

# On the isomorphism problem for Coxeter groups and related topics

Koji Nuida (AIST, Japan)

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# Contents of This Talk

A survey of results on **the isomorphism problem for Coxeter groups**

- “forgotten” subject until about 15 years ago
- active subject in recent years

Some relevant results on “group theory on Coxeter groups”

- finitely or non-finitely generated cases

# Outline

- 1 Preliminaries
- 2 The Problem
- 3 Finite Rank Cases
- 4 Arbitrary Rank Cases

# Preliminaries

# Isomorphism Problem

Given presentations of two mathematical objects in a class,  
**“decide” whether these are isomorphic or not**

- Here we do not concern computability, especially when studying infinite presentations

# Isomorphism Problem for Groups

- General groups (of finite presentations): Uncomputable
- Finitely generated abelian groups: Textbook
- Free groups
- ...
- **Coxeter groups**

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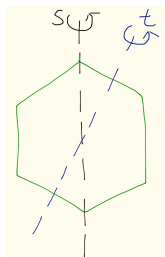
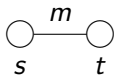
- Generators:  $s \in S$  (possibly  $|S| = \infty$ )
- Fundamental relations:
  - $s^2 = 1$  ( $\forall s \in S$ )
  - $(st)^{m(s,t)} = 1$  ( $\forall s \neq t \in S$ ), where
    - $2 \leq m(s, t) = m(t, s) \leq \infty$
    - relations with  $m(s, t) = \infty$  are ignored

Such a presentation is expressed by a Coxeter graph

## Examples

$W = D_m = W(I_2(m))$  (symmetry group of regular  $m$ -gon)

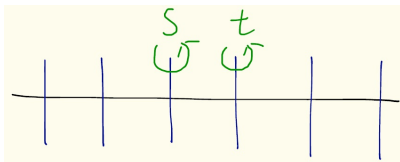
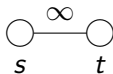
- $S = \{s, t\}$ ,  $m(s, t) = m$  with  $3 \leq m < \infty$



# Examples

$W = D_\infty = W(\tilde{A}_1)$  (infinite dihedral group)

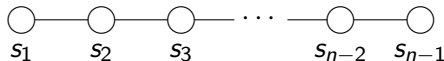
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# Examples

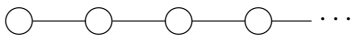
$W = S_n = W(A_{n-1})$  (symmetric group on  $n$  letters)

- $S = \{s_1, s_2, \dots, s_{n-1}\}$ ,  $s_i = (i \ i+1)$
- $m(s_i, s_{i+1}) = 3$ ,  $m(s_i, s_j) = 2$  (if  $|i - j| \geq 2$ )



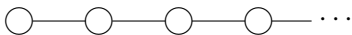
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There are another embeddings  $S_2 \hookrightarrow S_3 \hookrightarrow S_4 \hookrightarrow \dots$   
 (Here we call the limit  $W(A_{\infty,\infty})$ )

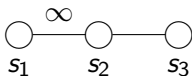




## Examples

$$W = \mathrm{PGL}(2, \mathbb{Z}) = \mathrm{GL}(2, \mathbb{Z}) / \{\pm 1\}$$

- $S = \{s_1, s_2, s_3\} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$
- $m(s_1, s_2) = \infty, m(s_1, s_3) = 2, m(s_2, s_3) = 3$



## Direct/Free Product Decompositions

If  $S = S_1 \cup S_2$  (disjoint) and

- $m(s_1, s_2) = 2$  ( $\forall s_1 \in S_1, s_2 \in S_2$ ), then  $W = \langle S_1 \rangle \times \langle S_2 \rangle$ ;
- $m(s_1, s_2) = \infty$  ( $\forall s_1 \in S_1, s_2 \in S_2$ ), then  $W = \langle S_1 \rangle * \langle S_2 \rangle$

# The Problem

# Isomorphism Problem for Coxeter Groups

**Problem** Given two Coxeter graphs  $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2$ , decide whether  $W(\Gamma_1) \simeq W(\Gamma_2)$  (as abstract groups) or not

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**Problem** Given two Coxeter graphs  $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2$ , decide whether  $W(\Gamma_1) \simeq W(\Gamma_2)$  (as abstract groups) or not

**or:** Given a Coxeter group  $W$ , determine the possible Coxeter generating sets  $S$  for  $W$  (or the types of  $(W, S)$ )

# Rigid Coxeter Groups

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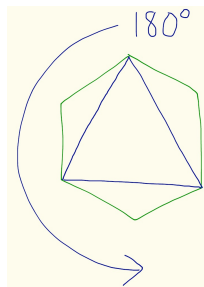
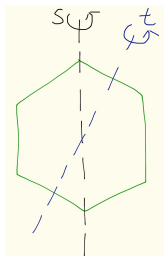
### Notes:

- strongly rigid  $\Rightarrow$  rigid
- difference of two properties  $\approx$  outer automorphisms of  $W$



# “Folklore” Non-Rigid Example

$$W\left(\overset{6}{\circ} - \circ\right) \simeq W\left(\circ \quad \circ - \circ\right)$$



# Non-Rigid Examples (Finite Cases)

$$W\left(\text{---} \overset{4k+2}{\text{---}} \text{---}\right) \simeq W\left(\text{---} \overset{2k+1}{\text{---}} \text{---}\right)$$

$$W\left(\underbrace{\text{---} \text{---} \dots \text{---} \overset{4}{\text{---}} \text{---}}_{2k+1 \text{ vertices}}\right) \simeq W\left(\text{---} \underbrace{\text{---} \dots \text{---} \begin{array}{l} \diagup \text{---} \text{---} \\ \diagdown \text{---} \text{---} \end{array}}_{2k+1 \text{ vertices}}\right)$$

These are only non-rigid finite irreducible Coxeter groups

## “Krull–Remak–Schmidt-like” Property

Write  $W = W_{\text{fin}} \times W_{\text{inf}}$ , where

- $W_{\text{fin}}$ : Product of finite irreducible components
- $W_{\text{inf}}$ : Product of other components

**Fact** [N. 2006] The subset  $W_{\text{fin}}$  is uniquely determined by  $W$ , independent of  $S$  (**possibly when**  $|S| = \infty$ )

K. Nuida, On the direct indecomposability of infinite irreducible Coxeter groups and the isomorphism problem of Coxeter groups, *Comm. Algebra* **34**(7) (2006) pp.2559–2595

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(**Note:** [Mihalik–Ratcliffe–Tschantz 2005 (preprint)] showed “free product decomposition” version of the fact)

L. Paris, Irreducible Coxeter groups, *Int. J. Algebra Comput.* **17**(3) (2007) 427–447

M. Mihalik, J. Ratcliffe, S. Tschantz, On the isomorphism problem for finitely generated Coxeter groups. I: Basic matching, arXiv:math.GR/0501075v1 (2005)

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- 1 If  $W = H_1 \times H_2$ , then  $H_j$  are generated by involutions
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- 3 Since  $H_j \subset Z_W(H_{3-j})$ , at least one of  $H_j$  should be  $W$

## “Krull–Remak–Schmidt-like” Property

**Theorem** [N. 2006] (informal) Any  $f: W \xrightarrow{\sim} W'$  is “approximately decomposed” into

- isomorphisms between infinite irreducible components of  $W$  and  $W'$ , and
- an isomorphism  $W_{\text{fin}} \xrightarrow{\sim} W'_{\text{fin}}$

Hence the isomorphism problem (**including the case**  $|S| = \infty$ ) is “essentially” **reduced to infinite irreducible cases**

## A Natural Question

[Cohen 1991] Is the isomorphism problem for **irreducible, finite-rank** Coxeter groups trivial?

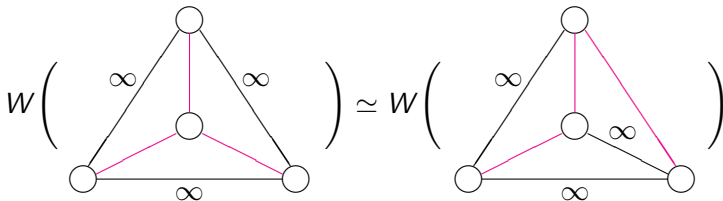
I.e., does  $W(\Gamma) \simeq W(\Gamma')$ , with  $\Gamma, \Gamma'$  **finite** and **connected**, imply  $\Gamma \simeq \Gamma'$ ?

A. M. Cohen, Coxeter groups and three related topics, in: *Generators and Relations in Groups and Geometries* (A. Barlotti et al., eds.), NATO ASI Series, Kluwer Acad. Publ. (1991) pp.235–278



# A Counterexample

[Mühlherr 2000] (1-page paper!)



B. Mühlherr, On isomorphisms between Coxeter groups, *Des. Codes Cryptogr.* **21** (2000) p.189

# Rigidity and Reflections

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$w \in W$  is a *reflection*  $\stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff}$  conjugate to an  $s \in S$   
 $\iff$  in the standard geometric representation of  $W$ ,  $w$  acts as a reflection w.r.t. a hyperplane

$\text{Ref}(W) = \text{Ref}_S(W) := \{s^w := wsw^{-1} \mid s \in S, w \in W\}$ : set of reflections

## Rigidity and Reflections

$W(\Gamma)$  is reflection rigid  $\stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} f: W(\Gamma') \xrightarrow{\sim} W(\Gamma)$  and  $f(\text{Ref}(W(\Gamma'))) = \text{Ref}(W(\Gamma))$  implies  $\Gamma' \simeq \Gamma$

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$W$  is strongly reflection rigid  $\stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff}$  all Coxeter generating sets for  $W$  **defining the same set of reflections** are conjugate with each other

strongly rigid  $\Rightarrow$  rigid

Note:



strongly reflection rigid  $\Rightarrow$  reflection rigid

## Rigidity and Reflections

Rigidity and strong reflection rigidity are incomparable

- $D_6 = W(I_2(6))$  is strongly reflection rigid, but not rigid
- $D_5 = W(I_2(5))$  is rigid, but not strongly reflection rigid

[Brady–McCammond–Mühlherr–Neumann 2002]

N. Brady, J. P. McCammond, B. Mühlherr, W. D. Neumann, Rigidity of Coxeter groups and Artin groups, *Geom. Dedicata* **94** (2002) pp.91–109

## Rigidity and Reflections

$W$  is reflection independent by  $W$  (independent of  $S$ )  $\stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff}$   $\text{Ref}_S(W)$  is uniquely determined

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Intuitively, the isomorphism problem can be divided into two parts

- Given  $W$ , how “far” from being reflection independent?
- Given  $W$ , how “far” from being reflection rigid?

## Rigidity and Reflections

[Bahls–Mihalik 2005] ( $|S| < \infty$ ) Reflection independent & even  
( $\stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} m(s, t)$  is not odd ( $\forall s \neq t$ ))  $\Rightarrow$  rigid

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Counterexample for non-even case: Mühlherr's example

- [Bahls 2003]  $W$  is **reflection independent** if  $\neg \exists s, t$  s.t.,  
 $m(s, t) \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$

P. Bahls, M. Mihalik, Reflection independence in even Coxeter groups, *Geom. Dedicata* **110** (2005) pp.63–80

P. Bahls, A new class of rigid Coxeter groups, *Int. J. Algebra Comput.* **13**(1) (2003) pp.87–94

# Finite Rank Cases ( $|S| < \infty$ )

## Strongly Rigidity: Geometric Arguments

[Charney–Davis 2000]  $W$  is **strongly rigid** if  $W$  is capable of acting effectively, properly and cocompactly on some contractible manifold

- Affine Weyl groups
- Cocompact hyperbolic reflection groups
- ...

Tool: **complex, cohomology, CAT(0) space, etc.**

(Detail omitted (due to lack of my geometric knowledge ...))

R. Charney, M. Davis, When is a Coxeter system determined by its Coxeter group?, *J. London Math. Soc.* (2) **61** (2000) pp.441–461

## Strongly Rigidity: Geometric Arguments

State-of-the-art result in this direction:

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- $(W, S)$  is **bipolar**  $\stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff}$  in the Cayley graph  $X$  of  $(W, S)$ ,  
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- Precise definition and Coxeter graph characterization for bipolar Coxeter groups are also given

P.-E. Caprace, P. Przytycki, Bipolar Coxeter groups, *J. Algebra* **338** (2011) pp.35–55



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Bipolar Coxeter groups include the following cases

- [Charney–Davis 2000]
- virtual Poincaré duality groups
- infinite irreducible 2-spherical ( $\stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} m(s, t) < \infty (\forall s, t)$ )  
[Franzsen–Howlett–Mühlherr 2006; Caprace–Mühlherr 2007]
  - a subclass appeared in [Kaul 2002]

W. N. Franzsen, R. B. Howlett, B. Mühlherr, Reflections in abstract Coxeter groups, *Comment. Math. Helv.* **81** (2006) pp.665–697

P.-E. Caprace, B. Mühlherr, Reflection rigidity of 2-spherical Coxeter groups, *Proc. London Math. Soc.* (3) **94** (2007) pp.520–542

A. Kaul, A class of rigid Coxeter groups, *J. London Math. Soc.* (2) **66** (2002) pp.592–604

# Maximal Finite Subgroups

$H \leq W$  is standard parabolic  $\stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} H = W_I := \langle I \rangle$  for some  $I \subset S$   
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- Any maximal finite standard parabolic subgroup is a maximal finite subgroup

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**Application:** A strategy to show that  $f: W \xrightarrow{\sim} W'$  maps  $s \in S$  into  $\text{Ref}(W')$

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- 4 each  $f(W_{I_j})$  is parabolic, so is  $\langle f(s) \rangle$
- 5

# Maximal Finite Subgroups

**Application:** A strategy to show that  $f: W \xrightarrow{\sim} W'$  maps  $s \in S$  into  $\text{Ref}(W')$

- 1 Find a finite number of  $I_j \subset S$  s.t.  $W_{I_j}$  are maximal finite standard parabolic and  $\bigcap_j I_j = \{s\}$
- 2  $\langle s \rangle = \bigcap_j W_{I_j}$  is the intersection of maximal finite subgroups
- 3 so is  $\langle f(s) \rangle = \bigcap_j f(W_{I_j})$
- 4 each  $f(W_{I_j})$  is parabolic, so is  $\langle f(s) \rangle$
- 5 hence  $f(s)$  is conjugate to some  $s' \in S'$ , i.e.,  $f(s) \in \text{Ref}(W')$

# Maximal Finite Subgroups

Some results using maximal finite subgroups:

- [Radcliffe 2001]  $W$  is **rigid** if  $W$  is right-angled  
( $\stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} m(s, t) \in \{2, \infty\} (\forall s \neq t)$ )
- [Hosaka 2006] generalized to a wider class

D. G. Radcliffe, Unique presentation of Coxeter groups and related groups, Ph.D. thesis, Univ. Wisconsin-Milwaukee (2001)

T. Hosaka, A class of rigid Coxeter groups, *Houston J. Math.* **32**(4) (2006) pp.1029–1036



# Maximal Finite Subgroups

## Notes:

- Radcliffe mentioned (without proof) that the rank may be infinite
- [Radcliffe 2003] extended to **graph products** of directly indecomposable groups
- [Castella 2006] gave a new proof, with structural result on  $\text{Aut}(W)$

D. G. Radcliffe, Rigidity of graph products of groups, *Algebraic & Geom. Top.* **3** (2003) pp.1079–1088

A. Castella, Sur les automorphismes et la rigidité des groupes de Coxeter à angles droits, *J. Algebra* **301** (2006) pp.642–669

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(finite continuation of  $w \in W$ )
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  - hence  $\Rightarrow W$  is **reflection independent**
  - [Caprace–Mühlherr 2007]  $W$  is **strongly reflection rigid**,  
 hence **strongly rigid**

## Relations with Even Orders

[Radcliffe 2001]  $W$  is **rigid** if  $m(s, t) \in \{2, \infty\} \cup 4\mathbb{Z}$  ( $\forall s \neq t$ )

- Tool: **projection to abelianization of  $W$**

[Brady et al. 2002]  $W(\Gamma)$  is **reflection rigid** if it is even

D. G. Radcliffe, Unique presentation of Coxeter groups and related groups, Ph.D. thesis, Univ.

Wisconsin-Milwaukee (2001)



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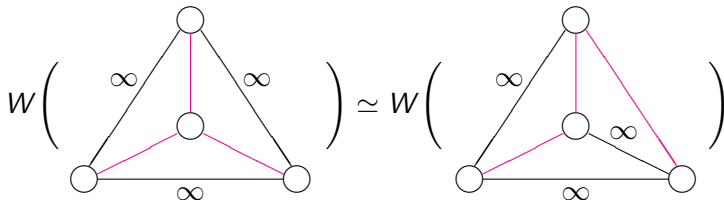
[Mihalik 2007] gave an algorithm to determine possible types of generating sets for  $W$ , when  $W$  is even

- Hence **the isomorphism problem is solved for even Coxeter systems**

M. Mihalik, The even isomorphism theorem for Coxeter groups, *Trans. AMS* **359**(9) (2007) pp.4297–4324

# Diagram Twisting

Recall the example in [Mühlherr 2000]



# Diagram Twisting

[Brady et al. 2002] generalized as “diagram twisting” to generate non-reflection-rigid examples

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Let  $U, V \subset S$  be disjoint subsets with the conditions:

- $W_V$  is finite, with longest element  $w = w_V$
- if  $s_1 \in S \setminus (U \cup V)$  is adjacent to  $V$ , then  $m(s_1, s_2) = \infty$   
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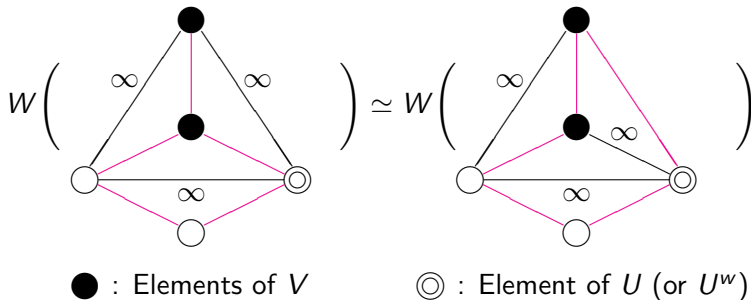
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 $(\forall s_2 \in U)$

Then  $(W, S')$  is a Coxeter system with Coxeter graph  $\Gamma'$ , where

- $S' := (S \setminus U) \cup U^w \subset \text{Ref}_S(W)$ ,  $U^w := \{u^w \mid u \in U\}$
- $\Gamma'$  is obtained from  $\Gamma$  by replacing each edge  $U \ni u - v \in V$  with an edge from  $u^w \in U^w$  to  $v^w \in V$

# Diagram Twisting

## Example:



# Diagram Twisting

Conjecture [Brady et al. 2002] Coxeter systems are “**reflection rigid up to diagram twistings**”,

i.e., if  $\text{Ref}_S(W) = \text{Ref}_{S'}(W)$ , then  $\Gamma(W, S)$  is converted to  $\Gamma(W, S')$  by consecutive diagram twistings



# Diagram Twisting

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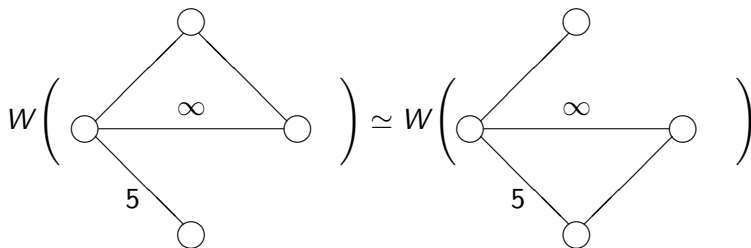
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- They proved the conjecture when the presentation graph (i.e.,  $s, t \in S$  are joined when  $m(s, t) < \infty$ ) is a tree
- [Mühlherr–Weidmann 2002] proved the conjecture for skew-angled cases ( $\stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} m(s, t) \geq 3 \ (\forall s, t)$ )
  - They also characterized reflection independent skew-angled cases, and gave a sufficient condition for strongly rigid skew-angled cases

B. Mühlherr, R. Weidmann, Rigidity of skew-angled Coxeter groups, *Adv. Geom.* 2 (2002) pp.391–415

# Diagram Twisting

But there is a counterexample! [Ratcliffe–Tschantz 2008]



by another kind of transformation, called “5-edge angle deformation”

J. G. Ratcliffe, S. T. Tschantz, Chordal Coxeter groups, *Geom. Dedicata* **136** (2008) pp.57–77

## Some More Solved Cases

$(W, S)$  is *chordal*  $\stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff}$  every cycle of length  $\geq 4$  in the presentation graph of  $(W, S)$  has a shortcutting edge

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Results by [Ratcliffe–Tschantz 2008]

- The chordal property is independent of the choice of  $S$
- An algorithm to decide whether or not two Chordal  $W(\Gamma)$ ,  $W(\Gamma')$  are isomorphic; hence **the isomorphism problem is solved for chordal cases**

## Some More Solved Cases

$(W, S)$  is twist-rigid  $\stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff}$  it admits no diagram twists



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Results by [Caprace–Przytycki 2010]

- The twist-rigidity is independent of the choice of  $S$
- An algorithm to output all possible  $\Gamma'$  with  $W(\Gamma') \simeq W(\Gamma)$  from given twist-rigid  $W(\Gamma)$ ; hence **the isomorphism problem is solved for twist-rigid cases**

P.-E. Caprace, P. Przytycki, Twist-rigid Coxeter groups, *Geom. Topology* **14** (2010) pp.2243–2275

## Reduction to Reflection-Preserving Cases

[Hosaka 2005] studied 2-dimensional  $(W, S)$  ( $\stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} |W_I| = \infty$  for every  $I \subset S$  with  $|I| > 2$ )

- $\iff$  the **Davis-Vinberg complex**  $\Sigma(W, S)$  has dimension  $\leq 2$

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- $\iff$  the **Davis–Vinberg complex**  $\Sigma(W, S)$  has dimension  $\leq 2$

**Theorem** If  $(W, S)$  and  $(W, S')$  are 2-dimensional, then  $(W, S)$  can be converted to  $(W, S'')$  s.t.  $\Gamma(W, S) \simeq \Gamma(W, S'')$  and  $\text{Ref}_{S'}(W) = \text{Ref}_{S''}(W)$

- Hence **the isomorphism problem for 2-dimensional  $(W, S)$  is reduced to “reflection-preserving” cases**

T. Hosaka, Coxeter systems with two-dimensional Davis–Vinberg complexes, *J. Pure Appl. Algebra* **197** (2005)

pp.159–170

## Reduction to Reflection-Preserving Cases

Results on general cases by [Howlett–Mühlherr 2004 (preprint)]; cf. [Mühlherr 2006]

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$s \in S$  is a pseudo-transposition  $\stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} s \in \exists J \subset S$  s.t.

- for each  $t \in S \setminus J$ , either  $m(s, t) = \infty$  or  $t \in Z_W(J)$
- either  $\Gamma_J = \Gamma|_J = \Gamma(I_2(4k+2))$ , or  $\Gamma_J = \Gamma(B_{2k+1})$  and  $s$  is the end vertex of  $\Gamma_J$  adjacent to the 4-edge

R. B. Howlett, B. Mühlherr, Isomorphisms of Coxeter groups which do not preserve reflections, preprint (2004)

B. Mühlherr, The isomorphism problem for Coxeter groups, in: *The Coxeter legacy* (C. Davis, E. W. Ellers, eds.),

AMS (2006) pp.1–15

# Reduction to Reflection-Preserving Cases

Recall the following relations:

$$W\left(\text{---}\overset{4k+2}{\text{---}}\text{---}\right) \simeq W\left(\text{---}\overset{2k+1}{\text{---}}\text{---}\right)$$

$$W\left(\underbrace{\text{---}\text{---}\dots\text{---}\overset{4}{\text{---}}\text{---}}_{2k+1 \text{ vertices}}\right) \simeq W\left(\text{---}\dots\text{---}\underbrace{\text{---}\begin{array}{l} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array}}_{2k+1 \text{ vertices}}\right)$$

## Reduction to Reflection-Preserving Cases

Then the pseudo-transposition can be removed by “locally”  
applying the relations  $W(I_2(4k + 2)) \simeq W(A_1 \times I_2(2k + 1))$  and  
 $W(B_{2k+1}) \times W(A_1 \times D_{2k+1})$

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Iterating the process, we can convert  $(W, S)$  into  $(W, S')$  having no pseudo-transpositions (called reduced Coxeter system)



## Reduction to Reflection-Preserving Cases

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Hence **the isomorphism problem is reduced to “reflection-preserving” cases**: Given  $W(\Gamma)$  and  $W(\Gamma')$ ,

- ① first convert them into reduced  $W(\Gamma_*)$  and  $W(\Gamma'_*)$
- ② then for all (finitely many)  $\sigma \in \Sigma$ , decide whether or not  $\exists \varphi: \sigma(W(\Gamma_*)) \xrightarrow{\sim} W(\Gamma'_*)$  with  $\varphi(\text{Ref}(\sigma(W(\Gamma_*)))) = \text{Ref}(W(\Gamma'_*))$

## Further Reduction

**Theorem** [Marquis–Mühlherr 2008] The isomorphism problem is reduced to the following problem: Given  $(W, S)$ , find all  $S' \subset \text{Ref}_S(W)$  s.t.  $(W, S')$  is a Coxeter system **and  $S'$  is sharp-angled w.r.t.  $S$**

- $S'$  is sharp-angled w.r.t.  $S \stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff}$  for all  $s, t \in S$  with  $m(s, t) < \infty$ ,  $\{s, t\}$  is conjugate to a subset of  $S'$

**Note:** This is used by [Caprace–Przytycki 2010] to give the complete solution for twist-rigid cases

T. Marquis, B. Mühlherr, Angle-deformations in Coxeter groups, *Algebraic & Geom. Top.* **8** (2008) pp.2175–2208

# Arbitrary Rank Cases

# When $|S| = \infty$

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Several key properties in finite rank cases do not hold when  $|S| = \infty$ !

- Maximal finite (standard parabolic) subgroups do not necessarily exist
- Finite continuation is not well-defined in general
- The intersection of infinitely many parabolic subgroups is not necessarily parabolic

# Centralizers and Reflection Independence

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- 3 This implies  $f(\langle s \rangle \times (W^{\perp s})_{\text{fin}}) \supset W'_J$ , where  $W^{\perp s}$  is the subgroup generated by reflections orthogonal to  $s$
- 4 If  $(W^{\perp s})_{\text{fin}} = 1$ , then  $|J| = 1$ , i.e.,  $f(s) \in \text{Ref}(W')$ 
  - The same conclusion holds when  $(W^{\perp s})_{\text{fin}} = \langle s^w \rangle$ ,  $w \in W$

K. Nuida, Almost central involutions in split extensions of Coxeter groups by graph automorphisms, *J. Group Theory* **10** (2) (2007) pp.139–166

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- In particular,  $W$  is **reflection independent** for the following cases:
  - Infinite irreducible 2-spherical
  - All reflections in  $W$  are conjugate

K. Nuida, Centralizers of reflections and reflection-independence of Coxeter groups, arXiv:math/0602165v1 (2006)

## Centralizers and Reflection Independence

**Note:**  $W(A_\infty) \simeq W(A_{\infty,\infty})$ , i.e., **infinite irreducible 2-spherical  $(W, S)$  is not necessarily reflection rigid when  $|S| = \infty$**

- $W(A_\infty)$  is the group of permutations on  $\mathbb{N}$  fixing all but finitely many letters
- $W(A_{\infty,\infty})$  is the group of permutations on  $\mathbb{Z}$  fixing all but finitely many letters
- A bijection  $\mathbb{N} \simeq \mathbb{Z}$  induces the desired  $W(A_\infty) \xrightarrow{\sim} W(A_{\infty,\infty})$

## On Finite Continuation

Key properties in finite rank cases for using  $FC(w)$ :

- Any finite intersection of parabolic subgroups is parabolic
- Any finite  $H \leq W$  is contained in a maximal finite  $G \leq W$ , which is parabolic
- Any maximal finite standard parabolic subgroup is a maximal finite subgroup

How to generalize these properties to infinite rank cases?

# On Finite Continuation

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**Note:** When  $|S| < \infty$ , locally parabolic subgroups and parabolic subgroups coincide

K. Nuida, Locally parabolic subgroups in Coxeter groups of arbitrary ranks, *J. Algebra* **350** (2012) pp.207–217

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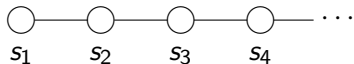
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## Facts:

- The intersection of an **arbitrary** family of locally parabolic subgroups is locally parabolic, hence locally parabolic closure is well-defined
- When  $|S| < \infty$ , the locally parabolic closure coincides with the parabolic closure
- Any locally finite subgroup of  $W$  is contained in a maximal locally finite subgroup of  $W$ , which is locally parabolic

# On Finite Continuation

Note: (for intersection of parabolic subgroups)

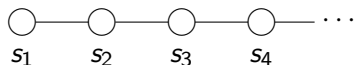


Let  $G$  be s.t.  $S(G) = \{s_1 s_2 s_1, s_3 s_4 s_3, s_5 s_6 s_5, \dots\}$



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- $G$  is locally parabolic, but not parabolic

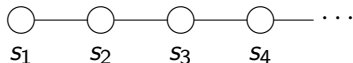
Let  $G_i := \langle S(G) \cup \{s_{2i+1}, s_{2i+2}, s_{2i+3}, \dots\} \rangle$  ( $1 \leq i \in \mathbb{Z}$ )

-



# On Finite Continuation

Note: (for intersection of parabolic subgroups)



Let  $G$  be s.t.  $S(G) = \{s_1 s_2 s_1, s_3 s_4 s_3, s_5 s_6 s_5, \dots\}$

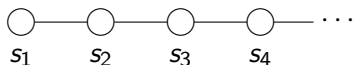
- $G$  is locally parabolic, but not parabolic

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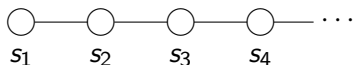
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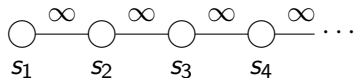
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- Hence  $\bigcap_i G_i$  is not parabolic, though  $G_i$  are parabolic

# On Finite Continuation

**Note:** The locally parabolic closure is not equal to the parabolic closure in general

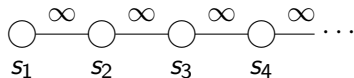


Let  $G$  be s.t.  $S(G) = \{u_i := w_i s_i w_i^{-1}\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$ ,  $w_i := s_1 s_2 \cdots s_i s_{i+1}$



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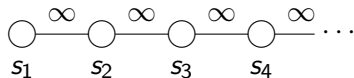


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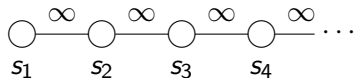


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- $s_1 \notin G$ , hence  $G \neq W$

## On Finite Continuation

[Mühlherr–N. (preprint)] introduced locally finite continuation of  $X \subset W$ ;  $\text{LFC}(X) := \bigcap \{H \mid X \subset H \leq W \text{ maximal locally finite}\}$



## On Finite Continuation

[Mühlherr–N. (preprint)] introduced *locally finite continuation* of  $X \subset W$ ;  $\text{LFC}(X) := \bigcap \{H \mid X \subset H \leq W \text{ maximal locally finite}\}$

**Theorem** For any reflection  $r$ ,  $\text{LFC}(r)$  is completely determined

- $\text{LFC}(r)$  is a parabolic subgroup for any reflection  $r$

B. Mühlherr, K. Nuida, Reflection independent Coxeter groups of arbitrary ranks, in preparation

## On Finite Continuation

We can also define *reduced* Coxeter systems  $(W, S)$  for arbitrary rank cases (  $\stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff}$  having no “exceptional”  $s \in S$  )



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- Hence **the isomorphism problem is reduced to the class of reduced Coxeter systems**

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## Theorem

- Characterization of reduced  $(W, S)$  which is **reflection independent among reduced Coxeter systems** (by using locally finite continuations)
- $(W, S)$  is reflection independent, if infinite irreducible and 2-spherical, or all reflections are conjugate
- **Characterization of reflection independent 2-dimensional Coxeter systems**
  - including skew-angled cases and cases with tree presentation graphs

# Conclusion

Isomorphism problem for Coxeter groups of finite ranks

- has been solved in some special cases
- has been reduced to reflection-preserving cases in general
  - We have two kinds of “elementary transformations”; are these enough?

Isomorphism problem for Coxeter groups of infinite ranks

- has been “almost” reduced to reflection-preserving cases
  - A new transformation:  $W(A_\infty) \simeq W(A_{\infty, \infty})$
  - How to proceed? Geometry? Combinatorics?