

## Hecke algebras with a finite number of indecomposable modules

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### Abstract.

Recently, there has been progress in determining the representation type of the Hecke algebras of finite Weyl groups. We report on these results.

### §1. Introduction

Recall that an Artin algebra  $A$  has *finite representation type* if  $A$  has finitely many isomorphism classes of indecomposable modules; otherwise,  $A$  has *infinite representation type*. In this short article, we report on a criterion for when the Hecke algebra of a finite Weyl group has finite representation type.

Let  $W$  be a finite Weyl group,  $K$  be an algebraically closed field and let  $q$  be a non-zero element of  $K$ . The  $K$ -algebra  $\mathcal{H}_W(q)$  is the Hecke algebra associated with  $W$ .

First assume that  $q = 1$ . Then  $\mathcal{H}_W(q)$  is the group algebra  $KW$ . Let  $l$  be the characteristic of  $K$ . It is well-known that if  $G$  is a finite group then the group algebra  $KG$  has finite representation type if and only if Sylow  $l$ -subgroups of  $G$  are cyclic; see [13] and [7]. In the case where  $W$  is a Weyl group, this implies the following.

**Theorem 1.** [4, Theorem 2] *Let  $W$  be a finite Weyl group. Then  $KW$  has finite representation type if and only if  $l^2$  does not divide the order of  $W$ .*

Thus, we may assume that  $q \neq 1$  in the rest of the paper. A criterion for  $\mathcal{H}_W(q)$  to have finite representation type was conjectured by Uno [16]. To explain this, we recall the Poincaré polynomial of  $W$ .

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**Definition 2.** Let  $W$  be as above and let  $x$  be an indeterminate over  $K$ . Then the Poincaré polynomial  $P_W(x)$  of  $W$  is the polynomial

$$P_W(x) = \sum_{w \in W} x^{l(w)} \in K[x],$$

where  $l(w)$  is the length of  $w \in W$ .

The following is the conjecture of Uno's.

**Conjecture 3.** (*Conjecture–Theorem*) Let  $q \neq 1$  and  $\mathcal{H}_W(q)$  be as above. Then  $\mathcal{H}_W(q)$  has finite representation type if and only if  $(x - q)^2$  does not divide  $P_W(x)$ .

Uno's conjecture is now a theorem when  $W$  does not have a component of exceptional type. If  $W$  does have a component of exceptional type then the conjecture is known to be true under a mild assumption on the field  $K$ .

Let us explain the strategy used to prove the conjecture. Using the notion of complexity, we can reduce to the case where  $W$  is an irreducible Weyl group; see [4, Proposition 8]. We now proceed with a case–by–case analysis. When  $W$  is of type  $A$  the conjecture was already confirmed by Uno [16]. Uno also proved his conjecture for  $\mathcal{H}_W(q)$  whenever  $W$  is a finite Coxeter group of rank two. For exceptional types, the conjecture has been proved by Miyachi [15] under the assumption that the characteristic of  $K$  is not too small; this uses computational results which had been obtained by Geck, Lux et al.

We now consider the cases where  $W$  is of type  $B$  or type  $D$ . Then, as is explained in [4], the conjecture is a corollary of [6, Theorem 1.4] (Theorem 4 below); see [4] and [6] for the details. Note that we excluded the case  $q = -1$  in [6]. However, as we show below, a similar argument works in this case also and the main theorem [6, Theorem 1.4] is true when  $q = -1$ . In the next section, we explain the proof of this main theorem taking the case  $q = -1$  as an example.

## §2. Theorem 1.4 of [6] and the case $q = -1$

Recall that we are assuming that  $q \neq 1$ . Let  $W_n$  be the Weyl group of type  $B_n$ . Fix a non-negative integer  $f$  and let  $\mathcal{H}_n = \mathcal{H}_{W_n}(q, -q^f)$  be the  $K$ –algebra with generators  $T_0, T_1, \dots, T_{n-1}$  and relations

$$\begin{aligned} (T_0 - 1)(T_0 - q^f) &= 0, & (T_i + 1)(T_i - q) &= 0, & \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq n-1, \\ T_0 T_1 T_0 T_1 &= T_1 T_0 T_1 T_0, & T_{i+1} T_i T_{i+1} &= T_i T_{i+1} T_i & \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq n-2, \\ T_i T_j &= T_j T_i, \text{ for } 0 \leq i < j-1 \leq n-2. \end{aligned}$$

We are really considering the two parameter Hecke algebra of type  $B$  here; by a Morita equivalence argument the general two parameter case for type  $B$  reduces to considering the algebras above.

By renormalizing  $T_0$  if necessary (see [6]) we may assume that  $q$  is a primitive  $e^{\text{th}}$  root of unity, where  $e \geq 2$ , and that  $0 \leq f \leq \frac{e}{2}$ . The main result of [6] asserts that the following is true.

**Theorem 4** ([6, Theorem 1.4]). *Suppose that  $K$  is an algebraically closed field,  $e \geq 2$  and that  $0 \leq f \leq \frac{e}{2}$ . Then  $\mathcal{H}_n$  is of finite representation type if and only if  $n < \min(e, 2f + 4)$ .*

In fact, in [6] Theorem 4 is proved only for the cases with  $e \geq 3$ ; or, equivalently, when  $q \neq \pm 1$ . We first discuss the main ideas behind the proof of [6, Theorem 1.4]. We then illustrate how we use them in the argument by giving a proof of Theorem 4 in the case  $q = -1$ .

To prove that  $\mathcal{H}_n$  has finite representation type if  $n < \min(e, 2f + 4)$  we used the combinatorics of path sequences together with the Jantzen-Schaper sum formula [14] for  $\mathcal{H}_n$ . Note that the case  $q = -1$  (which was not considered in [6]), corresponds to  $e = 2$ ; therefore, if  $q = -1$  then  $n < \min(e, 2f + 4)$  only if  $n = 1$ . Thus, when  $e = 2$  it is automatic that  $\mathcal{H}_n$  has finite representation type if  $n < \min(e, 2f + 4)$ .

We now consider the converse. To prove that  $\mathcal{H}_n$  has infinite representation type when  $n \geq \min(e, 2f + 4)$  we rely on two theories. One is the Specht module theory developed by Dipper, James and Murphy [9]. The other is the description of the decomposition numbers of  $\mathcal{H}_n$  as the coefficients of the canonical basis elements of a certain level 2 Fock space [1, 5]; we call this Fock space theory.

The Specht module theory provides us with a set of  $\mathcal{H}_n$ -modules, called Specht modules, indexed by bipartitions. Let  $\lambda = (\lambda^{(1)}, \lambda^{(2)})$  be a bipartition of  $n$  and let  $S^\lambda$  be the corresponding Specht module. Then each  $S^\lambda$  is equipped with an invariant bilinear form. Let  $\text{rad}(S^\lambda)$  be the radical of the bilinear form and set  $D^\lambda = S^\lambda / \text{rad}(S^\lambda)$ . Then the non-zero  $D^\lambda$  form a complete set of pairwise non-isomorphic  $\mathcal{H}_n$ -modules. Define  $P^\lambda$  to be the projective cover of  $D^\lambda \neq 0$ .

Let  $\triangleright$  be the dominance ordering on the set of bipartitions of  $n$ .

**Proposition 5.** [6, 3.12, 3.13]

1. If  $D^\lambda \neq 0$  then  $S^\lambda$  is an indecomposable  $\mathcal{H}_n$ -module and  $D^\lambda$  is the unique head of  $S^\lambda$ .
2. Each projective  $\mathcal{H}_n$ -module  $P$  has a Specht filtration; thus, there exist bipartitions  $\nu_1, \dots, \nu_k$  and a filtration

$$P = P^k > P^{k-1} > \cdots > P^1 > P^0 = 0$$

such that  $P^i/P^{i-1} \cong S^{\nu_i}$ , for  $1 < i \leq k$ , and  $i < j$  whenever  $\nu_i \triangleright \nu_j$ .

3. Suppose that  $P = P^\mu$  for some bipartition  $\mu$  with  $D^\mu \neq 0$ . Then the Specht filtration of (2) can be chosen so that

$$d_{\lambda\mu} = \#\{1 \leq i \leq k \mid \nu_i = \lambda\}.$$

In particular, if  $\lambda$  is maximal in the dominance ordering such that  $d_{\lambda\mu} \neq 0$  then  $P^\mu$  has a submodule isomorphic to  $S^\lambda$ .

The non-zero  $D^\lambda$  were classified by the first author in [2].

Now we turn to the Fock space theory. We begin by recalling the following theorem; see [3, Theorem 12.5] or [1], [5]. For the statement, let  $\Lambda_0, \dots, \Lambda_{e-1}$  be the fundamental weights for the Kac-Moody Lie algebra  $U(\widehat{sl}_e)$  and, for a dominant weight  $\Lambda$ , let  $L(\Lambda)$  be the corresponding integrable highest weight module.

**Theorem 6.** For  $i = 0, 1, \dots, e-1$  there exist exact functors

$$e_i, f_i : \mathcal{H}_n\text{-mod} \longrightarrow \mathcal{H}_{n\pm 1}\text{-mod}$$

such that the operators induced by these, and suitably defined operators  $d$  and  $h_i$ , for  $i = 0, 1, \dots, e-1$ , give  $\mathcal{K}_0 = \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} \mathcal{K}_0(\mathcal{H}_n\text{-proj}) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q}$  the structure of a  $U(\widehat{sl}_e)$ -module. Moreover,  $\mathcal{K}_0 \cong L(\Lambda_0 + \Lambda_f)$  as a  $U(\widehat{sl}_e)$ -module and if  $K$  is a field of characteristic zero then the principal indecomposable  $\mathcal{H}_n$ -modules correspond to elements of the Lusztig-Kashiwara canonical basis of  $L(\Lambda_0 + \Lambda_f)$  under this isomorphism.

As a consequence of this result, when  $K$  is a field of characteristic zero the decomposition numbers of  $\mathcal{H}_n$  can be computed using the canonical basis of a certain  $v$ -deformed Fock space  $\mathcal{F}_v = \mathcal{F}_v(\Lambda_0 + \Lambda_f)$ ; see [3] for details. In our case, the set of bipartitions form a basis of  $\mathcal{F}_v$ . Let  $U_v(\widehat{sl}_e)$  be the quantum group of  $U(\widehat{sl}_e)$ ; then  $\mathcal{F}_v$  is a  $U_v(\widehat{sl}_e)$ -module. Let  $L_v(\Lambda_0 + \Lambda_f)$  be the integrable highest weight module for  $U_v(\widehat{sl}_e)$  of highest weight  $\Lambda_0 + \Lambda_f$ . Then, by definition, the canonical basis of  $L(\Lambda_0 + \Lambda_f)$  is the canonical basis of  $L_v(\Lambda_0 + \Lambda_f)$  specialized at  $v = 1$ .

The action of  $U(\widehat{sl}_e)$  on the Fock space is the specialization at  $v = 1$  of the action of  $U_v(\widehat{sl}_e)$  on  $\mathcal{F}_v$ . In order to describe this let  $x$  and  $y$  be nodes of a bipartition  $\lambda = (\lambda^{(1)}, \lambda^{(2)})$ . We say that  $x$  is *above*  $y$  if either (i)  $x \in \lambda^{(1)}$  and  $y \in \lambda^{(2)}$ , or (ii)  $x$  and  $y$  are both in the same component of  $\lambda$  (i.e. in  $\lambda^{(1)}$  or in  $\lambda^{(2)}$ ), and  $x$  is above  $y$ . (We follow the English convention for describing partitions as Young diagrams.) For each  $i \in \mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z}$ , write  $\lambda \xrightarrow{i} \mu$  if  $\mu$  can be obtained by adding a single

$i$ -node to  $\lambda$ ; see [6]. Then the action of the Chevalley generator  $f_i$  of  $U_v(\widehat{sl}_e)$  on  $\mathcal{F}_v$  is given by

$$f_i \lambda = \sum_{\mu: \lambda \xrightarrow{i} \mu} v^{N_i^b(\mu/\lambda)} \mu,$$

where  $N_i^b(\mu/\lambda)$  is the number of addable  $i$ -nodes below the node  $\mu/\lambda$  minus the number of removable  $i$ -nodes below the node  $\mu/\lambda$ . (The action of  $f_i \in U(\widehat{sl}_e)$  on the Fock space is given by setting  $v = 1$ .)

The submodule of  $\mathcal{F}_v$  generated by the empty bipartition is isomorphic to  $L_v(\Lambda_0 + \Lambda_f)$  – the corresponding integrable highest weight module of  $U_v(\widehat{sl}_e)$ ; this module becomes  $L(\Lambda_0 + \Lambda_f)$  when we specialize  $v$  to 1. Denote the empty bipartition in  $\mathcal{F}_v$  by  $v_{\Lambda_0 + \Lambda_f}$ ; then  $L_v(\Lambda_0 + \Lambda_f) \cong U_v(\widehat{sl}_e)v_{\Lambda_0 + \Lambda_f}$ .

**Corollary 7.** [6, Corollary 3.16] Suppose that  $D^\mu \neq 0$  and that, in characteristic zero,  $[P^\mu]$  corresponds to an element of the canonical basis which has the form  $f_{i_1}^{(m_1)} \cdots f_{i_l}^{(m_l)} v_{\Lambda_0 + \Lambda_f}$  under the isomorphism of Theorem 6. Then  $P^\mu$  has the same Specht filtration in positive characteristic as in characteristic zero.

This corollary, together with the characterization of the canonical basis, implies that if

$$f_{i_1}^{(m_1)} \cdots f_{i_l}^{(m_l)} v_{\Lambda_0 + \Lambda_f} \in \lambda + \sum_{\mu} v\mathbb{Z}[v]\mu$$

in the Fock space  $\mathcal{F}_v$  then the column of the decomposition matrix of  $\mathcal{H}_n$  corresponding to  $\lambda$  does not depend on the characteristic of the base field  $K$ . Thus, the corollary gives us a way of applying Theorem 6 to compute decomposition numbers of  $\mathcal{H}_n$  when  $K$  is a field of positive characteristic.

Using this, and the properties of the Specht modules listed above, we can prove that if  $n \geq \min(e, 2f + 4)$  then  $\mathcal{H}_n$  has infinite representation type. The reader can experience the flavour of the arguments of [6] from the following two lemmas which extend Theorem 4 to the case  $q = -1$ . Note that we only have to consider the cases  $f = 0, 1$  since  $0 \leq f \leq \frac{e}{2}$ .

**Lemma 8.** Assume that  $q = -1$ ,  $f = 1$  and  $n \geq 2$ . Then  $\mathcal{H}_n$  has infinite representation type.

*Proof.* By [6, Lemma 2.5] we may assume that  $n = 2$ . The defining relations of  $\mathcal{H}_2$  are

$$T_0^2 - 1 = 0, \quad (T_1 + 1)^2 = 0, \quad (T_0 T_1)^2 = (T_1 T_0)^2.$$

Let  $\lambda_1 = ((0), (1^2))$  and  $\lambda_2 = ((1), (1))$ . The Fock space has highest weight  $\Lambda_0 + \Lambda_1$  and the decomposition matrix is as follows.

	$\lambda_1$	$\lambda_2$
$((0), (1^2))$	1	0
$((0), (2))$	1	0
$((1), (1))$	1	1
$((1^2), (0))$	0	1
$((2), (0))$	0	1

If  $M$  is a finite dimensional  $\mathcal{H}_n$ -module let  $[M]$  denote the corresponding equivalence class in the Grothendieck group of  $\mathcal{H}_n$  and let  $\text{Rad}(M)$  denote the radical of  $M$ . By the decomposition matrix above, we have  $[P^{\lambda_1}] = 3[D^{\lambda_1}] + [D^{\lambda_2}]$  and  $[P^{\lambda_2}] = [D^{\lambda_1}] + 3[D^{\lambda_2}]$ . Observe that  $S^{\lambda_2}$  is indecomposable with head  $D^{\lambda_2}$  and socle  $D^{\lambda_1}$ . Since its dual module is indecomposable with head  $D^{\lambda_1}$  and socle  $D^{\lambda_2}$ , so that  $D^{\lambda_2}$  must appear in  $\text{Rad}(P^{\lambda_1})/\text{Rad}^2(P^{\lambda_1})$ . On the other hand,  $\text{Rad}(P^{\lambda_1})$  has a Specht filtration whose successive quotients are  $S^{((0),(2))} = D^{\lambda_1}$  and  $S^{\lambda_2}$ . Thus  $D^{\lambda_1}$  must appear in  $\text{Rad}(P^{\lambda_1})/\text{Rad}^2(P^{\lambda_1})$ .

Using a similar argument we can prove that  $D^{\lambda_1}$  and  $D^{\lambda_2}$  must appear in  $\text{Rad}(P^{\lambda_2})/\text{Rad}^2(P^{\lambda_2})$ .

Considering the separation diagram, we conclude that the  $\mathcal{H}_2$  has infinite representation type; see [6, Theorem 2.7].  $\square$

**Lemma 9.** *Assume that  $q = -1$ ,  $f = 0$  and  $n \geq 2$ . Then  $\mathcal{H}_n$  has infinite representation type.*

*Proof.* As before we may assume that  $n = 2$ . This time the defining relations of  $\mathcal{H}_2$  are

$$(T_0 - 1)^2 = 0, \quad (T_1 + 1)^2 = 0, \quad (T_0 T_1)^2 = (T_1 T_0)^2.$$

Let  $\lambda = ((0), (1^2))$ . The element of the canonical basis corresponding to  $\lambda$  is given by

$$((0), (1^2)) + v((0), (2)) + v((1^2), (0)) + v^2((2), (0)).$$

The other element of the canonical basis corresponding to  $((1), (1))$  is  $((1), (1)) = f_0^{(2)}((0), (0))$ . Thus,  $[P^\lambda] = 4[D^\lambda]$ . Looking at the defining relations, we can define a representation of  $\mathcal{H}_2$  by

$$T_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & a \\ 0 & 1 & b \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad T_1 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & c \\ 0 & -1 & d \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

We choose  $a, b, c, d \in K$  so that  $ad - bc \neq 0$ . Then this representation gives an indecomposable module with head  $D^\lambda$  and socle  $D^\lambda \oplus D^\lambda$ . Therefore,  $\text{End}_{\mathcal{H}_2}(P^\lambda) \not\simeq K[x]/(x^m)$  for any  $m \geq 0$  (it has two independent generators); so we conclude that the  $\mathcal{H}_2$  has infinite representation type by [6, Lemma 2.6].  $\square$

### §3. A result of Erdmann and Nakano

In this section, we assume that  $W$  has type  $A_{n-1}$ . Let  $e$  be the multiplicative order of  $q$  as before. Recall that an  $e$ -core is a partition which does not contain a removable  $e$ -hook. Then the blocks of  $\mathcal{H}_W(q)$  are labelled by  $e$ -cores such that  $n - |\kappa|$  is divisible by  $e$ . We denote by  $\mathcal{B}_\kappa$  the block labelled by an  $e$ -core  $\kappa$ .

Artin algebras fall into three categories; finite, tame and wild. Erdmann and Nakano [10] have determined the representation type of the block algebras  $\mathcal{B}_\kappa$ .

Recall that if  $\kappa$  is an  $e$ -core then the  $e$ -weight of  $\kappa$  is

$$w(\kappa) := \frac{n - |\kappa|}{e}.$$

**Theorem 10.** [10, Theorem 1.2] *Maintain the notation above.*

- (1)  $\mathcal{B}_\kappa$  is semisimple if and only if  $w(\kappa) = 0$ .
- (2)  $\mathcal{B}_\kappa$  has finite representation type (and is not semisimple) if and only if  $w(\kappa) = 1$ .
- (3)  $\mathcal{B}_\kappa$  has tame representation type if and only if  $e = 2$  and  $w(\kappa) = 2$ .
- (4)  $\mathcal{B}_\kappa$  has wild representation type if and only if either  $e \geq 3$  and  $w(\kappa) \geq 2$ , or  $e = 2$  and  $w(\kappa) \geq 3$ .

Generalization of this theorem to other types remains open.

### §4. Appendix

The aim of the paper [6] was to determine when the two parameter Hecke algebra  $\mathcal{H}_n(q, Q)$  of type  $B$ , which is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} (T_0 - 1)(T_0 + Q) &= 0, & (T_i + 1)(T_i - q) &= 0, & \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq n-1, \\ T_0 T_1 T_0 T_1 &= T_1 T_0 T_1 T_0, & T_{i+1} T_i T_{i+1} &= T_i T_{i+1} T_i, & \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq n-2, \\ T_i T_j &= T_j T_i \text{ for } 0 \leq i < j-1 \leq n-2, \end{aligned}$$

has finite representation type. The Morita equivalence theorem of Dipper and James [8] implies that it is enough to consider the algebras  $\mathcal{H}_n = \mathcal{H}_n(q, -q^f)$  of section 2, where  $f \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Recall that we assumed

$q \neq 1$  in section 2; however, as we now show, it is easy to determine when  $\mathcal{H}_n(1, Q)$  has finite representation type.

Assume that  $q = 1$ . Then, as an algebra,  $\mathcal{H}_n(1, Q)$  is isomorphic to the semidirect product of the commutative algebra  $\mathcal{L}_n$  and the group algebra of the symmetric group  $KS_n$ , where

$$\mathcal{L}_n = (K[L]/(L^2 - (Q-1)L - Q))^{\otimes n}$$

and  $S_n$  acts on  $\mathcal{L}_n$  by conjugation in the natural way.

If  $Q = -1$  and  $n = 2$  then  $\mathcal{L}_2 = (K[L]/(L+1)^2)^{\otimes 2}$  is the Kronecker algebra and  $\mathcal{H}_2(1, Q) = \mathcal{L}_2 \oplus \mathcal{L}_2 T_1 \mathcal{L}_2$ . Thus,  $\mathcal{H}_n(1, -1)$  has infinite representation type when  $n \geq 2$ . Hence, we have proved the following.

**Proposition 11.** *Suppose that  $K$  is a field. Then  $\mathcal{H}_n(1, -1)$  has finite representation type if and only if  $n = 1$ .*

If  $Q \neq -1$  then the Dipper–James Morita equivalence theorem combined with Uno’s proof of Conjecture 3 for type  $A$  gives the following.

**Proposition 12.** *Suppose that  $K$  is a field. Then  $\mathcal{H}_n(1, Q)$  with  $Q \neq -1$  has finite representation type if and only if  $n < 2l$  where  $l$  is the characteristic of the base field.*

*Remark 13.* We can prove this statement without appealing to the Dipper–James Morita equivalence theorem. If  $l \neq 2$  then

$$K[L]/(L^2 - (Q-1)L - Q) \simeq K \oplus K \simeq KC_2$$

and thus  $\mathcal{H}_n(1, Q) \simeq KW_n$  where  $W_n$  is the Weyl group of type  $B_n$ . Therefore, by Theorem 1,  $\mathcal{H}_n(1, Q)$  has finite representation type if and only if  $n < 2l$ .

Next assume that  $l = 2$ . Since  $KS_n$  is a factor algebra of  $\mathcal{H}_n(1, Q)$ , Theorem 1 again implies that  $\mathcal{H}_n(1, Q)$  has infinite representation type when  $n \geq 4$ . Let  $G_n = C_3 \wr S_n$ . To prove that  $\mathcal{H}_n(1, Q)$  has finite representation type when  $n < 4$  it is enough to observe that there is a surjective homomorphism

$$KG_n = (K \oplus K \oplus K)^{\otimes n} KS_n \rightarrow (K \oplus K)^{\otimes n} KS_n = \mathcal{H}_n(1, Q).$$

By the remarks before Theorem 1,  $KG_n$  has finite representation type if  $n < 4$ ; hence,  $\mathcal{H}_n(1, Q)$  has finite representation type when  $n < 4$ .

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