# Oppositeness in buildings and representations of finite groups of Lie type

Peter Sin University of Florida

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#### Outline

#### Introduction

Notation and terminology

**Oppositeness** 

Permutation modules

Carter-Lusztig Theorem

Relation to representations of algebraic groups

An E<sub>6</sub> Example

#### Introduction

The oppositeness graph of the Tits building of a finite group G = G(q) of Lie type is a q-analog of the classical Kneser graph.

In this talk we consider oppositeness from the point of view of representation theory of G.

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- ► G = G(q) group with a split BN-pair (B = UH, N), characteristic p, rank  $\ell$
- ▶  $I = \{1, ..., \ell\}$
- ► *W*, Weyl group euclidean reflection group in a real vector space *V*,
- ▶ root system R, positive roots  $R^+$ , simple roots  $S = \{\alpha_i \mid i \in I\}$
- $w_i$  reflection in hyperplane perpendicular to  $\alpha_i$ .
- ▶  $W = \langle w_i \mid i \in I \rangle$  Coxeter group.
- ▶  $\ell(w)$ , is the length of the shortest expression for w as a word in the generators  $w_i$ .
- ▶  $\ell(w)$  = the number of positive roots which w transforms to negative roots.
- $ightharpoonup w_0$  unique longest element of W, sends all positive roots to negative roots.



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# Parabolic subgroups

- J ⊂ I
- ▶  $W_J := \langle w_i \mid i \in J \rangle$  standard parabolic subgroup of W
- $ightharpoonup P_J = BW_J B$  is a standard parabolic subgroup of G.

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# Types and objects of the building

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# Opposite types

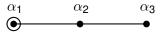
#### Definition

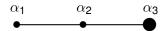
Two types J and K are opposite if

$$\{-\mathbf{w}_0(\alpha_i) \mid i \in \mathbf{J}\} = \{\alpha_j \mid j \in \mathbf{K}\},\$$

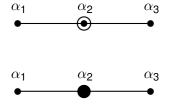
or, equivalently, if

$$\{w_0w_iw_0 \mid i \in J\} = \{w_i \mid i \in K\}.$$

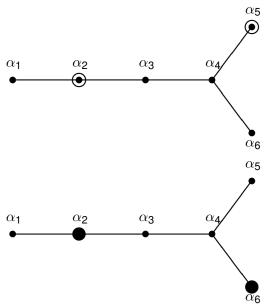


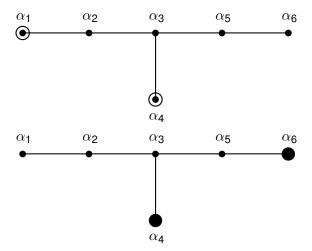


# $A_3$ , skew lines in PG(3, q)



# D<sub>5</sub>, flags in oriflamme geometry





# Opposite objects

Let *J* and *K* be fixed opposite types.

#### Definition

An object  $P_Jg$  of cotype J is *opposite* an object  $P_Kh$  of cotype K iff

$$P_{K}hg^{-1}P_{J} = P_{K}w_{0}P_{J}$$

$$(\iff P_{K}h \subseteq P_{K}w_{0}P_{J}g$$

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### The oppositeness matrix

Let A = A(J, K) be the oppositeness matrix for objects of cotype J and K.

#### **Theorem**

(Brouwer, 2009) The square of every eigenvalue  $\lambda$  of A is a power of q.

▶ We will show that the *p*-rank of A is the degree of an irreducible representation of G.

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# Permutation modules on flags

▶ Let k be a field of characteristic p. Let  $\mathcal{F}_J$  denote the space of functions from the set  $P_J \setminus G$  of objects of cotype J to k. Then  $\mathcal{F}_J$  is a left kG-module by the rule

$$(xf)(P_Jg)=f(P_Jgx), \quad f\in\mathcal{F}_J, \quad g,x\in G.$$

Let  $\delta_{P_Jg}$  denote the characteristic function of the object  $P_Jg \in P_J \backslash G$ . Then  $\mathcal{F}_J$  is generated as a kG-module by  $\delta_{P_Jg}$ 

# The oppositeness homomorphism

▶ The relation of oppositeness defines a kG-homomorphism  $\eta: \mathcal{F}_J \to \mathcal{F}_K$  given by

$$\eta(f)(P_Kh) = \sum_{P_Jg \subseteq P_Jw_0P_Kh} f(P_Jg).$$

▶ We have

$$\eta(\delta_{P_Jg}) = \sum_{P_Kh \subseteq P_Kw_0PJg} \delta_{P_Kh}.$$

so the characteristic function of an object of cotype J is sent to the sum of the characteristic functions of all objects opposite to it.

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# Simplicity of oppositeness modules

#### **Theorem**

The image of  $\eta$  is a simple module, uniquely characterized by the property that its one-dimensional U-invariant subspace has full stablizer equal to  $P_J$ , which acts trivially on it.

This result is essentially a corollary of a more general result of Carter and Lusztig (1976) on the *Iwahori-Hecke Algebra*  $\operatorname{End}_{kG}(\mathcal{F}_{\emptyset})$ . We next describe their result.

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# The Iwahori-Hecke Algebra

- $ightharpoonup \mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}_{\emptyset}.$
- ▶ For  $w \in W$  define  $T_w \in \text{End}_k(\mathcal{F})$  by

$$T_w(f)(Bg) = \sum_{Bg' \subseteq Bw^{-1}Bg} f(Bg').$$

Then

$$T_w \in \operatorname{End}_{kG}(\mathcal{F}), \quad \text{for all } w \in W.$$

One can show that

$$T_{ww'} = T_w T_{w'} \quad \text{if } \ell(ww') = \ell(w) + \ell(w').$$

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#### ▶ Let $w \in W$ have reduced expression

$$W_{j_n}\cdots W_{j_1}$$
.

- ▶ We consider the partial products  $w_{i_1}$ ,  $w_{i_2}w_{i_1}$ , ...  $w_{j_n} \cdots w_{j_1}$ .
- ► Each partial product sends exactly one more positive root to a negative root than its predecessors, namely  $w_{i_1} \cdots w_{i_{i-1}}(r_{i_i})$ .
- ▶ Let *J* be a subset of *l*.
- ▶  $V_J$  := subspace of V spanned by  $S_J = \{\alpha_i \mid i \in J\}$ .

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► For any reduced expression

$$w_0 = w_{j_k} \cdots w_{j_1}$$

define

$$\Theta_{j_i} = \begin{cases} T_{w_{j_i}} & \text{if } w_{j_1} \cdots w_{j_{i-1}}(r_{j_i}) \notin V_J \\ I + T_{w_{j_i}} & \text{if } w_{j_1} \cdots w_{j_{i-1}}(r_{j_i}) \in V_J \end{cases}$$

and set

$$\Theta_{w_0}^J = \Theta_{j_k} \Theta_{j_{k-1}} \cdots \Theta_{j_k}.$$

► The definition depends on the choice of reduced expression but it can be seen that different expressions give the same endomorphism up to a nonzero scalar multiple.

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#### **Theorem**

(Carter,Lusztig) The image  $\Theta_{w_0}^J(\mathcal{F})$  is a simple kG-module. The full stablizer of the one-dimensional subspace of U-fixed points in this module is  $P_J$  and the action of  $P_J$  on this one-dimensional subspace is trivial.

- ▶ We choose a particular expression for  $w_0$  to define  $\Theta_{w_0}^J(\mathcal{F})$ .
- ▶  $R_J = R \cap V_J$  is a root system in  $V_J$  with simple system  $S_J$  and Weyl group  $W_J$ .
- $ightharpoonup w_J$  be the longest element in  $W_J$ .
- ► Let

$$W_J = W_{i_m} \cdots W_{i_2} W_{i_1}$$

be a reduced expression for  $w_J$ . The above expression can be extended to a reduced expression

$$w_0 = w_{i_k} \cdots w_{i_{m+1}} w_{i_m} \cdots w_{i_1}$$

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▶ The expression  $w_0 = w^* w_J$  is chosen so that for the first m partial products the new positive root sent to a negative root belongs to  $V_J$ , and the new positive roots for the remaining partial products do not belong to  $V_J$ .

$$\Theta_{w_0}^J = T_{w^*}(1 + T_{w_{i_m}}) \cdots (1 + T_{w_{i_1}})$$

▶ Since  $\ell(w^*w) = \ell(w^*) + \ell(w)$  for all  $w \in W_J$ , we see that  $\Theta_{w_0}^J$  is a sum of endomorphisms of the form  $T_{w^*w}$ , for certain elements  $w \in W_J$ , with exactly one term of this sum equal to  $T_{w^*}$ .

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# The projections $\pi_J$ and $\pi_K$

▶ Let  $\pi_J : \mathcal{F} \to \mathcal{F}_J$  be defined by

$$(\pi_J(f))(P_Jg) = \sum_{Bh\subseteq P_Jg} f(Bh)$$

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### A computation

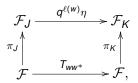
Compare  $\eta \pi_J$  with  $\pi_K T_{w^*w}$  for  $w \in W_J$ . For  $f \in \mathcal{F}$ ,

$$[\eta(\pi_J(f))](P_Kg) = \sum_{P_Jh\subseteq P_JW^{*-1}P_Kg} \sum_{Bx\subseteq P_Jh} f(Bx)$$
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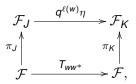
and

$$\begin{aligned} [\pi_{K}(T_{W^*W}(f))](P_{K}h) &= \sum_{Bg \subseteq P_{K}h} (T_{W^*W}f)(Bg) \\ &= \sum_{Bg \subseteq P_{K}h} \sum_{Bx \subseteq B(W^*W)^{-1}Bg} f(Bx) \\ &= \sum_{Bg \subseteq P_{K}h} \sum_{Bg \subseteq B(W^*W)Bx} f(Bx) \\ &= q^{\ell(W)} \sum_{Bx \subseteq P_{I}W^{*-1}P_{K}g} f(Bx). \end{aligned}$$





- ▶ If  $w \neq 1$  we have  $\pi_K T_{ww^*} = 0$ .
- ► Hence  $\pi_K \Theta_{w_0}^J = \pi_K T_{w^*} = \eta \pi_J$ .
- ► Finally,  $\Theta_{W_0}^J(\mathcal{F})$  is simple and  $\eta \pi_J(\mathcal{F}) \neq 0$ , so  $\eta(\mathcal{F}_J) = \eta \pi_J(\mathcal{F}) \cong \Theta_{W_0}^J(\mathcal{F})$ .



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**Oppositeness** 

Permutation modules

Carter-Lusztig Theorem

Relation to representations of algebraic groups

An *E*<sub>6</sub> Example



# Highest weights of oppositeness modules

- ▶ G = G(q) is a Chevalley group of universal type or a twisted subgroup.
- Simple modules are restrictions of certain simple rational modules  $L(\lambda)$  of the ambient algebraic group, so we want to identify the highest weight  $\lambda$  of the oppositeness modules.
- ▶ If *G* is an untwisted group, then the fundamental weights  $\omega_i$  for the ambient algebraic group are indexed by *I*, and the highest weight of the simple module in the theorem is  $\sum_{i \in I \setminus J} (q-1)\omega_i$ .

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- ▶ If *G* is a twisted group, inside untwisted *G*\*. There are two cases.
- Suppose that all roots of  $G^*$  have the same length  $({}^2A_\ell, {}^2D_\ell, {}^3D_4, {}^2E_6)$ . Let  $I^* = \{1, \dots, \ell^*\}$  index the fundamental roots. Then G arises from a symmetry  $\rho$  of the Dynkin diagram of  $G^*$  and the index set I for G labels the  $\rho$ -orbits on  $I^*$ . Let  $\omega_i$ ,  $i \in I^*$  be the fundamental weights of the ambient algebraic group. For  $J \subseteq I$ , let  $J^* \subset I^*$  be the union of the orbits in J. Then the highest weight of the  $kG^*$ -module in the theorem is  $\sum_{i \in I^* \setminus J^*} (q-1)\omega_i$ .
- Suppose that there are roots of different lengths for  $G^*$  (Suzuki and Ree groups). Then the set I for G indexes the subset of fundamental weights of the ambient algebraic group which are orthogonal to the long simple roots. and for  $J \subset I$ , the simple module of the theorem has highest weight  $\sum_{i \in I_i} I(g-1)\omega_i$ .

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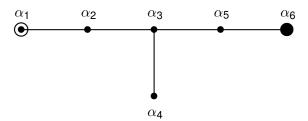
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### Example

► G = E<sub>6</sub>(q), group of isometries of a certain 3-form on a 27-dimensional vector space V. Consider singular points and singular hyperplanes.



# Point-hyperplane incidence for $E_6(q)$

- ▶  $rank_pA = \dim L((q-1)\omega_1)) = \dim L((p-1)\omega_1))^t$ , where  $q = p^t$ . (Steinberg's tensor product theorem)
- ▶ In this case we can work out dim  $L((p-1)\omega_1)$ ) using representation theory. (Weyl modules, Weyl Character formula, Jantzen sum formula).

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#### Jantzen Sum Formula

The Weyl module  $V(\lambda)$  has a descending filtration, of submodules  $V(\lambda)^i$ , i > 0, such that

$$V(\lambda)^1 = \operatorname{rad} V(\lambda), \quad \text{so} \quad V(\lambda)/V(\lambda)^1 \cong L(\lambda).$$

and

$$\sum_{i>0} \operatorname{Ch}(V(\lambda)^i) = -\sum_{\alpha>0} \sum_{\{m:0 < mp < \langle \lambda + \rho, \alpha^{\vee} \rangle \}} v_p(mp) \chi(\lambda - mp\alpha)$$

Using the sum formula, one can show that there is an exact sequence

$$\begin{array}{l} 0 \to V((p-11)\omega_1 + 2\omega_2) \to V((p-10)\omega_1 + \omega_2 + \omega_5) \\ \to V((p-9)\omega_1 + \omega_3 + \omega_6) \to V((p-8)\omega_1 + \omega_4 + 2\omega_6) \\ \to V((p-7)\omega_1 + 3\omega_6) \to V((p-1)\omega_1) \to L((p-1)\omega_1) \to 0 \end{array}$$

The dimensions of the  $V(\mu)$  are given by Weyl's formula. Hence

$$\dim L((p-1)\omega_1) = \frac{1}{2^7 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 11} p(p+1)(p+3)$$

$$\times (3p^8 - 12p^7 + 39p^6 + 320p^5$$

$$-550p^4 + 1240p^3 + 2080p^2 - 1920p + 1440)$$

27 2, 3, 5, 7, 351 19305 439439 11, 45822672 13, 274187550 17, 5030354043 19, 16937278357 23, 137112098409 29. 1744146121068 31. 3628038332724 37, 25349391871621 41, 78345931447980 43. 132256396016732 47, 351675426454470 53, 1317968719988571 59, 4286665842359706 61. 6185074367788952 67. 17356733399472663 32843689463427543 73, 44580694495895104 79, 106281498207828698 83, 182978611275724173 89. 394284508288312914 97, 1016219651834875565 ► Thank you for your attention!