

8      Knowing the Bruhat order for  $(W, S)$  gives us in particular its graph of covering relations, and each of these covering relations corresponds to a single deletion and thus is an edge in the Bruhat graph. So our task is to reconstruct the edges  $(w, w')$  of the Bruhat graph with  $l(w') - l(w) > 1$ . Any Bruhat edge joins two comparable elements, so it's enough to look at each interval  $[w, w']$  in the Bruhat order and determine whether the edge  $(w, w')$  should exist. By induction we can assume we've already done so for all proper subintervals of  $[w, w']$ .

We claim that, for any Bruhat interval  $[w, w']$  with  $l(w') - l(w) = d$ , there are exactly  $d$  Bruhat edges from elements of this interval to  $w'$ . This will allow us to perform the reconstruction of the Bruhat graph: for each interval  $[w, w']$ , after having finished with its subintervals,  $w'$  will have either  $d - 1$  or  $d$  edges to it from within the interval; the edge  $(w, w')$  should be inserted if and only if there are  $d - 1$ .

So, toward proving the claim, first take some reduced word  $s_1 \dots s_{l(w')}$  for  $w'$ , so that it has a subword omitting only  $d$  letters  $s_{i_1}, \dots, s_{i_d}$  which is a reduced word for  $w$ . Omitting any single one of these letters  $s_{i_k}$  yields a word  $v$  with  $w \leq v \leq w'$  such that an edge  $(v, w')$  exists in the Bruhat graph. This provides  $d$  edges overall; it remains to show there are no more.

Suppose this didn't hold; let  $[w, w']$  be a counterexample with  $l(w')$  minimal. There is a minimal word  $s_1 \dots s_{l(w')} = w'$ , such that there are strictly more than  $d$  indices  $i$  such that deleting  $s_i$  from this word leaves a word  $v \geq w$  in the Bruhat order. Let  $I$  be the set of these indices.

Consider now the element  $w's$ , where  $s := s_{l(w')}$ ; this element satisfies  $w's < w$ . Given any  $i \in I \setminus \{l(w')\}$ , write  $w_i$  for the word obtained by deleting  $i$  from  $w'$ . This is a reduced word, and it ends in  $s$ , so  $w_i s < w_i$ .

Now, we have two cases, according to whether  $l(w') \in I$ , equivalently whether  $ws < w$  or  $ws > w$ . If  $ws > w$ , then the subword of  $s_1 \dots s_{l(w')}$  giving  $w$  omits  $s_{l(w')}$ , so that for any  $i \in I \setminus \{l(w')\}$ ,  $w_i s$  is still a superword of  $w$ . There are more than  $d - 1$  elements of  $I \setminus \{l(w')\}$ , and thus the interval  $[w's, w]$  of length  $d - 1$  constitutes a smaller counterexample. If instead  $ws < w$ , then for every  $i \in I$ , we have  $w_i s < ws$  by lifting, and there are more than  $d$  such indices  $i$ , so the interval  $[w's, ws]$  of length  $d$  is a smaller counterexample. In either case we have a contradiction.