

**LECTURE 5.**  
**COADJOINT ORBITS OF THE TRIANGULAR GROUP  $G_n$**   
**(PART 2)**

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1. AMOUNT OF POINTS AND GEOMETRY

**1.1. General setting and examples.** We notice, that every  $\mathcal{O}_{n,m}^*(K)$  is the set of  $K$ -points of an affine algebraic manifold  $\mathcal{O}_{n,m}^*$  defined over  $\mathbb{Z}$ , i.e. a subset of  $\mathbb{A}^N$ , given by the algebraic equations and inequalities with integer coefficients. For such manifolds  $M$  the important information can be obtained by considering the number  $M(q)$  of points of  $M$  over a finite field  $\mathbb{F}_q$  of  $q$  elements. For instance, for “nice” smooth projective manifolds  $M$  the following formula holds:

$$M(q) = \sum_{k=0}^{\dim M} b_{2k} \cdot q^k, \quad b_{2k} = \dim H^{2k}(M(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{R}).$$

The ultimate reason for this is that  $M$  can be represented as the union of affine cells of different dimensions. Each cell of dimension  $k$  contributes  $q^k$  in  $M(q)$  and 1 in  $b_{2k}$ .

For some quasi-affine algebraic manifolds the quantity  $M(q)$  is still a polynomial in  $q$  with integer coefficient (which could be negative however).

**Example 1.**  $M = G_{n,k}$ , the Grassmann manifold of  $k$ -planes in  $n$ -space. Here

$$G_{n,k}(q) = \begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q = \frac{[n]_q!}{[k]_q! [n-k]_q!}$$

is the Gaussian  $q$ -binomial coefficient and  $[n]_q := 1 + q + q^2 + \dots + q^{n-1}$ .

**Example 2.**  $M = GL_n$ , the general linear group of order  $n$ .

$$GL_n(q) = \prod_{k=0}^{n-1} (q^n - q^k).$$

**Example 3.** More generally, if  $M_{a,b}^c$  is the manifold of  $(a \times b)$ -matrices of rank  $c$ , we have

$$M_{a,b}^c(q) = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ c \end{bmatrix}_q \cdot \begin{bmatrix} b \\ c \end{bmatrix}_q \cdot GL_c(q).$$

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Sometimes it is more convenient to deal with Laurent polynomials in  $q^{1/2}$  and  $q^{-1/2}$ . Let us define the *balancing map*

$$k[q] \ni P \rightarrow \tilde{P} \in k[q^{1/2}, q^{-1/2}]$$

by

$$\tilde{P}(q) = P(q)q^{-1/2(M+m)},$$

where  $M = \deg P$  and  $m = \deg [q^M P(q^{-1})]$  are the maximal and minimal degrees of non-zero monomials in  $P$ .

This map has the useful properties:

$$a) \widetilde{P \cdot Q} = \tilde{P}(q) \cdot \tilde{Q}(q), \quad b) \tilde{q} = 1,$$

which allow to compute it easily.<sup>1</sup>

To illustrate the use of the balancing procedure we note that there are no simple expression for the sum of  $q$ -binomial coefficients, but for corresponding balanced quantities we have the nice formula

$$\sum_{k=0}^n \left[ \begin{matrix} n \\ k \end{matrix} \right]_q = \prod_{s=1}^n (1 + q^{\frac{n+1-2s}{2}}).$$

**1.2. Coadjoint orbits of low dimension. Clusters.** In our case the quantities  $\mathcal{O}_{n,m}^*(q)$  and, consequently,  $\mathcal{O}_n^*(q)$  turn out to be polynomials in  $q$  with integer coefficients. The explicit computation of these polynomials is a rather difficult combinatorial problem. Still more mysterious is their behavior when  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Even the asymptotics of the sequence  $\{\mathcal{O}_n^*(q)\}$  for given  $q$  is unknown. However, the behavior of  $\mathcal{O}_{n,m}^*(q)$  for given  $q$  and  $m$  is relatively simple.

**Theorem 1.** *For given  $q$  and  $m$  we have*

$$\mathcal{O}_{n,m}^*(q) = q^n \cdot L_m(n),$$

where  $L_m$  is a polynomial of degree  $m$  with coefficients from  $\mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}]$ .

*Proof.* The proof of this theorem is based on the observation that for fixed  $q$ ,  $m$  and  $n \rightarrow \infty$  the set  $\mathfrak{g}_{n,m}^*(K)$  has a *cluster structure*. This means that nonzero elements of matrices  $F \in \mathfrak{g}_{n,m}^*(K)$  are not numerous and gather into groups called *clusters*. To be more precise, we introduce some notations and definitions.

Let  $\mathfrak{b}_n^-(K)$  denote the set of non-strictly lower triangular matrices in  $\text{Mat}_n(K)$ . To each  $F \in \widehat{G}_{n+1}(K)$  we associate the matrix  $\bar{F} \in \mathfrak{b}_n^-(K)$  which is obtained from  $F$  by deleting of the first row and the last column. The simple but important observation is that  $\text{rk } B_F$  depend only on the lower part of  $\bar{F}$  (i.e. does not depend on the diagonal part of  $\bar{F}$ ).

<sup>1</sup>We remark that the quantity  $\widetilde{\mathbb{P}^{n-1}}(q) = \frac{q^{n/2} - q^{-n/2}}{q^{1/2} - q^{-1/2}} = \widetilde{[n]}_q$  is often considered as “the quantum analog” of an integer  $n$ , and the quantity  $\widetilde{\mathcal{F}^n}(q)$ , where  $\mathcal{F}^n$  is the (full) flag manifold, as a quantum analog of  $n!$ .

Now, let us call an element  $\bar{F} \in \mathfrak{b}_n^-(K)$  *decomposable*, if it has a block-diagonal form:

$$\bar{F} = \bar{F}_1 \oplus \bar{F}_2 \oplus \dots \oplus \bar{F}_r, \quad r > 1,$$

where  $\bar{F}_i \in \mathfrak{b}_{n_i}^-(\mathbb{F})$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^r n_i = n$ .

**Lemma 1.** *Under the above conditions we have*

$$(1) \quad rk B_F = \sum_{i=1}^r rk B_{F_i}.$$

Proof. Let  $\{X_{i,j}\}, 1 \leq i < j \leq n+1$ , be the standard basis in  $\mathfrak{g}_{n+1}(K)$  and  $\{X_{i,j}^*\}$  be the dual basis in  $\widehat{G}_{n+1}(K)$ . Then

$$B_F = \sum_{i < k < j} f_{j,i} \cdot \{X_{i,k}^*\} \wedge \{X_{k,j}^*\}.$$

Now, it is easy to see that 2-forms  $B_{F_i}$  which correspond to different summands in (1) depend on disjoint sets of  $\{X_{i,j}^*\}$ 's. This makes the lemma evident.

Define now the **cluster** (or **elementary particle**) of the **size**  $n$  and the **mass** (or **energy**)  $m$  as an indecomposable element  $\bar{F} \in \mathfrak{b}_n^-(K)$  associated to an element  $F \in \mathfrak{g}_{n+1,m}^*(K)$ .

It follows from this definition that for any  $F \in \mathfrak{g}_{n+1,m}^*(K)$  the associated  $\bar{F} \in \mathfrak{b}_n^-(K)$  splits into certain number of clusters of the sizes  $n_1, \dots, n_r$  and the masses  $m_1, \dots, m_r$ , such that

$$\sum_{i=1}^r n_i = n, \quad \sum_{i=1}^r m_i = m.$$

It is also clear that for any  $q$  there are only finitely many clusters of given mass  $m$ . Let us denote by  $C_{\nu,\mu}(q)$  the number of clusters of the size  $\nu$  and of the mass  $\mu$ . Then the standard combinatorial argument proves

**Proposition 1.**

$$\sum_{n,m} \mathfrak{g}_{n+1,m}^*(q) t^m x^n = (1 - \sum_{\nu,\mu} C_{\nu,\mu}(q) t^\mu x^\nu)^{-1}.$$

**Corollary.**

$$(2) \quad \mathcal{O}_{n+1,m}(q) = q^{-2m} \cdot \left\{ \text{coefficient of } t^m x^n \text{ in } (1 - \sum_{\nu,\mu} C_{\nu,\mu}(q) t^\mu x^\nu)^{-1} \right\}$$

We now derive the statement of the theorem from this corollary. We observe that  $C_{1,0} = q$ : the corresponding clusters ("photons") are just matrices of order 1 with a coefficient in  $\mathbb{F}_q$ .

Moreover,  $C_{n,0} = 0$  for  $n > 1$ , because all particles of size  $n > 1$  have a non-zero mass (the corresponding 2-form  $B_F$  is non-zero).

From this we conclude that the right hand side of (1.4.4) can be written in the form

$$[1 - qx - t\Phi(q, x, t)]^{-1}$$

for some  $\Phi \in \mathbb{Z}[q][[x, t]]$ . It follows that the right hand side of (1.4.5) is equal to the coefficient of  $x^n$  in

$$\frac{\Psi(q, x, t)}{[1 - qx - t\Phi(q, x, t)]^{m+1}} \Big|_{t=0} = \frac{\Psi(q, x, 0)}{(1 - qx)^{m+1}}$$

for some  $\Psi \in \mathbb{Z}[q][[x, t]]$ . And this coefficient has evidently the form (1.4.1).

As an illustration, we give here the description of clusters for small  $m$  and the corresponding explicit formulae for  $\mathcal{O}_{n,m}$ .

$m = 0$ . It is clear that  $\mathcal{O}_{n,0}^*(q) = q^{n-1}$ ,  $n \geq 1$ . One can also formally deduce it from the above relation  $C_{n,0} = q \cdot \delta(n)$ .

$m = 1$ . One can check that  $C_{2,1} = q^2(q-1)$ ,  $C_{3,1} = q^3(q-1)^2$  and  $C_{n,1} = 0$  for  $n > 3$ . The corresponding  $\bar{F}$ 's look like

$$\begin{pmatrix} x & 0 \\ \lambda & y \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{pmatrix} x & 0 & 0 \\ \lambda & y & 0 \\ 0 & \mu & z \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $\lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times$ ,  $x, y, z \in \mathbb{F}_q$ . It follows that

$$\mathcal{O}_{n,1}^*(q) = q^{n-3}(q-1)(nq - 3q + 1), \quad n \geq 3.$$

$$m = 2. \text{ Clusters of mass 2 are: } \begin{pmatrix} x & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \lambda & y & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \mu & z & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \nu & u \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} x & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \lambda & y & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \mu & z & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \nu & u & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \rho & v \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ p & y & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & q & z & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda & r & u & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & s & v \end{pmatrix}, \text{ where all latin letters run through } \mathbb{F}_q \text{ and greek letters}$$

run through  $\mathbb{F}_q^\times$ . It follows that  $C_{4,2}(q) = q^4(q-1)^3$ ,  $C_{5,2}(q) = q^9(q-1) + q^5(q-1)^4$ ,  $C_{n,2} = 0$  for  $n > 5$ .  $\square$

**1.3. Statistics of coadjoint orbits.** The information contained in the double sequence  $\{\mathcal{O}_{n,m}^*(q)\}$  can be encoded in the ordinary sequence of polynomials

$$\mathcal{O}_n^*(q, t) = \sum_{m \geq 0} \mathcal{O}_{n,m}^*(q) \cdot t^m$$

or in the generating series

$$\mathcal{O}^*(q, t, z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \mathcal{O}_n^*(q, t) \cdot z^n.$$

At the moment I have almost nothing to say about the last series except the very plausible conjecture that it is a formal power series in  $z$  with the

zero radius of convergence for all  $q > 1$  and  $t \geq 1$ . On the contrary, the polynomials  $\mathcal{O}_n^*(q, t)$  have several interesting interpretations.

Firstly, the theorem 1.2.4 implies that after the substitution  $t \rightarrow \mu^2 q^2$  the values of these polynomials can be expressed in the form which reminds partition functions in the quantum statistical physics:

$$\mathcal{O}_n^*(q, \mu^2 q^2) = \sum_{F \in \widehat{G}(\mathbb{F})} \mu^{\text{rk} B_F}.$$

In other words, we consider  $\widehat{G}(\mathbb{F})$  as a peculiar lattice model where  $\text{rk} B_F$  plays the role of the energy function and  $-\log \mu$  is the analog of the inverse temperature  $\beta = \frac{1}{kT}$ .

The approach suggested in [K3] gives the expression of this partition function for the special cases when  $\beta$  is a non negative integer.

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $r > 0$  be an integer. Then*

$$\mathcal{O}_n^*(q, q^{2-2r}) = q^{-rn(n-1)} \cdot \sum_{X, Y, F} \theta(\langle F, [X, Y] \rangle),$$

where  $X, Y$  run through  $\mathfrak{g}_n(\mathbb{F}_{q^r})$ ,  $F$  runs through  $\mathfrak{g}_n^*(\mathbb{F}_q)$  naturally embedded in  $\mathfrak{g}_n^*(\mathbb{F}_{q^r})$  and  $\theta$  is any non-trivial additive character of  $\mathbb{F}_{q^r}$ .

The proof of this theorem is based on the following simple facts. Let  $V_i, i = 1, 2$ , be finite dimensional vector spaces over  $\mathbb{F}$  and  $B : V_1 \times V_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$  be a bilinear form. For any integer  $r \geq 1$  we can consider  $V_i^{(r)} = V_i \otimes_{\mathbb{F}_q} \mathbb{F}_{q^r}$  and extend  $B$  by  $\mathbb{F}_{q^r}$ -linearity to a bilinear form  $B^{(r)} : V_1^{(r)} \times V_2^{(r)} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_{q^r}$ .

**Lemma 2.** *For any non-trivial additive character  $\theta$  of  $\mathbb{F}_{q^r}$  we have*

$$\sum_{v_i \in V_i^{(r)}} \theta(B(v_1, v_2)) = q^{r(\dim V_1 + \dim V_2 - \text{rk} B)}.$$

Proof of the lemma. By a suitable choice of bases in  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  we can reduce  $B$  to the form

$$B(v_1, v_2) = \sum_{j=1}^{\text{rk} B} v_1^j \cdot v_2^j,$$

where  $v_i^j, 1 \leq j \leq \dim V_i$ , are coordinates of  $v_i \in V_i$ . Then we use the formula

$$\sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_{q^r}} \theta(xy) = q^r \cdot \delta(y)$$

where  $\delta(y) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } y \neq 0 \\ 1 & \text{if } y = 0, \end{cases}$  and get the result.

Now, applying the lemma to the form  $B_F$ , we obtain

$$\sum_{X, Y, F} \theta(\langle F, [X, Y] \rangle) = \sum_F q^{r[n(n-1) - \text{rk} B_F]}.$$

The contribution of those  $F$  for which  $\text{rk} B_F = 2m$  is equal to  $q^{2m} \cdot \mathcal{O}_{n,m}(q)$  times  $q^{r[n(n-1)-2m]}$ . This gives the left hand side of the desired equality.

Another interpretation of the polynomials  $\mathcal{O}_n^*(q, t)$  arises if we accept the conjecture 2.2.1 (see section 2.2 below). Namely

$$\mathcal{O}_n^*(q, q^{-s}) = \sum_{\lambda \in \widehat{G_n}(\mathbb{F})} d(\lambda)^{-s},$$

where  $\widehat{G_n}(\mathbb{F}_q)$  is the set of (equivalence classes of) unitary irreducible representations of  $G_n(\mathbb{F}_q)$  and  $d(\lambda)$  is the dimension of a representation from the class  $\lambda$ . These  $\zeta$ -like sums seem to have interesting properties and will be discussed in the section 3.

We reproduce now another result of [K4], which is the definition of a more sophisticated partition function associated with a Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}_n$ .

Namely, we put

$$\Phi_n(Z) = \sum_{X, Y, F} \theta(\langle F, [X, Y] - Z \rangle),$$

where, as before,  $X, Y$  run through  $\mathfrak{g}_n(\mathbb{F}_q)$ ,  $F$  runs through  $\mathfrak{g}_n^*(\mathbb{F}_q)$ .

Let us introduce also for any Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  the algebraic manifold

$$CP_{\mathfrak{g}} = \{(X, Y) \in \mathfrak{g} \times \mathfrak{g} \mid [X, Y] = 0\}$$

which consists of pairs of commuting elements in  $\mathfrak{g}$ .

**Theorem 3.**

$$\Phi_n(0) = q^{n(n-1)/2} \cdot CP_{\mathfrak{g}_n}(q)$$

The proof of this theorem is completely analogous to the proof of the theorem 1.5.1 and also based on the lemma 1.5.2.

**Remark 1.** This theorem is also true for any Lie algebra over  $\mathbb{F}$ . To the contrary, the equality  $\Phi_n(0) = q^{n(n-1)} \cdot \mathcal{O}_n^*(q)$  should be replaced for general Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  by

$$\Phi_n(0) = q^{2 \dim \mathfrak{g}} \cdot \sum_{\Omega \in \widehat{G}/G} \text{ind}(\Omega),$$

where  $\text{ind}(\Omega) = q^{-\dim \Omega} \cdot \#\Omega$ . If  $\Omega \simeq \mathbb{A}^{2m}$ , we have  $\text{ind}(\Omega) = 1$ .

Peculiar lattice models became rather popular in the last time. We indicate to the interested reader the paper [MS] where some of these models are discussed.

**1.4. Euler-Bernoulli triangle.** The numerical computations for small  $n$  in the simplest case  $q = 2$  lead to the remarkable observation: the sequence  $\{\mathcal{O}_n^*(2)\}$  is very close to the sequence  $\{K_n\}$  of so called *Euler-Bernoulli numbers*, defined by the generating function

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} K_n \frac{x^n}{n!} = \frac{1 + \sin x}{\cos x}$$







which follow from the rules  $2'$ ,  $2''$ ).

2. What is the asymptotic behavior of  $a_n(q) := \sum_{k+l=n} a_{k,l}(q, 1)$  when  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ?

For  $q = 2$  (1.6.1) implies that  $a_n(2) \approx (\frac{2}{\pi})^n \cdot n!$  but in general case we have no results.

3. Euler and Bernoulli numbers are related to the  $\zeta$ -like sums:

$$(-1)^{n-1} B_{2n} \frac{2^{2n} - 1}{2(2n)!} \pi^{2n} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2k+1)^{2n}}, \quad E_n \frac{1}{2(2n)!} \left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right)^{2n+1} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k}{(2k+1)^{2n+1}}.$$

Recently in [BCK] the very ingenious geometric interpretation of these relations has been found in terms of volumes of some polytopes. Namely,

$$\frac{K_{n-1}}{2(n-1)!} = \frac{2^{n+1}}{\pi^n} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{nk}}{(2k+1)^n} = \text{vol}(\Delta_n),$$

where  $\Delta_n$  is the convex polytope in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  defined by the conditions:

$$x_i \geq 0, \quad x_i + x_{i+1} \leq 1, \quad i \in \mathbb{N} \bmod n.$$

Could it be possible to find the analogous interpretation for all entries of the Euler-Bernoulli triangle and its  $q$ -analogue?

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