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# PATH ISOMORPHISMS BETWEEN QUIVER HECKE AND DIAGRAMMATIC BOTT–SAMELSON ENDOMORPHISM ALGEBRAS

CHRIS BOWMAN, ANTON COX, AND AMIT HAZI

ABSTRACT. We construct an explicit isomorphism between (truncations of) quiver Hecke algebras and Elias–Williamson’s diagrammatic endomorphism algebras of Bott–Samelson bimodules. As a corollary, we deduce that the decomposition numbers of these algebras (including as examples the symmetric groups and generalised blob algebras) are tautologically equal to the associated  $p$ -Kazhdan–Lusztig polynomials, provided that the characteristic is greater than the Coxeter number. We hence give an elementary and more explicit proof of the main theorem of Riche–Williamson’s recent monograph and extend their categorical equivalence to cyclotomic Hecke algebras, thus solving Libedinsky–Plaza’s categorical blob conjecture.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The symmetric group lies at the intersection of two great categorical theories. The first is Khovanov–Lauda and Rouquier’s categorification of quantum groups and their knot invariants [KL09, Rou]; this setting has provided powerful new graded presentations of the symmetric group and its affine Hecke algebra [BK09]. The second is Elias–Williamson’s diagrammatic categorification in terms of endomorphisms of Bott–Samelson bimodules; it was in this setting that the counterexamples to Lusztig’s and James’s conjectures were first found [Wil17] and that the first general character formulas for decomposition numbers of symmetric groups were discovered [RW18] (in characteristic  $p > h$ , the Coxeter number).

The purpose of this paper is to construct an explicit isomorphism between these two diagrammatic worlds. This allows us to provide a simple algebraic proof of [RW18, Theorem 1.9] and to vastly generalise this theorem to all cyclotomic Hecke algebras and hence settle Libedinsky–Plaza’s categorical blob conjecture [LP20]. In particular, for any complex reflection group  $(\mathbb{Z}/\ell\mathbb{Z}) \wr \mathfrak{S}_n$ , we deduce that the associated Hecke algebra  $\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma$  for  $\sigma \in \mathbb{Z}^\ell$  has graded decomposition numbers  $d_{\lambda,\mu}(t)$  equal to the  $p$ -Kazhdan–Lusztig polynomials of type

$$A_{h-1} \times \dots \times A_{h-1} \setminus \widehat{A}_{h\ell-1}$$

providing  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$  have at most  $h$  columns in each component (we denote the set of such  $\ell$ -multipartitions by  $\mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n)$ ) and providing  $\sigma \in \mathbb{Z}^\ell$  satisfies a higher level analogue of the condition that  $p > h + 1$ .

**Theorem A.** *Let  $e \geq h\ell$  and suppose  $\sigma \in \mathbb{Z}^\ell$  is  $(h, e)$ -admissible. We have a canonical isomorphism of graded  $\mathbb{Z}$ -algebras,*

$$\mathbf{f}_{n,\sigma}^+(\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma/\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma \mathbf{e}_h \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma) \mathbf{f}_{n,\sigma}^+ \cong \text{End}_{\mathcal{D}_{\text{BS}}^{\text{asph},\oplus}(A_{h-1} \times \dots \times A_{h-1} \setminus \widehat{A}_{h\ell-1})}(\bigoplus_{\underline{w} \in \Lambda(n,\sigma)} B_{\underline{w}})$$

where the righthand-side is a truncation of Elias–Williamson’s diagrammatic category and the idempotents on the lefthand-side are simply

$$\mathbf{e}_h = \sum_{\substack{i_{k+1}=i_k+1 \\ 1 \leq k \leq h}} e_{(i_1, \dots, i_n)} \quad \mathbf{f}_{n,\sigma}^+ = \sum_{\substack{\mathfrak{s} \in \text{Std}_{n,\sigma}^+(\lambda) \\ \lambda \in \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n)}} e_{\mathfrak{s}}$$

for  $\text{Std}_{n,\sigma}^+(\lambda) \subset \text{Std}(\lambda)$  the set of strict alcove-tableaux and  $\Lambda(n,\sigma) = \{\underline{w} \mid \underline{w} \text{ is the colouring of some } \mathfrak{t} \in \text{Std}_{n,\sigma}^+(\lambda), \lambda \in \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n)\}$ . We refer to Sections 2 and 3 for the technical definitions.

Perhaps most importantly, our isomorphism allows one to pass information back and forth between these two diagrammatic categorifications for the first time. Combining our result with [BK09] allows one to import Soergel calculus to calculate decomposition numbers directly within the setting of the

symmetric group (and more generally, within the cyclotomic Hecke algebras). For instance, the key to the counterexamples of [Wil17] is the efficiency with which one can calculate “intersection forms” controlling decompositions of Bott–Samelson bimodules; in light of our isomorphism, this can be seen simply as a shorthand for James’ classical bilinear form on Specht modules of  $\mathbb{k}\mathfrak{S}_n$  and the efficiency merely arises by way of the idempotent truncation (in particular, the Gram matrices of these forms are equal). In other words, by virtue of our isomorphism, one can view the current state-of-the-art regarding  $p$ -Kazhdan–Lusztig theory (in type  $A$ ) entirely within the context of the group algebra of the symmetric group, without the need for calculating intersection cohomology groups, or working with parity sheaves, or appealing to the deepest results of 2-categorical Lie theory. In Subsection 7.3 we will explain that the regular decomposition numbers of cyclotomic Hecke algebras are *tautologically equal to  $p$ -Kazhdan–Lusztig polynomials*, simply by the categorical definition of these polynomials.

**Theorem B.** *The isomorphism of Theorem A maps each choice of light leaves cellular basis to a cellular basis of  $f_{n,\sigma}^+(\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma/\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma e_h \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma) f_{n,\sigma}^+$ . Thus the Gram matrix of the intersection form associated to the fibre of a Bott–Samelson resolution of a Schubert variety coincides with the Gram matrix of James’ bilinear form on the idempotent truncated Specht module  $f_{n,\sigma}^+ \mathbf{S}_{\mathbb{k}}(\lambda)$  for  $\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n)$ .*

In the other direction: Soergel diagrammatics is, at present, confined to regular blocks — whereas quiver Hecke diagrammatics is not so restricted — we expect our isomorphism to offer insight toward constructing Soergel diagrammatics for singular blocks. In particular, our isomorphism interpolates between the (well-understood) LLT-style combinatorics of KLR algebras and the (more mysterious) Kazhdan–Lusztig-style combinatorics of diagrammatic Bott–Samelson endomorphism algebras.

**Symmetric groups.** For  $\ell = 1$  our Theorem A has the immediate corollary of reproving the famous result of Riche–Williamson (and later Elias–Losev) which states that regular decomposition numbers of symmetric groups are equal to  $p$ -Kazhdan–Lusztig polynomials [RW18, EL]. However, our proof is a dramatic simplification on both the existing proofs (which are 180 and 130 pages in length) which both depend on the heavy machinery of 2-categorical representation theory (in particular, Rouquier’s “control by  $K_0$ ” results [Rou, Section 5]). Once one has developed the appropriate combinatorial framework, our proof simply verifies that the two diagrammatically defined algebras are isomorphic by checking the relations. We state the simplified version of Theorem A now, for ease of reference.

**Corollary A.** *For  $\mathbb{k}$  a field of characteristic  $p > h + 1$ , we have an isomorphism of graded  $\mathbb{k}$ -algebras,*

$$f_{n,\sigma}^+ \left( \mathbb{k}\mathfrak{S}_n / \mathbb{k}\mathfrak{S}_n \left( \sum_{x \in \mathfrak{S}_{h+1} \leq \mathfrak{S}_n} x \right) \mathbb{k}\mathfrak{S}_n \right) f_{n,\sigma}^+ \cong \text{End}_{\mathcal{D}_{\text{BS}}^{\text{asph},\oplus}(A_{h-1} \setminus \widehat{A}_{h-1})} \left( \bigoplus_{\underline{w} \in \Lambda(n,\sigma)} B_{\underline{w}} \right)$$

*and in particular the decomposition numbers of symmetric groups labelled by partitions with at most  $h < p - 1$  columns are tautologically equal to the  $p$ -Kazhdan–Lusztig polynomials of type  $A_{h-1} \setminus \widehat{A}_{h-1}$ .*

**Blob algebras and statistical mechanics.** The (generalised) blob algebras first arose as the transfer matrix algebras for the one-boundary Potts models in statistical mechanics. In a series of beautiful and prophetic papers [MS94, MW00, MW03], Paul Martin and his collaborators conjectured that these algebras would be controlled by non-parabolic affine Kazhdan–Lusztig polynomials and verified this conjecture for level  $\ell = 2$ . It was the advent of quiver Hecke and Cherednik algebras that provided the necessary perspective for solving this conjecture [Bow]. This perspective allowed Libedinsky–Plaza to push these ideas still further (into the modular setting) in the form of a beautiful conjecture which brings together ideas from statistical mechanics, diagrammatic algebra, and  $p$ -Kazhdan–Lusztig theory for the first time [LP20]. For  $h = 1$  our Theorem A verifies their conjecture, as follows:

**Corollary B** (Libedinsky–Plaza’s categorical blob conjecture). *Let  $\sigma \in \mathbb{Z}^\ell$  be such that  $1 < |\sigma_i - \sigma_j| < e - 1$  for  $0 \leq i \neq j < \ell$ . For  $\mathbb{k}$  arbitrary, we have an isomorphism of graded  $\mathbb{k}$ -algebras,*

$$f_{n,\sigma}^+ (\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma / \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma e_h \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma) f_{n,\sigma}^+ \cong \text{End}_{\mathcal{D}_{\text{BS}}^{\text{asph},\oplus}(\widehat{A}_{\ell-1})} \left( \bigoplus_{\underline{w} \in \Lambda(n,\sigma)} B_{\underline{w}} \right) \quad \text{for} \quad e_h = \sum_{i_2=i_1+1} e_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n}$$

*and in particular the decomposition numbers of generalised blob algebras are tautologically equal to the  $p$ -Kazhdan–Lusztig polynomials of type  $\widehat{A}_{\ell-1}$ .*

**Weightings and gradings on cyclotomic Hecke algebras.** Recently, Elias–Losev generalised [RW18, Theorem 1.9] to calculate decomposition numbers of cyclotomic Hecke algebras. However, we emphasise that our Theorem A and Elias–Losev’s work intersect only in the case of the symmetric group (providing two independent proofs of [RW18, Theorem 1.9]). In particular, Elias–Losev’s work *does not* imply Libedinsky–Plaza’s conjecture (as explained in detail in Libedinsky–Plaza’s paper [LP20]). This lack of overlap arises from different choices of weightings on the cyclotomic Hecke algebra, we refer the reader to [LP20, Bow, LPRH] for more details.

**The structure of the paper.** Sections 2 and 3 introduce the combinatorics and basic definitions of quiver Hecke and diagrammatic Bott–Samelson endomorphism algebras in tandem. We provide a dictionary for passing between standard tableaux (of the former world) and expressions in cosets of affine Weyl group (of the latter world) by means of coloured paths in our alcove geometries. We subtly tweak the classical perspective for quiver Hecke algebras by recasting each element of the algebra as a morphism between a pair of paths in the alcove geometry.

One of the core principles of this paper is that diagrammatic Bott–Samelson endomorphisms are simply a “condensed shorthand” for KLR path-morphisms; Section 4 details the reverse process by which we “dilate” simple elements of the KLR algebra to construct these path-morphisms. Section 4 also provides a translation principle by which we can see that a path-morphism depends only on the series of hyperplanes in the path’s trajectory, not the individual steps taken within the path.

In Section 5, we recast the generators of the diagrammatic Bott–Samelson endomorphism algebra within the setting of the quiver Hecke algebra; this allows us to explicitly state the isomorphism,  $\Psi$ , of Theorem A. In Section 6 we verify that  $\Psi$  is a graded  $\mathbb{Z}$ -algebra homomorphism by recasting the relations of the diagrammatic Bott–Samelson endomorphism within the setting of the quiver Hecke algebra. Finally, in Section 7 we match-up the light leaves bases of these algebras under the map  $\Psi$  and hence prove that  $\Psi$  is bijective and thus complete the proofs of Theorems A and B.

In Appendix A we provide a coherence theorem for weakly graded monoidal categories which allows us to relate the classical Bott–Samelson endomorphism algebras to certain breadth-enhanced versions which are more convenient for the purposes of this paper. For the convenience of the reader we provide three tables summarising the notation used throughout the paper in Appendix B.

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## 2. PARABOLIC AND NON-PARABOLIC ALCOVE GEOMETRIES AND PATH COMBINATORICS

From now on we fix integers  $h, \ell \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$  and  $e \geq h\ell$  and fix the charge  $\sigma \in \mathbb{Z}^\ell$  of our Hecke algebra so that  $h < |\sigma_i - \sigma_j| < e - h$  for  $1 \leq i \neq j \leq \ell$ . We say that such a charge is  $(h, e)$ -admissible. (This condition will ensure that the empty partition will not lie on any hyperplane of our alcove geometry.)

**2.1. Compositions, partitions, residues and tableaux.** We define a composition,  $\lambda$ , of  $n$  to be a finite sequence of non-negative integers  $(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots)$  whose sum,  $|\lambda| = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \dots$ , equals  $n$ . We say that  $\lambda$  is a partition if, in addition, this sequence is weakly decreasing. An  $\ell$ -multicomposition (respectively  $\ell$ -multipartition)  $\lambda = (\lambda^{(0)}, \dots, \lambda^{(\ell-1)})$  of  $n$  is an  $\ell$ -tuple of compositions (respectively of partitions) such that  $|\lambda^{(0)}| + \dots + |\lambda^{(\ell-1)}| = n$ . We will denote the set of  $\ell$ -multicompositions (respectively  $\ell$ -multipartitions) of  $n$  by  $\mathcal{C}_\ell(n)$  (respectively by  $\mathcal{P}_\ell(n)$ ). Given  $\lambda = (\lambda^{(0)}, \lambda^{(1)}, \dots, \lambda^{(\ell-1)}) \in \mathcal{P}_\ell(n)$ , the Young diagram of  $\lambda$  is defined to be the set of nodes,

$$\{(r, c, m) \mid 1 \leq c \leq \lambda_r^{(m)}, 0 \leq m < \ell\}.$$

We do not distinguish between the multipartition and its Young diagram. We refer to a node  $(r, c, m)$  as being in the  $r$ th row and  $c$ th column of the  $m$ th component of  $\lambda$ . Given a node,  $(r, c, m)$ , we define the residue of this node to be  $\text{res}(r, c, m) = \sigma_m + c - r \pmod{e}$ . We refer to a node of residue  $i \in \mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z}$  as an  $i$ -node. We let  $\mathcal{C}_{h,\ell}(n)$  (respectively  $\mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n)$ ) denote the subset of  $\ell$ -multicompositions (respectively  $\ell$ -multipartitions) with at most  $h$  columns in each component.

Given  $\lambda \in \mathcal{C}_\ell(n)$ , we define a **tableau** of shape  $\lambda$  to be a filling of the boxes of  $\lambda$  with the numbers  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ . If further  $\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_\ell(n)$ , we define a **standard tableau** of shape  $\lambda$  to be a tableau of shape  $\lambda$  such that entries increase along the rows and down the columns of each component. We let  $\text{Std}(\lambda)$  denote the set of all standard tableaux of shape  $\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n)$ . We let  $\emptyset$  denote the empty multipartition.

**2.2. Alcove geometry.** For each  $1 \leq i \leq h$  and  $0 \leq m < \ell$  we let  $\varepsilon_{hm+i}$  denote a formal symbol, and define an  $h\ell$ -dimensional real vector space

$$\mathbb{E}_{h,\ell} = \bigoplus_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq h \\ 0 \leq m < \ell}} \mathbb{R}\varepsilon_{hm+i}$$

and  $\overline{\mathbb{E}}_{h,\ell}$  to be the quotient of this space by the one-dimensional subspace spanned by

$$\sum_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq h \\ 0 \leq m < \ell}} \varepsilon_{hm+i}.$$

We have an inner product  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  on  $\mathbb{E}_{h,\ell}$  given by extending linearly the relations

$$\langle \varepsilon_{hp+i}, \varepsilon_{hq+j} \rangle = \delta_{i,j} \delta_{p,q}$$

for all  $1 \leq i, j \leq h$  and  $0 \leq p, q < \ell$ , where  $\delta_{i,j}$  is the Kronecker delta. We identify  $\lambda \in \mathcal{C}_{h,\ell}(n)$  with an element of the integer lattice inside  $\mathbb{E}_{h,\ell}$  via the map

$$\lambda \mapsto \sum_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq h \\ 0 \leq m < \ell}} (\lambda^{(m)})_i^T \varepsilon_{hm+i}$$

where  $(-)^T$  is the transpose map. We let  $\Phi$  denote the root system of type  $A_{h\ell-1}$  consisting of the roots

$$\{\varepsilon_{hm+i} - \varepsilon_{ht+j} : 1 \leq i, j \leq h \text{ and } 0 \leq m, t < \ell \text{ with } (i, m) \neq (j, t)\}$$

and  $\Phi_0$  denote the root system of type  $A_{h-1} \times \dots \times A_{h-1}$  consisting of the roots

$$\{\varepsilon_{hm+i} - \varepsilon_{hm+j} : 1 \leq i, j \leq h \text{ and } 0 \leq m < \ell \text{ with } i \neq j\}.$$

We choose  $\Delta$  (respectively  $\Delta_0$ ) to be the set of simple roots inside  $\Phi$  (respectively  $\Phi_0$ ) of the form  $\varepsilon_t - \varepsilon_{t+1}$  for some  $t$ . Given  $r \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $\alpha \in \Phi$  we define  $s_{\alpha, re}$  to be the reflection which acts on  $\mathbb{E}_{h,\ell}$  by

$$s_{\alpha, re} x = x - (\langle x, \alpha \rangle - re)\alpha$$

The group generated by the  $s_{\alpha, 0}$  with  $\alpha \in \Phi$  (respectively  $\alpha \in \Phi_0$ ) is isomorphic to the symmetric group  $\mathfrak{S}_{h\ell}$  (respectively to  $\mathfrak{S}_f := \mathfrak{S}_h \times \dots \times \mathfrak{S}_h$ ), while the group generated by the  $s_{\alpha, re}$  with  $\alpha \in \Phi$  and  $r \in \mathbb{Z}$  is isomorphic to  $\widehat{\mathfrak{S}}_{h\ell}$ , the affine Weyl group of type  $A_{h\ell-1}$ . We set  $\alpha_0 = \varepsilon_{h\ell} - \varepsilon_1$  and  $\Pi = \Delta \cup \{\alpha_0\}$ . The elements  $S = \{s_{\alpha, 0} : \alpha \in \Delta\} \cup \{s_{\alpha_0, e}\}$  generate  $\widehat{\mathfrak{S}}_{h\ell}$ .

**Notation 2.1.** *We shall frequently find it convenient to refer to the generators in  $S$  in terms of the elements of  $\Pi$ , and will abuse notation in two different ways. First, we will write  $s_\alpha$  for  $s_{\alpha, 0}$  when  $\alpha \in \Delta$  and  $s_{\alpha_0}$  for  $s_{\alpha_0, e}$ . This is unambiguous except in the case of the affine reflection  $s_{\alpha_0, e}$ , where this notation has previously been used for the element  $s_{\alpha_0, 0}$ . As the element  $s_{\alpha_0, 0}$  will not be referred to hereafter this should not cause confusion. Second, we will write  $\alpha = \varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_{i+1}$  in all cases; if  $i = h\ell$  then all occurrences of  $i + 1$  should be interpreted modulo  $h\ell$  to refer to the index 1.*

We shall consider a shifted action of the affine Weyl group  $\widehat{\mathfrak{S}}_{h\ell}$  on  $\mathbb{E}_{h,\ell}$  by the element

$$\rho := (\rho_1, \rho_2, \dots, \rho_\ell) \in \mathbb{Z}^{h\ell} \quad \text{where} \quad \rho_i := (\sigma_i + h - 1, \sigma_i + h - 2, \dots, \sigma_i) \in \mathbb{Z}^h,$$

that is, given an element  $w \in \widehat{\mathfrak{S}}_{h\ell}$ , we set  $w \cdot x = w(x + \rho) - \rho$ . This shifted action induces a well-defined action on  $\overline{\mathbb{E}}_{h,\ell}$ ; we will define various geometric objects in  $\mathbb{E}_{h,\ell}$  in terms of this action, and denote the corresponding objects in the quotient with a bar without further comment. We let  $\mathbb{E}(\alpha, re)$  denote the affine hyperplane consisting of the points

$$\mathbb{E}(\alpha, re) = \{x \in \mathbb{E}_{h,\ell} \mid s_{\alpha, re} \cdot x = x\}.$$

Note that our assumption that  $\sigma \in I^\ell$  is  $(h, e)$ -admissible implies that the origin does not lie on any hyperplane. Given a hyperplane  $\mathbb{E}(\alpha, re)$  we remove the hyperplane from  $\mathbb{E}_{h,\ell}$  to obtain two distinct subsets  $\mathbb{E}^>(\alpha, re)$  and  $\mathbb{E}^<(\alpha, re)$  where the origin lies in  $\mathbb{E}^<(\alpha, re)$ . The connected components of

$$\overline{\mathbb{E}}_{h,\ell} \setminus (\cup_{\alpha \in \Phi_0} \overline{\mathbb{E}}(\alpha, 0))$$

are called chambers. The dominant chamber, denoted  $\overline{\mathbb{E}}_{h,\ell}^+$ , is defined to be

$$\overline{\mathbb{E}}_{h,\ell}^+ = \bigcap_{\alpha \in \Phi_0} \overline{\mathbb{E}}^<(\alpha, 0).$$

The connected components of

$$\overline{\mathbb{E}}_{h,\ell} \setminus (\cup_{\alpha \in \Phi, r \in \mathbb{Z}} \overline{\mathbb{E}}(\alpha, re))$$

are called alcoves, and any such alcove is a fundamental domain for the action of the group  $\widehat{\mathfrak{S}}_{h\ell}$  on the set  $\mathbf{A}lc$  of all such alcoves. We define the fundamental alcove  $A_0$  to be the alcove containing the origin (which is inside the dominant chamber). With this choice we have that for all  $\lambda \in \mathcal{C}_{h,\ell}(n)$  the element  $\bar{\lambda}$  is in the dominant Weyl chamber if and only if  $\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n)$ .

We have a bijection from  $\widehat{\mathfrak{S}}_{h\ell}$  to  $\mathbf{A}lc$  given by  $w \mapsto wA_0$ . Under this identification  $\mathbf{A}lc$  inherits a right action from the right action of  $\widehat{\mathfrak{S}}_{h\ell}$  on itself. Consider the subgroup

$$\mathfrak{S}_f := \mathfrak{S}_h \times \mathfrak{S}_h \times \dots \times \mathfrak{S}_h \leq \widehat{\mathfrak{S}}_{h\ell}.$$

The dominant chamber is a fundamental domain for the action of  $\mathfrak{S}_f$  on the set of chambers in  $\overline{\mathbb{E}}_{h,\ell}$ . We let  $\mathfrak{S}^f$  denote the set of minimal length representatives for right cosets  $\mathfrak{S}_f \backslash \widehat{\mathfrak{S}}_{h\ell}$ . So multiplication gives a bijection  $\mathfrak{S}_f \times \mathfrak{S}^f \rightarrow \widehat{\mathfrak{S}}_{h\ell}$ . This induces a bijection between right cosets and the alcoves in our dominant chamber. Under this identification, the alcoves are partially ordered by the Bruhat-ordering on  $\mathfrak{S}^f$ . (This is the opposite of the FLOTW dominance ordering,  $\triangleleft$ , on multipartitions belonging to these alcoves.)

If the intersection of a hyperplane  $\overline{\mathbb{E}}(\alpha, re)$  with the closure of an alcove  $A$  is generically of codimension one in  $\overline{\mathbb{E}}_{h,\ell}$  then we call this intersection a *wall* of  $A$ . The fundamental alcove  $A_0$  has walls corresponding to  $\overline{\mathbb{E}}(\alpha, 0)$  with  $\alpha \in \Delta$  together with an affine wall  $\overline{\mathbb{E}}(\alpha_0, e)$ . We will usually just write  $\overline{\mathbb{E}}(\alpha)$  for the walls  $\overline{\mathbb{E}}(\alpha, 0)$  (when  $\alpha \in \Delta$ ) and  $\overline{\mathbb{E}}(\alpha, e)$  (when  $\alpha = \alpha_0$ ). We regard each of these walls as being labelled by a distinct colour (and assign the same colour to the corresponding element of  $S$ ). Under the action of  $\widehat{\mathfrak{S}}_{h\ell}$  each wall of a given alcove  $A$  is in the orbit of a unique wall of  $A_0$ , and thus inherits a colour from that wall. We will sometimes use the right action of  $\widehat{\mathfrak{S}}_{h\ell}$  on  $\mathbf{A}lc$ . Given an alcove  $A$  and an element  $s \in S$ , the alcove  $As$  is obtained by reflecting  $A$  in the wall of  $A$  with colour corresponding to the colour of  $s$ . With this observation it is now easy to see that if  $w = s_1 \dots s_t$  where the  $s_i$  are in  $S$  then  $wA_0$  is the alcove obtained from  $A_0$  by successively reflecting through the walls corresponding to  $s_1$  up to  $s_t$ .

If a wall of an alcove  $A$  corresponds to  $\overline{\mathbb{E}}(\alpha, re)$  and  $A \subset \overline{\mathbb{E}}^>(\alpha, re)$  then we call this a *lower alcove wall* of  $A$ ; otherwise we call it an *upper alcove wall* of  $A$ . We will call a multipartition  $\sigma$ -regular (or just *regular*) if its image in  $\overline{\mathbb{E}}_{h,\ell}$  lies in some alcove; those multipartitions whose images lie on one or more walls will be called  $\sigma$ -singular.

Let  $\lambda \in \overline{\mathbb{E}}_{h,\ell}$ . There are only finitely many hyperplanes  $\mathbb{E}(\alpha, re)$  for  $\alpha \in \Pi$  and  $r \in \mathbb{Z}$  lying between the points  $\lambda \in \overline{\mathbb{E}}_{h,\ell}$  and the point  $\emptyset \in \overline{\mathbb{E}}_{h,\ell}$ . We let  $\ell_\alpha(\lambda)$  denote the total number of these hyperplanes for a given  $\alpha \in \Pi$  (including any hyperplane upon which  $\lambda$  lies).

**2.3. Paths in the geometry.** We now develop the combinatorics of paths inside our geometry. Given a map  $p : \{1, \dots, n\} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, h\ell\}$  we define points  $P(k) \in \overline{\mathbb{E}}_{h,\ell}$  by

$$P(k) = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq k} \varepsilon_{p(i)}$$

for  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . We define the associated path of length  $n$  by

$$P = (\emptyset = P(0), P(1), P(2), \dots, P(n))$$

and we say that the path has shape  $\pi = P(n) \in \overline{\mathbb{E}}_{h,\ell}$ . We also denote this path by

$$P = (\varepsilon_{p(1)}, \dots, \varepsilon_{p(n)}).$$

Given  $\lambda \in \mathcal{C}_{h,\ell}(n)$  we let  $\text{Path}(\lambda)$  denote the set of paths of length  $n$  with shape  $\lambda$ . We define  $\text{Path}_{h,\ell}(\lambda)$  to be the subset of  $\text{Path}(\lambda)$  consisting of those paths lying entirely inside the dominant chamber,  $\mathbb{E}_{h,\ell}^+$ ; in other words, those  $P$  such that  $P(i)$  is dominant for all  $0 \leq i \leq n$ .

Given a path  $P$  defined by such a map  $p$  of length  $n$  and shape  $\lambda$  we can write each  $p(j)$  uniquely in the form  $p(j) = hm_j + c_j$  where  $0 \leq m_j \leq l-1$  and  $1 \leq c_j \leq h$ . We record these elements in a tableau of shape  $\lambda^T$  by induction on  $j$ , where we place the positive integer  $j$  in the first empty node in the  $c_j$ th column of component  $m_j$ . By definition, such a tableau will have entries increasing down columns; if  $\lambda$  is a multipartition then the entries also increase along rows if and only if the given path is in  $\text{Path}_{h,\ell}(\lambda)$ , and hence there is a bijection between  $\text{Path}_{h,\ell}(\lambda)$  and  $\text{Std}(\lambda)$ . For this reason we will sometimes refer to paths as tableaux, to emphasise that what we are doing is generalising the classical tableaux combinatorics for the symmetric group.

**Notation 2.2.** Given a path  $P$  we will let  $P^{-1}(r, \varepsilon_{hm+c})$  with  $0 \leq m \leq l-1$  and  $1 \leq c \leq h$  denote the  $(r, c)$ -entry of the  $m$ th component of the tableau corresponding to  $P$ . In terms of our path this is the point at which the  $r$ th step of the form  $+\varepsilon_{hm+c}$  occurs in  $P$ . Given a path  $P$  we define

$$\text{res}(P) = (\text{resp}(1), \dots, \text{resp}(n))$$

where  $\text{resp}(i)$  denotes the residue of the node labelled by  $i$  in the tableau corresponding to  $P$ .

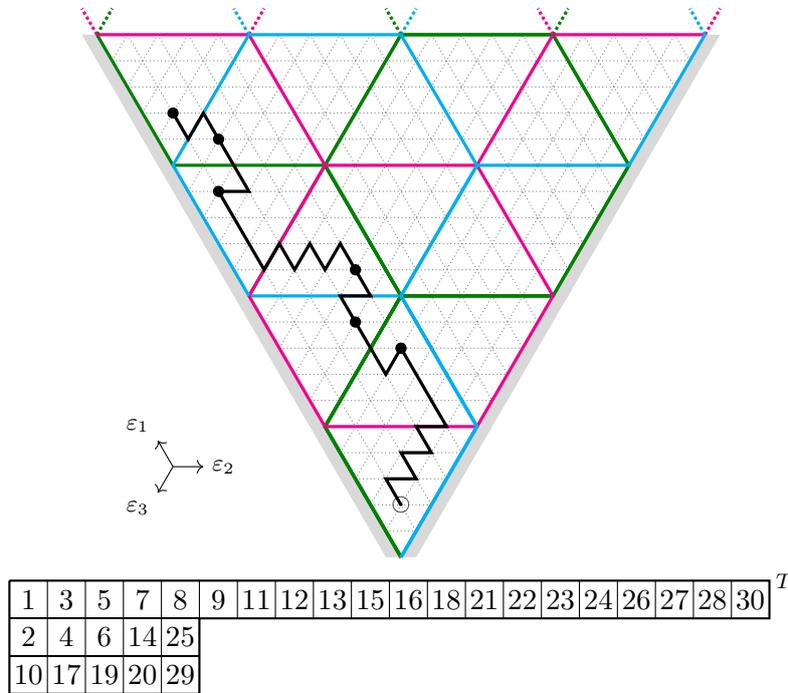


FIGURE 1. An alcove path in  $\overline{\mathbb{E}}_{3,1}^+$  in  $\text{Path}_{h,\ell}(3^5, 1^{15})$  and the corresponding tableau in  $\text{Std}(3^5, 1^{15})$ . The black vertices denote vertices on the path in the orbit of the origin.

**Example 2.3.** We will illustrate our various definitions with an example in  $\overline{\mathbb{E}}_{3,1}^+$  with  $e = 5$ . This space is the projection of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  in two dimensions, which we shall represent as shown in Figure 1. Notice in particular that  $\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2 + \varepsilon_3 = 0$  in this projection, as required. Only the dominant chamber is illustrated, with the origin marked in the fundamental alcove  $A_0$ .

The affine Weyl group  $\widehat{\mathfrak{S}}_3$  has generating set  $S$  corresponding to the green and blue (non-affine) reflections  $s_{\varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3, 0}$  and  $s_{\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2, 0}$  about the lower walls of the fundamental alcove, together with the (affine) reflection  $s_{\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1, 5}$  about the red wall of that alcove. Recall that we will abuse notation, and refer to these simply as  $s_{\varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3, \cdot}$ ,  $s_{\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2, \cdot}$ , and  $s_{\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1, \cdot}$ . The associated colours for the remaining alcove walls are as shown.

Given  $\lambda = (3^5, 1^{15})$  we have illustrated a path  $P$  from the origin to  $\lambda$  with a black line. Recall that we embed partitions via the transpose map, and so the final point in the path corresponds to the point  $(20, 5, 5) \in E_{3,1}$ . The corresponding steps in the path are recorded in the standard tableau at the bottom

of the figure, where an entry  $i$  in column  $j$  of the tableau (again, note the transpose) corresponds to the  $i$ th step of the path being in the direction  $\varepsilon_j$ . This is an element of  $\text{Path}_{h,\ell}(\lambda)$  as it never leaves the dominant region.

The path passes through the sequence of alcoves obtained from the fundamental alcove by reflecting through the walls labelled  $R$  then  $G$  then  $B$  then  $R$  then  $G$  then  $B$ , and so the final alcove corresponds to the element  $s_{\varepsilon_3-\varepsilon_1}s_{\varepsilon_2-\varepsilon_1}s_{\varepsilon_3-\varepsilon_2}s_{\varepsilon_3-\varepsilon_1}s_{\varepsilon_2-\varepsilon_1}s_{\varepsilon_3-\varepsilon_2}A_0$ . If  $\sigma = (0)$  then we have

$$\text{res}(\mathbf{P}) = (0, 1, 4, 0, 3, 4, 2, 1, 0, 2, 4, \dots, 1).$$

Given paths  $\mathbf{P} = (\varepsilon_{p(1)}, \dots, \varepsilon_{p(n)})$  and  $\mathbf{Q} = (\varepsilon_{q(1)}, \dots, \varepsilon_{q(n)})$  we say that  $\mathbf{P} \sim \mathbf{Q}$  if there exists an  $\alpha = \varepsilon_{ah+i} - \varepsilon_{bh+j} \in \Phi$  and  $r \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $s \leq n$  such that

$$\mathbf{P}(s) \in \mathbb{E}(\alpha, re) \quad \text{and} \quad \varepsilon_{q(t)} = \begin{cases} \varepsilon_{p(t)} & \text{for } 1 \leq t \leq s \\ s_\alpha \varepsilon_{p(t)} & \text{for } s+1 \leq t \leq n. \end{cases}$$

In other words the paths  $\mathbf{P}$  and  $\mathbf{Q}$  agree up to some point  $\mathbf{P}(s) = \mathbf{Q}(s)$  which lies on  $\mathbb{E}(\alpha, re)$ , after which each  $\mathbf{Q}(t)$  is obtained from  $\mathbf{P}(t)$  by reflection in  $\mathbb{E}(\alpha, re)$ . We extend  $\sim$  by transitivity to give an equivalence relation on paths, and say that two paths in the same equivalence class are related by a series of wall reflections of paths. We say that  $\mathbf{P} = (\varepsilon_{p(1)}, \dots, \varepsilon_{p(n)})$  is a **reduced path** if  $\ell_\alpha(\mathbf{P}(s+1)) \geq \ell_\alpha(\mathbf{P}(s))$  for all  $1 \leq s < n$  and  $\alpha \in \Pi$ . There exist a unique reduced path in each  $\sim$ -equivalence class.

**Lemma 2.4.** *We have  $\mathbf{P} \sim \mathbf{Q}$  if and only  $\text{res}(\mathbf{P}) = \text{res}(\mathbf{Q})$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\alpha = \varepsilon_{ah+i} - \varepsilon_{bh+j}$ . We first note that a path of shape  $\lambda$  lies on  $\mathbb{E}(\alpha, re)$  if and only if the addable nodes in  $\lambda^T$  in the  $i$ th column of the  $a$ th component and in the  $j$ th column of the  $b$ th component have the same residue. (This is straightforward from the definition of the inner product, see for example [BC18, Lemma 6.19].) Also  $s_\alpha \varepsilon_t = \varepsilon_t$  for all  $t \notin \{ah+i, bh+j\}$  and  $s_\alpha$  permutes the elements of this set. So if two paths coincide up to some point and then diverge, but have the same sequence of residues, then the point where they diverge must lie on some  $\mathbb{E}(\alpha, re)$  and the divergence must initially be by a reflection in this hyperplane. From this the result easily follows by induction on the number of hyperplanes which the two paths cross.  $\square$

**2.4. Alcove paths.** When passing from multicompositions to our geometry  $\overline{\mathbb{E}}_{h,\ell}$ , many non-trivial elements map to the origin. One such element is  $\delta = ((h), \dots, (h)) \in \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(h\ell)$ . (Recall our transpose convention for embedding multipartitions into our geometry.) We will sometimes refer to this as the **determinant** as (for the symmetric group) it corresponds to the determinant representation of the associated general linear group. We will also need to consider elements corresponding to powers of the determinant, namely  $\delta_n = ((h^n), \dots, (h^n)) \in \mathcal{P}_\ell(nh\ell)$ .

We now restrict our attention to paths between points in the principal linkage class, in other words to paths between points in  $\widehat{\mathfrak{S}}_{h\ell} \cdot 0$ . Such points can be represented by multicompositions  $\mu$  in  $\widehat{\mathfrak{S}}_{h\ell} \cdot \delta_n$  for some choice of  $n$ .

**Definition 2.5.** *We will associate alcove paths to certain words in the alphabet*

$$S \cup \{1\} = \{s_\alpha \mid \alpha \in \Pi \cup \{\emptyset\}\}$$

where  $s_\emptyset = 1$ . That is, we will consider words in the generators of the affine Weyl group, but enriched with explicit occurrences of the identity in these expressions. We refer to the number of elements in such an expression (including the occurrences of the identity) as the **degree** of this expression. When we wish to consider a particular expression for an element  $w \in \widehat{\mathfrak{S}}_{h\ell}$  in terms of our alphabet we will denote this by  $\underline{w}$ .

Our aim is to define certain distinguished paths from the origin to multipartitions in the principal linkage class; for this we will need to proceed in stages. In order to construct our path we want to proceed inductively. There are two ways in which we shall do this.

**Definition 2.6.** *Given two paths*

$$\mathbf{P} = (\varepsilon_{i_1}, \varepsilon_{i_2}, \dots, \varepsilon_{i_p}) \in \text{Path}(\mu) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{Q} = (\varepsilon_{j_1}, \varepsilon_{j_2}, \dots, \varepsilon_{j_q}) \in \text{Path}(\nu)$$

we define the naive concatenated path

$$\mathbf{P} \boxtimes \mathbf{Q} = (\varepsilon_{i_1}, \varepsilon_{i_2}, \dots, \varepsilon_{i_p}, \varepsilon_{j_1}, \varepsilon_{j_2}, \dots, \varepsilon_{j_q}) \in \text{Path}(\mu + \nu).$$

There are several problems with naive concatenation. Most seriously, the product of two paths between points in the principal linkage class will not in general itself connect points in that class. Also, if we want to associate to our path the coloured sequence of walls through which it passes, then this is not compatible with naive concatenation. To remedy these failings, we will also need to define a contextualised concatenation.

Given a path  $P$  between points in the principal linkage class, the end point lies in the interior of an alcove of the form  $wA_0$  for some  $w \in \widehat{\mathfrak{S}}_{hl}$ . If we write  $w$  as a word in our alphabet, and then replace each element  $s_\alpha$  by the corresponding non-affine reflection  $s_\alpha$  in  $\mathfrak{S}_{hl}$  to form the element  $\bar{w} \in \mathfrak{S}_{hl}$  then the basis vectors  $\varepsilon_i$  are permuted by the corresponding action of  $\bar{w}$  to give  $\varepsilon_{\bar{w}(i)}$ , and there is an isomorphism from  $\overline{\mathbb{E}}_{h,l}$  to itself which maps  $A_0$  to  $wA_0$  such that  $0$  maps to  $w \cdot 0$ , coloured walls map to walls of the same colour, and each basis element  $\varepsilon_i$  map to  $\varepsilon_{\bar{w}(i)}$ . Under this map we can transform a path  $Q$  starting at the origin to a path starting at  $w \cdot 0$  which passes through the same sequence of coloured walls as  $Q$  does.

More generally, the end point of a path  $P$  may lie on one or more walls. In this case, we can choose a distinct transformation as above for each alcove  $wA_0$  whose closure contains the endpoint. We can now use this to define our contextualised concatenation.

**Definition 2.7.** *Given two paths  $P = (\varepsilon_{i_1}, \varepsilon_{i_2}, \dots, \varepsilon_{i_p}) \in \text{Path}(\mu)$  and  $Q = (\varepsilon_{j_1}, \varepsilon_{j_2}, \dots, \varepsilon_{j_q}) \in \text{Path}(\nu)$  with the endpoint of  $P$  lying in the closure of some alcove  $wA_0$  we define the contextualised concatenated path*

$$P \otimes_w Q = (\varepsilon_{i_1}, \varepsilon_{i_2}, \dots, \varepsilon_{i_p}) \boxtimes (\varepsilon_{\bar{w}(j_1)}, \varepsilon_{\bar{w}(j_2)}, \dots, \varepsilon_{\bar{w}(j_q)}) \in \text{Path}(\mu + (w \cdot \nu)).$$

*If there is a unique such  $w$  then we may simply write  $P \otimes Q$ . If  $w = s_\alpha$  we will simply write  $P \otimes_\alpha Q$ .*

Our next aim is to define the building blocks from which all of our distinguished paths will be constructed. We begin by defining certain integers that describe the position of the origin in our fundamental alcove.

**Definition 2.8.** *Given  $\alpha \in \Pi$  we define  $b_\alpha$  to be the distance from the origin to the wall corresponding to  $\alpha$ , and let  $b_\emptyset = 1$ . Given our earlier conventions this corresponds to setting*

$$b_{\varepsilon_{hi+j} - \varepsilon_{hi+j+1}} = 1$$

*for  $1 \leq j < h$  and  $0 \leq i < \ell$  and that*

$$b_{\varepsilon_{hi} - \varepsilon_{hi+1}} = \sigma_{i+1} - \sigma_i - h + 1 \quad b_{\varepsilon_{h\ell} - \varepsilon_1} = e - \sigma_1 + \sigma_i + h - 1$$

*for  $0 \leq i < \ell - 1$ . We sometimes write  $\delta_\alpha$  for the element  $\delta_{b_\alpha}$ . Given  $\alpha, \beta \in \Pi$  we set  $b_{\alpha\beta} = b_\alpha + b_\beta$ .*

**Example 2.9.** *Let  $e = 5$ ,  $h = 3$  and  $\ell = 1$  as in Figure 1. Then  $b_{\varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3}$  and  $b_{\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2}$  both equal 1, while  $b_{\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1} = 3$  and  $b_\emptyset = 1$ .*

**Example 2.10.** *Let  $e = 7$ ,  $h = 2$  and  $\ell = 2$  and  $\sigma = (0, 3) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ . Then  $b_{\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2}$  and  $b_{\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_4}$  both equal 1, while  $b_{\varepsilon_4 - \varepsilon_1} = 3$ ,  $b_{\varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3} = 2$ , and  $b_\emptyset = 1$ .*

We can now define our basic building blocks for paths.

**Definition 2.11.** *Given  $\alpha = \varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_{i+1} \in \Pi$ , we consider the multicomposition  $s_\alpha \cdot \delta_\alpha$  with all columns of length  $b_\alpha$ , with the exception of the  $i$ th and  $(i+1)$ st columns, which are of length 0 and  $2b_\alpha$ , respectively. We set*

$$M_i = (\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_{i-1}, \widehat{\varepsilon}_i, \varepsilon_{i+1}, \dots, \varepsilon_{h\ell}) \quad \text{and} \quad P_i = (+\varepsilon_i)$$

*where  $\widehat{\phantom{x}}$  denotes omission of a coordinate. Then our distinguished path corresponding to  $s_\alpha$  is given by*

$$P_\alpha = M_i^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} \in \text{Path}(s_\alpha \cdot \delta_\alpha).$$

*The distinguished path corresponding to  $\emptyset$  is given by*

$$P_\emptyset = (\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_{i-1}, \varepsilon_i, \varepsilon_{i+1}, \dots, \varepsilon_{h\ell}) \in \text{Path}(\delta) = \text{Path}(s_\emptyset \cdot \delta)$$

*and set  $P_\alpha = (P_\emptyset)^{b_\alpha}$ . We will also find it useful to have the following variant of  $M_i$ . We set*

$$M_{i,j} = (\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_{i-1}, \widehat{\varepsilon}_i, \varepsilon_{i+1}, \dots, \varepsilon_{j-1}, \widehat{\varepsilon}_j, \varepsilon_{j+1}, \dots, \varepsilon_{h\ell}).$$

Given all of the above, we can finally define our distinguished paths for general words in our alphabet. There will be one such path for each word in our alphabet, and they will be defined by induction on the length of the word, as follows.

**Definition 2.12.** We now define a distinguished path  $P_{\underline{w}}$  for each word  $\underline{w}$  in our alphabet  $S \cup \{1\}$  by induction on the length of  $\underline{w}$ . If  $\underline{w}$  is  $s_\emptyset$  or a simple reflection  $s_\alpha$  we have already defined the distinguished path in Definition 2.11. Otherwise if  $\underline{w} = s_\alpha \underline{w}'$  then we define

$$P_{\underline{w}} := P_\alpha \otimes_\alpha P_{\underline{w}'}$$

If  $\underline{w}$  is a reduced word in  $\widehat{\mathfrak{S}}_{hl}$ , then the corresponding path  $P_{\underline{w}}$  is a reduced path.

**Remark 2.13.** Contextualised concatenation is not associative (if we wish to decorate the tensor products with the corresponding elements  $w$ ). As we will typically be constructing paths as in Definition 2.12 we will adopt the convention that an unbracketed concatenation of  $n$  terms corresponds to bracketing from the right:

$$Q_1 \otimes Q_2 \otimes Q_3 \otimes \cdots \otimes Q_n = Q_1 \otimes (Q_2 \otimes (Q_3 \otimes (\cdots \otimes Q_n) \cdots)).$$

We will also need certain reflections of our distinguished paths corresponding to elements of  $\Pi$ .

**Definition 2.14.** Given  $\alpha \in \Pi$  we set

$$P_\alpha^b = M_i^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_i^{b_\alpha} = M_i^{b_\alpha} \otimes_\alpha P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} = (+\varepsilon_1, \dots, +\varepsilon_{i-1}, \widehat{+\varepsilon_i}, +\varepsilon_{i+1}, \dots, +\varepsilon_{hl})^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes (\varepsilon_i)^{b_\alpha}$$

the path obtained by reflecting the second part of  $P_\alpha$  in the wall through which it passes.

**Example 2.15.** We illustrate these various constructions in a series of examples. In the first two diagrams of Figure 2, we illustrate the basic path  $P_\alpha$  and the path  $P_\alpha^b$  and in the rightmost diagram of Figure 2, we illustrate the path  $P_\emptyset$ . A more complicated example is illustrated in Figure 1, where we show the distinguished path  $P_{\underline{w}}$  for  $\underline{w} = s_{\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1} s_{\varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_1} s_{\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_2} s_{\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1} s_{\varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_1} s_{\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_2}$  as in Example 2.3. The components of the path between consecutive black nodes correspond to individual  $P_\alpha$ s.

**Definition 2.16.** We say that a word  $\underline{w} = s_{\alpha(1)} \dots s_{\alpha(p)}$  in either of the alphabets  $S$  or  $S \cup \{1\}$  has breadth

$$\text{breadth}_\sigma(\underline{w}) = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq p} b_{\alpha(i)}$$

which we denote simply by  $b_{\underline{w}}$  when the context is clear. We let  $\Lambda(n, \sigma)$  (respectively  $\Lambda^+(n, \sigma)$ ) denote the set of words  $\underline{w}$  in the alphabet  $S \cup \{1\}$  (respectively the alphabet  $S$ ) such that  $\text{breadth}_\sigma(\underline{w}) = n$ . We define

$$\mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n, \sigma) = \{\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n) \mid \text{there exists } P_{\underline{w}} \in \text{Std}(\lambda), \underline{w} \in \Lambda(n, \sigma)\}.$$

**Example 2.17.** We can insert the path  $P_\emptyset = (+\varepsilon_1, +\varepsilon_2, +\varepsilon_3)$  into the path in Figure 1 at seven distinct points to obtain a new alcove path. For example, we can insert two copies of this path (in two distinct ways) to obtain  $P_{\underline{w}}$  and  $P_{\underline{w}'}$  for

$$\underline{w} = s_\emptyset s_\emptyset s_{\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1} s_{\varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3} s_{\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2} s_{\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1} s_{\varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3} s_{\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2} \quad \underline{w}' = s_{\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1} s_\emptyset s_{\varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3} s_{\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2} s_\emptyset s_{\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1} s_{\varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3} s_{\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2}$$

respectively. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{res}(P_{\underline{w}}) &= (0, 1, 2, 4, 0, 1, \mathbf{3, 4, 2, 3, 1, 2, 0, 4, 3, 0, 2, 1, 0, 1, 4, 3, 4, 2, 3, 1, 2, 0, 4, 3, 0, 2, 1, 0, 1, 4}) \\ \text{res}(P_{\underline{w}'}) &= (0, \mathbf{1, 4, 0, 3, 4, 2, 1, 0, 2, 3, 4, 4, 1, 0, 4, 0, 3, 2, 3, 4, 3, 4, 2, 3, 1, 2, 0, 4, 3, 0, 2, 1, 0, 1, 4}) \end{aligned}$$

For any  $\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n)$ , we define the set of alcove-tableaux,  $\text{Std}_{n,\sigma}(\lambda)$ , to consist of all standard tableaux which can be obtained by contextualised concatenation of paths from the set

$$\{P_\alpha \mid \alpha \in \Pi\} \cup \{P_\alpha^b \mid \alpha \in \Pi\} \cup \{P_\emptyset\},$$

And similarly we define the set of strict alcove-tableaux,  $\text{Std}_{n,\sigma}^+(\lambda)$ , to consist of all standard tableaux which can be obtained by contextualised concatenation of paths from the set

$$\{P_\alpha \mid \alpha \in \Pi\} \cup \{P_\alpha^b \mid \alpha \in \Pi\}.$$

**Example 2.18.** The tableau of shape  $(3^5, 1^{15})$  in Figure 1 is the strict alcove tableau given by

$$P_\alpha \otimes_\alpha P_\gamma \otimes_\gamma P_\beta \otimes_\beta P_\alpha \otimes_\alpha P_\gamma \otimes_\gamma P_\beta.$$



**Convention 2.23.** Throughout the paper, we let  $\alpha = \varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_{i+1}$ ,  $\beta = \varepsilon_j - \varepsilon_{j+1}$ ,  $\gamma = \varepsilon_k - \varepsilon_{k+1}$ ,  $\delta = \varepsilon_m - \varepsilon_{m+1}$ . We will assume that  $\beta, \gamma, \delta$  label distinct commuting reflections. We will assume throughout that  $\beta$  and  $\alpha$  label non-commuting reflections. Here we read these subscripts in the obvious cyclotomic ordering, without further ado (in other words, we read occurrences of  $hl + 1$  simply as 1).

### 3. THE DIAGRAMMATIC ALGEBRAS

We now introduce the two protagonists of this paper: the diagrammatic Bott–Samelson endomorphism algebras and the quiver Hecke algebras — these can be defined either as monoidal (tensor) categories or as finite-dimensional diagrammatic algebras. We favour the latter perspective for aesthetic reasons, but we borrow the notation from the former world by letting  $\otimes$  denote horizontal concatenation of diagrams — in the quiver Hecke case, we must first “contextualise” before concatenating as we shall explain in Subsection 3.3.2. (We refer to [BS17] for a more detailed discussion of the interchangeability of these two languages.) The relations for both algebras are entirely local (here a local relation means one that can be specified by its effect on a sufficiently small region of the wider diagram). We then consider the cyclotomic quotients of these algebras: these can be viewed as quotients by right-tensor-ideals, or equivalently (as we do in this paper) as quotients by a *non-local* diagrammatic relation concerning the leftmost strand in the ambient concatenated diagram. (We remark that the cyclotomic relations break the monoidal structure of both categories.) We continue with the notation of Convention 2.23.

**3.1. The diagrammatic Bott–Samelson endomorphism algebras.** These algebras were defined by Elias–Williamson in [EW16]. In this section, all our words will be in the alphabet  $S$ .

**Definition 3.1.** Given  $\alpha = \varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_{i+1}$  we define the corresponding Soergel idempotent,  $1_\alpha$  to be a frame of width 1 unit, containing a single vertical strand coloured with  $\alpha \in \Pi$ . For  $\underline{w} = s_{\alpha(1)} \dots s_{\alpha(p)}$  an expression with  $\alpha^{(i)} \in \Pi$  simple roots, we set

$$1_{\underline{w}} = 1_{\alpha(1)} \otimes 1_{\alpha(2)} \otimes \dots \otimes 1_{\alpha(p)}$$

to be the diagram obtained by horizontal concatenation.

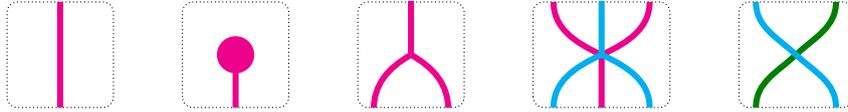
**Example 3.2.** Consider the colour-word from the path in Figure 1. Namely,

$$\underline{w} = s_{\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1} s_{\varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3} s_{\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2} s_{\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1} s_{\varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3} s_{\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2} \in \widehat{\mathfrak{S}}_3.$$

The corresponding Soergel idempotent is as follows

$$1_{\underline{w}} = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline \text{pink} & \text{green} & \text{blue} & \text{pink} & \text{green} & \text{blue} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

**Definition 3.3.** Given  $\underline{w} = s_{\alpha(1)} \dots s_{\alpha(p)}$ ,  $\underline{w}' = s_{\beta(1)} \dots s_{\beta(q)} \in \mathfrak{S}_{hl}$ , a  $(\underline{w}, \underline{w}')$ -Soergel diagram  $D$  is defined to be any diagram obtained by horizontal and vertical concatenation of the following diagrams



their flips through the horizontal axis and their isotypic deformations such that the top and bottom edges of the graph are given by the idempotents  $1_{\underline{w}}$  and  $1_{\underline{w}'}$  respectively. Here the vertical concatenation of a  $(\underline{w}, \underline{w}')$ -Soergel diagram on top of a  $(\underline{v}, \underline{v}')$ -Soergel diagram is zero if  $\underline{v} \neq \underline{w}'$ . We define the degree of these generators (and their flips) to be 0, 1,  $-1$ , 0, and 0 respectively.

**Example 3.4.** Examples of  $(\underline{w}, \underline{w}')$ -Soergel diagrams, for

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{w} &= s_{\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1} s_{\varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3} s_{\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2} s_{\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1} s_{\varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3} s_{\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2} s_{\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2}, \\ \underline{w}' &= s_{\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1} s_{\varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3} s_{\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2} s_{\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1} s_{\varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3} s_{\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2} \end{aligned}$$

are as follows



We let  $*$  denote the map which flips a diagram through its horizontal axis.

**Definition 3.5.** We define the diagrammatic Bott–Samelson endomorphism algebra,  $\mathcal{S}(n, \sigma)$  to be the span of all  $(\underline{w}, \underline{w}')$ -Soergel diagrams for  $\underline{w}, \underline{w}' \in \Lambda(n, \sigma)$ , with multiplication given by vertical concatenation and subject to isotopic deformation and the following local relations: For each colour (i.e. each generator  $s_\alpha$  for  $\alpha \in \Pi$ ) we have

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{Diagram 1} = \text{Diagram 2} \quad \text{Diagram 3} = \text{Diagram 4} \quad \text{Diagram 5} = 0 \\
 \text{(S1)}
 \end{array}$$

along with their horizontal and vertical flips and the Demazure relation

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{Diagram 1} + \text{Diagram 2} = 2 \text{Diagram 3} \\
 \text{(S2)}
 \end{array}$$

We now picture the two-colour relations for non-commuting reflections  $s_\alpha, s_\beta \in \widehat{\mathfrak{S}}_{hl}$ . We have

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{Diagram 1} = \text{Diagram 2} \quad \text{Diagram 3} = \text{Diagram 4} + \text{Diagram 5} \\
 \text{(S3)}
 \end{array}$$

along with their flips through the horizontal and vertical axes. We also have the cyclicity relation

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{Diagram 1} = \text{Diagram 2} \\
 \text{(S4)}
 \end{array}$$

and the two-colour barbell relations

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{Diagram 1} - \text{Diagram 2} = \text{Diagram 3} - \text{Diagram 4} \\
 \text{(S5)}
 \end{array}$$

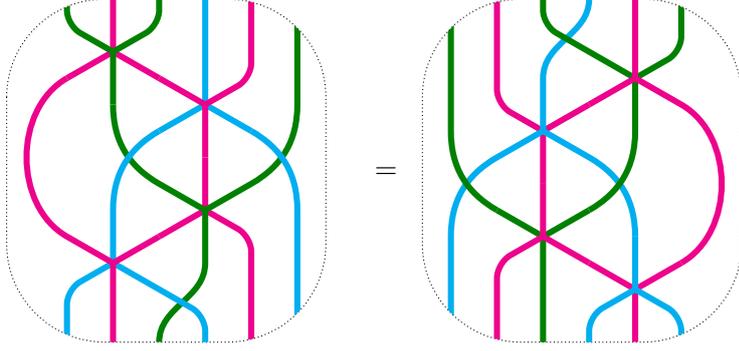
for  $\Phi$  of rank greater than 1 (or double the righthand-side if  $\Phi$  has rank 1). For commuting reflections  $s_\beta, s_\gamma \in \widehat{\mathfrak{S}}_{hl}$  we have the following relations

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{Diagram 1} = \text{Diagram 2} \quad \text{Diagram 3} = \text{Diagram 4} \quad \text{Diagram 5} = \text{Diagram 6} \\
 \text{(S6)}
 \end{array}$$

along with their flips through the horizontal and vertical axes. In order to picture the three-colour commuting relations we require a fourth root  $s_\delta \in \widehat{\mathfrak{S}}_{hl}$  which commutes with all other roots (such that  $s_\delta s_\alpha = s_\alpha s_\delta, s_\delta s_\beta = s_\beta s_\delta, s_\delta s_\gamma = s_\gamma s_\delta$ ) and we have the following,

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{Diagram 1} = \text{Diagram 2} \quad \text{Diagram 3} = \text{Diagram 4} \\
 \text{(S7)}
 \end{array}$$

Finally, we require the tetrahedron relation for which we make the additional assumption on  $\gamma$  that it does not commute with  $\alpha$ . This relation is as follows,


(S8)

**Definition 3.6.** We define the cyclotomic diagrammatic Bott–Samelson endomorphism algebra,

$$\mathcal{S}_{h,\ell}(n, \sigma) := \text{End}_{\mathcal{D}_{\text{BS}}^{\text{asph}, \oplus}(A_{h-1} \times \dots \times A_{h-1} \setminus \widehat{A}_{h\ell-1})} \left( \bigoplus_{\underline{w} \in \Lambda(n, \sigma)} B_{\underline{w}} \right)$$

to be the quotient of  $\mathcal{S}(n, \sigma)$  by the relations

$$1_{\alpha} \otimes 1_{\underline{w}} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \bullet \\ \hline \bullet \\ \hline \end{array} \otimes 1_{\underline{w}} = 0 \quad (S9)$$

for  $\gamma \in \Pi$  arbitrary,  $\alpha \in \Pi$  corresponding to a wall of the dominant chamber, and  $\underline{w}$  any word in the alphabet  $S$ .

**3.2. The breadth-enhanced diagrammatic Bott–Samelson endomorphism algebra.** We now use the notion of a weakly graded monoidal category (see Appendix A) to introduce the breadth-enhanced diagrammatic Bott–Samelson endomorphism algebra. On one level this definition and construction is utterly superficial. It merely allows us to keep track of occurrences of the identity of  $\widehat{\mathfrak{S}}_{h\ell}$  in a given expression. The occurrences of  $s_{\emptyset} = 1$  are usually ignored in the world of Soergel diagrammatics and so this will seem very foreign to some. We ask these readers to be patient as this extra “blank space” will be very important in this paper: each occurrence of  $s_{\emptyset}$  corresponds to adding  $h\ell$  additional strands in the quiver Hecke algebra or, if you prefer, corresponds to “tensoring with the determinant”. For this reason, in this section all our words will be in the alphabet  $S \cup \{1\}$ .

**Definition 3.7.** Given  $\alpha = \varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_{i+1}$  we define the breadth-enhanced Soergel idempotent,  $1_{\alpha}$ , to be a frame of width  $2b_{\alpha}$  with a single vertical strand coloured with  $\alpha \in \Pi$  placed in the centre. We define the breadth-enhanced Soergel idempotent  $1_{\emptyset}$  to be an empty frame of width 2. For  $\underline{w} = s_{\alpha(1)} \dots s_{\alpha(p)}$  an expression with  $\alpha^{(i)} \in \Pi \cup \{\emptyset\}$ , we set

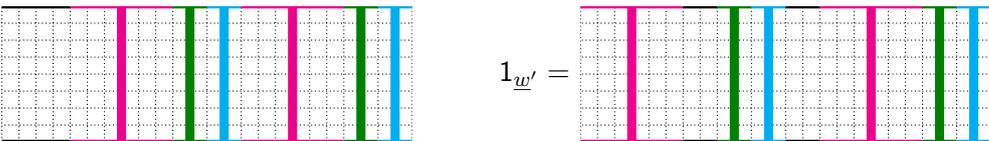
$$1_{\underline{w}} = 1_{\alpha(1)} \otimes 1_{\alpha(2)} \otimes \dots \otimes 1_{\alpha(p)}$$

to be the diagram obtained by horizontal concatenation. In order that we better illustrate this idea, we colour the top and bottom edges of a frame with the corresponding element of  $\Pi \cup \{\emptyset\}$ .

**Example 3.8.** Continuing with Figure 1 and Example 2.9. For

$$\underline{w} = s_{\emptyset} s_{\emptyset} s_{\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1} s_{\varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3} s_{\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2} s_{\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1} s_{\varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3} s_{\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2}, \quad \underline{w}' = s_{\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1} s_{\emptyset} s_{\varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3} s_{\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2} s_{\emptyset} s_{\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1} s_{\varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3} s_{\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2}$$

the breadth-enhanced Soergel idempotents are as follows


(3.1)

**Definition 3.9.** Let  $w \in \mathfrak{S}_{h\ell}$  and suppose  $\underline{w} = s_{\alpha(1)} \dots s_{\alpha(p)}$  and  $\underline{w}' = s_{\beta(1)} \dots s_{\beta(p)}$  for  $\alpha^{(i)}, \beta^{(j)} \in \Pi \cup \{\emptyset\}$  are two expressions which differ only by occurrences of  $s_{\emptyset}$  within the word. We define the corresponding Soergel adjustment  $1_{\underline{w}'}^{\underline{w}}$ , to be the diagram with  $1_{\underline{w}}$  along the top and  $1_{\underline{w}'}$  along the bottom and no crossing strands.

**Example 3.10.** Continuing with Example 3.8, we have that

$$1_{\frac{w}{w'}} = \text{[Diagram showing a grid with colored strands (pink, green, blue) forming a specific configuration representing the breadth-enhanced idempotent.]}$$

**Definition 3.11.** Given  $\underline{w} = s_{\alpha^{(1)}} \dots s_{\alpha^{(p)}}$ ,  $\underline{w}' = s_{\beta^{(1)}} \dots s_{\beta^{(q)}}$  for  $\alpha^{(i)}, \beta^{(j)} \in \Pi \cup \{\emptyset\}$ , a breadth-enhanced  $(\underline{w}, \underline{w}')$ -Soergel diagram  $D$  is defined to be any diagram obtained by horizontal and vertical concatenation of the following generators

$$\begin{matrix} \text{[Single strand]} & \text{[Blank space]} & \text{[Single adjustment]} & \text{[Spot]} & \text{[Fork]} & \text{[Hexagon]} & \text{[Commutator]} \end{matrix} \quad (3.2)$$

and their flips through the horizontal axes such that the top edge of the graph is given by the breadth-enhanced idempotent  $1_{\underline{w}}$  and the bottom edge given by the breadth-enhanced idempotent  $1_{\underline{w}'}$ . Here the vertical concatenation of a  $(\underline{w}, \underline{w}')$ -diagram on top of a  $(\underline{v}, \underline{v}')$ -diagram is zero if  $\underline{v} \neq \underline{w}'$ . The degree of these generators (and their flips) are 0, 0, 0, 1, -1, 0, and 0 respectively. When we wish to avoid drawing diagrams, we will denote the above diagrams by

$$1_{\alpha} \quad 1_{\emptyset} \quad 1_{\emptyset\alpha}^{\alpha\emptyset} \quad \text{SPOT}_{\alpha}^{\emptyset} \quad \text{FORK}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\emptyset\alpha} \quad \text{HEX}_{\alpha\beta\alpha}^{\beta\alpha\beta} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{COMM}_{\beta\gamma}^{\gamma\beta}.$$

These diagrams are known as “single strand”, “blank space”, “single adjustment”, “spot”, “fork”, “hexagon” (in order to distinguish from the symmetric group braid) and “commutator”.

**Definition 3.12.** We define the breadth-enhanced diagrammatic Bott–Samelson endomorphism algebra,  $\mathcal{S}^{\text{br}}(n, \sigma)$  (respectively, its cyclotomic quotient  $\mathcal{S}_{h,\ell}^{\text{br}}(n, \sigma)$ ) to be the span of all  $(\underline{w}, \underline{w}')$ -breadth enhanced Soergel diagrams for  $\underline{w}, \underline{w}' \in \Lambda(n, \sigma)$ , with multiplication given by vertical concatenation, subject to the breadth-enhanced analogues of the relations S1 to S8 (plus the additional cyclotomic relation S9, respectively) which are explicitly pictured in Section 6, the adjustment inversion and naturality relations pictured in Figures 3 and 4 and their flips through the horizontal axis.

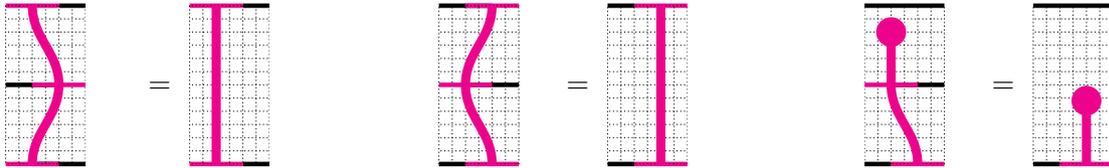


FIGURE 3. The adjustment-inversion relations and the naturality relation for the spot diagram (we also require their flips through horizontal axis).

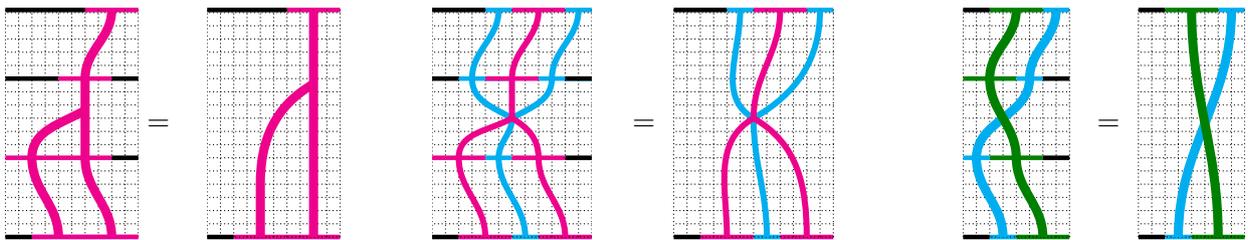


FIGURE 4. The remaining naturality relations (we also require their flips through horizontal axis).

We are free to use the breadth-enhanced form of the diagrammatic Bott–Samelson endomorphism algebra instead of the usual one because of the following result. We let  $\phi : \cup_{0 \leq m \leq n} \Lambda^+(m, \sigma) \hookrightarrow \Lambda(n, \sigma)$

denote the map which takes  $\underline{w} \in \Lambda^+(m, \sigma)$  to  $(s_\emptyset)^{n-m} \underline{w} \in \Lambda(n, \sigma)$ . We refer to the image,  $\text{im}(\phi) = \Lambda^+(\leq n, \sigma)$ , as the subset of **left-adjusted** words in  $\Lambda(n, \sigma)$  and we define an associated idempotent

$$1_{n, \sigma}^+ = \sum_{\underline{w} \in \Lambda^+(\leq n, \sigma)} 1_{\underline{w}}.$$

**Proposition 3.13.** *We have the following isomorphisms of graded  $\mathbb{k}$ -algebras,*

$$\mathcal{S}(n, \sigma) \cong 1_{n, \sigma}^+ \mathcal{S}^{\text{br}}(n, \sigma) 1_{n, \sigma}^+ \quad \mathcal{S}_{h, \ell}(n, \sigma) \cong 1_{n, \sigma}^+ \mathcal{S}_{h, \ell}^{\text{br}}(n, \sigma) 1_{n, \sigma}^+.$$

*Proof.* This is the one point in the paper in which we require the notions from Appendix A and all references within this proof are to the appendix. Thus for this proof only, we briefly switch perspectives and think of the algebras above as *categories*  $\mathcal{S}$  and  $\mathcal{S}^{\text{br}}$  and use the notation in Appendix A. The category  $\mathcal{S}$  (resp.  $\mathcal{S}^{\text{br}}$ ) has objects given by expression in the alphabet  $S$  (resp.  $S \cup \{1\}$ ) and Hom-spaces given by  $1_{\underline{w}} \mathcal{S}(n, \sigma) 1_{\underline{w}'}$  (resp.  $1_{\underline{w}} \mathcal{S}(n, \sigma) 1_{\underline{w}'}$ ) for some sufficiently large  $n$  (resp. for some  $n$ ).

We will establish the first isomorphism; the second isomorphism is similar. Let  $b : \text{Ob}(\mathcal{S}) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  be a monoidal homomorphism given by  $b(s_\alpha) = b_\alpha$  for all  $\alpha \in \Pi$ . We now apply Theorem A.3 to show that  $\mathcal{S}^{\text{br}}(n, \sigma)$  is isomorphic to the weak grading of  $\mathcal{S}(n, \sigma)$  concentrated in breadth  $b$ . Most of the hypotheses of this result follow by design. For example, since  $\mathcal{S}$  is already defined by generators and relations, it's enough to add breadth-enhanced versions of the relations to ensure the composition and tensor product axioms in the theorem. Also, adjustments on objects are defined monoidally, so the weak grading axioms (WG2) and (WG3) automatically hold. Finally (WG1) follows from the adjustment inversion and naturality relations above.  $\square$

**3.3. The quiver Hecke algebra.** We now introduce the second protagonist of our paper, the cyclotomic quiver Hecke or KLR algebras. Given  $\underline{i} = (i_1, \dots, i_n) \in (\mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z})^n$  and  $s_r = (r, r+1) \in \mathfrak{S}_n$  we set  $s_r(\underline{i}) = (i_1, \dots, i_{r-1}, i_{r+1}, i_r, i_{r+2}, \dots, i_n)$ .

**Definition 3.14** ([BK09, KL09, Rou]). *Fix  $e > 2$ . The quiver Hecke algebra (or KLR algebra),  $\mathcal{H}_n$ , is defined to be the unital, associative  $\mathbb{Z}$ -algebra with generators*

$$\{e_{\underline{i}} \mid \underline{i} = (i_1, \dots, i_n) \in (\mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z})^n\} \cup \{y_1, \dots, y_n\} \cup \{\psi_1, \dots, \psi_{n-1}\},$$

*subject to the relations*

$$e_{\underline{i}} e_{\underline{j}} = \delta_{\underline{i}, \underline{j}} e_{\underline{i}} \quad \sum_{\underline{i} \in (\mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z})^n} e_{\underline{i}} = 1_{\mathcal{H}_n}; \quad y_r e_{\underline{i}} = e_{\underline{i}} y_r \quad \psi_r e_{\underline{i}} = e_{s_r \underline{i}} \psi_r \quad y_r y_s = y_s y_r \quad (\text{R1})$$

*for all  $r, s, \underline{i}, \underline{j}$  and*

$$\psi_r y_s = y_s \psi_r \quad \text{for } s \neq r, r+1 \quad \psi_r \psi_s = \psi_s \psi_r \quad \text{for } |r-s| > 1 \quad (\text{R2})$$

$$y_r \psi_r e_{\underline{i}} = (\psi_r y_{r+1} - \delta_{i_r, i_{r+1}}) e_{\underline{i}} \quad y_{r+1} \psi_r e_{\underline{i}} = (\psi_r y_r + \delta_{i_r, i_{r+1}}) e_{\underline{i}} \quad (\text{R3})$$

$$\psi_r \psi_r e_{\underline{i}} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i_r = i_{r+1}, \\ e_{\underline{i}} & \text{if } i_{r+1} \neq i_r, i_r \pm 1, \\ (y_{r+1} - y_r) e_{\underline{i}} & \text{if } i_{r+1} = i_r + 1, \\ (y_r - y_{r+1}) e_{\underline{i}} & \text{if } i_{r+1} = i_r - 1 \end{cases} \quad (\text{R4})$$

$$\psi_r \psi_{r+1} \psi_r = \begin{cases} (\psi_{r+1} \psi_r \psi_{r+1} - 1) e_{\underline{i}} & \text{if } i_r = i_{r+2} = i_{r+1} + 1, \\ (\psi_{r+1} \psi_r \psi_{r+1} + 1) e_{\underline{i}} & \text{if } i_r = i_{r+2} = i_{r+1} - 1 \\ \psi_{r+1} \psi_r \psi_{r+1} e_{\underline{i}} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (\text{R5})$$

*for all permitted  $r, s, \underline{i}, \underline{j}$ . We identify such elements with decorated permutations and the multiplication with vertical concatenation,  $\circ$ , of these diagrams in the standard fashion of [BK09, Section 1] and illustrated in Figure 5. We let  $*$  denote the anti-involution which fixes the generators (this can be visualised as a flip through the horizontal axis of the diagram).*

**Definition 3.15.** *Fix  $e > 2$  and  $\sigma \in \mathbb{Z}^\ell$ . The cyclotomic quiver Hecke algebra,  $\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma$ , is defined to be the quotient of  $\mathcal{H}_n$  by the relation*

$$y_1^{\#\{\sigma_m \mid \sigma_m = i_1, 1 \leq m \leq \ell\}} e_{\underline{i}} = 0 \quad \text{for } \underline{i} \in (\mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z})^n. \quad (\text{3.3})$$

As we see in Figure 5, the  $y_k$  elements are visualised as dots on strands; we hence refer to them as KLR dots. Given  $p < q$  we set

$$w_q^p = s_p s_{p+1} \dots s_{q-1} \quad w_p^q = s_{q-1} \dots s_{p+1} s_p \quad \psi_q^p = \psi_p \psi_{p+1} \dots \psi_{q-1} \quad \psi_p^q = \psi_{q-1} \dots \psi_{p+1} \psi_p.$$

and given an expression  $\underline{w} = s_{i_1} \dots s_{i_p} \in \mathfrak{S}_n$  we set  $\psi_{\underline{w}} = \psi_{i_1} \dots \psi_{i_p} \in \mathcal{H}_n$ . Finally, we define the degree as follows,

$$\deg(e_i) = 0 \quad \deg(y_r) = 2 \quad \deg(\psi_r e_i) = \begin{cases} -2 & \text{if } i_r = i_{r+1} \\ 1 & \text{if } i_r = i_{r+1} \pm 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

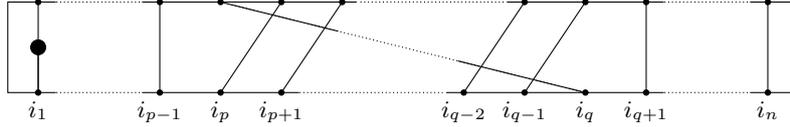


FIGURE 5. The element  $y_1 \psi_q^p e_i$  for  $1 \leq p < q \leq n$ .

**Definition 3.16.** Given a path  $S \in \text{Path}(\lambda)$  we let  $e_S$  denote the KLR idempotent whose residue sequence is given by  $\text{res}(S)$ . Given a pair of paths  $S, T \in \text{Path}(\lambda)$ , and a fixed choice of reduced expression for  $w_T^S = s_{i_1} s_{i_2} \dots s_{i_k}$  we define  $\psi_T^S = e_S \psi_{i_1} \psi_{i_2} \dots \psi_{i_k} e_T$ .

**Remark 3.17.** Setting  $e = p$  and  $\sigma = (0) \in \mathbb{Z}^1$  we have that  $\mathbb{k}\mathfrak{S}_n$  is isomorphic to  $\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma$  by [BK09, Main Theorem] and we freely identify these algebras without further mention.

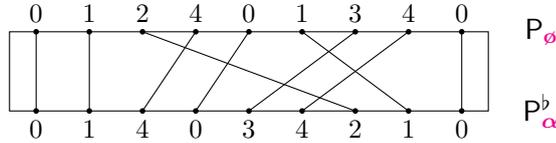


FIGURE 6. The element  $\psi_{P_\alpha}^{P_\alpha}$  for  $\mathbb{k}\mathfrak{S}_9$  in the case  $p = 5$  and  $\alpha = \varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1 \in \Pi$  (see also Example 2.21).

3.3.1. *Our quotient algebra and regular blocks.* A long-standing belief in modular Lie theory is that we should (first) restrict our attention to fields whose characteristic,  $p$ , is greater than the Coxeter number,  $h$ , of the algebraic group we are studying. This allows one to consider a “regular” or “principal block” of the algebraic group in question. For example, the diagrammatic Bott–Samelson endomorphism algebras categorify the endomorphisms between tilting modules for the *principal* block of the algebraic group,  $\text{GL}_n(\mathbb{k})$ , and this is the crux of the proof of [RW18, Theorem 1.9]. Extending this “Soergel diagram calculus” to singular blocks is a difficult problem. As such, all results in [RW18, AMRW19] and this paper are restricted to *regular* blocks. In the language of [RW18, AMRW19] this restricts the study of the algebraic group in question to primes  $p > h$ .

What does this mean on the other side of the Schur–Weyl duality relating  $\text{GL}_h(\mathbb{k})$  and  $\mathbb{k}\mathfrak{S}_n$ ? By the second fundamental theorem of invariant theory, the kernel of the group algebra of the symmetric group acting on  $n$ -fold  $h$ -dimensional tensor space is the element

$$\sum_{g \in \mathfrak{S}_{n+1} \leq \mathfrak{S}_n} \text{sgn}(g)g \in \mathbb{k}\mathfrak{S}_n$$

which can be rescaled to be an idempotent providing  $p > h + 1$  and, indeed, in terms of the quiver Hecke algebra presentation, this idempotent can be written in the form

$$e_h = \sum_{\substack{i_{k+1}=i_k+1 \\ 1 \leq k \leq h}} e_{(i_1, \dots, i_n)} \tag{3.4}$$

where this is the idempotent whose quotient kills precisely the simple modules labelled by partitions with strictly more than  $h$  columns. The quotient of  $\mathbb{k}\mathfrak{S}_n$  by this idempotent is the Ringel dual of the Schur algebra of  $\mathrm{GL}_h(\mathbb{k})$  and the numerical version of the main theorem of [RW18] calculates the decomposition numbers of this algebra indexed belonging to regular blocks.

There is a canonical manner in which the above situation generalises to the reflection groups  $(\mathbb{Z}/\ell\mathbb{Z}) \wr \mathfrak{S}_n$  and their Hecke algebras. Of course, the symmetric group appears  $\ell$  distinct times in  $(\mathbb{Z}/\ell\mathbb{Z}) \wr \mathfrak{S}_n$  (and this is why the representations of  $(\mathbb{Z}/\ell\mathbb{Z}) \wr \mathfrak{S}_n$  are labelled by  $\ell$ -tuples of partitions). Thus the first thing we must do is restrict to the subcategory quotient algebra whose representations have simple composition factors labelled by  $\mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n)$ . The kernel is generated by an idempotent if and only if  $\sigma \in \mathbb{Z}^\ell$  satisfies the  $(h, e)$ -admissibility condition in which case it is generated by  $e_h$  as in 3.4 and we consider the quotient algebra  $\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma / \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma e_h \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma$ .

**Remark 3.18.** In [HM10, 4.1 Lemma] it is proven that relation 3.3 is equivalent to  $e_i = 0$  for any  $i \neq \mathrm{res}(\mathbf{S})$  for some  $\mathbf{S} \in \mathrm{Std}(\lambda)$  with  $\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_\ell(n)$ . In  $\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma / \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma e_h \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma$  we have that  $e_i = 0$  for any  $i \neq \mathrm{res}(\mathbf{S})$  for some  $\mathbf{S} \in \mathrm{Std}(\lambda)$  with  $\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n)$ . For more details, see [BCHM, Proposition 1.16].

**3.3.2. The Bott–Samelson truncation.** In the previous section, we defined the Bott–Samelson endomorphism algebra and its breadth-enhanced counterpart. The idempotents in the former (respectively latter) algebra were indexed by expressions  $\underline{w}$  in the simple reflections (respectively, in the simple reflections *and* the empty set). We define

$$f_{n,\sigma}^+ = \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{S} \in \mathrm{Std}_{n,\sigma}^+(\lambda) \\ \lambda \in \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n)}} e_{\mathbf{S}} \quad f_{n,\sigma} = \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{S} \in \mathrm{Std}_{n,\sigma}(\lambda) \\ \lambda \in \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n)}} e_{\mathbf{S}}$$

and the bulk of this paper will be dedicated to proving that

$$f_{n,\sigma}^+(\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma / \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma e_h \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma) f_{n,\sigma}^+ \quad \text{and} \quad f_{n,\sigma}(\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma / \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma e_h \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma) f_{n,\sigma}$$

are isomorphic to the cyclotomic Bott–Samelson endomorphism algebra and its breadth-enhanced counterpart, respectively. For the most part, we work in the breadth-enhanced Bott–Samelson endomorphism algebra where the isomorphism is more natural (and we then finally truncate at the end of the paper to deduce our Theorem A).

**3.3.3. Concatenation.** We now discuss horizontal concatenation of diagrams in (our truncation of) the quiver Hecke algebra. First we let  $\boxtimes$  denote the “naive concatenation” of KLR diagrams side-by-side as illustrated in Figure 7. Now, given two quiver Hecke diagrams  $\psi_{\mathbf{Q}}^{\mathbf{P}}$  and  $\psi_{\mathbf{Q}'}^{\mathbf{P}'}$  we define

$$\psi_{\mathbf{Q}}^{\mathbf{P}} \otimes \psi_{\mathbf{Q}'}^{\mathbf{P}'} = e_{\mathbf{P}' \otimes \mathbf{Q}'} \circ \psi_{\mathbf{P}' \otimes \mathbf{Q}'}^{\mathbf{P} \otimes \mathbf{Q}} \circ e_{\mathbf{P}' \otimes \mathbf{Q}'}.$$

We refer to this as the **contextualised concatenation** of diagrams (as the the residue sequences appearing along the bottom of the diagram are not obtained by simple concatenation, but rather from considering the residue sequence of the concatenated path).

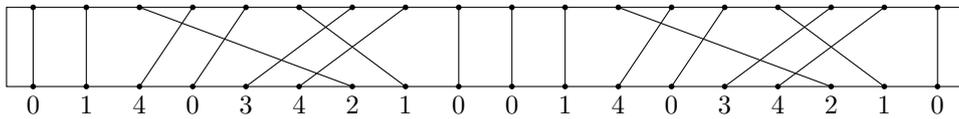


FIGURE 7. Continuing with Example 2.21, we picture the naive concatenation  $\psi_{\mathbf{P}'_{\alpha}}^{\mathbf{P}_{\alpha}} \boxtimes \psi_{\mathbf{P}'_{\alpha}}^{\mathbf{P}_{\alpha}}$ .

#### 4. TRANSLATION AND DILATION

In this short section, we prove a few technical results for certain KLR elements which will appear repeatedly in what follows. The reader should feel free to skip this section on first reading. We continue with the notation of Convention 2.23.

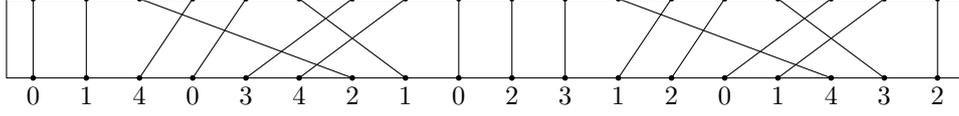


FIGURE 8. Continuing with Figure 7, we picture the contextualised concatenation  $\psi_{\mathbb{P}_\alpha^b}^{\mathbb{P}_\alpha^b} \otimes \psi_{\mathbb{P}_\alpha^b}^{\mathbb{P}_\alpha^b}$ . Notice that the residue sequence along the bottom of the diagram is given by the residue sequence of the path  $\mathbb{P}_\alpha^b \otimes \mathbb{P}_\alpha^b$  which is not the same as repeating the residue sequence of  $\mathbb{P}_\alpha^b$  twice.

**4.1. The translation principle for paths.** Our first result of this section says that our choice of distinguished path  $\mathbb{P}_w$  in Definition 2.12 for  $w = \alpha_1\alpha_2 \dots \alpha_p$  was entirely arbitrary (the only thing that matters is that the path crosses the hyperplanes  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_p$  in sequence).

**Lemma 4.1.** *Let  $\mathbb{P}$  denote any path which terminates at a regular point and let  $r \in \mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z}$ . Then*

$$e_{\mathbb{P}} \boxtimes e_{r,r} = 0.$$

*Proof.* The result follows from Remark 3.18 in light of the proof of Lemma 2.4.  $\square$

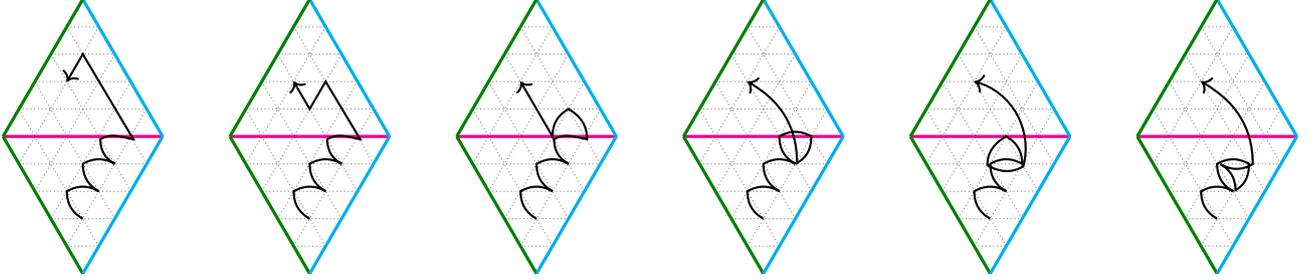


FIGURE 9. A series of paths  $\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{S}, \mathbb{T}$  and  $\mathbb{U}$ . The paths  $\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{U}$  are  $\alpha$ -crossing paths.

For  $\alpha \in \Pi$ , we say that a path  $\mathbb{P}$  of length  $n$  is an  $\alpha$ -crossing path if (i) there exists  $1 < p_1 \leq p_2 < n$  such that  $\mathbb{P}(k) \in \mathbb{E}(\alpha)$  if and only if  $k \in [p_1, p_2]$  and (ii)  $\mathbb{P}(k) \notin \mathbb{E}(\beta, se) \neq \mathbb{E}(\alpha)$  for any  $1 \leq k \leq n$ . We say that  $\mathbb{P}$  is an  $\emptyset$ -crossing path if  $\mathbb{P}(k)$  is a regular point for all  $1 \leq k \leq n$ . We say a path is  $\alpha$ -bouncing if it is obtained from an  $\alpha$ -crossing path by reflection through the  $\alpha$ -hyperplane.

**Example 4.2.** *Let  $e = 5$ ,  $\ell = 1$ ,  $h = 3$ , and  $\alpha = \varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1$ . For the paths in Figure 9, we have that*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{res}(\mathbb{P}) &= (0, 1, 4, 0, 3, 4, 2, 1, 0, 2) & \text{res}(\mathbb{Q}) &= (0, 1, 4, 0, 3, 4, 2, 1, 2, 0) & \text{res}(\mathbb{R}) &= (0, 1, 4, 0, 3, 4, 2, 2, 1, 0) \\ \text{res}(\mathbb{S}) &= (0, 1, 4, 0, 3, 4, 2, 2, 1, 0) & \text{res}(\mathbb{T}) &= (0, 1, 4, 0, 3, 2, 4, 2, 1, 0) & \text{res}(\mathbb{U}) &= (0, 1, 4, 0, 2, 3, 4, 2, 1, 0) \end{aligned}$$

and we have that

$$\text{resp}(\mathbb{P}^{-1}(1, \varepsilon_3)) = 2 \quad \text{and} \quad \text{resp}(\mathbb{P}^{-1}(3, \varepsilon_1)) = 3 \quad \text{resp}(\mathbb{P}^{-1}(4, \varepsilon_1)) = 2 \quad \text{resp}(\mathbb{P}^{-1}(5, \varepsilon_1)) = 1.$$

It is not difficult to see that the elements  $\psi_{\mathbb{Q}}^{\mathbb{P}}$ ,  $\psi_{\mathbb{R}}^{\mathbb{P}}$ ,  $\psi_{\mathbb{S}}^{\mathbb{P}}$ ,  $\psi_{\mathbb{T}}^{\mathbb{P}}$ , and  $\psi_{\mathbb{U}}^{\mathbb{P}}$  have 0, 1, 2, 3, 3, crossings of non-zero degree respectively. We will see that  $1_{\mathbb{P}} = \psi_{\mathbb{Q}}^{\mathbb{P}}\psi_{\mathbb{P}}^{\mathbb{Q}} = \psi_{\mathbb{T}}^{\mathbb{P}}\psi_{\mathbb{P}}^{\mathbb{T}} = \psi_{\mathbb{U}}^{\mathbb{P}}\psi_{\mathbb{P}}^{\mathbb{U}}$ .

**Remark 4.3.** *Given  $\mathbb{P}$  and  $\mathbb{U}$  two ( $\alpha$ -crossing) paths, we can pass between them inductively, this lifts to a factorisation of  $w_{\mathbb{U}}^{\mathbb{P}}$  as a product of Coxeter generators. An example is given by the sequence of paths  $\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{S}, \mathbb{T}$  and  $\mathbb{U}$  in Figure 9 (for example  $w_{\mathbb{T}}^{\mathbb{P}} = (6, 7)$ ). The degree of each of these crossings is determined by whether we are stepping onto or off-of a wall. For example, the elements  $\psi_{\mathbb{R}}^{\mathbb{P}} = e_{\mathbb{R}}\psi_{\mathbb{S}}e_{\mathbb{Q}}$ ,  $\psi_{\mathbb{S}}^{\mathbb{P}} = e_{\mathbb{S}}\psi_{\mathbb{T}}e_{\mathbb{R}}$ , and  $\psi_{\mathbb{T}}^{\mathbb{P}} = e_{\mathbb{T}}\psi_{\mathbb{U}}e_{\mathbb{S}}$  have degrees 1,  $-2$ , and 1 respectively.*

**Proposition 4.4.** *Fix  $\alpha \in \Pi \cup \{\emptyset\}$ . Let  $\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{Q}$  be a pair of  $\alpha$ -crossing/bouncing paths of length  $n$  from  $\emptyset \in A_0$  to  $\lambda \in s_{\alpha}A_0$ . We have that*

$$\psi_{\mathbb{Q}}^{\mathbb{P}}\psi_{\mathbb{P}}^{\mathbb{Q}} = e_{\mathbb{P}} \quad \text{and} \quad \psi_{\mathbb{P}}^{\mathbb{Q}}\psi_{\mathbb{Q}}^{\mathbb{P}} = e_{\mathbb{Q}}. \quad (4.1)$$

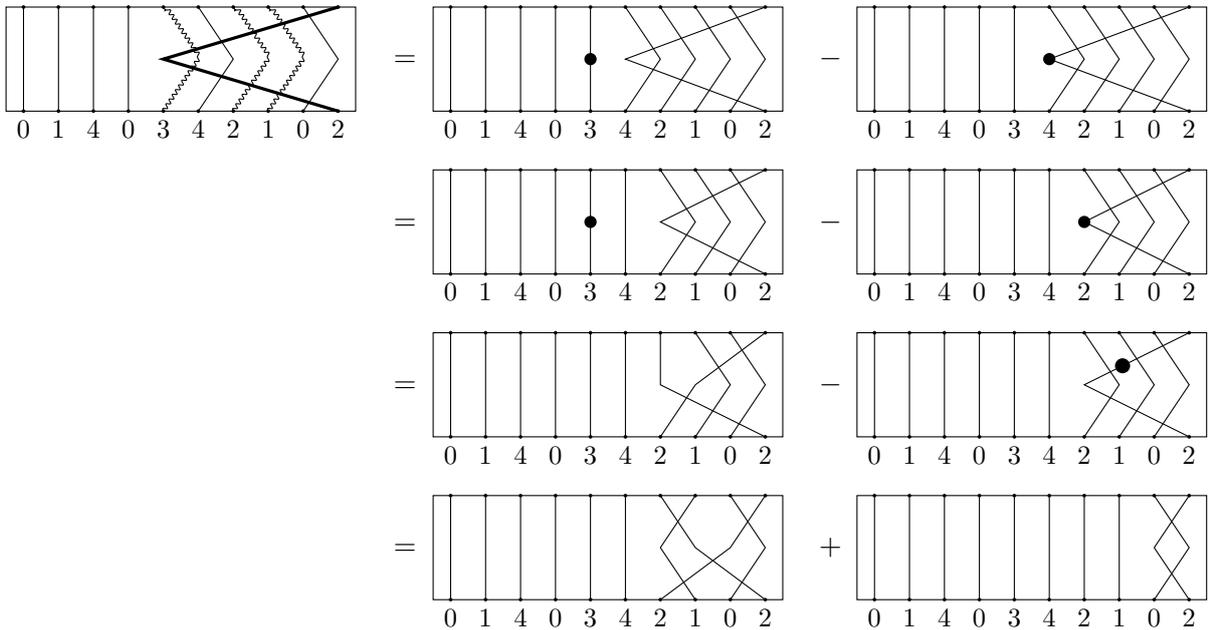
*Proof.* The  $\alpha = \emptyset$  case is trivial, and so we set  $\alpha = \varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_{i+1}$ . We fix  $P = (\varepsilon_{j_1}, \dots, \varepsilon_{j_n})$  and  $Q = (\varepsilon_{k_1}, \dots, \varepsilon_{k_n})$ . Recall that  $w_Q^P$  is minimal and step-preserving and that the paths  $P$  and  $Q$  only cross the hyperplane  $\alpha \in \Pi$ . This implies, for any pair of strands from  $1 \leq x < y \leq n$  to  $1 \leq w_Q^P(y) < w_Q^P(x) \leq n$  whose crossing has *non-zero degree*, that  $\varepsilon_{j_x} = \varepsilon_{i+1}$  and  $\varepsilon_{j_y} = \varepsilon_i$  and  $P(y) \in s_\alpha A_0$  and  $Q(w_Q^P(y)) \in A_0$  (one can swap  $P$  and  $Q$  and hence reorder so that  $1 \leq y < x \leq n$ ). We let  $1 \leq y \leq n$  be minimal such that  $P(y) \in s_\alpha A_0$  and we suppose that  $\text{resp}(y) = r \in \mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z}$ . We let  $Y$  denote this  $r$ -strand from  $y$  to  $w_Q^P(y)$ .

We recall our assumption that  $P$  and  $Q$  cross the  $\alpha$ -hyperplane precisely once. This implies that there exists a unique  $1 \leq z \leq n$  such that  $P^{-1}(z, \varepsilon_{i+1}) \in [p_1, p_2]$ . We have that  $\text{resp}(P^{-1}(z, \varepsilon_{i+1})) = r + 1$ ,  $\text{resp}(P^{-1}(z + 1, \varepsilon_{i+1})) = r$ , and  $\text{resp}(P^{-1}(z + 2, \varepsilon_{i+1})) = r - 1$ . The  $Y$  strand crosses each of the strands connecting the points  $P^{-1}(z, \varepsilon_{i+1})$ ,  $P^{-1}(z + 1, \varepsilon_{i+1})$ , and  $P^{-1}(z + 2, \varepsilon_{i+1})$  to the points  $Q^{-1}(z, \varepsilon_{i+1})$ ,  $Q^{-1}(z + 1, \varepsilon_{i+1})$ , and  $Q^{-1}(z + 2, \varepsilon_{i+1})$  and these are all the crossings involving the  $Y$ -strand which are of non-zero degree. We refer to these strands as  $Z_{+1}$ ,  $Z_0$ ,  $Z_{-1}$ .

We are ready to consider the product  $\psi_Q^P \psi_P^Q$ . We use case 4 of relation **R4** to resolve the double-crossing of the  $Y$  and  $Z_{+1}$  strands, which yields two terms with KLR-dots on these strands. The term with a KLR-dot on the  $Z_{+1}$  strand vanishes after applying case 1 of **R4** to the like-labelled double-crossing  $r$ -strands  $Y$  and  $Z_0$ . The remaining term has a KLR-dot on the  $Y$  strand. We next use **R3** to pull this KLR-dot through one of the like-labelled crossings of  $Y$  and  $Z_0$ . Again we obtain the difference of two terms, one of which vanishes by applying case 1 of **R4**. This remaining term has the  $r$ -strands  $Y$  and  $Z_0$  crossing only once. We then pull the  $Z_{-1}$ -strand through this crossing using the second case of relation **R5**, to obtain another sum of two terms. The term with more crossings is zero by Lemma 4.1, while the remaining term has no non-trivial double-crossings involving the  $Y$  strand. As the  $Y$  strand was chosen to be minimal, we now repeat the above argument with the next such strand; we proceed until all double-crossings of non-zero degree have been undone.  $\square$

**Remark 4.5.** *More generally, given  $P$  and  $Q$  two  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -crossing/bouncing paths, we can apply Proposition 4.4 to any local regions  $S \otimes P \otimes T$  and  $S \otimes Q \otimes T$  of a wider pair of paths. The proof again follows simply by applying the same sequence of relations as in the proof of Proposition 4.4. Indeed,  $P$  and  $Q$  can be said to be “translation-equivalent” if the non-zero double-crossings in  $\psi_Q^P \psi_P^Q$  are precisely those detailed in the proof of Proposition 4.4 (and so are in bijection with the crossings of non-zero degree in Example 4.6).*

**Example 4.6.** *We now go through the steps of the above proof for the product  $\psi_U^P \psi_P^U = e_{(0,1,4,0,3,4,2,1,0,2)}$  from Example 4.2.*





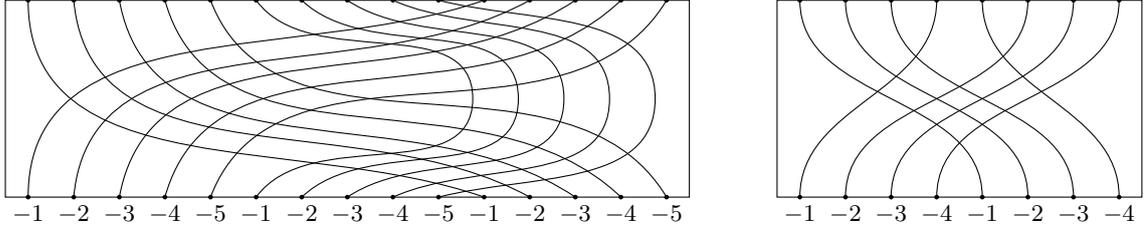


FIGURE 11. The 5-dilated element  $e_B \psi_{(2,3)_5} \psi_{(1,2)_5} \psi_{(2,3)_5} e_B$  for  $B = 5$  and a quasi-4-dilated expression for  $(1, 2)$ . The latter is obtained from the final diagram of Figure 10 by undoing a degree zero crossing.

Finally, we define the nibs of a permutation  $w$  to be the nodes 1 and  $n$  and  $w^{-1}(1)$  and  $w^{-1}(n)$  from the top edge and the nodes 1 and  $n$  and  $w(1)$  and  $w(n)$  from the bottom edge. We define the nib-truncation of  $w$  to be the expression,  $\text{nib}(w)$ , obtained by deleting the 4 pairs of nibs of  $w$  and then deleting the (four) strands connecting these vertices. Similarly, we define  $\text{nib}(\psi_w e_{\underline{i}}) = \psi_{\text{nib}(w)} e_{\text{nib}(\underline{i})}$  where the residue sequence  $\text{nib}(\underline{i}) \in (\mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z})^{bn-4}$  is inherited by deleting the 1st,  $n$ th,  $w(1)$ th and  $w(n)$ th entries of  $\underline{i} \in (\mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z})^n$ . See Figure 12 for an example.

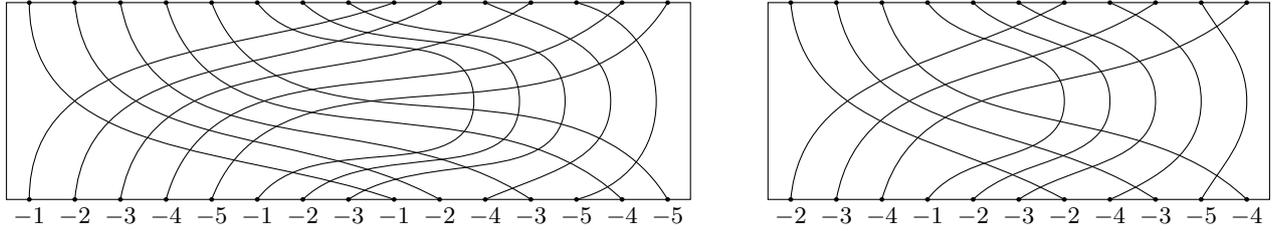


FIGURE 12. A quasi-5-expression element for  $w = (23)(12)(23)$  and its nib-truncation. The latter diagram is a subdiagram of the hexagonal generator in Figure 20. Conjugating the left diagram by the invertible element  $(\psi_{10} \psi_{12} \psi_9 \psi_{11} \psi_{10}) e_{(-1, -2, -3, -4, -5)^3}$  we obtain the left diagram in Corollary 4.10.

**4.4. Freedom of expression.** We now prove that the quasi-dilated elements and their nib-truncations are independent of the choice of reduced expressions. For  $0 \leq q \leq b$ , we define the element  $\psi_{[b,q]}$  which breaks the strands into two groups (left and right) according to their residues as follows

$$\psi_{[b,q]} = \prod_{0 \leq p < n} \left( \prod_{1 \leq i \leq q} \psi_{pq+i}^{pb+i} \right) \quad \text{where} \quad e_B \psi_{[b,q]} \in e_{(-1, -2, \dots, -b)^n} \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma e_{(-1, -2, \dots, -q)^n} \boxtimes (-q-1, \dots, -b)^n.$$

We remark that  $\psi_{[b,0]} = \psi_{[b,b]} = 1 \in \mathfrak{S}_{bn}$ .

**Lemma 4.8.** *We have that  $e_B \psi_{(1,2)_b} \psi_{(1,2)_b} e_B = 0$  for  $b \geq 1$ .*

*Proof.* For  $b = 1$  the result is immediate by case 1 of relation R4. Now let  $b > 1$ . We pull the strand connecting the strand connecting the 1st top and bottom vertices to the right through the strand connecting the  $(b+2)$ th top and bottom vertices using case 4 of relation R4 and hence obtain

$$e_B \psi_{[b,b-1]} \left( (\psi_{(1,2)_{b-1}} y_{2b-2} \psi_{(1,2)_{b-1}} \boxtimes \psi_{(1,2)} \psi_{(1,2)}) - (\psi_{(1,2)_{b-1}} \psi_{(1,2)_{b-1}} \boxtimes \psi_{(1,2)} y_1 \psi_{(1,2)}) \right) \psi_{[b,b-1]}^* e_B$$

and the first (respectively second) terms is zero by the  $(b-1)$ th (respectively 1st) inductive step.  $\square$

**Proposition 4.9.** *Let  $1 \leq b < e$ . The elements  $e_B \psi_{(i,i+2)_b} e_B$  and  $\text{nib}(e_B \psi_{(i,i+2)_b} e_B)$  are independent of the choice of reduced expression of  $(i, i+2)_b \in \mathfrak{S}_{bn}$ .*

*Proof.* For ease of notation we consider the  $i = 1$  case, the general case is identical up to relabelling of strands. We first consider  $e_B \psi_{(1,3)_b} e_B$ , as the enumeration of strands is easier. We will refer to two reduced expressions in the KLR algebra as *distinct* if they are not trivially equal by the commuting

relations (namely, the latter case of **R2**, case 2 of relation **R4** and case 3 of relation **R5**). There are precisely  $b + 1$  distinct expressions,  $\Omega_q$ , of  $e_B \psi_{(1,3)_b} e_B$  as follows

$$\Omega_q = e_B \psi_{[b,q]} (\psi_{(12)_q} \psi_{(23)_q} \psi_{(12)_q} \boxtimes \psi_{(23)_{b-q}} \psi_{(12)_{b-q}} \psi_{(23)_{b-q}}) \psi_{[b,q]}^* e_B \quad (4.2)$$

for  $0 \leq q \leq b$ . See Figures 13 and 14 for examples. We remark that  $\Omega_0 = e_B \psi_{(23)_b} \psi_{(12)_b} \psi_{(23)_b} e_B$  and  $\Omega_b = e_B \psi_{(12)_b} \psi_{(23)_b} \psi_{(12)_b} e_B$ . We will show that  $\Omega_q = \Omega_{q+1}$  for  $1 \leq q < b$  and hence deduce the result.

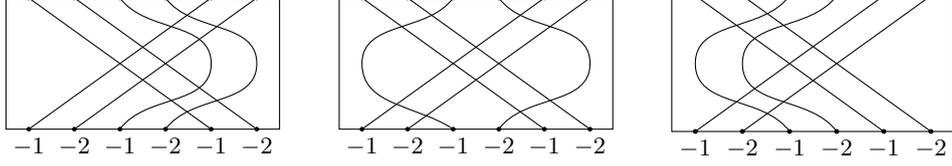


FIGURE 13. The 3 distinct expressions,  $\Omega_0$ ,  $\Omega_1$ , and  $\Omega_2$  for  $\psi_{(1,3)_2}$ . The  $b + 1$  distinct expressions for  $\psi_{(1,3)_b}$  are determined by where the central “fat strand” is broken into “left” and “right” parts.

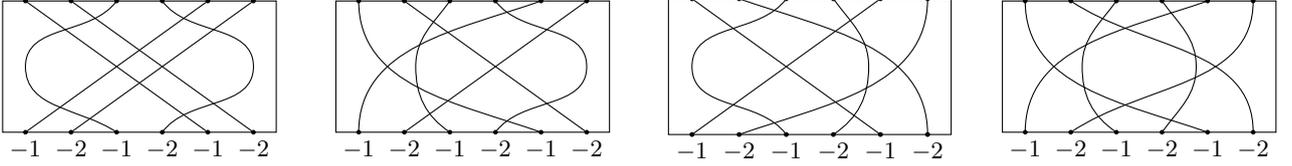


FIGURE 14. The 4 equivalent expressions for  $\Omega_1$  of Figure 13. These differ only by applications of case 3 of relation **R5** (and in particular the bad braids are all the same).

**Step 1.** If  $q = 0$  proceed to Step 2, otherwise we pull the  $(-q)$ -strand connecting the  $(b + q)$ th northern and southern nodes of  $\Omega_q$  to the right. We first use relation **R5** to pull  $(-q)$ -strand through the crossing of  $(1 - q)$ -strands connecting the  $(q - 1)$ th and  $(2b + q - 1)$ th top and bottom vertices. We obtain two terms: the first is equal to

$$e_B \psi_{[b,q]} (\psi_{[q,q-1]} (\psi_{(12)_{q-1}} \psi_{(23)_{q-1}} \psi_{(12)_{q-1}} \boxtimes \psi_{(12)(23)(12)}) \psi_{[q,q-1]}^* \boxtimes \psi_{(23)_{b-q}} \psi_{(12)_{b-q}} \psi_{(23)_{b-q}}) \psi_{[b,q]}^* e_B \quad (4.3)$$

and an error term of strictly smaller length (in which we undo the crossing pair of  $(1 - q)$ -strands). If  $q = 1$ , the error term contains a double-crossing of  $(r - q)$ -strands and so is zero by case 1 of relation **R4**. If  $q > 1$ , then we apply relation **R5** to the error term to obtain two distinct terms; one of which is zero by Lemma 4.8 and the other is zero by case 2 or relation **R4** and the commutativity relations.

**Step 2.** The output from Step 1 has a subexpression  $\psi_{(12)(23)(12)}$  which we rewrite as  $\psi_{(23)(12)(23)}$  using case 3 of relation **R5** (as the three strands are all of the same residue,  $-q \in \mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z}$ ). We also have that  $\psi_{[b,q]} \psi_{[q,q-1]} = \psi_{[b,q-1]} (1_{\mathcal{H}_{3b-3}} \boxtimes \psi_{[b-q+1,1]})$ . Thus 4.3 is equal to

$$\psi_{[b,q]} (\psi_{(12)_{q-1}} \psi_{(23)_{q-1}} \psi_{(12)_{q-1}} \boxtimes \psi_{[b-q+1,1]} (\psi_{(23)(12)(23)} \boxtimes \psi_{(23)_{b-q}} \psi_{(12)_{b-q}} \psi_{(23)_{b-q}}) \psi_{[b-q+1,1]}^* \psi_{[b,q]}^*$$

Now, by the mirror argument to that used in Step 1, we have that this is equal to

$$\psi_{[b,q-1]} (\psi_{(12)_{q-1}} \psi_{(23)_{q-1}} \psi_{(12)_{q-1}} \boxtimes \psi_{(23)_{b-q+1}} \psi_{(12)_{b-q+1}} \psi_{(23)_{b-q+1}}) \psi_{[b,q-1]}^*$$

as required. The argument for  $\text{nib}(e_B \psi_{(1,3)_b} e_B)$  is identical (up to relabelling of strands) except that the  $q = 0$  and  $q = b$  cases do not appear.  $\square$

**Corollary 4.10.** *Let  $\underline{x}$  be any expression in the Coxeter generators of  $\mathfrak{S}_n$ . Any quasi- $b$ -diluted expression of  $\underline{x}$  is independent of the choice of expression  $\underline{x}$ . Similarly, the  $\text{nib}$  truncations of these elements are independent of the choice of expression  $\underline{x}$ .*

*Proof.* By Lemma 4.7 it is enough to consider the bad braids in  $\psi_{\underline{x}}$ . If  $\underline{x} = \underline{w}_b$  for some  $w \in \mathfrak{S}_n$ , then we can resolve each bad braid in  $\psi_{\underline{x}}$  and  $\text{nib}(\psi_{\underline{x}})$  using Proposition 4.9. Now, if  $\psi_{\underline{x}}$  is quasi- $b$ -dilated then  $\psi_{\underline{x}}$  and  $\text{nib}(\psi_{\underline{x}})$  are obtained from  $\psi_{\underline{w}_b}$  and  $\text{nib}(\psi_{\underline{w}_b})$  by undoing some degree zero crossings (thus introducing no new bad braids) and the result follows.  $\square$

## 5. RECASTING THE DIAGRAMMATIC BOTT–SAMELSON GENERATORS IN THE QUIVER HECKE ALGEBRA

We continue with the notation of Convention 2.23. The elements of the (breadth-enhanced) diagrammatic Bott–Samelson endomorphism algebras can be thought of as morphisms relating pairs of expressions from  $\widehat{\mathfrak{S}}_{h\ell}$ . We have also seen that one can think of an element of the quiver Hecke algebra as a morphism between pairs of paths in the alcove geometries of Section 2. This will allow us, through the relationship between paths and their colourings described in Section 2, to define the isomorphism of our Theorem A. In what follows we will define generators

$$\text{spot}_{\alpha}^{\phi} \quad \text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\phi\alpha} \quad \text{com}_{\gamma\beta}^{\beta\gamma} \quad \text{hex}_{\alpha\beta\alpha}^{\beta\alpha\beta}$$

for  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \Pi$ . The hyperplane labelled by  $\alpha$  (respectively  $\beta$ ) is a wall of the dominant chamber if and only if  $P_{\alpha}$  (respectively  $P_{\beta}$ ) leaves the dominant chamber. By the cyclotomic KLR relation, one of the above generators is zero if (and only if) one of its indexing roots labels a path which leaves the dominant chamber. However, one should think of these as generators in the sense of a right tensor quotient of a monoidal category. In other words, we still require every generator for every simple root (even if they are zero) as the *left concatenates* of these generators will not be zero, in general.

In order to construct our isomorphism, we must first “sign-twist” the elements of the KLR algebra. This twist counts the number of degree  $-2$  crossings (heuristically, these are the crossings which “intersect an alcove wall”). For  $\underline{w}$  an arbitrary reduced expression, we set

$$\Upsilon_{\underline{w}} = (-1)^{\#\{1 \leq p < q \leq n \mid w(p) > w(q), i_p = i_q\}} e_i \psi_{\underline{w}} e_{w(i)}.$$

While KLR diagrams are usually only defined up to a choice of expression, we emphasise that each of the generators we define is independent of this choice. Thus there is no ambiguity in defining the elements  $\Upsilon_{\mathbb{Q}}^{\mathbb{P}}$  for  $w_{\mathbb{Q}}^{\mathbb{P}}$  without reference to the underlying expression. In other words: these generators are *canonical elements* of  $\mathcal{H}_n^{\sigma}$ . Examples of concrete choices of expression can be found in [BCHM, Section 2.3]. In various proofs it will be convenient to denote by  $\mathbb{T}$  and  $\mathbb{B}$  the top and bottom paths of certain diagrams (which we define case-by-case).

**5.1. Idempotents in KLR and diagrammatic Bott–Samelson endomorphism algebras.** We consider an element of the quiver Hecke or diagrammatic Bott–Samelson endomorphism algebra to be a morphism between paths. The easiest elements to construct are the idempotents corresponding to the trivial morphism from a path to itself. Given  $\alpha$  a simple reflection, we have an associated path  $P_{\alpha}$ , a trivial bijection  $w_{P_{\alpha}}^{\mathbb{P}_{\alpha}} = 1 \in \mathfrak{S}_{b_{\alpha}}$ , and an idempotent element of the quiver Hecke algebra

$$e_{P_{\alpha}} := e_{\text{res}(P_{\alpha})} \in \mathcal{H}_{b_{\alpha}}^{\sigma}.$$

Given  $\alpha$  a simple reflection, we also have a Soergel diagram  $\mathbf{1}_{\alpha}$  given by a single vertical strand coloured with the hyperplane  $\alpha$ . We define

$$\Psi(\mathbf{1}_{\alpha}) = e_{P_{\alpha}}. \tag{5.1}$$

More generally, given any  $\underline{w} = s_{\alpha(1)} s_{\alpha(2)} \dots s_{\alpha(k)}$  any expression of breadth  $b(\underline{w}) = n$ , we have an associated path  $P_{\underline{w}}$ , and an element of the quiver Hecke algebra

$$e_{P_{\underline{w}}} := e_{\text{res}(P_{\underline{w}})} = e_{P_{\alpha(1)}} \otimes e_{P_{\alpha(2)}} \otimes \dots \otimes e_{P_{\alpha(k)}} \in \mathcal{H}_{n}^{\sigma}$$

and a  $(\underline{w}, \underline{w})$ -Soergel diagram

$$\mathbf{1}_{\underline{w}} = \mathbf{1}_{\alpha(1)} \otimes \mathbf{1}_{\alpha(2)} \otimes \dots \otimes \mathbf{1}_{\alpha(k)}$$

given by  $k$  vertical strands, coloured with  $\alpha^{(1)}, \alpha^{(2)}, \dots, \alpha^{(k)}$  from left to right. We define

$$\Psi(\mathbf{1}_{\underline{w}}) = e_{P_{\underline{w}}}. \tag{5.2}$$

**Example 5.1.** Recall the following words from Example 2.17

$$\underline{w} = s_\emptyset s_\emptyset s_{\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1} s_{\varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3} s_{\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2} s_{\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1} s_{\varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3} s_{\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2} \quad \underline{w}' = s_{\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1} s_\emptyset s_{\varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3} s_{\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2} s_\emptyset s_{\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1} s_{\varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3} s_{\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2}$$

which came from “inserting determinants” into the path in Figure 1. We have that

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi(\underline{1}_{\underline{w}}) &= e_{0,1,2,4,0,1,3,4,2,3,1,2,0,4,3,0,2,1,0,1,4,3,4,2,3,1,2,0,4,3,0,2,1,0,1,4} \\ \Psi(\underline{1}_{\underline{w}'}) &= e_{0,1,4,0,3,4,2,1,0,2,3,4,4,1,0,4,0,3,2,3,4,3,4,2,3,1,2,0,4,3,0,2,1,0,1,4}. \end{aligned}$$

**Remark 5.2.** For two paths  $S$  and  $T$ , we have that  $S \sim T$  if and only if  $\text{res}(S) = \text{res}(T)$ . Therefore if  $S \sim T$  then  $e_T = e_S e_T = e_S$ .

**5.2. Local adjustments and isotopy.** We will refer to the passage between alcove paths which differ only by occurrences of  $s_\emptyset = 1$  (and their associated idempotents) as “adjustment”. We wish to understand the morphism relating the paths  $P_\alpha \otimes P_\emptyset$  and  $P_\emptyset \otimes P_\alpha$ .

**Proposition 5.3.** The element  $\psi_{P_\emptyset \alpha}^{P_\alpha \emptyset}$  is independent of the choice of reduced expression.

*Proof.* There are precisely three crossings in  $\psi_{P_\emptyset \alpha}^{P_\alpha \emptyset}$  of non-zero degree. Namely, the  $r$ -strand (for some  $r \in \mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z}$ ) connecting the  $P_\emptyset^{-1}(1, \varepsilon_i)$ th top vertex to the  $P_\alpha^{-1}(1, \varepsilon_i)$ th bottom vertex crosses each of the strands connecting  $P_\emptyset^{-1}(q, \varepsilon_{i+1})$ th top vertices to the  $P_\alpha^{-1}(q, \varepsilon_{i+1})$ th bottom vertices for  $q = b_\alpha - 1, b_\alpha, b_\alpha + 1$  (of residues  $r + 1, r$ , and  $r - 1$  respectively) precisely once with degrees  $+1, -2$ , and  $+1$  respectively. Thus  $\psi_{P_\emptyset \alpha}^{P_\alpha \emptyset}$  is residue-commutative and the result follows from Lemma 4.7.  $\square$

Thus we are free to define the KLR-adjustment to be

$$\text{adj}_{P_\emptyset \alpha}^{\alpha \emptyset} := \Upsilon_{P_\emptyset \alpha}^{P_\alpha \emptyset}$$

which is independent of the choice of reduced expression of the permutation. The sign is  $-1$  because there is precisely 1 crossing of degree  $-2$  in the KLR diagram (see the proof of Proposition 5.3). For  $\underline{w} = s_\alpha s_\emptyset$  with  $\alpha, \gamma \in \Pi$  two (equal, adjacent, or non-adjacent) simple roots, we set

$$A_{\alpha \emptyset}^{\emptyset \alpha}(q) = P_{q\emptyset} \otimes P_\alpha \otimes P_{(b_\gamma - q)\emptyset}$$

for  $0 \leq q \leq b_\gamma$  and we set

$$\text{adj}_{\alpha \emptyset}^{\emptyset \alpha}(q) = e_{A_{\alpha \emptyset}^{\emptyset \alpha}(q+1)} \left( e_{P_{q\emptyset}} \otimes \text{adj}_{\emptyset \alpha}^{\emptyset \alpha} \otimes e_{P_{(b_\gamma - q - 1)\emptyset}} \right) e_{A_{\alpha \emptyset}^{\emptyset \alpha}(q)} \quad \text{adj}_{\alpha \emptyset}^{\emptyset \alpha} = \text{adj}_{\alpha \emptyset}^{\emptyset \alpha}(b_\gamma - 1) \dots \text{adj}_{\alpha \emptyset}^{\emptyset \alpha}(1) \text{adj}_{\alpha \emptyset}^{\emptyset \alpha}(0).$$

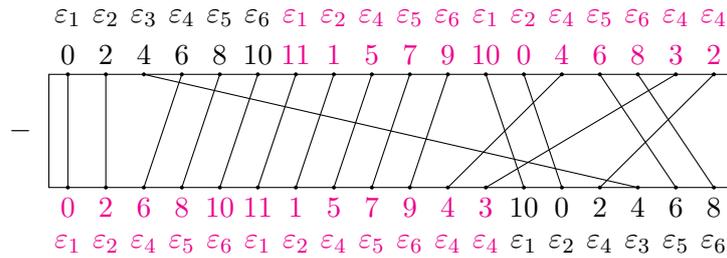


FIGURE 15. We let  $h = 1$ ,  $\ell = 6$ ,  $e = 12$ ,  $\sigma = (0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10)$  and  $\alpha = \varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_4$ . The adjustment term  $\text{adj}_{\alpha \emptyset}^{\emptyset \alpha}$  is illustrated. The steps of the path  $P_\alpha$  and  $P_\emptyset$  are coloured pink and black respectively within both  $P_{\alpha \emptyset}$  (along the top of the diagram) and  $P_{\emptyset \alpha}$  (along the bottom of the diagram).

**Proposition 5.4.** We have that

$$\text{adj}_{\alpha \emptyset}^{\emptyset \alpha} \circ e_{P_{\alpha \emptyset}} \circ \text{adj}_{\emptyset \alpha}^{\emptyset \alpha} = e_{P_{\emptyset \alpha}} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{adj}_{\emptyset \alpha}^{\emptyset \alpha} \circ e_{P_{\emptyset \alpha}} \circ \text{adj}_{\alpha \emptyset}^{\emptyset \alpha} = e_{P_{\alpha \emptyset}}$$

and so adjustment is an invertible process.

*Proof.* The paths  $P_{\alpha \emptyset}$  and  $P_{\emptyset \alpha}$  satisfy the conditions of Proposition 4.4 and so the result follows.  $\square$

**5.3. The KLR-spot diagram.** We now define the spot path morphism. Recall that

$$P_\emptyset = (\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_{i-1}, \varepsilon_i, \varepsilon_{i+1}, \dots, \varepsilon_{hl})^{b_\alpha} \quad P_\alpha^b = (\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_{i-1}, \widehat{\varepsilon}_i, \varepsilon_{i+1}, \dots, \varepsilon_{hl})^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes (\varepsilon_i)^{b_\alpha}$$

The permutation  $w_{P_\alpha^b}^{P_\emptyset}$  is fully-commutative and so we are free to define the KLR-spot to be the element

$$\text{spot}_\alpha^\emptyset := \Upsilon_{P_\alpha^b}^{P_\emptyset}$$

which is independent of the choice of reduced expression. We wish to inductively pass between the paths  $P_\alpha^b$  and  $P_\emptyset$  by means of a visual timeline (pictured in Figure 16). This allows us to factorise the KLR-spots and to simplify our proofs later on. To this end we define

$$S_{q,\alpha} = P_{q\emptyset} \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha - q} \boxtimes P_i^{b_\alpha - q} = (\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \dots, \varepsilon_{hl})^q \boxtimes (\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_{i-1}, \widehat{\varepsilon}_i, \varepsilon_{i+1}, \dots, \varepsilon_{hl})^{b_\alpha - q} \boxtimes (\varepsilon_i)^{b_\alpha - q}$$

for  $0 \leq q \leq b_\alpha$  and we notice that  $S_{0,\alpha} = P_\alpha^b$  and  $S_{b_\alpha,\alpha} = P_\emptyset$ . We define  $\text{spot}_\alpha^\emptyset(q)$  to be the element  $\text{spot}_\alpha^\emptyset(q) = \psi_{S_{q,\alpha}}^{S_{q+1,\alpha}}$  for  $0 \leq q < b_\alpha$  and we factorise  $\text{spot}_\alpha^\emptyset$  as follows

$$\text{spot}_\alpha^\emptyset := e_{P_\emptyset} \circ \text{spot}_\alpha^\emptyset(b_\alpha - 1) \circ \dots \circ \text{spot}_\alpha^\emptyset(1) \circ \text{spot}_\alpha^\emptyset(0) \circ e_{P_\alpha^b}.$$

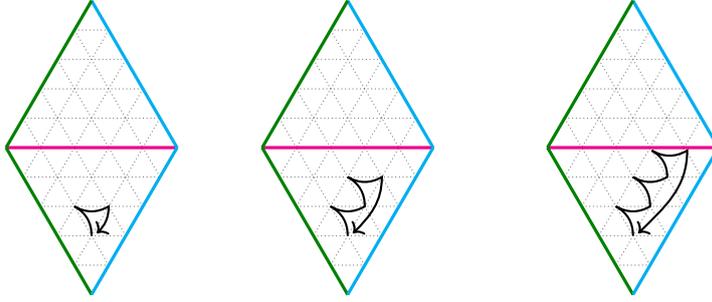


FIGURE 16. An example timeline for the KLR spot. Fix  $\ell = 1$  and  $h = 3$  and  $e = 5$  and  $\alpha = \varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1$  (so that  $b_\alpha = 3$ ). From left to right we picture  $S_{2,\alpha} = S_\alpha(3) = P_\emptyset$ ,  $S_{1,\alpha}$ ,  $S_{0,\alpha} = P_\alpha^b$ . We do not picture the  $k = 2, 1, 0$  copies of the path  $(+\varepsilon_1, +\varepsilon_2, +\varepsilon_3)$  at the start of each path, for ease of readability.

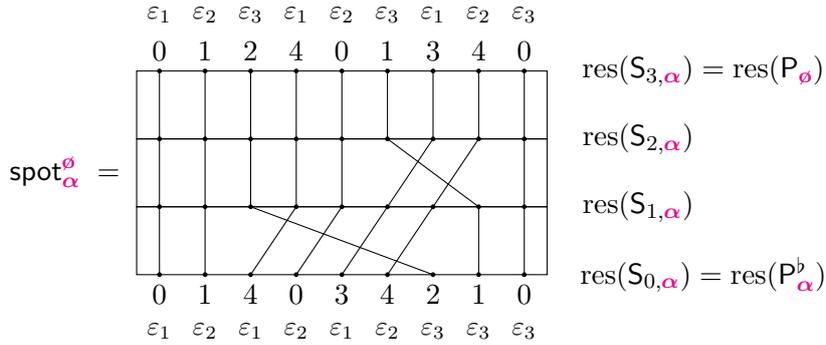


FIGURE 17. The element  $\text{spot}_\alpha^\emptyset$  of Example 5.5. We have added the step labels on top and bottom so that one can appreciate that this element is a morphism between paths. However, we remark that while a necessary condition for a product of two KLR diagrams to be non-zero is that their residue sequences must coincide, the same is not true for their step labels (see Remark 5.2).

**Example 5.5.** Let  $h = 3$  and  $\ell = 1$  and  $e = 5$  and  $\alpha = \varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1$ . We have that  $b_\alpha = 3$ . We have that

$$\begin{aligned} P_\alpha^b &= S_{0,\alpha} = (\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3, \varepsilon_3, \varepsilon_3) \\ S_{1,\alpha} &= (\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3) \boxtimes (\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3, \varepsilon_3) \\ S_{2,\alpha} &= (\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3) \boxtimes (\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3) \boxtimes (\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3) \\ P_\emptyset &= S_{3,\alpha} = (\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3) \boxtimes (\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3) \boxtimes (\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3) \end{aligned}$$

which are depicted in Figure 16. Of course,  $S_{3,\alpha} = S_{2,\alpha}$  in this case, but this is only because  $\alpha$  is the affine root  $\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1$  with  $3 = hl$ .

**Remark 5.6.** In the notation following Figure 5, we have that  $w_{S_{\alpha,q}}^{S_{\alpha,q+1}} = w_{b_\alpha hl - b_\alpha + q + 1}^{qhl + i}$  for  $0 \leq q < b_\alpha$ , where the sub and superscripts correspond to

$$S_{q,\alpha}^{-1}(q+1, \varepsilon_i) = qhl + i \quad S_{q+1,\alpha}^{-1}(q+1, \varepsilon_i) = b_\alpha hl - b_\alpha + q + 1$$

and so one can think of the spot morphism as successively removing each  $+\varepsilon_i$  step from the latter path and adding it to the former.

**Remark 5.7.** The element  $eS_{q+1,\alpha} \text{spot}_\alpha^\theta(q) eS_{q,\alpha}$  is of degree 1 for  $q = 0$  and degree 0 for  $0 < q < b_\alpha$ . The terms with  $0 < q < b_\alpha$  are invertible by Proposition 4.4. Thus one can think of the  $q = 0$  term as the real substance of  $\text{spot}_\alpha^\theta$ . One should intuitively think of this degree contribution as coming from the fact that the path  $S_{0,\alpha}$  steps onto and off of a hyperplane but  $S_{1,\alpha}$  does not touch the hyperplane at any point. The diagram  $\text{spot}_\alpha^\theta(0)$  has a crossing involving the strand from the  $S_{0,\alpha}^{-1}(1, \varepsilon_i)$ th node on the bottom edge to the  $S_{1,\alpha}^{-1}(1, \varepsilon_i)$ th node on the top edge and the strand from the  $S_{1,\alpha}^{-1}(b_\alpha, \varepsilon_{i+1})$ th node on the bottom edge to the  $S_{0,\alpha}^{-1}(b_\alpha, \varepsilon_{i+1})$ th node on the top edge. See Figure 16 for a visualisation.

**5.4. The KLR-fork diagram.** We wish to understand the morphism from  $P_\alpha \otimes P_\alpha^b$  to  $P_\theta \otimes P_\alpha$ . The permutation  $w_{P_\alpha \otimes P_\alpha^b}^{P_\theta \otimes P_\alpha}$  is not fully commutative and so we must do a little work prior to our definition.

**Proposition 5.8.** The elements  $\psi_{P_\alpha \otimes P_\alpha^b}^{P_\theta \otimes P_\alpha}$  and  $\psi_{P_\alpha^b \otimes P_\alpha}^{P_\theta \otimes P_\theta}$  are independent of the reduced expressions.

*Proof.* We focus on the former case, as the latter is similar. The element  $w_{P_\alpha \otimes P_\alpha^b}^{P_\theta \otimes P_\alpha}$  contains precisely  $b_\alpha$  crossings of strands with the same residue label: Namely for each  $1 \leq q \leq b_\alpha$  the strand connecting the top and bottom vertices labelled by the integers

$$P_{\theta\alpha}^{-1}(q, \varepsilon_i) = qhl + i \quad (P_\alpha \otimes P_\alpha^b)^{-1}(q, \varepsilon_i) = b_\alpha hl + (q-1)(hl-1) + \alpha(i+1)$$

crosses the strand connecting the top and bottom vertices labelled by the integers

$$P_{\theta\alpha}^{-1}(b_\alpha + q, \varepsilon_{i+1}) = b_\alpha hl + (q-1)(hl-1) + \alpha(i+1) \quad (P_\alpha \otimes P_\alpha^b)^{-1}(b_\alpha + q, \varepsilon_{i+1}) = b_\alpha hl - b_\alpha + q.$$

The  $q$ th of these like-labelled crossings forms a braid with a third strand if and only if this third strand connects a top and bottom node labelled by the integers

$$P_{\theta\alpha}^{-1}(b_\alpha + p, \varepsilon_j) = b_\alpha hl + (p-1)(hl-1) + \alpha(j) \quad (P_\alpha \otimes P_\alpha^b)^{-1}(b_\alpha + p, \varepsilon_j) = b_\alpha hl + (p-1)(hl-1) + \alpha(j)$$

for  $\alpha(j) \neq \alpha(i+1)$  and  $1 \leq p < q$  or  $p = q$  and  $\alpha(j) < \alpha(i+1)$ . None of the resulting braids is bad; thus  $\psi_{P_\alpha \otimes P_\alpha^b}^{P_\theta \otimes P_\alpha}$  is residue-commutative and the result follows.  $\square$

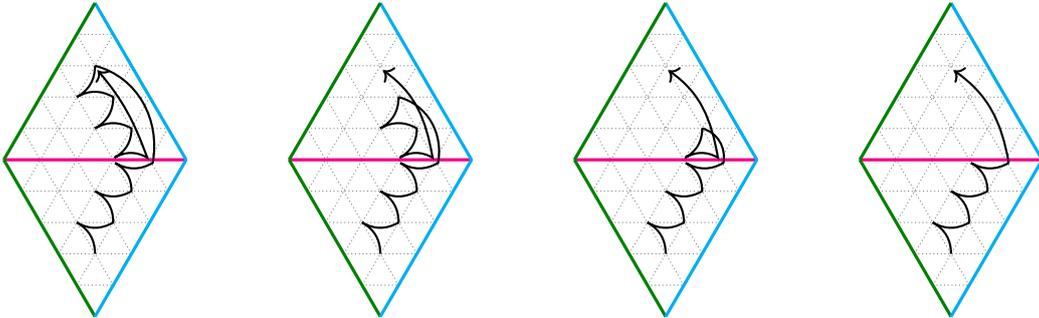


FIGURE 18. An example of a timeline for the KLR fork. Fix  $\ell = 1$  and  $h = 3$  and  $e = 5$  and  $\alpha = \varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1$  (so that  $b_\alpha = 3$ ). From left to right we picture the paths  $F_{0,\theta\alpha} = P_\alpha \otimes P_\alpha^b$ ,  $F_{1,\theta\alpha}$ ,  $F_{2,\theta\alpha}$ ,  $F_{3,\theta\alpha} = P_\theta \otimes P_\alpha$ . Notice that we do not picture the  $q = 0, 1, 2, 3$  copies of the path  $(+\varepsilon_1, +\varepsilon_2, +\varepsilon_3)$  at the start of each path, for ease of readability.

Thus we are free to define the KLR-forks to be the elements

$$\text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\theta\alpha} := \Upsilon_{P_\alpha \otimes P_\alpha^b}^{P_\theta \otimes P_\alpha} \quad \text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\alpha\theta} := \Upsilon_{P_\alpha^b \otimes P_\alpha}^{P_\theta \otimes P_\theta}$$

which are independent of the choice of reduced expressions. We wish to inductively pass between the paths  $P_\alpha \otimes P_\alpha^b$  and  $P_{\phi\alpha}$  (respectively  $P_\alpha^b \otimes P_\alpha$  and  $P_{\alpha\phi}$ ) by means of a visual timeline (as in Figure 18). This allows us to factorise KLR-forks and to simplify our proofs later on. To this end we define

$$F_{q,\phi\alpha} = P^{q\emptyset} \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha - q} \boxtimes_\alpha M_i^{b_\alpha - q} \boxtimes P_i^{b_\alpha} \quad F_{q,\alpha\phi} = M_i^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_i^{b_\alpha - q} \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha - q} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes_\alpha P^{q\emptyset}$$

and we remark that

$$F_{0,\phi\alpha} = P_\alpha \otimes P_\alpha^b \quad F_{b_\alpha,\phi\alpha} = P_\phi \otimes P_\alpha \quad F_{0,\alpha\phi} = P_\alpha^b \otimes P_\alpha \quad F_{b_\alpha,\alpha\phi} = P_\alpha \otimes P_\phi.$$

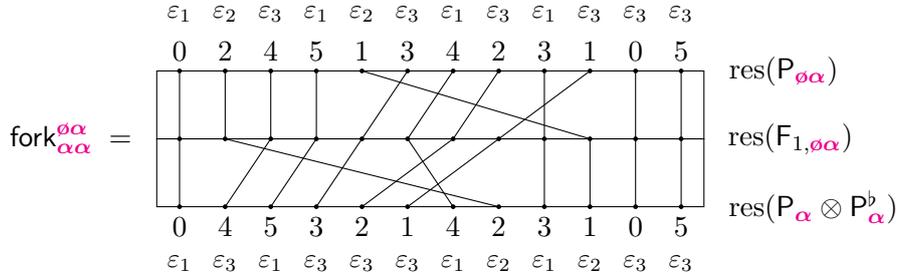
We define  $\text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\phi\alpha}(q) = \Upsilon_{F_{q+1,\phi\alpha}}^{F_{q,\phi\alpha}}$  and  $\text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\alpha\phi}(q) = \Upsilon_{F_{q+1,\alpha\phi}}^{F_{q,\alpha\phi}}$  for  $0 \leq k < b_\alpha$  and we factorise the KLR-forks as follows

$$\begin{aligned} \text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\phi\alpha} &= e_{P_{\phi\alpha}} \circ \text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\phi\alpha}(b_\alpha - 1) \circ \cdots \circ \text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\phi\alpha}(1) \circ \text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\phi\alpha}(0) \circ e_{P_\alpha \otimes P_\alpha^b} \\ \text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\alpha\phi} &= e_{P_{\alpha\phi}} \circ \text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\alpha\phi}(b_\alpha - 1) \circ \cdots \circ \text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\alpha\phi}(1) \circ \text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\alpha\phi}(0) \circ e_{P_\alpha^b \otimes P_\alpha}. \end{aligned}$$

**Example 5.9.** Let  $h = 1$ ,  $\ell = 3$ ,  $e = 6$ ,  $\sigma = (0, 2, 4) \in \mathbb{Z}^3$  and  $\alpha = \varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3$  (thus  $b_\alpha = 2$ ). We have

$$\begin{aligned} P_\alpha \otimes P_\alpha^b &= (\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_3, \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_3, \varepsilon_3, \varepsilon_3) \otimes (\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_3, \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_3, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_2) = (\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_3, \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_3, \varepsilon_3, \varepsilon_3, \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3, \varepsilon_3) \\ P_{\phi\alpha} &= (\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3, \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3, \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_3, \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_3, \varepsilon_3, \varepsilon_3) \end{aligned}$$

are both dominant paths terminating at  $(1^4 \mid 1^2 \mid 1^6) \in \mathcal{P}_{1,3}(12)$ . The KLR-fork diagram is as follows



The following proposition allows us to see that these two elements are essentially the same.

**Proposition 5.10.** Let  $\alpha \in \Pi$ . We have that  $\text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\alpha\phi} = \text{adj}_{\phi\alpha}^{\alpha\phi} \text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\phi\alpha}$ .

*Proof.* We note that  $A_{\alpha\phi}^{\phi\alpha}(b_\alpha) = P_\phi \otimes P_\alpha = F_{b_\alpha,\phi\alpha}$  and  $A_{\alpha\phi}^{\phi\alpha}(0) = P_\alpha \otimes P_\phi = F_{0,\alpha\phi}$ . We claim that

$$\text{adj}_{\phi\alpha}^{\alpha\phi}(q-1) \circ \Upsilon_{F_{q,\alpha\phi}}^{A_{\alpha\phi}^{\phi\alpha}(q)} \circ \text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\phi\alpha}(q-1) = \Upsilon_{F_{q-1,\alpha\phi}}^{A_{\alpha\phi}^{\phi\alpha}(q-1)} \quad (5.3)$$

for  $b_\alpha \geq q \geq 1$ . The result follows immediately from Proposition 5.8 once we have proven the claim. We label the top and bottom vertices of the lefthand-side of equation (5.3) by the paths  $T_q = A_{\alpha\phi}^{\phi\alpha}(q)$  and  $B_q = F_{q,\phi\alpha}$  respectively. We remark  $\text{res}(F_{q,\phi\alpha}) = \text{res}(F_{q,\alpha\phi})$  (as these paths are obtained from each other by reflection) and so this labelling makes sense.

We now prove the claim. There are two strands in the concatenated diagram which do not respect step-labels. Namely, the  $r_q$ -strands (for some  $r_q \in \mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z}$ ) connecting the  $T_q^{-1}(q, \varepsilon_i)$  and  $B_q^{-1}(b_\alpha + q, \varepsilon_{i+1})$  top and bottom vertices and the strand connecting the  $T_q^{-1}(b_\alpha + q, \varepsilon_{i+1})$  and  $B_q^{-1}(q, \varepsilon_i)$  top and bottom vertices. There are four crossings of non-zero degree in the product, all of which involve the former, “distinguished”,  $r_q$ -strand. Namely, the distinguished  $r_q$ -strand passes from  $T_q^{-1}(q, \varepsilon_i)$  to the left through the latter  $r_q$ -strand and then through the vertical  $(r_q + 1)$ -strand connecting the  $T^{-1}(b_\alpha + q, \varepsilon_{i+1})$  and  $B^{-1}(b_\alpha + q, \varepsilon_{i+1})$  vertices before then passing back again through both these strands and terminating at  $B_q^{-1}(b_\alpha + q, \varepsilon_{i+1})$ . (The distinguished strand crosses several other strands in the process, but the crossings are of degree zero and so can be undone trivially using case 2 of relation R4.) Using case 4 of relation R4, we pull the distinguished  $r_q$ -strand rightwards through the  $(r_q - 1)$ -strand and hence change the sign and obtain a dot on the  $r_q$ -strand (the term with a dot on the  $(r_q + 1)$ -strand is zero by case 1 of relation R4 and the commutativity relations). Using relation R3, we pull the dot on the distinguished strand rightwards through the crossing of  $r_q$ -strands and hence undo this crossing, kill the dot, and change the sign again (the other term is again zero by case 1 of relation R4 and the commutativity relations). The resulting diagram has no double-crossings and respects step labels and thus is equal to the righthand-side of Proposition 5.8, as required.  $\square$

**5.5. The KLR hexagon diagram.** We now define the hexagon in the KLR algebra. We let  $\alpha, \beta \in \Pi$  label non-commuting reflections. We assume, without loss of generality, that  $j = i + 1$ . We have two cases to consider: if  $b_\alpha \geq b_\beta$  then we must deform the path  $P_{\alpha\beta\alpha}$  into the path  $P_{\phi-\phi} \otimes P_{\beta\alpha\beta}$  and if  $b_\alpha \leq b_\beta$  then we must deform the path  $P_{\phi-\phi} \otimes P_{\alpha\beta\alpha}$  into the path  $P_{\beta\alpha\beta}$ , where here  $\phi - \phi := \emptyset^{b_\alpha - b_\beta}$ .

**Proposition 5.11.** *The elements  $\psi_{P_{\phi-\phi} \otimes P_{\beta\alpha\beta}}^{P_{\alpha\beta\alpha}}$  and  $\psi_{P_{\beta\alpha\beta}}^{P_{\phi-\phi} \otimes P_{\alpha\beta\alpha}}$  are independent of the choice of reduced expressions for  $b_\alpha \geq b_\beta$  and  $b_\beta \geq b_\alpha$ , respectively.*

*Proof.* We consider the first case as the second is similar. The bad triples of  $\psi_{P_{\phi-\phi} \otimes P_{\beta\alpha\beta}}^{P_{\alpha\beta\alpha}}$  are precisely the triples labelled by the integers

$$P_{\alpha\beta\alpha}^{-1}(q, \varepsilon_i) < P_{\alpha\beta\alpha}^{-1}(b_\alpha + q \pm 1, \varepsilon_{i+2}) < P_{\alpha\beta\alpha}^{-1}(b_\alpha + q, \varepsilon_{i+1})$$

for  $1 \leq q \leq b_\alpha$ , where the first and third steps have residue  $r_q \in \mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z}$  and the second has residue  $r_{q+1} = r_q \mp 1 \in \mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z}$ . Thus it is enough to consider the subexpression,  $\psi_w$ , formed from the union of the  $(r_q, r_{q+1})$ -strands for  $0 \leq q \leq b_\alpha$  enumerated above. We set  $T = P_{\alpha\beta\alpha}$  and  $B = P_{\phi-\phi} \otimes P_{\beta\alpha\beta}$  and we let

$$t_i(q) = T^{-1}(q, \varepsilon_i) \quad t_{i+1}(q) = T^{-1}(b_\alpha + q, \varepsilon_{i+1}) \quad t_{i+2}(q) = T^{-1}(b_\alpha + q, \varepsilon_{i+2})$$

$$b_i(q) = B^{-1}(q, \varepsilon_i) \quad b_{i+1}(q) = B^{-1}(b_\alpha + q, \varepsilon_{i+1}) \quad b_{i+2}(q) = B^{-1}(b_\alpha + q, \varepsilon_{i+2})$$

for  $0 \leq q \leq b_\alpha + 1$ . We have that

$$t_i(q) < t_i(q+1) < t_{i+2}(q) < t_{i+2}(q+1) < t_{i+1}(q) < t_{i+1}(q+1)$$

$$b_i(q) > b_i(q+1) > b_{i+2}(q) > b_{i+2}(q+1) > b_{i+1}(q) > b_{i+1}(q+1)$$

for  $1 \leq q \leq b_\alpha$  and

$$t_i(1) < t_{i+2}(0) < t_{i+1}(1) \quad t_i(b_\alpha) < t_{i+2}(b_\alpha + 1) < t_{i+1}(b_\alpha)$$

$$b_i(1) > b_{i+2}(0) > b_{i+1}(1) \quad b_i(b_\alpha) > b_{i+2}(b_\alpha + 1) > b_{i+1}(b_\alpha).$$

Thus the subexpression  $\psi_w$  is the nib truncation of a quasi- $(b_\alpha + 2)$ -expression for  $w = (13) \in \mathfrak{S}_3$ , which is independent of the choice of expression by Corollary 4.10. Thus the result follows.  $\square$

We are now free to define the KLR-hexagon to be the element

$$\text{hex}_{\beta\alpha\beta}^{\alpha\beta\alpha} := \Upsilon_{P_{\phi-\phi} \otimes P_{\beta\alpha\beta}}^{P_{\alpha\beta\alpha}} \quad \text{or} \quad \text{hex}_{\beta\alpha\beta}^{\alpha\beta\alpha} := \Upsilon_{P_{\beta\alpha\beta}}^{P_{\phi-\phi} \otimes P_{\alpha\beta\alpha}}$$

for  $b_\alpha \geq b_\beta$  or  $b_\alpha \leq b_\beta$  respectively, which are independent of the choice of reduced expressions. See Figure 20 for an example. We wish to inductively pass between the paths  $P_{\alpha\beta\alpha}$  and  $P_{\phi-\phi} \otimes P_{\beta\alpha\beta}$  by means of a visual timeline (as in Figure 19). This allows us to factorise the KLR-hexagon and to simplify our proofs later on. First assume that  $b_\alpha \geq b_\beta$ . We define

$$H_{q, \alpha\beta\alpha} = \begin{cases} P_{q\emptyset} \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} \otimes_\alpha M_{i+1}^{b_\beta - q} \boxtimes P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} \otimes_\beta M_{i,i+2}^q \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha - q} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} & 0 \leq q \leq b_\beta \\ P_{q\emptyset} \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha - q} \otimes_\alpha P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} \otimes_\beta M_{i,i+2}^{b_\beta} \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha - q} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} & b_\beta \leq q \leq b_\alpha \\ P_\emptyset \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha - q} \otimes_\alpha P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} \otimes_\beta M_{i,i+2}^{b_\beta} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_i^{q - b_\alpha} & b_\alpha \leq q \leq b_\alpha\beta \end{cases}$$

This is demonstrated in the first 5 paths in Figure 19. We now come from the opposite side to meet in the middle. We define

$$H_{q, \beta\alpha\beta} = \begin{cases} P_{q\emptyset} \boxtimes M_{i+1}^{b_\beta - q} \boxtimes M_{i,i+1}^q \boxtimes P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} \otimes_\beta M_i^{b_\alpha - q} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} \otimes_\alpha M_{i+1}^{b_\beta} \boxtimes P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} & 0 \leq q \leq b_\beta \\ P_\emptyset \boxtimes M_i^{q - b_\beta} \boxtimes M_{i,i+1}^{b_\beta} \boxtimes P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} \otimes_\beta M_i^{b_\alpha - q} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} \otimes_\alpha M_{i+1}^{b_\beta} \boxtimes P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} & b_\beta \leq q \leq b_\alpha \\ P_\emptyset \boxtimes M_i^{q - b_\beta} \boxtimes P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} \otimes_\beta M_{i,i+2}^{q - b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} \otimes_\alpha M_{i+1}^{b_\alpha - q} \boxtimes P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} & b_\alpha \leq q \leq b_\alpha\beta \end{cases}$$

This is demonstrated in the final 5 paths in Figure 19. While the definitions seems technical, one can intuitively think of this process as ‘‘flattening’’ the path layer-by-layer by means of the timeline depicted in Figure 19. We see that  $H_{b_\alpha\beta, \alpha\beta\alpha} = P_{\phi-\phi} \boxtimes H_{b_\alpha\beta, \beta\alpha\beta}$ .

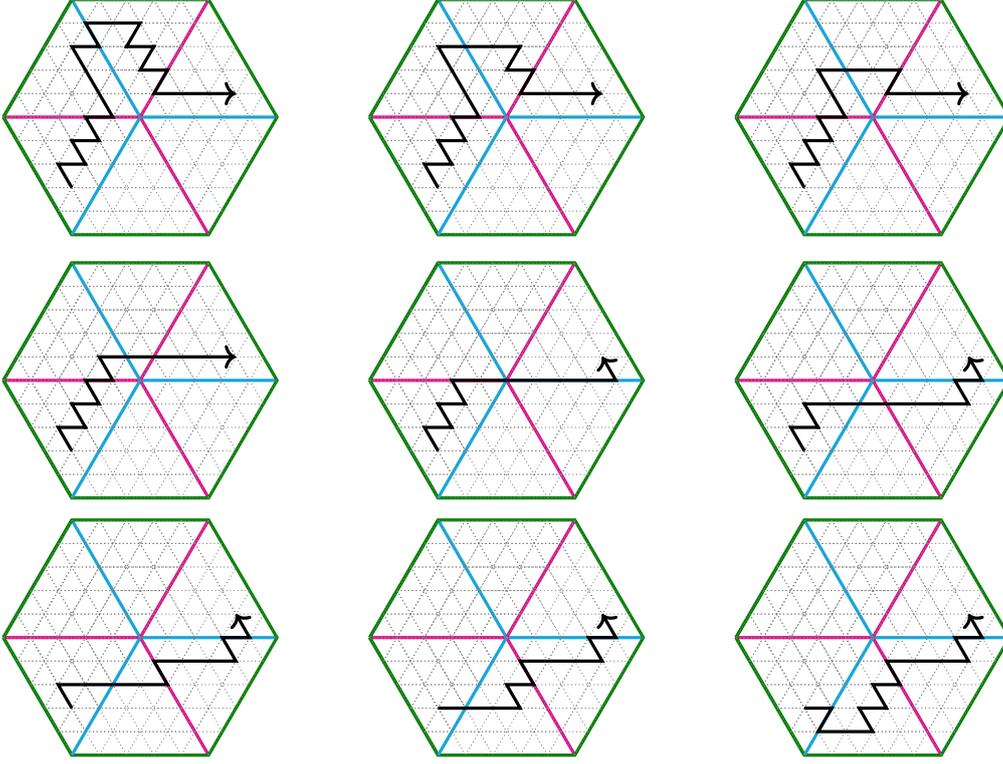


FIGURE 19. An example of a timeline for the KLR hexagon. Mutating from  $P_{\alpha\beta\alpha}$  to  $P_{\emptyset-\emptyset} \otimes P_{\beta\alpha\beta}$  for  $b_\alpha \geq b_\beta$  (again we do not picture the determinant paths). Steps in the procedure should be read from left-to-right along successive rows (the paths are  $H_{0,\alpha\beta\alpha}, H_{1,\alpha\beta\alpha}, H_{2,\alpha\beta\alpha}, H_{3,\alpha\beta\alpha}, H_{4,\alpha\beta\alpha}, H_{4,\alpha\beta\alpha} = P_\emptyset \boxtimes H_{4,\beta\alpha\beta}, H_{3,\beta\alpha\beta}, H_{2,\beta\alpha\beta}, H_{1,\beta\alpha\beta}, H_{0,\beta\alpha\beta}$ ).

We now assume that  $b_\alpha \leq b_\beta$ . We define

$$H_{q,\alpha\beta\alpha} = \begin{cases} P_{q\emptyset} \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} \otimes_\alpha M_{i+1}^{b_\beta-q} \boxtimes P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} \otimes_\beta M_{i,i+2}^q \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha-q} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} & 0 \leq q \leq b_\alpha \\ P_\emptyset \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} \otimes_\alpha M_{i+1}^{b_\beta-q} \boxtimes M_{i,i+1}^{q-b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} \otimes_\beta M_{i,i+2}^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^q \boxtimes P_i^{q-b_\alpha} & b_\alpha \leq q \leq b_\beta \\ P_\emptyset \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha\beta-q} \otimes_\alpha M_{i,i+1}^{b_\beta-b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} \otimes_\beta M_{i,i+2}^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_i^{q-b_\alpha} & b_\beta \leq q \leq b_{\alpha\beta} \end{cases}$$

We now come from the opposite side to meet in the middle. We define

$$H_{q,\beta\alpha\beta} = \begin{cases} P_{q\emptyset} \boxtimes M_{i+1}^{b_\beta-q} \boxtimes M_{i,i+1}^q \boxtimes P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} \otimes_\beta M_i^{b_\alpha-q} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} \otimes_\alpha M_{i+1}^{b_\beta} \boxtimes P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} & 0 \leq q \leq b_\alpha \\ P_{q\emptyset} \boxtimes M_{i+1}^{b_\beta-q} \boxtimes M_{i,i+1}^q \boxtimes P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} \otimes_\beta P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} \otimes_\alpha M_{i+1}^{b_\alpha\beta-q} \boxtimes P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} & b_\alpha \leq q \leq b_\beta \\ P_\emptyset \boxtimes M_i^{q-b_\beta} \boxtimes M_{i,i+1}^{b_\beta\beta-q} \boxtimes P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} \otimes_\beta P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} \otimes_\alpha M_{i+1}^{b_\alpha\beta-q} \boxtimes P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} & b_\beta \leq q \leq b_{\alpha\beta} \end{cases}$$

With our paths in place, this allows us to define

$$\text{hex}^{\alpha\beta\alpha}(q) = \Upsilon_{H_{q+1,\alpha\beta\alpha}}^{H_{q,\alpha\beta\alpha}} \quad \text{hex}_{\beta\alpha\beta}(q) = \Upsilon_{H_{q,\beta\alpha\beta}}^{H_{q+1,\beta\alpha\beta}}$$

and we set

$$\text{hex}^{\alpha\beta\alpha} = \prod_{b_{\alpha,\beta} > q \geq 0} \text{hex}^{\alpha\beta\alpha}(q) \quad \text{hex}_{\beta\alpha\beta} = \prod_{0 \leq q \leq b_{\alpha,\beta}} \text{hex}_{\beta\alpha\beta}(q)$$

which allows us to factorise the hexagon generators as follows

$$\text{hex}_{\beta\alpha\beta}^{\alpha\beta\alpha} = \begin{cases} \text{hex}^{\alpha\beta\alpha}(e_{P_{\emptyset-\emptyset}} \otimes \text{hex}_{\beta\alpha\beta}) & \text{for } b_\alpha \geq b_\beta \\ (e_{P_{\emptyset-\emptyset}} \otimes \text{hex}^{\alpha\beta\alpha}) \text{hex}_{\beta\alpha\beta} & \text{for } b_\alpha \leq b_\beta \end{cases} \quad \text{hex}_{\emptyset\beta\alpha\beta}^{\emptyset\alpha\beta\alpha} = \begin{cases} e_{P_\emptyset} \otimes \text{hex}_{\beta\alpha\beta}^{\alpha\beta\alpha} & \text{if } b_\alpha \leq b_\beta \\ e_{P_\emptyset} \otimes \text{hex}_{\beta\alpha\beta}^{\alpha\beta\alpha} & \text{if } b_\alpha \geq b_\beta \end{cases}$$

the latter notation will be useful when we wish to consider products of such hexagons without assuming  $b_\alpha \geq b_\beta$  or vice versa. Finally, the following shorthand will come in useful when addressing some of

the relations in Section 6. Recall that adjustment is invertible. With this in mind, we set

$$\text{hex}_{\underline{v}\alpha\beta\alpha w\phi}^{\underline{v}\beta\alpha\beta w\phi} = \text{adj}_{\underline{v}\phi\beta\alpha\beta w}^{\underline{v}\beta\alpha\beta w\phi}(e_{P_{\underline{v}}}) \otimes \text{hex}_{\phi\alpha\beta\alpha}^{\phi\beta\alpha\beta} \otimes e_{P_{\underline{w}}}) \text{adj}_{\underline{v}\alpha\beta\alpha w\phi}^{\underline{v}\phi\alpha\beta\alpha w} = \Upsilon_{\underline{v}\alpha\beta\alpha w\phi}^{\underline{v}\beta\alpha\beta w\phi}$$

where the second equality follows by removing the resulting double-crossings using Proposition 4.4 in each case. Independence of the reduced expression follows from residue-commutativity of adjustment. Alternatively, the reader is invited to make minor modifications to the proof of Proposition 5.11.

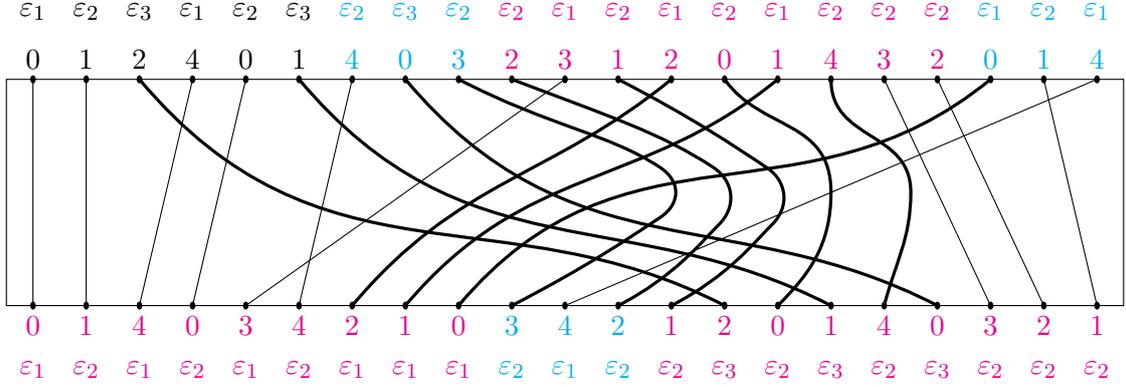


FIGURE 20. Let  $h = 3$ ,  $\ell = 1$ ,  $e = 5$  and  $\alpha = \varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1$ ,  $\beta = \varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2$ . We depict the element  $\text{hex}_{\underline{v}\alpha\beta\alpha w\phi}^{\underline{v}\beta\alpha\beta w\phi}$  and highlight the dilated word  $\text{nib}(1, 3)_5$  in bold. The reader should compare the highlighted strands with rightmost diagram in Figure 12. (We have drawn all bad-crossing so that they bi-pass on the right.)

**5.6. The commuting strands diagram.** Let  $\gamma, \beta \in \Pi$  be roots labelling commuting reflections (so that  $|k - j| > 1$ ). We wish to understand the morphism relating the paths  $P_\gamma \otimes P_\beta$  to  $P_\beta \otimes P_\gamma$ . We suppose without loss of generality that  $b_\gamma \geq b_\beta$ .

**Proposition 5.12.** *The element  $\psi_{P_\beta \otimes P_\gamma}^{P_\gamma \otimes P_\beta}$  is independent of the choice of reduced expression*

*Proof.* There are precisely  $b_{\gamma\beta}$  like-labelled crossings. The first  $b_\gamma$  of these connect the  $P_{\gamma\beta}^{-1}(q, \varepsilon_j)$ th and  $P_{\gamma\beta}^{-1}(b_\gamma + q, \varepsilon_{j+1})$ th northern vertices to the  $P_{\beta\gamma}^{-1}(q, \varepsilon_j)$ th and  $P_{\beta\gamma}^{-1}(b_\beta + q, \varepsilon_{j+1})$ th southern vertices for  $1 \leq q \leq b_\gamma$ . The latter  $b_\beta$  of these connect the  $P_{\gamma\beta}^{-1}(b_\beta + q, \varepsilon_{k+1})$ th and  $P_{\gamma\beta}^{-1}(q, \varepsilon_k)$ th northern vertices to the  $P_{\beta\gamma}^{-1}(b_\beta + q, \varepsilon_{k+1})$ th and  $P_{\beta\gamma}^{-1}(q, \varepsilon_k)$ th southern vertices for  $1 \leq q \leq b_\beta$ .

For  $k \neq h\ell$  (respectively  $k = h\ell$ ) each of the first  $1 \leq q \leq b_\gamma$  (respectively  $1 < q \leq b_\gamma$ ) like-labelled crossings forms a braid with precisely one other strand, namely that connecting the  $P_{\gamma\beta}^{-1}(b_\beta + q, \varepsilon_{k+1})$ th top vertex to the  $P_{\beta\gamma}^{-1}(b_\beta + q, \varepsilon_{k+1})$ th bottom vertex for  $1 \leq q \leq b_\gamma$  (respectively  $1 \leq q < b_\gamma$ ). This strand is of non-adjacent residue (by our assumption that  $\gamma$  and  $\beta$  label commuting reflections). The latter  $b_\beta$  cases can be treated similarly.

Thus each of the braids involving a like-labelled crossing (either totalling  $b_{\beta\gamma}$  if  $k, j \neq h\ell$  or  $b_{\beta\gamma} - 1$  otherwise) is residue-commutative. Thus  $\psi_{P_\beta \otimes P_\gamma}^{P_\gamma \otimes P_\beta}$  is residue commutative and the result follows.  $\square$

Thus we are free to define the KLR-commutator to be the element

$$\text{com}_{\beta\gamma}^{\gamma\beta} := \Upsilon_{P_\beta \otimes P_\gamma}^{P_\gamma \otimes P_\beta}$$

which is independent of the choice of reduced expression. We wish to inductively pass between the paths  $P_\gamma \otimes P_\beta$  and  $P_\beta \otimes P_\gamma$  by means of a visual timeline (as in Figure 21). We define

$$C^{q, \gamma\beta} = \begin{cases} M_k^{b_\gamma} \boxtimes P_{k+1}^{b_\gamma} \otimes_\gamma M_j^{b_\beta} \boxtimes P_{j+1}^{b_\beta} & \text{for } q = -1 \\ M_k^{b_\gamma} \otimes_\gamma M_j^{b_\beta} \boxtimes P_{j+1}^{b_\beta} \boxtimes P_k^{b_\gamma} & \text{for } q = 0 \\ P_{q\emptyset} \boxtimes M_k^{b_\gamma - q} \otimes_\gamma M_{k+1, j}^q \boxtimes M_j^{b_\beta - q} \boxtimes P_{j+1}^{b_\beta} \boxtimes P_k^{b_\gamma} & \text{for } 0 < q \leq b_\beta \end{cases}$$

$$C_{q,\beta\gamma} = \begin{cases} P_{\emptyset} \otimes_{\beta} M_k^{q-b_{\beta}} \boxtimes M_{k,j+1}^{b_{\beta}} \boxtimes M_k^{b_{\gamma}-q} \boxtimes P_j^{b_{\beta}} \boxtimes P_{k+1}^{b_{\gamma}} & \text{for } b_{\gamma} \geq q > b_{\beta} \\ P_{q\emptyset} \boxtimes M_j^{b_{\beta}-q} \otimes_{\beta} M_{k,j+1}^q \boxtimes M_k^{b_{\gamma}-q} \boxtimes P_j^{b_{\beta}} \boxtimes P_{k+1}^{b_{\gamma}} & \text{for } b_{\beta} \geq q > 0 \\ M_j^{b_{\beta}} \otimes_{\beta} M_k^{b_{\gamma}} \boxtimes P_j^{b_{\beta}} \boxtimes P_{k+1}^{b_{\gamma}} & \text{for } q = 0 \\ M_j^{b_{\beta}} \boxtimes P_{k+1}^{b_{\beta}} \otimes_{\beta} M_k^{b_{\gamma}} \boxtimes P_{k+1}^{b_{\gamma}} & \text{for } q = -1 \end{cases}$$

and we note that  $C_{b_{\gamma},\beta\gamma} = C^{b_{\beta},\gamma\beta}$  (to see this, note that the definition of the former contains a tensor product  $\otimes_{\gamma}$  and the latter contains a tensor product  $\otimes_{\beta}$  and this explains the differences in the subscripts). We now define

$$\text{com}^{q,\gamma\beta} = \Upsilon_{C_{q+1,\gamma\beta}}^{C_{q,\gamma\beta}} \quad \text{com}_{q,\beta\gamma} = \Upsilon_{C_{q,\beta\gamma}}^{C_{q+1,\beta\gamma}}.$$

This allows us to factorise

$$\text{com}_{\beta\gamma}^{\gamma\beta} = \text{com}^{\gamma\beta} \text{com}_{\beta\gamma} \quad \text{com}^{\gamma\beta} = \prod_{-1 \leq q < b_{\beta}} \text{com}^{q,\gamma\beta} \quad \text{com}_{\beta\gamma} = \prod_{b_{\gamma} > q \geq -1} \text{com}_{q,\beta\gamma}.$$

The following notation will come in useful in Section 6

$$\text{com}_{\underline{v}\beta\gamma\underline{w}}^{\underline{v}\gamma\beta\underline{w}} = e_{P_{\underline{v}}} \otimes \text{com}_{\underline{v}\beta\gamma\underline{w}}^{\underline{v}\gamma\beta\underline{w}} \otimes e_{P_{\underline{w}}}.$$

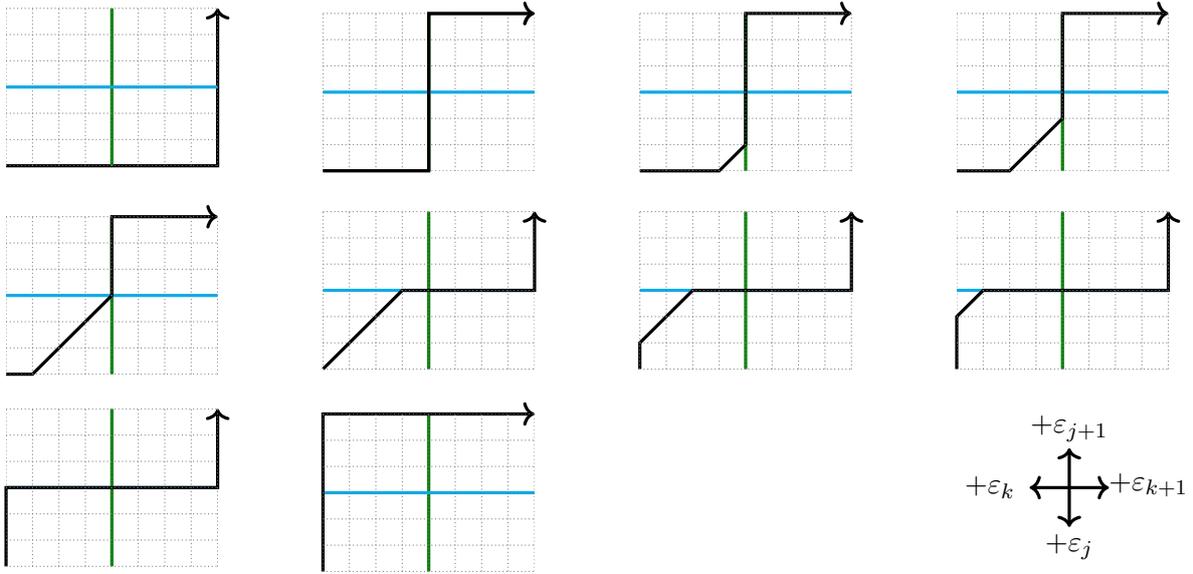


FIGURE 21. An example timeline for the KLR commutator. We mutate from  $P^{\gamma\beta}$  to  $P_{\beta\gamma}$  for  $b_{\gamma} = 4, b_{\beta} = 3$ . Reading from left-to-right along successive rows the paths are  $P^{-1,\gamma\beta}, p^{0,\gamma\beta}, p^{1,\gamma\beta}, p^{2,\gamma\beta}, p^{3,\gamma\beta} = P_{2,\beta\gamma}, P_{1,\beta\gamma}, P_{0,\beta\gamma}, P_{-1,\beta\gamma}$ . We draw paths in the projection onto  $\mathbb{R}\{\varepsilon_j + \varepsilon_{j+1}, \varepsilon_k + \varepsilon_{k+1}\}$ .

**5.7. The isomorphism.** Finally, we now explicitly state the isomorphism. Our notation has been chosen so as to make this almost tautological at this point. We suppose that  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  (respectively  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$ ) label non-commuting (respectively commuting) reflections. We define

$$\Psi : \mathcal{S}_{h,\ell}^{\text{br}}(n, \sigma) \longrightarrow f_{n,\sigma}(\mathcal{H}_n^{\sigma} / \mathcal{H}_n^{\sigma} e_h \mathcal{H}_n^{\sigma}) f_{n,\sigma}$$

to be the map defined on generators (and extended using horizontal/vertical concatenation) as follows

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi(1_{\alpha}) &= e_{P_{\alpha}} & \Psi(1_{\emptyset}) &= e_{P_{\emptyset}} & \psi(1_{\alpha\emptyset}^{\theta\alpha}) &= \text{adj}_{\alpha\emptyset}^{\theta\alpha} & \Psi(\text{SPOT}_{\alpha}^{\emptyset}) &= \text{spot}_{\alpha}^{\emptyset} \\ \Psi(\text{FORK}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\emptyset\alpha}) &= \text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\emptyset\alpha} & \Psi(\text{HEX}_{\alpha\beta\alpha}^{\beta\alpha\beta}) &= \text{hex}_{\alpha\beta\alpha}^{\beta\alpha\beta} & \Psi(\text{COM}_{\beta\gamma}^{\gamma\beta}) &= \text{com}_{\beta\gamma}^{\gamma\beta} \end{aligned}$$

and we extend this to the flips of these diagrams through their horizontal axes.

6. RECASTING THE DIAGRAMMATIC BOTT–SAMUELSON RELATIONS  
IN THE QUIVER HECKE ALGEBRA

The purpose of this section is to recast Elias–Williamson’s diagrammatic relations of Subsection 3.1 in the setting of the quiver Hecke algebra, thus verifying that the map  $\Psi_n$  is indeed a (graded)  $\mathbb{Z}$ -algebra homomorphism. We have already provided timelines which discretise each Soergel generator (which we think of as a continuous morphism between paths with a unique singularity, where the strands cross). We will verify most of the Soergel relations via a similar discretisation process which factorises the Soergel relation into simpler steps; we again record this as a visual timeline. We check each relation in turn, but leave it as an exercise for the reader to verify the flips of these relation through their vertical axes (the flips through horizontal axes follow immediately from the duality,  $*$ ). We continue with the notations of Convention 2.23. Our relations fall into three categories:

- Products involving only hexagons, commutators, and adjustment generators. Simplifying such products is an inductive process. At each step, one simplifies a non-minimal expression (in the concatenated diagram) to a minimal one *without changing the underlying permutation*. This typically involves a single “distinguished” strand which double-crosses some other strands; these double-crossings can be undone using Proposition 4.4. (This preserves the parity of like-labelled crossings.)
- Products involving a fork or spot generator. Such generators reflect one of the indexing paths in an irreversible manner. Simplifying such products is an inductive process. At each step, one rewrites a *single pair of crossing strands* (in the concatenated permutation) which *do not respect step-labels of the reflected paths*. By undoing this crossing using relation R3, we obtain the scalar  $-1$  times a new diagram *which does* respect the new step-labelling for the reflected paths. (Thus changing the parity of like-labelled crossings and also changing the scalar  $\pm 1$ .)
- Doubly spotted Soergel diagrams (such as the Demazure relations) for which we argue separately.

In each of the former two cases, we will decorate the top and bottom of the concatenated diagram with paths  $T$  and  $B$  (which we define case-by-case) and use the step-labelling from these paths to keep track of crossings of strands in the diagram.

**6.1. The double fork.** This first relation is incredibly simple and so we find that there is no need to record this in a timeline. For  $\alpha \in \Pi$ , we must verify that

$$\Psi \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 1: A grid with two vertical strands. The left strand is blue and the right strand is red. They cross twice. The top part of the left strand is blue, then it crosses the red strand, then it crosses back, then it crosses the red strand again. The bottom part of the left strand is red. The right strand is red throughout. The crossing sequence is blue over red, red over blue, blue over red, red over blue. } \end{array} \right) = \Psi \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 2: A grid with two vertical strands. The left strand is blue and the right strand is red. They cross twice. The top part of the left strand is blue, then it crosses the red strand, then it crosses back, then it crosses the red strand again. The bottom part of the left strand is red. The right strand is red throughout. The crossing sequence is red over blue, blue over red, red over blue, blue over red. } \end{array} \right) \quad (6.1)$$

Thus we need to check that

$$(e_{P_\alpha} \otimes \text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\alpha\emptyset}) \circ (\text{fork}_{\emptyset\alpha}^{\alpha\alpha} \otimes e_{P_\alpha}) = (\text{fork}_{\emptyset\alpha}^{\alpha\alpha} \otimes e_{P_\emptyset}) \circ (e_{P_\emptyset} \otimes \text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\alpha\emptyset}). \quad (6.2)$$

The permutation underlying  $e_{P_\alpha} \otimes \text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\alpha\emptyset}$  is the element  $w_B^T$  indexed by the pair of paths

$$T = P_\alpha \otimes P_\alpha \otimes P_\emptyset \quad \text{and} \quad B = P_\alpha \otimes P_\alpha^b \otimes P_\alpha$$

which differ only by permuting the final  $(b_\alpha h\ell + b_\alpha)$  steps. The permutation underlying  $\text{fork}_{\emptyset\alpha}^{\alpha\alpha} \otimes e_{P_\alpha}$  is the element  $w_{B'}^{T'}$  indexed by the pair of paths

$$T' = P_\alpha \otimes P_\alpha^b \otimes P_\alpha \quad \text{and} \quad B' = P_\emptyset \otimes P_\alpha \otimes P_\alpha.$$

which differ only by permuting the first  $(b_{\alpha\alpha} h\ell - b_\alpha)$  steps. These elements of  $\mathfrak{S}_{3b_\alpha h\ell}$  commute as they permute disjoint subsets of  $1, \dots, 3b_\alpha h\ell$ . Thus the elements  $\text{fork}_{\emptyset\alpha}^{\alpha\alpha} \otimes e_{P_\alpha}$  and  $e_{P_\alpha} \otimes \text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\alpha\emptyset}$  commute by relation R2 (and the result follows immediately).

**Remark 6.1.** *The reader might wonder why the element  $w_B^T$  appears to permute a greater number of strands than  $w_{B'}^{T'}$ . This is because our distinguished choice of  $P_\alpha$  has a total of  $(b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha)$  steps below (or on) the  $\alpha$ -hyperplane and  $b_\alpha$  steps above the hyperplane.*

6.2. **The one-colour zero relation.** For  $\alpha \in \Pi$ , we must verify that

$$\Psi \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram: A grid with a vertical pink line and a curved pink path crossing it.} \end{array} \right) = \text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\theta\alpha} \circ \text{fork}_{\theta\alpha}^{\alpha\alpha} = 0 \quad (6.3)$$

For  $b_\alpha > q \geq 1$  the paths  $F_{q,\theta\alpha}$  and  $F_{q-1,\theta\alpha}$  are concatenates of a single  $\alpha$ -crossing path and a single  $\alpha$ -bouncing path. By Proposition 4.4 we have that

$$\text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\theta\alpha}(q) e_{F_{q-1,\theta\alpha}} \text{fork}_{\theta\alpha}^{\alpha\alpha}(q) = e_{F_{q,\theta\alpha}}$$

for  $1 \leq q < b_\alpha$ . We apply this from the centre of the product

$$\text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\theta\alpha} \circ \text{fork}_{\theta\alpha}^{\alpha\alpha} = e_{P_{\theta\alpha}} \text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\theta\alpha}(b_\alpha - 1) \cdots \text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\theta\alpha}(0) e_{P_{\alpha\alpha}} \circ e_{P_{\alpha\alpha}} \text{fork}_{\theta\alpha}^{\alpha\alpha}(0) \cdots \text{fork}_{\theta\alpha}^{\alpha\alpha}(b_\alpha - 1) e_{P_{\theta\alpha}}$$

until we obtain

$$\text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\theta\alpha} \circ \text{fork}_{\theta\alpha}^{\alpha\alpha} = e_{P_{\theta\alpha}} \text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\theta\alpha}(b_\alpha - 1) e_{F_{b_\alpha-1,\theta\alpha}} \text{fork}_{\theta\alpha}^{\alpha\alpha}(b_\alpha - 1) e_{P_{\theta\alpha}}. \quad (6.4)$$

We cannot apply Proposition 4.4 to the pair of paths  $F_{b_\alpha-1,\theta\alpha}$  and  $F_{b_\alpha-2,\theta\alpha}$  because the former path passes through the  $\alpha$ -hyperplane once, whereas the latter passes through/bounces the  $\alpha$ -hyperplane twice. There is a pair of double-crossing  $r$ -strand (for some  $r \in \mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z}$ ) between the  $P_{\theta\alpha}^{-1}(b_\alpha, \varepsilon_i)$ th and  $P_{\theta\alpha}^{-1}(b_\alpha, \varepsilon_{i+1})$ th top and bottom vertices in the diagram

$$e_{P_{\theta\alpha}} \text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\theta\alpha}(b_\alpha - 1) e_{F_{b_\alpha-1,\theta\alpha}} \text{fork}_{\theta\alpha}^{\alpha\alpha}(b_\alpha - 1) e_{P_{\theta\alpha}}$$

This double-crossing of  $r$ -strands is not intersected by any strand of adjacent residue. Therefore the product is zero by the commutativity relations and the first case of relation R4, as required (see Figure 22 for an example).

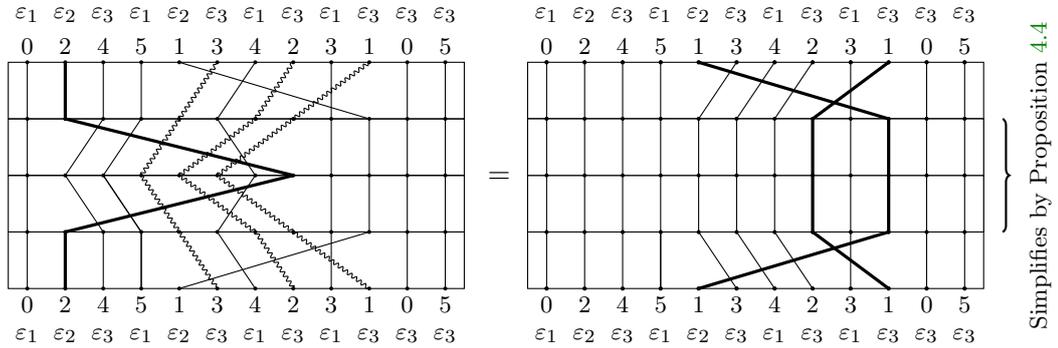


FIGURE 22. Let  $h = 1$ ,  $\ell = 3$ ,  $\sigma = (0, 2, 4)$  and  $e = 6$ . The lefthand-side is  $\text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\theta\alpha} \text{fork}_{\theta\alpha}^{\alpha\alpha}$ ; we apply Proposition 4.4 to undo the highlighted strands (compare these highlighted strands with the highlighted strands of the first diagram in Example 4.6). The thick double-crossing of strands in the rightmost diagram is zero by the first case of relation R4 (after applying the commutativity relation).

6.3. **Fork-spot contraction.** For  $\alpha \in \Pi$ , we now consider the fork-spot contraction relation

$$\left( \text{spot}_{\alpha}^{\theta} \otimes e_{P_{\alpha}} \right) \circ \text{fork}_{\theta\alpha}^{\alpha\alpha} = \Psi \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram: A grid with a vertical pink line and a spot (pink circle) at the top left.} \end{array} \right) = \Psi \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram: A grid with a vertical pink line.} \end{array} \right) = e_{P_{\theta}} \otimes e_{P_{\alpha}} \quad (6.5)$$

For  $0 \leq q \leq b_\alpha$ , we define the spot-fork path to be

$$\text{FS}_{q,\alpha} = P_{q\emptyset} \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha} \otimes_{\alpha} P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha-q} \otimes_{\alpha} M_i^{b_\alpha-q} \boxtimes P_i^{b_\alpha} = P_{q\emptyset} \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_i^{b_\alpha-q} \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha-q} \boxtimes P_i^{b_\alpha}$$

which is obtained from  $F_{q,\theta\alpha}$  by reflection by  $s_\alpha$  (see Figure 23). We note that  $\text{FS}_{b_\alpha,\alpha} = P_{\theta} \otimes P_{\alpha} = S_{b_\alpha,\alpha} \otimes P_{\alpha}$  and so the result will follow immediately once we prove the following proposition.

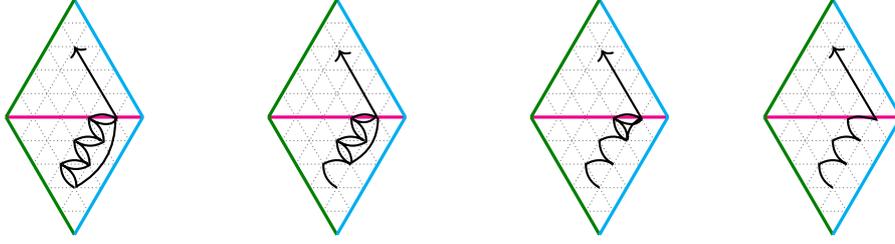


FIGURE 23. An example of a timeline for the KLR spot-fork relation, with  $\ell = 1$ ,  $h = 3$ ,  $e = 5$  and  $\alpha = \varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1$ . From left to right we picture the paths  $FS_{0,\alpha} = P_\alpha^b \otimes P_\alpha$ ,  $FS_{1,\alpha}$ ,  $FS_{2,\alpha}$ ,  $FS_{3,\alpha} = P_\emptyset \otimes P_\alpha$ .

**Proposition 6.2.** For  $\alpha \in \Pi$  and  $0 \leq q < b_\alpha$  we have that

$$(\text{spot}_\alpha^\emptyset(q) \otimes e_{P_\alpha}) \circ \Upsilon_{FS_{q,\alpha}}^{S_{q,\alpha} \otimes P_\alpha} \circ \text{fork}_{\emptyset\alpha}^{\alpha\alpha}(q) = \Upsilon_{FS_{q+1,\alpha}}^{S_{q+1,\alpha} \otimes P_\alpha}. \quad (6.6)$$

*Proof.* We first note that the righthand-side is residue commutative (one can reindex the proof of Proposition 5.8). We decorate the top and bottom edges of the concatenated product on the lefthand-side of equation (6.6) with the tableaux  $T_q = S_{q,\alpha} \otimes P_\alpha$  and  $B_q = FS_{q,\alpha}$  respectively for  $0 \leq q < b_\alpha$ . For each  $0 \leq q < b_\alpha$ , the product on the lefthand-side of equation (6.6) has a single pair of strands which do not respect the step-labels: Namely, the strand  $Q_1$  from connecting the  $B_q^{-1}(q+1, \varepsilon_i)$ th bottom node to the  $T_q^{-1}(b_\alpha + q + 1, \varepsilon_{i+1})$ th top node and the strand  $Q_2$  connecting the  $B_q^{-1}(b_\alpha + q + 1, \varepsilon_{i+1})$ th bottom node to the  $T_q^{-1}(q+1, \varepsilon_i)$ th top node. The strands  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  are both of the same residue,  $r_q \in \mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z}$  say, and they cross each other exactly once. This crossing of  $r_q$ -strands is bi-passed on the left by the  $(r_q + 1)$ -strand connecting the  $B_q^{-1}(b_\alpha + q, \varepsilon_i)$ th bottom node to the  $T_q^{-1}(b_\alpha + q, \varepsilon_i)$ th top node. We pull the  $(r_q - 1)$ -strand through this crossing, using relation R5. We hence obtain two terms: the term in which we undo this braid is equal to the righthand-side of equation (6.6) and the other term is equal to zero by Lemma 4.1. See Figure 24 for an example.  $\square$

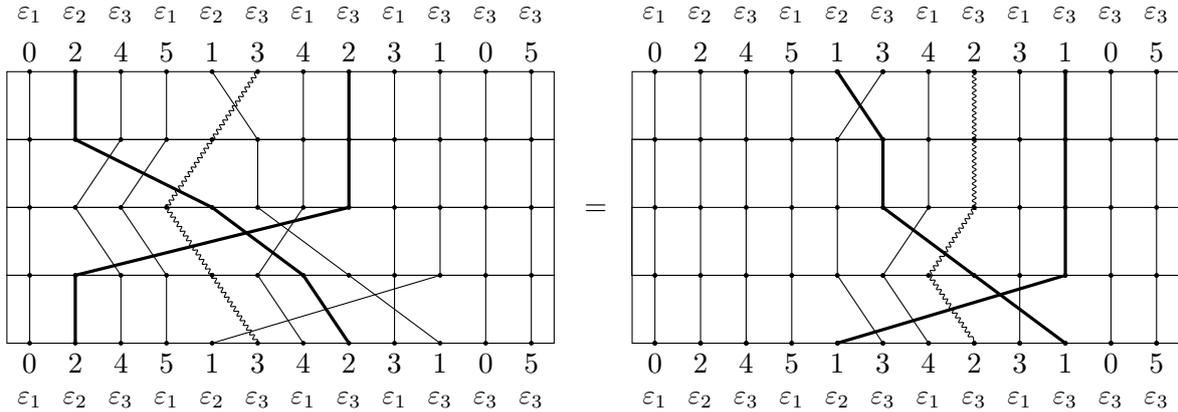


FIGURE 24. Let  $h = 1$ ,  $e = 6$ , and  $\ell = 3$  and  $\sigma = (0, 2, 4)$ . The lefthand-side is  $(\text{spot}_\alpha^\emptyset \otimes e_{P_\alpha})\text{fork}_{\emptyset\alpha}^{\alpha\alpha}$ . The equality follows by Proposition 6.2. We highlight the braid which is “undone” using Proposition 6.2 (on the righthand-side we do not undo this braid, but leave it as an exercise for the reader).

**6.4. The spot and commutator.** Let  $\beta, \gamma \in \Pi$  label two commuting reflections, we check that

$$\text{com}_{\beta\gamma}^{\gamma\beta}(\text{spot}_\emptyset^\beta \otimes e_{P_\gamma}) = \Upsilon_{P_\emptyset \otimes P_\gamma}^{P_\gamma \otimes P_\beta^b} = (e_{P_\gamma} \otimes \text{spot}_\emptyset^\beta) \text{adj}_{\emptyset\gamma}^{\gamma\emptyset} \quad (6.7)$$

where the righthand equality is immediate. We now set about proving the lefthand-equality. We assume that  $b_\beta \leq b_\gamma$  (the other case is similar, but has fewer steps). We define

$$\text{SC}_{q,\beta\gamma} = \begin{cases} P_\emptyset \boxtimes M_k^{q-b_\beta} \boxtimes M_{k,j+1}^{b_\beta} \boxtimes M_k^{b_\gamma-q} \boxtimes P_j^{b_\beta} \boxtimes P_{k+1}^{b_\gamma} & \text{for } b_\gamma \geq q > b_\beta \\ P_{q\emptyset} \boxtimes M_j^{b_\beta-q} \boxtimes M_{k,j+1}^q \boxtimes M_k^{b_\gamma-q} \boxtimes P_j^{b_\beta} \boxtimes P_{k+1}^{b_\gamma} & \text{for } b_\beta \geq q > 0 \\ M_j^{b_\beta} \boxtimes M_k^{b_\gamma} \boxtimes P_j^{b_\beta} \boxtimes P_{k+1}^{b_\gamma} & \text{for } q = 0 \\ M_j^{b_\beta} \boxtimes P_{j+1}^{b_\beta} \boxtimes M_k^{b_\gamma} \boxtimes P_{k+1}^{b_\gamma} & \text{for } q = -1 \end{cases}$$

which is obtained from  $C_{q,\beta\gamma}$  by reflection through  $s_\beta$ . We invite the reader to draw an example of the timeline by reflecting the final four paths of Figure 21 through  $s_\beta$ .

**Proposition 6.3.** *For  $0 \leq q < b_\beta$ , we have that*

$$\text{com}_{\beta\gamma}(q) \circ \Upsilon_{S_{q,\beta} \otimes P_\gamma}^{\text{SC}_{q,\beta\gamma}} \circ (\text{spot}_\emptyset^\beta(q) \otimes e_{P_\gamma}) = \Upsilon_{S_{q+1,\beta} \otimes P_\gamma}^{\text{SC}_{q+1,\beta\gamma}} \quad (6.8)$$

(note that  $\Upsilon_{S_{0,\beta} \otimes P_\gamma}^{\text{SC}_{0,\beta\gamma}} = \text{com}_{\beta\gamma}(-1)$ ) and for  $b_\beta \leq q < b_\gamma$ , we have that

$$\text{com}_{\beta\gamma}(q) \circ \Upsilon_{P_\emptyset \otimes P_\gamma}^{\text{SC}_{q,\beta\gamma}} = \Upsilon_{P_\emptyset \otimes P_\gamma}^{\text{SC}_{q+1,\beta\gamma}}. \quad (6.9)$$

*Proof.* All these elements are residue commutative (by reindexing the proof of Proposition 5.12). We prove equation (6.8) and (6.9) by induction on  $0 \leq q < b_\gamma$  (the  $q = -1$  case is trivial). Label the top and bottom frames of the concatenated diagrams on the lefthand-side of equation (6.8) and (6.9) by the paths  $T_{q+1} = \text{SC}_{q+1,\beta\gamma}$  and  $B_{q+1} = S_{q+1,\emptyset} \otimes P_\gamma$ . The concatenated diagram on the lefthand-side of both equation (6.8) and equation (6.9) has a single crossing which does not preserve step labels. Namely the strands connecting the  $T_q^{-1}(q+1, \varepsilon_j)$ th and  $T_q^{-1}(b_\beta + q + 1, \varepsilon_{j+1})$ th top vertices to the  $B_q^{-1}(q+1, \varepsilon_j)$ th and  $B_q^{-1}(b_\beta + q + 1, \varepsilon_{j+1})$ th bottom vertices form an  $r_q$ -crossing, for some  $r_q \in \mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z}$  say, and these strands permute the labels  $+\varepsilon_j$  and  $+\varepsilon_{j+1}$ . This crossing is bi-passed on the left by a strand connecting the  $T_q^{-1}(b_\beta + q, \varepsilon_{j+1})$ th top and  $B_q^{-1}(b_\beta + q, \varepsilon_{j+1})$ th bottom vertices. We undo this triple using case 2 of relation R5 and hence obtain the righthand-side of equation (6.8) and (6.9).  $\square$

In order to deduce that equation (6.7) holds, we observe that

$$\text{com}^{\gamma\beta} \circ (\text{com}_{\beta\gamma}(\text{spot}_\emptyset^\beta \otimes e_{P_\gamma})) = \text{com}^{\gamma\beta} \circ \Upsilon_{P_\emptyset \otimes P_\gamma}^{\text{SC}_{b_\gamma,\beta\gamma}} = \Upsilon_{P_\emptyset \otimes P_\gamma}^{P_\gamma \otimes P_\beta^b}$$

as the lefthand-side of the final equality is minimal and respects step-labels.

**6.5. The spot-hexagon.** For  $\alpha, \beta \in \Pi$  labelling two non-commuting reflections, we must check that

$$\Psi \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 1: A grid with a blue strand crossing a pink strand. The blue strand starts at a blue dot and ends at a blue dot. The pink strand starts at a pink dot and ends at a pink dot.} \end{array} \right) = \Psi \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 2: A grid with a blue strand and a pink strand. The blue strand starts at a blue dot and ends at a pink dot. The pink strand starts at a pink dot and ends at a blue dot.} \end{array} \right) + \Psi \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 3: A grid with a blue strand and a pink strand. The blue strand starts at a pink dot and ends at a blue dot. The pink strand starts at a blue dot and ends at a pink dot.} \end{array} \right) \quad (6.10)$$

(and we leave it the reader to check the reflection of this relation through its vertical axis). In other words, we need to check that

$$(e_{P_\emptyset} \otimes \text{spot}_\beta^\emptyset \otimes e_{P_{\alpha\beta}}) \text{hex}_{\emptyset\alpha\beta\alpha}^{\emptyset\beta\alpha\beta}$$

is equal to

$$\text{adj}_{\emptyset\alpha\beta\emptyset}^{\emptyset\emptyset\alpha\beta}(e_{P_{\alpha\beta}} \otimes \text{spot}_\alpha^\emptyset) + e_{P_\emptyset} \otimes (\text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\emptyset\alpha} \otimes \text{spot}_\emptyset^\beta) \text{adj}_{\alpha\emptyset\alpha}^{\alpha\alpha\emptyset}(e_{P_\alpha} \otimes \text{spot}_\beta^\emptyset \otimes e_{P_\alpha}).$$

We set  $j = i + 1$  so that  $\alpha = \varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_{i+1}$ ,  $\beta = \varepsilon_{i+1} - \varepsilon_{i+2}$ . We will begin by considering the lefthand-side of the equation. In order to do this, we need to use the reflections of the braid  $H_{q,\beta\alpha\beta}$ -paths for  $0 \leq q \leq b_{\alpha\beta}$  through the first  $\beta$ -hyperplane which they come across (namely the hyperplane whose

strand we are putting a spot on top of) and we remark that this path will have the *same residue sequence* as the original  $H_{q,\beta\alpha\beta}$ -paths, but different step labelling. We define

$$\text{SH}_{q,\beta\alpha\beta} = \begin{cases} P_{q\emptyset} \boxtimes M_{i+1}^{b_\beta - q} \boxtimes M_{i,i+1}^q \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\beta} \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha - q} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} \otimes_\alpha M_{i+1}^{b_\beta} \boxtimes P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} & 0 \leq q \leq b_\beta \\ P_\emptyset \boxtimes M_i^{q - b_\beta} \boxtimes M_{i,i+1}^{b_\beta} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\beta} \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha - q} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} \otimes_\alpha M_{i+1}^{b_\beta} \boxtimes P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} & b_\beta \leq q \leq b_\alpha \\ P_\emptyset \boxtimes M_i^{q - b_\beta} \boxtimes P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} \boxtimes M_{i,i+2}^{q - b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} \otimes_\alpha M_{i+1}^{b_\alpha - q} \boxtimes P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} & b_\alpha \leq q \leq b_{\alpha\beta} \end{cases}$$

for  $b_\alpha \geq b_\beta$  (the  $b_\alpha < b_\beta$  case is similar). See Figure 25 for an example.

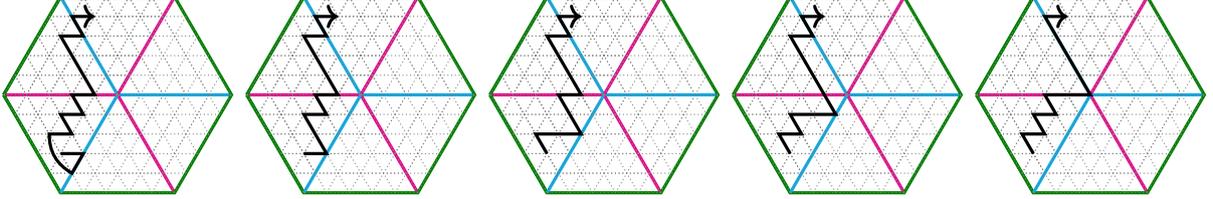


FIGURE 25. An example of the tableaux  $\text{SH}_{q,\beta\alpha\beta}$  for  $0 \leq q \leq b_{\alpha\beta}$ . The reader should compare these reflected paths with the final five paths of Figure 19.

**Proposition 6.4.** *We have that*

$$(e_{P_\emptyset} \otimes \text{spot}_\beta^\emptyset \otimes e_{P_{\alpha\beta}}) \text{hex}^{\beta\alpha\beta} = \Upsilon_{P_\emptyset \otimes \text{SH}_{b_{\alpha\beta}, \beta\alpha\beta}}^{P_{\emptyset\alpha\beta}} \quad (6.11)$$

*Proof.* First, we remark that the righthand-side of equation (6.11) is residue-commuting and so makes sense. For  $0 \leq q < b_{\alpha\beta}$ , we claim that

$$(e_{P_\emptyset} \otimes \text{spot}_\beta^\emptyset(q) \otimes e_{P_{\alpha\beta}}) \Upsilon_{P_\emptyset \otimes \text{SH}_{q,\beta\alpha\beta}}^{P_{\emptyset\alpha\beta} \otimes S_{q,\beta} \otimes P_{\alpha\beta}} \text{hex}^{\beta\alpha\beta}(q) = \Upsilon_{P_\emptyset \otimes \text{SH}_{q+1,\beta\alpha\beta}}^{P_{\emptyset\alpha\beta} \otimes S_{q+1,\beta} \otimes P_{\alpha\beta}} \quad (6.12)$$

and we will label the top and bottom of these diagrams according to the paths  $T_q = P_\emptyset \otimes S_{q+1,\beta} \otimes P_{\alpha\beta}$  and  $B_q = P_\emptyset \otimes \text{SH}_{q+1,\beta\alpha\beta}$  respectively (with the convention that  $S_{q,\beta} = P_\emptyset$  for  $q \geq b_\beta$ ). Again, this element is residue-commuting and so there is no ambiguity here. In the concatenated diagram on the lefthand-side of equation (6.12), there is a single pair of strands,  $Q$  and  $Q'$  (of residue  $r_q \in \mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z}$ , say) which do not preserve step-labels; these strands connect the

$$T_q^{-1}(b_\alpha + q + 1, \varepsilon_{i+1}) \quad T_q^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta} + q + 1, \varepsilon_{i+2}) \quad B_q^{-1}(b_\alpha + q + 1, \varepsilon_{i+1}) \quad B_q^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta} + q + 1, \varepsilon_{i+2})$$

top and bottom vertices and cross one another. This crossing of  $r_q$ -strands,  $Q$  and  $Q'$ , is bi-passed on the left by the  $(r_q + 1)$ -strand from  $T_q^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta} + q, \varepsilon_{i+2})$  to  $B_q^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta} + q, \varepsilon_{i+2})$ .

Applying case 2 of relation R5 to the concatenated diagram we obtain two terms: the term with the crossing is bi-passed on the right is zero by Lemma 4.1; the term in which we undo the crossing is equal to the righthand-side of equation (6.12) (since we have undone the unique step-label-violating crossing and the resulting diagram is minimal). An example is given in Figure 26.  $\square$

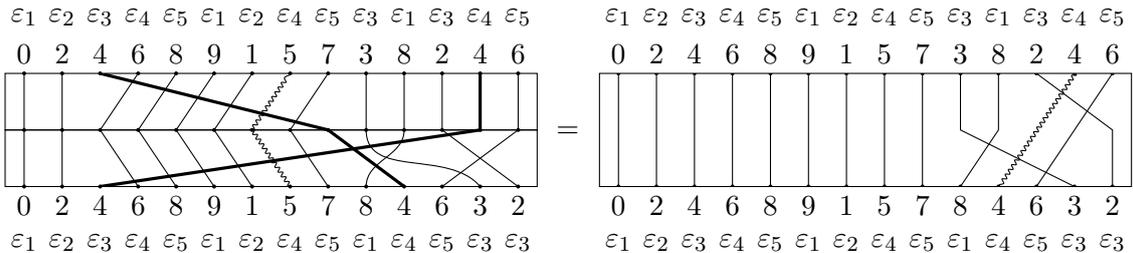


FIGURE 26. The product  $(\text{spot}_\beta^\emptyset(0) \otimes e_{P_{\alpha\beta}}) \text{hex}^{\beta\alpha\beta}(0)$  in the proof of Proposition 6.4 for  $h = 1$ ,  $\ell = 5$ ,  $\kappa = (0, 2, 4, 6, 8)$ ,  $e = 10$  and  $\alpha = \varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3$ ,  $\beta = \varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_4$ . The top path is  $S_{1,\alpha} \otimes M_2$  and the bottom path is  $\text{SH}_{1,\beta\alpha\beta} \otimes M_2$  (the prefix  $P_\emptyset$  and the remainder of the postfix  $P_\alpha = M_2^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_3^{b_\alpha}$  would not fit).

We now wish to show that

$$\Upsilon_{P_\emptyset \otimes \text{SH}_{b_{\alpha\beta}, \beta\alpha\beta}}^{\text{P}_{\emptyset\emptyset\alpha\beta}} \text{hex}_{\emptyset\alpha\beta\alpha} = \text{adj}_{\emptyset\alpha\beta\emptyset}^{\text{P}_{\emptyset\emptyset\alpha\beta}}(e_{P_\emptyset} \otimes \text{spot}_\alpha^\emptyset) + e_{P_\emptyset} \otimes (\text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^\emptyset \otimes \text{spot}_\beta^\beta) \text{adj}_{\alpha\emptyset\alpha}^{\text{P}_{\emptyset\emptyset\alpha\beta}}(e_{P_\alpha} \otimes \text{spot}_\beta^\emptyset \otimes e_{P_\alpha}).$$

In what follows, we assume that  $b_\alpha \geq b_\beta$ . In order to consider the first term, we use the reflections of the  $H_{q,\alpha\beta\alpha}$ -paths for  $0 \leq q \leq b_{\alpha\beta}$  through the final  $\alpha$ -hyperplane which they come across (namely the hyperplane whose strand we are putting a spot on top of) and we remark that this path will have the *same residue sequence* as the original  $H_{q,\alpha\beta\alpha}$ -paths but with a different step labelling. We define

$$S_\alpha H_{q,\alpha\beta\alpha} = \begin{cases} P_{q\emptyset} \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} \otimes_\alpha M_{i+1}^{b_\beta-q} \boxtimes P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} \otimes_\beta M_{i,i+2}^q \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha-q} \otimes_\alpha P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} & 0 \leq q \leq b_\beta \\ P_{q\emptyset} \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_{\alpha\beta}-q} \otimes_\alpha P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} \otimes_\beta M_{i,i+2}^{b_\beta} \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha-q} \otimes_\alpha P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} & b_\beta \leq q \leq b_\alpha \\ P_\emptyset \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_{\alpha\beta}-q} \otimes_\alpha P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} \otimes_\beta M_{i,i+2}^{b_\beta} \otimes_\alpha P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_i^{q-b_\alpha} & b_\alpha \leq q \leq b_{\alpha\beta} \end{cases}$$

In order to consider the second term, we need the reflections of the  $H_{q,\alpha\beta\alpha}$ -paths for  $0 \leq q \leq b_{\alpha\beta}$  through the first  $\beta$ -hyperplane which they come across.

$$S_\beta H_{q,\alpha\beta\alpha} = \begin{cases} P_{q\emptyset} \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} \otimes_\alpha M_{i+1}^{b_\beta-q} \boxtimes P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} \boxtimes M_{i,i+2}^q \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha-q} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} & 0 \leq q \leq b_\beta \\ P_{q\emptyset} \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_{\alpha\beta}-q} \otimes_\alpha P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} \boxtimes M_{i,i+2}^{b_\beta} \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha-q} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} & b_\beta \leq q \leq b_\alpha \\ P_\emptyset \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_{\alpha\beta}-q} \otimes_\alpha P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} \boxtimes M_{i,i+2}^{b_\beta} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_i^{q-b_\alpha} & b_\alpha \leq q \leq b_{\alpha\beta} \end{cases}$$

See Figure 27 for an example of the  $S_\alpha H_{q,\alpha\beta\alpha}$  paths. We leave it as an exercise for the reader to draw the  $S_\beta H_{q,\alpha\beta\alpha}$  paths. Finally, for the purposes of the proof we will also need the following ‘‘error path’’

$$eS_\beta H_{\alpha\beta\alpha} = P_\emptyset \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha} \otimes_\alpha P_{i+2}^{b_\beta-1} \boxtimes M_{i,i+2} \boxtimes P_{i+2} \boxtimes M_{i,i+2}^{b_\beta-1} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_i^{b_\beta}$$

which one should compare with the final path (the  $b_{\alpha\beta}$ th case) above. One should repeat the above definitions for the  $b_\alpha < b_\beta$  case.

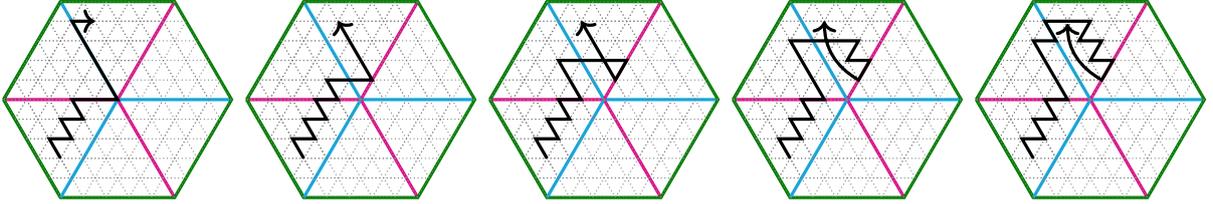


FIGURE 27. An example of the paths  $S_\alpha H_{q,\alpha\beta\alpha}$  for  $b_{\alpha\beta} \geq q \geq 0$ .

**Proposition 6.5.** *We have that*

$$\Upsilon_{P_\emptyset \otimes \text{SH}_{b_{\alpha\beta}, \beta\alpha\beta}}^{\text{P}_{\emptyset\emptyset\alpha\beta}} \text{hex}_{\emptyset\alpha\beta\alpha} = \Upsilon_{P_\emptyset \otimes P_\emptyset \otimes P_\alpha \otimes P_\beta}^{\text{P}_{\emptyset\emptyset\alpha\beta}} + \Upsilon_{P_\emptyset \otimes P_\emptyset \otimes P_\alpha \otimes P_\beta}^{\text{P}_{\emptyset\emptyset\alpha\beta}}. \quad (6.13)$$

*Proof.* First, we remark that both terms on the righthand-side of equation (6.13) are residue-commuting. We suppose  $b_\alpha \geq b_\beta$  as the other case is similar. We observe that

$$\Upsilon_{P_\emptyset \otimes \text{SH}_{b_{\alpha\beta}, \beta\alpha\beta}}^{\text{P}_{\emptyset\emptyset\alpha\beta}} = \Upsilon_{P_\emptyset \otimes S_\alpha H_{b_{\alpha\beta}, \beta\alpha\beta}}^{\text{P}_{\emptyset\emptyset\alpha\beta}} = \Upsilon_{P_\emptyset \otimes S_\beta H_{b_{\alpha\beta}, \beta\alpha\beta}}^{\text{P}_{\emptyset\emptyset\alpha\beta}}$$

as the underlying permutations (and residue sequences) are all identical. We set

$$T_\alpha = P_\emptyset \otimes P_\alpha \otimes P_\beta \quad T_\beta = P_\emptyset \otimes P_\alpha \otimes P_\beta \quad B_{q,\alpha} = P_\emptyset \otimes S_\alpha H_{q+1,\alpha\beta\alpha} \quad B_{q,\beta} = P_\emptyset \otimes S_\beta H_{q,\alpha\beta\alpha}$$

for  $b_{\alpha\beta} > q \geq 0$ . We first consider the  $q = b_{\alpha\beta} - 1$  case. The concatenated diagram

$$\Upsilon_{P_\emptyset \otimes \text{SH}_{b_{\alpha\beta}, \beta\alpha\beta}}^{\text{P}_{\emptyset\emptyset\alpha\beta}}(e_{P_\emptyset} \otimes \text{hex}_{\alpha\beta\alpha}(b_{\alpha\beta} - 1))$$

contains a single like-labelled crossing of  $r_{b_{\alpha\beta}-1}$ -strands connecting the pair

$$T_\alpha^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta\alpha} + 1, \varepsilon_{i+1}) = T_\beta^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta} + 1, \varepsilon_i) \quad T_\alpha^{-1}(2b_{\alpha\beta} + 1, \varepsilon_{i+2}) = T_\beta^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta\alpha} + 1, \varepsilon_{i+1})$$

of top vertices to the pair of

$$B_{\alpha}^{-1}(2b_{\alpha\beta} + 1, \varepsilon_{i+2}) = B_{\beta}^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta\alpha} + 1, \varepsilon_{i+1}) \quad B_{\alpha}^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta\alpha} + 1, \varepsilon_{i+1}) = B_{\beta}^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta} + 1, \varepsilon_i)$$

These  $r_{b_{\alpha\beta}-1}$ -crossing strands are bi-passed on the left by the  $r_{b_{\alpha\beta}}$ -strand connecting the

$$T_{\alpha}^{-1}(2b_{\alpha\beta}, \varepsilon_{i+2}) = T_{\beta}^{-1}(2b_{\alpha\beta}, \varepsilon_{i+2}) \quad B_{\alpha}^{-1}(2b_{\alpha\beta}, \varepsilon_{i+2}) = B_{\beta}^{-1}(2b_{\alpha\beta}, \varepsilon_{i+2})$$

top and bottom vertices. We apply case 2 of relation R5 to the this triple of strands and hence obtain

$$\Upsilon_{P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} S H_{\alpha\beta, \beta\alpha\beta}}^{P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} \alpha\alpha\beta} \text{hex}_{\vartheta\alpha\beta\alpha}(b_{\alpha\beta} - 1) = \Upsilon_{P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} S_{\alpha} H_{\alpha\beta-1, \beta\alpha\beta}}^{P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} P_{\alpha}^{\otimes} P_{\beta}} + \Upsilon_{P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} S_{\beta} H_{\alpha\beta\alpha}}^{P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} P_{\alpha}^{\otimes} P_{\beta}^{\flat}} \Upsilon_{P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} S_{\beta} H_{\alpha\beta-1, \beta\alpha\beta}}^{P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} e S_{\beta} H_{\alpha\beta\alpha}} \quad (6.14)$$

where in the first term we have undone the triple-crossing and in the second “error” term the  $r_{b_{\alpha\beta}}$ -strand bi-passes the crossing to the right (and is labelled by the “error path”). We are now ready to consider the  $b_{\alpha\beta} - 1 > q \geq 0$  cases — which we do separately for  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , in turn.

**Case  $\alpha$ .** We first consider the first term on the righthand-side of equation (6.14). We claim that

$$\Upsilon_{P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} S_{\alpha} H_{q+1, \alpha\beta\alpha}}^{P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} P_{\alpha}^{\otimes} P_{\beta}} \text{hex}_{\vartheta\alpha\beta\alpha}(q) = \Upsilon_{P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} S_{\alpha} H_{q, \alpha\beta\alpha}}^{P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} P_{\alpha}^{\otimes} P_{\beta}} \quad (6.15)$$

for  $b_{\alpha\beta} - 1 > q \geq 0$ . For each  $b_{\alpha\beta} > q \geq b_{\alpha}$  the concatenated diagram in equation (6.15) contains a single like-labelled crossing of  $r_q$ -strands (for some  $r_q \in \mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z}$  say) connecting the pair

$$T_{\alpha}^{-1}(2b_{\beta} + 3b_{\alpha} - q, \varepsilon_{i+1}) \quad T_{\alpha}^{-1}(3b_{\beta} + 3b_{\alpha} - q, \varepsilon_{i+2})$$

of top vertices to the pair of

$$B_{\alpha}^{-1}(3b_{\beta} + 3b_{\alpha} - q, \varepsilon_{i+2}) \quad B_{\alpha}^{-1}(3b_{\beta} + 3b_{\alpha} - q, \varepsilon_{i+1})$$

bottom vertices, respectively. For  $b_{\alpha\beta} - 1 > q \geq b_{\alpha}$  the aforementioned (unique) pair of crossing  $r_q$ -strands in

$$\Upsilon_{P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} S_{\alpha} H_{q+1, \alpha\beta\alpha}}^{P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} P_{\alpha}^{\otimes} P_{\beta}} \text{hex}_{\vartheta\alpha\beta\alpha}(q) = \Upsilon_{P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} S_{\alpha} H_{q, \alpha\beta\alpha}}^{P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} P_{\alpha}^{\otimes} P_{\beta}}$$

is bi-passed on the left by the  $r_{q+1}$ -strand connecting  $T_{\alpha}^{-1}(3b_{\beta} + 3b_{\alpha} - q - 1, \varepsilon_{i+2})$  and  $B_{\alpha}^{-1}(3b_{\beta} + 3b_{\alpha} - q - 1, \varepsilon_{i+2})$  top and bottom vertices. Applying case 2 of relation R5 we undo this triple crossing (the other term is zero by Lemma 4.1) as required. Now for  $b_{\alpha} > q \geq 0$  the concatenated product on the lefthand-side of equation (6.15) is both minimal and step-preserving and so the claim follows.

**Case  $\beta$ .** We now consider the second term on the right of equation (6.14). We have that

$$\Upsilon_{P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} S_{\beta} H_{q+1, \alpha\beta\alpha}}^{P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} e S_{\beta} H_{\alpha\beta\alpha}} \text{hex}_{\vartheta\alpha\beta\alpha}(q) = \Upsilon_{P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} S_{\beta} H_{q, \alpha\beta\alpha}}^{P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} e S_{\beta} H_{\alpha\beta\alpha}}$$

for  $b_{\alpha\beta} - 1 > q \geq b_{\alpha}$  as the lefthand-side is minimal and step-preserving. Now, we claim that

$$\Upsilon_{P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} e S_{\beta} H_{\alpha\beta\alpha}}^{P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} P_{\alpha}^{\otimes} P_{\beta}^{\flat}} \Upsilon_{P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} S_{\beta} H_{b_{\alpha}-1, \alpha\beta\alpha}}^{P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} e S_{\beta} H_{\alpha\beta\alpha}} \text{hex}_{\vartheta\alpha\beta\alpha}(b_{\alpha} - 1) = \Upsilon_{P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} S_{\beta} H_{b_{\alpha}-1, \alpha\beta\alpha}}^{P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} P_{\alpha}^{\otimes} P_{\beta}^{\flat}} \quad (6.16)$$

and that

$$\Upsilon_{P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} S_{\beta} H_{q+1, \beta\alpha\beta}}^{P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} P_{\alpha}^{\otimes} P_{\beta}^{\flat}} \text{hex}_{\vartheta\alpha\beta\alpha}(q) = \Upsilon_{P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} S_{\beta} H_{q, \beta\alpha\beta}}^{P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} P_{\vartheta}^{\otimes} P_{\alpha}^{\otimes} P_{\beta}^{\flat}} \quad (6.17)$$

for  $b_{\alpha} - 1 > q \geq 0$ . For each  $b_{\alpha} \geq q \geq 0$  the concatenated diagram on the lefthand-side of equation (6.16) and (6.17) contains a crossing pair of  $r_q$ -strands connecting the

$$T_{\beta}^{-1}(b_{\beta} + q + 1, \varepsilon_i) \quad T_{\beta}^{-1}(2b_{\beta} + b_{\alpha} + q + 1, \varepsilon_{i+2}) \quad B_{\beta}^{-1}(2b_{\beta} + b_{\alpha} + q + 1, \varepsilon_{i+2}) \quad B_{\beta}^{-1}(b_{\beta} + q + 1, \varepsilon_i)$$

top and bottom vertices, respectively (note that this crossing does not respect step labels). This  $r_q$ -crossing is bi-passed on the right by the  $(r_q - 1)$ -strand connecting the

$$T_{\beta}^{-1}(b_{\beta} + q + 2, \varepsilon_i) \quad B_{\beta}^{-1}(b_{\beta} + q + 2, \varepsilon_i)$$

top and bottom vertices. We undo this triple-crossing using case 1 of relation R5 (the other term is zero by Lemma 4.1). The concatenated product is minimal and step-preserving, as required.  $\square$

Finally, in order to deduce equation (6.10), we observe that

$$\text{adj}_{\vartheta\alpha\beta\vartheta}^{\vartheta\vartheta\alpha\beta}(e_{P_{\alpha\beta}} \otimes \text{spot}_{\alpha}^{\vartheta}) = \Upsilon_{P_{\vartheta\alpha\beta}^{\otimes} P_{\alpha}^{\otimes}}^{P_{\vartheta\alpha\beta}^{\otimes} P_{\alpha}^{\otimes} P_{\beta}} e_{P_{\vartheta}} \otimes ((\text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\vartheta\alpha} \otimes \text{spot}_{\beta}^{\beta}) \text{adj}_{\vartheta\alpha\alpha}^{\alpha\vartheta}(e_{P_{\alpha}} \otimes \text{spot}_{\beta}^{\vartheta} \otimes e_{P_{\alpha}})) = \Upsilon_{P_{\vartheta\alpha}^{\otimes} P_{\beta}^{\otimes} P_{\alpha}^{\otimes}}^{P_{\vartheta\alpha}^{\otimes} P_{\alpha}^{\otimes} P_{\beta}^{\otimes} P_{\alpha}^{\otimes}}$$

as the concatenated diagrams are minimal, step-preserving, and residue-commutative.

6.6. **The fork-hexagon.** The aim of this section is to show that

$$(e_{P_{\emptyset\emptyset}} \otimes \text{hex}_{\emptyset\alpha\beta\alpha}^{\emptyset\beta\alpha\beta})(e_{P_{\emptyset\emptyset}} \otimes \text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\emptyset\alpha} \otimes e_{P_{\beta\alpha}})(e_{P_{\emptyset}} \otimes \text{adj}_{\alpha\emptyset}^{\emptyset\alpha} \otimes e_{P_{\alpha\beta\alpha}})(e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}} \otimes \text{hex}_{\emptyset\beta\alpha\beta}^{\emptyset\alpha\beta\alpha}) \quad (6.18)$$

is equal to

$$\text{adj}_{\emptyset\emptyset\beta\alpha\emptyset}^{\emptyset\emptyset\beta\alpha\beta}(e_{P_{\emptyset\emptyset\beta\alpha}} \otimes \text{fork}_{\beta\beta}^{\emptyset\beta}) \otimes (e_{P_{\emptyset}} \otimes \text{hex}_{\emptyset\alpha\beta\alpha}^{\emptyset\beta\alpha\beta} \otimes e_{P_{\beta}}) \text{adj}_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset\beta\alpha}^{\emptyset\alpha\beta\alpha\beta} \quad (6.19)$$

Unlike earlier sections, we find that neither of 6.18 or 6.19 is of minimal length. We again set  $j = i + 1$ . First assume that  $b_\alpha \geq b_\beta$ . For 6.18, we must simplify the middle of the diagram. We define

$$\text{FH}_{q,\alpha\beta\alpha} = \begin{cases} P_{q\emptyset} \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_i^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes M_{i+1}^{b_\beta-q} \boxtimes P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} \otimes_\beta M_{i,i+2}^q \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha-q} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} & 0 \leq q \leq b_\beta \\ P_{q\emptyset} \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_i^{b_\alpha\beta-q} \boxtimes P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} \otimes_\beta M_{i,i+2}^{b_\beta} \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha-q} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} & b_\beta \leq q \leq b_\alpha \\ P_{\emptyset} \boxtimes M_i^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_i^{b_\alpha\beta-q} \boxtimes P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} \otimes_\beta M_{i,i+2}^{b_\beta} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_i^{q-b_\alpha} & b_\alpha \leq q \leq b_{\alpha\beta} \end{cases}$$

We have that  $\text{FH}_{q,\alpha\beta\alpha} \sim H_{q,\alpha\beta\alpha}$  because the former is obtained from the latter by reflection through the first  $\alpha$ -hyperplane it crosses, this is depicted in Figure 28. Similarly, we define

$$\text{FH}_{q,\beta\alpha\beta} = \begin{cases} P_{q\emptyset} \boxtimes M_{i+1}^{b_\beta-q} \boxtimes M_{i,i+1}^q \boxtimes P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} \otimes_\beta M_i^{b_\alpha-q} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} \otimes_\alpha M_{i+1}^{b_\beta} \otimes_\beta P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} & 0 \leq q \leq b_\beta \\ P_{\emptyset} \boxtimes M_i^{q-b_\beta} \boxtimes M_{i,i+1}^{b_\beta} \boxtimes P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} \otimes_\beta M_i^{b_\alpha-q} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} \otimes_\alpha M_{i+1}^{b_\beta} \otimes_\beta P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} & b_\beta \leq q \leq b_\alpha \\ P_{\emptyset} \boxtimes M_i^{q-b_\beta} \boxtimes P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} \otimes_\beta M_{i,i+2}^{q-b_\alpha} \boxtimes P_{i+1}^{b_\alpha} \otimes_\alpha M_{i+1}^{b_\alpha\beta-q} \otimes_\beta P_{i+2}^{b_\beta} & b_\alpha \leq q \leq b_{\alpha\beta} \end{cases}$$

We have that  $\text{FH}_{q,\beta\alpha\beta} \sim H_{q,\beta\alpha\beta}$  because the former is obtained from the latter by reflection through the final  $\beta$ -hyperplane it crosses. We note that  $\text{FH}_{b_{\alpha\beta},\alpha\beta\alpha} = P_{\emptyset-\emptyset} \boxtimes \text{FH}_{b_{\alpha\beta},\beta\alpha\beta}$ . One can define the paths  $\text{FH}_{q,\alpha\beta\alpha}$  and  $\text{FH}_{q,\beta\alpha\beta}$  for  $b_\alpha < b_\beta$  in an entirely analogous fashion.

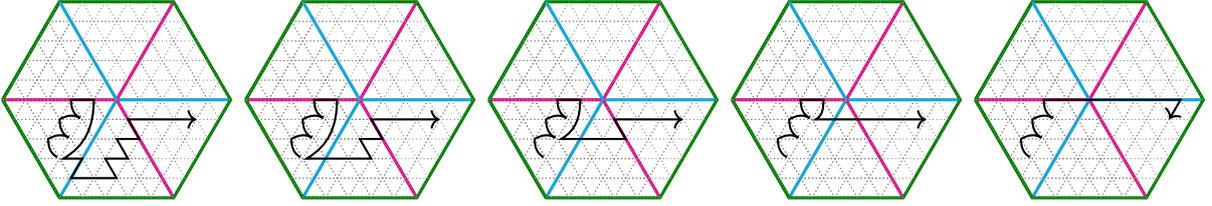


FIGURE 28. An example of the tableaux  $\text{FH}_{q,\alpha\beta\alpha}$  for  $b_{\alpha\beta} \geq q \geq 0$ . We note that  $\text{FH}_{b_{\alpha\beta},\alpha\beta\alpha} = \text{FH}_{b_{\alpha\beta},\beta\alpha\beta}$ . The reader should compare these reflected paths with the first five paths of Figure 19.

**Proposition 6.6.** *The element  $\Upsilon_{P_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset\beta\alpha} \otimes P_{\beta}^b}^{P_{\emptyset\emptyset\beta\alpha\beta}}$  is independent of the choice of reduced expression.*

*Proof.* We proceed as in the proof of Proposition 5.11. We set  $T = P_{\emptyset\emptyset\beta\alpha\beta}$  and  $B = P_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset\beta\alpha} \otimes P_{\beta}^b$ . We set

$$t_i(q) = T^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta} + q, \varepsilon_i) \quad t_{i+1}(q) = T^{-1}(b_{\alpha\alpha} + q, \varepsilon_{i+1}) \quad t_{i+2}(q) = T^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta\alpha} + q, \varepsilon_{i+2})$$

$$b_i(q) = B^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta} + q, \varepsilon_{i+1}) \quad b_{i+1}(q) = B^{-1}(b_{\alpha\alpha\alpha} + q, \varepsilon_{i+1}) \quad b_{i+2}(q) = B^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta\alpha} + q, \varepsilon_{i+2})$$

for  $0 \leq q \leq b_\alpha + 1$ . We have that

$$t_i(q) < t_i(q+1) < t_{i+2}(q) < t_{i+2}(q+1) < t_{i+1}(q) < t_{i+1}(q+1)$$

$$b_i(q) > b_i(q+1) > b_{i+2}(q) > b_{i+2}(q+1) > b_{i+1}(q) > b_{i+1}(q+1)$$

for  $1 \leq q \leq b_\alpha$  and

$$t_i(1) < t_{i+2}(0) < t_{i+1}(1) \quad t_i(b_\alpha) < t_{i+2}(b_\alpha + 1) < t_{i+1}(b_\alpha)$$

$$b_i(1) > b_{i+2}(0) > b_{i+1}(1) \quad b_i(b_\alpha) > b_{i+2}(b_\alpha + 1) > b_{i+1}(b_\alpha).$$

Thus the subexpression  $\psi_{\underline{w}}$  is the nib truncation of a quasi- $(b_\alpha + 2)$ -expression for  $w = (13)$ , which is independent of the choice of expression by Corollary 4.10. Thus the result follows.  $\square$

**Proposition 6.7.** *We have that*

$$(e_{P_{\emptyset\emptyset}} \otimes \text{hex}_{\emptyset\alpha\beta\alpha}^{\emptyset\beta\alpha\beta})(e_{P_{\emptyset\emptyset}} \otimes \text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\emptyset\alpha} \otimes e_{P_{\beta\alpha}})(e_{P_{\emptyset}} \otimes \text{adj}_{\alpha\emptyset}^{\emptyset\alpha} \otimes e_{P_{\alpha\beta\alpha}})(e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}} \otimes \text{hex}_{\emptyset\beta\alpha\beta}^{\emptyset\alpha\beta\alpha}) = \Upsilon_{P_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset\beta\alpha} \otimes P_{\beta}^b}^{P_{\emptyset\emptyset\beta\alpha\beta}}$$

*Proof.* For  $0 \leq q < b_{\beta\alpha}$ , we claim that

$$(e_{P_\phi} \otimes \text{hex}_{\phi\alpha\beta\alpha}(q))(e_{P_\phi} \otimes \text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\phi\alpha} \otimes e_{P_{\beta\alpha}})(\text{adj}_{\alpha\phi}^{\phi\alpha} \otimes e_{P_{\alpha\beta}})(e_{P_{\phi\alpha}} \otimes \text{hex}^{\phi\alpha\beta\alpha}(q)) = \Upsilon_{P_{\phi\alpha} \otimes \text{FH}_{q,\beta\alpha\beta}}^{P_{\phi\phi} \otimes H_{q,\alpha\beta\alpha}} \quad (6.20)$$

and the statement of the proposition will immediately follow. We now prove our claim. We set  $T_q = P_{\phi\phi} \otimes \text{hex}_{\alpha\beta\alpha}(q)$  and  $B_q = P_{\alpha\phi} \otimes \text{FH}_{q,\alpha\beta\alpha}$ . We consider the strand,  $Q$ , from  $T_q^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta} + q, \varepsilon_i)$  on the top edge to  $B_q^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta\alpha} + q, \varepsilon_{i+1})$  on the bottom edge of the diagram

$$(e_{P_\phi} \otimes \text{hex}_{\alpha\beta\alpha}(q)) \circ (\text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\phi\alpha} \otimes e_{P_{\beta\alpha}}) \circ (e_{P_\alpha} \otimes \text{hex}^{\alpha\beta\alpha}(q))$$

for  $0 \leq q < b_{\alpha\beta}$ . We wish to consider the non-zero degree crossings of the  $r_q$ -strand  $Q$  within the diagram. These are with the strands  $\mathcal{Q}_1, \mathcal{Q}_2, \mathcal{Q}_3, \mathcal{Q}_4, \mathcal{Q}_5, \mathcal{Q}_6, \mathcal{Q}_7$  connecting the

$$\begin{array}{cccc} T_{q+1}^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta} + q - 1, \varepsilon_i) & T_{q+1}^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta\alpha} + q, \varepsilon_{i+1}) & T_{q+1}^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta\alpha} + q + 1, \varepsilon_{i+1}) & T_{q+1}^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta\alpha} + q + 2, \varepsilon_{i+1}) \\ T_{q+1}^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta\alpha\beta} + q + 1, \varepsilon_{i+2}) & T_{q+1}^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta\alpha\beta} + q + 2, \varepsilon_{i+2}) & T_{q+1}^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta\alpha\beta} + q + 3, \varepsilon_{i+2}) & \end{array}$$

top vertices (which are ordered in increasingly from left to right) to the

$$\begin{array}{cccc} B_{q+1}^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta} + q, \varepsilon_i) & B_{q+1}^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta\alpha} + q, \varepsilon_{i+1}) & B_{q+1}^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta} + q + 1, \varepsilon_i) & B_{q+1}^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta\alpha} + q + 2, \varepsilon_{i+1}) \\ B_{q+1}^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta\alpha\beta} + q + 1, \varepsilon_{i+2}) & B_{q+1}^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta\alpha\beta} + q + 2, \varepsilon_{i+2}) & B_{q+1}^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta\alpha\beta} + q + 3, \varepsilon_{i+2}) & \end{array}$$

bottom vertices, respectively. The residues of these strands are  $r_q + 1, r_q + 1, r_q, r_q - 1$  for the first row and  $r_q + 1, r_q, r_q - 1$  for the second row. We have that

$$T_{q+1}^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta} + q - 1, \varepsilon_i) < T_{q+1}^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta\alpha} + q, \varepsilon_{i+1}) \quad B_{q+1}^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta} + q, \varepsilon_i) > B_{q+1}^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta\alpha} + q, \varepsilon_{i+1})$$

and so the pair of strands  $\mathcal{Q}_1$  and  $\mathcal{Q}_2$  form a crossing of  $(r_q + 1)$ -strands. The strand  $Q$  crosses  $\mathcal{Q}_1$  and  $\mathcal{Q}_2$  exactly once each. The remaining 5 strands are all vertical lines (in other words their top and bottom vertices coincide). The strand  $Q$  crosses each of these vertical strands twice. (Thus the total degree contribution of these crossings is zero.)

We undo the crossing of  $Q$  with the triple of strands  $\mathcal{Q}_5, \mathcal{Q}_6, \mathcal{Q}_7$  as in the proof of Proposition 4.4. Pull the  $Q$  strand through  $\mathcal{Q}_4$  using case 4 of relation R4 at the expense of acquiring a dot on  $Q$  (the other term is zero by case 1 of relation R4) we then pull the dot on  $Q$  upwards through the crossing of  $Q$  and  $\mathcal{Q}_3$  using relation R3 and obtain two terms: the first term, in which the dot has passed through the crossing, is zero by case 1 of relation R4; in the second term, in which we undo one (of the two) crossings between  $Q$  and  $\mathcal{Q}_3$ , is equal to  $\psi_{P_{\alpha\phi} \otimes \text{FH}_{q,\beta\alpha\beta}}^{P_{\phi\phi} \otimes H_{q,\alpha\beta\alpha}}$  as required.

Now suppose  $b_\alpha \leq q < b_{\alpha\beta}$ . The  $r_q$ -strand connecting the  $B^{-1}(4b_\alpha + 2b_\beta - q, \varepsilon_{i+1})$  and  $T^{-1}(4b_\alpha + 2b_\beta - q, \varepsilon_{i+1})$  top and bottom nodes double-crosses the  $(r_q + 1)$ -  $r_q$ - and  $(r_q - 1)$ - strands connecting the  $T^{-1}(4b_\alpha + 3b_\beta - q - 1, \varepsilon_{i+2})$ ,  $T^{-1}(4b_\alpha + 3b_\beta - q, \varepsilon_{i+2})$ ,  $T^{-1}(4b_\alpha + 3b_\beta - q + 1, \varepsilon_{i+2})$  top vertices to the  $B^{-1}(4b_\alpha + 3b_\beta - q - 1, \varepsilon_{i+2})$ ,  $B^{-1}(4b_\alpha + 3b_\beta - q, \varepsilon_{i+2})$ ,  $B^{-1}(4b_\alpha + 3b_\beta - q + 1, \varepsilon_{i+2})$  bottom vertices. We undo these double-crossings as in the proof of Proposition 4.4.  $\square$

**Proposition 6.8.** *We have that*

$$\text{adj}_{\phi\phi\beta\alpha\phi\beta}^{\phi\phi\phi\beta\alpha\beta}(e_{P_{\phi\beta\alpha}} \otimes \text{fork}_{\beta\beta}^{\phi\beta})(e_{P_\phi} \otimes \text{hex}_{\phi\alpha\beta\alpha}^{\phi\beta\alpha\beta} \otimes e_{P_\beta}) \text{adj}_{\phi\alpha\phi\beta\alpha\beta}^{\phi\phi\phi\beta\alpha\beta} = \Upsilon_{P_{\phi\alpha\phi\beta\alpha} \otimes P_\beta}^{P_{\phi\phi\phi\beta\alpha\beta}} \quad (6.21)$$

*Proof.* For  $0 \leq q \leq b_{\alpha\beta}$ , we claim that

$$\Upsilon_{P_{\phi\phi} \otimes H_{q,\phi\alpha\beta\alpha} \otimes P_\beta}^{P_{\phi\phi\phi\beta\alpha\beta}}(e_{P_\phi} \otimes \text{hex}_{\phi\alpha\beta\alpha}(q + 1) \otimes e_{P_\beta}) = \Upsilon_{P_{\phi\phi} \otimes H_{q,\phi\alpha\beta\alpha} \otimes P_\beta}^{P_{\phi\phi\phi\beta\alpha\beta}} \quad (6.22)$$

We decorate the top and bottom edges of the concatenated diagram in equation (6.22) by the paths  $T = P_{\phi\phi\phi\beta\alpha\beta}$  and  $B_{q+1} = P_\phi \otimes H_{q+1,\phi\alpha\beta\alpha} \otimes P_\beta$ . For each  $0 \leq q < b_\beta$  the strand (of residue  $r_q \in \mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z}$ , say) connecting the top  $T^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta} + q, \varepsilon_{i+1})$ th and  $B_q^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta} + q, \varepsilon_{i+1})$ th bottom vertices (both of which are equal to  $(b_{\alpha\beta} + q)h\ell + \emptyset(i + 1)$ ) of the concatenated diagram has double-crossings of non-zero degree with three strands of residues  $r_q + 1, r_q$  and  $r_q - 1$  connecting the  $T^{-1}(b_{\beta\alpha\beta} - 1 + q, \varepsilon_{i+2})$ th,  $T^{-1}(b_{\beta\alpha\beta} + q, \varepsilon_{i+2})$ th, and  $T^{-1}(b_{\beta\alpha\beta} + q + 1, \varepsilon_{i+2})$ th top vertices to the  $B_q^{-1}(b_{\beta\alpha\beta} - 1 + q, \varepsilon_{i+2})$ th,  $B_q^{-1}(b_{\beta\alpha\beta} + q, \varepsilon_{i+2})$ th, and  $B_q^{-1}(b_{\beta\alpha\beta} + q + 1, \varepsilon_{i+2})$ th bottom vertices respectively; we undo these crossings using Proposition 4.4. Now, for  $b_\beta \leq q < b_{\alpha\beta}$  the claim is immediate as the concatenated diagram is step-preserving and has minimal length. Finally, we substitute equation (6.22) into equation (6.21) and the resulting diagram is again step-preserving and has minimal length and the result follows.  $\square$

6.7. **The tetrahedron relation.** We now check that the image of the tetrahedron relation holds in the quiver Hecke algebra. Our aim is to show that

$$\text{hex}_{\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\alpha\gamma\theta\theta\theta}^{\gamma\alpha\gamma\beta\alpha\gamma\theta\theta\theta} \circ \text{hex}_{\alpha\gamma\beta\alpha\beta\gamma\theta\theta\theta}^{\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\alpha\gamma\theta\theta\theta} \circ \text{com}_{\alpha\beta\gamma\alpha\gamma\beta\theta\theta\theta}^{\alpha\gamma\beta\alpha\beta\gamma\theta\theta\theta} \circ \text{hex}_{\alpha\beta\gamma\alpha\gamma\beta\theta\theta\theta}^{\alpha\beta\gamma\alpha\gamma\beta\theta\theta\theta} \circ \text{hex}_{\beta\alpha\beta\gamma\alpha\beta\theta\theta\theta}^{\alpha\beta\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\theta\theta\theta} \circ \text{com}_{\beta\alpha\gamma\beta\alpha\beta\theta\theta\theta}^{\beta\alpha\beta\gamma\alpha\beta\theta\theta\theta}$$

is equal to

$$\text{com}_{\gamma\alpha\beta\gamma\alpha\gamma\theta\theta\theta}^{\gamma\alpha\gamma\beta\alpha\gamma\theta\theta\theta} \circ \text{hex}_{\gamma\alpha\beta\alpha\gamma\alpha\theta\theta\theta}^{\alpha\beta\gamma\alpha\gamma\theta\theta\theta\gamma} \circ \text{hex}_{\beta\alpha\beta\gamma\alpha\theta\theta\theta\gamma}^{\gamma\alpha\beta\alpha\gamma\alpha\theta\theta\theta} \circ \text{com}_{\beta\gamma\alpha\gamma\beta\alpha\theta\theta\theta}^{\gamma\beta\alpha\beta\gamma\alpha\theta\theta\theta} \circ \text{hex}_{\theta\beta\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\alpha\theta\theta}^{\beta\gamma\alpha\gamma\beta\alpha\theta\theta\theta} \circ \text{hex}_{\beta\alpha\gamma\beta\alpha\beta\theta\theta\theta}^{\beta\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\alpha\theta\theta\theta}.$$

**Proposition 6.9.** *The element  $\psi_{\mathbb{P}_{\beta\alpha\gamma\beta\alpha\beta\theta\theta\theta}}^{\mathbb{P}_{\gamma\alpha\gamma\beta\alpha\gamma\theta\theta\theta}}$  is independent of the choice of reduced expression.*

*Proof.* For notational ease, we let  $j = i + 1$  and  $k = i - 1$  and we decorate the top and bottom edges with  $\mathbb{T} = \mathbb{P}_{\gamma\alpha\gamma\beta\alpha\gamma\theta\theta\theta}$  and  $\mathbb{B} = \mathbb{P}_{\beta\alpha\gamma\beta\alpha\beta\theta\theta\theta}$  respectively. For each  $b_\beta \leq q \leq b_{\alpha\beta} + 1$ , we consider the collection of permutations  $w_q$  formed from the  $r_q$ -strands connecting each of the

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{B}_{i-1}(q) &= \mathbb{B}^{-1}(q, \varepsilon_{i-1}) & \mathbb{B}_i(q) &= \mathbb{B}^{-1}(b_\gamma + q, \varepsilon_i) \\ \mathbb{B}_{i+1}(q) &= \mathbb{B}^{-1}(b_{\alpha\gamma} + q, \varepsilon_{i+1}) & \mathbb{B}_{i+1}(q) &= \mathbb{B}^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta\gamma} + q, \varepsilon_{i+2}) \end{aligned}$$

bottom vertices to

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{T}_{i-1}(q) &= \mathbb{T}^{-1}(q, \varepsilon_{i-1}) & \mathbb{T}_i(q) &= \mathbb{T}^{-1}(b_\gamma + q, \varepsilon_i) \\ \mathbb{T}_{i+1}(q) &= \mathbb{T}^{-1}(b_{\alpha\gamma} + q, \varepsilon_{i+1}) & \mathbb{T}_{i+1}(q) &= \mathbb{T}^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta\gamma} + q, \varepsilon_{i+2}) \end{aligned}$$

top vertices respectively. By definition  $r_q = r_{q+1} + 1$  for  $b_\beta \leq q < b_{\alpha\beta} + 1$ . We let  $\underline{w}$  denote the subexpression consisting of all strands from (the union of) the  $w_q$ -subexpressions for  $b_\beta \leq q \leq b_{\alpha\beta} + 1$ . One can verify, simply by looking at the paths  $\mathbb{T}$  and  $\mathbb{B}$  (and their residue sequences) that any bad-crossing in  $w$  belongs to  $\psi_{\text{nib}(\underline{w})}$ . We have that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{B}_{i-1}(q) &< \mathbb{B}_{i-1}(q+1) < \mathbb{B}_{i+2}(q) < \mathbb{B}_{i+2}(q+1) < \mathbb{B}_{i+1}(q) < \mathbb{B}_{i+1}(q+1) < \mathbb{B}_i(q) < \mathbb{B}_i(q+1) \\ \mathbb{T}_{i-1}(q) &> \mathbb{T}_{i-1}(q+1) > \mathbb{T}_{i+2}(q) > \mathbb{T}_{i+2}(q+1) > \mathbb{T}_{i+1}(q) > \mathbb{T}_{i+1}(q+1) > \mathbb{T}_i(q) > \mathbb{T}_i(q+1). \end{aligned}$$

for  $b_\beta < q < b_{\alpha\beta}$ . In other words, the  $r_q$ -strands for  $b_\beta < q \leq b_{\alpha\beta}$  form a  $\psi_{(1,4)(2,3)_{b_\alpha}}$  braid (and thus this subexpression is quasi-dilated and of breadth  $b_\alpha$ ). We now restrict to the case  $q = b_\beta$ , as the  $q = b_{\alpha\beta} + 1$  is similar. We have that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{B}_{i-1}(b_\beta + 1) &< \mathbb{B}_{i+2}(b_\beta) < \mathbb{B}_{i+2}(b_\beta + 1) < \mathbb{B}_{i+1}(b_\beta) < \mathbb{B}_{i+1}(b_\beta + 1) < \mathbb{B}_i(b_\beta + 1) \\ \mathbb{T}_{i-1}(b_\beta + 1) &> \mathbb{T}_{i+2}(b_\beta) > \mathbb{T}_{i+2}(b_\beta + 1) > \mathbb{T}_{i+1}(b_\beta) > \mathbb{T}_{i+1}(b_\beta + 1) > \mathbb{T}_i(b_\beta + 1). \end{aligned}$$

(We have not considered the strands connecting  $\mathbb{B}_{i-1}(b_\beta)$  and  $\mathbb{T}_{i-1}(b_\beta)$  or  $\mathbb{B}_i(b_\beta)$  and  $\mathbb{T}_i(b_\beta)$  as these were removed under the nib truncation map.) Thus  $\psi_{\text{nib}(\underline{w})}$  is independent of the choice of expression by Corollary 4.10 and the result follows. See Figure 29 for an example.  $\square$

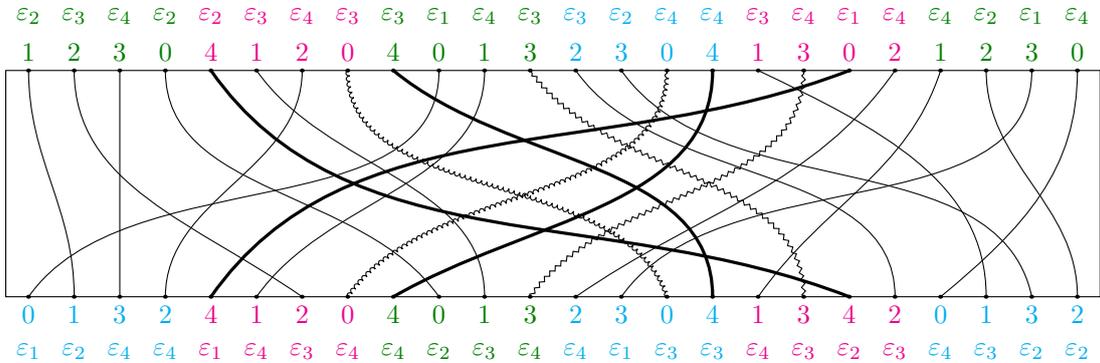


FIGURE 29. The element  $\psi_{\mathbb{P}_{\beta\alpha\gamma\beta\alpha\beta\theta\theta\theta}}^{\mathbb{P}_{\gamma\alpha\gamma\beta\alpha\gamma\theta\theta\theta}}$  for  $p = 5, h = 3, \ell = 1$  and  $\alpha = \varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3, \beta = \varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_4, \gamma = \varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_1$ . The thick black 4-strands form a  $\underline{w} = s_3s_2s_1s_3s_2s_3$  braid. Together with the wiggly strands, these form a subexpression  $\text{nib}\psi_{\underline{w}_3}$  containing all bad crossings.

**Proposition 6.10.** *We have that  $\Upsilon_{\mathbb{P}_{\beta\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\theta\theta\theta}}^{\mathbb{P}_{\gamma\alpha\gamma\beta\alpha\gamma\theta\theta\theta}}$  is equal to both*

$$\text{hex}_{\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\alpha\gamma\theta\theta\theta}^{\gamma\alpha\gamma\beta\alpha\gamma\theta\theta\theta} \circ \text{hex}_{\alpha\gamma\beta\alpha\beta\gamma\theta\theta\theta}^{\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\alpha\gamma\theta\theta\theta} \circ \text{com}_{\alpha\beta\gamma\alpha\gamma\theta\theta\theta}^{\alpha\gamma\beta\alpha\beta\gamma\theta\theta\theta} \circ \text{hex}_{\alpha\beta\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\theta\theta\theta}^{\alpha\beta\gamma\alpha\gamma\beta\theta\theta\theta} \circ \text{hex}_{\beta\alpha\beta\gamma\alpha\beta\theta\theta\theta}^{\alpha\beta\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\theta\theta\theta} \circ \text{com}_{\beta\alpha\beta\gamma\alpha\beta\theta\theta\theta}^{\beta\alpha\beta\gamma\alpha\beta\theta\theta\theta}$$

and

$$\text{com}_{\gamma\alpha\beta\gamma\alpha\gamma\theta\theta\theta}^{\gamma\alpha\gamma\beta\alpha\gamma\theta\theta\theta} \circ \text{hex}_{\gamma\alpha\beta\alpha\gamma\alpha\theta\theta\theta}^{\alpha\beta\gamma\alpha\gamma\theta\theta\theta\gamma} \circ \text{hex}_{\beta\alpha\beta\gamma\alpha\theta\theta\theta\gamma}^{\gamma\alpha\beta\alpha\gamma\alpha\theta\theta\theta} \circ \text{com}_{\beta\gamma\alpha\gamma\beta\alpha\theta\theta\theta}^{\gamma\beta\alpha\beta\gamma\alpha\theta\theta\theta} \circ \text{hex}_{\theta\beta\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\alpha\theta\theta\theta}^{\beta\gamma\alpha\gamma\beta\alpha\theta\theta\theta} \circ \text{hex}_{\beta\alpha\gamma\beta\alpha\beta\theta\theta\theta}^{\beta\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\alpha\theta\theta\theta}.$$

*Proof.* We set  $k = i - 1$ ,  $j = i + 1$ . We will prove the first equality as the second is very similar (for more details, see Remark 6.11). We proceed from the centre of the diagram, considering the first pair of hexagons (on top and bottom of a pair of commutators), the second pairs of hexagons (on top and bottom of the previous product) and then finally the last commutator (below the previous product).

**Step 1.** We add the first pair of hexagonal generators symmetrically as follows

$$\text{hex}_{\alpha\gamma\beta\alpha\beta\gamma\theta\theta\theta}^{\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\alpha\gamma\theta\theta\theta} (e_{\mathbb{P}_{\alpha}} \otimes \text{com}_{\beta\gamma\alpha\gamma\beta}^{\gamma\beta\alpha\beta\gamma} \otimes e_{\mathbb{P}_{\theta\theta\theta}}) \text{hex}_{\alpha\beta\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\theta\theta\theta}^{\alpha\beta\gamma\alpha\gamma\beta\theta\theta\theta} = \Upsilon_{\mathbb{P}_{\alpha\beta\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\theta\theta\theta}}^{\mathbb{P}_{\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\alpha\gamma\theta\theta\theta}}. \quad (6.23)$$

The only points worth bearing in mind are (i) double-crossings strands of non-adjacent residue can be undone trivially and (ii) that the implicit adjustments in the definitions of  $\text{hex}_{\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\alpha\gamma\theta\theta\theta}^{\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\alpha\gamma\theta\theta\theta}$  and  $\text{hex}_{\alpha\beta\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\theta\theta\theta}^{\alpha\beta\gamma\alpha\gamma\beta\theta\theta\theta}$  will give rise to (a total of  $|b_{\alpha} - b_{\beta}| + |b_{\alpha} - b_{\gamma}| + |b_{\beta} - b_{\gamma}|$ ) double-crossings which can be undone as in the proof of Proposition 4.4.

**Step 2.** We now add the next pair of hexagonal generators symmetrically to the diagram,  $\Upsilon_{\mathbb{P}_{\alpha\beta\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\theta\theta\theta}}^{\mathbb{P}_{\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\alpha\gamma\theta\theta\theta}}$ , output by the previous step in the procedure. We first note that

$$\text{adj}_{\mathbb{P}_{\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\alpha\gamma\theta\theta\theta}}^{\mathbb{P}_{\theta} \otimes \mathbb{H}_0, \alpha\gamma\alpha \otimes \mathbb{P}_{\beta\alpha\gamma\theta\theta}} \circ \Upsilon_{\mathbb{P}_{\alpha\beta\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\theta\theta\theta}}^{\mathbb{P}_{\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\alpha\gamma\theta\theta\theta}} \circ \text{adj}_{\mathbb{P}_{\theta} \otimes \mathbb{H}_0, \alpha\beta\alpha \otimes \mathbb{P}_{\gamma\alpha\beta\theta\theta}}^{\mathbb{P}_{\alpha\beta\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\theta\theta\theta}} = \Upsilon_{\mathbb{P}_{\theta} \otimes \mathbb{H}_0, \alpha\gamma\alpha \otimes \mathbb{P}_{\beta\alpha\gamma\theta\theta}}^{\mathbb{P}_{\theta} \otimes \mathbb{H}_0, \alpha\beta\alpha \otimes \mathbb{P}_{\gamma\alpha\beta\theta\theta}}$$

again by (a total of  $|b_{\beta} - b_{\gamma}|$  applications of) Proposition 4.4. We claim that

$$(\text{hex}_{\theta\alpha\gamma\alpha}^{\theta\alpha\gamma\alpha}(q) \otimes e_{\mathbb{P}_{\beta\alpha\gamma\theta\theta}}) \Upsilon_{\mathbb{P}_{\theta} \otimes \mathbb{H}_q, \alpha\gamma\alpha \otimes \mathbb{P}_{\beta\alpha\gamma\theta\theta}}^{\mathbb{P}_{\theta} \otimes \mathbb{H}_q, \alpha\beta\alpha \otimes \mathbb{P}_{\gamma\alpha\beta\theta\theta}} (\text{hex}_{\theta\alpha\beta\alpha}^{\theta\alpha\beta\alpha}(q) \otimes e_{\mathbb{P}_{\gamma\alpha\beta\theta\theta}}) = \Upsilon_{\mathbb{P}_{\theta} \otimes \mathbb{H}_{q+1}, \alpha\gamma\alpha \otimes \mathbb{P}_{\beta\alpha\gamma\theta\theta}}^{\mathbb{P}_{\theta} \otimes \mathbb{H}_{q+1}, \alpha\beta\alpha \otimes \mathbb{P}_{\gamma\alpha\beta\theta\theta}} \quad (6.24)$$

for  $0 \leq q < \max\{b_{\beta}, b_{\gamma}\} + b_{\alpha}$ . For  $0 \leq q \leq b_{\alpha} + |b_{\beta} - b_{\gamma}|$  the concatenated diagram on the lefthand-side of equation (6.24) contains a distinguished strand connecting the  $\mathbb{T}^{-1}(\min\{b_{\beta}, b_{\gamma}\} + q + 1, \varepsilon_i)$  top and  $\mathbb{B}^{-1}(\min\{b_{\beta}, b_{\gamma}\} + q + 1, \varepsilon_i)$  bottom vertices. For  $0 \leq q \leq b_{\alpha} + |b_{\beta} - b_{\gamma}|$  the distinguished strand passes from left to right and back again, thus admitting a double-crossing with each of the  $(r_q - 1)$ -,  $r_q$ -,  $(r_q + 1)$ -strands connecting the

$\mathbb{T}^{-1}(\min\{b_{\beta}, b_{\gamma}\} + b_{\alpha} + q, \varepsilon_{i+1})$   $\mathbb{T}^{-1}(\min\{b_{\beta}, b_{\gamma}\} + b_{\alpha} + q + 1, \varepsilon_{i+1})$   $\mathbb{T}^{-1}(\min\{b_{\beta}, b_{\gamma}\} + b_{\alpha} + q + 2, \varepsilon_{i+1})$  top vertices to the

$\mathbb{B}^{-1}(\min\{b_{\beta}, b_{\gamma}\} + b_{\alpha} + q, \varepsilon_{i+1})$   $\mathbb{B}^{-1}(\min\{b_{\beta}, b_{\gamma}\} + b_{\alpha} + q + 1, \varepsilon_{i+1})$   $\mathbb{B}^{-1}(\min\{b_{\beta}, b_{\gamma}\} + b_{\alpha} + q + 2, \varepsilon_{i+1})$  bottom vertices. For  $|b_{\beta} - b_{\gamma}| \leq q \leq b_{\alpha} + |b_{\beta} - b_{\gamma}|$  the distinguished strand *also* admits a double-crossing with each of the  $(r_q - 1)$ -,  $r_q$ -,  $(r_q + 1)$ -strands connecting the

$\mathbb{T}^{-1}(\min\{b_{\beta}, b_{\gamma}\} + b_{\alpha\beta} + q, \varepsilon_{i+2})$   $\mathbb{T}^{-1}(\min\{b_{\beta}, b_{\gamma}\} + b_{\alpha\beta} + q + 1, \varepsilon_{i+2})$   $\mathbb{T}^{-1}(\min\{b_{\beta}, b_{\gamma}\} + b_{\alpha\beta} + q + 2, \varepsilon_{i+2})$  top vertices to the

$\mathbb{B}^{-1}(\min\{b_{\beta}, b_{\gamma}\} + b_{\alpha\beta} + q, \varepsilon_{i+2})$   $\mathbb{B}^{-1}(\min\{b_{\beta}, b_{\gamma}\} + b_{\alpha\beta} + q + 1, \varepsilon_{i+2})$   $\mathbb{B}^{-1}(\min\{b_{\beta}, b_{\gamma}\} + b_{\alpha\beta} + q + 2, \varepsilon_{i+2})$  bottom vertices. Note we have broken these strands into two triples. For  $0 \leq q \leq b_{\alpha} + |b_{\beta} - b_{\gamma}|$  we undo the double-crossing of the distinguished strand with the former triple using a single application of Proposition 4.4. For  $|b_{\beta} - b_{\gamma}| \leq q \leq b_{\alpha} + |b_{\beta} - b_{\gamma}|$  we undo the double-crossing of the distinguished strand with the latter triple and then the former triple as in the proof of Proposition 4.4. Thus equation (6.24) follows. If  $b_{\beta} > b_{\gamma}$  (respectively  $b_{\gamma} > b_{\beta}$ ) we must now multiply on the bottom (respectively top) by the remaining terms to obtain a minimal, step-preserving diagram. We hence deduce that

$$(\text{hex}_{\theta\alpha\gamma\alpha}^{\theta\alpha\gamma\alpha} \otimes e_{\mathbb{P}_{\beta\alpha\gamma\theta\theta}}) \Upsilon_{\mathbb{P}_{\alpha\beta\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\theta\theta\theta}}^{\mathbb{P}_{\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\alpha\gamma\theta\theta\theta}} (\text{hex}_{\theta\alpha\beta\alpha}^{\theta\alpha\beta\alpha} \otimes e_{\mathbb{P}_{\gamma\alpha\beta\theta\theta}}) = \Upsilon_{\mathbb{H}_{b_{\alpha\gamma}, \theta\alpha\gamma\alpha}^{\mathbb{P}_{\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\alpha\gamma\theta\theta\theta}}}_{\mathbb{H}_{b_{\alpha\beta}, \theta\alpha\beta\alpha}^{\mathbb{P}_{\gamma\alpha\beta\theta\theta}}}.$$

We now multiply on the top and bottom by the other ‘‘halves’’ of the hexagonal generators to get

$$\text{hex}_{\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\alpha\gamma\theta\theta\theta}^{\gamma\alpha\gamma\beta\alpha\gamma\theta\theta\theta} \Upsilon_{\mathbb{P}_{\alpha\beta\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\theta\theta\theta}}^{\mathbb{P}_{\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\alpha\gamma\theta\theta\theta}} \text{hex}_{\beta\alpha\beta\gamma\alpha\beta\theta\theta\theta}^{\alpha\beta\alpha\gamma\alpha\beta\theta\theta\theta} = \Upsilon_{\mathbb{P}_{\beta\alpha\beta\gamma\alpha\beta\theta\theta\theta}}^{\mathbb{P}_{\gamma\alpha\gamma\beta\alpha\gamma\theta\theta\theta}} \quad (6.25)$$

where here the hexagonal terms are minimal and step-preserving, but we must again undo any double-crossings arising from adjustments as in the proof of Proposition 4.4. We emphasise that the righthand-side of equation (6.25) is independent of the choice of reduced expression, which can be shown in a similar fashion to Proposition 6.9.

**Step 3.** For  $0 \leq q < b_{\beta\gamma}$ , we claim that

$$\Upsilon_{P_{\beta\alpha} \otimes C^{q,\beta\gamma} \otimes e_{P_{\alpha\beta\theta\theta}}}^{P_{\beta\alpha} \otimes C^{q,\beta\gamma} \otimes e_{P_{\alpha\beta\theta\theta}}} (e_{P_{\beta\alpha}} \otimes \text{com}^{\beta\gamma}(q) \otimes e_{P_{\alpha\beta\theta\theta}}) = \Upsilon_{P_{\beta\alpha} \otimes C^{q+1,\beta\gamma} \otimes e_{P_{\alpha\beta\theta\theta}}}^{P_{\beta\alpha} \otimes C^{q+1,\beta\gamma} \otimes e_{P_{\alpha\beta\theta\theta}}} \quad (6.26)$$

and for  $b_{\beta\gamma} \geq q > 0$ , we claim that

$$\Upsilon_{P_{\beta\alpha} \otimes C_{q,\gamma\beta} \otimes e_{P_{\alpha\beta\theta\theta}}}^{P_{\beta\alpha} \otimes C_{q,\gamma\beta} \otimes e_{P_{\alpha\beta\theta\theta}}} (e_{P_{\beta\alpha}} \otimes \text{com}_{\gamma\beta}(q) \otimes e_{P_{\alpha\beta\theta\theta}}) = \Upsilon_{P_{\beta\alpha} \otimes C_{\gamma\beta}(q-1) \otimes e_{P_{\alpha\beta\theta\theta}}}^{P_{\beta\alpha} \otimes C_{\gamma\beta}(q-1) \otimes e_{P_{\alpha\beta\theta\theta}}}. \quad (6.27)$$

We consider the former product, as the latter is similar. If  $b_\gamma > b_\beta$ , then the concatenated diagram is minimal and step-preserving. If  $b_\gamma \leq b_\beta$  then the  $r_q$ -braid connecting the strands

$$\begin{array}{cccc} T^{-1}(q+1, \varepsilon_{i-1}) & T^{-1}(b_\gamma + q + 1, \varepsilon_i) & T^{-1}(b_{\alpha\gamma} + q + 1, \varepsilon_{i+1}) & T^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta\gamma} + q + 1, \varepsilon_{i+2}) \\ B^{-1}(q+1, \varepsilon_{i-1}) & B^{-1}(b_\gamma + q + 1, \varepsilon_i) & B^{-1}(b_{\alpha\gamma} + q + 1, \varepsilon_{i+1}) & B^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta\gamma} + q + 1, \varepsilon_{i+2}) \end{array}$$

top and bottom vertices form the non-minimal expression  $(s_2 s_1 s_3 s_2 s_3) s_3$  (the bracketed term belongs to the multiplicand  $\Upsilon_{P_{\beta\alpha} \otimes C_{q,\gamma\beta} \otimes e_{P_{\alpha\beta\theta\theta}}}^{P_{\beta\alpha} \otimes C_{q,\gamma\beta} \otimes e_{P_{\alpha\beta\theta\theta}}}$  and so can be chosen arbitrarily, we have chosen the simplest form for what follows). The  $r_q$ -strand with label  $\varepsilon_i$  double-crosses the  $(r_q - 1)$ -strand connecting the  $T^{-1}(b_{\alpha\gamma} + q + 2, \varepsilon_{i+1})$  and  $B^{-1}(b_{\alpha\gamma} + q + 2, \varepsilon_{i+1})$  top and bottom vertices. We undo this double-crossing at the expense of placing a KLR dot on the  $r_q$ -strand (the other term is zero, by case 1 of equation (R4)). We then pull this dot through the  $r_q$ -crossing labelled by the  $\varepsilon_i$  and  $\varepsilon_{i+2}$  strands and hence undoing the bottommost crossing (the other, dotted, term is zero, again by case 1 of equation (R4)). Thus our  $r_q$ -braid now forms the non-minimal expression  $s_2 s_1 s_3 s_2 s_3$ . The  $r_q$ -crossing of strands connecting the

$$T^{-1}(b_{\alpha\gamma} + q + 1, \varepsilon_{i+1}) \quad T^{-1}(b_\beta + q + 1, \varepsilon_i) \quad B^{-1}(b_\beta + q + 1, \varepsilon_i) \quad B^{-1}(b_{\alpha\gamma} + q + 1, \varepsilon_{i+1})$$

top and bottom vertices is bi-passed on the left by the  $(r_q + 1)$ -strand connecting the  $T^{-1}(b_{\alpha\gamma} + q, \varepsilon_{i+1})$  and  $B^{-1}(b_{\alpha\gamma} + q, \varepsilon_{i+1})$  vertices. We pull this  $(r_q + 1)$ -strand through this crossing using relation R5 and hence obtain the diagram in which the crossing is undone (at the expense of another term, which is zero by Lemma 4.1). Thus our  $r_q$ -braid now forms the minimal expression  $s_2 s_1 s_3 s_2$ , and the diagram is minimal and step-preserving, as required.  $\square$

**Remark 6.11.** *The reader should note that in equation (S8), the righthand-side is obtained by first flipping the lefthand-side through the horizontal and vertical axes and then swapping the  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  labels. The “very similar” proof of the second equality in Proposition 6.10 amounts to rewriting the above argument but with indices of the crossing-strands determined by the horizontal and vertical flips and recolouring (swap mentions of  $b_\beta$  and  $b_\gamma$ ) of the indices in the proof above.*

**6.8. The three coloured commutativity relations.** We now verify relation S7. Namely,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{hex}_{\theta\beta\alpha\beta\delta}^{\theta\alpha\beta\alpha\delta} \text{com}_{\theta\beta\alpha\delta\beta}^{\theta\beta\alpha\beta\delta} \text{com}_{\theta\beta\delta\alpha\beta}^{\theta\beta\alpha\delta\beta} \text{com}_{\theta\delta\beta\alpha\beta}^{\theta\beta\delta\alpha\beta} \text{adj}_{\delta\theta\beta\alpha\beta}^{\theta\delta\beta\alpha\beta} &= \text{com}_{\theta\alpha\beta\delta\alpha}^{\theta\alpha\beta\alpha\delta} \text{com}_{\theta\alpha\delta\beta\alpha}^{\theta\alpha\beta\delta\alpha} \text{com}_{\theta\delta\alpha\beta\alpha}^{\theta\alpha\delta\beta\alpha} \text{adj}_{\delta\theta\alpha\beta\alpha}^{\theta\delta\alpha\beta\alpha} \text{hex}_{\delta\theta\beta\alpha\beta}^{\delta\theta\alpha\beta\alpha} \\ \text{com}_{\beta\delta\gamma}^{\beta\gamma\delta} \text{com}_{\delta\beta\gamma}^{\beta\delta\gamma} \text{com}_{\delta\gamma\beta}^{\beta\delta\gamma} &= \text{com}_{\gamma\beta\delta}^{\beta\gamma\delta} \text{com}_{\beta\delta\gamma}^{\gamma\beta\delta} \text{com}_{\delta\gamma\beta}^{\beta\delta\gamma}. \end{aligned}$$

We prove that both sides of the former/latter equality are equal to  $\Upsilon_{\delta\theta\beta\alpha\beta}^{\theta\alpha\beta\alpha\delta}$  and  $\Upsilon_{\delta\gamma\beta}^{\beta\gamma\delta}$ . One can check that the former diagrams is independent of the expression by generalising Proposition 5.11 and that the latter diagram is residue-commutative by generalising Proposition 5.12. These commutativity relations are easy and so we suppress the explicit factorisation.

Consider the lefthand-side of the first equality. For  $1 \leq q \leq b_\delta$  the strand connecting the  $P_{\theta\alpha\beta\alpha\delta}^{-1}(q, \varepsilon_j)$  and  $P_{\delta\theta\beta\alpha\beta}^{-1}(q, \varepsilon_j)$  northern and southern vertices double-crosses the strands connecting each of the  $P_{\theta\alpha\beta\alpha\delta}^{-1}(b_\beta + p, \varepsilon_{j+1})$  and  $P_{\delta\theta\beta\alpha\beta}^{-1}(b_\beta + p, \varepsilon_{j+1})$  northern and southern vertices for  $p = q - 1, q, q + 1$ . Now consider the righthand-side of the first equality. For  $1 \leq q \leq b_\delta$  the strand connecting the  $P_{\theta\alpha\beta\alpha\delta}^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta\alpha} + q, \varepsilon_j)$  and  $P_{\delta\theta\beta\alpha\beta}^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta\alpha} + q, \varepsilon_j)$  northern and southern vertices double-crosses the strands connecting each of the  $P_{\theta\alpha\beta\alpha\delta}^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta\alpha\beta} + p, \varepsilon_{j+1})$  and  $P_{\delta\theta\beta\alpha\beta}^{-1}(b_{\alpha\beta\alpha\beta} + p, \varepsilon_{j+1})$  northern and southern vertices for  $p = q - 1, q, q + 1$ . For each  $1 \leq q \leq b_\delta$  we can undo these crossings using Proposition 4.4.

Consider the lefthand-side of the second equality. For  $1 \leq q \leq \min\{b_\beta, b_\delta\}$  the strand connecting the  $P_{\beta\gamma\delta}^{-1}(q, \varepsilon_k)$  and  $P_{\delta\gamma\beta}^{-1}(q, \varepsilon_k)$  northern and southern vertices double-crosses the strands connecting each of the  $P_{\beta\gamma\delta}^{-1}(b_\gamma + p, \varepsilon_{k+1})$  and  $P_{\delta\gamma\beta}^{-1}(b_\gamma + p, \varepsilon_{k+1})$  northern and southern vertices for  $p = q - 1, q, q + 1$ . Now consider the righthand-side of the second equality. For  $0 \leq q < \min\{b_\beta, b_\delta\}$  the strand connecting the  $P_{\beta\gamma\delta}^{-1}(b_\beta\gamma\delta - q, \varepsilon_k)$  and  $P_{\delta\gamma\beta}^{-1}(b_\beta\gamma\delta - q, \varepsilon_k)$  northern and southern vertices double-crosses the strands connecting each of the  $P_{\beta\gamma\delta}^{-1}(b_\beta\gamma\gamma\delta - p, \varepsilon_{k+1})$  and  $P_{\delta\gamma\beta}^{-1}(b_\beta\gamma\gamma\delta - p, \varepsilon_{k+1})$  northern and southern vertices for  $p = q + 1, q, q - 1$ . For each  $0 \leq q < \min\{b_\beta, b_\delta\}$  we can undo these crossings using Proposition 4.4.

Thus we obtain the desired equalities and the image of relation S7 holds.

**6.9. The fork and commutator.** We have that

$$(e_{P_\beta} \otimes \text{fork}_{\gamma\gamma}^{\theta\gamma})(\text{com}_{\gamma\beta}^{\beta\gamma} \otimes e_{P_\gamma})(e_{P_\gamma} \otimes \text{com}_{\gamma\beta}^{\beta\gamma}) = \Upsilon_{P_\gamma \otimes P_\gamma \otimes P_\beta}^{P_{\beta\theta\gamma}} = (\text{adj}_{\theta\beta}^{\beta\theta} \otimes e_{P_\gamma})(e_{P_\theta} \otimes \text{com}_{\gamma\beta}^{\beta\gamma})(\text{fork}_{\gamma\gamma}^{\theta\gamma} \otimes e_{P_\beta})$$

as the righthand and lefthand sides are both minimal, step-preserving, and residue commutative (after undoing any double-crossings of non-adjacent residue using the commutativity relations).

**6.10. Naturality of adjustment.** For each generator, we must check the corresponding adjustment naturality relation pictured in Figures 3 and 4. For the unique one-sided naturality relation,  $(\text{spot}_\alpha^\theta \otimes e_{P_\theta})\text{adj}_{\theta\alpha}^{\alpha\theta} = e_{P_\theta} \otimes \text{spot}_\alpha^\theta$ , this follows by a generalisation of the proof of Proposition 5.10. The remaining relations all follow from Proposition 4.4.

**6.11. Cyclicity.** Given  $\alpha, \beta \in \Pi$  labelling a pair of non-commuting reflections, we must show that

$$\Psi \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 1} \end{array} \right) = \Psi \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 2} \end{array} \right). \quad (6.28)$$

The lefthand-side of equation (6.28) is equal to

$$(e_{P_{\alpha\theta\beta\alpha}} \otimes (\text{spot}_\beta^\theta \otimes e_{P_\theta})\text{fork}_{\beta\beta}^{\beta\theta})(e_{P_\alpha} \otimes \text{hex}_{\theta\alpha\beta\alpha}^{\theta\beta\alpha\beta} \otimes e_{P_\beta})((\text{adj}_{\theta\alpha}^{\alpha\theta}(e_{P_\theta} \otimes (\text{fork}_{\theta\alpha}^{\alpha\theta}(e_{P_\theta} \otimes \text{spot}_\theta^\alpha)))) \otimes e_{P_{\beta\alpha\beta}})$$

which is minimal and step-preserving and so is equal to  $\Upsilon_{\theta\theta\theta\beta\alpha\beta}^{\alpha\theta\beta\alpha\beta\theta}$  (which is independent of the choice of reduced expression by simply re-indexing the proof of Proposition 5.11). The righthand-side of equation (6.28) is equal to

$$\text{adj}_{\theta\theta\alpha\beta\alpha\theta}^{\alpha\theta\beta\alpha\theta\theta}(e_{P_\theta} \otimes \text{hex}_{\theta\beta\alpha\beta}^{\theta\alpha\beta\alpha} \otimes e_{P_\theta})(e_{P_{\theta\theta}} \otimes \text{adj}_{\theta\beta\alpha\beta}^{\beta\alpha\beta\theta}). \quad (6.29)$$

It will suffice to show that

$$(\text{hex}_{\beta\alpha\beta} \otimes e_{P_\theta})\text{adj}_{\theta\beta\alpha\beta}^{\beta\alpha\beta\theta} = \Upsilon_{\theta\theta\beta\alpha\beta}^{H_{b_{\alpha\beta}, \beta\alpha\beta} \otimes P_\theta} \quad (6.30)$$

as  $b_\beta$  applications of this will simplify equation (6.29) so that it is minimal and step-preserving. The lefthand-side of equation (6.30) contains an  $r$ -strand from  $H_{q, \alpha\beta\alpha}^{-1}(q + 1, \varepsilon_{i+1})$  to  $P_{\theta\theta\alpha\beta\alpha}^{-1}(q + 1, \varepsilon_{i+1})$  which double-crosses the strands connecting the top and bottom vertices

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H_{q, \alpha\beta\alpha}^{-1}(b_\alpha + q, \varepsilon_i) & H_{q, \alpha\beta\alpha}^{-1}(b_\alpha + q + 1, \varepsilon_i) & H_{q, \alpha\beta\alpha}^{-1}(b_\alpha + q + 2, \varepsilon_i) \\ P_{\theta\theta\alpha\beta\alpha}^{-1}(b_\alpha + q, \varepsilon_i) & P_{\theta\theta\alpha\beta\alpha}^{-1}(b_\alpha + q + 1, \varepsilon_i) & P_{\theta\theta\alpha\beta\alpha}^{-1}(b_\alpha + q + 2, \varepsilon_i), \end{array}$$

respectively. We undo these double-crossings as in the proof of Proposition 4.4 to obtain  $\Upsilon_{\theta\theta\theta\beta\alpha\beta}^{\alpha\theta\beta\alpha\beta\theta}$ .



$$\begin{aligned}
&= (e_{P_{00}} \psi_i \psi_{hl+i-1}^{i+1}) (1 + \psi_{hl+i-1} \psi_{hl+i} \psi_{hl+i-1}) (\psi_{i+1}^{hl+i-1} \psi_i e_{P_{00}}) \\
&= (e_{P_{00}} \psi_i \psi_{hl+i-1}^{i+1}) (\psi_{i+1}^{hl+i-1} \psi_i e_{P_{00}}) \\
&= e_{P_{00}} \psi_i \psi_i e_{P_{00}} \\
&= e_{P_{00}} (y_{i+1} - y_i) e_{P_{00}}
\end{aligned}$$

where the first equality holds by the third case of relation **R4**, the second holds by the second case of relation **R4** (the commuting version), the third holds by case 2 of relation **R5**, the fourth holds by Lemma 4.1, and the fifth to the seventh by the second case of relation **R4** (the commuting version), and the eighth by the first case of **R5**, and the ninth by Lemma 4.1, the tenth by the second case of relation **R4** (the commuting version), and the eleventh by the third case of relation **R4**.  $\square$

**6.13. The barbell and commutator.** For  $\beta, \gamma \in \Pi$  labelling two commuting reflections, we check that

$$\Psi \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 1: A vertical green line with two blue dots connected by a vertical line segment.} \end{array} \right) = \Psi \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 2: A curved green line with two blue dots connected by a vertical line segment.} \end{array} \right) \quad (6.41)$$

In other words,

$$(\text{spot}_{\beta}^{\circ} \text{spot}_{\circ}^{\beta}) \otimes e_{P_{\gamma}} = \text{adj}_{\gamma\circ}^{\circ\gamma} (e_{P_{\gamma}} \otimes (\text{spot}_{\beta}^{\circ} \text{spot}_{\circ}^{\beta})) \text{adj}_{\circ\gamma}^{\gamma\circ}.$$

This relation is very simple to check. We have that

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{adj}_{\gamma\circ}^{\circ\gamma} (e_{P_{\gamma}} \otimes (\text{spot}_{\beta}^{\circ} \text{spot}_{\circ}^{\beta})) \text{adj}_{\circ\gamma}^{\gamma\circ} &= \text{adj}_{\gamma\circ}^{\circ\gamma} (y_{b_{\gamma\beta}hl-hl+\emptyset(j+1)} - y_{b_{\gamma}hl+j}) \text{adj}_{\circ\gamma}^{\gamma\circ} e_{P_{\circ\gamma}} \\
&= (y_{b_{\gamma\beta}hl-hl+1-b_{\gamma}+\gamma(j+1)} - y_{b_{\gamma}hl+\gamma(j)}) \text{adj}_{\gamma\circ}^{\circ\gamma} \text{adj}_{\circ\gamma}^{\gamma\circ} e_{P_{\circ\gamma}} \\
&= (y_{b_{\gamma\beta}hl-hl+1-b_{\gamma}+\gamma(j+1)} - y_{b_{\gamma}hl+\gamma(j)}) e_{P_{\circ\gamma}} \\
&= (y_{b_{\beta}hl-hl+\emptyset(j+1)} - y_j) e_{P_{\circ\gamma}}
\end{aligned}$$

where the first equality follows from equation (6.34), the second equality follows from the commuting cases of relations **R3** and **R2**, the third equality follows from Proposition 4.4, the fourth equality follows from applying Propositions 6.12 and 6.13. Again by equation (6.34), we have that

$$(\text{spot}_{\beta}^{\circ} \text{spot}_{\circ}^{\beta}) \otimes e_{P_{\gamma}} = (y_{b_{\beta}hl-hl+\emptyset(j+1)} - y_j) e_{P_{\circ\gamma}}$$

as required.

**6.14. The one colour Demazure relation.** For  $\alpha \in \Pi$ , we must check that

$$\Psi \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 1: A vertical pink line with two pink dots connected by a vertical line segment.} \end{array} \right) + \Psi \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 2: A curved pink line with two pink dots connected by a vertical line segment.} \end{array} \right) = 2\Psi \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 3: A vertical pink line with two pink dots.} \end{array} \right). \quad (6.42)$$

In other words, we must check that

$$(\text{spot}_{\alpha}^{\circ} \text{spot}_{\circ}^{\alpha}) \otimes e_{P_{\alpha}} + \text{adj}_{\alpha\circ}^{\circ\alpha} (e_{P_{\alpha}} \otimes \text{spot}_{\alpha}^{\circ} \text{spot}_{\circ}^{\alpha}) \text{adj}_{\circ\alpha}^{\alpha\circ} = 2(e_{P_{\circ}} \otimes \text{spot}_{\alpha}^{\circ} \text{spot}_{\circ}^{\alpha})$$

Substituting equation (6.32) and (6.34) into the above, we must show that

$$\begin{aligned}
&e_{P_{\circ\alpha}} (y_{b_{\alpha}hl-hl+\emptyset(i+1)} - y_i + \text{adj}_{\alpha\circ}^{\circ\alpha} (y_{b_{\alpha\alpha}hl-hl+\emptyset(i+1)} - y_{b_{\alpha}hl+i}) \text{adj}_{\circ\alpha}^{\alpha\circ}) e_{P_{\circ\alpha}} \\
&= 2e_{P_{\circ\alpha}} (y_{b_{\alpha\alpha}hl-b_{\alpha}-hl+1+\alpha(i+1)} - y_{b_{\alpha\alpha}hl-b_{\alpha}+1}) e_{P_{\circ\alpha}}.
\end{aligned} \quad (6.43)$$

This leads us to consider the effect of passing dots through the adjustment terms.

**Proposition 6.14.** *Let  $\alpha \in \Pi$ . We have that*

$$\text{adj}_{\alpha\circ}^{\circ\alpha} y_{b_{\alpha}hl+i} \text{adj}_{\circ\alpha}^{\alpha\circ} = y_{b_{\alpha\alpha}hl-b_{\alpha}+1} e_{P_{\circ\alpha}} \quad (6.44)$$

$$\text{adj}_{\alpha\circ}^{\circ\alpha} (b_{\alpha} - 2) \dots \text{adj}_{\alpha\circ}^{\circ\alpha} (0) y_{b_{\alpha\alpha}hl-hl+\emptyset(i+1)} \text{adj}_{\alpha\circ}^{\circ\alpha} (0) \dots \text{adj}_{\alpha\circ}^{\circ\alpha} (b_{\alpha} - 2) = y_{b_{\alpha\alpha}hl-hl+\emptyset(i+1)} e_{P_{\circ\alpha}}. \quad (6.45)$$

*Proof.* By the commuting case of relation **R2**, we have that the lefthand-sides of equation (6.44) and (6.45) are equal to  $y_{b_{\alpha\alpha}hl-b_{\alpha}+1} \text{adj}_{\alpha\circ}^{\circ\alpha} \text{adj}_{\circ\alpha}^{\alpha\circ}$  and  $y_{b_{\alpha\alpha}hl-hl+\emptyset(i+1)} \text{adj}_{\alpha\circ}^{\circ\alpha} (b_{\alpha} - 2) \dots \text{adj}_{\alpha\circ}^{\circ\alpha} (b_{\alpha} - 2)$  respectively. The result then follows by Proposition 4.4.  $\square$

In equation (6.45) we pulled the dot through most of the adjustment term; in equation (6.46) below, we pull the dot through the final adjustment term. Equation (6.47) has an almost identical proof and so we record it here, for convenience.

**Proposition 6.15.** *Let  $\alpha \in \Pi$ . We have that*

$$\text{adj}_{\alpha\emptyset}^{\emptyset\alpha} y_{b_\alpha h\ell + \emptyset(i+1)} \text{adj}_{\emptyset\alpha}^{\alpha\emptyset} = (y_i + y_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 1 + \alpha(i+1)} - y_{b_\alpha h\ell + h\ell - b_\alpha + 1}) e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}} \quad (6.46)$$

$$\text{adj}_{\alpha\emptyset}^{\emptyset\alpha} y_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 1} \text{adj}_{\emptyset\alpha}^{\alpha\emptyset} = y_{b_\alpha h\ell + h\ell - b_\alpha + 1} e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}}. \quad (6.47)$$

*Proof.* We first prove equation (6.46). The dotted strand in the concatenated diagram on the left of equation (6.46) connects the  $i = P_{\emptyset\alpha}^{-1}(1, \varepsilon_i)$  top and bottom vertices, by way of the  $b_\alpha h\ell + \emptyset(i+1) = P_{\alpha\emptyset}^{-1}(1, \varepsilon_{i+1})$  vertex in the centre of the diagram. We suppose this dotted strand is of residue  $r \in \mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z}$ , say. This dotted strand crosses a single strand of the same residue: namely, the strand connecting the  $P_{\emptyset\alpha}^{-1}(b_\alpha + 1, \varepsilon_{i+1})$ th vertices on the top and bottom edges. By relation R3, we can pull the dot upwards along its strand and through this crossing at the expense of an error term. We thus obtain

$$\text{adj}_{\alpha\emptyset}^{\emptyset\alpha} y_{b_\alpha h\ell + \emptyset(i+1)} \text{adj}_{\emptyset\alpha}^{\alpha\emptyset} = e_{P_{\alpha\emptyset}} (y_i \psi_{P_{\alpha\emptyset}}^{P_{\emptyset\alpha}} \psi_{P_{\alpha\emptyset}}^{P_{\alpha\emptyset}}) e_{P_{\alpha\emptyset}} + e_{P_{\alpha\emptyset}} (\psi_{S_{1,\alpha} \otimes P_\emptyset}^{P_\emptyset \otimes S_{0,\alpha}} \psi_{S_{0,\alpha} \otimes P_\emptyset}^{S_{1,\alpha} \otimes P_\emptyset} \psi_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}}^{P_{\alpha\emptyset}}) e_{P_{\alpha\emptyset}} \quad (6.48)$$

(we note that  $S_{0,\alpha} = P_\alpha^b$ ). The first term in equation (6.48) is equal to  $y_i e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}}$  by Proposition 4.4 (and this is equal to the leftmost term on the righthand-side of equation (6.46)). We now consider the latter term. We label the top and bottom edges by  $T = P_\emptyset \otimes P_\alpha^b$  and  $B = P_\emptyset \otimes P_\alpha$ . There is a unique crossing of strands of the same residue in the diagram

$$e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}} (\psi_{S_{1,\alpha} \otimes P_\emptyset}^{P_\emptyset \otimes S_{0,\alpha}} \circ \psi_{S_{0,\alpha} \otimes P_\emptyset}^{S_{1,\alpha} \otimes P_\emptyset} \circ \psi_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}}^{P_{\alpha\emptyset}}) e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}}$$

namely the  $r$ -strands connecting the  $i = T^{-1}(1, \varepsilon_i)$  and  $B^{-1}(b_\alpha + 1, \varepsilon_{i+1})$  vertices on the top and bottom edges of the diagram. This crossing of strands is bi-passed on the left by the  $(r+1)$ -strand connecting the  $T^{-1}(b_\alpha, \varepsilon_{i+1}) = B^{-1}(b_\alpha, \varepsilon_{i+1})$  top and bottom vertices. We pull this  $(r+1)$ -strand to the right through the crossing  $r$ -strands using case 2 of relation R5 (and the commuting relations). We hence undo this crossing and obtain

$$e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}} (\psi_{S_{1,\alpha} \otimes P_\emptyset}^{P_\emptyset \otimes S_{0,\alpha}} \psi_{P_\emptyset \otimes S_{0,\alpha}}^{S_{1,\alpha} \otimes P_\emptyset}) e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}}$$

(the other term depicted in equation (R5) is zero by Lemma 4.1). Now, this diagram contains a double-crossing of the  $r$ -strand connecting the  $(P_\emptyset \otimes P_\alpha^b)^{-1}(b_\alpha + 1, \varepsilon_{i+1})$  top and bottom vertices and the  $(r-1)$ -strand connecting the  $(P_\emptyset \otimes P_\alpha^b)^{-1}(2, \varepsilon_i)$  top and bottom vertices. We undo this double-crossing using case 4 of relation R4 (and the commutativity relations) to obtain

$$e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}} (y_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 1 + \alpha(i+1)} - y_{b_\alpha h\ell + h\ell - b_\alpha + 1}) e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}} \quad (6.49)$$

and so equation (6.46) follows. Regarding the enumeration above, we note that

$$(P_\emptyset \otimes P_\alpha^b)^{-1}(b_\alpha + 1, \varepsilon_{i+1}) = b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 1 + \alpha(i+1) \quad (P_\emptyset \otimes P_\alpha^b)^{-1}(2, \varepsilon_i) = b_\alpha h\ell + h\ell - b_\alpha + 1.$$

Now we turn to equation (6.47). We push the KLR-dot upwards along its strand using R3 to obtain

$$e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}} (y_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 1 + \alpha(i+1)} \psi_{P_{\alpha\emptyset}}^{P_{\emptyset\alpha}} \psi_{P_{\alpha\emptyset}}^{P_{\alpha\emptyset}}) e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}} - e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}} (\psi_{S_{1,\alpha} \otimes P_\emptyset}^{P_\emptyset \otimes S_{0,\alpha}} \psi_{S_{0,\alpha} \otimes P_\emptyset}^{S_{1,\alpha} \otimes P_\emptyset} \circ \psi_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}}^{P_{\alpha\emptyset}}) e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}}. \quad (6.50)$$

The first term is equal to  $y_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 1 + \alpha(i+1)} e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}}$  (again this follows by Proposition 4.4). The second term is identical to the second term in equation (6.48) and so is equal to equation (6.49) but with negative coefficient. Thus we can rewrite equation (6.50) in the form

$$e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}} (y_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 1 + \alpha(i+1)} - (y_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 1 + \alpha(i+1)} - y_{b_\alpha h\ell + h\ell - b_\alpha + 1})) e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}}$$

and equation (6.47) follows.  $\square$

We now gather together our conclusions from Propositions 6.14 and 6.15 (shifting the indexing where necessary) in order to prove equation (6.42). We have that  $(\text{spot}_{\alpha\emptyset}^{\emptyset\alpha} \text{spot}_{\emptyset\alpha}^{\alpha\emptyset}) \otimes e_{P_\alpha}$  is equal to

$$e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}} (y_{b_\alpha h\ell - h\ell + \emptyset(i+1)} - y_i) e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}}$$

and  $\text{adj}_{\alpha\emptyset}^{\emptyset\alpha} (e_{P_\alpha} \otimes \text{spot}_{\alpha\emptyset}^{\emptyset\alpha} \text{spot}_{\emptyset\alpha}^{\alpha\emptyset}) \text{adj}_{\emptyset\alpha}^{\alpha\emptyset}$  is equal to

$$-e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}} y_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 1} e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}} + e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}} (y_{b_\alpha h\ell - h\ell + i} + y_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha - h\ell + 1 + \alpha(i+1)} - y_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 1}) e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}}$$

By Propositions 6.12 and 6.13, we have that

$$y_{b_\alpha h\ell - h\ell + \emptyset(i+1)} e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}} = y_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha - h\ell + 1 + \alpha(i+1)} e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}}$$

for  $b_\alpha \geq 1$  and by Proposition 6.12 we have that

$$y_i e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}} = y_{b_\alpha h\ell - h\ell + i} e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}}$$

for  $b_\alpha > 1$  (we note that this latter statement is vacuous if  $b_\alpha = 1$  as the subscripts are equal). The former pair of terms sum up and the latter cancel, so we obtain

$$(\text{spot}_\alpha^\emptyset \text{spot}_\emptyset^\alpha) \otimes e_{P_\alpha} + \text{adj}_{\alpha\emptyset}^{\emptyset\alpha}(e_{P_\alpha} \otimes \text{spot}_\alpha^\emptyset \text{spot}_\emptyset^\alpha) \text{adj}_{\emptyset\alpha}^{\alpha\emptyset} = 2e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}}(y_{b_\alpha h\ell - h\ell + \emptyset(i+1)} - y_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 1}) e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha}}$$

Hence equation (6.43) holds by a further application of Propositions 6.12 and 6.13.

**6.15. Two colour Demazure.** For  $\alpha, \beta \in \Pi$  labelling two non-commuting reflections, we must check

$$\Psi \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 1} \end{array} \right) - \Psi \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 2} \end{array} \right) = \Psi \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 3} \end{array} \right) - \Psi \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 4} \end{array} \right) \quad (6.51)$$

We assume that the rank of  $\Phi$  is at least 2. The reader is invited to check the rank 1 case separately (here the scalar 2 appears due to certain coincidences in the arithmetic).

**Proposition 6.16.** *Let  $\alpha \in \Pi$ . If  $b_\alpha > 1$ , we have that*

$$y_{b_\alpha h\ell + h\ell + \emptyset(i+1)} e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}} = (y_i + y_{\emptyset(i+1)} - y_{b_\alpha h\ell + h\ell - b_\alpha + 1}) e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}}$$

$$y_{b_\alpha h\ell + h\ell + i} e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}} = y_{b_\alpha h\ell + h\ell} e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}} = y_{b_\alpha h\ell + h\ell - b_\alpha + 1} e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}}$$

and if  $b_\alpha = 1$  we have that

$$(y_{b_\alpha h\ell + h\ell + i} - y_{b_\alpha h\ell + h\ell + \emptyset(i+1)}) e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}} = (2y_{b_\alpha h\ell + h\ell - b_\alpha + 1} - y_i - y_{\emptyset(i+1)}) e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}}.$$

*Proof.* We check the  $b_\alpha > 1$  case as the other is similar. The second equality follows as in the proof of Proposition 6.12. We now consider the first equality. We momentarily drop the prefix  $P_\emptyset$  to the path  $P_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}$  for the sake of more manageable indices. Since  $b_\alpha > 1$  we can pull the vertical strand connecting the  $b_\alpha h\ell + \emptyset(i+1)$  top and bottom vertices leftwards until we reach a strand of adjacent residue (namely the  $(b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 2)$ th strand) as follows

$$e_{P_{\alpha\emptyset}} = e_{P_{\alpha\emptyset}} \psi_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 3}^{b_\alpha h\ell + \emptyset(i+1)} \psi_{b_\alpha h\ell + \emptyset(i+1)}^{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 3} e_{P_{\alpha\emptyset}}$$

we can rewrite the centre of the diagram which using the braid relation as follows,

$$e_{P_{\alpha\emptyset}} \psi_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 3}^{b_\alpha h\ell + \emptyset(i+1)} (\psi_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 2} \psi_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 1} \psi_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 2} - \psi_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 1} \psi_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 2} \psi_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 1}) \psi_{b_\alpha h\ell + \emptyset(i+1)}^{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 3} e_{P_{\alpha\emptyset}}$$

where the latter term is zero by Lemma 4.1 and so this simplifies to

$$e_{P_{\alpha\emptyset}} \psi_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 2}^{b_\alpha h\ell + \emptyset(i+1)} (\psi_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 1}) \psi_{b_\alpha h\ell + \emptyset(i+1)}^{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 2} e_{P_{\alpha\emptyset}}$$

now we use the non-commuting version of relation R2 together with case 1 of relation R4 to rewrite the middlemost crossing as a double-crossing with a KLR-dot,

$$-e_{P_{\alpha\emptyset}} \psi_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 2}^{b_\alpha h\ell + \emptyset(i+1)} (\psi_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 1} y_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 1} \psi_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 1}) \psi_{b_\alpha h\ell + \emptyset(i+1)}^{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 2} e_{P_{\alpha\emptyset}},$$

we pull the dotted strand leftwards through the next strand of adjacent residue (namely the  $((b_\alpha - 1)(h\ell - 1) + \alpha(i+1))$ th strand) using the commutativity relations and case 4 of relation R4 to obtain

$$e_{P_{\alpha\emptyset}} \psi_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 2}^{b_\alpha h\ell + \emptyset(i+1)} (y_{(b_\alpha - 1)(h\ell - 1) + \alpha(i+1)} + \psi_{(b_\alpha - 1)(h\ell - 1) + \alpha(i+1)}^{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 2} \psi_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 2}^{(b_\alpha - 1)(h\ell - 1) + \alpha(i+1)}) \psi_{b_\alpha h\ell + \emptyset(i+1)}^{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 2} e_{P_{\alpha\emptyset}}$$

where the first summand is zero by case 1 of relation R4 and the latter term is equal to

$$e_{P_{\alpha\emptyset}} \psi_{(b_\alpha - 1)(h\ell - 1) + \alpha(i+1)}^{b_\alpha h\ell + \emptyset(i+1)} \psi_{b_\alpha h\ell + \emptyset(i+1)}^{(b_\alpha - 1)(h\ell - 1) + \alpha(i+1)} e_{P_{\alpha\emptyset}}.$$

Now we concatenate on the left by  $P_\emptyset$  and then multiply by  $y_{b_\alpha h\ell + h\ell + \emptyset(i+1)}$  to obtain

$$y_{b_\alpha h\ell + h\ell + \emptyset(i+1)} e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}} = y_{b_\alpha h\ell + h\ell + \emptyset(i+1)} e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}} \psi_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 1 + \alpha(i+1)}^{b_\alpha h\ell + h\ell + \emptyset(i+1)} \psi_{b_\alpha h\ell + h\ell + \emptyset(i+1)}^{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 1 + \alpha(i+1)} e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}} \quad (6.52)$$

which by relation R4 is equal to

$$e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}} (\psi_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 1 + \alpha(i+1)}^{b_\alpha h\ell + h\ell + \emptyset(i+1)} y_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 1 + \alpha(i+1)} + \psi_{b_\alpha h\ell + h\ell - b_\alpha + 2}^{b_\alpha h\ell + h\ell + \emptyset(i+1)} \psi_{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 1 + \alpha(i+1)}^{b_\alpha h\ell + h\ell - b_\alpha + 1}) \psi_{b_\alpha h\ell + h\ell + \emptyset(i+1)}^{b_\alpha h\ell - b_\alpha + 1 + \alpha(i+1)} e_{P_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}}.$$

We consider the first term in the sum first. By the commuting relations, this term is equal to

$$e_{\mathbb{P}_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}} \left( \psi_{hl+i}^{b_\alpha hl+hl+\emptyset(i+1)} y_{hl+i} \psi_{b_\alpha hl+hl+\emptyset(i+1)}^{hl+i} \right) e_{\mathbb{P}_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}}$$

and by Proposition 6.12 this is equal to

$$e_{\mathbb{P}_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}} \left( \psi_{hl+i}^{b_\alpha hl+hl+\emptyset(i+1)} y_i \psi_{b_\alpha hl+hl+\emptyset(i+1)}^{hl+\emptyset(i+1)} \right) e_{\mathbb{P}_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}}$$

and now, having moved this KLR-dot a total of  $hl$  strands leftward, we can apply the commutativity relations again to obtain

$$y_i e_{\mathbb{P}_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}} \left( \psi_{b_\alpha hl-b_\alpha+1+\alpha(i+1)}^{b_\alpha hl+hl+\emptyset(i+1)} \psi_{b_\alpha hl+hl+\emptyset(i+1)}^{b_\alpha hl-b_\alpha+1+\alpha(i+1)} e_{\mathbb{P}_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}} \right) = y_i e_{\mathbb{P}_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}} \quad (6.53)$$

where the final equality follows by equation (6.52). We now turn to the second term in the above sum, namely

$$e_{\mathbb{P}_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}} \psi_{b_\alpha hl+hl-b_\alpha+2}^{b_\alpha hl+hl+\emptyset(i+1)} \psi_{b_\alpha hl-b_\alpha+1+\alpha(i+1)}^{b_\alpha hl+hl-b_\alpha+1} \psi_{b_\alpha hl+hl+\emptyset(i+1)}^{b_\alpha hl-b_\alpha+1+\alpha(i+1)} e_{\mathbb{P}_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}}.$$

This has a crossing of like-labelled strands (of residue  $r \in \mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z}$ ) connecting the  $(b_\alpha hl + \emptyset(i+1))$ th and  $(b_\alpha hl - b_\alpha + 1)$ th top and bottom vertices. This crossing is bi-passed on the right by the  $(r-1)$ -strand connecting the  $(b_\alpha hl - b_\alpha + 2)$ th top and bottom vertices. We undo this braid using case 1 of relation R5 to obtain

$$e_{\mathbb{P}_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}} \left( \psi_{b_\alpha hl+hl-b_\alpha+2}^{b_\alpha hl+hl+\emptyset(i+1)} \psi_{b_\alpha hl-b_\alpha+1+\alpha(i+1)}^{b_\alpha hl+hl-b_\alpha+1} \right) \left( \psi_{b_\alpha hl+hl-b_\alpha+1}^{b_\alpha hl-b_\alpha+1+\alpha(i+1)} \psi_{b_\alpha hl+hl+\emptyset(i+1)}^{b_\alpha hl+hl-b_\alpha+2} \right) e_{\mathbb{P}_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}}$$

where the other term in relation R5 is zero by Lemma 4.1. This diagram contains a single double-crossing of adjacent residues, which we undo using case 4 of relation R4 (and we undo all the other crossings using the commutativity relation) to obtain

$$e_{\mathbb{P}_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}} (y_{b_\alpha hl-b_\alpha+1+\alpha(i+1)} - y_{b_\alpha hl-b_\alpha+1}) e_{\mathbb{P}_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}} = e_{\mathbb{P}_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}} (y_{\emptyset(i+1)} - y_{b_\alpha hl-b_\alpha+1}) e_{\mathbb{P}_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}} \quad (6.54)$$

where the final equality follows by Proposition 6.12. The result follows by summing over equation (6.53) and (6.54).  $\square$

**Proposition 6.17.** *Let  $\alpha = \varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_{i+1}$ ,  $\beta = \varepsilon_{i+1} - \varepsilon_{i+2} \in \Pi$ . We have that*

$$\begin{aligned} & (\text{spot}_{\beta}^{\emptyset} \text{spot}_{\emptyset}^{\beta}) \otimes e_{\mathbb{P}_{\alpha\emptyset}} - (\text{adj}_{\alpha\emptyset}^{\alpha\emptyset} \otimes e_{\mathbb{P}_{\emptyset}}) (e_{\mathbb{P}_{\alpha}} \otimes \text{spot}_{\beta}^{\emptyset} \text{spot}_{\emptyset}^{\beta} \otimes e_{\mathbb{P}_{\emptyset}}) (\text{adj}_{\emptyset\alpha}^{\alpha\emptyset} \otimes e_{\mathbb{P}_{\emptyset}}) \\ &= e_{\mathbb{P}_{\alpha}} (y_i - y_{b_{\alpha\beta}hl}) e_{\mathbb{P}_{\alpha}} \\ &= e_{\mathbb{P}_{\emptyset\alpha}} \otimes (\text{spot}_{\alpha}^{\emptyset} \text{spot}_{\emptyset}^{\alpha}) - e_{\mathbb{P}_{\emptyset}} \otimes (\text{spot}_{\emptyset}^{\alpha} \text{spot}_{\alpha}^{\emptyset}) \otimes e_{\mathbb{P}_{\emptyset}}. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Substituting equation (6.32) and (6.34) into the third line, we obtain

$$e_{\mathbb{P}_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}} (y_{b_{\alpha\beta}hl-hl+\emptyset(i+1)} - y_{b_{\alpha\beta}hl+i} - y_{b_{\alpha\beta}hl-b_\alpha-hl+1+\alpha(i+1)} + y_{b_{\alpha\beta}hl-b_\alpha+1}) e_{\mathbb{P}_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}}.$$

We apply Proposition 6.16 to the first term in the sum and then cancelling terms using Propositions 6.12 and 6.13. Substituting equation (6.32) and (6.34) into the first line, we obtain

$$e_{\mathbb{P}_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}} \left( y_{b_\beta hl-hl+\emptyset(i+2)} - y_{\emptyset(i+1)} - \text{adj}_{\alpha\emptyset\emptyset}^{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset} (y_{b_{\alpha\beta}hl-hl+\emptyset(i+2)} - y_{b_\alpha hl+\emptyset(i+1)}) \text{adj}_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}^{\alpha\emptyset\emptyset} \right) e_{\mathbb{P}_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}}. \quad (6.55)$$

We have that

$$e_{\mathbb{P}_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}} \text{adj}_{\alpha\emptyset\emptyset}^{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset} y_{b_{\alpha\beta}hl-hl+\emptyset(i+2)} \text{adj}_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}^{\alpha\emptyset\emptyset} e_{\mathbb{P}_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}} = y_{b_\alpha hl-b_\alpha-hl+1+\alpha(i+2)} = y_{b_\beta hl-hl+\emptyset(i+2)} \quad (6.56)$$

where the first equality follows from the commuting KLR-dot relation R3 and the latter follows from Propositions 6.12 and 6.13. We also have that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{adj}_{\alpha\emptyset\emptyset}^{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset} y_{b_\alpha hl+\emptyset(i+1)} \text{adj}_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}^{\alpha\emptyset\emptyset} &= e_{\mathbb{P}_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}} \left( y_{b_\beta hl-hl+i} + y_{b_{\alpha\beta}hl-hl-b_\alpha+1+\alpha(i+1)} - y_{b_{\alpha\beta}hl-b_\alpha+1} \right) e_{\mathbb{P}_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}} \\ &= e_{\mathbb{P}_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}} (y_i + y_{\emptyset(i+1)} - y_{b_{\alpha\beta}hl}) e_{\mathbb{P}_{\emptyset\alpha\emptyset}} \end{aligned} \quad (6.57)$$

where the first equality follows from Proposition 6.15 and the second by Propositions 6.12 and 6.13. Thus substituting equation (6.56) and (6.57) in to equation (6.55), the first equality follows.  $\square$

**6.16. The cyclotomic relation.** We have that  $\Psi(1_\alpha) = e_{P_\alpha}$  for any  $\alpha \in \Pi$ . If the  $\alpha$ -hyperplane is a wall of the dominant region, then the tableau  $P_\alpha$  is *non-standard* and therefore  $e_{P_\alpha} = 0$  by Lemma 4.1. Now, let  $\gamma \in \Pi$  be arbitrary. By equation (6.32), we have that

$$\Psi \left( \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \bullet \\ \hline \bullet \\ \hline \end{array} \right) = e_{P_\sigma} (y_{b_\gamma h \ell - h \ell + \theta(k+1)} - y_k) e_{P_\sigma} = e_{P_\sigma} (y_{\theta(k+1)} - y_k) e_{P_\sigma}$$

where the latter equality follows from Propositions 6.12 and 6.13. If  $x \equiv 1$  modulo  $h$ , then

$$y_x e_{P_\sigma} = e_{P_\sigma} (\psi_1^x y_1 \psi_x^1) e_{P_\sigma} = 0 \quad (6.58)$$

by relation 3.3. If not, then by relation R4 we have that

$$y_x e_{P_\sigma} = y_{x-1} e_{P_\sigma} - e_{P_\sigma} \psi_x \psi_x e_{P_\sigma} \quad (6.59)$$

where the latter term is zero by Remark 3.18 (as  $(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_{x-1}, \varepsilon_{x+1}, \varepsilon_x, \varepsilon_{x+2}, \dots, \varepsilon_{h\ell})$  is non-standard for  $b_\gamma = 1$ ). Thus the cyclotomic relation holds (as we can apply equation (6.59) as many times as necessary and then apply equation (6.58)).

## 7. DECOMPOSITION NUMBERS OF CYCLOTOMIC HECKE ALGEBRAS

In this section we recall the construction of the graded cellular and ‘‘light leaves’’ bases for the algebras  $\mathcal{S}_{h,\ell}^{\text{br}}(n, \sigma)$ , our quotient algebras  $\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma / \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma e_h \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma$ , and their truncations. We show that the homomorphism  $\Psi$  preserves these  $\mathbb{Z}$ -bases (trivially, by definition) and hence deduce that  $\Psi$  is indeed an isomorphism and hence prove Theorems A and B of the introduction.

**7.1. Why is it enough to consider the truncated algebras?** Thus far in the paper, we have truncated to consider paths which terminate at a point  $\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n, \sigma) \subseteq \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n)$ . This is, in general, a proper co-saturated subset of the principal linkage class of multipartitions for a given  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

**Theorem 7.1** ([BCHM, Corollary 2.17]). *For each  $\lambda$ , we fix  $P_\lambda \in \text{Std}(\lambda)$  a choice of reduced path. The algebra  $\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma / \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma e_h \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma$  is quasi-hereditary with graded cellular basis*

$$\{\psi_{P_\lambda}^\top \psi_B^{P_\lambda} \mid \mathsf{T}, \mathsf{B} \in \text{Std}(\lambda), \lambda \in \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n)\}$$

with respect to the reverse lexicographic order on  $\mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n)$  (see [BCHM, Definition 1.5], but for the subset  $\mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n, \sigma) \subseteq \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n)$  is a refinement of the opposite of the Bruhat ordering on their alcoves) and the anti-involution,  $*$ , given by flipping a diagram through the horizontal axis.

In the case of the Hecke algebra of the symmetric group, this basis is equivalent (via uni-triangular change of basis with respect to the dominance ordering) to the cellular basis of Hu–Mathas [HM10]. We do not require the explicit degree function for tableaux here (see [BCHM, Section 1.1]).

**Example 7.2.** *Let  $\lambda = (3^n, 1^{15})$  with  $n \geq 0$ . The first  $n = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$  partitions in this sequence are  $(1^{15}), (3, 1^{15}), (3^2, 1^{15}), (3^3, 1^{15}), (3^4, 1^{15})$  and  $(3^5, 1^{15})$ , all of which label simple modules which belong to the principal blocks of their corresponding group algebras. In fact, they all label the same point, in the alcove  $s_{\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1} s_{\varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_1} s_{\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_2} s_{\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_1} s_{\varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_1} s_{\varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_2} A_0$ , in the projection onto 2-dimensional space in Figure 1. However,  $\text{Std}_{n,\sigma}(\lambda) = \emptyset$  for the first five of these partitions. For  $\lambda = (3^n, 1^{15})$  with  $n \geq 5$  we have that  $\text{Std}_{n,\sigma}(\lambda) \neq \emptyset$ . Thus, one might be forgiven in thinking that our Theorem A only allows us to see  $\lambda$  for  $n \geq 5$ . This is, in fact, not the case as we shall soon see.*

**Proposition 7.3.** *Given a partition  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots)$ , we set  $\det_h(\lambda) = (h, \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots)$ . We have an injective map of partially ordered sets  $\det_h : \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n + h\ell)$  given by*

$$\det_h(\lambda^{(0)}, \lambda^{(1)}, \dots, \lambda^{(\ell-1)}) = (\det_h(\lambda^{(0)}), \det_h(\lambda^{(1)}), \dots, \det_h(\lambda^{(\ell-1)}))$$

and  $\det_h(\mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n)) \subseteq \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n + h\ell)$  is a co-saturated subset. We have an isomorphism of graded  $\mathbb{Z}$ -algebras

$$\sum_{\mathsf{B}, \mathsf{T} \in \text{Std}_n} e_{\mathsf{T}} (\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma / \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma e_h \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma) e_{\mathsf{B}} \cong \sum_{\mathsf{B}, \mathsf{T} \in \text{Std}_n} e_{P_{\emptyset \otimes \mathsf{T}}} (\mathcal{H}_{n+h\ell}^\sigma / \mathcal{H}_{n+h\ell}^\sigma e_h \mathcal{H}_{n+h\ell}^\sigma) e_{P_{\emptyset \otimes \mathsf{B}}} \quad (7.1)$$

where  $\text{Std}_n = \cup_{\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n)} \text{Std}(\lambda)$ .

*Proof.* On the level of graded  $\mathbb{Z}$ -modules the isomorphism,  $\phi$  say, is clear. The local KLR relations also go through easily. We have that

$$\phi(y_1 e_P) = y_{h\ell+1} e_{P_\emptyset \otimes P} = y_1 e_{P_\emptyset \otimes P} = 0 = y_1 e_P \quad (7.2)$$

where the second equality follows using the same argument as Propositions 6.12 and 6.13 and the other equalities all hold by definition. We further note that  $P$  is dominant path if and only if  $P_\emptyset \otimes P$  is a dominant path. Thus the cyclotomic relation follows from equation (7.2) and Remark 3.18.  $\square$

We wish to only explicitly consider the principal linkage class, but to make deductions for all regular linkage classes. This is a standard Lie theoretic trick known as the **translation principle**. Given  $\Gamma \subseteq \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n)$  any co-saturated subset and  $r \in \mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z}$  we let

$$e_\Gamma = \sum_{\substack{P \in \text{Std}(\mu) \\ \mu \in \Gamma}} e_P \quad E_r = \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_n \in \mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z}} e(i_1, \dots, i_n, r)$$

denote the corresponding idempotents. Given  $\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n)$  we set  $\Lambda = (\widehat{\mathfrak{S}}_{h\ell} \cdot \lambda) \cap \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n)$ . Since every  $\lambda$  belongs to some linkage class, we have that  $\mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n) = \Lambda' \cup \Lambda'' \cup \dots$  and we have a corresponding decomposition

$$\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma / \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma e_h \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma = \mathcal{H}_n^{\Lambda', \sigma} \oplus \mathcal{H}_n^{\Lambda'', \sigma} \oplus \dots \quad \text{where} \quad \mathcal{H}_n^{\Lambda, \sigma} = e_\Lambda (\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma / \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma e_h \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma) e_\Lambda$$

and similarly for the primed cases. Now, we let  $\square$  denote an addable node of the Young diagram multipartition  $\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n)$ , that is we suppose that  $\lambda \cup \square = \lambda'$  for some  $\lambda' \in \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n+1)$ .

**Proposition 7.4.** *Suppose that  $\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n)$  and  $\lambda + \square = \lambda' \in \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n+1)$  are  $\sigma$ -regular and  $\square$  is of residue  $r \in \mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z}$  say. We have an injective map*

$$\varphi : \Lambda \hookrightarrow \Lambda' \quad \varphi(\mu) = \mu + \square$$

for  $\square$  the unique addable node of residue  $r \in \mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z}$ . The image,  $\varphi(\Lambda)$ , is a co-saturated subset of  $\Lambda'$ . We have an isomorphism of graded  $\mathbb{Z}$ -algebras:

$$\mathcal{H}_n^{\Lambda, \sigma} \cong E_r (e_{\varphi(\Lambda)} \mathcal{H}_{n+1}^{\Lambda'} e_{\varphi(\Lambda)}) E_r \quad (7.3)$$

and this preserves the cellular structure.

*Proof.* Since both  $\lambda$  and  $\lambda + \square$  are both  $e$ -regular, there is a bijection between the path bases of the algebras in equation (7.3). (Note that if  $\lambda$  were on a hyperplane and  $\lambda + \square$  in an alcove, then the number of paths would double.) Thus we need only check that this  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module homomorphism lifts to an algebra homomorphism. However this is obvious, as all we have done is add a single strand (of residue  $r \in \mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z}$ ) to the righthand-side of the diagram and this preserves the multiplication.  $\square$

Thus any regular block of  $\mathcal{H}_N^\sigma / \mathcal{H}_N^\sigma e_h \mathcal{H}_N^\sigma$  is isomorphic to a co-saturated idempotent subalgebra of  $\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma / \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma e_h \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma$  for some  $n \geq N$ . Such truncations preserve decomposition numbers [Don98, Appendix] and much cohomological structure and so it suffices to consider only these truncated algebras (which is precisely what we have done thus far in the paper!).

## 7.2. Bases of the Bott–Samelson endomorphism algebras and truncated Hecke algebra.

For  $\lambda, \mu \in \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n, \sigma)$ , we choose reduced paths  $P_{\underline{w}} \in \text{Std}_{n,\sigma}(\lambda)$  and  $P_{\underline{v}} \in \text{Std}_{n,\sigma}(\mu)$  which will remain fixed for the remainder of this section. We remind the reader that this implicitly says that  $\lambda \in wA_0$  and  $\mu \in vA_0$ . We have shown that the map

$$\Psi : \mathcal{S}_{h,\ell}^{\text{br}}(n, \sigma) \rightarrow f_{n,\sigma} (\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma / \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma e_h \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma) f_{n,\sigma}$$

is a graded  $\mathbb{Z}$ -algebra homomorphism. It remains to show that this map is an isomorphism. Let  $\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n, \sigma)$ . Given any reduced path  $P_{\underline{w}} \in \text{Std}_{n,\sigma}(\lambda)$  and any (not necessarily reduced)  $Q \in \text{Std}_{n,\sigma}(\lambda)$  we will inductively construct elements

$$C_{\underline{Q}}^P \in 1_P \mathcal{S}_{h,\ell}^{\text{br}}(n, \sigma) 1_{\underline{Q}} \quad c_{\underline{Q}}^P \in e_P (\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma / \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma e_h \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma) e_{\underline{Q}}$$

which provide (cellular)  $\mathbb{Z}$ -bases of both algebras which match up under the homomorphism, thus proving that  $\Psi$  is indeed an isomorphism.

We can extend a path  $Q' \in \text{Std}_{n,\sigma}(\lambda)$  to obtain a new path  $Q$  in one of three possible ways

$$Q = Q' \otimes P_\alpha \quad Q = Q' \otimes P_\alpha^b \quad Q = Q' \otimes P_\emptyset$$

for some  $\alpha \in \Pi$ . The first two cases each subdivide into a further two cases based on whether  $\alpha$  is an upper or lower wall of the alcove containing  $\lambda$ . These four cases are pictured in Figure 30 (for  $P_\emptyset$  we refer the reader to Figure 2). Any two reduced paths  $P_w, P_v \in \text{Std}_{n,\sigma}(\lambda)$  can be obtained from one another by some iterated application of hexagon and commutativity permutations. We let

$$\text{rex}_{P_w}^{P_v} \quad \text{REX}_{P_w}^{P_v}$$

denote the corresponding path-morphism in the algebras  $\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma/\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma e_h \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma$  and  $\mathcal{S}_{h,\ell}^{\text{br}}(n,\sigma)$ , respectively (so-named as they permute reduced expressions). In the following construction, we will assume that the elements  $c_{Q'}^{P'}$  and  $C_{Q'}^{P'}$  exist for any choice of reduced path  $P'$ . We then extend  $P'$  using one of the  $U_0, U_1, D_0$ , and  $D_1$  paths (which puts a restriction on the form of the reduced expression) but then use a ‘‘rex move’’ to remove obtain elements  $c_Q^P$  and  $C_Q^P$  for  $P$  an arbitrary reduced expression.

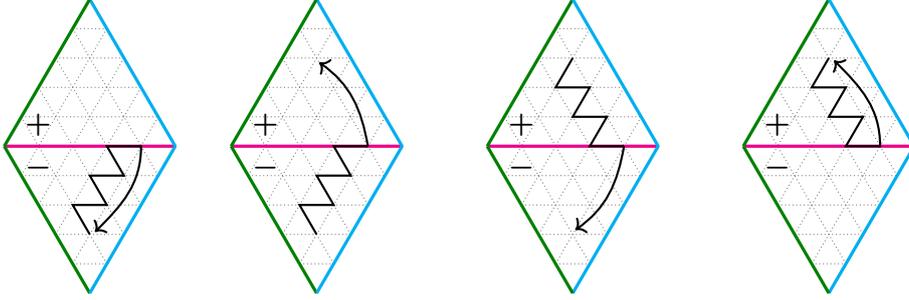


FIGURE 30. The first (respectively last) two paths are  $P_\alpha$  and  $P_\alpha^b$  originating in an alcove with  $\alpha$  labelling an upper (respectively lower) wall. The plus and minus signs distinguish the alcoves or greater/lesser length. The degrees of these paths are 1, 0, 0,  $-1$  respectively. We call these paths  $U_0, U_1, D_0$ , and  $D_1$  respectively.

**Definition 7.5.** *Suppose that  $\lambda$  belongs to an alcove which has a hyperplane labelled by  $\alpha$  as an upper alcove wall. Let  $Q' \in \text{Std}_{n,\sigma}(\lambda)$ . If  $Q = Q' \otimes P_\alpha$  then we set  $\deg(Q) = \deg(Q')$  and we define*

$$C_Q^P = \text{REX}_{P' \otimes P_\alpha}^P (C_{Q'}^{P'} \otimes 1_\alpha) \quad c_Q^P = \text{rex}_{P' \otimes P_\alpha}^P (c_{Q'}^{P'} \otimes e_{P_\alpha}).$$

*If  $Q = Q' \otimes P_\alpha^b$  then we set  $\deg(Q) = \deg(Q') + 1$  and we define*

$$C_Q^P = \text{REX}_{P' \otimes P_\alpha^b}^P (C_{Q'}^{P'} \otimes \text{SPOT}_\alpha^\emptyset) \quad c_Q^P = \text{rex}_{P' \otimes P_\alpha^b}^P (c_{Q'}^{P'} \otimes \text{spot}_\alpha^\emptyset).$$

*Now suppose that  $\lambda$  belongs to an alcove which has a hyperplane labelled by  $\alpha$  as a lower alcove wall. Thus we can choose  $P_v \otimes P_\alpha = P' \in \text{Std}(\lambda)$ . For  $Q = Q' \otimes P_\alpha$ , we set  $\deg(Q) = \deg(Q')$  and define*

$$C_Q^P = \text{REX}_{P_v \otimes P_\alpha}^P (1_v \otimes (\text{SPOT}_\alpha^\emptyset \circ \text{FORK}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\alpha\emptyset})) (C_{Q'}^{P'} \otimes 1_\alpha) \\ c_Q^P = \text{rex}_{P_v \otimes P_\alpha}^P (e_{P_v} \otimes (\text{spot}_\alpha^\emptyset \circ \text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\alpha\emptyset})) (c_{Q'}^{P'} \otimes e_{P_\alpha})$$

*and if  $Q = Q' \otimes P_\alpha^b$  then then we set  $\deg(Q) = \deg(Q') - 1$  and we define*

$$C_Q^P = \text{REX}_{P_v \otimes P_\alpha^b}^P (1_v \otimes \text{FORK}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\alpha\emptyset}) (C_{Q'}^{P'} \otimes 1_\alpha) \quad c_Q^P = \text{rex}_{P_v \otimes P_\alpha^b}^P (e_{P_v} \otimes \text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\alpha\emptyset}) (c_{Q'}^{P'} \otimes e_{P_\alpha}).$$

In each of the four cases above, the path  $P$  is a reduced path by construction (and our assumption that  $P'$  is reduced). We remark that the degree of the path,  $Q$ , is equal to the degree of both the elements  $c_Q^P$  and  $C_Q^P$  (recall that  $P$  is a path associated to a reduced word and so is of degree zero).

**Theorem 7.6** (Light leaves basis, [EW16, LW]). *For each  $\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n,\sigma)$ , we fix an arbitrary reduced path  $P_w \in \text{Std}_{n,\sigma}(\lambda)$ . The algebra  $\mathcal{S}_{h,\ell}^{\text{br}}(n,\sigma)$  is quasi-hereditary with graded integral cellular basis*

$$\{C_{P_w}^P C_Q^P \mid P, Q \in \text{Std}_{n,\sigma}(\lambda), \lambda \in \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n,\sigma)\}$$

*with respect to the Bruhat ordering  $\triangleright$  on  $\mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n,\sigma)$ , the anti-involution  $*$  given by flipping a diagram through the horizontal axis and the map  $\deg : \text{Std}_{n,\sigma}(\lambda) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ .*

We recalled a general construction of a cellular basis of  $\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma/\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma e_h \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma$  in Theorem 7.1 subject to choosing the reduced expressions. This provides a cellular basis of  $f_{n,\sigma} \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma/\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma e_h \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma f_{n,\sigma}$  by idempotent truncation. Choosing our expressions so as to be compatible with Theorem 7.6 through the map  $\Psi$ , we obtain the following.

**Theorem 7.7** (Light leaves basis, [BCHM, Theorem 3.12]). *For each  $\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n, \sigma)$ , choose an arbitrary reduced path  $P_{\underline{w}} \in \text{Std}_{n,\sigma}(\lambda)$ . The algebra  $f_{n,\sigma}(\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma/\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma e_h \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma)f_{n,\sigma}$  is quasi-hereditary with graded integral cellular basis*

$$\{c_{P_{\underline{w}}}^P c_{Q_{\underline{w}}}^{P_{\underline{w}}} \mid P, Q \in \text{Std}_{n,\sigma}(\lambda), \lambda \in \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n, \sigma)\}$$

with respect to the Bruhat ordering  $\triangleright$  on  $\mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n, \sigma)$ , the anti-involution  $*$  given by flipping a diagram through the horizontal axis and the map  $\text{deg} : \text{Std}_{n,\sigma}(\lambda) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ .

**Corollary 7.8.** *Theorem A of the introduction holds.*

*Proof.* In Section 5 we defined a map from  $\mathcal{S}_{h,\ell}^{\text{br}}(n)$  to  $\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma/\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma e_h \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma$  via the generators of the former algebra. In Section 6 we showed that this map was a homomorphism by verifying that the relations for  $\mathcal{S}_{h,\ell}^{\text{br}}(n)$  held in the image of the homomorphism. Now, the construction of the light leaves bases in  $\mathcal{S}_{h,\ell}^{\text{br}}(n)$  (respectively  $\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma$ ) is given in terms of the generator (respectively their images). Thus the map preserves the  $\mathbb{Z}$ -bases and hence is an isomorphism. Thus the result follows from Proposition 3.13.  $\square$

An earlier attempt to solve the Libedinsky–Plaza conjecture for the classical blob algebra (the case of  $h = 1$  and  $\ell = 2$ ) has already led to a deeper understanding of structure of the diagrammatic Soergel category [LPRH]. We remark that there is no obvious intersection between their results and ours (they do not succeed in proving the  $h = 1$  and  $\ell = 2$  case, but nor do our results imply theirs).

**7.3. Decomposition numbers of Hecke algebras are  $p$ -Kazhdan–Lusztig polynomials.** For  $\lambda, \mu \in \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n, \sigma)$ , we reiterate that we have chosen to fix reduced paths  $P_{\underline{w}} \in \text{Std}_{n,\sigma}(\lambda)$  and  $P_{\underline{v}} \in \text{Std}_{n,\sigma}(\mu)$ . We define one-sided ideals

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{S}_{n,\sigma}^{\triangleright v} &= \mathcal{S}_{h,\ell}^{\text{br}}(n, \sigma) 1_{P_{\underline{v}}} & \mathcal{S}_{n,\sigma}^{\triangleright w} &= \mathcal{S}_{n,\sigma}^{\triangleright w} \cap \mathbb{Z}\{C_{P_{\underline{v}}}^T C_{B_{\underline{v}}}^{P_{\underline{v}}} \mid T, B \in \text{Std}_{n,\sigma}(\mu), \mu \triangleright \lambda\} \\ \mathcal{H}_+^{\triangleright \mu} &= \mathcal{S}_{h,\ell}^{\text{br}}(n) e_{P_{\underline{v}}} & \mathcal{H}_+^{\triangleright \lambda} &= \mathcal{H}_+^{\triangleright \lambda} \cap \mathbb{Z}\{c_{P_{\underline{v}}}^T C_{B_{\underline{v}}}^{P_{\underline{v}}} \mid T, B \in \text{Std}_{n,\sigma}(\mu), \mu \triangleright \lambda\} \end{aligned}$$

and we define the standard modules of  $\mathcal{S}_{h,\ell}^{\text{br}}(n, \sigma)$  and  $f_{n,\sigma}(\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma/\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma e_h \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma)f_{n,\sigma}$  by considering the resulting subquotients. The light leaves construction gives us explicit bases of these quotients as follows

$$\Delta_{\mathbb{Z}}(\underline{w}) = \{C_{P_{\underline{w}}}^S + \mathcal{S}_{n,\sigma}^{\triangleright \lambda} \mid S \in \text{Std}_+(\lambda)\} \quad f_{n,\sigma} \mathbf{S}_{\mathbb{Z}}(\lambda) = \{c_{P_{\underline{w}}}^S + \mathcal{H}^{\triangleright \lambda} \mid S \in \text{Std}_+(\lambda)\} \quad (7.4)$$

respectively for  $\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n, \sigma)$ . The modules  $f_{n,\sigma} \mathbf{S}_{\mathbb{Z}}(\lambda)$  are obtained by truncating the cell modules ( $\mathbf{S}_{\mathbb{Z}}(\lambda)$ , say) for the cellular structure in Theorem 7.1. For  $\mathbb{k}$  a field, we define

$$\Delta_{\mathbb{k}}(\underline{w}) = \Delta_{\mathbb{Z}}(\underline{w}) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{k} \quad f_{n,\sigma} \mathbf{S}_{\mathbb{k}}(\lambda) = f_{n,\sigma} \mathbf{S}_{\mathbb{Z}}(\lambda) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{k}.$$

We recall that the cellular structure allows us to define bilinear forms, for each  $\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n)$ , there are bilinear forms  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\mathcal{S}}$  and  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\mathcal{H}}$  on  $\Delta(\lambda)$  and  $f_{n,\sigma} \mathbf{S}_{\mathbb{k}}(\lambda)$  respectively, which are determined by

$$C_P^{P_{\underline{w}}} C_{P_{\underline{w}}}^Q \equiv \langle C_{P_{\underline{w}}}^P, C_{P_{\underline{w}}}^Q \rangle_{\mathcal{S}} 1_{\underline{w}} \pmod{\mathcal{S}_{n,\sigma}^{\triangleright \lambda}} \quad c_P^{P_{\underline{w}}} c_{P_{\underline{w}}}^Q \equiv \langle c_{P_{\underline{w}}}^P, c_{P_{\underline{w}}}^Q \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} e_{P_{\underline{w}}} \pmod{\mathcal{H}_{n,\sigma}^{\triangleright \lambda}} \quad (7.5)$$

for any  $P, Q, P_{\underline{w}}, P_{\underline{w}} \in \text{Std}(\lambda)$ . Factoring out by the radicals of these forms, we obtain a complete set of non-isomorphic simple modules for  $\mathcal{S}_{h,\ell}^{\text{br}}(n, \sigma)$  and  $\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma/\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma e_h \mathcal{H}_n^\sigma$  as follows

$$L_{\mathbb{k}}(\underline{w}) = \Delta_{\mathbb{k}}(\underline{w})/\text{rad}(\Delta_{\mathbb{k}}(\underline{w})) \quad f_{n,\sigma} \mathbf{D}_{\mathbb{k}}(\lambda) = f_{n,\sigma} \mathbf{S}_{\mathbb{k}}(\lambda)/\text{rad}(f_{n,\sigma} \mathbf{S}_{\mathbb{k}}(\lambda))$$

respectively for  $\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}^+(n)$ . Finally, the projective indecomposable modules are as follows,

$$\mathcal{S}_{n,\sigma}^{\triangleright v} = \bigoplus_{w \leq v} \dim_t(1_{\underline{v}} L_{\mathbb{k}}(\underline{w})) P_{\mathbb{k}}(\underline{w}) \quad \mathcal{H}_{n,\sigma}^{\triangleright \mu} = \bigoplus_{\lambda \triangleright \mu} \dim_t(e_{P_{\underline{\mu}}} \mathbf{D}_{\mathbb{k}}(\lambda)) \mathbf{P}_{\mathbb{k}}(\lambda) \quad (7.6)$$

where the coefficients (defined in terms of graded characters) are analogues of the classical  $p$ -Kostka coefficients. The isomorphism,  $\Psi$ , preserves standard, simple, and projective modules.

The categorical (rather than geometric) definition of  $p$ -Kazhdan–Lusztig polynomials is given via the *diagrammatic character* of [EW16, Definition 6.23]. This graded character is defined in terms of

dimensions of certain weight spaces in the light leaves basis. Using the identifications of equation (7.4) and (7.6), the definition of the anti-spherical  $p$ -Kazhdan–Lusztig polynomial,  ${}^p n_{v,w}(t)$ , is as follows,

$${}^p n_{v,w}(t) := \dim_t \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathcal{S}_{h,\ell}^{\text{br}}(n,\sigma)}(P(\underline{v}), \Delta(\underline{w})) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \dim[\Delta_{\mathbb{k}}(\underline{w}) : L_{\mathbb{k}}(\underline{v})\langle k \rangle] t^k$$

for  $v, w \in \Lambda(n, \sigma)$ . We claim no originality in this observation and refer to [Pla17, Theorem 4.8] for more details. Through our isomorphism this allows us to see that the graded decomposition numbers of symmetric groups and more general cyclotomic Hecke algebras are *tautologically equal to the associated  $p$ -Kazhdan–Lusztig polynomials* as follows,

$${}^p n_{v,w}(t) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \dim[\Delta_{\mathbb{k}}(\underline{w}) : L_{\mathbb{k}}(\underline{v})\langle k \rangle] t^k = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \dim_t[\mathfrak{f}_{n,\sigma} \mathbf{S}_{\mathbb{k}}(\lambda) : \mathfrak{f}_{n,\sigma} \mathbf{D}_{\mathbb{k}}(\mu)\langle k \rangle] t^k$$

for  $\lambda, \mu \in \mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n, \sigma)$  where the equality follows immediately from our isomorphism. Finally, we remind the reader that truncation by  $\mathfrak{f}_{n,\sigma}$  is to a co-saturated subset of weights and so preserves the decomposition matrices of these algebras, see for example [Don98, Appendix]

**7.4. Counterexamples to Lusztig’s conjecture and intersection forms.** In [Wil17], the counterexamples to Soergel’s conjecture are presented in the classical (rather than diagrammatic) language of intersection forms associated to the fibre of a Bott–Samelson resolution of a Schubert varieties. However, Williamson emphasises that all his calculations were done using the equivalent diagrammatic setting of the light leaves basis, which is “*explicit and amenable to computation*”. Moreover, Williamson’s counterexamples are dependent on the diagrammatics because it is only “*from the diagrammatic approach [that] it is clear that [the intersection form]  $I_{x,\underline{w},d}^{\mathbb{k}}$  is defined over  $\mathbb{Z}$* ” in the first place (see Section 3 of [Wil17] for more details). In terms of the light leaves cellular basis, Williamson’s calculation makes a clever choice of a pair of partitions  $\lambda, \mu$  (equivalently, words  $w, v \in \widehat{\mathfrak{S}}_{h\ell}$  labelling the alcoves containing these partitions) for which there exists a unique element  $Q \in \operatorname{Std}_{n,\sigma}(\lambda)$  such that  $Q \sim P_{\underline{v}} \in \operatorname{Std}_{n,\sigma}(\mu)$ . By highest weight theory, we have that

$$d_{\lambda\mu}(t) = \begin{cases} t^{\deg(Q)} & \text{if } \langle C_{P_{\underline{w}}}^Q, C_{P_{\underline{v}}}^Q \rangle_{\mathcal{S}}^{\lambda} = 0 \in \mathbb{k} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

and Williamson proved for  $\lambda, \mu \in \mathcal{P}_{h,1}(n)$  (a pair from “around the Steinberg weight”) that the form is zero for certain primes  $p > h$  whereas it is equal to 1 for  $\mathbb{k} = \mathbb{C}$  (and hence disproved Lusztig’s and James’ conjectures).

Now, clearly the Gram matrices of the bilinear forms in equation (7.5) are preserved under isomorphism. Thus applying our isomorphism (and Brundan–Kleshchev’s [BK09]) one can view Williamson’s counterexamples as being found entirely within the context of the symmetric group. More generally, we deduce the following:

**Theorem 7.9.** *Theorem B of the introduction holds.*

## APPENDIX A. WEAKLY GRADED MONOIDAL CATEGORIES

In this appendix we describe the framework for constructing the breadth-enhanced diagrammatic Bott–Samelson endomorphism algebras. Informally, “breadth-enhanced” means that we record and keep track of the “breadth” of Soergel diagrams, including the “blank spaces” between strands. This is contrary to the usual working assumption that Soergel diagrams are defined only up to isotopy. We will say a few words for why we have chosen to break this convention in this paper.

Soergel diagrams and KLR diagrams have an important fundamental difference. KLR diagrams, which are essentially decorated wiring diagrams, always have the same number of nodes on the top and bottom edges. By contrast, the top and bottom edges of a Soergel diagram may not have the same number of nodes. This basic observation is enough to ensure that a Soergel diagram cannot correspond to only one KLR diagram under the isomorphism in the main theorem. For example, suppose the isomorphism maps the  $\alpha$ -coloured spot diagram to a KLR diagram  $\operatorname{spot}_{\alpha}$ , with bottom edge  $P$  and top edge  $Q$ . Then the empty Soergel diagram (with no strands at all) should map to the KLR idempotent  $e_Q$ . However it is also clear that the empty Soergel diagram should correspond to the empty KLR diagram.

The breadth-enhanced diagrammatic Bott–Samelson endomorphism algebra introduces new idempotents, indexed by expressions in the extended alphabet  $S \cup \{\emptyset\}$ . This ensures that the isomorphism is well defined, with each breadth-enhanced Soergel diagram corresponding to a single KLR diagram. The breadth of a breadth-enhanced Soergel diagram is simply the number of strands of the corresponding KLR diagram, divided by  $h\ell$ . We draw breadth-enhanced Soergel diagrams so that the width is proportional to the breadth. In particular, we write  $1_\emptyset$  to indicate the empty Soergel diagram of breadth 1 (i.e. a “blank space”), which corresponds to the KLR idempotent  $e_{P_\emptyset}$  with  $h\ell$  strands. The breadth-enhanced algebras are Morita equivalent to the usual diagrammatic Bott–Samelson endomorphism algebras, by simply truncating with respect to the idempotents indexed by expressions which do not contain  $\emptyset$ . Thus once we prove the isomorphism for the breadth-enhanced algebras, we immediately obtain an isomorphism for the usual Bott–Samelson algebras.

The machinery for building breadth-enhanced algebras is the notion of a weakly graded monoidal category. Weakly graded monoidal categories can be thought of as generalizations of graded monoidal categories, with the grade shifts represented by tensoring with a fixed shifting object. The construction of breadth-enhanced algebras is then analogous to defining a graded category from a non-graded category by concentrating the objects in certain fixed degrees.

We have chosen to write this appendix using the categorical (rather than the algebraic) perspective. We hope that this will make the results more applicable and the proofs easier to read. All the categories below will be assumed to be small. We will also use “monoidal” to mean “strict monoidal” unless stated otherwise. It is probably possible to generalize everything to arbitrary monoidal categories, but this will not be necessary for our purposes.

### A.1. Definition and examples.

**Definition A.1.** *A weakly graded monoidal category is a monoidal category  $(\mathcal{A}, \otimes)$  together with an object in the Drinfeld centre with trivial self-braiding. This consists of the following data:*

- an object  $I$  in  $\mathcal{A}$  called the shifting object;
- for each object  $X$  in  $\mathcal{A}$ , an isomorphism  $s_X : X \otimes I \xrightarrow{\sim} I \otimes X$  called a simple adjustment

such that

(WG1) the simple adjustments  $\{s_X\}$  are the components of a natural isomorphism  $s : (-) \otimes I \Rightarrow I \otimes (-)$ ;

(WG2) for any objects  $X, Y$  in  $\mathcal{A}$  the following diagram commutes

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X \otimes Y \otimes I & \xrightarrow{s_{X \otimes Y}} & I \otimes X \otimes Y \\ & \searrow 1_X \otimes s_Y & \swarrow s_X \otimes 1_Y \\ & X \otimes I \otimes Y & \end{array}$$

(WG3) we have  $s_I = 1_{I \otimes I}$ .

**Example A.2.** *Suppose  $\mathcal{A}^\bullet$  is a graded monoidal category, i.e. a monoidal category whose Hom-spaces are graded modules. For the moment, let us drop the assumption of strictness and suppose that  $\mathcal{A}^\bullet$  is strictly associative, but with non-trivial unitors. In the usual way we may construct a new category  $\mathcal{A}$  by adding grade shifts and restricting to homogeneous morphisms. More precisely, the objects of  $\mathcal{A}$  are the formal symbols  $X(m)$  for each object  $X$  of  $\mathcal{A}^\bullet$  and each  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ , and the Hom-spaces are*

$$\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(X(m), Y(n)) = \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}^\bullet}^{n-m}(X, Y).$$

*It is clear that the grade shift (1) is an autoequivalence of  $\mathcal{A}$ . Moreover, the tensor product  $X(m) \otimes Y(n) = (X \otimes Y)(m+n)$  gives  $\mathcal{A}$  the structure of a monoidal category. Now let  $\mathbb{1}$  be the identity object in  $\mathcal{A}^\bullet$  and set  $I = \mathbb{1}(1)$ . We observe that*

$$X(m) \otimes \mathbb{1} = (X \otimes \mathbb{1})(1) \xrightarrow{\rho_X(1)} X(m+1) \xleftarrow{\lambda_X(1)} (\mathbb{1} \otimes X)(1) = \mathbb{1} \otimes X(m),$$

*and it is straightforward to check that the isomorphisms  $s_{X(m)} = \lambda_{X(m)}(1)^{-1} \circ \rho_{X(m)}(1)$  satisfy axioms (WG1)–(WG3). Thus  $\mathcal{A}$  has the structure of a weakly graded monoidal category.*

The main result which we will need in the next subsection is a coherence theorem for weakly graded monoidal categories. Roughly, coherence for weakly graded monoidal categories means that

every diagram built up from  $s$  and identity morphisms (using composition and tensor products) commutes. The precise formulation of coherence requires some combinatorial constructions, which we describe below. Let  $\mathscr{W}$  be the set of non-empty words in the symbols  $e$  and  $x$ . We define the following semigroup homomorphisms  $\text{length} : \mathscr{W} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  and  $\text{breadth} : \mathscr{W} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  on the generators:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{length}(e) &= 0 & \text{breadth}(e) &= 1 \\ \text{length}(x) &= 1 & \text{breadth}(x) &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

For  $w \in \mathscr{W}$  of length  $n$ , we can associate a functor  $w_{\mathcal{A}} : \mathcal{A}^n \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  by replacing each  $e$  with the object  $I$ , each  $x$  with the identity functor  $1_{\mathcal{A}}$ , and tensoring the resulting sequence. More formally, we fix

$$\begin{aligned} e_{\mathcal{A}} : * &\longrightarrow \mathcal{A} & x_{\mathcal{A}} : \mathcal{A} &\longrightarrow \mathcal{A} \\ * &\longmapsto I & A &\longmapsto A \end{aligned}$$

and inductively define

$$\begin{aligned} (ew)_{\mathcal{A}} : \mathcal{A}^n &\longrightarrow \mathcal{A} & (xw)_{\mathcal{A}} : \mathcal{A}^{n+1} &\longrightarrow \mathcal{A} \\ (A_1, \dots, A_n) &\longmapsto I \otimes w_{\mathcal{A}}(A_1, \dots, A_n) & (A_1, \dots, A_{n+1}) &\longmapsto A_1 \otimes w_{\mathcal{A}}(A_2, \dots, A_{n+1}) \end{aligned}$$

where  $n = \text{length}(w)$ .

**Theorem A.3.** *Let  $u, v \in \mathscr{W}$  such that  $\text{length}(u) = \text{length}(v)$  and  $\text{breadth}(u) = \text{breadth}(v)$ . There is a unique natural isomorphism  $u_{\mathcal{A}} \cong v_{\mathcal{A}}$  built up from tensor products and compositions of components of  $s$ ,  $s^{-1}$ , and the identity.*

We will defer the proof to the end of this appendix.

We call a component of any natural isomorphism arising from Theorem A.3 an *adjustment*. For two morphisms  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  and  $g : Z \rightarrow W$  we write  $f \sim g$  and say that  $f$  and  $g$  are *adjustment equivalent* if there exist adjustments

$$q : X \xrightarrow{\sim} Z \quad r : Y \xrightarrow{\sim} W$$

such that  $g = r \circ f \circ q^{-1}$ .

**Example A.4.** *For any morphism  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  in  $\mathcal{A}$ , we have  $f \otimes 1_I \sim 1_I \otimes f$ , because*

$$f \otimes 1_I = s_Y^{-1} \circ (1_I \otimes f) \circ s_X$$

*by the naturality of simple adjustments.*

**A.2. Breadth grading.** Suppose  $\mathcal{A}$  is a monoidal category. Assuming  $\mathcal{A}$  is small, the set  $\text{Ob}(\mathcal{A})$  has the structure of a monoid. We call a monoidal homomorphism  $b : \text{Ob}(\mathcal{A}) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  a *breadth function*.

**Definition A.5.** *Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a monoidal category with a breadth function  $b$ . The weak grading of  $\mathcal{A}$  concentrated in breadth  $b$  is the following weakly graded monoidal category  $\mathcal{A}[b]$ .*

**Objects:** *The objects of  $\mathcal{A}[b]$  are formal free tensor products of objects in  $\mathcal{A}$  and a new object  $I$ . In other words, each object  $X$  in  $\mathcal{A}[b]$  is a formal sequence*

$$I^{\otimes r_0} \otimes X_1 \otimes I^{\otimes r_1} \otimes X_2 \otimes \dots \otimes I^{\otimes r_{m-1}} X_m \otimes I^{\otimes r_m}$$

*for some non-negative integers  $r_0, r_m$ , positive integers  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_{m-1}$ , and non-identity objects  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_m$  in  $\mathcal{A}$ . The tensor product on objects in  $\mathcal{A}$  extends in the obvious way to objects in  $\mathcal{A}[b]$ . We also extend the breadth function  $b$  to a monoidal homomorphism  $b : \text{Ob}(\mathcal{A}[b]) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  by fixing  $b(I) = 1$ .*

**Morphisms:** *For any object  $X$  of the above form write  $X'$  for the object*

$$X_1 \otimes X_2 \otimes \dots \otimes X_m$$

*in  $\mathcal{A}$ . We define*

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}[b]}(X, Y) = \begin{cases} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(X', Y') & \text{if } b(X) = b(Y), \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

*Composition and tensor products follow from those in  $\mathcal{A}$ .*

**Weak grading:** *For  $X$  an object in  $\mathcal{A}[b]$ , the natural isomorphism  $s_X : X \otimes I \rightarrow I \otimes X$  in  $\mathcal{A}[b]$  corresponding to the identity morphism  $1_{X'}$  in  $\mathcal{A}$  gives  $\mathcal{A}[b]$  the structure of a weakly graded monoidal category.*

If  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is a morphism in  $\mathcal{A}[b]$ , write  $f' : X' \rightarrow Y'$  for the corresponding morphism in  $\mathcal{A}$ . It is easy to check that this mapping is functorial. We write  $b(f)$  for the non-negative integer  $b(X) = b(Y)$ .

**Remark A.6.** *The category  $\mathcal{A}[b]$  is the weak graded analogue of the following graded construction. For a monoidal category  $\mathcal{A}$  with a breadth function  $b$ , define a grading by setting  $\deg f = b(X) - b(Y)$  for each morphism  $f : X \rightarrow Y$ . As in Example A.2, we add grade shifts and restrict to homogeneous morphisms to obtain the category  $\mathcal{A}\langle b \rangle$ . We may extend the breadth function  $b$  to all of  $\mathcal{A}\langle b \rangle$  as above. For any morphism  $g : U \rightarrow V$  in  $\mathcal{A}\langle b \rangle$ , we have  $0 = \deg g = b(U) - b(V)$ , which allows us to define the breadth of  $g$  to be  $b(g) = b(U) = b(V)$  as in the weakly graded case.*

Our naming convention for  $\mathcal{A}[b]$  (“concentrated in breadth  $b$ ”) comes from a special case of the above graded construction. If  $\mathcal{A}$  is a category of modules over some ring  $R$ , then we may equivalently construct the grading by considering  $R$  to be a graded ring concentrated in degree 0 and each object  $X$  to be concentrated in degree  $-b(X)$ .

As a consequence of our coherence result, there is an alternative presentation of  $\mathcal{A}[b]$  in terms of generators and relations. First we introduce a way of embedding morphisms from  $\mathcal{A}$  into  $\mathcal{A}[b]$ .

**Definition A.7.** *Let  $f : U \rightarrow V$  be a morphism in  $\mathcal{A}$ . The (left) minimal breadth representative of  $f$  is the morphism  $g : X \rightarrow Y$  in  $\mathcal{A}[b]$  such that  $g' = f$  and*

$$X = I^{\otimes \max(0, b(V) - b(U))} \otimes U, \quad Y = I^{\otimes \max(0, b(U) - b(V))} \otimes V.$$

**Theorem A.8.** *Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be the set of all minimal breadth representatives of morphisms in  $\mathcal{A}$ . The category  $\mathcal{A}[b]$  is generated as a monoidal category by the morphisms*

$$\{1_I\} \cup \{s_X : X \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{A})\} \cup \mathcal{M}$$

subject to the following relations:

- the usual weak grading axioms (WG1)–(WG3);
- for morphisms  $f : X \rightarrow Y, g : Z \rightarrow W, h : U \rightarrow V$  in  $\mathcal{M}$  such that  $f' \circ g' = h'$ , we have

$$(1_I^{\otimes \max(0, b(g) - b(f))} \otimes f) \circ (1_I^{\otimes \max(0, b(f) - b(g))} \otimes g) \sim 1_I^{\otimes \max(b(f), b(g)) - b(h)} \otimes h;$$

- for morphisms  $f : X \rightarrow Y, g : Z \rightarrow W, h : U \rightarrow V$  in  $\mathcal{M}$  such that  $f' \otimes g' = h'$ , we have

$$f \otimes g \sim 1_I^{\otimes b(f) + b(g) - b(h)} \otimes h.$$

*Proof.* Let  $\mathcal{B}$  be the monoidal category defined by the above generators and relations. It is clear that the same relations hold in  $\mathcal{A}[b]$ , so there is a functor  $\mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}[b]$ . It is enough to show that this functor is full and faithful. Let  $X, Y$  be objects in  $\mathcal{B}$  such that  $b(X) = b(Y)$ . We will show that any morphism  $X \rightarrow Y$  can be written in the form

$$q \circ (1_I^{b(X) - \max(b(X'), b(Y'))} \otimes f) \circ p^{-1},$$

where  $p, q$  are adjustments and  $f$  is a minimal breadth representative. In other words, we will show that every morphism in  $\mathcal{B}$  is adjustment equivalent to the tensor product of a minimal breadth representative and some number of copies of  $1_I$ . This automatically gives fullness and faithfulness of the functor above, which proves the result. Since the generating morphisms of  $\mathcal{B}$  are all already of this form, it is enough to show that any composition or tensor product of two morphisms of this form is again of this form. Now, consider a composition

$$q \circ (1_I^{\otimes m} \otimes f) \circ p^{-1} \circ t \circ (1_I^{\otimes n} \otimes g) \circ r^{-1}$$

of two morphisms of the above form. Both  $f$  and  $g$  are minimal breadth representatives, so their domains and codomains are “left-adjusted”, i.e. of the form  $I^{\otimes l} \otimes U$  for some object  $U$  in  $\mathcal{A}$  and some non-negative integer  $l$ . The adjustment  $p^{-1} \circ t$  is an isomorphism between  $I^{\otimes n} \otimes \text{cod}g$  and  $I^{\otimes m} \otimes \text{dom}f$  which are both left-adjusted, so in fact they must be equal. By Theorem A.3 we must have  $p = t$ , so the composition above equals

$$\begin{aligned} q \circ (1_I^{\otimes m} \otimes f) \circ (1_I^{\otimes n} \otimes g) \circ r^{-1} &= q \circ (1_I^{\otimes(m-j)} \otimes 1_I^j \otimes f) \circ (1_I^{\otimes(n-k)} \otimes 1_I^k \otimes g) \circ r^{-1} \\ &\sim q \circ (1_I^{\otimes(m-j)} \otimes h) \circ r^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

where  $j = \max(0, b(g) - b(f))$ ,  $k = \max(0, b(f) - b(g))$ , and  $h$  is the minimal breadth representative of  $f' \circ g'$ . Similarly, consider a tensor product of two morphisms of the above form. We have

$$\begin{aligned} (q \circ (1_I^{\otimes m} \otimes f) \circ p^{-1}) \otimes (t \circ (1_I^{\otimes n} \otimes g) \circ r^{-1}) &= (q \otimes t) \circ (1_I^{\otimes m} \otimes f \otimes 1_I^{\otimes n} \otimes g) \circ (p^{-1} \otimes r^{-1}) \\ &\sim (q \otimes t) \circ (1_I^{\otimes (m+n)} \otimes f \otimes g) \circ (p^{-1} \otimes r^{-1}) \\ &\sim (q \otimes t) \circ (1_I^{\otimes (m+n+b(f)+b(g)-b(h))} \otimes h) \circ (p^{-1} \otimes r^{-1}), \end{aligned}$$

where  $h$  is the minimal breadth representative of  $f' \otimes g'$ .  $\square$

**A.3. Proof of coherence.** We conclude with the proof of the coherence theorem for weakly graded monoidal categories (Theorem A.3). The strategy is broadly similar to Mac Lane's proof of the coherence theorem for monoidal categories [ML98, VII.2]. This involves first proving the result for a single object  $X$  in the category  $\mathcal{A}$ , and then extending to all of  $\mathcal{A}$ .

Now let  $\mathcal{S}$  be the set of words in the symbols  $\{\sigma_w, \sigma_w^{-1} : w \in \mathcal{W}\} \cup \{\iota_e, \iota_x\}$  defined inductively as follows. For any  $w \in \mathcal{W}$  we have  $\sigma_w, \sigma_w^{-1} \in \mathcal{S}$ . Moreover, for any  $\alpha \in \mathcal{S}$  and  $w \in \mathcal{W}$  we also have  $\iota_e \alpha, \iota_x \alpha \in \mathcal{S}$  and  $\alpha \iota_e, \alpha \iota_x \in \mathcal{S}$ . For convenience we write  $\iota_w$  for  $\iota_{w_1} \iota_{w_2} \cdots \iota_{w_m}$ , where  $w = w_1 w_2 \cdots w_m$  is a word in  $\mathcal{W}$ . We inductively define  $\text{dom} : \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathcal{W}$  and  $\text{cod} : \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathcal{W}$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{dom}(\sigma_w) &= w & \text{cod}(\sigma_w) &= ew \\ \text{dom}(\sigma_w^{-1}) &= ew & \text{cod}(\sigma_w^{-1}) &= w \\ \text{dom}(\iota_w \alpha) &= w \text{dom}(\alpha) & \text{cod}(\iota_w \alpha) &= w \text{cod}(\alpha) \\ \text{dom}(\alpha \iota_w) &= \text{dom}(\alpha) w & \text{cod}(\alpha \iota_w) &= \text{cod}(\alpha) w \end{aligned}$$

Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be the quiver with vertices given by  $\mathcal{W}$  and arrows given by  $\mathcal{S}$ . It is easy to verify that for any word in  $\alpha \in \mathcal{S}$ ,  $\text{length}(\text{dom}(\alpha)) = \text{length}(\text{cod}(\alpha))$  and  $\text{breadth}(\text{dom}(\alpha)) = \text{breadth}(\text{cod}(\alpha))$ . Thus the graph  $\mathcal{G}$  has components  $\mathcal{G}_{n,k}$  whose vertices  $\mathcal{W}_{n,k}$  consist of words of length  $n$  and breadth  $k$ .

Now let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a weakly graded monoidal category. We fix an object  $X$  in  $\mathcal{A}$  and set

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}_X(e) &= I & \mathcal{I}_X(x) &= X \\ \mathcal{I}_X(ew) &= I \otimes \mathcal{I}_X(w) & \mathcal{I}_X(xw) &= X \otimes \mathcal{I}_X(w) \\ \mathcal{I}_X(\sigma_w) &= s_{w_X} & \mathcal{I}_X(\sigma_w^{-1}) &= s_{w_X}^{-1} \\ \mathcal{I}_X(\iota_w \alpha) &= 1_{w_X} \otimes \mathcal{I}_X(\alpha) & \mathcal{I}_X(\alpha \iota_w) &= \mathcal{I}_X(\alpha) \otimes 1_{w_X} \end{aligned}$$

**Proposition A.9.** *Let  $u, v \in \mathcal{W}$  such that  $\text{length}(u) = \text{length}(v)$  and  $\text{breadth}(u) = \text{breadth}(v)$ . Suppose  $\alpha_1 \circ \cdots \circ \alpha_m$  and  $\alpha'_1 \circ \cdots \circ \alpha'_m$  are two paths in  $\mathcal{G}$  from  $u$  to  $v$ . Then*

$$\mathcal{I}_X(\alpha_m) \circ \cdots \circ \mathcal{I}_X(\alpha_1) = \mathcal{I}_X(\alpha'_m) \circ \cdots \circ \mathcal{I}_X(\alpha'_1).$$

*Proof.* Let  $n = \text{length}(u) = \text{length}(v)$  and  $k = \text{breadth}(u) = \text{breadth}(v)$ . We will pivot on the sink vertex  $w^{(n,k)} = e^k x^n$  in the component  $\mathcal{G}_{n,k}$ . Every nonempty word in  $S$  contains exactly one symbol of the form  $\sigma_w$  or  $\sigma_w^{-1}$  for  $w \in W$ . Call such words directed or anti-directed respectively. It is easy to check that for any two directed words  $\alpha, \alpha'$  with the same domain and codomain, we must have  $\mathcal{I}_X(\alpha) = \mathcal{I}_X(\alpha')$ .

We inductively define a function  $\rho : W \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  by

$$\rho(e) = 0 \quad \rho(x) = 0 \quad \rho(ew) = \rho(w) \quad \rho(xw) = \rho(w) + \text{breadth}(w).$$

We also inductively define a function  $\text{can}_{n,k}$  mapping words in  $W_{n,k}$  to directed paths in  $\mathcal{G}_{n,k}$  by

$$\begin{aligned} \text{can}_{0,1}(e) &= \emptyset & \text{can}_{1,0}(x) &= \emptyset & \text{can}_{n,k}(ew) &= \iota_e \text{can}_{n,k-1}(w) \\ \text{can}_{n,k}(xw) &= (\iota_e^{k-1} \sigma_x \iota_x^{n-1}) \circ \cdots \circ (\iota_e \sigma_x \iota_e^{k-2} \iota_x^{n-1}) \circ (\sigma_x \iota_e^{k-1} \iota_x^{n-1}) \circ (\iota_x \text{can}_{n-1,k}(w)) \end{aligned}$$

It can be shown that  $\text{can}_{n,k}(w)$  is the longest directed path in  $\mathcal{G}_{n,k}$  from  $w$  to  $w^{(n,k)}$ , and that  $\rho(w) = \text{length}(\text{can}_{n,k}(w))$ .

**Lemma A.10.** *For any  $u \in \mathcal{W}_{n,k}$ ,  $\mathcal{I}_X$  maps all directed paths from  $u$  to  $w^{(n,k)}$  to the same morphism.*

Before we prove this lemma, we will show that the proposition follows from it almost immediately. For  $\alpha \in \mathcal{S}$  let  $\text{inv}(\alpha)$  be the word obtained by switching the symbols  $\sigma_w \leftrightarrow \sigma_w^{-1}$ . Clearly  $\mathcal{I}_X(\text{inv}(\alpha)) = \mathcal{I}_X(\alpha)^{-1}$ , and we may write any anti-directed word as the formal inverse of a directed word. Let us write the path  $\alpha_m \circ \cdots \circ \alpha_1$  from  $u$  to  $v$  in this manner, using formal inverses of directed words for any anti-directed word that appears. For example, if  $\alpha_2$  is the only anti-directed word in this path, we write:

$$u \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} \bullet \xleftarrow{\text{inv}(\alpha_2)} \bullet \xrightarrow{\alpha_3} \bullet \cdots \bullet \xrightarrow{\alpha_m} v$$

Now draw canonical paths downwards to  $w^{(n,k)}$  underneath each of these objects:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccccc} u & \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} & \bullet & \xleftarrow{\text{inv}(\alpha_2)} & \bullet & \xrightarrow{\alpha_3} & \bullet & \cdots & \bullet & \xrightarrow{\alpha_m} & v_X \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ w^{(n,k)} & \xlongequal{\quad} & w^{(n,k)} & \xlongequal{\quad} & w^{(n,k)} & \xlongequal{\quad} & w^{(n,k)} & \cdots & w^{(n,k)} & \xlongequal{\quad} & w^{(n,k)} \end{array}$$

After applying  $\mathcal{I}_X$ , each square commutes by the above lemma, so

$$\mathcal{I}_X(\alpha_m) \circ \cdots \circ \mathcal{I}_X(\alpha_1) = \mathcal{I}_X(\text{can}_{n,k}(v))^{-1} \circ \mathcal{I}_X(\text{can}_{n,k}(u)).$$

Since the right-hand side only depends on  $u$  and  $v$ , we are done. □

*Proof of Lemma A.10.* We induct on  $\rho(u)$ ,  $n$  and  $k$ . Suppose we have two directed paths from  $u$  to  $w_{n,k}$  which start with  $\alpha$  and  $\alpha'$  respectively.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & u & \\ \alpha \swarrow & & \searrow \alpha' \\ w & & w' \\ \downarrow \text{dotted} & & \downarrow \text{dotted} \\ w^{(n,k)} & \xlongequal{\quad} & w^{(n,k)} \end{array}$$

As  $\rho(w) < \rho(u)$ , we are then done by induction. Otherwise, suppose  $w \neq w'$  and  $\alpha \neq \alpha'$ . It is enough to find some  $w'' \in W$  and some paths from  $w$  and  $w'$  to  $w''$  such that the following diamond

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & u & \\ \alpha \swarrow & & \searrow \alpha' \\ w & & w' \\ & \text{dotted paths} & \\ & w'' & \end{array}$$

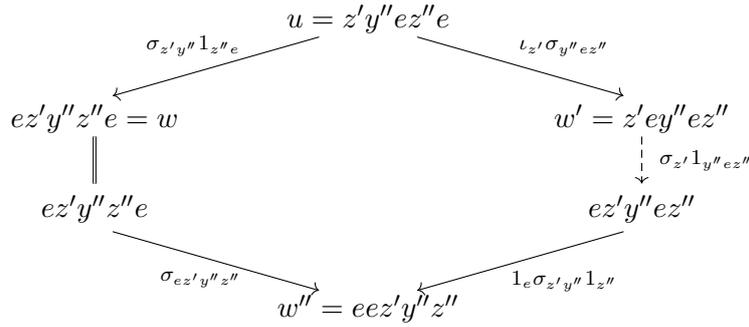
commutes after applying  $\mathcal{I}_X$ . For if so, then  $\rho(w'') < \rho(u)$ , and by induction the trapezoids in the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & u & \\ \alpha \swarrow & & \searrow \alpha' \\ w & & w' \\ & \text{dotted paths} & \\ & w'' & \\ & \text{dotted paths} & \\ w^{(n,k)} & \xlongequal{\quad} & w^{(n,k)} \end{array}$$

commute after applying  $\mathcal{I}_X$ , and therefore the whole diagram commutes.

**Case 1.** If  $\alpha = \iota_z \beta$  and  $\alpha' = \iota_{z'} \beta'$  for some  $z, z' \in \mathcal{W}$  and  $\beta, \beta' \in \mathcal{S}$ , then both  $z$  and  $z'$  begin with some non-empty word  $z''$ . Thus  $u$ ,  $w$ , and  $w'$  also begin with  $z''$ , and we can write  $\alpha$  and  $\alpha'$  as  $\iota_{z''} \gamma$  and  $\iota_{z''} \gamma'$  respectively. Let  $u' = \text{dom}(\gamma)$ ,  $y = \text{cod}(\gamma)$ , and  $y' = \text{cod}(\gamma')$ , and let  $n'$  and  $k'$  be the length and breadth of  $y$  (or  $y'$ ) respectively. Since  $y$  is a strict subword of  $w$ , we must have  $n' < n$  or  $k' < k$ .





□

To extend to the full coherence theorem, we consider objects in a higher category.

*Proof of Theorem A.3.* Let  $\text{Iter}(\mathcal{A})$  be the category of functors of the form  $\mathcal{A}^n \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ , where  $n$  is a non-negative integer. It is clear that  $\text{Iter}(\mathcal{A})$  is also monoidal, with the tensor product of two functors  $F : \mathcal{A}^m \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  and  $G : \mathcal{A}^n \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  defined to be

$$(F \otimes G) : \mathcal{A}^{m+n} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}, \quad (A_1, \dots, A_{m+n}) \mapsto F(A_1, \dots, A_m) \otimes G(A_{m+1}, \dots, A_{m+n})$$

We observe that  $w_{\mathcal{A}}$  is precisely  $\mathcal{I}_{1_{\mathcal{A}}}(w)$  as defined above, where we consider the identity functor  $1_{\mathcal{A}}$  as an object in  $\text{Iter}(\mathcal{A})$ . Applying  $\mathcal{I}_{1_{\mathcal{A}}}$  to any path between  $u$  and  $v$  gives a isomorphism in  $\text{Iter}(\mathcal{A})$  between  $u_{\mathcal{A}}$  and  $v_{\mathcal{A}}$ , or in other words, a natural isomorphism between the two functors. Uniqueness of this natural isomorphism follows from Proposition A.9. □

### APPENDIX B. LIST OF SYMBOLS

For the convenience of the reader we list the symbols used in the main body of the paper in three categories: those corresponding to the general setup and basic combinatorics; those corresponding to the geometry and choice of paths; and those corresponding to the various algebras of interest. As Appendix A is relatively short and self-contained we omit those symbols here.

TABLE 1. General symbols

Symbol	Section	Symbol	Section	Symbol	Section
$h$	2	$\ell$	2	$e$	2
$\sigma$	2	$\lambda$	2.1	$ \lambda $	2.1
$\lambda^{(i)}$	2.1	$\text{res}(r, c, m)$	2.1	$\mathcal{C}_{\ell}(n)$	2.1
$\mathcal{P}_{\ell}(n)$	2.1	$\mathcal{C}_{h,\ell}(n)$	2.1	$\mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n)$	2.1
$\text{Std}(\lambda)$	2.1	$\emptyset$	2.1	$\mathfrak{S}_{h\ell}$	2.2
$\mathfrak{S}_f$	2.2	$\widehat{\mathfrak{S}}_{h\ell}$	2.2	$\mathfrak{S}^f$	2.2
$\underline{w}$	2.4	$\overline{w}$	2.4	$r_{h\ell}(t)$	2.4
$\alpha(p)$	2.4	$\emptyset(q)$	2.4	$\underline{i}$	3.3
$s_r$	3.3	$s_r(\underline{i})$	3.3	$w_q^p$	3.3
$(i, i + 1)_b$	4.3	$\underline{w}_b$	4.3	$B$	4.3
$\text{nib}(\underline{w})$	4.3	$\text{nib}(\underline{i})$	4.3	$\det_h$	7.1
$\text{Std}_n$	7.1	$\Gamma$	7.1	$\square$	7.1

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TABLE 2. Geometry and paths

Symbol	Section	Symbol	Section	Symbol	Section
$\varepsilon_i$	2.2	$\mathbb{E}_{h,\ell}$	2.2	$\overline{\mathbb{E}}_{h,\ell}$	2.1
$\langle , \rangle$	2.2	$(-)^T$	2.2	$\Phi$	2.2
$\Phi_0$	2.2	$\Delta$	2.2	$\Delta_0$	2.2
$\alpha$	2.2	$s_{\alpha, re}$	2.2	$\alpha_0$	2.2
$\Pi$	2.2	$S$	2.2	$s_\alpha$	2.2
$\rho$	2.2	$w \cdot x$	2.2	$\mathbb{E}(\alpha, re)$	2.2
$\mathbb{E}^>(\alpha, re)$	2.2	$\mathbb{E}^<(\alpha, re)$	2.2	$\overline{\mathbb{E}}_{h,\ell}^+$	2.2
<b>A1c</b>	2.2	$A_0$	2.2	$\overline{\mathbb{E}}(\alpha)$	2.2
$As$	2.2	$\ell_\alpha(\lambda)$	2.2	$\mathbb{P}(k)$	2.3
$\mathbb{P}$	2.3	$\text{Path}(\lambda)$	2.3	$\text{Path}_{h,\ell}(\lambda)$	2.3
$\mathbb{P}^{-1}(r, \varepsilon_i)$	2.3	$\text{res}(\mathbb{P})$	2.3	$\text{res}_{\mathbb{P}}(i)$	2.3
$\mathbb{P} \sim \mathbb{Q}$	2.3	$\delta$	2.4	$\delta_n$	2.4
$\mathbb{P} \boxtimes \mathbb{Q}$	2.4	$\mathbb{P} \otimes_w \mathbb{Q}$	2.4	$\mathbb{P} \otimes \mathbb{Q}$	2.4
$\mathbb{P} \otimes_\alpha \mathbb{Q}$	2.4	$b_\alpha$	2.4	$b_\emptyset$	2.4
$\delta_\alpha$	2.4	$b_{\alpha\beta}$	2.4	$M_i$	2.4
$\mathbb{P}_i$	2.4	$\mathbb{P}_\alpha$	2.4	$\mathbb{P}_\emptyset$	2.4
$\mathbb{P}_\emptyset$	2.4	$M_{i,j}$	2.4	$\mathbb{P}_w$	2.4
$\mathbb{P}_\alpha^b$	2.4	$\text{breadth}_\sigma(w)$	2.4	$\Lambda(n, \sigma)$	2.4
$\Lambda^+(n, \sigma)$	2.4	$\mathcal{P}_{h,\ell}(n, \sigma)$	2.4	$\text{Std}_{n,\sigma}(\lambda)$	2.4
$\text{Std}_{n,\sigma}^+(\lambda)$	2.4	$w_{\mathbb{T}}^S$	2.4	$\alpha$	3
$\beta$	3	$\gamma$	3	$\delta$	3
$\mathbb{T}$	5	$\mathbb{B}$	5	$A_{\alpha\emptyset}^{\emptyset\alpha}(q)$	5.2
$S_{q,\alpha}$	5.3	$F_{q,\emptyset\alpha}$	5.4	$F_{q,\alpha\emptyset}$	5.4
$\emptyset - \emptyset$	5.5	$H_{q,\alpha\beta\alpha}$	5.5	$H_{q,\beta\alpha\beta}$	5.5
$C^{q,\gamma\beta}$	5.6	$C_{q,\beta\gamma}$	5.6	$\text{FS}_{q,\alpha}$	6.3
$\text{SC}_{q,\beta\gamma}$	6.4	$\text{SH}_{q,\beta\alpha\beta}$	6.5	$S_\alpha H_{q,\alpha\beta\alpha}$	6.5
$S_\beta H_{q,\alpha\beta\alpha}$	6.5	$eS_\beta H_{\alpha\beta\alpha}$	6.5	$\text{FH}_{q,\alpha\beta\alpha}$	6.6
$\text{FH}_{q,\beta\alpha\beta}$	6.6	$\mathbb{P}_\lambda$	7.1	$\Lambda$	7.1
$U_0$	7.2	$U_1$	7.2	$D_0$	7.2
$D_1$	7.2	$p_{n_{v,w}}(t)$	7.3		

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TABLE 3. Algebras and elements

Symbol	Section	Symbol	Section	Symbol	Section
$1_\alpha$	3.1	$1_w$	3.1	$\mathcal{S}(n, \sigma)$	3.1
$\mathcal{S}_{h,\ell}(n, \sigma)$	3.1	*	3.1	$1_\alpha$	3.2
$1_\emptyset$	3.2	$1_w$	3.2	$1_{w'}$	3.2
$1_{\emptyset\alpha}^{\alpha\emptyset}$	3.2	$\text{SPOT}_\alpha^\emptyset$	3.2	$\text{FORK}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\emptyset\alpha}$	3.2
$\text{HEX}_{\alpha\beta\alpha}^{\beta\alpha\beta}$	3.2	$\text{COMM}_{\beta\gamma}^{\gamma\beta}$	3.2	$\mathcal{S}^{\text{br}}(n, \sigma)$	3.2
$\mathcal{S}_{h,\ell}^{\text{br}}(n, \sigma)$	3.2	$\Lambda^+(\leq n, \sigma)$	3.2	$1_{n,\sigma}^+$	3.2
$\mathcal{H}_n$	3.3	$e_i$	3.3	$y_i$	3.3
$\psi_i$	3.3	$o$	3.3	*	3.3
$\mathcal{H}_n^\sigma$	3.3	$\psi_q^p$	3.3	$\psi_w$	3.3
deg	3.3	$e_s$	3.3	$\psi_{\text{T}}^{\text{S}}$	3.3
$e_h$	3.3	$f_{n,\sigma}^+$	3.3	$f_{n,\sigma}$	3.3
$\psi_Q^P \boxtimes \psi_{Q'}^{P'}$	3.3	$\psi_Q^P \otimes \psi_{Q'}^{P'}$	3.3	$\text{nib}(\psi_w e_i)$	4.3
$\psi_{[b,q]}$	4.4	$\Omega_q$	4.4	$\Upsilon_w$	5
$\Upsilon_Q^P$	5	$\text{adj}_{\emptyset\alpha}^{\alpha\emptyset}$	5.2	$\text{adj}_{\alpha\emptyset}^{\emptyset\alpha}(q)$	5.2
$\text{adj}_{\alpha\emptyset}^{\emptyset\alpha}$	5.2	$\text{spot}_\alpha^\emptyset$	5.3	$\text{spot}_\alpha^\emptyset(q)$	5.3
$\text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\emptyset\alpha}$	5.4	$\text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\alpha\emptyset}$	5.4	$\text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\emptyset\alpha}(q)$	5.4
$\text{fork}_{\alpha\alpha}^{\alpha\emptyset}(q)$	5.4	$\text{hex}_{\beta\alpha\beta}^{\alpha\beta\alpha}$	5.5	$\text{hex}_{\alpha\beta\alpha}^{\alpha\beta\alpha}(q)$	5.5
$\text{hex}_{\beta\alpha\beta}(q)$	5.5	$\text{hex}_{\alpha\beta\alpha}^{\alpha\beta\alpha}$	5.5	$\text{hex}_{\beta\alpha\beta}$	5.5
$\text{hex}_{\emptyset\beta\alpha\beta}^{\beta\alpha\beta\alpha}$	5.5	$\text{hex}_{v\alpha\beta\alpha w}^{\beta\alpha\beta w\emptyset}$	5.5	$\text{com}_{\beta\gamma}^{\gamma\beta}$	5.6
$\text{com}_{q,\gamma}^{\beta\gamma}$	5.6	$\text{com}_{q,\beta\gamma}^{\gamma\beta}$	5.6	$\text{com}_{\beta\gamma}^{\gamma\beta}$	5.6
$\text{com}_{\beta\gamma}^{\gamma\beta}$	5.6	$\text{com}_{v\beta\gamma w}^{\beta\gamma w}$	5.6	$e_\Gamma$	7.1
$E_r$	7.1	$\text{rex}_{P_w}^P$	7.2	$\text{REX}_{P_w}^P$	7.2
$C_Q^P$	7.2	$c_Q^P$	7.2	$\mathcal{S}_{n,\sigma}^{\triangleright v}$	7.3
$\mathcal{S}_{n,\sigma}^{\triangleright w}$	7.3	$\mathcal{H}_+^{\triangleright\mu}$	7.3	$\mathcal{H}_+^{\triangleright\lambda}$	7.3
$\Delta_{\mathbb{Z}}(w)$	7.3	$\mathbf{S}_{\mathbb{Z}}(\lambda)$	7.3	$f_{n,\sigma} \mathbf{S}_{\mathbb{Z}}(\lambda)$	7.3
$\Delta_{\mathbb{k}}(w)$	7.3	$f_{n,\sigma} \mathbf{S}_{\mathbb{k}}(\lambda)$	7.3	$\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\mathcal{S}}^\lambda$	7.3
$\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\mathcal{H}}^\lambda$	7.3	$L_{\mathbb{k}}(w)$	7.3	$f_{n,\sigma} \mathbf{D}_{\mathbb{k}}(\lambda)$	7.3
$P_{\mathbb{k}}(w)$	7.3	$\mathbf{P}_{\mathbb{k}}(\lambda)$	7.3		

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