

**WEIGHTED  
 $L^2$ -COHOMOLOGY OF  
COXETER GROUPS**

Mobile

February 7, 2004

work with Jan Dymara,  
Tadeusz Januszkiewicz and Boris Okun

## Definitions

Coxeter systems, the parameter  $\mathbf{q}$ ,

Hecke algebras,

Hecke -von Neumann algebras,

the growth series  $W(\mathbf{q})$ , spaces  $\mathcal{U}$  and  $\Sigma$ ,

$L^2_{\mathbf{q}}$  cellular cochains,  $L^2_{\mathbf{q}}$ -cohomology,

$L^2_{\mathbf{q}}$ -Euler characteristics and

$L^2_{\mathbf{q}}$ -Betti numbers.

## Results

$\chi_{\mathbf{q}}(\Sigma) = 1/W(\mathbf{q})$ ,

$L^2$ -cohomology of buildings,

Calculations of  $b_{\mathbf{q}}^k(\Sigma)$

A Decomposition Theorem

Interpolating between cohomology and

cohomology with compact supports

A version of the Singer Conjecture

## Coxeter groups

$S$  a finite set

$(m_{st})$  a *Coxeter matrix*, i.e.,

a symmetric  $S \times S$  matrix with

entries in  $\mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$  such that

$$m_{st} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } s = t; \\ \geq 2, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

$$W := \langle S \mid s^2 = 1, (st)^{m_{st}} = 1 \rangle.$$

$(W, S)$  is a *Coxeter system*.

$l : W \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is word length.

For  $T \subset S$ ,

$$W_T := \langle \{s\}_{s \in T} \rangle.$$

If  $W_T$  is finite,  $T$  is a *spherical subset*.

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{S} &:= \{T \subset S \mid W_T \text{ is finite}\} \\ &= \{\text{spherical subsets}\}\end{aligned}$$

The *nerve* of  $(W, S)$  is the simplicial complex  $L$ , where

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Vert}(L) &= S, \quad \text{and} \\ \text{Simp}(L) &= \mathcal{S}_{>\emptyset}\end{aligned}$$

## The parameter $\mathbf{q}$

$I$  an index set

$i : S \rightarrow I$  a function s.t.

$i(s) = i(s')$  whenever  $s$  and  $s'$  are conjugate.

$$\mathbf{q} := (q_i)_{i \in I} \in (0, \infty)^I$$

Write  $q_s$  instead of  $q_{i(s)}$ .

If  $w = s_1 \dots s_l$  is a reduced expression, set

$$q_w := q_{s_1} \dots q_{s_l}.$$

It is independent of the reduced expression.

$$\mathbf{R}^{(W)} := \{\text{finitely supported } W \rightarrow \mathbf{R}\}$$

**An inner product on  $\mathbf{R}^{(W)}$**

$$\langle e_v, e_w \rangle_{\mathbf{q}} := q_w \delta_{vw}.$$

$$L_{\mathbf{q}}^2(W) := \text{completion of } \mathbf{R}^{(W)}.$$

**Hecke algebra**

$\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{q}}[W]$  deformed group algebra

$$e_s e_w = \begin{cases} e_{sw}, & l(sw) > l(w); \\ q_s e_{sw} + (q_s - 1)e_w, & l(sw) < l(w). \end{cases}$$

**Hecke-von Neumann algebra**

$\mathcal{N}_{\mathbf{q}}$  = a completion of  $\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{q}}(W)$

$:= \{ \mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{q}}(W)\text{-equivariant bounded linear operators } L_{\mathbf{q}}^2(W) \rightarrow L_{\mathbf{q}}^2(W) \}$

## von Neumann dimension

For  $\phi \in \mathcal{N}_{\mathbf{q}}$ ,

$$\mathrm{tr}_{\mathcal{N}_{\mathbf{q}}}(\phi) = \langle \phi(e_1), e_1 \rangle_{\mathbf{q}}.$$

For  $\Phi = (\phi_{ij}) \in M_m(\mathcal{N}_{\mathbf{q}})$ ,

$$\mathrm{tr}_{\mathcal{N}_{\mathbf{q}}}(\Phi) = \sum \mathrm{tr}_{\mathcal{N}_{\mathbf{q}}}(\phi_{ii}).$$

Given a  $\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{q}}(W)$ -stable, closed subspace

$$V \subset \oplus L_{\mathbf{q}}^2(W), \quad \text{let}$$

$$p_V : \oplus L_{\mathbf{q}}^2(W) \rightarrow \oplus L_{\mathbf{q}}^2(W)$$

be orthogonal projection onto  $V$ .

$$\dim_{\mathcal{N}_{\mathbf{q}}} V = \mathrm{tr}_{\mathcal{N}_{\mathbf{q}}}(p_V) \in [0, \infty).$$

## Growth series

$\mathbf{t} := (t_i)_{i \in I}$  an  $I$ -tuple of indeterminates.

$$W(\mathbf{t}) := \sum_{w \in W} t_w .$$

It is a rational function in  $\mathbf{t}$ , e.g.,

$$\frac{1}{W(\mathbf{t})} = \sum_{T \in \mathcal{S}} \frac{(-1)^{\text{Card}(T)}}{W_T(\mathbf{t}^{-1})},$$

where  $\mathbf{t}^{-1} := (t_i^{-1})$ .

$\mathcal{R} :=$  region of convergence of  $W(\mathbf{t})$

$$\mathcal{R}^{-1} := \{\mathbf{q} \mid \mathbf{q}^{-1} \in \mathcal{R}\}$$



## The basic construction.

$X$  a CW complex

$(X_s)_{s \in \mathcal{S}}$  a family of subcomplexes.

Define

$$\mathcal{U}(W, X) := (W \times X) / \sim$$

where  $\sim$  is the equivalence relation

generated by

$$(w, x) \sim (ws, x) \text{ if } x \in X_s.$$

$K :=$  geometric realization of  $\mathcal{S}$

$$= \text{Cone}(L)$$

$K_s :=$  geom. realization of  $\mathcal{S}_{\geq \{s\}}$

$K$  is a *chamber*.  $K_s$  is a *mirror*.

## The complex $\Sigma$

$$\Sigma := \mathcal{U}(W, K)$$

## Cellular cochains

$\mathcal{E}_k$  the set of  $k$ -cells in  $\mathcal{U}$

$C^k(\mathcal{U})$  the  $k$ -cochains on  $\mathcal{U}$

= functions on  $\mathcal{E}_k$

$$= \left\{ \sum_{\text{infinite}} a_\sigma \sigma \mid \sigma \in \mathcal{E}_k \right\}$$

$$C_c^k(\mathcal{U}) = \left\{ \sum_{\text{finite}} a_\sigma \sigma \right\}$$

How about weighted  $L^2_{\mathbf{q}}$ -cochains?

Given  $\sigma \in \mathcal{E}_k$ , let  $d(\sigma)$  be the

shortest  $w \in W$  s.t.  $w^{-1}\sigma \subset X$ .

Define an inner product on  $C_c^k(\mathcal{U})$

$$\langle \sigma, \tau \rangle_{\mathbf{q}} := q_{d(\sigma)} \delta_{\sigma\tau}$$

$L_{\mathbf{q}}^2 C^k(\mathcal{U}) :=$  the completion of  $C_c^k(\mathcal{U})$

$L_{\mathbf{q}}^2 C^*(\mathcal{U})$  is a  $\mathcal{N}_{\mathbf{q}}$ -module and

$\delta : L_{\mathbf{q}}^2 C^k(\mathcal{U}) \rightarrow L_{\mathbf{q}}^2 C^{k+1}(\mathcal{U})$  is a map of  $\mathcal{N}_{\mathbf{q}}$ -modules.

$L_{\mathbf{q}}^2 \mathcal{H}^k(\mathcal{U})$  reduced  $L_{\mathbf{q}}^2$ -cohomology

$$:= \ker \delta / \overline{\text{im } \delta}$$

$$b_{\mathbf{q}}^k(\mathcal{U}) := \dim L_{\mathbf{q}}^2 \mathcal{H}^k(\mathcal{U})$$

$$\chi_{\mathbf{q}}(\mathcal{U}) := \sum (-1)^k b_{\mathbf{q}}^k(\mathcal{U})$$

**Theorem.** (Dymara)

$$\chi_{\mathbf{q}}(\Sigma) = \frac{1}{W(\mathbf{q})}$$

**Theorem.** (Dymara) *If  $\mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{R}$ , then  $L_{\mathbf{q}}^2 \mathcal{H}^*(\Sigma)$  is concentrated in dimension 0.*

**Theorem.** (Dymara) *Suppose  $\Phi$  is a building of type  $(W, S)$  with a chamber transitive automorphism group  $G$ . Then its  $L^2$ -Betti number (with respect to  $G$ ),  $b^k(\Phi; G)$ , is equal to  $b_{\mathbf{q}}^k(\Sigma)$ .*

Here  $\mathbf{q}$  is the “thickness” of the building.

**Remark.** For buildings only integral values of  $\mathbf{q}$  matter!

Given  $w \in W$ , set

$$\text{In}(w) := \{s \in S \mid l(ws) < l(w)\}$$

**Key fact:**  $\text{In}(w) \in \mathcal{S}$ .

Given  $T \subset S$ , set

$$W^T := \{w \in W \mid \text{In}(w) = T\}$$

$$X^T := \bigcup_{s \in T} X_s$$

**Theorem.** (D.)

$$H_*(\mathcal{U}) \cong \bigoplus_{T \in \mathcal{S}} H_*(X, X^T) \otimes \mathbf{R}^{(W^T)}.$$

**Corollary.**  $\Sigma$  is acyclic.

**Theorem.** (D.)

$$H_c^*(\mathcal{U}) \cong \bigoplus_{T \in \mathcal{S}} H^*(X, X^{S-T}) \otimes \mathbf{R}^{(W^T)}.$$

## Main Theorem.

- If  $\mathfrak{q} \in \mathcal{R}$ , then

$$L_{\mathfrak{q}}^2 \mathcal{H}^*(\mathcal{U}) = \bigoplus_{T \in \mathcal{S}} H^*(X, X^T) \otimes D^T.$$

- If  $\mathfrak{q} \in \mathcal{R}^{-1}$ , then

$$L_{\mathfrak{q}}^2 \mathcal{H}^*(\mathcal{U}) = \bigoplus_{T \in \mathcal{S}} H^*(X, X^{S-T}) \otimes D^{S-T}.$$

Here the  $D^T$  are certain  $\mathcal{N}_{\mathfrak{q}}$ -submodules of  $L_{\mathfrak{q}}^2(W)$ .

**Decomposition Theorem.** *We have direct sum decompositions of  $\mathcal{N}_{\mathfrak{q}}$ -modules.*

- *If  $\mathfrak{q} \in \mathcal{R}$ , then*

$$L_{\mathfrak{q}}^2 = \bigoplus_{T \in \mathcal{S}} D^T$$

- *If  $\mathfrak{q} \in \mathcal{R}^{-1}$ , then*

$$L_{\mathfrak{q}}^2 = \bigoplus_{T \in \mathcal{S}} D^{S-T}$$

(In the formulas of the previous two theorems, the RHS might only be a dense subspace of the LHS).



**Corollary.** • If  $\mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{R}$ , then

$$H_k(\mathcal{U}; \mathbf{R}) \rightarrow L_{\mathbf{q}}^2 \mathcal{H}_k(\mathcal{U})$$

*is injective with dense image.*

• If  $\mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{R}^{-1}$ , then

$$H_c^k(\mathcal{U}; \mathbf{R}) \rightarrow L_{\mathbf{q}}^2 \mathcal{H}^k(\mathcal{U})$$

*is injective with dense image.*

**Example.** Suppose  $\Sigma$  is an  $n$ -manifold (e.g.,  $L$  is a triangulation of  $S^{n-1}$ ).

- If  $\mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{R}$ , then  $L_{\mathbf{q}}^2 \mathcal{H}^*(\Sigma)$  is concentrated in dimension 0.
- If  $\mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{R}^{-1}$ , then  $L_{\mathbf{q}}^2 \mathcal{H}^*(\Sigma)$  is concentrated in dimension  $n$ .

**Example.** Suppose  $n = 2$  and  $L$  is a circle.  $\mathbf{q} = q \in (0, \infty)$ .

$\rho$ , the radius of convergence of  $W(t)$ .

Then  $L_q^2 \mathcal{H}^*(\Sigma)$  is concentrated in dimension

$$\begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } q \leq \rho; \\ 1, & \text{if } \rho < q < 1/\rho; \\ 2, & \text{if } q \geq \rho. \end{cases}$$

**Question.** *What happens in the intermediate range,  $\mathbf{q} \notin \mathcal{RUR}^{-1}$ ?*

**Conjecture.** (A version of the Singer Conjecture). *Suppose  $\Sigma$  is an  $n$ -manifold. Then for  $\mathbf{q} \leq \mathbf{1}$ ,*

$$L_{\mathbf{q}}^2 \mathcal{H}^k(\Sigma) = 0 \quad \text{for } k > \frac{n}{2}.$$

*Similarly, for  $\mathbf{q} \geq \mathbf{1}$ ,*

$$L_{\mathbf{q}}^2 \mathcal{H}^k(\Sigma) = 0 \quad \text{for } k < \frac{n}{2}.$$

## Some idempotents in $\mathcal{N}_{\mathbf{q}}$

For  $\mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{R}_T$ ,

$$a_T := \frac{1}{W_T(\mathbf{q})} \sum_{w \in W_T} e_w.$$

For  $\mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{R}_T^{-1}$ ,

$$h_T := \frac{1}{W_T(\mathbf{q}^{-1})} \sum_{w \in W_T} (-1)^{l(w)} q_w^{-1} e_w.$$

$A_T := \text{im } a_T$  and  $H_T := \text{im } h_T$ .

$$D_T := A_{S-T} \cap \left( \sum_{U \subsetneq T} A_{S-U} \right)^\perp$$