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**John R Stembridge\*** (jrs@umich.edu). *A finiteness theorem for  $W$ -graphs*. Preliminary report.

Let  $W$  be a finite Coxeter group. A  $W$ -graph is a combinatorial structure that encodes a  $W$ -module, or more generally, a module for the associated Iwahori-Hecke algebra. Of special interest are the  $W$ -graphs that encode the action of the Hecke algebra on its Kazhdan-Lusztig basis, as well as the action on individual cells. Knowing the  $W$ -graph allows easy computation of the Kazhdan-Lusztig polynomials.

One may isolate a few elementary features common to the  $W$ -graphs in Kazhdan-Lusztig theory and use these to define a class of “admissible”  $W$ -graphs. In this talk, we will explain a surprisingly simple (but non-constructive) proof that there are only finitely many admissible  $W$ -cells (i.e., strongly connected  $W$ -graphs). (Received January 13, 2011)