

A UNIFORM REALIZATION OF THE COMBINATORIAL R -MATRIX

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ABSTRACT. Kirillov-Reshetikhin crystals are colored directed graphs encoding the structure of certain finite-dimensional representations of affine Lie algebras. A tensor products of column shape Kirillov-Reshetikhin crystals has recently been realized in a uniform way, for all untwisted affine types, in terms of the quantum alcove model. We enhance this model by using it to give a uniform realization of the combinatorial R -matrix, i.e., the unique affine crystal isomorphism permuting factors in a tensor product of KR crystals. In other words, we are generalizing to all Lie types Schützenberger’s sliding game (jeu de taquin) for Young tableaux, which realizes the combinatorial R -matrix in type A . Our construction is in terms of certain combinatorial moves, called quantum Yang-Baxter moves, which are explicitly described by reduction to the rank 2 root systems. We also show that the quantum alcove model does not depend on the choice of a sequence of alcoves joining the fundamental one to a translation of it.

1. INTRODUCTION

Kashiwara’s *crystals* [Kas91] are colored directed graphs encoding the structure of certain bases (called crystal bases) of some representations of quantum groups $U_q(\mathfrak{g})$ as q goes to zero (where \mathfrak{g} is a symmetrizable Kac-Moody Lie algebra). All highest weight representations have crystal bases/graphs. Beside them, an important class of crystals is represented by the *Kirillov-Reshetikhin (KR) crystals* [KR90]. They correspond to certain finite-dimensional modules for affine Lie algebras which are not of highest weight. A KR crystal is denoted $B^{r,s}$, being labeled by an $r \times s$ rectangle, where the height r indexes a simple root of the corresponding finite root system and the width s is any positive integer. The importance of KR crystals stems from the fact that they are building blocks for the corresponding (infinite) highest weight crystals; indeed, the latter are realized as infinite tensor products of the former in the Kyoto path model, see, e.g., [HK00]. Tensor products of KR crystals are endowed with a grading known as the *energy function* [NS08, ST12], which originates in the theory of solvable lattice models [HKO⁺99]. There is a unique affine crystal isomorphism between two tensor products of KR crystals differing by a permutation of the tensor factors; it is called the *combinatorial R -matrix*.

The first author and Postnikov [LP07, LP08] defined the so-called *alcove model* for highest weight crystals associated to a symmetrizable Kac-Moody algebra. A related model is the one of Gaussent-Littelmann, based on LS-galleries [GL05]. Both models are discrete counterparts of the celebrated *Littelmann path model* [Lit94, Lit95]. In [LL11] the authors generalize the alcove model. This generalization, called the *quantum alcove model*, has been shown in [LNS⁺13b] to uniformly describe tensor products of column shape KR crystals for all untwisted affine types. By contrast, all the existing combinatorial models for KR crystals are type-specific; most of them correspond to the classical types, and are based on diagram fillings, i.e., on tableau models [FOS09]. As far as the energy function is concerned, in the quantum alcove model it is computed uniformly and

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efficiently by a statistic called height [LNS⁺13b], whereas an efficient computation based on the tableau models is only available in types A and C [LS13].

In this paper we enhance the quantum alcove model by using it to give a uniform realization of the combinatorial R -matrix. The construction is based on certain combinatorial moves called *quantum Yang-Baxter moves*, which generalize their alcove model versions defined in [Len07]. These moves are explicitly described in all Lie types by reduction to the rank 2 root systems. Note that, as far as existing realizations of the combinatorial R -matrix are concerned, they are limited in scope and type-specific. For instance, in terms of the tableau models, there is a construction in type A based on Schützenberger’s *jeu de taquin* (sliding algorithm) on two columns [Ful97], whereas the extensions of this procedure to types B and C are involved and not transparent, see [Lec02, Lec03]. By contrast, our construction is easy to formulate, and is related to more general concepts.

We also show that, like the alcove model, its quantum generalization does not depend on the choice of a sequence of roots called a λ -chain (or, equivalently, on the choice of a sequence of alcoves joining the fundamental one to a translation of it). Note that the similar statement for the Littelmann path model was proved in [Lit95] based on subtle continuous arguments, whereas the alcove model and its quantum generalization have the advantage of being discrete, so they are amenable to the use of the combinatorial methods mentioned above.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1. Root systems. Let \mathfrak{g} be a complex simple Lie algebra, and \mathfrak{h} a Cartan subalgebra, whose rank is r . Let $\Phi \subset \mathfrak{h}^*$ be the corresponding irreducible *root system*, $\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{R}}^* \subset \mathfrak{h}$ the real span of the roots, and $\Phi^+ \subset \Phi$ the set of positive roots. Let $\Phi^- := \Phi \setminus \Phi^+$. For $\alpha \in \Phi$, we say that $\alpha > 0$ if $\alpha \in \Phi^+$, and $\alpha < 0$ if $\alpha \in \Phi^-$. The sign of the root α , denoted $\text{sgn}(\alpha)$, is defined to be 1 if $\alpha \in \Phi^+$, and -1 otherwise. Let $|\alpha| = \text{sgn}(\alpha)\alpha$. Let $\rho := \frac{1}{2}(\sum_{\alpha \in \Phi^+} \alpha)$. We denote, as usual, the reflection corresponding to the root α by s_{α} . Let $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r \in \Phi^+$ be the *simple roots*, and $s_i := s_{\alpha_i}$ the corresponding simple reflections; the latter generate the *Weyl group* W . We denote $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ the non-degenerate scalar product on $\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{R}}^*$ induced by the Killing form. Given a root α , we consider the corresponding *coroot* $\alpha^{\vee} := 2\alpha/\langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle$. If $\alpha = \sum_i c_i \alpha_i$, then the *height* of α , denoted by $\text{ht}(\alpha)$, is given by $\text{ht}(\alpha) := \sum_i c_i$. We denote by $\tilde{\alpha}$ the highest root in Φ^+ ; we let $\theta = \alpha_0 := -\tilde{\alpha}$ and $s_0 := s_{\tilde{\alpha}}$.

The *weight lattice* Λ is given by

$$(1) \quad \Lambda := \{ \lambda \in \mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{R}}^* : \langle \lambda, \alpha^{\vee} \rangle \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ for any } \alpha \in \Phi \}.$$

The weight lattice Λ is generated by the *fundamental weights* $\omega_1, \dots, \omega_r$, which form the dual basis to the basis of simple coroots, i.e., $\langle \omega_i, \alpha_j^{\vee} \rangle = \delta_{ij}$. The set Λ^+ of *dominant weights* is given by

$$(2) \quad \Lambda^+ := \{ \lambda \in \Lambda : \langle \lambda, \alpha^{\vee} \rangle \geq 0 \text{ for any } \alpha \in \Phi^+ \}.$$

Given $\alpha \in \Phi$ and $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, we denote by $s_{\alpha, k}$ the reflection in the affine hyperplane

$$(3) \quad H_{\alpha, k} := \{ \lambda \in \mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{R}}^* : \langle \lambda, \alpha^{\vee} \rangle = k \}.$$

These reflections generate the *affine Weyl group* W_{aff} for the *dual root system* $\Phi^{\vee} := \{ \alpha^{\vee} \mid \alpha \in \Phi \}$. The hyperplanes $H_{\alpha, k}$ divide the real vector space $\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{R}}^*$ into open regions, called *alcoves*. The *fundamental alcove* A_{\circ} is given by

$$(4) \quad A_{\circ} := \{ \lambda \in \mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{R}}^* \mid 0 < \langle \lambda, \alpha^{\vee} \rangle < 1 \text{ for all } \alpha \in \Phi^+ \}.$$

2.2. Weyl groups. Let W be the Weyl group of the root system Φ discussed above. The length function on W is denoted by $\ell(\cdot)$. The *Bruhat order* on W is defined by its covers $w \triangleleft ws_{\alpha}$, for $\alpha \in \Phi^+$, if $\ell(ws_{\alpha}) = \ell(w) + 1$. Define

$$(5) \quad w \triangleleft ws_{\alpha}, \text{ for } \alpha \in \Phi^+, \text{ if } \ell(ws_{\alpha}) = \ell(w) - 2\text{ht}(\alpha^{\vee}) + 1.$$

The *quantum Bruhat graph* [FW04] is the directed graph on W with edges labeled by positive roots

$$(6) \quad w \xrightarrow{\alpha} ws_{\alpha} \quad \text{for } w \triangleleft ws_{\alpha} \text{ or } w \triangleleft ws_{\alpha}.$$

We denote this graph by $\text{QB}(W)$.

We recall an important topological property of $\text{QB}(W)$, called *shellability*, which was proved in [BFP99]. This is defined with respect to a *reflection ordering* on the positive roots [D93].

Theorem 2.1. [BFP99] *Fix a reflection ordering on Φ^+ .*

- (1) *For any pair of elements $v, w \in W$, there is a unique path from v to w in the quantum Bruhat graph $\text{QB}(W)$ such that its sequence of edge labels is strictly increasing (resp., decreasing) with respect to the reflection ordering.*
- (2) *The path in (1) has the smallest possible length and is lexicographically minimal (resp., maximal) among all shortest paths from v to w .*

2.3. Kirillov-Reshetikhin (KR) crystals. Given a symmetrizable Kac-Moody algebra \mathfrak{g} , a \mathfrak{g} -*crystal* is a non-empty set B together with maps $e_i, f_i : B \rightarrow B \cup \{\mathbf{0}\}$ for $i \in I$ (where I indexes the simple roots corresponding to \mathfrak{g} , as usual, and $\mathbf{0} \notin B$), and $\text{wt} : B \rightarrow \Lambda$. We require $b' = f_i(b)$ if and only if $b = e_i(b')$, and $\text{wt}(f_i(b)) = \text{wt}(b) - \alpha_i$. The maps e_i and f_i are called *crystal operators* and are represented as arrows $b \rightarrow b' = f_i(b)$ colored i ; thus they endow B with the structure of a colored directed graph. For $b \in B$, we set $\varepsilon_i(b) := \max\{k \mid e_i^k(b) \neq \mathbf{0}\}$, and $\varphi_i(b) := \max\{k \mid f_i^k(b) \neq \mathbf{0}\}$. Given two \mathfrak{g} -crystals B_1 and B_2 , we define their tensor product $B_1 \otimes B_2$ as follows. As a set, $B_1 \otimes B_2$ is the Cartesian product of the two sets. For $b = b_1 \otimes b_2 \in B_1 \otimes B_2$, the weight function is simply $\text{wt}(b) := \text{wt}(b_1) + \text{wt}(b_2)$. The crystal operators are given by

$$(7) \quad f_i(b_1 \otimes b_2) := \begin{cases} f_i(b_1) \otimes b_2 & \text{if } \varepsilon_i(b_1) \geq \varphi_i(b_2) \\ b_1 \otimes f_i(b_2) & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

and similarly for e_i . The *highest weight crystal* $B(\lambda)$ of highest weight $\lambda \in \Lambda^+$ is a certain crystal with a unique element u_λ such that $e_i(u_\lambda) = \mathbf{0}$ for all $i \in I$ and $\text{wt}(u_\lambda) = \lambda$. It encodes the structure of the crystal basis of the $U_q(\mathfrak{g})$ -irreducible representation with highest weight λ as q goes to 0.

A *Kirillov-Reshetikhin (KR) crystal* [KR90] is a finite crystal $B^{r,s}$ for an affine algebra, labeled by a rectangle of height r and width s , where $r \in I \setminus \{0\}$ and s is any positive integer. We refer, throughout, to the untwisted affine types $A_{n-1}^{(1)} - G_2^{(1)}$, and only consider column shape KR crystals $B^{r,1}$.

As an example, consider the KR crystal $B^{r,1}$ of type $A_{n-1}^{(1)}$ with $r \in \{1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$, for which we have a simple tableau model. As a classical type A_{n-1} crystal, $B^{r,1}$ is isomorphic to the corresponding crystal $B(\omega_r)$. Recall that an element $b \in B(\omega_r)$ is represented by a strictly increasing filling of a height r column, with entries in $[n] := \{1, \dots, n\}$. There is a simple construction of the crystal operators on a tensor product of (column shape) KR crystals of type $A_{n-1}^{(1)}$, which is based on (7).

We refer again to (column shape) KR crystals of arbitrary (untwisted) type. Let $\lambda = (\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots)$ be a partition, and λ' the conjugate partition. We define $B^{\otimes \lambda} := \bigotimes_{i=1}^{\lambda_1} B^{\lambda'_i, 1}$. More generally, given a composition $\mathbf{p} = (p_1, \dots, p_k)$, we define $B^{\otimes \mathbf{p}} := \bigotimes_{i=1}^k B^{p_i, 1}$. (In both cases, we assume that the corresponding column shape KR crystals exist.) We denote such a tensor product generically by B .

Remarks 2.2. (1) It is known that B is connected as an affine crystal, but disconnected as a classical crystal (i.e., with the 0-arrows removed).

(2) Let \mathbf{p}' be a composition obtained from \mathbf{p} by permuting its parts. There is an affine crystal isomorphism between $B^{\otimes \mathbf{p}}$ and $B^{\otimes \mathbf{p}'}$, which is unique by the previous remark. This isomorphism is called the *combinatorial R -matrix*.

We need to distinguish certain arrows in B , which are related to affine Demazure crystals, as we shall explain.

Definition 2.3. An arrow $b \rightarrow f_i(b)$ in B is called a *Demazure arrow* if $i \neq 0$, or $i = 0$ and $\varepsilon_0(b) \geq 1$. An arrow $b \rightarrow f_i(b)$ in B is called a *dual Demazure arrow* if $i \neq 0$, or $i = 0$ and $\varphi_i(b) \geq 2$.

Remarks 2.4. (1) By Fourier-Littelmann [FL06], in simply-laced types, the tensor product of KR crystals B is isomorphic, as a classical crystal (discard the affine 0-arrows) with a certain *Demazure crystal* for the corresponding affine algebra. (Demazure modules are submodules of highest weight ones determined by a Borel subalgebra acting on an extremal weight vector.) Moreover, by [FSS07], the 0-arrows in the latter correspond precisely to the Demazure arrows in B .

(2) In the case when all of the tensor factors in B are *perfect* crystals [HK00], B remains connected upon removal of the non-Demazure (resp. non-dual Demazure) 0-arrows.

(3) In classical types, $B^{k,1}$ is perfect as follows: in types $A_{n-1}^{(1)}$ and $D_n^{(1)}$ for all k , in type $B_n^{(1)}$ only for $k \neq n$, and in type $C_n^{(1)}$ only for $k = n$ (using the standard indexing of the Dynkin diagram); in other words, for all the Dynkin nodes in simply-laced types, and only for the nodes corresponding to the long roots in non-simply-laced types. It was conjectured in [HKO⁺99] that the same is true in the exceptional types. In type $G_2^{(1)}$ this was confirmed in [Yam98], while for types $E_{6,7,8}^{(1)}$ (except for two Dynkin nodes for type $E_8^{(1)}$) and $F_4^{(1)}$ it was checked by computer, based on a model closely related to the quantum alcove model, see Section 2.4 and [LNS⁺13b].

The *energy function* $D = D_B$ is a function from B to the integers, defined by summing the so-called local energies of all pairs of tensor factors [HKO⁺99]. We will only refer here to the so-called tail energy [LNS⁺13b], so we will not make this specification. (There are two conventions in defining the local energy of a pair of tensor factors: commuting the right one towards the head of the tensor product, or the left one towards the tail; the tail energy corresponds to the second choice.) We will only need the following property of the energy function, which exhibits it as an affine grading on B .

Theorem 2.5. [NS08, ST12] *The energy is preserved by the classical crystal operators f_i , i.e., $i \neq 0$. If $b \rightarrow f_0(b)$ is a dual Demazure arrow, then $D(f_0(b)) = D(b) - 1$.*

Remark 2.6. Theorem 2.5 shows that the energy is determined up to a constant on the connected components of the subgraph of the affine crystal B containing only the dual Demazure arrows. See also Remark 2.4 (2).

2.4. The quantum alcove model. In this section we recall the quantum alcove model, which is a model for KR crystals corresponding to a fixed untwisted affine Lie algebra $\widehat{\mathfrak{g}}$. This model is based on the combinatorics of the root system of the corresponding finite-dimensional Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} , so we use freely the notation in Section 2.1.

We say that two alcoves are *adjacent* if they are distinct and have a common wall. Given a pair of adjacent alcoves A and B , we write $A \xrightarrow{\beta} B$ if the common wall is of the form $H_{\beta,k}$ and the root $\beta \in \Phi$ points in the direction from A to B .

Definition 2.7. An *alcove path* is a sequence of alcoves (A_0, A_1, \dots, A_m) such that A_{j-1} and A_j are adjacent, for $j = 1, \dots, m$. We say that an alcove path is *reduced* if it has minimal length among all alcove paths from A_0 to A_m .

Let $A_\lambda = A_o + \lambda$ be the translation of the fundamental alcove A_o by the weight λ .

Definition 2.8. The sequence of roots $(\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_m)$ is called a λ -*chain* if

$$(8) \quad A_0 = A_o \xrightarrow{-\beta_1} A_1 \xrightarrow{-\beta_2} \dots \xrightarrow{-\beta_m} A_m = A_{-\lambda}$$

is a reduced alcove path.

We now fix a dominant weight λ and an alcove path $\Pi = (A_0, \dots, A_m)$ from $A_0 = A_\circ$ to $A_m = A_{-\lambda}$. Note that Π is determined by the corresponding λ -chain $\Gamma := (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_m)$, which consists of positive roots. A specific choice of a λ -chain, called a lex λ -chain and denoted Γ_{lex} , is given in [LP08][Proposition 4.2]; this choice depends on a total order on the simple roots. We let $r_i := s_{\beta_i}$, and let \widehat{r}_i be the affine reflection in the hyperplane containing the common face of A_{i-1} and A_i , for $i = 1, \dots, m$; in other words, $\widehat{r}_i := s_{\beta_{i, -l_i}}$, where $l_i := |\{j < i; \beta_j = \beta_i\}|$. We define $\widetilde{l}_i := \langle \lambda, \beta_i^\vee \rangle - l_i = |\{j \geq i; \beta_j = \beta_i\}|$.

Let $J = \{j_1 < j_2 < \dots < j_s\} \subseteq [m]$ and define $\Gamma(J) := (\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \dots, \gamma_m)$, where

$$(9) \quad \gamma_k := r_{j_1} r_{j_2} \dots r_{j_p}(\beta_k),$$

with j_p the largest folding position less than k . Then

$$(10) \quad H_{|\gamma_k|, -l_k^J} = \widehat{r}_{j_1} \widehat{r}_{j_2} \dots \widehat{r}_{j_p}(H_{\beta_k, -l_k}),$$

for some l_k^J , which is defined by this relation. Define $\gamma_\infty := r_{j_1} r_{j_2} \dots r_{j_s}(\rho)$.

The elements of J are called *folding positions*. Given $i \in J$, we say that i is a *positive folding position* if $\gamma_i > 0$, and a *negative folding position* if $\gamma_i < 0$. We denote the positive folding positions by J^+ , and the negative ones by J^- . We call

$$(11) \quad \mu = \mu(J) := -\widehat{r}_{j_1} \widehat{r}_{j_2} \dots \widehat{r}_{j_s}(-\lambda)$$

the *weight* of J . We define

$$(12) \quad \text{height}(J) := \sum_{j \in J^-} \widetilde{l}_j.$$

Definition 2.9. A subset $J = \{j_1 < j_2 < \dots < j_s\} \subseteq [m]$ (possibly empty) is *admissible* if we have the following path in $\text{QB}(W)$:

$$(13) \quad 1 \xrightarrow{\beta_{j_1}} r_{j_1} \xrightarrow{\beta_{j_2}} r_{j_1} r_{j_2} \xrightarrow{\beta_{j_3}} \dots \xrightarrow{\beta_{j_s}} r_{j_1} r_{j_2} \dots r_{j_s}.$$

We call $\Gamma(J)$ an *admissible folding*. We let $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma)$ be the collection of admissible subsets corresponding to the λ -chain Γ . When Γ is clear from the context, we may use the notation $\mathcal{A}(\lambda)$ instead.

Remark 2.10. If we restrict to admissible subsets for which the path (13) has no down steps, we recover the classical alcove model in [LP07, LP08].

Next we define combinatorial crystal operators f_p and e_p (where $p \in \{0, \dots, r\}$ indexes the simple roots corresponding to $\widehat{\mathfrak{g}}$) on $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma)$. Given $J \subseteq [m]$, not necessarily admissible, and $\alpha \in \Phi$, we will use the following notation:

$$(14) \quad I_\alpha = I_\alpha(J) := \{i \in [m] \mid \gamma_i = \pm \alpha\}, \quad \widehat{I}_\alpha = \widehat{I}_\alpha(J) := I_\alpha \cup \{\infty\},$$

and $l_\alpha^\infty := \langle \mu(J), \text{sgn}(\alpha)\alpha^\vee \rangle$. The following graphical representation of the heights l_i^J for $i \in I_\alpha$ and l_α^∞ is useful for defining the crystal operators. Let

$$\widehat{I}_\alpha = \{i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_n < i_{n+1} = \infty\} \quad \text{and} \quad \varepsilon_i := \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i \notin J \\ -1 & \text{if } i \in J \end{cases}.$$

If $\alpha > 0$, we define the continuous piecewise linear function $g_\alpha : [0, n + \frac{1}{2}] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$(15) \quad g_\alpha(0) = -\frac{1}{2}, \quad g'_\alpha(x) = \begin{cases} \text{sgn}(\gamma_{i_k}) & \text{if } x \in (k-1, k - \frac{1}{2}), k = 1, \dots, n \\ \varepsilon_{i_k} \text{sgn}(\gamma_{i_k}) & \text{if } x \in (k - \frac{1}{2}, k), k = 1, \dots, n \\ \text{sgn}(\langle \gamma_\infty, \alpha^\vee \rangle) & \text{if } x \in (n, n + \frac{1}{2}). \end{cases}$$

If $\alpha < 0$, we define g_α to be the graph obtained by reflecting $g_{-\alpha}$ in the x -axis. By [LP08], we have

$$(16) \quad \text{sgn}(\alpha)l_{i_k}^J = g_\alpha \left(k - \frac{1}{2} \right), k = 1, \dots, n, \text{ and } \text{sgn}(\alpha)l_\alpha^\infty := \langle \mu(J), \alpha^\vee \rangle = g_\alpha \left(n + \frac{1}{2} \right).$$

Example 2.11. Suppose $\alpha > 0$ and the sequence $\{(\gamma_i, \varepsilon_i)\}$ for $i \in I_\alpha$ is

$$(\alpha, -1), (-\alpha, 1), (\alpha, 1), (\alpha, 1), (\alpha, -1), (-\alpha, 1), (\alpha, -1), (\alpha, 1),$$

in this order; also assume that $\text{sgn}(\langle \gamma_\infty, \alpha^\vee \rangle) = 1$. The graph of g_α is shown in Figure 1.

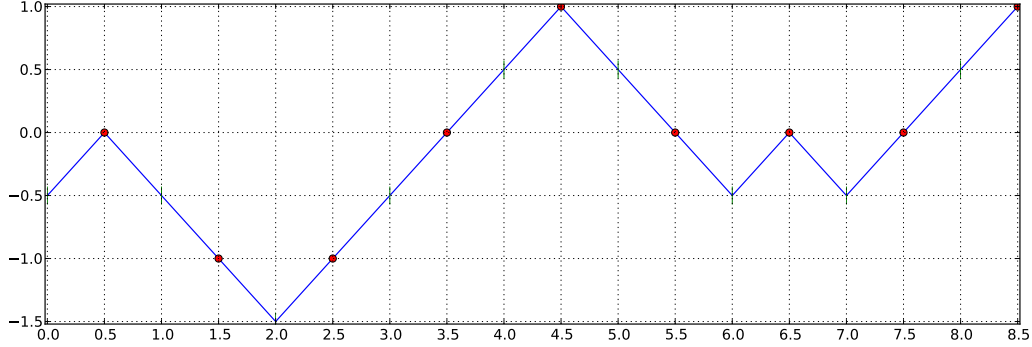


FIGURE 1

We now impose the additional requirement that $J \subset [m]$ be an admissible subset. Let $\delta_{i,j}$ be the Kronecker delta function. Fix p in $\{0, \dots, r\}$, so α_p is a simple root if $p > 0$, or θ if $p = 0$. Let M be the maximum of g_{α_p} . Let m be the minimum index i in \widehat{I}_{α_p} for which we have $\text{sgn}(\alpha_p)l_i^J = M$. It was proved in [LL11] that, if $M \geq \delta_{p,0}$, then either $m \in J$ or $m = \infty$; furthermore, if $M > \delta_{p,0}$, then m has a predecessor k in \widehat{I}_{α_p} , and we have $k \notin J$. We define

$$(17) \quad f_p(J) := \begin{cases} (J \setminus \{m\}) \cup \{k\} & \text{if } M > \delta_{p,0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Now we define e_p . Again let $M := \max g_{\alpha_p}$. Assuming that $M > \langle \mu(J), \alpha_p^\vee \rangle$, let k be the maximum index i in I_{α_p} for which we have $\text{sgn}(\alpha_p)l_i^J = M$, and let m be the successor of k in \widehat{I}_{α_p} . Assuming also that $M \geq \delta_{p,0}$, it was proved in [LL11] that $k \in J$, and either $m \notin J$ or $m = \infty$. Define

$$(18) \quad e_p(J) := \begin{cases} (J \setminus \{k\}) \cup \{m\} & \text{if } M > \langle \mu(J), \alpha_p^\vee \rangle \text{ and } M \geq \delta_{p,0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

In the above definitions, we use the convention that $J \setminus \{\infty\} = J \cup \{\infty\} = J$.

Theorem 2.12. [LL11]

- (1) If J is an admissible subset and if $f_p(J) \neq \mathbf{0}$, then $f_p(J)$ is also an admissible subset. Similarly for $e_p(J)$. Moreover, $f_p(J) = J'$ if and only if $e_p(J') = J$.
- (2) We have $\mu(f_p(J)) = \mu(J) - \alpha_p$. Moreover, if $M \geq \delta_{p,0}$, then

$$\varphi_p(J) = M - \delta_{p,0}, \quad \varepsilon_p(J) = M - \langle \mu(J), \alpha_p^\vee \rangle,$$

while otherwise $\varphi_p(J) = \varepsilon_p(J) = 0$.

Remark 2.13. Let $J = \{j_1 < \dots < j_s\}$ be an admissible subset, and $w_i := r_{j_1} r_{j_2} \dots r_{j_i}$. Let M, m, k be as in the above definition of $f_p(J)$, assuming $M > \delta_{p,0}$. Now assume that $m \neq \infty$, and let $a < b$ be such that

$$j_a < k < j_{a+1} < \dots < j_b = m < j_{b+1};$$

if $a = 0$ or $b + 1 > s$, then the corresponding indices j_a , respectively j_{b+1} , are missing. In the proof of Theorem 2.12 in [LL11], it was shown that f_p has the effect of changing the path in the quantum Bruhat graph

$$1 = w_0 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow w_a \rightarrow w_{a+1} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow w_{b-1} \rightarrow w_b \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow w_s$$

corresponding to J into the following path corresponding to $f_p(J)$:

$$1 = w_0 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow w_a \rightarrow s_p w_a \rightarrow s_p w_{a+1} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow s_p w_{b-1} = w_b \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow w_s.$$

The case $m = \infty$ is similar.

We summarize the results in [LNS⁺13b], cf. also [LNS⁺12, LNS⁺13a], related to the applications of the quantum alcove model.

Theorem 2.14. [LNS⁺13b] *Consider a composition $\mathbf{p} = (p_1, \dots, p_k)$ and the corresponding KR crystal $B := \bigotimes_{i=1}^k B^{p_i, 1}$. Let $\lambda := \omega_{p_1} + \dots + \omega_{p_k}$, and let Γ_{lex} be a corresponding lex λ -chain (see above).*

(1) *The (combinatorial) crystal $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma_{\text{lex}})$ is isomorphic to the subgraph of B consisting of the dual Demazure arrows, via a specific bijection which preserves the weights of the vertices.*

(2) *If the vertex b of B corresponds to J under the isomorphism in part (1), then the energy is given by $D_B(b) - C = -\text{height}(J)$, where C is a global constant.*

Remark 2.15. The isomorphism in Theorem 2.14 (1) is canonical, so we identify the two crystals.

2.5. Specializing the quantum alcove model to type A . We start with the basic facts about the root system of type A_{n-1} . We can identify the space $\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{R}}^*$ with the quotient $V := \mathbb{R}^n / \mathbb{R}(1, \dots, 1)$, where $\mathbb{R}(1, \dots, 1)$ denotes the subspace in \mathbb{R}^n spanned by the vector $(1, \dots, 1)$. Let $\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n \in V$ be the images of the coordinate vectors in \mathbb{R}^n . The root system is $\Phi = \{\alpha_{ij} := \varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_j : i \neq j, 1 \leq i, j \leq n\}$. The simple roots are $\alpha_i = \alpha_{i, i+1}$, for $i = 1, \dots, n-1$. The highest root $\tilde{\alpha} = \alpha_{1n}$. We let $\alpha_0 = \theta = \alpha_{n1}$. The weight lattice is $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}^n / \mathbb{Z}(1, \dots, 1)$. The fundamental weights are $\omega_i = \varepsilon_1 + \dots + \varepsilon_i$, for $i = 1, \dots, n-1$. A dominant weight $\lambda = \lambda_1 \varepsilon_1 + \dots + \lambda_{n-1} \varepsilon_{n-1}$ is identified with the partition $(\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_{n-1} \geq \lambda_n = 0)$ having at most $n-1$ parts. Note that $\rho = (n-1)\varepsilon_1 + (n-2)\varepsilon_2 + \dots + 1\varepsilon_{n-1}$. Considering the Young diagram of the dominant weight λ as a concatenation of columns, whose heights are $\lambda'_1, \lambda'_2, \dots$, corresponds to expressing λ as $\omega_{\lambda'_1} + \omega_{\lambda'_2} + \dots$ (as usual, λ' is the conjugate partition to λ).

The Weyl group W is the symmetric group S_n , which acts on V by permuting the coordinates $\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n$. Permutations $w \in S_n$ are written in one-line notation $w = w(1) \dots w(n)$. For simplicity, we use the same notation (i, j) with $1 \leq i < j \leq n$ for the root α_{ij} and the reflection $s_{\alpha_{ij}}$, which is the transposition t_{ij} of i and j .

We now consider the specialization of the alcove model to type A . For any $k = 1, \dots, n-1$, we have the following ω_k -chain, from A_{\circ} to $A_{-\omega_k}$, denoted by $\Gamma(k)$:

$$(19) \quad \begin{array}{ccccccc} ((k, k+1), & (k, k+2) & , \dots, & (k, n), \\ (k-1, k+1), & (k-1, k+2) & , \dots, & (k-1, n), \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ (1, k+1), & (1, k+2) & , \dots, & (1, n). \end{array}$$

Fix a dominant weight λ , for which we use the partition notation above. We construct a λ -chain $\Gamma = (\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_m)$ as the concatenation $\Gamma := \Gamma^1 \dots \Gamma^{\lambda_1}$, where $\Gamma^j = \Gamma(\lambda'_j)$. Let $J = \{j_1 < \dots < j_s\}$ be a set of folding positions in Γ , not necessarily admissible, and let T be the corresponding list of roots of Γ , also viewed as transpositions. The factorization of Γ induces a factorization on T as $T = T^1 T^2 \dots T^{\lambda_1}$. We denote by $T^1 \dots T^j$ the permutation obtained by composing the transpositions in T^1, \dots, T^j from left to right. For $w \in W$, written $w = w_1 w_2 \dots w_n$, let $w[i, j] = w_i \dots w_j$.

Definition 2.16. Let $\pi_j = \pi_j(T) := T^1 \dots T^j$. We define the *filling map*, which associates with each $J \subseteq [m]$ a filling of the Young diagram λ , by

$$(20) \quad \text{fill}(J) = \text{fill}(T) := C_1 \dots C_{\lambda_1}, \quad \text{where } C_i := \pi_i[1, \lambda'_i].$$

We define the *sorted filling map* $\text{sfill}(J)$ by sorting ascendingly the columns of $\text{fill}(J)$.

Theorem 2.17. [Len12, LL11] *The map sfill is the unique affine crystal isomorphism between $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma)$ and the subgraph of $B^{\otimes \lambda}$ consisting of the dual Demazure arrows. In other words, given $\text{sfill}(J) = b$, there is a dual Demazure arrow $b \rightarrow f_p(b)$ if and only if $f_p(J) \neq \mathbf{0}$, and we have $f_p(b) = \text{sfill}(f_p(J))$. The map sfill also preserves weights, and translates the height statistic into the Lascoux-Schützenberger charge statistic on fillings [LS79].*

There is a similar result in type C [Len12], [LS13], [LL11, Section 4.2].

3. THE MAIN RESULTS

In this section we realize the combinatorial R -matrix in terms of the quantum alcove model, and show that this model is independent of the choice of a λ -chain. We start with a preview of the main result. Let \mathbf{p} be the composition $\mathbf{p} = (p_1, \dots, p_k)$, and let $\mathbf{p}' = (p'_1, \dots, p'_k)$ be a permutation of \mathbf{p} . Let

$$(21) \quad \begin{aligned} B^{\otimes \mathbf{p}} &:= B^{p_1,1} \otimes \dots \otimes B^{p_k,1}, & B^{\otimes \mathbf{p}'} &:= B^{p'_1,1} \otimes \dots \otimes B^{p'_k,1} \\ \Gamma &:= \Gamma(p_1) \cdots \Gamma(p_k), & \Gamma' &:= \Gamma(p'_1) \cdots \Gamma(p'_k), \end{aligned}$$

where $\Gamma(i)$ is an ω_i -chain; thus, Γ and Γ' are λ -chains, where $\lambda := \omega_{p_1} + \dots + \omega_{p_k}$. We will show that $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma)$ and $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma')$ are models for the isomorphic affine crystals $B^{\otimes \mathbf{p}}$ and $B^{\otimes \mathbf{p}'}$. Thus, we want to realize the combinatorial R -matrix as an affine crystal isomorphism between $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma)$ and $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma')$.

Example 3.1. We illustrate the combinatorial R -matrix in type A_2 . Let $\mathbf{p} = (1, 2, 2, 1)$, $\mathbf{p}' = (1, 2, 1, 2)$, so $\lambda = (4, 2, 0)$. Then

$$B^{\otimes \mathbf{p}} = B^{1,1} \otimes B^{2,1} \otimes B^{2,1} \otimes B^{1,1} \simeq B^{1,1} \otimes B^{2,1} \otimes B^{1,1} \otimes B^{2,1} = B^{\otimes \mathbf{p}'}$$

We first note that in type A the combinatorial R -matrix can be realized by Schützenberger's jeu de taquin (sliding algorithm) on the last two columns, see [Ful97]. For example:

$$\begin{aligned} \boxed{3} \otimes \boxed{\frac{2}{3}} \otimes \boxed{\frac{1}{2}} \otimes \boxed{3} &= \boxed{3} \otimes \boxed{\frac{2}{3}} \otimes \boxed{\frac{1}{2} \ 3} \mapsto \boxed{3} \otimes \boxed{\frac{2}{3}} \otimes \boxed{\frac{1}{2} \ 3} \\ &\mapsto \boxed{3} \otimes \boxed{\frac{2}{3}} \otimes \boxed{\frac{1}{2} \ 3} = \boxed{3} \otimes \boxed{\frac{2}{3}} \otimes \boxed{2} \otimes \boxed{\frac{1}{3}}. \end{aligned}$$

We now demonstrate how to realize the combinatorial R -matrix in the quantum alcove model. Let Γ and Γ' be the λ -chains corresponding to \mathbf{p} and \mathbf{p}' :

$$(22) \quad \begin{aligned} \Gamma &= (\underline{(1, 2)}, \underline{(1, 3)} \mid (2, 3), (1, 3) \mid (2, 3), (1, 3) \mid \underline{(1, 2)}, \underline{(1, 3)}), \\ \Gamma' &= (\underline{(1, 2)}, \underline{(1, 3)} \mid \underline{(2, 3)}, (1, 3) \mid \underline{(1, 2)}, (1, 3) \mid \underline{(2, 3)}, \underline{(1, 3)}). \end{aligned}$$

In (22) we also showed (via the underlined positions in Γ and Γ') the choice of two admissible subsets, $J = \{1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8\}$ in $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma)$ and $J' = \{1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8\}$ in $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma')$. The details of our construction will be given in Section 3.1 (in particular, Example 3.3 is a continuation of the present one); for now, note that J will correspond to J' via our construction. Observe that

$$\text{sfill}(J) = \boxed{3} \otimes \boxed{\frac{2}{3}} \otimes \boxed{\frac{1}{2}} \otimes \boxed{3} \mapsto \boxed{3} \otimes \boxed{\frac{2}{3}} \otimes \boxed{2} \otimes \boxed{\frac{1}{3}} = \text{sfill}(J'),$$

so we recover the construction above in terms of jeu de taquin.

We construct a bijection between $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma)$ and $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma')$ by generalizing the construction in [Len07], which gives the bijection in the classical case, where admissible subsets correspond to saturated chains in Bruhat order. The bijection in [Len07] is constructed by applying a sequence of operations called *Yang-Baxter moves*.

3.1. Quantum Yang-Baxter moves. This section contains our main constructions. We use freely the notation related to the quantum alcove model in Section 2.4.

We start by recalling that there are only two reflection orderings on the positive roots corresponding to a dihedral Weyl group of order $2q$, that is, a Weyl group of type $A_1 \times A_1$, A_2 , C_2 , or G_2 (with $q = 2, 3, 4, 6$, respectively). Let $\bar{\Phi}$ be the corresponding root system with simple roots α, β . The two reflection orderings on $\bar{\Phi}^+$ are given by the sequence

$$(23) \quad \beta_1 := \alpha, \quad \beta_2 := s_\alpha(\beta), \quad \beta_3 := s_\alpha s_\beta(\alpha), \quad \dots, \quad \beta_{q-1} := s_\beta(\alpha), \quad \beta_q := \beta,$$

and its reverse.

Fix a dominant weight λ . Let us consider an index set

$$(24) \quad I := \{\bar{1} < \dots < \bar{t} < 1 < \dots < q < \overline{t+1} < \dots < \bar{n}\}.$$

Let $\Gamma = \{\beta_i\}_{i \in I}$ be a λ -chain, denote $r_i := s_{\beta_i}$ as before, and let $\Gamma' = \{\beta'_i\}_{i \in I}$ be the sequence of roots defined by

$$(25) \quad \beta'_i = \begin{cases} \beta_{q+1-i} & \text{if } i \in [q] \\ \beta_i & \text{if } i \in I \setminus [q]. \end{cases}$$

In other words, the sequence Γ' is obtained from the λ -chain Γ by reversing a certain segment. Now assume that $\{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_q\}$ are the positive roots (without repetition) of a rank two root subsystem $\bar{\Phi}$ of Φ . The corresponding dihedral reflection group is a subgroup of the Weyl group W .

Proposition 3.2. [Len07]

- (1) *The sequence Γ' is also a λ -chain, and the sequence $(\beta_1, \dots, \beta_q)$ is a reflection ordering of $\bar{\Phi}^+$.*
- (2) *We can obtain any λ -chain from any other λ -chain by moves of the form $\Gamma \rightarrow \Gamma'$.*

Let us now map the admissible subsets in $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma)$ to those in $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma')$. To this end, fix a reflection ordering of $\bar{\Phi}^+$ compatible with the above ordering $(\beta_1, \dots, \beta_q)$ of $\bar{\Phi}$; this clearly exists (take any reflection ordering of $\bar{\Phi}^+$, and reverse it if needed). Now fix an admissible subset $J = \{j_1 < \dots < j_s\}$ in $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma)$. Define $w(J) := r_{j_1} r_{j_2} \dots r_{j_s}$ and, by abusing notation, let

$$(26) \quad u := w(J \cap \{\bar{1}, \dots, \bar{t}\}), \quad \text{and} \quad w := w(J \cap (\{\bar{1}, \dots, \bar{t}\} \cup [q])).$$

Note that, by the definition of $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma)$, we have a path in $\text{QB}(W)$ from u to w with increasing edge labels $J \cap [q]$ (here we identify an edge label β_i with i , for $i \in [q]$). By the shellability property of $\text{QB}(W)$, that is, by Theorem 2.1 (1), there is another path in $\text{QB}(W)$ from u to w whose edge labels (in $\bar{\Phi}^+$) increase with respect to the reverse of the reflection ordering considered above. In fact, by the proof of Theorem 2.1 in [BFP99], these edge labels are also in $\bar{\Phi}^+$, since the edge labels of the first path had this property. (More precisely, we refer to the proof of [BFP99, Lemma 6.7], which proves Theorem 2.1 (2); here, the passage from an arbitrary path in $\text{QB}(W)$ to a lexicographically minimal/maximal one is realized by successively changing length 2 subpaths, while staying in the same dihedral reflection group.) Thus, by now identifying the label β'_i with i , we can view the edge labels of the new path as a subset of $[q]$, which we denote by $Y_{u,w}(J \cap [q])$.

It is clear that we have a bijection $Y : \mathcal{A}(\Gamma) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(\Gamma')$ given by

$$(27) \quad Y(J) := (J \setminus [q]) \cup Y_{u,w}(J \cap [q]).$$

We call the moves $J \mapsto Y(J)$ *quantum Yang-Baxter moves*. They generalize the Yang-Baxter moves in [Len07], which correspond to saturated chains in the Bruhat order (i.e., there are no down steps). The explicit description of the quantum Yang-Baxter moves is given in Section 5.

Example 3.3. We continue Example 3.1. In (22) Γ is obtained from Γ' by reversing the first three roots in the right half of Γ' . We will use the conventions of this section and (re)label this segment of Γ' by $(\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3)$. We have $u = s_1 s_2 s_1 = 321$, and $w = s_1 = 213$, in one line notation. In this case, we have $Y_{u,w}(\{1, 3\}) = \{2, 3\}$. See Figure 2a; note that this figure is with respect to the reflection ordering $(\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3)$. Hence $Y(\{1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8\}) = \{1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8\}$, where now the indexing corresponds to the entire λ -chain, cf. Example 3.1.

3.2. Properties of the quantum Yang-Baxter moves. In this section we study the main properties of the quantum Yang-Baxter moves, which are concerned with various quantities they preserve, as well as with their interaction with the crystal operators. We use the same notation as in Section 3.1.

We get started by noting that the quantum Yang-Baxter moves preserve the Weyl group element $w(\cdot)$ associated to an admissible subset, that is,

$$(28) \quad w(Y(J)) = w(J).$$

Indeed, a quantum Yang-Baxter move simply replaces a subpath of the path (13) in $\text{QB}(W)$ corresponding to J with another subpath, between the same elements (denoted u and w in (26)).

In order to prove the next two properties, we need two lemmas. Let $H_{\beta_i, -l_i}$, for $i = 1, \dots, q$, be the hyperplanes corresponding to the roots β_1, \dots, β_q in Γ , cf. the notation in Section 2.4.

Lemma 3.4. *Let $\beta_i^\vee = a\beta_1^\vee + b\beta_q^\vee$ with $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$. Then $l_i = al_1 + bl_q$.*

Proof. We proceed by induction on the height of β_i^\vee in $\overline{\Phi}$, i.e., on $a + b$. If $a + b = 1$, the statement is obvious, so we assume $a + b > 1$; in fact, this means that $a, b \geq 1$. We must have $\langle \beta_i, \beta_1^\vee \rangle > 0$ or $\langle \beta_i, \beta_q^\vee \rangle > 0$, because otherwise the contradiction $2 = \langle \beta_i, \beta_i^\vee \rangle \leq 0$ would follow. Without loss of generality, assume that $c := \langle \beta_1, \beta_i^\vee \rangle > 0$. Then we have

$$s_{\beta_1}(\beta_i^\vee) = \beta_i^\vee - c\beta_1^\vee = (a - c)\beta_1^\vee + b\beta_q^\vee.$$

Since $b \geq 1$, we must have $a - c \geq 0$. So $s_{\beta_1}(\beta_i^\vee)$ is some positive coroot β_j^\vee in $\overline{\Phi}^\vee$ of smaller height than β_i^\vee . By induction, we have

$$(29) \quad l_j = (a - c)l_1 + bl_q.$$

On another hand, by using the fact that $\beta_i^\vee = \beta_j^\vee + c\beta_1^\vee$, and by applying [LP08][Propositions 4.4 and 10.2], we deduce

$$(30) \quad l_i = l_j + cl_1.$$

The induction step is completed by combining (29) and (30). □

We easily derive another lemma.

Lemma 3.5. *The intersection of affine hyperplanes $\bigcap_{i=1}^q H_{\beta_i, -l_i}$ has codimension 2, and coincides with $H_{\beta_1, -l_1} \cap H_{\beta_q, -l_q}$.*

Proof. Consider an element μ in $H_{\beta_1, -l_1} \cap H_{\beta_q, -l_q}$, which has codimension 2. By Lemma 3.4, and using the related notation, we have

$$\langle \mu, \beta_i^\vee \rangle = a\langle \mu, \beta_1^\vee \rangle + b\langle \mu, \beta_q^\vee \rangle = -al_1 - bl_q = -l_i,$$

so μ also lies on the hyperplane $H_{\beta_i, -l_i}$. □

We can now prove the following property of the quantum Yang-Baxter moves. Let \widehat{r}_i , for $i = 1, \dots, q$, be the affine reflections in the hyperplanes $H_{\beta_i, -l_i}$, cf. the notation in Section 2.4. Let $\widehat{r}'_i := \widehat{r}_{q+1-i}$ and $r'_i := s_{\beta'_i} = s_{\beta_{q+1-i}}$, cf. (25).

Proposition 3.6. *The quantum Yang-Baxter moves preserve the associated weight (defined in (11)), i.e.*

$$(31) \quad \mu(J) = \mu(Y(J)),$$

where the left hand side is computed with respect to Γ , and the right hand side is computed with respect to Γ' .

Proof. Let $J \cap [q] = \{j_1 < \dots < j_s\}$ and $Y(J) \cap [q] = \{j'_1 < \dots < j'_s\}$. Then, by picking μ in $\bigcap_{i=1}^q H_{\beta_i, -l_i}$, cf. Lemma 3.5, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{r}_{j_1} \dots \widehat{r}_{j_s}(\nu) &= \widehat{r}_{j_1} \dots \widehat{r}_{j_s}(\mu + (\nu - \mu)) \\ &= \mu + r_{j_1} \dots r_{j_s}(\nu - \mu) \\ &= \mu + r'_{j'_1} \dots r'_{j'_s}(\nu - \mu) \\ &= \widehat{r}'_{j'_1} \dots \widehat{r}'_{j'_s}(\nu). \end{aligned}$$

Here the second and last equalities follow from the fact that $\widehat{r}_i(x+y) = \widehat{r}_i(x) + r(y)$ and the choice of μ , while the third one is based on the definition of a quantum Yang-Baxter move. Now (31) follows directly from the definition of $\mu(J)$. \square

Another property of the quantum Yang-Baxter moves is the following.

Proposition 3.7. *The quantum Yang-Baxter moves preserve the height statistic (defined in (12)), i.e.*

$$(32) \quad \text{height}(J) = \text{height}(Y(J)),$$

where the left hand side is computed with respect to Γ , and the right hand side is computed with respect to Γ' .

Proof. The classical Yang-Baxter moves involve no down steps, so the corresponding height statistic is 0, and (32) is immediate. Now assume that the down steps in $J \cap [q]$ are in positions $k_1 < \dots < k_r$, and those in $Y(J) \cap [q]$ in positions $k'_1 < \dots < k'_t$ (note that r is not necessarily equal to t). By [Pos05, Lemma 1 (2)], we have

$$(33) \quad \beta_{k_1}^\vee + \dots + \beta_{k_r}^\vee = \beta_{q+1-k'_1}^\vee + \dots + \beta_{q+1-k'_t}^\vee;$$

here we need the fact that the paths between u and w in $\text{QB}(W)$ corresponding to J and $Y(J)$ are shortest ones, by Theorem 2.1 (2). In fact, by examining the explicit form of the quantum Yang-Baxter moves in Section 5, we can see that $r, t \leq 2$, although this is not needed here.

Using the fact that $J \setminus [q] = Y(J) \setminus [q]$, and also the equality between the inner products of the two sides of (33) with λ , it suffices to prove that

$$(34) \quad l_{k_1} + \dots + l_{k_r} = l_{q+1-k'_1} + \dots + l_{q+1-k'_t},$$

cf. the definition of $\text{height}(J)$. By expressing each root β_i^\vee in (33) as $a_i \beta_1^\vee + b_i \beta_q^\vee$ (with $a_i, b_i \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$), and by using (33), we derive

$$a_{k_1} + \dots + a_{k_r} = a_{q+1-k'_1} + \dots + a_{q+1-k'_t}, \quad b_{k_1} + \dots + b_{k_r} = b_{q+1-k'_1} + \dots + b_{q+1-k'_t}.$$

The formula (34) now follows by using Lemma 3.4 to express $l_i = a_i l_1 + b_i l_q$. \square

The following theorem will be proved Section 4. Note that Proposition 3.6 and Theorem 3.8 generalize the similar results in [Len07] for the classical Yang-Baxter moves.

Theorem 3.8. *The crystal operators commute with the quantum Yang-Baxter moves, that is, f_p is defined on an admissible subset J if and only if it is defined on $Y(J)$, and we have*

$$Y(f_p(J)) = f_p(Y(J)).$$

3.3. Corollaries and conjectures. In this section we state some corollaries of the results in the previous section which are, in fact, the main results of the paper. We also discuss possible strengthenings of these results.

Theorem 3.8, Proposition 3.6, and Proposition 3.7 immediately imply the following corollary (cf. also Proposition 3.2), which essentially says that the quantum alcove model is independent of the choice of a λ -chain.

Corollary 3.9. *Given two λ -chains Γ and Γ' , there is an affine crystal isomorphism between $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma)$ and $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma')$ which preserves the weights and heights of the vertices. This isomorphism is realized as a composition of quantum Yang-Baxter moves.*

By composing the explicit bijection between a tensor product of (column shape) KR crystals $B^{\otimes \mathbf{p}}$ and $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma_{\text{lex}})$ in Theorem 2.14 with an affine crystal isomorphism between $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma_{\text{lex}})$ and $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma)$ realized by quantum Yang-Baxter moves (where Γ is an arbitrary λ -chain, see Corollary 3.9), we obtain the following strengthening of Theorem 2.14.

Corollary 3.10. *Theorem 2.14 holds for any choice of a λ -chain (instead of a lex λ -chain), based on the bijection mentioned above.*

Remark 3.11. There are several ways to connect two λ -chains Γ to Γ' via the moves in Proposition 3.2. A priori, the corresponding compositions of quantum Yang-Baxter moves give different affine crystal isomorphisms between $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma)$ and $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma')$ in Corollary 3.9. Therefore, in Corollary 3.10 we have a collection of a priori different affine crystal isomorphisms between $B^{\otimes \mathbf{p}}$ and $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma)$, for a fixed λ -chain Γ . All this is due to the fact that $B^{\otimes \mathbf{p}}$ is not necessarily connected under the dual Demazure arrows, cf. Remark 2.2 (1) and Remark 2.4 (2). However, we make the following conjecture.

Conjecture 3.12. *All the affine crystal isomorphisms between $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma)$ and $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma')$ in Corollary 3.9 are identical. The same is true about the isomorphisms between $B^{\otimes \mathbf{p}}$ and $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma)$ in Corollary 3.10.*

In order to prove this conjecture, we need $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma)$ to be connected (see Remark 3.11). So we need to realize the non-dual Demazure 0-arrows in the quantum alcove model (in addition to the dual Demazure arrows), and prove the corresponding strengthening of Theorem 3.8. Note that the non-dual Demazure 0-arrows are realized in [LNS⁺13b] in an analogous model, namely the *quantum LS-path model*. Thus, the challenge is to translate this construction into the setup of the quantum alcove model, via the bijection in [LNS⁺13b] between the two mentioned models. The new construction will be considerably more involved than the one in (17) for the dual Demazure arrows, cf. [LL11][Example 4.9].

Remark 3.13. If all the tensor factors in $B^{\otimes \mathbf{p}}$ are perfect crystals, then there is a unique affine crystal isomorphism between $B^{\otimes \mathbf{p}}$ and $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma)$, by Remark 2.4 (2). Conjecture 3.12 then follows.

Now let \mathbf{p} be a composition and \mathbf{p}' a permutation of it. Recall the corresponding λ -chains Γ and Γ' constructed in (21). By Corollary 3.10, we have affine crystal isomorphisms between $B^{\otimes \mathbf{p}}$ and $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma)$, as well as between $B^{\otimes \mathbf{p}'}$ and $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma')$. Also recall from Remark 2.2 (2) that there is a unique affine crystal isomorphism $B^{\otimes \mathbf{p}} \cong B^{\otimes \mathbf{p}'}$, namely the combinatorial R -matrix. The uniqueness property in Remark 3.13 leads to the following result.

Corollary 3.14. *Suppose that all the tensor factors in $B^{\otimes \mathbf{p}}$ are perfect crystals. Then the quantum Yang-Baxter moves realize the combinatorial R -matrix as an affine crystal isomorphism between $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma)$ and $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma')$, in the sense mentioned above.*

Remarks 3.15. (1) If the strengthening of Theorem 3.8 corresponding to the non-dual Demazure 0-arrows (see above) is proved, then Corollary 3.14 holds in full generality, not just in the perfect case.

(2) In Examples 3.1 and 3.3, we showed how we can specialize our type-independent construction of the combinatorial R -matrix to the tableau model in type A ; the specialization amounts to permuting strictly increasing columns, which can also be done using Schützenberger’s jeu de taquin (sliding algorithm) on two columns [Ful97]. The crucial ingredient for the specialization is the affine crystal isomorphism from the quantum alcove model to the tableau model which was described in Section 2.5. A similar isomorphism to the corresponding tableau model, based on Kashiwara-Nakashima (KN) columns [KN94], was constructed in type C in [Len12, LL11], and one is being developed in type B in [BL]. These maps can also be used to specialize our construction to the corresponding tableau models, i.e., to permute KN columns. Note that the corresponding extensions of the sliding algorithm are involved and not transparent, see [Lec02, Lec03].

4. PROOF OF THEOREM 3.8

In Section 4.1 we present a geometric interpretation of the quantum alcove model, as well as some additional related results, all of which are needed in the proof of Theorem 3.8. In Section 4.2 we derive several lemmas, after which we complete the proof in Section 4.3.

4.1. Revisiting the quantum alcove model. In this section we use freely the notation from Section 2.4 (as opposed to the one in Section 3.1). We fix an admissible subset $J = \{j_1 < \dots < j_s\}$ in $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma)$, and recall the corresponding roots γ_i defined in (9), which form the sequence $\Gamma(J)$. Fix also an index p for a crystal operator, between 0 and the rank of the root system Φ . We will need the following lemma from [LL11].

Lemma 4.1. [LL11] *Assume that $r_{j_a} \dots r_{j_1}(\alpha_p) > 0$ and $r_{j_b} \dots r_{j_1}(\alpha_p) < 0$, for $0 \leq a < b$ (if $a = 0$, then the first condition is void). Then there exists i with $a < i \leq b$ such that $\gamma_{j_i} = \alpha_p$.*

We will present a simpler encoding of (the graph of) the piecewise-linear function g_{α_p} , on which the construction of $f_p(J)$ is based. Recall that the positions of the roots $\pm\alpha_p$ in the sequence $\Gamma(J)$ are recorded in the sequence $I_{\alpha_p}(J)$, see (14). We associate with each pair $(\gamma_i, \varepsilon_i)$ for $i \in I_{\alpha_p}(J)$ a letter in the alphabet $A = \{+, -, \pm, \mp\}$ as follows:

$$(35) \quad (\alpha_p, 1) \mapsto +, (-\alpha_p, 1) \mapsto -, (\alpha_p, -1) \mapsto \pm, (-\alpha_p, -1) \mapsto \mp.$$

We also represent $\text{sgn}(\langle \gamma_\infty, \alpha_p^\vee \rangle)$ by its sign. In this way, we can encode g_{α_p} by a word in the alphabet A , which will be denoted by S_p .

Example 4.2. The above encoding can be applied to any root α . For instance, we can encode g_α in Figure 1 by the word $\pm - + + \pm - \pm + +$.

Lemma 4.3. [LL11] *In the word S_p associated to g_{α_p} , a non-terminal symbol from the set $\{+, \mp\}$ must be followed by a symbol from the set $\{+, \pm\}$.*

We will now present a geometric realization of the admissible subset J , and discuss the related interpretation of the word S_p . The relevant structure, called a *gallery* (cf. [GL05]), is a sequence

$$(36) \quad \Pi = (F_0, A_0, F_1, A_1, F_2, \dots, F_m, A_m, F_{m+1})$$

such that A_0, \dots, A_m are alcoves; F_j is a codimension one common face of the alcoves A_{j-1} and A_j , for $j = 1, \dots, m$; F_0 is a vertex of the first alcove A_0 ; and F_{m+1} is a vertex of the last alcove A_m . Furthermore, we require that $F_0 = \{0\}$, $A_0 = A_\circ$, and $F_{m+1} = \{\mu\}$ for some weight μ , which is called the weight of the gallery. The folding operator ϕ_j is the operator which acts on a gallery

by leaving its initial segment from A_0 to A_{j-1} intact, and by reflecting the remaining tail in the affine hyperplane containing the face F_j . In other words, we define

$$\phi_j(\Pi) := (F_0, A_0, F_1, A_1, \dots, A_{j-1}, F'_j = F_j, A'_j, F'_{j+1}, A'_{j+1}, \dots, A'_m, F'_{m+1}),$$

where $F_j \subset H_{\alpha, k}$, $A'_i := s_{\alpha, k}(A_i)$, and $F'_i := s_{\alpha, k}(F_i)$, for $i = j, \dots, m+1$.

Our fixed alcove path (8) determines an obvious gallery $\Pi(\emptyset)$ of weight $-\lambda$. Given the fixed admissible subset J , we define the gallery $\Pi(J)$ as $\phi_{j_1} \cdots \phi_{j_s}(\Pi(\emptyset))$. We denote $\Pi(J)$ as in (36). We can easily detect the folding positions in J based on the gallery $\Pi(J)$: given $i \in [m]$, we have $i \in J$ (so $\varepsilon_i = -1$) if and only if $A_{i-1} = A_i$. By definition, the root γ_i in $\Gamma(J)$ is orthogonal to the hyperplane containing the face F_i . Moreover, if $i \notin J$, then γ_i points in the direction from A_i to A_{i-1} ; otherwise, it points in the direction from the face F_i towards $A_{i-1} = A_i$.

We conclude this section by interpreting the signs in S_p . We need to consider the positive side of an *oriented* affine hyperplane $\vec{H}_{\alpha, k}$, which is the same as the negative side of $\vec{H}_{-\alpha, -k}$, and which consists of all μ with $\langle \mu, \alpha^\vee \rangle > k$. Fix i in $I_{\alpha_p}(J)$, so $(\gamma_i, \varepsilon_i) = (\pm\alpha_p, \pm 1)$. Based on the above discussion, we have the following cases related to the position of the alcoves A_{i-1} and A_i in $\Pi(J)$ with respect to the oriented hyperplane $\vec{H}_{\alpha_p, -\text{sgn}(\alpha_p)l_i^J}$, cf. (10) and (35):

- if $(\gamma_i, \varepsilon_i) = (\alpha_p, 1) \mapsto +$, then A_{i-1} is on the positive side, and A_i on the negative one;
- if $(\gamma_i, \varepsilon_i) = (-\alpha_p, 1) \mapsto -$, then A_{i-1} is on the negative side, and A_i on the positive one;
- if $(\gamma_i, \varepsilon_i) = (\alpha_p, -1) \mapsto \pm$, then $A_{i-1} = A_i$ are on the positive side;
- if $(\gamma_i, \varepsilon_i) = (-\alpha_p, -1) \mapsto \mp$, then $A_{i-1} = A_i$ are on the negative side.

4.2. Lemmas. We continue using the above setup, except that now the indexing set I for the λ -chain is the one defined in (24); we also use the rest of the notation in Section 3.1.

We start by observing that, by Lemma 3.5, the reflections in the affine hyperplanes

$$(37) \quad H_{\beta_i, -l_i}, \quad \text{for } i \in [q].$$

are the reflections of a rank 2 root system. We will use this fact implicitly below.

As above, J is a fixed admissible subset in $\mathcal{A}(\Gamma)$, and p is an index for a crystal operator. Denoting, as usual, $\hat{r}_i := s_{\beta_i, -l_i}$ for any $i \in I$, we let $\hat{w}(J) := \hat{r}_{j_1} \cdots \hat{r}_{j_s}$; then, by abusing notation, we set

$$(38) \quad \hat{u} := \hat{w}(J \cap \{\bar{1}, \dots, \bar{t}\}), \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{w} := \hat{w}(J \cap (\{\bar{1}, \dots, \bar{t}\} \cup [q])),$$

cf. (26). Now consider the images of the affine hyperplanes in (37) under \hat{u} , namely

$$(39) \quad \hat{u}(H_{\beta_i, -l_i}) = H_{u(\beta_i), m_i}, \quad \text{for } i \in [q].$$

The roots $\{\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_q\}$ form a subset of $\{\pm u(\beta_1), \dots, \pm u(\beta_q)\}$, because $\{\pm\beta_1, \dots, \pm\beta_q\}$ is invariant under the corresponding reflections.

Assuming that $u(\beta_k) = \pm\alpha_p$ for some $k \in [q]$, which is unique, we will refer to the following hyperplane in (39), with the appropriate orientation:

$$(40) \quad \vec{H} := \vec{H}_{\alpha_p, \text{sgn}(u^{-1}(\alpha_p))m_k}.$$

Note that, by Lemma 3.5, if the set $I_{\alpha_p}(J) \cap [q]$ is non-empty, then for any i in this set we have $\vec{H} = \vec{H}_{\alpha_p, -\text{sgn}(\alpha_p)l_i^J}$; in particular, the heights l_i^J corresponding to the root α_p are identical in the “[q]-window” given by the indices $1, \dots, q$ in the set I .

We continue to use the notation (36) for the gallery $\Pi(J)$, except that now the indexing set I is the one in (24); more precisely, we write

$$\Pi(J) = (\{0\}, A_0, F_{\bar{1}}, A_{\bar{1}}, F_{\bar{2}}, \dots, F_{\bar{t}}, A_{\bar{t}}, F_1, A_1, F_2, \dots, F_q, A_q, F_{\bar{t+1}}, \dots, F_{\bar{n}}, A_{\bar{n}}, \{-\mu(J)\}).$$

We use a similar notation for $\Pi(\emptyset)$, namely we denote its alcoves and their corresponding faces by A_i^\emptyset and F_i^\emptyset , for $i \in I$.

Lemma 4.4. *Assuming that $u(\beta_k) = \pm\alpha_p$ for some $k \in [q]$, we have:*

- (1) $u^{-1}(\alpha_p) > 0$ if and only if $A_{\bar{i}}$ is on the positive side of \vec{H} ;
- (2) $w^{-1}(\alpha_p) < 0$ if and only if A_q is on the positive side of \vec{H} .

Proof. Note first that $A_{\bar{i}}^\emptyset$ is on the positive side of all hyperplanes in (37), more precisely of $\vec{H}_{\beta_i, -l_i}$, whereas A_q^\emptyset is on the negative side. Clearly, $A_{\bar{i}}^\emptyset$ is on the same side with respect to $\vec{H}_{\beta_k, -l_k}$ as $A_{\bar{i}} = \widehat{u}(A_{\bar{i}}^\emptyset)$ is with respect to $\vec{H}_{u(\beta_k), m_k}$. So $A_{\bar{i}}$ is on the side of \vec{H} of sign $\text{sgn}(u^{-1}(\alpha_p))$.

For the second part, let $v := w(J \cap [q])$ and $\widehat{v} := \widehat{w}(J \cap [q])$, cf. (26) and (38), so we have $w = uv$ and $\widehat{w} = \widehat{u}\widehat{v}$. First note that, since A_q^\emptyset is on the negative side of $\vec{H}_{\beta_k, -l_k}$, the alcove $\widehat{v}(A_q^\emptyset)$ is on the side of the same hyperplane of sign $-\text{sgn}(v^{-1}(\beta_k))$; here we used the straightforward fact that, if μ is on the positive side of $\vec{H}_{\alpha, 0}$ and x is a Weyl group element, then $x(\mu)$ is on the side of the same hyperplane of sign $\text{sgn}(x^{-1}(\alpha))$. Then, by the same reasoning as in the proof of the first part, we deduce that $A_q = \widehat{w}(A_q^\emptyset) = \widehat{u}(\widehat{v}(A_q^\emptyset))$ is on the side of \vec{H} of sign

$$-\text{sgn}(v^{-1}(\beta_k)) \cdot \text{sgn}(u^{-1}(\alpha_p)) = -\text{sgn}(v^{-1}(u^{-1}(\alpha_p))) = -\text{sgn}(w^{-1}(\alpha_p));$$

here the first equality follows from the hypothesis, since $u^{-1}(\alpha_p) = \text{sgn}(u^{-1}(\alpha_p))\beta_k$. This concludes the proof. \square

Now recall from Section 4.1 the word S_p in the alphabet $\{+, -, \pm, \mp\}$ encoding the function g_{α_p} , and from Section 2.4 the way in which this function is used to construct $f_p(J)$. We will see that the subword \overline{S}_p of S_p which corresponds to the $[q]$ -window can have only the following forms:

- (a) $\pm \dots \pm$, with at least one symbol \pm
- (b) $\pm \dots \pm +$
- (c) $- \pm \dots \pm$
- (d) $- \pm \dots \pm +$
- (e) \mp
- (f) empty word,

where in cases (b)–(d) the string $\pm \dots \pm$ can be empty.

Using Lemma 4.4, we now give easy criteria for these cases based on the Weyl group elements u and w corresponding to J .

Lemma 4.5. *The following hold.*

- (1) If $\alpha_p \notin \{\pm u(\beta_1), \dots, \pm u(\beta_q)\}$, then we are in case (f).
- (2) If $\alpha_p \in \{\pm u(\beta_1), \dots, \pm u(\beta_q)\}$, $u^{-1}(\alpha_p) < 0$, and $w^{-1}(\alpha_p) < 0$, then we are in case (c).
- (3) If $\alpha_p \in \{\pm u(\beta_1), \dots, \pm u(\beta_q)\}$, $u^{-1}(\alpha_p) < 0$, and $w^{-1}(\alpha_p) > 0$, then we are in cases (d)–(f).
- (4) If $\alpha_p \in \{\pm u(\beta_1), \dots, \pm u(\beta_q)\}$, $u^{-1}(\alpha_p) > 0$, and $w^{-1}(\alpha_p) < 0$, then we are in case (a).
- (5) If $\alpha_p \in \{\pm u(\beta_1), \dots, \pm u(\beta_q)\}$, $u^{-1}(\alpha_p) > 0$, and $w^{-1}(\alpha_p) > 0$, then we are in case (b).

Proof. We will use implicitly some facts discussed in Section 4.1 and earlier in this section.

Part (1) is clear, as we noted at the beginning of this section that $\{\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_q\}$ is a subset of $\{\pm u(\beta_1), \dots, \pm u(\beta_q)\}$, so if the latter set does not contain α_p , then $I_{\alpha_p}(J) \cap [q]$ is empty.

From now on we assume that $\alpha_p \in \{\pm u(\beta_1), \dots, \pm u(\beta_q)\}$. Recall the oriented hyperplane \vec{H} defined in (40), and the fact that its non-oriented version H is the unique hyperplane orthogonal to α_p which can contain the faces F_1, \dots, F_q of the gallery $\Pi(J)$.

If $u^{-1}(\alpha_p) < 0$, then $A_{\bar{i}}$ is on the negative side of \vec{H} , by Lemma 4.4 (1). If $I_{\alpha_p}(J) \cap [q]$ is non-empty, so we are not in case (f), it follows that the first face F_i , with $i \in [q]$, which can be contained in \vec{H} gives as first symbol of \overline{S}_p either \mp or $-$. In the case of \mp , by Lemma 4.3, a potential second symbol could only be $+$ or \pm , which would correspond to a hyperplane orthogonal to α_p different

from H ; as this is impossible, we are in case (e). By a completely similar reasoning, if \overline{S}_p starts with $-$, then we are in cases (c) or (d). To conclude, if $u^{-1}(\alpha_p) < 0$, then we are in one of the cases (c)–(f).

If $w^{-1}(\alpha_p) < 0$, then A_q is on the positive side of \overrightarrow{H} , by Lemma 4.4 (2). So cases (d)–(f) are ruled out, which means that we are in case (c). Similarly, if $w^{-1}(\alpha_p) > 0$, then we are in one of the cases (d)–(f).

From now assume that $u^{-1}(\alpha_p) > 0$, so $A_{\bar{t}}$ is on the positive side of \overrightarrow{H} , by Lemma 4.4 (1). Like above, it follows that, if \overline{S}_p is non-empty, then its first symbol is \pm or $+$. Also like above, based on Lemma 4.3 and on the uniqueness property of the hyperplane H which was also used above, we then deduce that the only possible cases are (a), (b), or (f).

If $w^{-1}(\alpha_p) < 0$, then A_q is on the positive side of \overrightarrow{H} , by Lemma 4.4 (2), so case (b) is ruled out. Now Lemma 4.1 applies, so we deduce that $I_{\alpha_p}(J) \cap [q]$ is non-empty, which means that case (f) is ruled out. Thus, we are in case (a). Similarly, if $w^{-1}(\alpha_p) > 0$, then we are in case (b); note that, in this situation, $I_{\alpha_p}(J) \cap [q] \neq \emptyset$ is obvious, as $A_{\bar{t}}$ and A_q are on opposite sides of \overrightarrow{H} . \square

We also need to identify the concrete way in which the crystal operator f_p acts on the admissible subset J , more precisely, with respect to the $[q]$ -window.

Lemma 4.6. *The effect of f_p on the $[q]$ -window is as follows.*

- (1) *In cases (c)–(f), the crystal operator f_p does not interact with the $[q]$ -window.*
- (2) *In case (a), if there is interaction, then f_p removes an element of $[q]$ from J .*
- (3) *In case (b), if there is interaction, then f_p adds an element of $[q]$ to J .*

Proof. As case (f) is trivial, we first justify part (1) in cases (c)–(e). In these cases, the symbol preceding \overline{S}_p in S_p must be $-$ or \pm (by Lemma 4.3), which means that the function g_{α_p} has a larger value before the $[q]$ -window than everywhere inside it. On the one hand, this implies that the index m in the definition (17) of f_p cannot be in the $[q]$ -window. On another hand, the only way in which the index k in the definition (17) of f_p can be in the $[q]$ -window is if we are in case (d), and the symbol following \overline{S}_p in S_p is \pm . But the local maximum of g_{α_p} corresponding to this symbol \pm cannot be the *first* occurrence of its maximum, due to the previous observation about values before the $[q]$ -window. So even in case (d) the index k cannot be in the $[q]$ -window.

In cases (a) and (b), the crystal operator f_p can both interact or not interact with the $[q]$ -window. Assuming that it does, let us analyze the concrete form of the interaction, based on its definition (17). In case (a), f_p is forced to remove the folding in the position corresponding to the first \pm in \overline{S}_p , and add a folding in some position $k \in \{\bar{1} < \dots < \bar{t}\}$, cf. (24). In case (b), f_p is forced to add a folding in the position corresponding to the trailing $+$ in \overline{S}_p and possibly remove a folding in some position $m \in \{\bar{t} + \bar{1} < \dots < \bar{n}\}$, cf. (24). \square

4.3. Completion of the proof of Theorem 3.8. At this point we have all the needed ingredients for the proof. We use the same notation as in Sections 4.1 and 4.2.

Proof of Theorem 3.8. Let $J' := Y(J)$. First observe that, by definition, J and J' have the same associated Weyl group elements u and w . Therefore, by Lemma 4.5, either cases (d)–(f) apply to both J and J' , or case (c) applies, or (a), or (b). Furthermore, the sequences of roots $\Gamma(J)$ and $\Gamma(J')$ are identical outside the $[q]$ -window, that is, for indices in $I \setminus [q]$. We conclude that the graphs of the functions g_{α_p} corresponding to J and J' are identical outside the $[q]$ -window, whereas inside it they differ by an exchange of patterns in cases (d)–(f), or in case (c), or (a), or (b). In fact, if we are in cases (a) or (b), then either f_p interacts with the $[q]$ -window for both J and J' , or for none of them; we call the corresponding cases (a1), respectively (a2), and (b1), respectively (b2).

Let us denote the Weyl group elements u and w associated to $f_p(J)$ and $f_p(J')$ by \tilde{u} and \tilde{w} , respectively \tilde{u}' and \tilde{w}' . We also recall recall the total order (24), as well as the elements k and m

in the definition (17) of f_p . By Lemma 4.6, $f_p(J)$ is defined if and only if $f_p(J')$ is, and we have the following possibilities (assuming $f_p(J) \neq \mathbf{0} \neq f_p(J')$).

- If we are in one of the cases (c)–(f), or (a2), or (b2), then the pair k, m is the same for J and J' , and $k, m \in I \setminus [q]$. Most of the time we have $m \leq \bar{t}$ or $k \geq \overline{t+1}$, so $\tilde{u} = \tilde{u}' = u$ and $\tilde{w} = \tilde{w}' = w$. However, in case (f) we can also have $k \leq \bar{t}$ and $m \geq \overline{t+1}$; then, by Remark 2.13, we have $\tilde{u} = \tilde{u}' = s_p u$ and $\tilde{w} = \tilde{w}' = s_p w$.
- In case (a1) the element k is the same for J and J' , and $k \leq \bar{t}$. Moreover, f_p removes an element from $J \cap [q]$ and one from $J' \cap [q]$. By Remark 2.13, we have $\tilde{u} = \tilde{u}' = s_p u$ and $\tilde{w} = \tilde{w}' = w$.
- In case (b1) the element m is the same for J and J' , and $m \geq \overline{t+1}$. Moreover, f_p adds an element to $J \cap [q]$ and one to $J' \cap [q]$. By Remark 2.13, we have $\tilde{u} = \tilde{u}' = u$ and $\tilde{w} = \tilde{w}' = s_p w$.

We conclude that in all cases we have

$$\tilde{u} = \tilde{u}', \quad \tilde{w} = \tilde{w}', \quad f_p(J) \setminus [q] = f_p(J') \setminus [q].$$

By definition, it follows that $Y(f_p(J)) = f_p(J')$. □

5. EXPLICIT DESCRIPTION OF THE QUANTUM YANG-BAXTER MOVES

We will now give a type by type description of the quantum Yang-Baxter moves, after recalling that the classical ones were described in [Len07]. We use freely the setup in Section 3.1. The mentioned description is given in terms of the dihedral reflection group corresponding to the root system $\bar{\Phi}$, which is a subgroup of the Weyl group W (with root system Φ). We denote this subgroup by \bar{W} .

5.1. Dihedral subgroups of Weyl groups. For more information on the subgroup \bar{W} of W we refer to [Shi93]. For instance, we can easily describe all such subgroups (i.e., subsystems $\bar{\Phi}$) not of type $A_1 \times A_1$ for the classical root systems and the one of type G_2 , as follows.

- In all types A_{n-1} , B_n , C_n , and D_n , we have the type A_2 subsystems with simple roots $\{\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_j, \varepsilon_j - \varepsilon_k\}$, where $1 \leq i < j < k \leq n$.
- In types B_n , C_n , and D_n , we have the type A_2 subsystems with simple roots $\{\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_j, \varepsilon_j + \varepsilon_k\}$, where $1 \leq i < j < k \leq n$, or $1 \leq i < k < j \leq n$, or $1 \leq k < i < j \leq n$.
- In type C_n , we have the type C_2 subsystems with simple roots $\{\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_j, 2\varepsilon_j\}$, where $1 \leq i < j \leq n$; similarly for type B_n .
- In type G_2 , we have only the two obvious (strict) subsystems of type A_2 .

In types E and F , the number of subsystems not of type $A_1 \times A_1$ (of all possible types) is indicated in the table below.

Type of Φ	$\bar{\Phi}$ of type A_2	$\bar{\Phi}$ of type B_2/C_2
E_6	120	–
E_7	336	–
E_8	1120	–
F_4	32	18

In order to complete the description of our setup, we need a result from [BFP99]. Given $w \in W$, consider the partial order on the coset $w\bar{W}$ generated by the relations of the Bruhat order on W corresponding to this coset (i.e., $u < us_\alpha$ for $u \in w\bar{W}$, $\alpha \in \bar{\Phi}$, and $\ell(us_\alpha) > \ell(u)$). Note that this order is, in general, different from the partial order induced from the Bruhat order on W . With this clarification, we make a slight correction in the statement of [BFP99][Lemma 5.1].

Proposition 5.1. [BFP99] *The Bruhat order on \overline{W} (viewed as a dihedral reflection group) is isomorphic to the partial order on $w\overline{W}$ generated by the relations of the Bruhat order on W corresponding to this coset. More precisely, $w\overline{W}$ has a unique minimal element $[w]$, and the map $\overline{w} \mapsto [w]\overline{w}$ is an isomorphism of posets \overline{W} and $w\overline{W} = [w]\overline{W}$.*

Remarks 5.2. (1) As opposed to the case of parabolic subgroups, the factorization $w = [w]\overline{w}$ is not length additive.

(2) The last statement of Proposition 5.1 can be rephrased as: for any $\alpha \in \overline{\Phi}^+$, we have $\ell(\overline{w}) < \ell(\overline{w}s_\alpha)$ if and only if $\ell([w]\overline{w}) < \ell([w]\overline{w}s_\alpha)$.

We now state a version of Proposition 5.1 for the quantum Bruhat graph; the corresponding structures on \overline{W} and $w\overline{W}$ are no longer isomorphic, but a weaker version of the above statement holds. This result allows us to reduce any Yang-Baxter move to the ones corresponding to rank two quantum Bruhat graphs, which will be then explicitly given. The proof is postponed to Section 5.3.

Theorem 5.3. *Under the bijection $\overline{w} \mapsto [w]\overline{w}$ between \overline{W} and a coset $w\overline{W}$, every edge of the graph on $w\overline{W}$ induced from $\text{QB}(W)$ corresponds to an edge of $\text{QB}(\overline{W})$. In other words, $w \xrightarrow{\alpha} ws_\alpha$ in $\text{QB}(W)$ with $\alpha \in \overline{\Phi}^+$ implies $\overline{w} \xrightarrow{\alpha} \overline{w}s_\alpha$ in $\text{QB}(\overline{W})$.*

5.2. Yang-Baxter moves for rank 2 quantum Bruhat graphs. By Theorem 5.3, the map $Y_{u,w}$ used to define the quantum Yang-Baxter moves in (27) depends only on \overline{u} and \overline{w} , so we will denote it by $Y_{\overline{u},\overline{w}}$. Hence it suffices to focus on the quantum Bruhat graphs for the dihedral Weyl groups. The ones of type A_2 , C_2 , and G_2 are shown in Figure 2, where the edge labels correspond to the reflection ordering (23), and $s_1 := s_{\beta_1}$, $s_2 := s_{\beta_4}$. The graph of type B_2 is identical with the one of type C_2 if we set $\beta_1 = \varepsilon_2$ (short root, like in type C_2), $\beta_4 = \varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2$ (long root), and $s_1 := s_{\beta_1}$, $s_2 := s_{\beta_4}$, as above. We implicitly use these conventions below.

Let us now recall from [Len07] the explicit description of the classical Yang-Baxter moves, i.e., of the map $J \rightarrow Y_{\overline{u},\overline{w}}(J)$ on subsets of $[q]$, for $\overline{u} < \overline{w}$ in \overline{W} . Recall that J and $Y_{\overline{u},\overline{w}}(J)$ correspond to saturated chains in Bruhat order from \overline{u} to \overline{w} , whose edge labels increase, resp. decrease, with respect to the reflection ordering (23); in fact, as explained in Section 3.1, an index i in J corresponds to the root/edge label β_i , whereas an index i in $Y_{\overline{u},\overline{w}}(J)$ corresponds to the root $\beta'_i := \beta_{q+1-i}$, cf. (25). The classical moves can be described in a uniform way (i.e., for all types), and only in terms of $a := \ell(\overline{u})$ and $b := \ell(\overline{w})$, as shown in Figure 3.

The non-classical quantum Yang-Baxter moves $J \rightarrow Y_{\overline{u},\overline{w}}(J)$ are listed in Figure 4, by the corresponding starting vertex \overline{u} . The top and bottom rows are the sequences J and $Y_{\overline{u},\overline{w}}(J)$, respectively, while we also have to consider the reverse moves $Y_{\overline{u},\overline{w}}(J) \rightarrow J$; the mentioned sequences correspond to paths in $\text{QB}(\overline{W})$, as explained in Section 3.1 (see also the convention related to the edge labels, which was recalled above, in connection to the classical moves). The symbol $*$ is used to indicate the down edges in $\text{QB}(\overline{W})$.

5.3. The proof of Theorem 5.3. We start with an alternative description to (5) of down edges $w \triangleleft w_\alpha$ in the quantum Bruhat graph, which uses the notion of a *quantum root*. This is a root $\alpha \in \Phi^+$ such that $\ell(s_\alpha) = 2\text{ht}(\alpha^\vee) - 1$; the definition is motivated by [BFP99, Lemma 4.3], which states that any root $\alpha \in \Phi^+$ satisfies $\ell(s_\alpha) \leq 2\text{ht}(\alpha^\vee) - 1$. Based on this concept, we can replace the condition in (5) with the following one:

$$(41) \quad \ell(ws_\alpha) = \ell(w) - \ell(s_\alpha) \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha \text{ is a quantum root.}$$

A characterization of quantum roots is given below.

Lemma 5.4. [BMO11] *$\alpha \in \Phi^+$ is a quantum root if and only if*

- (1) α is a long root, or
- (2) α is a short root, and writing $\alpha = \sum_i c_i \alpha_i$, we have $c_i = 0$ for all i such that α_i is long.

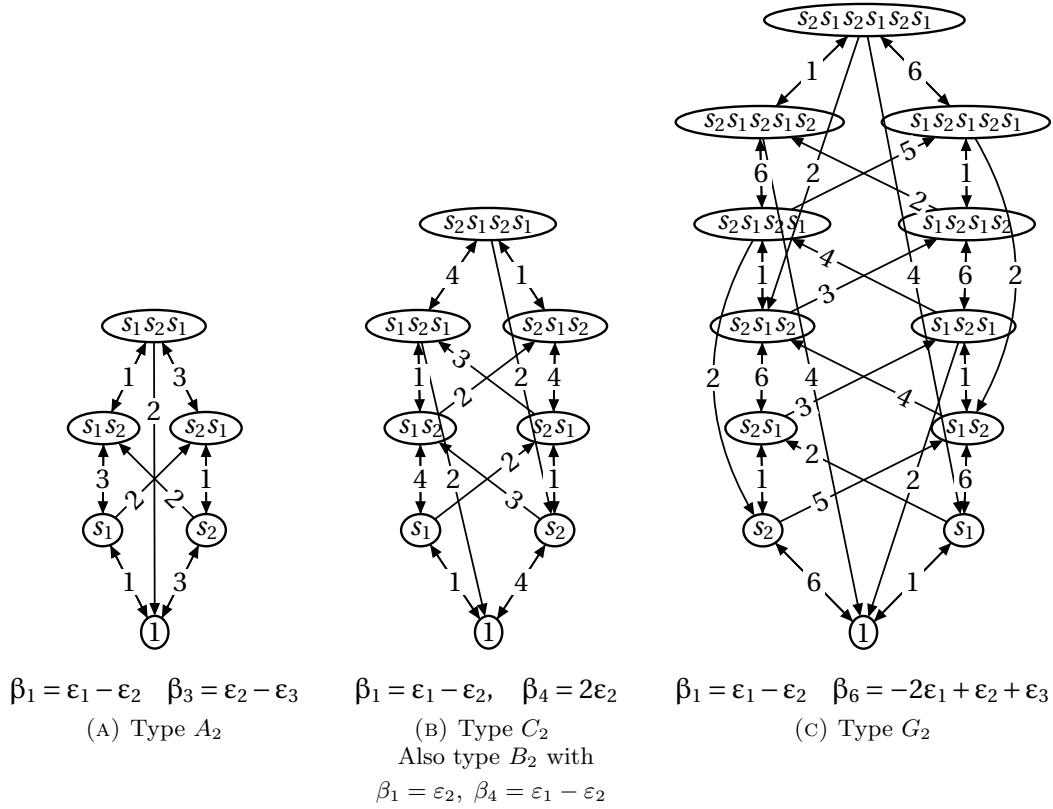


FIGURE 2. Quantum Bruhat graphs.

- Case 0:** $\emptyset \leftrightarrow \emptyset$ if $a = b$.
- Case 1.1:** $\{1\} \leftrightarrow \{q\}$ if $0 \leq a = b - 1 \leq q - 1$.
- Case 1.2:** $\{q - a\} \leftrightarrow \{a + 1\}$ if $0 < a = b - 1 < q - 1$.
- Case 2.1:** $\{1, a + 2, a + 3, \dots, b\} \leftrightarrow \{a + 1, a + 2, \dots, b - 1, q\}$ if $0 \leq a < a + 2 \leq b < q$.
- Case 2.2:** $\{1, a + 2, a + 3, \dots, b - 1, q\} \leftrightarrow \{a + 1, a + 2, \dots, b\}$ if $0 < a < a + 2 \leq b \leq q$.
- Case 3:** $[q] \leftrightarrow [q]$ if $a = 0$ and $b = q$.

FIGURE 3. The classical Yang-Baxter moves.

Here for simply-laced root systems we consider all roots to be long.

Proof of Theorem 5.3. For u in W , let $\Phi(u) := \{\beta > 0 : u(\beta) < 0\}$, so $\ell(u) = |\Phi(u)|$. Similarly, letting $\bar{\Phi}(\bar{u}) := \Phi(\bar{u}) \cap \bar{\Phi}$ for $\bar{u} \in \bar{W}$, the length function $\bar{\ell}(\cdot)$ of \bar{W} (as a dihedral reflection group) is given by $\bar{\ell}(\bar{u}) = |\bar{\Phi}(\bar{u})|$. Using the above notation, we will implicitly use the fact that, if $\alpha \in \bar{\Phi}$, then $\overline{us_\alpha} = \bar{u}s_\alpha$; indeed, we have

$$[u]\bar{u}s_\alpha = us_\alpha = [us_\alpha]\bar{u}s_\alpha = [u]\overline{us_\alpha}.$$

We will also implicitly use the well-known fact that, given $\alpha \in \Phi^+$, we have $u < us_\alpha$ if and only if $u(\alpha) > 0$.

For the remainder of the proof, fix $w \in W$ and $\alpha \in \bar{\Phi}^+$ such that $w < ws_\alpha$, so $w(\alpha) > 0$; this is not necessarily a Bruhat cover in W . By Proposition 5.1, we also have $\bar{w} < \bar{w}s_\alpha$.

Step 1. We start by constructing an injection $\iota : \Phi(w) \hookrightarrow \Phi(ws_\alpha)$, as follows:

$$(42) \quad \iota(\beta) := \begin{cases} s_\alpha(\beta) & \text{if } s_\alpha(\beta) > 0 \\ \beta & \text{if } s_\alpha(\beta) < 0. \end{cases}$$

This is likely a folklore result; we only found a partially related fact in the literature, namely [BB05][Chapter 1, Exercise 12].

We first check that $\iota(\beta)$ is in $\Phi(ws_\alpha)$. Indeed, in the first case we have $ws_\alpha(s_\alpha(\beta)) = w(\beta) < 0$, by assumptions. In the second case, we have

$$ws_\alpha(\beta) = w(\beta) - \langle \beta, \alpha^\vee \rangle w(\alpha),$$

where $w(\beta) < 0$ and $w(\alpha) > 0$, from assumptions; we conclude that $ws_\alpha(\beta) < 0$ by noting that $\langle \beta, \alpha^\vee \rangle > 0$, because otherwise $s_\alpha(\beta) = \beta - \langle \beta, \alpha^\vee \rangle \alpha$ is a positive root, contrary to the assumptions. Injectivity is checked by assuming that $s_\alpha(\beta) = \gamma$ with $s_\alpha(\gamma) < 0$, which implies that $s_\alpha(\gamma) = \beta > 0$, a contradiction.

Note that $\alpha \in \Phi(ws_\alpha) \setminus \iota(\Phi(w))$.

Step 2. It is not hard to show that, for any $u \in W$, we have

$$(43) \quad \overline{\Phi}(\overline{u}) = \Phi(u) \cap \overline{\Phi}.$$

Indeed, given $\beta \in \overline{\Phi}^+$, we have $\overline{u}(\beta) < 0$ if and only if $[u]\overline{u}(\beta) < 0$, by Proposition 5.1, cf. also Remark 5.2 (2).

It is also not hard to see that the map ι restricts to an injection $\overline{\Phi}(\overline{w}) \hookrightarrow \overline{\Phi}(\overline{ws_\alpha})$, as well as to an injection between the complements of the mentioned sets in $\Phi(w)$ and $\Phi(ws_\alpha)$, respectively. Indeed, based on the definition (42) and (43) for $u = w$ and $u = ws_\alpha$, we only need the obvious fact that $\beta \in \overline{\Phi}$ if and only if $s_\alpha(\beta) \in \overline{\Phi}$.

Step 3. Assume that $w \xrightarrow{\alpha} ws_\alpha$ is an edge in $\text{QB}(W)$, i.e., $\ell(ws_\alpha) = \ell(w) + 1$. By Step 1, the map ι is a bijection between $\Phi(w)$ and $\Phi(ws_\alpha) \setminus \{\alpha\}$. By Step 2, it restricts to a bijection between $\overline{\Phi}(\overline{w})$ and $\overline{\Phi}(\overline{ws_\alpha}) \setminus \{\alpha\}$. This implies that $\overline{\ell}(\overline{ws_\alpha}) = \overline{\ell}(\overline{w}) + 1$, so $\overline{w} \xrightarrow{\alpha} \overline{ws_\alpha}$ is an edge in $\text{QB}(\overline{W})$.

Step 4. Now assume that $ws_\alpha \xrightarrow{\alpha} w$ is an edge in $\text{QB}(W)$, i.e., $\ell(w) = \ell(ws_\alpha) - \ell(s_\alpha)$ and α is a quantum root in Φ . Showing that $\overline{ws_\alpha} \xrightarrow{\alpha} \overline{w}$ is an edge in $\text{QB}(\overline{W})$ amounts to checking that $\overline{\ell}(\overline{w}) = \overline{\ell}(\overline{ws_\alpha}) - \overline{\ell}(s_\alpha)$ and α is a quantum root in $\overline{\Phi}$.

Step 4.1. Letting $\Phi_\alpha(w) := \Phi(w) \setminus \Phi(s_\alpha)$, we first note that

$$(44) \quad \Phi(ws_\alpha) \setminus \iota(\Phi_\alpha(w)) \subseteq \Phi(s_\alpha),$$

cf. [BB05][Chapter 1, Exercise 12]. Indeed, if $\gamma \in \Phi(ws_\alpha)$ is not in $\Phi(s_\alpha)$, then $\beta := s_\alpha(\gamma) > 0$ is in $\Phi_\alpha(w)$ and $\iota(\beta) = \gamma$. It follows that the condition $\ell(w) = \ell(ws_\alpha) - \ell(s_\alpha)$ is equivalent to having equality in (44), that is,

$$\Phi(ws_\alpha) = \iota(\Phi(w)) \sqcup \Phi(s_\alpha),$$

cf. [BB05][Chapter 1, Exercise 13]; here \sqcup denotes disjoint union. Intersecting both sides with $\overline{\Phi}$ and using facts from Step 2, we obtain

$$\overline{\Phi}(\overline{ws_\alpha}) = \iota(\overline{\Phi}(\overline{w})) \sqcup \overline{\Phi}(s_\alpha).$$

As we have seen above, this is equivalent to $\overline{\ell}(\overline{w}) = \overline{\ell}(\overline{ws_\alpha}) - \overline{\ell}(s_\alpha)$.

Step 4.2. In order to check that the root α is a quantum root in $\overline{\Phi}$ (provided that it is a quantum root in $\Phi \supset \overline{\Phi}$), it suffices to consider $\overline{\Phi}$ of type B_2 . So $\overline{\Phi}^+ = \{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_1 + \alpha_2, 2\alpha_1 + \alpha_2\}$, where α_1 and α_2 are the short and long simple roots, respectively. The only non-quantum (short) root is $\alpha_1 + \alpha_2$, so it suffices to check that it cannot be a quantum root in Φ . This follows from the easily checked fact that, in any root system, the expansion (in terms of simple roots) of a long root must contain a long simple root; indeed, we apply this fact to α_2 to deduce that the expansion of $\alpha_1 + \alpha_2$ (in terms of the simple roots of Φ) must contain a long simple root. \square

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<u>Type C_2</u>	
<u>Type A_2</u>	s_1 {1*}, {1*, 4 } {4*}, {3 , 4*}
s_1 {1*}, {1*, 3 } {3*}, {2 , 3*}	$s_1 s_2$ {1 , 2*}, {4*}, {1 , 2*, 4 }, {2 , 4*} {1*, 4*}, {1*}, {1*, 3 , 4*}, {1*, 3 }
$s_1 s_2$ {1 , 2*}, {3*}, {1 , 2*, 3 }, {1 , 3*} {1*, 3*}, {1*}, {1*, 2 , 3*}, {1*, 2 }	$s_1 s_2 s_1$ {2*}, {1*, 4*}, {1*}, {2*, 4 }, {1*, 2 , 4*}, {1*, 2 } {3*}, {3*, 4 }, {4*}, {1 , 3*}, {1 , 3*, 4 }, {1 , 4*}
$s_1 s_2 s_1$ {2*}, {1*, 3*}, {1*}, {2*, 3 }, {3*} {2*}, {2*, 3 }, {3*}, {1*, 3*}, {1*}	s_2 {4*}, {3 , 4*} {1*}, {1*, 4 }
s_2 {3*}, {2 , 3*} {1*}, {1*, 3 }	$s_2 s_1$ {1*, 4*}, {1*, 3 , 4*}, {1*, 3 }, {1*} {2 , 3*}, {2 , 3*, 4 }, {2 , 4*}, {4*}
$s_2 s_1$ {1*, 3*}, {1*, 2 , 3*}, {1*, 2 }, {1*} {1 , 2*}, {1 , 2*, 3 }, {1 , 3*}, {3*}	$s_2 s_1 s_2$ {1 , 2*, 4*}, {1 , 2*, 3 , 4*}, {1 , 2*, 3 }, {1 , 4*}, {1 , 2*}, {4*} {1*, 2 , 3*}, {1*, 2 , 3*, 4 }, {1*, 2 , 4*}, {1*, 2 }, {1*, 4*}, {1*}
	$s_2 s_1 s_2 s_1$ {2*, 4*}, {2*, 3 , 4*}, {2*, 3 }, {4*}, {2*}, {1*, 4*}, {1*} {1*, 3*}, {1*, 3*, 4 }, {1*, 4*}, {1*}, {3*}, {3*, 4 }, {4*}
<u>Type G_2</u>	
s_1 {1*}, {1*, 6 } {6*}, {5 , 6*}	
$s_1 s_2$ {1 , 2*}, {6*}, {1 , 2*, 6 }, {4 , 6*} {1*, 6*}, {1*}, {1*, 5 , 6*}, {1*, 5 }	
$s_1 s_2 s_1$ {2*}, {1*, 6*}, {1*}, {2*, 6 }, {1*, 4 , 6*}, {1*, 4 } {5*}, {5*, 6 }, {6*}, {3 , 5*}, {3 , 5*, 6 }, {3 , 6*}	
$s_1 s_2 s_1 s_2$ {2 , 4*}, {1 , 2*, 6*}, {1 , 2*}, {6*}, {2 , 4*, 6 }, {1 , 2*, 4 , 6*}, {1 , 2*, 4 }, {2 , 6*} {1*, 5*}, {1*, 5*, 6 }, {1*, 6*}, {1*}, {1*, 3 , 5*}, {1*, 3 , 5*, 6 }, {1*, 3 , 6*}, {1*, 3 }	
$s_1 s_2 s_1 s_2 s_1$ {1*, 2 , 4*}, {2*, 6*}, {2*}, {1*, 6*}, {1*}, {1*, 2 , 4*, 6 }, {2*, 4 , 6*}, {2*, 4 }, {1*, 2 , 6*}, {1*, 2 } {1 , 3*, 6*}, {1 , 3*}, {5*}, {5*, 6 }, {6*}, {1 , 3*, 5 , 6*}, {1 , 3*, 5 }, {1 , 5*}, {1 , 5*, 6 }, {1 , 6*}	
s_2 {6*}, {5 , 6*} {1*}, {1*, 6 }	
$s_2 s_1$ {1*, 6*}, {1*, 5 , 6*}, {1*, 5 }, {1*} {4 , 5*}, {4 , 5*, 6 }, {4 , 6*}, {6*}	
$s_2 s_1 s_2$ {1 , 2*, 6*}, {1 , 2*, 5 , 6*}, {1 , 2*, 5 }, {3 , 6*}, {1 , 2*}, {6*} {1*, 4 , 5*}, {1*, 4 , 5*, 6 }, {1*, 4 , 6*}, {1*, 4 }, {1*, 6*}, {1*}	
$s_2 s_1 s_2 s_1$ {2*, 6*}, {2*, 5 , 6*}, {2*, 5 }, {1*, 3 , 6*}, {1*, 3 }, {2*}, {1*, 6*}, {1*} {1 , 3*}, {1 , 3*, 6 }, {2 , 5*}, {2 , 5*, 6 }, {2 , 6*}, {5*}, {5*, 6 }, {6*}	
$s_2 s_1 s_2 s_1 s_2$ {4*}, {1 , 4*}, {1 , 4*, 6 }, {1 , 2*, 3 , 6*}, {1 , 2*, 3 }, {1 , 6*}, {4*, 6 }, {1 , 2*, 6*}, {1 , 2*}, {6*} {3*}, {3*, 6 }, {1*, 2 , 5*}, {1*, 2 , 5*, 6 }, {1*, 2 , 6*}, {1*, 2 }, {1*, 5*}, {1*, 5*, 6 }, {1*, 6*}, {1*}	
$s_2 s_1 s_2 s_1 s_2 s_1$ {1*, 4*}, {4*}, {4*, 6 }, {2*, 3 , 6*}, {2*, 3 }, {6*}, {1*, 4*, 6 }, {2*, 6*}, {2*}, {1*, 6*}, {1*} {3*, 6*}, {3*}, {1*, 5*}, {1*, 5*, 6 }, {1*, 6*}, {1*}, {3*, 5 , 6*}, {3*, 5 }, {5*}, {5*, 6 }, {6*}	

FIGURE 4. The non-classical Yang-Baxter moves.