf{i}, \mathbf{i}^{\mathbf{T}} = \mathbf{j}}} q^{\deg(\mathbf{s}) + \deg(\mathbf{T})} = \sum_{\substack{\mu \in \mathcal{P}^\kappa \\ \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{T} \in \mathcal{T}(\mu) \\ \mathbf{i}^{\mathbf{s}} = \mathbf{i}, \mathbf{i}^{\mathbf{T}} = \mathbf{j}}} q^{2 \text{def}(\alpha) - \deg(\mathbf{s}) - \deg(\mathbf{T})}.$$

We point out that the original proof of the theorem has been rather indirect. In particular, it relied on the categorification results of [40]. Very recently, Hu and Mathas [88] gave a more direct proof by exhibiting a homogeneous basis of each $e(\mathbf{i})H_\alpha^\Lambda e(\mathbf{j})$. This is explained in the next section.

6.5. Graded cellular structure on cyclotomic Hecke algebras. Here we describe the recent work of Hu and Mathas [88]. Let $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_d^\kappa$ and $1 \leq m \leq d$. Denote by $A(m) \in \mu$ the node occupied with m in T^μ . Let $\mu_{\leq m} \in \mathcal{P}_m^\kappa$ be the

union of the nodes $A(1), A(2), \dots, A(m)$. Set $\text{deg}_m(\mu) := d_{A(m)}(\mu_{\leq m})$ so that $\text{deg}(T^\mu) = \sum_{m=1}^d \text{deg}_m(\mu)$. Define the element of degree $2 \text{deg}(T^\mu)$:

$$y^\mu := \prod_{m=1}^d y_m^{\text{deg}_m(\mu)} \in H_d^\Lambda \quad (\mu \in \mathcal{P}_d^\kappa).$$

The combinatorial data for the Hu-Mathas cellular structure on H_d^Λ is the same as for the Dipper-James-Mathas cellular structure on H_d^Λ , namely $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P}_d^\kappa$ and $\mathcal{T}(\mu)$ is the set of standard μ -tableaux. On the other hand, let “ $*$ ” be the anti-automorphism “ \otimes ” defined in (2.39). Finally, for $\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{T} \in \mathcal{T}(\mu)$, define the homogeneous element of degree $\text{deg } \mathbf{S} + \text{deg } \mathbf{T}$:

$$(6.4) \quad \psi_{\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{T}}^\mu := \psi_{w_{\mathbf{S}}} e(\mathbf{i}^\mu) y^\mu \psi_{w_{\mathbf{T}}}^{\otimes}.$$

Theorem 6.10 ([88]). $\{\psi_{\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{T}}^\mu \mid \mu \in \mathcal{P}_d^\kappa, \mathbf{S}, \mathbf{T} \in \mathcal{T}(\mu)\}$ is a homogeneous cellular basis of H_d^Λ .

Since the Hu-Mathas cellular basis is homogeneous, the corresponding cell modules are automatically graded. It is checked in [88] that these graded cell modules are precisely the graded Specht modules introduced in [42] and described in section 6.2. The graded dimension formula in Theorem 6.9 follows immediately from Theorem 6.10. For other important applications of Theorem 6.10, we refer the reader to [88].

7. GRADED INDUCTION, RESTRICTION, AND BRANCHING RULES

The functors of induction and restriction and their refinements and generalizations play a crucial role in representation theory of Hecke algebras. In this section we review their definitions and key properties. We first consider induction and restriction for affine Khovanov-Lauda-Rouquier algebras and then pass to the cyclotomic Hecke algebras. We pay special attention to the graded aspect of the story.

The functors of i -induction and i -restriction refine induction and restriction and “connect” blocks of cyclotomic Hecke algebras of different ranks. So it is natural to consider the cyclotomic Hecke algebras of all ranks together. This motivates the introduction of the algebra

$$(7.1) \quad H^\Lambda := \bigoplus_{d \geq 0} H_d^\Lambda = \bigoplus_{\alpha \in Q_+} H_\alpha^\Lambda,$$

so that

$$(7.2) \quad \text{Rep}(H^\Lambda) = \bigoplus_{d \geq 0} \text{Rep}(H_d^\Lambda) = \bigoplus_{\alpha \in Q_+} \text{Rep}(H_\alpha^\Lambda)$$

and

$$(7.3) \quad \text{Proj}(H^\Lambda) = \bigoplus_{d \geq 0} \text{Proj}(H_d^\Lambda) = \bigoplus_{\alpha \in Q_+} \text{Proj}(H_\alpha^\Lambda).$$

We also have for the Grothendieck groups

$$(7.4) \quad [\text{Rep}(H^\Lambda)] = \bigoplus_{d \geq 0} [\text{Rep}(H_d^\Lambda)] = \bigoplus_{\alpha \in Q_+} [\text{Rep}(H_\alpha^\Lambda)]$$

and

$$(7.5) \quad [\text{Proj}(H^\Lambda)] = \bigoplus_{d \geq 0} [\text{Proj}(H_d^\Lambda)] = \bigoplus_{\alpha \in Q_+} [\text{Proj}(H_\alpha^\Lambda)].$$

7.1. Affine induction and restriction. Given $\alpha, \beta \in Q_+$, we set

$$H_{\alpha, \beta}^\infty := H_\alpha^\infty \otimes H_\beta^\infty,$$

viewed as an algebra in the usual way. We denote the outer tensor product of an H_α^∞ -module M and an H_β^∞ -module N by $M \boxtimes N$.

There is an obvious injective (non-unital) algebra homomorphism

$$H_{\alpha, \beta}^\infty \hookrightarrow H_{\alpha + \beta}^\infty$$

mapping $e(\mathbf{i}) \otimes e(\mathbf{j})$ to $e(\mathbf{ij})$, where \mathbf{ij} denotes the concatenation of the two sequences. The image of the identity element of $H_{\alpha, \beta}^\infty$ under this map is

$$(7.6) \quad e_{\alpha, \beta} := \sum_{\mathbf{i} \in I^\alpha, \mathbf{j} \in I^\beta} e(\mathbf{ij}).$$

Let $\text{Ind}_{\alpha, \beta}^{\alpha + \beta}$ and $\text{Res}_{\alpha, \beta}^{\alpha + \beta}$ denote the corresponding induction and restriction functors between the graded module categories

$$(7.7) \quad \text{Ind}_{\alpha, \beta}^{\alpha + \beta} := H_{\alpha + \beta}^\infty e_{\alpha, \beta} \otimes_{H_{\alpha, \beta}^\infty} ? : H_{\alpha, \beta}^\infty\text{-Mod} \rightarrow H_{\alpha + \beta}^\infty\text{-Mod},$$

$$(7.8) \quad \text{Res}_{\alpha, \beta}^{\alpha + \beta} := e_{\alpha, \beta} H_{\alpha + \beta}^\infty \otimes_{H_{\alpha + \beta}^\infty} ? : H_{\alpha + \beta}^\infty\text{-Mod} \rightarrow H_{\alpha, \beta}^\infty\text{-Mod}.$$

The functor $\text{Res}_{\alpha, \beta}^{\alpha + \beta}$ is just left multiplication by the idempotent $e_{\alpha, \beta}$, so it is exact and sends finite dimensional modules to finite dimensional modules. By [113, Proposition 2.16], $e_{\alpha, \beta} H_{\alpha + \beta}^\infty$ is a graded free left $H_{\alpha, \beta}^\infty$ -module of finite rank, so $\text{Res}_{\alpha, \beta}^{\alpha + \beta}$ also sends projectives to projectives.

The functor $\text{Ind}_{\alpha, \beta}^{\alpha + \beta}$ is left adjoint to $\text{Res}_{\alpha, \beta}^{\alpha + \beta}$, so it sends projectives to projectives. Finally, $H_{\alpha + \beta}^\infty e_{\alpha, \beta}$ is a graded free right $H_{\alpha, \beta}^\infty$ -module of finite rank, so $\text{Ind}_{\alpha, \beta}^{\alpha + \beta}$ sends finite dimensional modules to finite dimensional modules.

7.2. Affine i -induction and i -restriction. For $i \in I$, let $P(i)$ denote the regular representation of $H_{\alpha_i}^\infty$. Define a functor

$$(7.9) \quad \theta_i := \text{Ind}_{\alpha, \alpha_i}^{\alpha + \alpha_i} (? \boxtimes P(i)) : H_\alpha^\infty\text{-Mod} \rightarrow H_{\alpha + \alpha_i}^\infty\text{-Mod}.$$

This functor is exact, and it restricts to a functor $\theta_i : \text{Proj}(H_\alpha^\infty) \rightarrow \text{Proj}(H_{\alpha + \alpha_i}^\infty)$.

The functor θ_i possesses a right adjoint

$$(7.10) \quad \theta_i^* := \text{HOM}_{(H_{\alpha_i}^\infty)'}(P(i), ?) : H_{\alpha + \alpha_i}^\infty\text{-Mod} \rightarrow H_\alpha^\infty\text{-Mod},$$

where $(H_{\alpha_i}^\infty)'$ denotes the subalgebra $1 \otimes H_{\alpha_i}^\infty$ of $H_{\alpha, \alpha_i}^\infty$. Equivalently, θ_i^* is defined by multiplication by the idempotent e_{α, α_i} followed by restriction to the subalgebra $H_\alpha^\infty = H_\alpha^\infty \otimes 1$ of $H_{\alpha, \alpha_i}^\infty$. The functor θ_i^* also restricts to a well-defined functor $\theta_i^* : \text{Rep}(H_{\alpha + \alpha_i}^\infty) \rightarrow \text{Rep}(H_\alpha^\infty)$.

7.3. Affine divided powers. In the case $\alpha = n\alpha_i$ for some $i \in I$, the algebra H_α^∞ is isomorphic to the nil-Hecke algebra; see [113, §2.2]. So it has a canonical representation on the polynomial algebra $F[y_1, \dots, y_n]$ such that each y_r acts as multiplication by y_r and each ψ_r acts as the *divided difference operator*

$$\partial_r : f \mapsto \frac{s_r f - f}{y_r - y_{r+1}}.$$

Let $P(i^{(n)})$ denote the polynomial representation of $H_{n\alpha_i}^\infty$ viewed as a graded $H_{n\alpha_i}^\infty$ -module with grading defined by

$$\deg(y_1^{m_1} \cdots y_n^{m_n}) := 2m_1 + \cdots + 2m_n - \frac{1}{2}n(n-1).$$

Denoting the left regular $H_{n\alpha_i}^\infty$ -module by $P(i^n)$, it is noted in [113, §2.2] that

$$(7.11) \quad P(i^n) \cong [n]! \cdot P(i^{(n)}),$$

where the notation is as in (2.2) and (2.3). In particular, $P(i^{(n)})$ is projective.

Now we generalize the definition of the functors θ_i and θ_i^* : for $i \in I$ and $n \geq 1$, set

$$(7.12) \quad \theta_i^{(n)} := \text{Ind}_{\alpha, n\alpha_i}^{\alpha+n\alpha_i} (? \boxtimes P(i^{(n)})) : H_\alpha^\infty\text{-Mod} \rightarrow H_{\alpha+n\alpha_i}^\infty\text{-Mod},$$

$$(7.13) \quad (\theta_i^*)^{(n)} := \text{HOM}_{(H_{n\alpha_i}^\infty)'}(P(i^{(n)}), ?) : H_{\alpha+n\alpha_i}^\infty\text{-Mod} \rightarrow H_\alpha^\infty\text{-Mod},$$

where $(H_{n\alpha_i}^\infty)' := 1 \otimes H_{n\alpha_i}^\infty \subseteq H_{\alpha, n\alpha_i}^\infty$. Both functors are exact, and induce \mathcal{A} -module homomorphisms $\theta_i^{(n)}$ and $(\theta_i^*)^{(n)}$ on the various Grothendieck groups. By the definitions (7.9) and (7.10) and transitivity of induction and restriction, there are natural isomorphisms

$$\theta_i^n \cong \text{Ind}_{\alpha, n\alpha_i}^{\alpha+n\alpha_i} (? \boxtimes P(i^n)), \quad (\theta_i^*)^n \cong \text{HOM}_{(H_{n\alpha_i}^\infty)'}(P(i^n), ?).$$

Hence (7.11) implies that the n th powers of θ_i and θ_i^* decompose as

$$(7.14) \quad \theta_i^n \cong [n]! \cdot \theta_i^{(n)}, \quad (\theta_i^*)^n \cong [n]! \cdot (\theta_i^*)^{(n)}.$$

7.4. Cyclotomic i -induction and i -restriction. To deal with the cyclotomic i -induction and i -restriction, fix $\Lambda \in P_+$. For any $i \in I$, the embedding

$$H_\alpha^\infty = H_\alpha^\infty \otimes 1 \hookrightarrow H_{\alpha, \alpha_i}^\infty \hookrightarrow H_{\alpha+\alpha_i}^\infty$$

factors through the quotients to induce a (not necessarily injective) graded algebra homomorphism

$$(7.15) \quad \iota_{\alpha, \alpha_i} : H_\alpha^\Lambda \rightarrow H_{\alpha+\alpha_i}^\Lambda.$$

This homomorphism maps the identity element of H_α^Λ to the idempotent $e_{\alpha, \alpha_i} \in H_{\alpha+\alpha_i}^\Lambda$. Alternatively, one can define the idempotent $e_{\alpha, \alpha_i} \in H_{\alpha+\beta}^\Lambda$ using a special case of the formula (7.6).

For any $i \in I$ and $\alpha \in Q_+$, let E_i and F_i be the functors

$$(7.16) \quad E_i := e_{\alpha, \alpha_i} H_{\alpha+\alpha_i}^\Lambda \otimes_{H_{\alpha+\alpha_i}^\Lambda} ? : \text{Rep}(H_{\alpha+\alpha_i}^\Lambda) \rightarrow \text{Rep}(H_\alpha^\Lambda),$$

$$(7.17) \quad F_i := H_{\alpha+\alpha_i}^\Lambda e_{\alpha, \alpha_i} \otimes_{H_\alpha^\Lambda} ? \langle 1 - (\Lambda - \alpha, \alpha_i) \rangle : \text{Rep}(H_\alpha^\Lambda) \rightarrow \text{Rep}(H_{\alpha+\alpha_i}^\Lambda),$$

interpreting the tensor products via (7.15). By taking direct sums over all $\alpha \in Q_+$, we consider E_i and F_i as functors on the category $\text{Rep}(H^\Lambda)$, defined in (7.2).

It could have been more appropriate to use a more detailed notation E_i^Λ and F_i^Λ , but since Λ is usually fixed, using short hand versions will not cause a problem.

Note the grading shift $\langle 1 - (\Lambda - \alpha, \alpha_i) \rangle$, appearing in the definition of F_i . At this stage this seems contrived. The first indication that this shift is convenient and natural comes from Theorem 7.4. Another reason will become clear when we deal with categorifications.

Also define a functor K_i by letting

$$(7.18) \quad K_i : \text{Rep}(H_\alpha^\Lambda) \rightarrow \text{Rep}(H_\alpha^\Lambda)$$

denote the degree shift functor $M \mapsto M\langle (\Lambda - \alpha, \alpha_i) \rangle$. Taking the direct sums over all $\alpha \in Q_+$, we then get a functor on $\text{Rep}(H^\Lambda)$.

Lemma 7.1. *The functors E_i and F_i are both exact and send projectives to projectives. Furthermore, there is a canonical adjunction making*

$$(F_i K_i \langle -1 \rangle, E_i)$$

into an adjoint pair.

There is an equivalent way to describe the functors E_i and F_i which relates them to the functors θ_i^* and θ_i from (7.9) and (7.10). To formulate this, we first introduce the *inflation* and *truncation* functors

$$\begin{aligned} \text{infl} &: \text{Rep}(H_\alpha^\Lambda) \rightarrow \text{Rep}(H_\alpha^\infty), \\ \text{pr} &: \text{Rep}(H_\alpha^\infty) \rightarrow \text{Rep}(H_\alpha^\Lambda), \end{aligned}$$

where for $M \in \text{Rep}(H_\alpha^\Lambda)$, we denote by $\text{infl } M$ its pull-back through the natural surjection

$$H_\alpha^\infty \twoheadrightarrow H_\alpha^\Lambda,$$

and for $N \in \text{Rep}(H_\alpha^\infty)$ we write $\text{pr } N$ for $H_\alpha^\Lambda \otimes_{H_\alpha^\infty} N$, which is the largest graded quotient of N that factors through to an H_α^Λ -module. Like many other functors defined in this section, pr and infl of course depend on Λ , but we again suppress Λ from the notation.

We obviously have that

$$(7.19) \quad \text{pr} \circ \text{infl} = \text{id}.$$

Observe also that (pr, infl) is an adjoint pair in a canonical way. Hence, pr sends projectives to projectives, so it restricts to give an additive functor

$$(7.20) \quad \text{pr} : \text{Proj}(H_\alpha^\infty) \rightarrow \text{Proj}(H_\alpha^\Lambda).$$

Now we give another description of the functors E_i and F_i :

Lemma 7.2 ([40]). *There are canonical isomorphisms of functors*

$$E_i \cong \text{pr} \circ \theta_i^* \circ \text{infl} \quad \text{and} \quad F_i K_i \langle -1 \rangle \cong \text{pr} \circ \theta_i \circ \text{infl}.$$

7.5. Cyclotomic divided powers. Lemma 7.2 also makes it clear how to define divided powers $E_i^{(n)}$ and $F_i^{(n)}$ of the functors E_i and F_i . For $n \geq 1$, set

$$\begin{aligned} E_i^{(n)} &:= \text{pr} \circ (\theta_i^*)^{(n)} \circ \text{infl} : \text{Rep}(H_{\alpha+n\alpha_i}^\Lambda) \rightarrow \text{Rep}(H_\alpha^\Lambda), \\ F_i^{(n)} &:= \text{pr} \circ \theta_i^{(n)} \circ \text{infl} \langle n^2 - n(\Lambda - \alpha, \alpha_i) \rangle : \text{Rep}(H_\alpha^\Lambda) \rightarrow \text{Rep}(H_{\alpha+n\alpha_i}^\Lambda), \end{aligned}$$

recalling (7.12) and (7.13). Again we use the same notation $E_i^{(n)}$ and $F_i^{(n)}$ for the direct sums of these functors over all $\alpha \in Q_+$.

Lemma 7.3. *There are isomorphisms*

$$E_i^n \cong [n]! \cdot E_i^{(n)} \quad \text{and} \quad F_i^n \cong [n]! \cdot F_i^{(n)}.$$

Hence $E_i^{(n)}$ and $F_i^{(n)}$ are exact and send projectives to projectives.

To summarize, we have now defined the exact functors

$$(7.21) \quad E_i^{(n)}, F_i^{(n)}, K_i : \text{Rep}(H^\Lambda) \rightarrow \text{Rep}(H^\Lambda) \quad (i \in I, n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0})$$

and the additive functors

$$(7.22) \quad E_i^{(n)}, F_i^{(n)}, K_i : \text{Proj}(H^\Lambda) \rightarrow \text{Proj}(H^\Lambda) \quad (i \in I, n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}).$$

7.6. Graded branching rules for irreducible modules. As usual we work with a fixed $\Lambda \in P_+$ of level l . The original branching rules for irreducible modules over symmetric groups in characteristic p were developed in [119]–[124] and [29]. This case corresponds to $l = 1$ and $\xi = 1$. In characteristic zero this goes back to a 1908 paper of Schur [178, p. 253].

These branching rules were generalized in various directions; see for example [27, 81, 82, 6, 56, 41, 18, 31, 132, 86, 187, 193, 176, 48, 8, 58]. The graded case is dealt with in [40]. Recall the reduced signatures, good nodes, and other related notions introduced in section 3.4. We point out that all of these combinatorial notions depend on κ .

Parts (i), (ii), and (iv) of the next theorem go back to [121, 124], and part (iii) to [81].

Theorem 7.4 ([40, Theorem 4.12]). *For any $\mu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa$ and $i \in I$, we have:*

- (i) $E_i D(\mu)$ is non-zero if and only if $\varepsilon_i(\mu) \neq 0$, in which case $E_i D(\mu)$ has an irreducible socle isomorphic to $D(\tilde{\varepsilon}_i \mu) \langle \varepsilon_i(\mu) - 1 \rangle$ and head isomorphic to $D(\tilde{\varepsilon}_i \mu) \langle 1 - \varepsilon_i(\mu) \rangle$.
- (ii) $F_i D(\mu)$ is non-zero if and only if $\varphi_i(\mu) \neq 0$, in which case $F_i D(\mu)$ has an irreducible socle isomorphic to $D(\tilde{f}_i \mu) \langle \varphi_i(\mu) - 1 \rangle$ and head isomorphic to $D(\tilde{f}_i \mu) \langle 1 - \varphi_i(\mu) \rangle$.
- (iii) In the Grothendieck group we have that

$$[E_i D(\mu)] = [\varepsilon_i(\mu)] \cdot [D(\tilde{\varepsilon}_i \mu)] + \sum_{\substack{\nu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_{\alpha - \alpha_i}^\kappa \\ \varepsilon_i(\nu) < \varepsilon_i(\mu) - 1}} u_{\nu, \mu; i}(q) \cdot [D(\nu)],$$

$$[F_i D(\mu)] = [\varphi_i(\mu)] \cdot [D(\tilde{f}_i \mu)] + \sum_{\substack{\nu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_{\alpha + \alpha_i}^\kappa \\ \varphi_i(\nu) < \varphi_i(\mu) - 1}} v_{\nu, \mu; i}(q) \cdot [D(\nu)]$$

for some bar-invariant polynomials $u_{\nu, \mu; i}(q), v_{\nu, \mu; i}(q) \in \mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}]$ with non-negative coefficients. (The first term on the right-hand side of these formulae should be interpreted as zero if $\varepsilon_i(\mu) = 0$ (resp. $\varphi_i(\mu) = 0$)).

- (iv) Viewing $F[x]$ as a graded algebra by putting x in degree 2, there are graded algebra isomorphisms

$$F[x]/(x^{\varepsilon_i(\mu)}) \cong \text{END}_{H_{\alpha - \alpha_i}^\Lambda}(E_i D(\mu)),$$

$$F[x]/(x^{\varphi_i(\mu)}) \cong \text{END}_{H_{\alpha + \alpha_i}^\Lambda}(F_i D(\mu)).$$

There are more results on branching rules known in level 1 which we will comment on in Section 11.

8. QUANTUM GROUPS

As mentioned in the introduction, graded representations of the cyclotomic Hecke algebras H_d^Λ categorify the irreducible module $V(\Lambda)$ over the quantized enveloping algebra $U_q(\mathfrak{g})$. In this section we explain some facts from the theory of quantum groups which are needed to state the categorification results precisely.

8.1. The algebra \mathbf{f} . It is convenient to first introduce the Lusztig's algebra \mathbf{f} from [141, §1.2] attached to the Cartan matrix (2.11) over the field $\mathbb{Q}(q)$ (our q is Lusztig's v^{-1}). Thus, \mathbf{f} is the $\mathbb{Q}(q)$ -algebra on generators θ_i ($i \in I$) subject only to the quantum Serre relations

$$(8.1) \quad (\mathrm{ad}_q \theta_i)^{1-a_{j,i}}(\theta_j) = 0,$$

where

$$(8.2) \quad (\mathrm{ad}_q x)^n(y) := \sum_{m=0}^n (-1)^m \binom{n}{m} x^{n-m} y x^m.$$

There is a Q_+ -grading $\mathbf{f} = \bigoplus_{\alpha \in Q_+} \mathbf{f}_\alpha$ such that θ_i is of degree α_i . The algebra \mathbf{f} possesses a bar-involution $- : \mathbf{f} \rightarrow \mathbf{f}$ that is antilinear with respect to the field automorphism sending q to q^{-1} , such that $\overline{\theta_i} = \theta_i$ for each $i \in I$.

If we equip $\mathbf{f} \otimes \mathbf{f}$ with algebra structure via the rule

$$(x_1 \otimes x_2)(y_1 \otimes y_2) = q^{-(\alpha, \beta)} x_1 y_1 \otimes x_2 y_2$$

for $x_2 \in \mathbf{f}_\alpha$ and $y_1 \in \mathbf{f}_\beta$, there is a Q_+ -graded comultiplication $m^* : \mathbf{f} \rightarrow \mathbf{f} \otimes \mathbf{f}$, which is the unique algebra homomorphism such that

$$m^* : \theta_i \mapsto \theta_i \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes \theta_i \quad (i \in I).$$

For $\alpha, \beta \in Q_+$, we let

$$m_{\alpha, \beta} : \mathbf{f}_\alpha \otimes \mathbf{f}_\beta \rightarrow \mathbf{f}_{\alpha+\beta}, \quad m_{\alpha, \beta}^* : \mathbf{f}_{\alpha+\beta} \rightarrow \mathbf{f}_\alpha \otimes \mathbf{f}_\beta$$

denote the multiplication and comultiplication maps induced on individual weight spaces, so $m = \sum m_{\alpha, \beta}$ is the multiplication on \mathbf{f} and $m^* = \sum m_{\alpha, \beta}^*$.

Finally, let $\mathscr{A}\mathbf{f}$ be the \mathscr{A} -subalgebra of \mathbf{f} generated by the quantum divided powers $\theta_i^{(n)} := \theta_i^n / [n]!$. The bar involution induces an involution of $\mathscr{A}\mathbf{f}$, and also the map m^* restricts to a well-defined comultiplication $m^* : \mathscr{A}\mathbf{f} \rightarrow \mathscr{A}\mathbf{f} \otimes \mathscr{A}\mathbf{f}$.

Let $\mathbf{B} = \bigsqcup_{\alpha \in Q_+} \mathbf{B}_\alpha$ be the canonical basis for $\mathbf{f} = \bigoplus_{\alpha \in Q_+} \mathbf{f}_\alpha$; see [141, §14.4].

8.2. The quantized enveloping algebra $U_q(\mathfrak{g})$. Let \mathfrak{g} be the Kac-Moody algebra corresponding to the Cartan matrix (2.11), so $\mathfrak{g} = \widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}_e(\mathbb{C})$ if $e > 0$ and $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}_\infty(\mathbb{C})$ if $e = 0$.

Let $U_q(\mathfrak{g})$ be the quantized enveloping algebra of \mathfrak{g} . So $U_q(\mathfrak{g})$ is the $\mathbb{Q}(q)$ -algebra generated by the Chevalley generators $E_i, F_i, K_i^{\pm 1}$ for $i \in I$, subject only to the

usual quantum Serre relations (for all admissible $i, j \in I$):

$$(8.3) \quad K_i K_j = K_j K_i, \quad K_i K_i^{-1} = 1,$$

$$(8.4) \quad K_i E_j K_i^{-1} = q^{a_{i,j}} E_j, \quad K_i F_j K_i^{-1} = q^{-a_{i,j}} F_j,$$

$$(8.5) \quad [E_i, F_j] = \delta_{i,j} \frac{K_i - K_i^{-1}}{q - q^{-1}},$$

$$(8.6) \quad (\text{ad}_q E_i)^{1-a_{j,i}}(E_j) = 0 \quad (i \neq j),$$

$$(8.7) \quad (\text{ad}_q F_i)^{1-a_{j,i}}(F_j) = 0 \quad (i \neq j),$$

with $(\text{ad}_q x)^n(y)$ as defined in (8.2). Let $U_q(\mathfrak{g})^-$ be the subalgebra of $U_q(\mathfrak{g})$ generated by the F_i 's.

We consider $U_q(\mathfrak{g})$ as a Hopf algebra with respect to the coproduct given for all $i \in I$ as follows:

$$\Delta : K_i \mapsto K_i \otimes K_i, \quad E_i \mapsto E_i \otimes K_i + 1 \otimes E_i, \quad F_i \mapsto F_i \otimes 1 + K_i^{-1} \otimes F_i.$$

The *bar-involution* $- : U_q(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow U_q(\mathfrak{g})$ is the antilinear involution such that

$$\overline{K_i} = K_i^{-1}, \quad \overline{E_i} = E_i, \quad \overline{F_i} = F_i.$$

Given a $U_q(\mathfrak{g})$ -module V , a *compatible bar-involution* on V means an antilinear involution $- : V \rightarrow V$ such that $\overline{\overline{v}} = v$ for all $x \in U_q(\mathfrak{g})$ and $v \in V$.

Also let $\tau : U_q(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow U_q(\mathfrak{g})$ be the antilinear antiautomorphism defined by

$$(8.8) \quad \tau : K_i \mapsto K_i^{-1}, \quad E_i \mapsto q F_i K_i^{-1}, \quad F_i \mapsto q^{-1} K_i E_i.$$

Let $U_q(\mathfrak{g})_{\mathcal{A}}$ denote Lusztig's \mathcal{A} -form for $U_q(\mathfrak{g})$, which is the \mathcal{A} -subalgebra generated by the quantum divided powers $E_i^{(n)} := E_i^n/[n]!$ and $F_i^{(n)} := F_i^n/[n]!$ for all $i \in I$ and $n \geq 1$. The bar-involution, the comultiplication Δ , and the anti-automorphism τ descend to this \mathcal{A} -form.

Comparing the relations of $U_q(\mathfrak{g})$ and \mathfrak{f} , it follows easily that there is an algebra homomorphism

$$(8.9) \quad \mathfrak{f} \rightarrow U_q(\mathfrak{g}), \quad x \mapsto x^b,$$

such that $\theta_i^b := q^{-1} F_i K_i = \tau^{-1}(E_i)$, and an algebra isomorphism

$$(8.10) \quad \mathfrak{f} \xrightarrow{\sim} U_q(\mathfrak{g})^-, \quad x \mapsto x^-,$$

such that $\theta_i^- := F_i$.

8.3. The module $V(\Lambda)$. Let $V(\Lambda)$ denote the integrable highest weight module for $U_q(\mathfrak{g})$ of highest weight Λ , where Λ is the dominant integral weight fixed in (2.13). Fix also a choice of a non-zero highest weight vector $v_\Lambda \in V(\Lambda)$. The module $V(\Lambda)$ possesses a unique compatible bar-involution $- : V(\Lambda) \rightarrow V(\Lambda)$ such that $\overline{v_\Lambda} = v_\Lambda$.

The *contravariant form* (\cdot, \cdot) on $V(\Lambda)$ is the unique symmetric bilinear form such that:

- (1) $(E_i v, w) = (v, F_i w)$ and $(F_i v, w) = (v, E_i w)$ for all $v, w \in V(\Lambda)$ and $i \in I$;
- (2) $(v_\Lambda, v_\Lambda) = 1$.

The *Shapovalov form* $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ on $V(\Lambda)$ is the unique sesquilinear form (antilinear in the first argument, linear in the second) on $V(\Lambda)$ such that:

- (1) $\langle uv, w \rangle = \langle v, \tau(u)w \rangle$ for all $u \in U_q(\mathfrak{g})$ and $v, w \in V(\Lambda)$;
- (2) $\langle v_\Lambda, v_\Lambda \rangle = 1$.

Let $V(\Lambda)_{\mathcal{A}}$ denote the *standard \mathcal{A} -form* for $V(\Lambda)$, that is, the $U_q(\mathfrak{g})_{\mathcal{A}}$ -submodule of $V(\Lambda)$ generated by the highest weight vector v_{Λ} . Let $V(\Lambda)_{\mathcal{A}}^*$ denote the *costandard \mathcal{A} -form* for $V(\Lambda)$, that is, the dual lattice

$$\begin{aligned} V(\Lambda)_{\mathcal{A}}^* &= \{v \in V(\Lambda) \mid (v, w) \in \mathcal{A} \text{ for all } w \in V(\Lambda)_{\mathcal{A}}\} \\ &= \{v \in V(\Lambda) \mid \langle v, w \rangle \in \mathcal{A} \text{ for all } w \in V(\Lambda)_{\mathcal{A}}\}. \end{aligned}$$

8.4. Fock spaces. We review the Fock space theory following [40]. Recall the tuple $\kappa = (k_1, \dots, k_l)$, with $\Lambda = \Lambda(\kappa)$, fixed in (2.12), and the definitions of $d_A(\mu)$, $d^B(\mu)$, and $d_i(\mu)$ from section 3.3. Define the *Fock space* $F(\kappa)$ to be the $\mathbb{Q}(q)$ -vector space on basis

$$\{M_{\mu} \mid \mu \in \mathcal{P}^{\kappa}\},$$

referred to as the *monomial basis*, with $U_q(\mathfrak{g})$ -action defined by

$$(8.11) \quad E_i M_{\mu} := \sum_A q^{d_A(\mu)} M_{\mu_A},$$

$$(8.12) \quad F_i M_{\mu} := \sum_B q^{-d^B(\mu)} M_{\mu^B},$$

$$(8.13) \quad K_i M_{\mu} := q^{d_i(\mu)} M_{\mu},$$

where the first sum is over all removable i -nodes A for μ , and the second sum is over all addable i -nodes B for μ .

When $l = 1$, this construction originates in work of Hayashi [83] and Misra and Miwa [152]. When $l > 1$, $F(\kappa)$ was first studied in [96]. We note that the Fock space $F(\kappa)$ is simply the tensor product of l level one Fock spaces:

$$(8.14) \quad F(\kappa) = F(\Lambda_{k_1}) \otimes \cdots \otimes F(\Lambda_{k_l}),$$

on which the $U_q(\mathfrak{g})$ -structure is defined via the comultiplication Δ , so that M_{μ} is identified with $M_{\mu^{(1)}} \otimes \cdots \otimes M_{\mu^{(l)}}$ for each $\mu = (\mu^{(1)}, \dots, \mu^{(l)}) \in \mathcal{P}^{\kappa}$.

Theorem 8.1 ([40, Theorem 3.26]). *There is a compatible bar-involution on $F(\kappa)$ such that*

$$\overline{M_{\mu}} = M_{\mu} + (\text{an } \mathcal{A}\text{-linear combination of } M_{\nu} \text{'s for } \nu <_{\text{lex}} \mu).$$

The Fock space in general is not irreducible as a $U_q(\mathfrak{g})$ -module, so there could be more than one compatible bar-involution on it, but we will always work with the fixed one constructed in [40, Theorem 3.26]. That construction ultimately depends on Uglov's *Fock spaces* [189], which do have a canonical bar-involution, as well as stability results of Yvonne [200], which allow us to connect Uglov's Fock spaces with the Fock space $F(\kappa)$ considered here. The idea goes back to Ariki [4].

The vector M_{\emptyset} is a highest weight vector of weight Λ . Moreover, the Λ -weight space of $F(\kappa)$ is one dimensional. By complete reducibility, it follows that there is a canonical $U_q(\mathfrak{g})$ -module homomorphism

$$(8.15) \quad \pi_{\kappa} : F(\kappa) \rightarrow V(\Lambda), \quad M_{\emptyset} \mapsto v_{\Lambda}.$$

The map π_{κ} intertwines the bar-involution on $F(\kappa)$ with the one defined earlier on $V(\Lambda)$.

For any $\mu \in \mathcal{P}^{\kappa}$, we define

$$(8.16) \quad S_{\mu} := \pi_{\kappa}(M_{\mu}),$$

and call this a *standard monomial* in $V(\Lambda)$. We note that in general the standard monomials in $V(\Lambda)$ are not linearly independent. Applying π_κ to (8.11) and (8.12), we get that

$$(8.17) \quad E_i S_\mu = \sum_A q^{d_A(\mu)} S_{\mu_A}, \quad F_i S_\mu = \sum_B q^{-d_B(\mu)} S_{\mu_B},$$

where the first sum is over all removable i -nodes A for μ , and the second sum is over all addable i -nodes B for μ .

Also define the *Shapovalov form* on $F(\kappa)$ as the sesquilinear form $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ on $F(\kappa)$ such that

$$(8.18) \quad \langle M_\mu, \overline{M_\nu} \rangle = \delta_{\mu, \nu}$$

for all $\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{P}^\kappa$. By [40, (3.41)], we then have

$$(8.19) \quad \langle xu, v \rangle = \langle u, \tau(x)v \rangle \quad (x \in U_q(\mathfrak{g}), u, v \in F(\kappa)).$$

The map π_κ intertwines the Shapovalov form on $F(\kappa)$ with the Shapovalov form defined earlier on $V(\Lambda)$.

Let $F(\kappa)_{\mathcal{A}}$ denote the free \mathcal{A} -submodule of $F(\kappa)$ spanned by the M_μ 's. It is invariant under the action of $U_q(\mathfrak{g})_{\mathcal{A}}$. All of the above definitions descend to this integral form. We also have that

$$V(\Lambda)_{\mathcal{A}}^* = \pi_\kappa(F(\kappa)_{\mathcal{A}}).$$

8.5. Canonical bases. In this section, we introduce two new bases for $F(\kappa)_{\mathcal{A}}$: the *dual canonical basis*

$$\{L_\mu \mid \mu \in \mathcal{P}^\kappa\}$$

and the *quasi-canonical basis*

$$\{P_\mu \mid \mu \in \mathcal{P}^\kappa\}.$$

For $\mu \in \mathcal{P}^\kappa$, we define L_μ to be the unique bar-invariant vector in $F(\kappa)_{\mathcal{A}}$ such that

$$(8.20) \quad L_\mu = M_\mu + (\text{a } q\mathbb{Z}[q]\text{-linear combination of } M_\nu\text{'s for } \nu <_{\text{lex}} \mu).$$

The existence and uniqueness of these vectors follows from Lusztig's lemma [141, Lemma 24.2.1] and Theorem 8.1. We note that $\{L_\mu \mid \mu \in \mathcal{P}^\kappa\}$ is an upper global crystal basis in the sense of Kashiwara. The lower global crystal basis (which is equal to Lusztig's canonical basis) will not be used here. We refer the reader to [40] for an explanation of its role.

Let us introduce notation for the transition matrices between the monomial and dual canonical bases:

$$(8.21) \quad M_\mu = \sum_{\nu \in \mathcal{P}^\kappa} d_{\mu, \nu}(q) L_\nu, \quad L_\mu = \sum_{\nu \in \mathcal{P}^\kappa} p_{\mu, \nu}(-q) M_\nu,$$

for polynomials

$$d_{\mu, \nu}(q), p_{\mu, \nu}(q) \in \mathbb{Z}[q].$$

Note that $d_{\mu, \mu}(q) = p_{\mu, \mu}(1) = 1$ and $d_{\mu, \nu}(q) = p_{\mu, \nu}(q) = 0$ unless $\nu \leq_{\text{lex}} \mu$.

Finally, introduce the quasi-canonical basis $\{P_\mu \mid \mu \in \mathcal{P}^\kappa\}$ for $F(\kappa)$ by transposing these transition matrices:

$$(8.22) \quad P_\mu = \sum_{\nu \in \mathcal{P}^\kappa} d_{\nu, \mu}(q) M_\nu, \quad M_\mu = \sum_{\nu \in \mathcal{P}^\kappa} p_{\nu, \mu}(-q) P_\nu.$$

The elements of the quasi-canonical basis are in general *not* invariant under the bar-involution.

Recall the set \mathcal{RP}^κ of (κ) -restricted multipartitions, the operations \tilde{e}_i, \tilde{f}_i , and the functions $\varepsilon_i, \varphi_i, \text{wt}$, defined in section 3.4. Set

$$(8.23) \quad D_\mu := \pi(L_\mu) \quad (\mu \in \mathcal{RP}^\kappa).$$

The following result collects the necessary information on the dual canonical basis in $V(\Lambda)$.

Theorem 8.2 ([40, sections 3.7–3.9]). *Let κ and $\Lambda = \Lambda(\kappa)$ be as in (2.12) and (2.13).*

(i) *The vectors*

$$\{D_\mu \mid \mu \in \mathcal{RP}^\kappa\}$$

give a basis for $V(\Lambda)_{\mathcal{A}}^$ which coincides with Lusztig’s dual canonical basis of $V(\Lambda)$. In particular, each D_μ is bar-invariant.*

(ii) *The crystal*

$$(\mathcal{RP}^\kappa, \tilde{e}_i, \tilde{f}_i, \varepsilon_i, \varphi_i, \text{wt})$$

is the highest weight crystal associated to $V(\Lambda)$.

(iii) *The vectors*

$$\{L_\mu \mid \mu \in \mathcal{P}^\kappa \setminus \mathcal{RP}^\kappa\}$$

give a basis for $\ker \pi$ as a free \mathcal{A} -module.

(iv) *For $\mu \in \mathcal{RP}_\alpha^\kappa$ and $i \in I$, we have that*

$$E_i D_\mu = [\varepsilon_i(\mu)] D_{\tilde{e}_i \mu} + \sum_{\substack{\nu \in \mathcal{RP}_{\alpha - \alpha_i}^\kappa \\ \varepsilon_i(\nu) < \varepsilon_i(\mu) - 1}} x_{\mu, \nu; i}(q) D_\nu,$$

$$F_i D_\mu = [\varphi_i(\mu)] D_{\tilde{f}_i \mu} + \sum_{\substack{\nu \in \mathcal{RP}_{\alpha + \alpha_i}^\kappa \\ \varphi_i(\nu) < \varphi_i(\mu) - 1}} y_{\mu, \nu; i}(q) D_\nu$$

for some bar-invariant

$$x_{\mu, \nu; i}(q) \in q^{\varepsilon_i(\mu) - 2} \mathbb{Z}[q^{-1}], \quad y_{\mu, \nu; i}(q) \in q^{\varphi_i(\mu) - 2} \mathbb{Z}[q^{-1}].$$

(v) *For $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa$ and $\nu \in \mathcal{RP}_\alpha^\kappa$, we have that*

$$S_\mu = \sum_{\lambda \in \mathcal{RP}_\alpha^\kappa} d_{\mu, \lambda}(q) D_\lambda, \quad D_\nu = \sum_{\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa} p_{\nu, \lambda}(-q) S_\lambda.$$

(vi) *The vectors*

$$\{S_\mu \mid \mu \in \mathcal{RP}^\kappa\}$$

give a basis for $V(\Lambda)_{\mathcal{A}}^$ as a free \mathcal{A} -module. Moreover, any S_ν for $\nu \in \mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa \setminus \mathcal{RP}_\alpha^\kappa$ can be expressed as a $q\mathbb{Z}[q]$ -linear combination of S_μ ’s for $\mu \in \mathcal{RP}_\alpha^\kappa$ with $\mu <_{\text{lex}} \nu$.*

(vii) *Given $\mu \in \mathcal{RP}_\alpha^\kappa$, the difference $S_\mu - \overline{S}_\mu$ is a $\mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}]$ -linear combination of S_ν ’s for $\nu \in \mathcal{RP}_\alpha^\kappa$ with $\nu <_{\text{lex}} \mu$.*

We point out that the theorem above can be strengthened in the sense that $<_{\text{lex}}$ can be replaced with \triangleleft everywhere. The only proof of this fact we know is indirect—it uses categorification results described in section 9.

Set

$$(8.24) \quad Y_\mu := \pi(P_\mu) \quad (\mu \in \mathcal{RP}^\kappa).$$

The following theorem collects the necessary information on the quasi-canonical basis of $V(\Lambda)$.

Theorem 8.3 ([40, Theorem 3.14]). *Let κ and $\Lambda = \Lambda(\kappa)$ be as in (2.12) and (2.13).*

(i) *The vectors*

$$\{Y_\mu \mid \mu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}^\kappa\}$$

give a basis for $V(\Lambda)_{\mathcal{A}}$, which we refer to as the quasi-canonical basis of $V(\Lambda)$.

(ii) *For all $\mu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}^\kappa$,*

$$(8.25) \quad Y_\mu = \sum_{\nu \in \mathcal{P}^\kappa} d_{\nu,\mu}(q) S_\nu.$$

(iii) *For $\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}^\kappa$, we have*

$$\langle Y_\mu, D_\nu \rangle = \delta_{\mu,\nu}.$$

While the quasi-canonical basis $\{Y_\mu \mid \mu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}^\kappa\}$ of $V(\Lambda)$ will be of importance, the *canonical* basis will not play an important role in this paper. For an interested reader, recalling the definition of the defect from (3.10), the relation between the quasi-canonical basis and the canonical basis is as follows.

Proposition 8.4 ([40, Lemma 3.12]). *The canonical basis for $V(\Lambda)$ is*

$$\bigcup_{\alpha \in Q_+} \{q^{-\text{def}(\alpha)} Y_\mu \mid \mu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa\}.$$

In particular, we have that $\overline{Y}_\mu = q^{-2\text{def}(\alpha)} Y_\mu$ for each $\mu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa$.

9. CATEGORIFICATIONS

We continue working with the notation as in the previous sections, so F is an algebraically closed field, $\xi \in F^\times$ is a fixed a parameter, e is the corresponding quantum characteristic, and Λ is a fixed dominant weight. To this data and every $\alpha \in Q_+$, we have associated a block H_α^Λ of a cyclotomic Hecke algebra with parameter $\xi \in F^\times$, and a block H_α^∞ of the affine Khovanov-Lauda-Rouquier algebra.

9.1. Categorification of \mathbf{f} . For affine Khovanov-Lauda-Rouquier algebras, just like for cyclotomic Hecke algebras, it is convenient to abbreviate the direct sums of all our Grothendieck groups by

$$(9.1) \quad [\text{Proj}(H^\infty)] := \bigoplus_{\alpha \in Q_+} [\text{Proj}(H_\alpha^\infty)], \quad [\text{Rep}(H^\infty)] := \bigoplus_{\alpha \in Q_+} [\text{Rep}(H_\alpha^\infty)].$$

Also, for $\alpha, \beta \in Q_+$, we identify the Grothendieck group $[\text{Proj}(H_{\alpha,\beta}^\infty)]$ with $[\text{Proj}(H_\alpha^\infty)] \otimes_{\mathcal{A}} [\text{Proj}(H_\beta^\infty)]$ so that $[P \boxtimes Q]$ is identified with $[P] \otimes [Q]$.

The next categorification result has been proved by Khovanov and Lauda for arbitrary type [113, 114]. Recall the duality $\#$ from (2.48).

Theorem 9.1 ([113, section 3]). *There is a unique \mathcal{A} -module isomorphism*

$$\gamma : \mathcal{A}\mathbf{f} \xrightarrow{\sim} [\text{Proj}(H^\infty)]$$

such that $1 \mapsto [H_0^\infty]$ (the class of the left regular representation of the trivial algebra H_0^∞) and $\gamma(\theta_i^{(n)} x) = \theta_i^{(n)}(\gamma(x))$ for each $x \in \mathcal{A}\mathbf{f}$, $i \in I$ and $n \geq 1$. Under this isomorphism:

- (i) $\mathscr{A}\mathbf{f}_\alpha$ corresponds to $[\text{Proj}(H_\alpha^\infty)]$ for any $\alpha \in Q_+$;
- (ii) the multiplication $m_{\alpha,\beta} : \mathscr{A}\mathbf{f}_\alpha \otimes_{\mathscr{A}} \mathscr{A}\mathbf{f}_\beta \rightarrow \mathscr{A}\mathbf{f}_{\alpha+\beta}$ corresponds to the induction product induced by the exact induction functor $\text{Ind}_{\alpha,\beta}^{\alpha+\beta}$;
- (iii) the comultiplication $m_{\alpha,\beta}^* : \mathscr{A}\mathbf{f}_{\alpha+\beta} \rightarrow \mathscr{A}\mathbf{f}_\alpha \otimes_{\mathscr{A}} \mathscr{A}\mathbf{f}_\beta$ corresponds to the restriction coproduct induced by the exact restriction functor $\text{Res}_{\alpha,\beta}^{\alpha+\beta}$;
- (iv) the bar-involution on $\mathscr{A}\mathbf{f}_\alpha$ corresponds to the antilinear involution induced by the duality $\#$.

The following theorem from [40, Theorem 5.19] shows that the isomorphism γ from Theorem 9.1 has an additional nice property, provided $\text{char } F = 0$. Namely, γ identifies the Lusztig’s canonical basis \mathbf{B} in \mathbf{f} with the basis of the Grothendieck group $[\text{Proj}(H^\infty)]$ consisting of the classes of projective indecomposable modules. This proves, for all type A quivers (finite or affine), a conjecture of Khovanov and Lauda formulated in [113, §3.4]. Apart from the case $e = 2$, this result is also proved in [191] by a very different method, which works for an arbitrary simply laced type. The result has also been announced by Rouquier for an arbitrary type.

Theorem 9.2. *Assume that $\text{char } F = 0$. For every $\alpha \in Q_+$, the isomorphism $\gamma : \mathbf{f}_\alpha \rightarrow [\text{Proj}(H_\alpha^\infty)]$ from Theorem 9.1 maps \mathbf{B}_α to the basis of $[\text{Proj}(H_\alpha^\infty)]$ arising from the isomorphism classes of the indecomposable projective graded H_α^∞ -modules normalized so that they are self-dual with respect to the duality $\#$.*

9.2. Categorification of $V(\Lambda)$. We now connect representation theory of H_d^Λ and the $U_q(\mathfrak{g})$ -module $V(\Lambda)$.

The exact functors

$$E_i^{(n)}, F_i^{(n)}, K_i$$

from (7.21) and (7.22) induce \mathscr{A} -linear endomorphisms of the Grothendieck groups $[\text{Rep}(H^\Lambda)]$ and $[\text{Proj}(H^\Lambda)]$ from (7.4) and (7.5).

In view of Theorem 6.1, $[\text{Rep}(H^\Lambda)]$ is a free \mathscr{A} -module on basis

$$\{[D(\mu)] \mid \mu \in \mathscr{R}\mathscr{P}^\kappa\}.$$

Also let $Y(\mu)$ denote the projective cover of $D(\mu)$ in $\text{Rep}(H_\alpha^\Lambda)$, for each $\mu \in \mathscr{R}\mathscr{P}_\alpha^\kappa$. Thus there is a degree-preserving surjection

$$Y(\mu) \twoheadrightarrow D(\mu).$$

The classes

$$\{[Y(\mu)] \mid \mu \in \mathscr{R}\mathscr{P}^\kappa\}$$

give a basis for $[\text{Proj}(H^\Lambda)]$ as a free \mathscr{A} -module.

First of all, recalling the map (8.9), we get the following explicit connection between categorifications for \mathbf{f} and $V(\Lambda)$.

Proposition 9.3 ([40, Proposition 4.16]). *There is a unique \mathscr{A} -module isomorphism δ making the following diagram commutative:*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathscr{A}\mathbf{f} & \xrightarrow[\gamma]{\sim} & [\text{Proj}(H^\infty)] \\ \beta \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{pr} \\ V(\Lambda)_{\mathscr{A}} & \xrightarrow[\delta]{\sim} & [\text{Proj}(H^\Lambda)], \end{array}$$

where β denotes the surjection $x \mapsto x^\flat v_\Lambda$, γ is the isomorphism from Theorem 9.1, and pr is the \mathscr{A} -linear map induced by the additive functor (7.20). Moreover,

- (i) For every $i \in I$ and $n \geq 1$, the map δ intertwines the action of $F_i^{(n)} \in U_q(\mathfrak{g})_{\mathcal{A}}$ on $V(\Lambda)_{\mathcal{A}}$ with the endomorphism of $[\text{Proj}(H^\Lambda)]$ induced by the divided power functor $F_i^{(n)}$.
- (ii) For every $i \in I$, the map δ intertwines the action of $K_i \in U_q(\mathfrak{g})_{\mathcal{A}}$ on $V(\Lambda)_{\mathcal{A}}$ with the endomorphism of $[\text{Proj}(H^\Lambda)]$ induced by the functor K_i .

Now we want to state the fundamental theorem which makes precise a sense in which $\text{Proj}(H^\Lambda)$ categorifies the $U_q(\mathfrak{g})_{\mathcal{A}}$ -module $V(\Lambda)_{\mathcal{A}}$ and $\text{Rep}(H^\Lambda)$ categorifies $V(\Lambda)_{\mathcal{A}}^*$.

Recall the Cartan pairing

$$\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : [\text{Proj}(H^\Lambda)] \times [\text{Rep}(H^\Lambda)] \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$$

from section 2.2 and the Shapovalov pairing

$$\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : V(\Lambda)_{\mathcal{A}} \times V(\Lambda)_{\mathcal{A}}^* \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$$

from section 8.3. Let

$$(9.2) \quad \varepsilon : [\text{Rep}(H^\Lambda)] \xrightarrow{\sim} V(\Lambda)_{\mathcal{A}}^*$$

be the dual map to the isomorphism δ of Proposition 9.3 with respect to these pairings. Also let

$$(9.3) \quad \otimes : [\text{Rep}(H^\Lambda)] \rightarrow [\text{Rep}(H^\Lambda)]$$

be the antilinear involution induced by the duality \otimes from section 2.8.

Theorem 9.4 ([40, Theorem 4.18]). *The following diagram commutes:*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} V(\Lambda)_{\mathcal{A}} & \xrightarrow[\delta]{\sim} & [\text{Proj}(H^\Lambda)] \\ a \downarrow & & \downarrow b \\ V(\Lambda)_{\mathcal{A}}^* & \xleftarrow[\varepsilon]{\sim} & [\text{Rep}(H^\Lambda)], \end{array}$$

where

$$a : V(\Lambda)_{\mathcal{A}} \hookrightarrow V(\Lambda)_{\mathcal{A}}^*$$

is the canonical inclusion and

$$b : [\text{Proj}(H^\Lambda)] \rightarrow [\text{Rep}(H^\Lambda)]$$

is the \mathcal{A} -linear map induced by the natural inclusion of $\text{Proj}(H^\Lambda_\alpha)$ into $\text{Rep}(H^\Lambda_\alpha)$ for each $\alpha \in Q_+$. Furthermore,

- (i) b is injective and becomes an isomorphism over $\mathbb{Q}(q)$;
- (ii) both maps δ and ε commute with the actions of all $E_i^{(n)}, F_i^{(n)}$ and K_i ;
- (iii) both maps δ and ε intertwine the involution \otimes coming from duality with the bar-involution;
- (iv) the isomorphism δ identifies the Shapovalov form on $V(\Lambda)_{\mathcal{A}}$ with the Cartan form on $[\text{Proj}(H^\Lambda)]$.

Theorem 9.4 reveals a very close connection between representation theory of cyclotomic Hecke algebras and integrable modules over quantized enveloping algebras of Kac-Moody algebras. In the next sections we review more results along these lines, which indicate that the connection is really very deep.

9.3. Monomial bases and Specht modules. We now use ε and δ to identify classes in the Grothendieck group $[\text{Rep}(H^\Lambda)]$ of various families of modules with special families of vectors in $V(\Lambda)$ defined in sections 8.4 and 8.5.

First, the classes of Specht modules get identified with the standard monomials in $V(\Lambda)$ defined in (8.16):

Theorem 9.5 ([40, Theorem 5.6]). *For each $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa$, we have $\varepsilon([S(\mu)]) = S_\mu$.*

Now using Theorem 8.2(vi) and (8.17), we get

Corollary 9.6. *The classes $\{[S(\mu)] \mid \mu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa\}$ give a basis for $\text{Rep}(H_\alpha^\Lambda)$ as a free \mathcal{A} -module.*

Corollary 9.7. *For $\mu \in \mathcal{P}^\kappa$ and $i \in I$, the following hold in $[\text{Rep}(H^\Lambda)]$:*

$$E_i[S(\mu)] = \sum_A q^{d_A(\mu)} [S(\mu_A)], \quad F_i[S(\mu)] = \sum_B q^{-d^B(\mu)} [S(\mu^B)],$$

where the first sum is over all removable i -nodes A for μ and the second sum is over all addable i -nodes B for μ .

The first formula in Corollary 9.7 of course also follows easily from Theorem 6.8.

9.4. Canonical bases and graded decomposition numbers. Throughout this section we assume that the characteristic of the ground field F is zero. Under this assumption we can identify the elements of the dual canonical basis with the classes of the irreducible modules and elements of the quasi-canonical basis with the classes of the projective indecomposable modules in an explicit manner in such a way that the *combinatorial labels match*.

The results of this section should be viewed as a graded version of the Lascoux-Leclerc-Thibon conjecture (generalized to higher levels), and hence a graded version of Ariki’s Categorification Theorem.

Theorem 9.8 ([40, Theorem 5.14]). *Assume that $\text{char } F = 0$. For each $\mu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa$, we have that*

$$\delta(Y_\mu) = [Y(\mu)] \quad \text{and} \quad \varepsilon([D(\mu)]) = D_\mu,$$

where δ and ε are the maps from Theorem 9.4.

Thus in the case $\text{char } F = 0$, we get a description of the graded decomposition numbers in terms of the polynomials $d_{\mu,\nu}(q)$ defined using dual canonical basis in (8.21).

Theorem 9.9. *Assume that $\text{char } F = 0$. For $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa$, we have that*

$$[S(\mu)] = \sum_{\nu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa} d_{\mu,\nu}(q) [D(\nu)].$$

In other words, for $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa$ and $\nu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa$, we have that

$$[S(\mu) : D(\nu)]_q = d_{\mu,\nu}(q).$$

Moreover, for all such μ, ν , we have that $d_{\mu,\nu}(q) = 0$ unless $\nu \leq \mu$.

We point out again that Theorem 9.9 is a graded analogue (or a q -analogue) of the Ariki result on decomposition numbers which says that

$$[S(\mu) : D(\nu)] = d_{\mu,\nu}(1).$$

Corollary 9.10. *Assume that $\text{char } F = 0$, $\alpha \in Q_+$ be of height d , $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa$, and $\nu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_d^\kappa$. Then:*

- (i) $[S(\mu) : D(\nu)]_q = 0$ unless $\nu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa$ and $\nu \trianglelefteq \mu$.
- (ii) If $\mu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}^\kappa$, then $[S(\mu) : D(\mu)]_q = 1$.
- (iii) If $\nu \neq \mu$, then $[S(\mu) : D(\nu)]_q \in q\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}[q]$.

Corollary 9.10 makes it possible, in principle, to compute the graded decomposition numbers $[S(\mu) : D(\nu)]_q = 0$ by induction on the dominance order on $\mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa$. The induction base is clear. Now, let $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa$, and assume that we know the graded decomposition numbers $d_{\nu,\lambda}$ for all $\nu \triangleleft \mu$. Then Corollary 6.6 and the unitrangularity of the decomposition matrix coming from Corollary 9.10 allow us to compute all $\text{ch}_q D(\nu)$ for $\nu \triangleleft \mu$. Now, we have

$$(9.4) \quad \text{ch}_q S(\mu) = \sum_{\nu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa, \nu \trianglelefteq \mu} d_{\mu,\nu} \text{ch}_q D(\nu),$$

with $d_{\mu,\mu} = 1$ if μ is restricted. The left-hand side of the equation above is known from Corollary 6.6.

Moreover, we know that the q -characters of all irreducible modules $D(\lambda)$ are bar-invariant and non-negative, which means that each \mathbf{i} appears in $\text{ch}_q D(\lambda)$ with a bar-invariant coefficient belonging to $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}[q, q^{-1}]$. By Corollary 9.10, we also know that the graded decomposition numbers $d_{\mu,\nu}$ for $\nu \triangleleft \mu$ belong to $q\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}[q]$. It remains to note, using linear independence of characters of irreducible modules noted in Theorem 2.13, that there are unique polynomials $d_{\mu,\nu} \in q\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}[q]$ such that

$$S(\mu) - \sum_{\nu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa, \nu \triangleleft \mu} d_{\mu,\nu} \text{ch}_q D(\nu)$$

is bar-invariant. Moreover, since all $\text{ch}_q D(\nu)$ for $\nu \triangleleft \mu$ are known by induction and the coefficients everywhere are non-negative, it is possible to find these $d_{\mu,\nu}$ in a finite number of steps.

The procedure just described is quite cumbersome to perform in practice by hand. In level one, there is a much more efficient algorithm. We explain it in the next subsection.

9.5. An algorithm for computing decomposition numbers for $H_d(\mathbb{C}, \xi)$. In this section we describe a rather efficient algorithm for computing decomposition numbers for the Hecke algebra $H_d(F, \xi)$ when the characteristic of the ground field F is 0. We point out that this algorithm is *equivalent* to the Lascoux-Leclerc-Thibon algorithm [135], although our interpretation of it is slightly different (cf. [126]). In particular, our algorithm proceeds “along the rows” of the decomposition matrix, rather than “along the columns”, and it relies on q -characters of Specht modules.

Throughout the subsection we are assuming that the characteristic of F equals 0 and that $e > 0$; i.e. $\xi \in F$ is a primitive e th root of unity. We also assume that $\Lambda = \Lambda_0$; that is, we work with the algebra $H_d = H_d(F, \xi) = H_d^{\Lambda_0}(F, \xi)$. (Of course, when $e = 0$, the parameter ξ is generic, and the Specht modules over H_d are all irreducible, so this case is not interesting for us here.)

Fix $\alpha \in Q_+$ of height d . Then $\mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa$ (resp. $\mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa$) is the set of all (resp. all e -restricted) partitions of d of residue content α (cf. Example 3.2(i) and (3.1)).

First, we consider the following

Basic Task. Suppose $d(q) \in q\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}[q]$ and $m(q), r(q) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}[q, q^{-1}]$ are such that $\overline{m(q)} = m(q)$, $\overline{r(q)} = r(q)$, and $r(q) \neq 0$. If $d(q)r(q) + m(q)$ and $r(q)$ are known, find $d(q)$ and $m(q)$.

We note an easy

Algorithm for solving the Basic Task. Denote the top term of $r(q)$ by bq^R (for $b > 0$ and $R \geq 0$). The algorithm goes by induction on the number of non-zero terms in $d(q)r(q) + m(q)$. The induction base is when $d(q)r(q) + m(q) = 0$, which implies $d(q) = m(q) = 0$ since all coefficients are non-negative. Let $d(q)r(q) + m(q) \neq 0$ and write

$$d(q)r(q) + m(q) = a_{-N}q^{-N} + \dots + a_Mq^M$$

for $M, N \geq 0$ and $a_{-N}, a_M > 0$. Since $d(q) \in q\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}[q]$ and $m(q)$ and $r(q)$ are bar-invariant, we have $M \geq N$. In order to make the inductive step, we consider two cases.

Case 1: $N < M$. As $m(q)$ is bar-invariant, the term a_Mq^M must come from $d(q)r(q)$. Thus $\frac{a_M}{b}q^{M-R}$ is a term in $d(q)$. Setting $d'(q) := d(q) - \frac{a_M}{b}q^{M-R}$, we are reduced to solving the Basic Task for $d'(q)r(q) + m(q)$, which has strictly fewer terms.

Case 2: $M = N$. As $d(q) \in q\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}[q]$, the term $a_{-N}q^{-N}$ must therefore come from $m(q)$. Since $m(q)$ is bar-invariant, $a_{-N}q^{-N}$ must be a term in $m(q)$ also. Setting $m'(q) := m(q) - (a_{-N}q^{-N} + a_{-N}q^N)$, we are reduced to solving the Basic Task for $d(q)r(q) + m'(q)$, which has strictly fewer terms.

For $\lambda \in \mathcal{R} \mathcal{P}_\alpha^e$ we define

$$\mathbf{j}^\lambda = (j_1, \dots, j_d) \in I^\alpha$$

as follows. Let A be the bottom removable node of λ such that λ_A is e -restricted. Now \mathbf{j}^λ is determined inductively from $j_d := \text{res } A$ and $(j_1, \dots, j_{d-1}) := \mathbf{j}^{\lambda_A}$. We note that in general $\mathbf{j}^\lambda \neq \mathbf{i}^\lambda$ (cf. (3.3)). For any finite dimensional H_d -module M , denote by $m_\lambda(M)$ the multiplicity of \mathbf{j}^λ in $\text{ch}_q M$. A key combinatorial property of \mathbf{j}^λ is as follows.

Proposition 9.11 ([126]). *Let μ be a partition of d and λ an e -restricted partition of d . Then:*

- (i) $m_\lambda(S(\mu)) = 0$ unless $\mu \supseteq \lambda$.
- (ii) If μ is also e -restricted, then $m_\lambda(D(\mu)) = 0$ unless $\mu \supseteq \lambda$.
- (iii) $m_\lambda(D(\lambda)) = m_\lambda(S(\lambda))$.
- (iv) We have

$$(9.5) \quad m_\lambda(S(\mu)) = r_\lambda d_{\mu, \lambda} + \sum_{\nu} d_{\mu, \nu} m_\lambda(D(\nu)),$$

where the sum is over all e -restricted partitions ν satisfying $\mu \supseteq \nu \triangleright \lambda$.

The multiplicity

$$r_\lambda := m_\lambda(S(\lambda)) = m_\lambda(D(\lambda))$$

is easy to compute explicitly as follows. Let A be the bottom removable node of λ such that λ_A is e -restricted. Assume that there are r_1 removable nodes $A_1 = A, A_2, \dots, A_{r_1}$ weakly below A . We call these nodes the *bottom removable sequence* of λ . Denote r_1 by $r(\lambda)$. Now, let $\lambda^{(2)}$ be the (e -regular) partition obtained from λ by removing the bottom removable sequence of λ . Now define $r_2 := r(\lambda^{(2)})$, remove

the bottom removable sequence from $\lambda^{(2)}$ to get $\lambda^{(3)}$, and so on until we reach the empty partition. This defines the sequence of positive integers r_1, r_2, \dots, r_t such that $r_1 + r_2 + \dots + r_t = d$. It is proved in [126] that

$$(9.6) \quad r_\lambda = [r_1]![r_2]!\cdots[r_t]!$$

Let us fix $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa$ and $\lambda \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa$. We finally exhibit an algorithm for computing the graded decomposition number $d_{\mu,\lambda}$ by induction. In fact, this induction requires us to keep track of some extra q -character information, so we now carefully describe exactly how the induction goes.

Define the set

$$P_{\mu,\lambda} := \{(\nu, \kappa) \mid \nu \in \mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa, \kappa \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa, \mu \triangleright \nu \triangleright \kappa \triangleright \lambda\}.$$

Let us take “ $<$ ” to be any total ordering on $P_{\mu,\lambda}$ satisfying the following two conditions:

- (1) If $(\nu, \kappa), (\theta, \varphi) \in P_{\mu,\lambda}$, then $\nu \triangleleft \theta$ implies $(\nu, \kappa) < (\theta, \varphi)$;
- (2) If $(\nu, \kappa), (\nu, \varphi) \in P_{\mu,\lambda}$, then $\kappa \triangleright \varphi$ implies $(\nu, \kappa) < (\nu, \varphi)$.

We now calculate $d_{\mu,\lambda}$ and $m_\lambda(D(\mu))$ by induction on the total order “ $<$ ” on $P_{\mu,\lambda}$. The induction begins at the smallest element (λ, λ) in $P_{\mu,\lambda}$, where we know that $d_{\lambda,\lambda} = 1$ and $m_\lambda(D(\lambda)) = r_\lambda$ by Proposition 9.11(iii), which is known by (9.6).

Now let $(\nu, \kappa) > (\lambda, \lambda)$. If $\nu = \kappa$, then we have that $d_{\nu,\nu} = 1$ and $m_\nu(D(\nu)) = r_\nu$, so we may assume that $\nu \triangleright \kappa$. By induction, we know the decomposition numbers $d_{\nu,\varphi}$ for all $\varphi \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa$ satisfying $\nu \triangleright \varphi \triangleright \kappa$. Also by induction we know the multiplicities $m_\kappa(D(\varphi))$ for all $\varphi \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa$ satisfying $\nu \triangleright \varphi \triangleright \kappa$. To make the inductive step, we need to compute $d_{\nu,\kappa}$ and, if ν is e -restricted, $m_\kappa(D(\nu))$.

If ν is not e -restricted, then by Proposition 9.11(iv), we have

$$d_{\nu,\kappa} = \frac{1}{r_\kappa} \left(m_\kappa(S(\nu)) - \sum_{\varphi \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa, \nu \triangleright \varphi \triangleright \kappa} d_{\nu,\varphi} m_\kappa(D(\varphi)) \right),$$

where all terms in the right-hand side are known by induction and Corollary 6.6.

So let ν be e -restricted. By Proposition 9.11(iv) again, we have

$$m_\kappa(D(\nu)) + d_{\nu,\kappa} r_\kappa = m_\kappa(S(\nu)) - \sum_{\varphi \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa, \nu \triangleright \varphi \triangleright \kappa} d_{\nu,\varphi} m_\kappa(D(\varphi)),$$

where all terms in the right-hand side are known by induction and Corollary 6.6.

Note r_κ is non-zero and bar-invariant, $d_{\nu,\kappa} \in q\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}[q]$ by Corollary 9.10, and $m_\kappa(D(\nu))$ is bar-invariant. Hence, we are in the assumptions of the Basic Task above, with $m(q) = m_\kappa(D(\nu))$, $d(q) = d_{\nu,\kappa}$, and $r(q) = r_\kappa$. Now we apply the algorithm for solving the Basic Task described above to calculate $m_\kappa(D(\nu))$ and $d_{\nu,\kappa}$ and complete the inductive step.

10. REDUCTION MODULO p AND THE JAMES CONJECTURE

As usual, let us fix throughout the section a dominant weight $\Lambda \in P_+$ of level l and $\alpha \in Q_+$ of height d .

10.1. Realizability over prime subfields. In this section we consider base change, so we will need to work with more than one field. Let us introduce the notation that will allow us to handle this.

Definition 10.1. For any field K , denote by $R_\alpha^\Lambda(K)$ the graded K -algebra given abstractly by generators (2.43) of degrees given by (2.44) subject only to the (homogeneous) relations (2.14)–(2.24) and (2.37) for $\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j} \in I^\alpha$ and all admissible r, s . The algebra $R_\alpha^\Lambda(K)$ is referred to as a *cyclotomic Khovanov-Lauda-Rouquier algebra*.

Note that the algebra $R_\alpha^\Lambda(K)$ depends on the quiver Γ introduced in section 2.5, which in turn is determined by our fixed pair (F, ξ) from section 2.1. In view of Theorem 2.12, we know that $R_\alpha^\Lambda(F)$ is isomorphic to the block $H_\alpha^\Lambda(F, \xi)$ of the cyclotomic Hecke algebra $H_d^\Lambda(F, \xi)$ over our fixed field F with parameter ξ . However, for an arbitrary field K there is no apparent relation between the two algebras.

First, we explain how to descend from the field F to its prime subfield E . Note that the parameter ξ does not have to belong to E . However:

Theorem 10.2 ([38, Theorem 6.1]). *Let $H_\alpha^\Lambda(F) = H_\alpha^\Lambda(F, \xi)$ be a block of the cyclotomic Hecke algebra $H_d^\Lambda(F, \xi)$. Let E be the prime subfield of F . Let $H_\alpha^\Lambda(E)$ denote the E -subalgebra of $H_\alpha^\Lambda(F)$ generated by the elements (2.43). Then the natural map*

$$F \otimes_E H_\alpha^\Lambda(E) \rightarrow H_\alpha^\Lambda(F)$$

is an F -algebra isomorphism. Moreover, there is an E -algebra isomorphism

$$R_\alpha^\Lambda(E) \xrightarrow{\sim} H_\alpha^\Lambda(E)$$

sending the generators of $R_\alpha^\Lambda(E)$ to the generators of $H_\alpha^\Lambda(E)$ with the same names.

The theorem easily implies that irreducible H_α^Λ -modules are realizable over prime subfields in the following sense:

Corollary 10.3. *Let $D(F)$ be an irreducible $H_\alpha^\Lambda(F)$ -module, and let E be the prime subfield of F . Then there exists an irreducible $H_\alpha^\Lambda(E)$ -module $D(E)$ such that $D(F) \cong F \otimes_E D(E)$.*

Another easy consequence of Theorem 10.2 is a statement, conjectured in [92, section 4] and [150, Conjecture 6.38], that the decomposition matrices of the cyclotomic Hecke algebras $H_d^\Lambda(F)$ depend only on e and the characteristic of F (but not on ξ or F itself); see [38, Corollary 6.3] for more details.

10.2. Reduction modulo p . Now suppose that K is a field of characteristic zero, and let $\zeta \in K^\times$ be a primitive e th root of unity if $e > 0$ or some element that is not a root of unity if $e = 0$.

By Theorem 2.12, applied to the pair (K, ζ) instead of (F, ξ) , we know that any block $H_\alpha^\Lambda(K, \zeta)$ of the cyclotomic Hecke algebra over K with parameter ζ is generated by an explicitly defined set (2.43) of elements subject only to the relations (2.14)–(2.24) and (2.37) for $\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j} \in I^\alpha$ and all admissible r, s .

The following theorem explains how $H_\alpha^\Lambda(F, \xi)$ can be obtained from $H_\alpha^\Lambda(K, \zeta)$ by a base change. The idea is that, since the quantum characteristic e is the same for both pairs (K, ζ) and (F, ξ) , they yield the Khovanov-Lauda-Rouquier algebras of the *same Lie type* Γ but over different fields K and F .

Theorem 10.4 ([38, Theorem 6.4]). *Let $H_\alpha^\Lambda(\mathbb{Z})$ denote the subring of $H_\alpha^\Lambda(K, \zeta)$ generated by the elements (2.43). Then $H_\alpha^\Lambda(\mathbb{Z})$ is a free \mathbb{Z} -module and there are*

isomorphisms

$$(10.1) \quad H_\alpha^\Lambda(K, \zeta) \xrightarrow{\sim} K \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} H_\alpha^\Lambda(\mathbb{Z}),$$

$$(10.2) \quad H_\alpha^\Lambda(F, \xi) \xrightarrow{\sim} F \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} H_\alpha^\Lambda(\mathbb{Z}),$$

such that $e(\mathbf{i}) \mapsto 1 \otimes e(\mathbf{i})$, $y_r \mapsto 1 \otimes y_r$ and $\psi_r \mapsto 1 \otimes \psi_r$ for each \mathbf{i} and r .

As a consequence, we can explain how to reduce irreducible $H_\alpha^\Lambda(K, \zeta)$ -modules modulo p to obtain well-defined $H_\alpha^\Lambda(F, \xi)$ -modules. This resembles the usual Brauer reduction modulo p in finite group theory, with an important difference that here the algebra $H_\alpha^\Lambda(K, \zeta)$ over the field of characteristic zero is in general not semisimple.

Theorem 10.5 ([38, Theorem 6.5]). *If $D(K)$ is an irreducible $H_\alpha^\Lambda(K, \zeta)$ -module and $0 \neq v \in D(K)$, then*

$$D(\mathbb{Z}) := H_\alpha^\Lambda(\mathbb{Z})v$$

is a lattice in $D(K)$ that is invariant under the action of $H_\alpha^\Lambda(\mathbb{Z})$. For any such lattice,

$$D(F) := F \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} D(\mathbb{Z})$$

is naturally an $H_\alpha^\Lambda(F, \xi)$ -module with the same q -character as $D(K)$. In particular, the class of $D(F)$ in the Grothendieck group $[\text{Rep}(H_\alpha^\Lambda(F, \xi))]$ is independent of the choice of lattice.

So we have a well-defined decomposition matrix corresponding to the reduction modulo p procedure which we just described. To distinguish this decomposition matrix from the decomposition matrices which describe multiplicities of the irreducible modules in Specht modules, this matrix is usually called the adjustment matrix [92]. The adjustment matrices are systematically discussed in the next section.

10.3. Graded adjustment matrices. We want to collect the information coming from Theorem 10.5 into a *graded adjustment matrix*. So let us keep working with the set up of section 10.2.

In order to avoid any confusion, let us use the notation

$$S_{F,\xi}(\mu), D_{F,\xi}(\nu) \quad (\mu \in \mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa, \nu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa)$$

to denote the Specht and the irreducible modules over the algebra $H_\alpha^\Lambda(F, \xi)$ defined as in section 6, and the notation

$$S_{K,\zeta}(\mu), D_{K,\zeta}(\nu) \quad (\mu \in \mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa, \nu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa)$$

to denote the Specht and the irreducible modules over the algebra $H_\alpha^\Lambda(K, \zeta)$ defined similarly. Note that the labeling sets $\mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa$ and $\mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa$ are the same in these two cases, since they only depend on e and κ .

Even though this is not important for the adjustment matrices, we want to make the reduction modulo p procedure canonical as follows. For the moment fix $\mu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_\alpha^\kappa$. Recall the cellular basis $\{C_{\mathbf{T}} \mid \mathbf{T} \in \mathcal{T}(\mu)\}$ of the Specht module from section 5.3 and the special standard tableaux \mathbf{T}^μ from section 3.2. Let v_μ denote the image of the vector $C_{\mathbf{T}^\mu} \in S_{K,\zeta}(\mu)$ under some surjection $S_{K,\zeta}(\mu) \rightarrow D_{K,\zeta}(\mu)$.

By Theorem 6.2, $S_{K,\zeta}(\mu)$ is generated as an $H_\alpha^\Lambda(K, \zeta)$ -module by the vector $C_{\mathbf{T}^\mu}$, hence $v_\mu \in D_{K,\zeta}(\mu)$ is non-zero. Now let $D_{\mathbb{Z}}(\mu)$ denote the \mathbb{Z} -span of the vectors $\psi_{r_1} \cdots \psi_{r_m} y_1^{n_1} \cdots y_d^{n_d} v_\mu$ for all $m \geq 0, 1 \leq r_1, \dots, r_m < d$ and $n_1, \dots, n_d \geq 0$. By Theorem 10.5, $D_{\mathbb{Z}}(\mu)$ is a lattice in $D_{K,\zeta}(\mu)$.

Finally, set

$$(10.3) \quad \overline{D_{\mathbb{Z}}(\mu)} := F \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} D_{\mathbb{Z}}(\mu) \quad (\mu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_{\alpha}^{\kappa}).$$

By Theorem 6.2 again, $\overline{D_{\mathbb{Z}}(\mu)}$ is a well-defined graded $H_{\alpha}^{\Lambda}(F, \xi)$ -module, which has the same q -character as $D_{K, \zeta}(\mu)$. Hence, recalling Theorem 9.8,

$$\varepsilon([\overline{D_{\mathbb{Z}}(\mu)}]) = D_{\mu} \quad (\mu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_{\alpha}^{\kappa}).$$

Theorem 10.6 ([40, Theorem 5.17]). *Let $\mu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_{\alpha}^{\kappa}$ and $\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_{\alpha}^{\kappa}$. Then*

$$[\overline{D_{\mathbb{Z}}(\mu)}] = [D_{F, \xi}(\mu)] + \sum_{\nu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_{\alpha}^{\kappa}, \nu \triangleleft \mu} a_{\mu, \nu}(q) [D_{F, \xi}(\nu)]$$

for some unique bar-invariant Laurent polynomials $a_{\mu, \nu}(q) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}[q, q^{-1}]$. Moreover

$$[S_{F, \xi}(\lambda) : D_{F, \xi}(\mu)]_q = \sum_{\nu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_{\alpha}^{\kappa}} [S_{K, \zeta}(\lambda) : D_{K, \zeta}(\nu)]_q a_{\nu, \mu}(q).$$

We refer to the matrix $(a_{\mu, \nu}(q))_{\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_{\alpha}^{\kappa}}$ as the *graded adjustment matrix*. For level one and $\xi = 1$, our graded adjustment matrix specializes at $q = 1$ to the adjustment matrix defined originally by James [92]. Curiously we did not yet find an example in which $a_{\mu, \nu}(q) \notin \mathbb{Z}$; this is related to a question raised by Turner in the introduction of [188].

10.4. James Conjecture. Keep working with the notation of sections 10.2 and 10.3. In particular, F is a field of characteristic $p > 0$, K is a field of characteristic zero, and the pairs (K, ζ) and (F, ξ) have the same quantum characteristic e . Consider the graded decomposition matrix for $H_{\alpha}^{\Lambda}(F, \xi)$,

$$\Delta_{\alpha}^{\Lambda}(F, \xi) := ([S_{F, \xi}(\lambda) : D_{F, \xi}(\mu)]_q)_{\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_{\alpha}^{\kappa}, \mu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_{\alpha}^{\kappa}},$$

and the graded decomposition matrix for $H_{\alpha}^{\Lambda}(K, \zeta)$,

$$\Delta_{\alpha}^{\Lambda}(K, \zeta) := ([S_{K, \zeta}(\lambda) : D_{K, \zeta}(\mu)]_q)_{\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_{\alpha}^{\kappa}, \mu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_{\alpha}^{\kappa}}.$$

We also have the graded adjustment matrix defined in section 10.3,

$$A_{\alpha}^{\Lambda} := (a_{\mu, \nu}(q))_{\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_{\alpha}^{\kappa}}.$$

Theorem 10.6 implies that

$$\Delta_{\alpha}^{\Lambda}(F, \xi) = \Delta_{\alpha}^{\Lambda}(K, \zeta) A_{\alpha}^{\Lambda}.$$

Since the matrix $\Delta_{\alpha}^{\Lambda}(K, \zeta)$ is quite well understood thanks to Corollary 10.3, the main remaining step is to understand the adjustment matrix A_{α}^{Λ} . It would be particularly interesting to find hypotheses on α which ensure that the adjustment matrix is the identity matrix. This is equivalent of course to the statement that all irreducible modules $D_{K, \zeta}(\mu)$ in the block corresponding to α remain irreducible when reduced modulo p , and so in particular $\text{ch}_q D_{K, \zeta}(\mu) = \text{ch}_q D_{F, \xi}(\mu)$ for all $\mu \in \mathcal{R}\mathcal{P}_{\alpha}^{\kappa}$.

In level one, James suggested a precise conjecture for this [92, section 4]. In a block form the James Conjecture can be formulated as follows.

Assume that $\Lambda = \Lambda_0$. Recall a well-known description of the weight spaces of the *basic module* $V(\Lambda_0)$ over \mathfrak{g} ; see e.g. [105]. Let $\alpha \in Q_+$, W be the Weyl group of \mathfrak{g} , δ be the null-root for \mathfrak{g} , and $\nabla = \Lambda_0 - \alpha$ be an arbitrary weight appearing

in the module $V(\Lambda_0)$. Then there exist a unique element $w \in W$ and a unique non-negative integer m such that

$$\nabla = w\Lambda_0 - m\delta.$$

We point out for the reader who would prefer to switch from Lie-theoretic to combinatorial notation, that $w\Lambda_0$ corresponds to the e -core of the partitions μ in the block corresponding to α , and m is what is sometimes called the e -weight of the block, that is the number of rim e -hooks which need to be removed from partitions before we reach the e -core.

Conjecture 10.7 (James Conjecture [92, section 4]). *Let F be of characteristic $p > 0$. If $m < p$, then the adjustment matrix $A_\alpha^{\Lambda_0}$ is the identity matrix.*

The reader is referred to [72, §2] and [61] for further comments and results on the James Conjecture. For example, Fayers [61] proves that the assumption $m < p$ is essentially the best possible. For a parallel theory for algebraic groups, see [1].

Recalling the notion of defect $\text{def}(\alpha)$ from (3.10), it is not hard to observe that in the case $\Lambda = \Lambda_0$, we have $m = \text{def}(\alpha)$ (cf. [60]).

So one could speculate the following generalization beyond level 1:

Conjecture 10.8. (Higher Level James Conjecture) *Let F be of characteristic $p > 0$. If*

$$\text{def}(\alpha) < p,$$

then the adjustment matrix A_α^Λ is the identity matrix.

A less bold speculation is obtained if we assume $\text{def}(\alpha) < p/l$ in the conjecture above.

More developments and partial results related to the James Conjecture can be found in [61, 62, 72, 73, 74].

11. SOME OTHER RESULTS

In this section we review some other important results which are representative of how representation theory of symmetric groups has been developing in the last fifteen years.

11.1. Blocks of symmetric groups: Broué's conjecture and Chuang-Rouquier equivalences. Block theory of finite groups is an extremely vibrant area of research nowadays. General conjectures of Alperin, Broué, Dade, and others on the structure of blocks and on relations between arithmetic invariants of blocks provide the main motivation for research, while symmetric groups and their double covers are often the main testing ground for general conjectures. In this section we discuss Broué-type conjectures for symmetric groups, which were recently proved by Chuang and Rouquier in the spectacular paper [48].

The idea is that even though there are very many blocks around, many of them seem to have much in common. So one tries to look for some sort of equivalence between blocks whose invariants coincide. Ideally, these will be Morita equivalences, as in the results of Scopes [179], Kessar [111], and Chuang and Kessar [47]. However, it is often the case that coarser block invariants (such as Cartan invariants, cf. [33, 84]) coincide but, for example, decomposition numbers do not. So one cannot expect a Morita equivalence to hold in general. Instead, Broué and Rickard have suggested

weaker versions of equivalence, such as perfect isometry, derived equivalence, stable equivalence, etc.; see for example [25, 169, 170].

The famous abelian defect group conjecture of Broué claims that a p -block of a finite group G with abelian defect group D should be derived equivalent to its Brauer correspondent in $N_G(D)$ (over a suitable local ring with field of fractions of characteristic 0 and residue field of characteristic p). Thus, in the case of a block B of the symmetric group S_d of p -weight $\omega < p$, there should be a derived equivalence between B and the group algebra of the wreath product $(C_p \times C_{p-1}) \wr S_\omega$. We note that somewhat mysteriously the assumption on p coming from the Broué Conjecture agrees with the assumption on p in the James Conjecture; see section 10.4.

In view of the work of Marcus [146] and Chuang and Kessar [47], this conjecture for the case of symmetric groups follows from a conjecture of Rickard (which Rickard himself has proved for p -weights ≤ 5). The following result simply says that Rickard's Conjecture is true:

Theorem 11.1 ([48]). *All blocks of symmetric groups with a fixed p -weight are derived equivalent.*

Note that this result has a very natural interpretation in terms of the categorification described in section 9.2. Recall that, under the categorification, the blocks of the symmetric groups correspond to the weight spaces of the module $V(\Lambda_0)$. It is easy to see that two blocks have the same p -weight if and only if they belong to the same W -orbit, where W is the Weyl group of \mathfrak{g} acting naturally on the weights of $V(\Lambda_0)$. So the Chuang-Rouquier derived equivalences simply “lift” the action of the Weyl group W from Grothendieck groups to derived categories.

Note also that, unlike in the Broué Conjecture, there is no restriction $\omega < p$ in Theorem 11.1. We also point out that the work [48] is much more general than Theorem 11.1 might suggest. It develops a general set up called *\mathfrak{sl}_2 -categorification*, which allows one to deduce results like Theorem 11.1 by checking some rather short and elegant set of axioms. These ideas were developed even further in [174] and [115]. The methods of [48] can be thought of as far-reaching generalizations of the theory developed in [81, 120, 121].

We finish this section by saying that block theory of symmetric groups and related areas has received a lot of attention recently. We refer the interested reader to the following literature for more information: [188, 49, 50, 133, 46, 51, 63, 166, 167, 93, 162, 163, 147, 186, 94, 78, 59, 79, 153, 149, 148, 67, 69, 172].

11.2. Branching and labeling of irreducible modules. In this section we work in the ungraded setting. A “combinatorics-free” approach to branching rules has been implemented by Grojnowski [81]. This approach ultimately can be used to label irreducible H_d^Λ -modules.

To be more precise, denote by $B(\Lambda)$ the set of the isomorphism classes of the irreducible H_d^Λ -modules for all $d \geq 0$. Let D be an irreducible H_d^Λ -module and $i \in I$. Grojnowski and Vazirani [82] give a direct elementary argument to show that either $E_i D$ is zero or it has a simple socle. A similar result holds for the F_i 's. In level 1, these facts go back to [120, 121]. Set

$$\tilde{E}_i D := \text{soc}(E_i D), \quad \tilde{F}_i D := \text{soc}(F_i D) \quad (i \in I).$$

Thus we get operations

$$\tilde{E}_i, \tilde{F}_i : B(\Lambda) \rightarrow B(\Lambda) \sqcup \{0\}.$$

For any $D \in B(\Lambda)$ and $i \in I$, define

$$\varepsilon_i(D) := \max\{m \mid E_i^m D \neq 0\}, \quad \varphi_i(D) := \max\{m \mid F_i^m D \neq 0\}.$$

Finally, there is a natural weight function wt , defined in terms of central characters, which associates to any element of $B(\Lambda)$ a weight of the form $\Lambda - \sum_{i \in I} c_i \alpha_i$; see [81, section 12]. A key result then is as follows.

Theorem 11.2 ([81, Theorem 14.3]). *The tuple*

$$(B(\Lambda), \tilde{E}_i, \tilde{F}_i, \varepsilon_i, \varphi_i, \text{wt})$$

is the highest weight crystal associated to $V(\Lambda)$.

Now one can bring combinatorics in: Theorem 8.2(ii) gives an explicit combinatorial description of the highest weight crystal associated to $V(\Lambda)$ in terms of restricted multipartitions. So to every $\mu \in \mathcal{RP}_d^\kappa$, one can associate an irreducible module $\dot{D}(\mu)$, and then

$$\{\dot{D}(\mu) \mid \mu \in \mathcal{RP}_d^\kappa\}$$

is a complete irredundant set of irreducible H_d^Λ -modules.

Note that the definition of $\dot{D}(\mu)$ is essentially inductive: we define $\dot{D}(\mu)$ as the head of $F_i \dot{D}(\tilde{e}_i \mu)$ for any i such that $\tilde{e}_i \mu \neq 0$. This description is very different in nature from the definition of $D(\mu)$ as the head of the explicit Specht module $S(\mu)$ over H_d^Λ , given in Theorem 5.4. This explains why the natural conjecture that

$$(11.1) \quad \dot{D}(\mu) \cong D(\mu) \quad (\mu \in \mathcal{RP}^\kappa)$$

is not easy to prove. This has been first established by Ariki in [6]. Another argument (in the graded setting) is given in [40, Theorems 5.13, 5.18].

Both arguments ultimately depend on the whole power of the theory explained in this exposition. It would be interesting to find a more elementary and direct approach for identifying the two labelings of irreducible modules.

11.3. Extremal sequences. In this section we collect some graded analogues of the results proved in [34], which are quite useful in many situations. For example, Corollary 11.5 has been used in [40] to settle the labeling problem (11.1). See also [142] for another application.

For an H_d^Λ -module M we denote

$$\varepsilon_i(M) := \max\{m \mid E_i^m M \neq 0\}.$$

For example, $\varepsilon_i(D(\mu)) = \varepsilon_i(\mu)$ by Theorem 7.4(iii).

The following result provides an inductive tool for finding certain composition multiplicities.

Lemma 11.3 ([34, Lemma 2.13]). *Let $M \in \text{Rep}(H_d^\Lambda)$, $\varepsilon = \varepsilon_i(M)$, and $\mu \in \mathcal{RP}_{d-\varepsilon}^\kappa$. If*

$$[E_i^{(\varepsilon)} M : D(\mu)] \neq 0,$$

then $\tilde{f}_i^\varepsilon \mu \neq 0$ and

$$[M : D(\tilde{f}_i^\varepsilon \mu)] = [E_i^{(\varepsilon)} M : D(\mu)].$$

Given $\mathbf{i} = (i_1, \dots, i_d) \in I^d$, we can gather consecutive equal terms to write it in the form

$$(11.2) \quad \mathbf{i} = (j_1^{m_1} \cdots j_r^{m_r}),$$

where $j_s \neq j_{s+1}$ for all $1 \leq s < r$. For example $(2, 2, 2, 1, 1) = (2^3 1^2)$. Now, for an H_d^Λ -module M , the tuple (11.2) is called *extremal for M* if

$$m_s = \varepsilon_{j_s}(E_{j_{s+1}}^{m_{s+1}} \cdots E_{j_n}^{m_n} M)$$

for all $s = n, n - 1, \dots, 1$. By definition $e(\mathbf{i})M \neq 0$ if \mathbf{i} is extremal for M .

The main result about extremal tuples is

Theorem 11.4. [34, Theorem 2.16] *Let*

$$\mathbf{i} = (i_1, \dots, i_d) = (j_1^{m_1} \cdots j_n^{m_n})$$

be an extremal tuple for an irreducible H_d^Λ -module $D(\mu)$. Then

$$\mu = \tilde{f}_{i_d} \cdots \tilde{f}_{i_1} \emptyset$$

and

$$\dim e(\mathbf{i})D(\mu) = [m_1]! \cdots [m_n]!$$

In particular, the tuple \mathbf{i} is not extremal for any irreducible $D(\nu) \not\cong D(\mu)$.

This result can be used to compute certain composition multiplicities as follows:

Corollary 11.5 ([34, Corollary 2.17]). *If $\mathbf{i} = (i_1, \dots, i_d)$ is an extremal sequence for $M \in \text{Rep}(R_d^\Lambda)$ of the form (11.2), then $\mu := \tilde{f}_{i_d} \cdots \tilde{f}_{i_1} \emptyset$ is a well-defined element of \mathcal{RP}_d^κ , and*

$$[M : D(\mu)]_q = (\text{qdim } e(\mathbf{i})M) / ([m_1]! \cdots [m_n]!).$$

Since the q -characters of Specht modules are known, Corollary 11.5 is especially easy to use to compute some decomposition numbers by induction; see [34] for details.

11.4. More on branching for symmetric groups. We draw the reader’s attention to the fact that in level one, the original modular branching rules of [119]–[124] and their generalizations [27, 29], give much more information than just a description of the socles of the restrictions of irreducible modules. It would be interesting to have similar more general results in higher levels.

Here we state the results for the symmetric groups only and in the ungraded setting. Assume that the characteristic of the ground field F is $p > 0$, $\Lambda = \Lambda_0$, and $\xi = 1$. Then $H_x^\Lambda = FS_d$ and $e = p$. We know from Theorem 5.4 and Example 3.2(i) that the irreducible $F\Sigma_d$ -modules $D(\mu)$ are labeled by the p -restricted partitions μ of d .

We now slightly generalize the combinatorics of section 3.4 in this particular case. Let $i \in I = \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ and σ the reduced i -signature of μ . Recall that the i -node corresponding to the leftmost $-$ in σ is called the *good i -node* of μ , while the addable i -node corresponding to the rightmost $+$ in σ is called the *cogood i -node* for μ . Moreover, the removable i -nodes corresponding to the $-$ ’s in σ are called the *normal i -nodes* of μ , while the addable i -nodes corresponding to the $+$ ’s in σ are called the *conormal i -nodes* for μ . Thus, the good i -node is the top normal i -node while the cogood i -node is the bottom conormal i -node. Also, $\varepsilon_i(\mu)$ is the number of the normal i -nodes of μ , while $\varphi_i(\mu)$ is the number of the conormal i -nodes for μ .

The additional branching results not covered by Theorem 7.4 are now as follows.

Theorem 11.6 ([120, 123]). *Let μ be a p -restricted partition of d and ν a p -restricted partition of $d - 1$.*

- (i) $\text{Hom}_{\Sigma_{d-1}}(S(\nu), E_i D(\mu)) \neq 0$ if and only if $\nu = \mu_A$ for some normal i -node A of μ .
- (ii) Suppose $\nu = \mu_A$ for some removable i -node A of μ . Then the multiplicity $[E_i D(\mu) : D(\nu)] \neq 0$ if and only if A is normal for μ , in which case $[E_i D(\mu) : D(\nu)]$ is the number of normal i -nodes weakly below A (counting A itself).

Theorem 11.7 ([29]). *Let μ be a p -restricted partition of d and ν a p -restricted partition of $d + 1$.*

- (i) $\text{Hom}_{\Sigma_{d+1}}(S(\nu), F_i D(\mu)) \neq 0$ if and only if $\nu = \mu^B$ for some conormal i -node B for μ .
- (ii) Suppose $\nu = \mu^B$ for some addable i -node B for μ . Then the multiplicity $[F_i D(\mu) : D(\nu)] \neq 0$ if and only if B is conormal for μ , in which case $[F_i D(\mu) : D(\nu)]$ is the number of conormal i -nodes weakly above B (counting B itself).

The additional branching information provided by Theorems 11.6 and 11.7 turns out to be very useful in applications; see for example [15, 14, 30, 57, 131, 94, 177, 66, 196, 95, 134].

11.5. Mullineux involution. The algebra H_d has an automorphism

$$\sigma : H_d \rightarrow H_d, T_r \mapsto -T_r + \xi - 1 \quad (1 \leq r < d).$$

Twisting an irreducible H_d -module $D(\mu)$ yields an irreducible module $D(\mu)^\sigma$. For the symmetric groups we simply have

$$D(\mu)^\sigma \cong D(\mu) \otimes \text{sgn},$$

where sgn is the one-dimensional sign representation of Σ_d .

The involution σ arises in many natural situations. For example, one needs to deal with it when studying representation theory of alternating groups. Another illustration comes from Remark 5.5.

The next result provides an explicit combinatorial algorithm for computing the involution σ in terms of the combinatorics of good nodes.

Theorem 11.8 ([121]). *Let μ be an e -restricted partition of d . Write*

$$(11.3) \quad \mu = \tilde{f}_{i_1} \tilde{f}_{i_2} \cdots \tilde{f}_{i_d} \emptyset$$

for some $i_1, i_2, \dots, i_d \in I$. Then $D(\mu)^\sigma \cong D(\nu)$, where

$$(11.4) \quad \nu = \tilde{f}_{-i_1} \tilde{f}_{-i_2} \cdots \tilde{f}_{-i_d} \emptyset.$$

It is implicit in the theorem above that there always exists a presentation of μ in the form (11.3) starting with the empty partition \emptyset and that the formula (11.4) determines a well-defined e -restricted partition. Indeed, to find a presentation of μ in the form (11.3) one should consecutively remove good nodes from μ and record their residues in order of removal: i_1, i_2, \dots, i_d . Then one should build ν by consecutively adding good nodes of residues $-i_d, \dots, -i_2, -i_1$.

Originally, Mullineux [154] conjectured a different description of the involution $D(\mu) \mapsto D(\mu)^\sigma$. It has been shown in [68] that that description is equivalent to the

one given in Theorem 11.8. Questions related to the Mullineux involution received quite a lot of attention. We refer the reader to [27, 17, 197, 43, 139, 64, 87, 163, 19, 16, 90, 65, 183] as well as [40, Remarks 3.17, 3.18] and [39, section 3.7] for further information.

11.6. Higher level Schur-Weyl duality, W -algebras, and category \mathcal{O} .

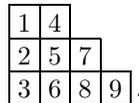
Throughout this section we assume that $\xi = 1$ and $F = \mathbb{C}$. In this case, there is quite a different approach to representation theory of H_d^Λ based on a generalization of Schur-Weyl duality. This duality connects representation theory of the cyclotomic Hecke algebra H_d^Λ with that of a *finite W -algebra* and ultimately with a *parabolic category \mathcal{O}* . We review the main features of that theory here referring the reader to [37, 39] for details.

Using shifts of the elements $X_r \in H_d^\Lambda$ by the same scalar k_1 , we may assume without loss of generality that in (2.12) we have $0 = k_1 \geq k_2 \geq \dots \geq k_l$. Let $n \geq -k_l$, and define

$$q_m := n + k_m \quad (1 \leq m \leq l).$$

Then (q_1, \dots, q_l) is a partition. Let $q_1 + \dots + q_l = N$, and let $\lambda = (p_1 \leq \dots \leq p_n)$ be a partition of N transposed to (q_1, \dots, q_l) .

Unlike in the main body of the paper, it is convenient to identify λ with its Young diagram in an unusual way, numbering rows by $1, 2, \dots, n$ from top to bottom and columns by $1, 2, \dots, l$ from left to right, so that there are p_i boxes in the i th row and q_j boxes in the j th column. For example, for $\Lambda = 2\Lambda_0 + \Lambda_{-1} + \Lambda_{-2}$ and $n = 3$, we have $\lambda = (p_1, p_2, p_3) = (2, 3, 4)$, $(q_1, q_2, q_3, q_4) = (3, 3, 2, 1)$, $N = 9$. The Young diagram is



We always number the boxes of the diagram $1, 2, \dots, N$ down columns starting from the first column, and write $\text{row}(i)$ and $\text{col}(i)$ for the row and column numbers of the i th box. This identifies the boxes with the standard basis v_1, \dots, v_N of the natural $\mathfrak{gl}_N(\mathbb{C})$ -module V . Define $e \in \mathfrak{gl}_N(\mathbb{C})$ to be the nilpotent matrix of Jordan type λ which maps the basis vector corresponding the i th box to the one immediately to its left, or to zero if there is no such box; in our example, $e = e_{1,4} + e_{2,5} + e_{5,7} + e_{3,6} + e_{6,8} + e_{8,9}$. Finally, define a \mathbb{Z} -grading

$$\mathfrak{gl}_N(\mathbb{C}) = \bigoplus_{r \in \mathbb{Z}} \mathfrak{gl}_N(\mathbb{C})_r$$

on $\mathfrak{gl}_N(\mathbb{C})$ by declaring that $e_{i,j}$ is of degree $\text{col}(j) - \text{col}(i)$ for each $i, j = 1, \dots, N$, and set

$$\mathfrak{p} = \bigoplus_{r \geq 0} \mathfrak{gl}_N(\mathbb{C})_r, \quad \mathfrak{h} = \mathfrak{gl}_N(\mathbb{C})_0, \quad \mathfrak{m} = \bigoplus_{r < 0} \mathfrak{gl}_N(\mathbb{C})_r.$$

The centralizer \mathfrak{z}_e of e in $\mathfrak{gl}_N(\mathbb{C})$ is a graded subalgebra of \mathfrak{p} . Hence, its universal enveloping algebra $U(\mathfrak{z}_e)$ is a graded subalgebra of $U(\mathfrak{p})$.

We now define the *finite W -algebra* $W(\lambda)$ associated to the partition λ , following [36]; see also [165, 71]. Let $\eta : U(\mathfrak{p}) \rightarrow U(\mathfrak{p})$ be the algebra automorphism defined by

$$\eta(e_{i,j}) = e_{i,j} + \delta_{i,j}(n - q_{\text{col}(j)} - q_{\text{col}(j)+1} - \dots - q_l)$$

for each $e_{i,j} \in \mathfrak{p}$. Let I_χ be the kernel of the homomorphism $\chi : U(\mathfrak{m}) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ defined by $x \mapsto (x, e)$ for all $x \in \mathfrak{m}$, where (\cdot, \cdot) is the trace form on $\mathfrak{gl}_N(\mathbb{C})$. Then $W(\lambda)$ is defined to be the following subalgebra of $U(\mathfrak{p})$:

$$W(\lambda) = \{u \in U(\mathfrak{p}) \mid [x, \eta(u)] \in U(\mathfrak{g})I_\chi \text{ for all } x \in \mathfrak{m}\}.$$

We now introduce a structure of a $(W(\lambda), H_d^\Lambda)$ -bimodule on $V^{\otimes d}$. The left action of $W(\lambda)$ on $V^{\otimes d}$ is simply the restriction of the natural action of $U(\mathfrak{p})$. To define the right action of H_d^Λ , let Σ_d act on the right by place permutation as usual. Let X_1 act as the endomorphism

$$\left(e + \sum_{j=1}^N (q_{\text{col}(j)} - n)e_{j,j} \right) \otimes 1^{\otimes(d-1)} - \sum_{k=2}^d \sum_{\substack{i,j=1 \\ \text{col}(i) < \text{col}(j)}}^N e_{i,j} \otimes 1^{\otimes(k-2)} \otimes e_{j,i} \otimes 1^{\otimes(d-k)}.$$

It turns out [37] that this extends uniquely to make $V^{\otimes d}$ into a $(W(\lambda), H_d^\Lambda)$ -bimodule.

We have now defined a homomorphism Φ_d and an antihomomorphism Ψ_d :

$$W(\lambda) \xrightarrow{\Phi_d} \text{End}_{\mathbb{C}}(V^{\otimes d}) \xleftarrow{\Psi_d} H_d^\Lambda.$$

Let $W_d(\lambda)$ denote the image of Φ_d . This finite dimensional algebra is a natural analogue of the classical *Schur algebra* for higher levels. Let $H_d(\lambda)$ denote the image of the homomorphism $\Psi_d : H_d(\lambda) \rightarrow \text{End}_{\mathbb{C}}(V^{\otimes d})^{\text{op}}$, so that $V^{\otimes d}$ is also a $(W_d(\lambda), H_d(\lambda))$ -bimodule. Actually, if at least d parts of λ are equal to l , then the map Ψ_d is injective so $H_d(\lambda) = H_d^\Lambda$. In general $H_d(\lambda)$ is a sum of certain blocks of H_d^Λ .

Theorem 11.9. [37, Theorem A] *The maps Φ_d and Ψ_d satisfy the double centralizer property; i.e.*

$$W_d(\lambda) = \text{End}_{H_d(\lambda)}(V^{\otimes d}), \quad \text{End}_{W_d(\lambda)}(V^{\otimes d})^{\text{op}} = H_d(\lambda).$$

Moreover, the functor

$$\text{Hom}_{W_d(\lambda)}(V^{\otimes d}, ?) : W_d(\lambda)\text{-mod} \rightarrow H_d(\lambda)\text{-mod}$$

is an equivalence of categories.

Let P denote the module $U(\mathfrak{gl}_N(\mathbb{C})) \otimes_{U(\mathfrak{p})} \mathbb{C}_{-\rho}$ induced from the one dimensional \mathfrak{p} -module $\mathbb{C}_{-\rho}$ on which each $e_{i,j} \in \mathfrak{p}$ acts as $\delta_{i,j}(q_1 + q_2 + \dots + q_{\text{col}(j)} - n)$. This is an irreducible projective module in a parabolic category \mathcal{O} for $\mathfrak{gl}_N(\mathbb{C})$ with respect to \mathfrak{p} . Let $\mathcal{O}^d(\lambda)$ denote the Serre subcategory of the parabolic category \mathcal{O} generated by the module $P \otimes V^{\otimes d}$. We note that $\mathcal{O}^d(\lambda)$ is a sum of certain integral blocks of the parabolic category \mathcal{O} , and every integral block is equivalent to a block of $\mathcal{O}^d(\lambda)$ for sufficiently large d .

Moreover, the module $P \otimes V^{\otimes d}$ is a *self-dual projective module* in $\mathcal{O}^d(\lambda)$, and every self-dual projective indecomposable module in $\mathcal{O}^d(\lambda)$ is a summand of $P \otimes V^{\otimes d}$. Applying the construction from [2, §2.2], we can view $P \otimes V^{\otimes d}$ as a $(\mathfrak{gl}_N(\mathbb{C}), H_d^{\text{aff}})$ -bimodule. It turns out that the right action of H_d^{aff} on $P \otimes V^{\otimes d}$ factors through the quotient $H_d(\lambda)$ of H_d to make $P \otimes V^{\otimes d}$ into a faithful right $H_d(\lambda)$ -module; i.e. $H_d(\lambda) \hookrightarrow \text{End}_{\mathbb{C}}(P \otimes V^{\otimes d})^{\text{op}}$.

Theorem 11.10. [37, Theorem B] *We have $\text{End}_{\mathfrak{gl}_N(\mathbb{C})}(P \otimes V^{\otimes d})^{\text{op}} = H_d(\lambda)$.*

The link between Theorems 11.9 and 11.10 is provided by the *Whittaker functor*

$$\mathbb{V} : \mathcal{O}^d(\lambda) \rightarrow W_d(\lambda)\text{-mod}$$

introduced originally by Kostant and Lynch [144] and studied recently in [36, §8.5] (cf. [185]): the $W_d(\lambda)$ -module $V^{\otimes d}$ from above is isomorphic to $\mathbb{V}(P \otimes V^{\otimes d})$. We actually show in [37] that $\text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{g}}(P \otimes V^{\otimes d}, ?) \cong \text{Hom}_{W_d(\lambda)}(V^{\otimes d}, ?) \circ \mathbb{V}$; i.e. the following diagram of functors commutes up to isomorphism:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \mathcal{O}^d(\lambda) & \\
 \mathbb{V} \swarrow & & \searrow \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{g}}(P \otimes V^{\otimes d}, ?) \\
 W_d(\lambda)\text{-mod} & \xrightarrow[\text{Hom}_{W_d(\lambda)}(V^{\otimes d}, ?)]{\sim} & H_d(\lambda)\text{-mod.}
 \end{array}$$

The categories $W_d(\lambda)\text{-mod}$ and $H_d(\lambda)\text{-mod}$ thus give two different realizations of a natural quotient of the category $\mathcal{O}^d(\lambda)$ in the general sense of [70, §III.1], the respective quotient functors being the Whittaker functor \mathbb{V} and the functor $\text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{g}}(P \otimes V^{\otimes d}, ?)$.

In many circumstances, the Whittaker functor turns out to be easier to work with than the functor $\text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{g}}(P \otimes V^{\otimes d}, ?)$, so this point of view facilitates various other important computations regarding the relationship between $\mathcal{O}^d(\lambda)$ and $H_d(\lambda)\text{-mod}$. For example, we use it to identify the images of arbitrary projective indecomposable modules in $\mathcal{O}^d(\lambda)$ with the indecomposable summands of the degenerate analogues of the permutation modules introduced by Dipper, James and Mathas [55]. Also, we identify the images of parabolic Verma modules with Specht modules, thus recovering formulae for the latter’s composition multiplicities directly from the Kazhdan-Lusztig conjecture for $\mathfrak{gl}_N(\mathbb{C})$. We remark that the degenerate analogue of Ariki’s Categorification Theorem [3] follows as an easy consequence of these results, as is explained in [39].

11.7. Projective representations. An analogue of Grojnowski’s theory [81] for *projective representations* of symmetric and alternating groups has been established in [31]. Alternatively, the theory developed in [31] can be thought of as a generalization of Grojnowski’s work [81] from the symmetric groups Σ_d to their Schur double covers $\hat{\Sigma}_d$.

For the double covers, the role of the Kac-Moody algebra \mathfrak{g} is played by the twisted Kac-Moody algebra of type $A_{2e}^{(2)}$. Both degenerate and non-degenerate cases are treated in [31] as well as higher level analogues. Level one theory has been treated before in [32] using Schur-Weyl type duality due to Sergeev [181]. In [32] we also suggest a reasonable notion of “Specht modules” for $\hat{\Sigma}_d$. See however [35], where we suggest that certain complexes of modules might be a better choice for “Specht modules”.

We point out that although socle branching rules and the corresponding classification of irreducible modules in the spirit of section 11.2 work for $\hat{\Sigma}_d$ just as for Σ_d in [81], the connections with geometry and canonical bases are not available at the moment. We also note that the analogue of the labeling problem (11.1) for $\hat{\Sigma}_d$ remains open.

For various other recent developments in the theory of projective representations of symmetric groups, we refer the reader to [182, 198, 199, 194, 101, 100, 159, 160, 164, 97, 98, 99, 33, 35, 112, 111].

11.8. Problems on symmetric groups related to the Aschbacher-Scott program. In this section we indicate some applications of representation theory of symmetric groups to structure questions in finite group theory. We briefly describe the set up, referring the interested reader to [116].

Let C be a finite classical group and $H < C$ a maximal proper subgroup. Aschbacher's theorem [13], which starts the *Aschbacher-Scott program*, (cf. also [180]) claims that then

$$(11.5) \quad H \in \mathcal{S} \cup \bigcup_{i=1}^8 \mathcal{C}_i,$$

where \mathcal{C}_i , $i = 1, \dots, 8$, are collections of certain explicit natural subgroups of C , and \mathcal{S} is the collection of all almost quasi-simple subgroups that act absolutely irreducibly on the natural module for the classical group C .

However, the converse to Aschbacher's theorem does not hold in general. So, to understand maximal subgroups of finite classical groups, one needs to determine when a subgroup H as in (11.5) is actually maximal in C . For $H \in \bigcup_{i=1}^8 \mathcal{C}_i$, this has been done by Kleidman and Liebeck in [116]. Let $H \in \mathcal{S}$. If H is *not* maximal, then $H < G < C$ for a certain maximal subgroup G in C . The most difficult case to handle is when $G \in \mathcal{S}$ as well. This motivates the following problem.

Problem 11.11. Classify all triples (G, V, H) where G is an almost quasi-simple finite group, V is an FG -module of dimension greater than one, and H is a proper subgroup of G such that the restriction $\text{res}_H^G V$ is irreducible.

Under the assumption that the characteristic of the ground field is greater than 3, Problem 11.11 has been solved for G of *alternating type*; i.e. $G = A_d, \Sigma_d, \hat{A}_d$ or $\hat{\Sigma}_d$ (see [175, 117, 118, 30, 129, 130], and partial results are available even in the cases $\ell = 3$ and 2, e.g. [128]). A variety of techniques has been used, but modular branching rules played an important role.

Another part of the Aschbacher-Scott program yields the following problem.

Problem 11.12. Let G be an almost quasi-simple finite group. Classify all pairs (V, W) of irreducible FG -modules of dimension greater than one such that $V \otimes W$ is irreducible.

Under the assumption that the characteristic of the ground field is greater than 2, Problem 11.12 has been mainly solved for G of alternating type; see [20, 23, 21, 22, 130], and partial results are available even in the case $\ell = 2$, e.g. [75, 76].

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