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1 Coxeter complexes

Definition 1. Let (W, S) be a Coxeter system. Let $S' \subset S$. We define the *standard parabolic subgroup* $W_{S'}$ of W to be the subgroup generated by the subset S' . Then $(W_{S'}, S')$ is also a Coxeter group.

We can now define an abstract simplicial complex Σ by taking all the left cosets $xW_{S'}$ of all the standard parabolic subgroups, and defining a partial order on this set by reverse inclusion.

Why do we choose to order by reverse inclusion?

The vertex set of this simplicial complex corresponds to cosets of the maximal parabolic subgroups. These maximal parabolic subgroups are formed by taking a subset of S with one element removed. So these maximal parabolic subgroups are in bijection with the elements of S .

Definition 2. The maximal simplices in the simplicial complex are called *alcoves*, and the codimension-one faces are called *panels*.

We notes that there is a correspondence between between panels and vertices. This is because a vertex corresponds to $xW_{S \setminus \{s\}}$, whilst a panel corresponds to an element if the form $xW_{S \setminus \{s\}}$.

Definition 3. If a panel p corresponds to the element $xW_{S \setminus \{s\}}$, we say that p has *type* s , and write $\tau(p) = s$.

The we can consider W acting on this simplicial complex. We want to consider the set of elements of W which exactly fix a hyperplane in the simplicial complex. This subset is

$$R := \bigcup_{x \in W} xSx^{-1},$$

and the elements of this set are called reflections. Given an element $r \in R$, we denoted the hyperplane it fixes by H_r . Then the hyperplane H_r separates two alcoves if they are contained in different half-spaces defined by H_r .

Now let us consider a Euclidean (What actually is a Euclidean Coxeter group?) Coxeter system of type \tilde{X} . This group can be split into a semi-direct product of a spherical Weyl group W_0 and a translation group T which acts on Σ .

Definition 4. A vertex of Σ whose stabiliser in W is isomorphic to W_0 is called a *special vertex*.

Now when we have an irreducible Euclidean Coxeter system, Σ can be geometrically realised as a tiling of the Euclidean n -space, where $n = |S| - 1$. Now here, the group T is isomorphic to \mathbb{Z}^n . This correpsonds to the coroot lattice.

Now let us consider this geometric realisation of Σ , which we also call Σ . Then we fix a special vertex 0 , which we call the *origin* of Σ . We want to consider the set \mathcal{H}_v of all hyperplanes through a special vertex v which is in the orbit of 0 under T .

Definition 5. The *Weyl chambers* are the closures of the connected components of $\Sigma \setminus \bigcup_{H \in \mathcal{H}} H$.

Now the set of equivalence classes of parallel rays in Σ form what we call the *boundary sphere*, denoted by $\partial\Sigma$. This sphere inherits a tiling from the oirginal tiling of the Euclidean plane. To do this, we take, as the hyperplanes, the parallel classes of hyperplanes in Σ .

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2 Orientations

For this section, let (W, S) be any Coxeter system, and Σ be its associated Coxeter complex.

Definition 6. An *orientation* ϕ of Σ is a map from the set of pairs (p, c) , where p is a panel and c is an alcove containing p , to the set $\{+1, -1\}$. If $\phi(p, c) = +1$, then we say that c is on the ϕ -*positive side*, otherwise we say that c is on the ϕ -*negative side*.

Example 1. The trivial positive orientation is the map which sends all pairs to $+1$. Similarly, the trivial negative orientation is the map which sends all pairs to -1 .

Often, we do not want to have orientations which locally behave like trivial orientations. Hence, we define the following concept:

Definition 7. Given an orientation ϕ of Σ , we have

1. ϕ is *locally non-negative* if, for each panel, there is at least one alcove which is on the ϕ -positive side.
2. ϕ is *locally non-trivial* if, for every panel, there is exactly one alcove which is on the ϕ -positive side.

There is a natural action of W on the set of all possible orientations of Σ , induced by the action of W on the alcoves and panels. It is defined as

$$(x \cdot \phi)(p, c) := (x^{-1}p, x^{-1}c)$$

Definition 8. Given an orientation ϕ of Σ , we say that ϕ is *wall consistent* if, given any wall H , all pairs c, d of alcoves which lie in the same halfspace of H , with panels p and q respectively, we have that $\phi(p, c) = \phi(q, d)$. If our orientation is wall consistent, we can then define the *positive side* H^ϵ of H as the half-space such that all alcoves c in H^ϵ have $\phi(p, c) = +1$ for all panels of c . Then the *negative side* is defined similarly.

We want to look at several natural ways to orient a Coxeter complex. First, we will look at an orientation which is derived from either a choice of alcove, or a choice of panel. This orientation works for any Coxeter group.

Definition 9. Choose a fixed alcove c in Σ . Now given any alcove d , and panel p , we define their orientation as $\phi(p, d) = +1$ if and only if c and d lie in the same side of the wall which is spanned by p . We call this orientation the *alcove orientation towards c* .

Definition 10. Choose a fixed simplex b in Σ . Now given any alcove c , and panel p in c , we define their orientation as $\phi(q, c) = +1$ if and only if either c and b lie in the same side of the wall H containing p , or if b lies inside H . We call this orientation the *simplex orientation towards b* .

Example 2. Here we see two simplex orientations of an A_2 Coxeter complex. In this complex, the alcoves are edges, and the panels are vertices.

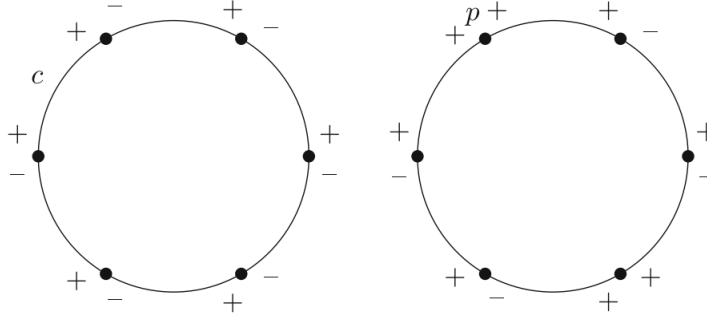


FIGURE 2. An alcove (left) and panel orientation (right) on the type A_2 Coxeter complex

How are we defining these hyperplanes in this case?

Lemma 1. Consider a Coxeter group (W, S) with Coxeter complex Σ . We have the following:

1. If ϕ is a simplex orientation of Σ , then ϕ is wall consistent and locally non-negative.
2. If ϕ is an alcove orientation of Σ , then ϕ is wall consistent and locally non-trivial.

2.1 The affine case

Now we want to consider when our Coxeter complex Σ is affine. To define an orientation on Σ , we choose a chamber at infinity.

If ϕ is a wall consistent orientation, then, given two chambers c, d which share a common panel p , c and d are given the same orientation if they lie in the same half-space of the hyperplane spanned by p . This amounts to picking a positive side of the hyperplane.

However, we did not have to pick these positive sides in any consistent way.

Definition 11. Let ϕ be a wall consistent orientation of an affine Coxeter complex. We say that ϕ is *periodic* if, given two parallel hyperplanes H_1, H_2 and corresponding half-spaces $H_1^\epsilon, H_2^\epsilon$, if $H_1^\epsilon \subset H_2^\epsilon$, then H_1^ϵ is positive if and only if H_2^ϵ is positive.

Example 3. If ϕ is a trivial orientation on an affine Coxeter complex, then ϕ is periodic.

Example 4. Simplex orientations are not periodic, as, for every set of parallel hyperplanes, we can find pairs ???

If ϕ is a periodic orientation, then we have a natural orientation which is induced on the boundary.

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3 Folded galleries

3.1 Definitions

Definition 12. Given a Coxeter complex Σ , a *combinatorial gallery* is a sequence

$$\gamma = (c_0, p_1, c_1, p_2, \dots, p_n, c_n),$$

where the c_i are alcoves and the p_i are panels of Σ , such that p_i is contained in c_i and c_{i-1} for all $i = 1, \dots, n$. The length of a combinatorial gallery γ is $n + 1$. Then γ is *minimal* if there does not exist a shorter gallery starting at c_0 and ending at c_n .

So a gallery is a path between c_0 and c_n through alcoves, such that adjacent alcoves in the path share a common panel.

Definition 13. Given a gallery γ of Σ , we say that γ is *folded* (or *stammering*) if, within γ , we can find an index i such that $c_i = c_{i-1}$. Then we say that γ has a *fold* at panel p_i . Otherwise, we say that γ is *unfolded* (or *non-stammering*).

To represent a gallery, we draw a path which passes through every chamber and panel in the gallery of the Euclidean representation of our Coxeter complex. We draw an arrow towards the sink of our gallery.

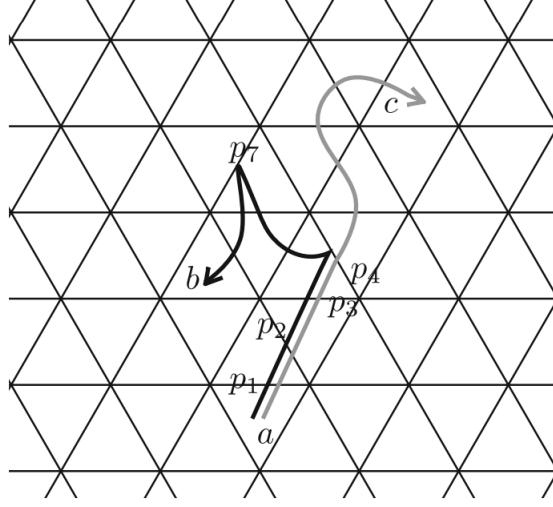


FIGURE 3. This figure shows galleries in type \tilde{A}_2 with two folds (black) and no folds (gray)

Definition 14. Given a gallery γ in Σ , and an orientation ϕ , we say that γ is *positively folded* with respect to ϕ if, whenever γ is folded at position i , $\phi(p_i, c_i) = +1$. We can similarly define *negatively folded*.

This means that γ is positively folded at $c_i = c_{i-1}$ if the repeated alcove c_i lies on the positively defined side of p_i .

3.2 Galleries and Words

Definition 15. Consider a gallery $\gamma = (c_0, p_1, c_1, \dots, p_n, c_n)$. Let panel p_i of γ have type $s_{j_i} \in S$. We define its *type* $\tau(\gamma)$ as the word

$$\tau(\gamma) := s_{j_1} \dots s_{j_n}.$$

We denote by $\Gamma_\phi^+(w)$ the set of all ϕ -positively folded galleries which have type w .

Definition 16. The *decorated type* $\hat{\tau}(\gamma)$ of a gallery $\gamma = (c_0, p_1, c_1, \dots, p_n, c_n)$ is the decorated word

$$\hat{\tau}(\gamma) := s_{j_1} \dots \hat{s}_{j_i} \dots s_{j_n},$$

where we place a hat on the elements s_{j_i} of the word which correspond to a fold $c_{i-1} = c_i$ of the gallery. We denote by $\Gamma_\phi^+(\hat{w})$ the set of all ϕ -positively folded galleries which have decorated type \hat{w} .

Lemma 2. Let c_0 be a chosen, fixed, alcove in our Coxeter complex Σ .

1. There is a bijection between words in S and unfolded galleries starting at c_0 .
2. There is a bijection between decorated words in S and galleries starting at c_0 .

Lemma 3. Let γ be a gallery. Then

1. $F(\gamma) = \emptyset$ if and only if $\tau(\gamma) = \hat{\tau}(\gamma)$.
2. γ is minimal if and only if $F(\gamma) = \emptyset$ and $\tau(\gamma)$ is reduced

What is the function F? I can't find the definition in this paper. Is it the set of all repeated chambers?

We want to be able to characterise the last alcove in a gallery. We do this by constructing another gallery which removes any folds from our original gallery. This leads to an unfolded gallery which has shorter length than the original gallery.

Definition 17. Consider a gallery $\gamma = (c_0, p_1, c_1, \dots, p_n, c_n)$ in Σ . We create a new gallery, called the *footprint* $ft(\gamma)$ of γ , by deleting all pairs p_i, c_i such that the letter s_i has a hat in $\hat{\tau}(\gamma)$.

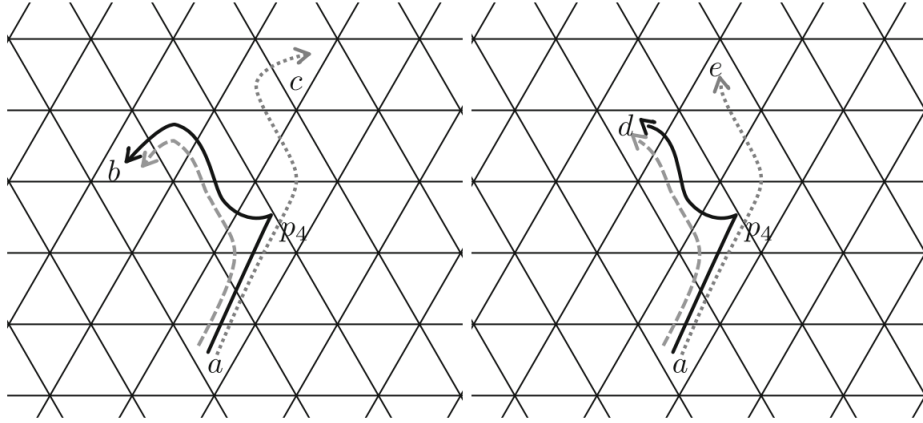


FIGURE 4. This figure shows galleries (black), their unfolded images (dotted gray), and footprints (dashed gray)

Lemma 4. We can calculate the final alcove of a gallery as the element $c_n = c_0 \cdot w$, where $w = \tau(\text{ft}(\gamma))$.

3.3 Modification

As W has a natural left action on Σ , and so W also acts on the set of galleries in Σ . For instance, $x \in W$ sends $\gamma = (c_0, p_1, c_1, \dots, p_n, c_n)$ to the gallery $\gamma = (xc_0, xp_1, xc_1, \dots, xp_n, xc_n)$.

Lemma 5.

Definition 18. Consider a gallery $\gamma = (c_0, p_1, c_1, \dots, p_n, c_n)$. Let H_i be the hyperplane containing the panel p_i , and let r_i be the reflection across H_i . For $i = 1, \dots, n$, let

$$\gamma^i := (c_0, p_1, \dots, p_i, r_i c_i, r_i p_{i+1}, r_i c_{i+1}, \dots, r_i p_n, r_i c_n).$$

If γ was folded at panel p_i , we call γ^i a *unfolding of γ at p_i* . Otherwise, we call it a *folding*.

Lemma 6. For all $i = 1, \dots, n$, $\tau(\gamma) = \tau(\gamma^i)$. So folding and unfolding does not change the gallery type. Also, $(\gamma^i)^i = \gamma$.

Lemma 7. For all $i, j = 1, \dots, n$, $(\gamma^i)^j = (\gamma^j)^i$.

Because of this property, we are able to define a *multifolding* with respect to a subset I of $\{1, \dots, n\}$ as the (un-)foldings γ^I . Now multifolding does not affect the type. Then the set of folds of γ^I will be the symmetric difference of the folds of γ and I . In particular, if I and J are subsets of $\{1, \dots, n\}$, $(\gamma^I)^J = \gamma^{I \Delta J}$.

Corollary 1. Given any gallery γ , there is a subset $I \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$ such that γ^I is unfolded, and γ and γ^I have the same type.

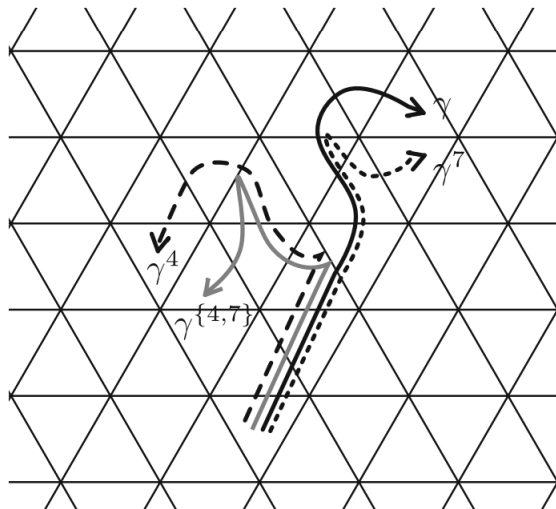


FIGURE 5. This figure shows commuting folds at panels 4 and 7 of the black gallery γ