

# Eine Woche, ein Beispiel

## 1.23 Coxeter group

### 1. def & realizations

- def
- geometrical representation
- root system
- polytopes
- as subgp of  $S_n$
- as Weyl gp of some Tits system

### 2. combinatorial results

### 3. Bruhat order

### 4. geometrical realization (faithfulness)

### Roadmap

gen & relations  characteristic properties  $\rightarrow$  realizations.

Ref: [Building] Buildings, by Peter Abramenko and Kenneth S. Brown

[Bourbaki] (Elements of Mathematics) Nicolas Bourbaki - Lie Groups and Lie Algebras\_ Chapters 4-9-Springer (2002)

[Comb] Combinatorics of Coxeter groups

[Flag] Flag Varieties An Interplay of Geometry, Combinatorics, and Representation Theory

In the first section, we omit technical details, which will be filled in later on. (Mainly: injectivity)

## 1. def & realizations

def

Def (Coxeter system)  $(W, S)$  gp + gen,  $m(s, t) \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0} \cup \{+\infty\}$ ,  $m(s, s) = 1$

$$W = \langle s \in S \rangle / (s^2 = (st)^{m(s,t)} = 1, \forall s, t \in S)$$

$W$  is a Coxeter gp if  $\exists S \subseteq W$ ,  $(W, S)$  is a Coxeter system.

E.g.

$$S_n \cong \langle s_i \rangle / (s_i^2 = (s_i s_j)^2 = (s_i s_{i+1})^3 = 1)$$

$|i-j| \geq 2$ , and undefined relations (eg.  $(s_{n-1} s_n)^3$ ) should be removed.

Coxeter graph

$m(s, t)$	$m(s, t)$
2	
3	
4	
6	
$+\infty$	

Notation

$$S$$

$$l(w) = \min \{r \mid w = s_1 \dots s_r, s_i \in S\}$$

$$\mathcal{T} = \{wsw^{-1} \mid w \in W, s \in S\}$$

simple reflections/transpositions  
length of  $w \in W$   
reflections/transpositions

geometrical representation  $W \hookrightarrow GL(V_{\text{geo}})$

⚠ We suppose  $|S| < \infty$ , which is not necessary (but helpful for concentrating mind)

$$(W, S) \rightsquigarrow (\rho_{\text{geo}}, V_{\text{geo}}, \langle -, - \rangle) \in \text{Rep}_{\text{IR, ortho}}(W)$$

$$V_{\text{geo}} = \bigoplus_{s \in S} \text{IR} \alpha_s$$

$$\langle -, - \rangle: V_{\text{geo}} \otimes V_{\text{geo}} \longrightarrow \text{IR}$$

$$(\alpha_s, \alpha_t) \longmapsto \begin{cases} -\cos \frac{\pi}{m(s,t)} & m(s,t) \neq +\infty \\ -1 & m(s,t) = +\infty \end{cases}$$

$m(s,t)$	1	2	3	4	5	6	...	$\infty$
$(\alpha_s, \alpha_t)$	1	0	$-\frac{1}{2}$	$-\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$	$-\frac{\sqrt{5}+1}{4}$	$-\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$	...	-1

$$\rho_{\text{geo}}: W \longrightarrow GL(V_{\text{geo}})$$

$$s \longmapsto r_{\alpha_s}$$

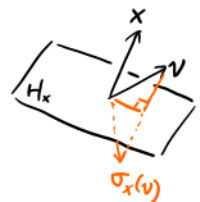
$$\text{For } x, v \in V_{\text{geo}}, \langle x, x \rangle = 1, \text{ define}$$

$$r_x(v) = v - 2\langle v, x \rangle x$$

$$\text{Check: } r_x(x) = -x$$

$$r_x(v) = v \iff v \in H_x, \text{ where}$$

$$H_x = \{v \in V_{\text{geo}} \mid \langle v, x \rangle = 0\}$$



Ex. Verify the well-definedness.

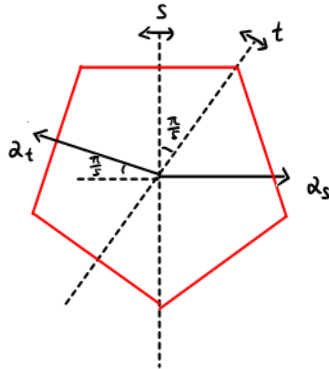
- $\rho_{\text{geo}}(s)$  is linear & orthogonal;
- $\rho_{\text{geo}}(\text{relations}) = \text{Id}$

Also,  $\langle wv, wv' \rangle = \langle v, v' \rangle$ .

Thm.  $\rho_{\text{geo}}$  is faithful (sketch of proof: later on)

E.g.  $W = W(I_5)$

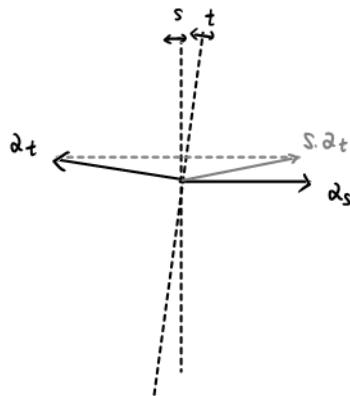
$$\begin{array}{c} s \\ \circ \text{---} \circ \\ t \\ I_5 \end{array}$$



$$\rho_{\text{geo}}(W) \cong D(5) \quad \text{Dihedral gp}$$

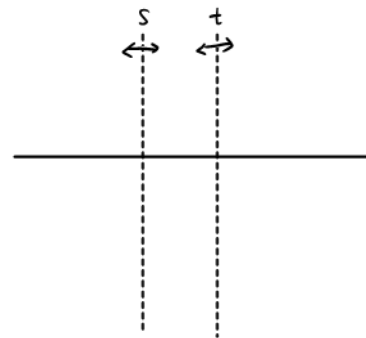
$W = W(I_\infty)$

$$\begin{array}{c} s \\ \circ \text{---} \circ \\ t \\ I_\infty \end{array}$$



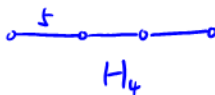
$$s \cdot \alpha_t = \alpha_t + 2\alpha_s$$

$$\rho_{\text{geo}}(W) \cong \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$$



$$\begin{aligned} s(\alpha_s, \alpha_t) &= (\alpha_s, \alpha_t) \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ t(\alpha_s, \alpha_t) &= (\alpha_s, \alpha_t) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

E.g.



$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\frac{\sqrt{5}+1}{4} \\ -\frac{\sqrt{5}+1}{4} & 1 \\ & -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \\ & -\frac{1}{2} & 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ is pos-def}$$

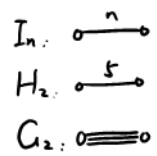
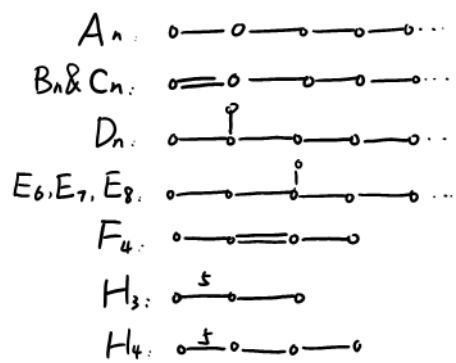
E.x.

$\# W < +\infty$

$\Leftrightarrow$  The bilinear form  $\langle -, - \rangle$  is pos-def

$\Leftrightarrow$  Cartan matrix is pos-def

$\Leftrightarrow$  Coxeter graph is finite disjoint union of following shape.



Root system  $W \sim \text{Aut}_R(V_{\text{geo}})$

⚠ Not the same as in Lie alg! E.g. here, every root has length 1.  
That's why we don't use  $\Phi$  here.

$$R = \{v \in V_{\text{geo}} \mid v = w \cdot \alpha_s \text{ for some } w \in W, s \in S\}$$

$$\text{⚠ } \sigma \xrightarrow{\rho_{\text{geo}}} \{ \sigma \in GL(V_{\text{geo}}) \mid \sigma = r_x \text{ for some } x \in V_{\text{geo}}, \langle x, x \rangle = 1, \sigma(R) = R \}$$

can be not surj when the irr root system is not simply laced.

See 1084790 for more details.

⚠ Here,  $W \neq \text{Aut}(R)$ ! See example on  $W(I_5)$ .

Ex. Verify the following properties.

(R1)  $R$  spans  $V_{\text{geo}}$ , does not contain 0

(R2)  $-R = R$

(R3)  $r_v R = R \quad \forall v \in R$

Define  $R^+ = \left( \sum_{s \in S} \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \alpha_s \right) \cap R$   $R^- = \left( \sum_{s \in S} \mathbb{R}_{\leq 0} \alpha_s \right) \cap R$

one can check  $R = R^+ \sqcup R^-$  by hand.

Lemma.  $r_{w \cdot \alpha_s} = \rho_{\text{geo}}(w s w^{-1}) \quad w \in W, s \in S$

Proof. 
$$\begin{aligned} r_{w \cdot \alpha_s}(x) &= x - 2 \langle w \cdot \alpha_s, x \rangle w \cdot \alpha_s \\ &= w \cdot (w^{-1} x - 2 \langle \alpha_s, w^{-1} x \rangle \alpha_s) \\ &= w \cdot \sigma_{\alpha_s}(w^{-1} x) \\ &= \rho_{\text{geo}}(w s w^{-1}) x. \end{aligned}$$

Prop. We have bijection

$$\begin{aligned} R &\xrightarrow{\quad} \mathcal{T} \times \{\pm 1\} & R^+ &\leftrightarrow \mathcal{T} \times \{+1\} \\ w \cdot \alpha_s &\longmapsto (w s w^{-1}, \eta(w, s)) & R^- &\leftrightarrow \mathcal{T} \times \{-1\} \end{aligned}$$

where  $\eta(s, t) = \begin{cases} -1 & s=t \\ 1 & s \neq t \end{cases} \quad \eta(w'w, t) = \eta(w'; w t w^{-1}) \eta(w, t)$

For the well-definedness of  $\eta$ , we postpone to next section.

See <https://math.stackexchange.com/questions/1084790/weyl-groups-correspondence-of-reflections-and-roots> and [Building, Prop 1.113].

Polytopes

$$W \cong \text{Aut}(\text{Polytopes})$$

(fundamental domain, chambers)

▽ For Dynkin - Coxeter graph.

Others can be viewed as mosaic in spaces with constant curv  $\leq 0$ .

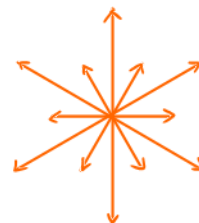
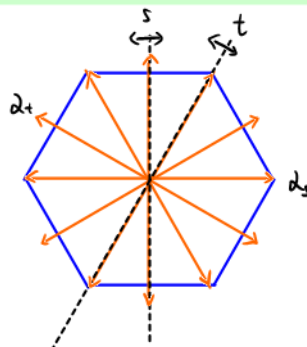
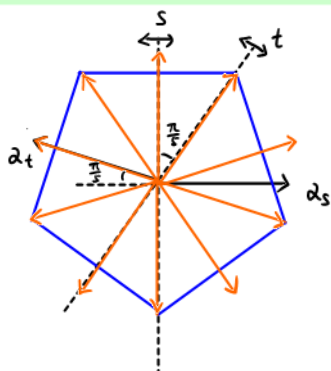
It comes from the geo rep.

Ref:

<https://syntopia.github.io/Polytopia/polytopes.html>

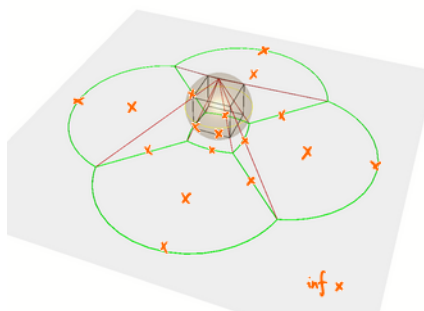
<https://www3.mpifr-bonn.mpg.de/staff/pfreire/polyhedra/index.html>

<https://www.mdpi.com/2073-8994/11/3/391/pdf?version=1552904082> (Some vague pictures of 5D polytopes)



$G_2$

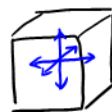
$E_x$  draw roots in , . (Bad picture for  !)



as subgp of  $S_n$

strand description

▽ For type A~D, since they have "nice" shapes of polytopes.



$$W(A_3) \xrightarrow{\cong} S_4$$

$$W(B_3) \hookrightarrow S_6$$

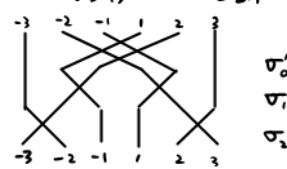
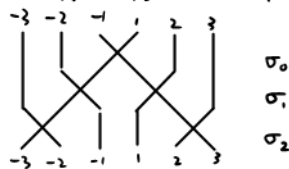
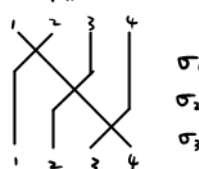
$$W(D_3) \hookrightarrow S_6$$

$$W(A_n) \cong S_{n+1}$$

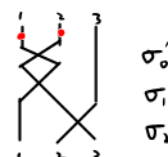
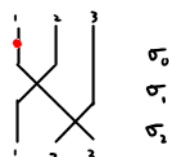
$$W(B_n) \hookrightarrow S_{2n}$$

$$W(D_n) \hookrightarrow S_{2n}$$

Standard



with dot



as Weyl gp of some Tits system (later)

Ex. for the section

1. Verify the gen & rel in each case.
2. Describe element, reflection, simple reflection, length, roots, ... in each realization.

e.g. how to see  $|\Gamma| = \ell(w_0)$ ?

3. (Finite) group study:

- $\#G$
- conj class
- $Z(G)$ ,  $[G, G]$
- char table (Rep theory)
- simple?
- subgp, quotient, central series, ...

4. Generalize everything to affine diagram.  
e.g. find a strand description of  $\widehat{A}_n$ .



## 2. combinatorial results

Lemma. For  $(W, S) \in \text{Cosgp}$ ,  $\exists!$  gp homo

$$\begin{aligned} \text{sgn}: W &\longrightarrow \{\pm 1\} \\ s &\longmapsto -1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{s.t. } \text{sgn}(w) = (-1)^{\ell(w)} \quad \forall w \in W$$

Cor.  $\forall w \in W, s \in S, \ell(ws) \equiv \ell(sw) \equiv \ell(w) + 1 \pmod{2}$

In ptc,  $\ell(ws) \neq \ell(w)$

Setting In this section,  $W$  is a gp,  $S$  is a set of gen of order 2.

Still,

$$\ell(w) := \min \{r \mid w = s_1 \dots s_r, s_i \in S\}$$

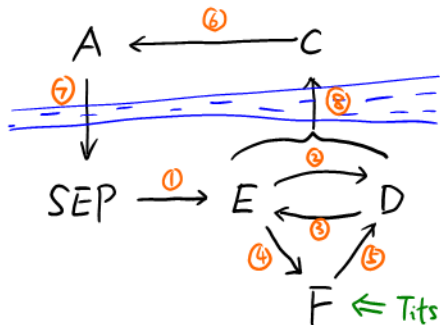
length of  $w \in W$

$$\mathcal{T} := \{ws w^{-1} \mid w \in W, s \in S\}$$

reflections / transpositions

We have  $\ell(w^{-1}) = \ell(w)$ , but it is possible that  $\ell(ws) = \ell(w)$  now.

Roadmap



A. Action

[Building, p65]

C. Coxeter

D. DP = Deletion property

E. EP = Exchange property

F. Folding condition [Building, p79]

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

(SEP)  $w = s_1 \dots s_r, s_i \in S, t \in \mathcal{T}, \ell(tw) < \ell(w)$

$$\Rightarrow tw = s_1 \dots \hat{s}_i \dots s_r \quad \exists i$$

(EP)  $w = s_1 \dots s_r, s_i \in S, t \in S, \ell(tw) < \ell(w)$

$$\Rightarrow tw = s_1 \dots \hat{s}_i \dots s_r \quad \exists i$$

(DP)  $w = s_1 \dots s_r, s_i \in S, \ell(w) < r$

$$\Rightarrow w = s_1 \dots \hat{s}_i \dots \hat{s}_j \dots s_r \quad \exists i, j$$

(Folding) For  $w \in W, s, t \in S$  s.t.  $\ell(tw) = \ell(w) + 1, \ell(ws) = \ell(w) + 1$ ,

$$\Rightarrow \ell(tws) = \ell(w) + 2 \text{ or } tws = w$$

(Action)  $\exists \rho: W \hookrightarrow \mathcal{T} \times \{\pm 1\}$  s.t.  $\forall s \in S,$

$$\rho_s(t, \varepsilon) = \begin{cases} (s, -\varepsilon) & s = t \\ (sts, \varepsilon) & s \neq t \end{cases}$$

In ptc,  $\rho_w(t, \varepsilon) = (wtw^{-1}, \eta(w; t)\varepsilon)$  where

$$\eta(s; t) = \begin{cases} -1 & s = t \\ 1 & s \neq t \end{cases}$$

$$\eta(w'w; t) = \eta(w'; wt w^{-1}) \eta(w; t)$$