

## COMMENSURATORS OF PARABOLIC SUBGROUPS OF COXETER GROUPS

LUIS PARIS

(Communicated by Ronald M. Solomon)

ABSTRACT. Let  $(W, S)$  be a Coxeter system, and let  $X$  be a subset of  $S$ . The subgroup of  $W$  generated by  $X$  is denoted by  $W_X$  and is called a parabolic subgroup. We give the precise definition of the commensurator of a subgroup in a group. In particular, the commensurator of  $W_X$  in  $W$  is the subgroup of  $w$  in  $W$  such that  $wW_Xw^{-1} \cap W_X$  has finite index in both  $W_X$  and  $wW_Xw^{-1}$ . The subgroup  $W_X$  can be decomposed in the form  $W_X = W_{X^0} \cdot W_{X^\infty} \simeq W_{X^0} \times W_{X^\infty}$  where  $W_{X^0}$  is finite and all the irreducible components of  $W_{X^\infty}$  are infinite. Let  $Y^\infty$  be the set of  $t$  in  $S$  such that  $m_{s,t} = 2$  for all  $s \in X^\infty$ . We prove that the commensurator of  $W_X$  is  $W_{Y^\infty} \cdot W_{X^\infty} \simeq W_{Y^\infty} \times W_{X^\infty}$ . In particular, the commensurator of a parabolic subgroup is a parabolic subgroup, and  $W_X$  is its own commensurator if and only if  $X^0 = Y^\infty$ .

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $S$  be a finite set. A *Coxeter matrix* over  $S$  is a matrix  $M = (m_{s,t})_{s,t \in S}$  indexed by the elements of  $S$  and satisfying

- (a)  $m_{s,s} = 1$  if  $s \in S$ ,
- (b)  $m_{s,t} = m_{t,s} \in \{2, 3, 4, \dots, +\infty\}$  if  $s, t \in S$  and  $s \neq t$ .

A Coxeter matrix  $M = (m_{s,t})_{s,t \in S}$  is usually represented by its *Coxeter graph*  $\Gamma$ . This is defined by the following data.

- (a)  $S$  is the set of vertices of  $\Gamma$ .
- (b) Two vertices  $s, t \in S$  are joined by an edge if  $m_{s,t} \geq 3$ .
- (c) The edge joining two vertices  $s, t \in S$  is labeled by  $m_{s,t}$  if  $m_{s,t} \geq 4$ .

The *Coxeter system* associated with  $M$  (or with  $\Gamma$ ) is the pair  $(W, S)$  where  $W$  is the group having the presentation

$$W = \langle S \mid (st)^{m_{s,t}} = 1 \text{ if } m_{s,t} < +\infty \rangle.$$

The group  $W$  is called the *Coxeter group* associated with  $M$ . Given  $X \subseteq S$ , we write

$$M_X = (m_{s,t})_{s,t \in X},$$

$\Gamma_X$  the Coxeter graph which represents  $M_X$ ,

$W_X$  the subgroup of  $W$  generated by  $X$ .

---

Received by the editors October 17, 1995.  
1991 *Mathematics Subject Classification*. Primary 20F55.

The pair  $(W_X, X)$  is the Coxeter system associated with  $M_X$  (see [Bo, Ch. IV, §1, n° 8]). The group  $W_X$  is called a *parabolic subgroup* of the Coxeter system  $(W, S)$ . We assume that the reader is familiar with the theory of Coxeter groups. We refer to [Bo] and [Hu] for general expositions on the subject.

For a group  $G$  and for a subgroup  $H$  of  $G$ , we denote by  $Z(G)$  the center of  $G$ , by  $Z_G(H)$  the centralizer of  $H$  in  $G$ , by  $N_G(H)$  the normalizer of  $H$  in  $G$ , and by  $C_G(H)$  the commensurator of  $H$  in  $G$ . Recall that this is defined by

$$C_G(H) = \{g \in G ; H \cap (gHg^{-1}) \text{ has finite index in both } H \text{ and } gHg^{-1}\} .$$

Commensurators play an important role in representation theory, especially in the study of induced representations. For example, if a subgroup  $H$  of  $G$  is its own commensurator, then any finite dimensional irreducible representation of  $H$  induces an irreducible representation of  $G$  (see [Ma]). If  $\mathbf{K}$  is an infinite field and  $P$  is a parabolic subgroup of  $\text{GL}(n, \mathbf{K})$ , then  $P$  is its own commensurator (see [BH]). A similar result is obviously not true for Coxeter groups. Indeed, the commensurator of a finite parabolic subgroup is the whole group  $W$ . However, we prove in this paper that the commensurator of a parabolic subgroup is always a parabolic subgroup (Corollary 2.2), and we give a criterion which decides whether a parabolic subgroup is its own commensurator (Corollary 2.3).

The goal of this paper is to determine the commensurator of a parabolic subgroup  $W_X$  of a Coxeter system. This subgroup can be decomposed in the form  $W_X = W_{X^0} \cdot W_{X^\infty} \simeq W_{X^0} \times W_{X^\infty}$ , where  $W_{X^0}$  is finite and all the irreducible components of  $W_{X^\infty}$  are infinite. In a first step (Proposition 2.4), we prove that the commensurator of  $W_X$  is the normalizer of  $W_{X^\infty}$ . In a second step (Proposition 2.5), we prove that the normalizer of  $W_{X^\infty}$  is  $QZ_W(W_{X^\infty}) \cdot W_{X^\infty}$ , where

$$QZ_W(W_{X^\infty}) = \{w \in W ; wX^\infty w^{-1} = X^\infty\}$$

is the *quasi-centralizer* of  $W_{X^\infty}$ . In a third step (Proposition 2.6), we prove that  $QZ_W(W_{X^\infty})$  is  $W_{Y^\infty}$ , where  $Y^\infty$  is the set of  $t$  in  $S$  such that  $m_{s,t} = 2$  for all  $s \in X^\infty$ . Finally, from Propositions 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6, we deduce the following expression of the commensurator of  $W_X$  (Theorem 2.1):

$$C_W(W_X) = W_{Y^\infty} \cdot W_{X^\infty} \simeq W_{Y^\infty} \times W_{X^\infty} .$$

We state our results precisely in Section 2, and we prove them in Section 3.

## 2. STATEMENTS

From now on, we fix a Coxeter system  $(W, S)$ .

Let  $X$  be a subset of  $S$ . Let  $\Gamma_1, \dots, \Gamma_n$  be the connected components of  $\Gamma_X$  and, for  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ , let  $X_i$  be the set of vertices of  $\Gamma_i$ . The group  $W_{X_i}$  is called an *irreducible component* of  $W_X$ . It is clear that

$$W_X = W_{X_1} \cdots W_{X_n} \simeq W_{X_1} \times \cdots \times W_{X_n} .$$

We assume that  $W_{X_i}$  is finite if  $i = 1, \dots, r$ , and that  $W_{X_i}$  is infinite if  $i = r + 1, \dots, n$ . We set

$$\begin{aligned} X^0 &= X_1 \cup \cdots \cup X_r , \\ X^\infty &= X_{r+1} \cup \cdots \cup X_n . \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$W_X = W_{X^0} \cdot W_{X^\infty} \simeq W_{X^0} \times W_{X^\infty} ,$$

the group  $W_{X^0}$  is finite, and all the irreducible components of  $W_{X^\infty}$  are infinite.

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $X$  be a subset of  $S$ . Then*

$$C_W(W_X) = W_{Y^\infty} \cdot W_{X^\infty} = W_{Y^\infty \cup X^\infty} \simeq W_{Y^\infty} \times W_{X^\infty},$$

where

$$Y^\infty = \{t \in S ; m_{s,t} = 2 \text{ for all } s \in X^\infty\} .$$

**Corollary 2.2.** *The commensurator of a parabolic subgroup of  $(W, S)$  is a parabolic subgroup.*

**Corollary 2.3.** *Let  $X$  be a subset of  $S$ . Then  $W_X$  is its own commensurator if and only if  $X^0$  is the set of  $t \in S$  such that  $m_{s,t} = 2$  for all  $s \in X^\infty$ .*

Theorem 2.1 is a direct consequence of the following Propositions 2.4, 2.5, and 2.6.

**Proposition 2.4.** *Let  $X$  be a subset of  $S$ . Then the commensurator of  $W_X$  in  $W$  is equal to the normalizer of  $W_{X^\infty}$  in  $W$ .*

We define the *quasi-center* of  $(W, S)$  to be

$$QZ(W, S) = \{w \in W ; wSw^{-1} = S\} .$$

Similarly, we define the *quasi-centralizer* of a parabolic subgroup  $W_X$  of  $(W, S)$  to be

$$QZ_W(W_X) = \{w \in W ; wXw^{-1} = X\} .$$

**Proposition 2.5.** *Let  $X$  be a subset of  $S$ . Then*

$$N_W(W_X) = QZ_W(W_X) \cdot W_X .$$

Moreover,

$$QZ_W(W_X) \cap W_X = QZ(W_X, X) .$$

**Proposition 2.6.** *Let  $X$  be a subset of  $S$  such that all the irreducible components of  $W_X$  are infinite (i.e.  $X = X^\infty$ ). Let*

$$Y = \{t \in S ; m_{s,t} = 2 \text{ for all } s \in X\} .$$

*Then the quasi-centralizer of  $W_X$  is equal to  $W_Y$ .*

Proposition 2.4 is a consequence of [So, Lemma 2]. Proposition 2.5 is stated in [Ho] for finite type Coxeter systems (see also [Kr, Ch. 3]). Moreover, its proof is quite simple. Proposition 2.6 is a consequence of [De, Prop. 5.5].

### 3. PROOFS

First, we state in Lemmas 3.1 and 3.2 some well-known facts that will be required later. Recall that each  $w \in W$  can be written  $w = s_1 \dots s_r$  where  $s_i \in S$  for all  $i \in \{1, \dots, r\}$ . If  $r$  is as small as possible, then  $r$  is called the *length* of  $w$  and is denoted by  $l(w)$ .

**Lemma 3.1** (Bourbaki [Bo, Ch. IV, §1, Ex. 3]). *Let  $X$  and  $X'$  be two subsets of  $S$ .*

- (i) Let  $w \in W$ . There is a unique element  $v$  of minimal length in  $W_X w W_{X'}$ . Moreover, each  $w' \in W_X w W_{X'}$  can be written as  $w' = uvu'$ , where  $u \in W_X$ ,  $u' \in W_{X'}$ , and  $l(w') = l(u) + l(v) + l(u')$ . An element  $v$  is called  $(X, X')$ -reduced if it is of minimal length in  $W_X v W_{X'}$ .
- (ii) If an element  $v$  is  $(X, \emptyset)$ -reduced, then  $l(uv) = l(u) + l(v)$  for all  $u \in W_X$ .
- (iii) If an element  $v$  is  $(\emptyset, X')$ -reduced, then  $l(vu') = l(v) + l(u')$  for all  $u' \in W_{X'}$ .
- (iv) An element  $v$  is  $(X, \emptyset)$ -reduced if and only if  $l(sv) > l(v)$  for all  $s \in X$ .
- (v) An element  $v$  is  $(\emptyset, X')$ -reduced if and only if  $l(vs') > l(v)$  for all  $s' \in X'$ .
- (vi) An element  $v$  is  $(X, X')$ -reduced if and only if it is both  $(X, \emptyset)$ -reduced and  $(\emptyset, X')$ -reduced.

**Lemma 3.2** (Bourbaki [Bo, Ch. IV, §1, Ex. 22]). Let  $w_0$  be an element of  $W$ . The following statements are equivalent.

- (1)  $l(sw_0) < l(w_0)$  for all  $s \in S$ .
- (2)  $l(w_0s) < l(w_0)$  for all  $s \in S$ .
- (3)  $l(w_0w) = l(w_0) - l(w)$  for all  $w \in W$ .
- (4)  $l(w_0w) = l(w_0) - l(w)$  for all  $w \in W$ .

Such an element is unique and exists if and only if  $W$  is finite. Then it is the unique element of maximal length in  $W$ . Moreover,  $w_0^2 = 1$  and  $w_0 S w_0 = S$ .

The following proposition is the key of the proof of Proposition 2.4.

**Proposition 3.3** (Solomon [So, Lemma 2]). Let  $X$  and  $X'$  be two subsets of  $S$ , and let  $v$  be a  $(X, X')$ -reduced element of  $W$ . Then

$$W_X \cap (vW_{X'}v^{-1}) = W_Y,$$

where  $Y = (vX'v^{-1}) \cap X$ .

**Corollary 3.4.** Let  $X$  and  $X'$  be two subsets of  $S$ , and let  $w$  be an element of  $W$ . We write  $w = u_0 v u_0'$ , where  $u_0 \in W_X$ ,  $u_0' \in W_{X'}$ , and  $v$  is  $(X, X')$ -reduced. Then

$$W_X \cap (wW_{X'}w^{-1}) = u_0 W_Y u_0'^{-1},$$

where  $Y = (vX'v^{-1}) \cap X$ .

*Proof.*

$$\begin{aligned} W_X \cap (wW_{X'}w^{-1}) &= W_X \cap (u_0 v u_0' W_{X'} u_0'^{-1} v^{-1} u_0^{-1}) \\ &= W_X \cap (u_0 v W_{X'} v^{-1} u_0^{-1}) \\ &= u_0 ((u_0^{-1} W_X u_0) \cap (v W_{X'} v^{-1})) u_0^{-1} \\ &= u_0 (W_X \cap (v W_{X'} v^{-1})) u_0^{-1} \\ &= u_0 W_Y u_0^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

□

*Proof of Proposition 2.4.* Let  $w \in N_W(W_{X^\infty})$ . Then

$$W_{X^\infty} = w W_{X^\infty} w^{-1} \subseteq W_X \cap (w W_X w^{-1}),$$

the group  $W_{X^\infty}$  has finite index in  $W_X$ , and the group  $w W_{X^\infty} w^{-1}$  has finite index in  $w W_X w^{-1}$ . Thus  $W_X \cap (w W_X w^{-1})$  has finite index in both  $W_X$  and  $w W_X w^{-1}$ . This shows that  $N_W(W_{X^\infty}) \subseteq C_W(W_X)$ .

Let  $w \in C_W(W_X)$ . We write  $w = u_0 v u'_0$ , where  $u_0, u'_0 \in W_X$  and  $v$  is  $(X, X)$ -reduced. By Corollary 3.4,

$$W_X \cap (wW_X w^{-1}) = u_0 W_Y u_0^{-1},$$

where  $Y = (vXv^{-1}) \cap X$ . Let  $Y^0 = Y \cap X^0$ , and let  $Y^\infty = Y \cap X^\infty$ . For a group  $G$  and for a subgroup  $H$  of  $G$ , we denote by  $|G : H|$  the index of  $H$  in  $G$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} |W_X : W_X \cap (wW_X w^{-1})| &= |W_X : u_0 W_Y u_0^{-1}| = |W_X : W_Y| \\ &= |W_{X^0} : W_{Y^0}| \cdot |W_{X^\infty} : W_{Y^\infty}|. \end{aligned}$$

If  $Y^\infty \neq X^\infty$ , then, by [De, Prop. 4.2],  $W_{Y^\infty}$  has infinite index in  $W_{X^\infty}$ ; thus  $W_X \cap (wW_X w^{-1})$  has infinite index in  $W_X$ , too. This is not the case; thus  $Y^\infty = X^\infty$ . Let  $\Gamma_1, \dots, \Gamma_n$  be the connected components of  $\Gamma_X$ , and, for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , let  $X_i$  be the set of vertices of  $\Gamma_i$ . We assume that  $X^0 = X_1 \cup \dots \cup X_r$  and that  $X^\infty = X_{r+1} \cup \dots \cup X_n$ . Let  $i \in \{r+1, \dots, n\}$ . Then

$$v^{-1} X_i v \subseteq v^{-1} X^\infty v = v^{-1} Y^\infty v \subseteq v^{-1} Y v \subseteq X.$$

Thus there exists  $j \in \{1, \dots, r, r+1, \dots, n\}$  such that  $v^{-1} X_i v \subseteq X_j$ . The group  $W_{X_i}$  is infinite and  $v^{-1} W_{X_i} v \subseteq W_{X_j}$ ; thus  $W_{X_j}$  is infinite, and so  $j \in \{r+1, \dots, n\}$ . This shows that  $v^{-1} X^\infty v \subseteq X^\infty$ ; thus  $vX^\infty v^{-1} = X^\infty$ ; therefore  $vW_{X^\infty} v^{-1} = W_{X^\infty}$ . On the other hand, since  $W_X = W_{X^0} \cdot W_{X^\infty} \simeq W_{X^0} \times W_{X^\infty}$ , we have  $uW_{X^\infty} u^{-1} = W_{X^\infty}$  for all  $u \in W_X$ . So,

$$wW_{X^\infty} w^{-1} = u_0 v u'_0 W_{X^\infty} u_0^{-1} v^{-1} u_0^{-1} = u_0 v W_{X^\infty} v^{-1} u_0^{-1} = u_0 W_{X^\infty} u_0^{-1} = W_{X^\infty}.$$

This shows that  $C_W(W_X) \subseteq N_W(W_{X^\infty})$ . □

*Proof of Proposition 2.5.* The inclusion

$$QZ_W(W_X) \cdot W_X \subseteq N_W(W_X)$$

is obvious.

Let  $w \in N_W(W_X)$ . We write  $w = vu$ , where  $u \in W_X$ ,  $v$  is  $(\emptyset, X)$ -reduced, and  $l(w) = l(v) + l(u)$ . We have

$$wW_X w^{-1} = vW_X v^{-1} = W_X.$$

The element  $v$  is of minimal length in  $vW_X = W_X v$ ; thus  $v$  is also  $(X, \emptyset)$ -reduced. If  $s \in X$ , then, by Lemma 3.1,

$$\begin{aligned} l(v) + 1 &= l(vs) = l(vsv^{-1}v) = l(vsv^{-1}) + l(v) \\ \Rightarrow l(vsv^{-1}) &= 1 \\ \Rightarrow vsv^{-1} &\in W_X \cap S = X. \end{aligned}$$

So,  $vXv^{-1} \subseteq X$ ; thus  $vXv^{-1} = X$ ; therefore  $v \in QZ_W(W_X)$ . This shows that  $N_W(W_X) \subseteq QZ_W(W_X) \cdot W_X$ .

The equality

$$QZ_W(W_X) \cap W_X = QZ(W_X, X)$$

is obvious. □

Before proving Proposition 2.6, we recall some facts on root systems. Let  $V$  be a real vector space having a basis  $\{e_s; s \in S\}$  in one-to-one correspondence with  $S$ . Let  $B$  be the symmetric bilinear form on  $V$  defined by

$$B(e_s, e_t) = \begin{cases} -\cos(\pi/m_{s,t}) & \text{if } m_{s,t} < +\infty, \\ -1 & \text{if } m_{s,t} = +\infty. \end{cases}$$

There is an action of  $W$  on  $V$  defined by

$$s(x) = x - 2B(x, e_s)e_s$$

if  $s \in S$  and  $x \in V$ . This action is called the *canonical representation* of  $(W, S)$ . The *root system*  $\Phi$  of  $(W, S)$  is the collection of all vectors  $w(e_s)$  where  $w \in W$  and  $s \in S$ . By [Bo, Ch. V, §4, Ex. 8], every root  $\alpha$  can be uniquely written in the form

$$\alpha = \sum_{s \in S} a_s e_s \quad (a_s \in \mathbf{R}),$$

where either all  $a_s$  are positive, or all  $a_s$  are negative. We call  $\alpha$  *positive* and write  $\alpha > 0$  if  $a_s \geq 0$  for all  $s \in S$ . We call  $\alpha$  *negative* and write  $\alpha < 0$  if  $a_s \leq 0$  for all  $s \in S$ .

**Proposition 3.5** (Deodhar [De, Prop. 3.1]). *Let*

$$T = \{wsw^{-1}; w \in W \text{ and } s \in S\},$$

and let  $\Phi^+$  be the set of positive roots. For  $\alpha = w(e_s)$ , we write  $r_\alpha = wsw^{-1}$ . Then the function  $\Phi^+ \rightarrow T$  ( $\alpha \mapsto r_\alpha$ ) is well-defined and bijective.

**Proposition 3.6** (Deodhar [De, Prop. 2.2]). *Let  $w \in W$ , and let  $s \in S$ . Then  $l(ws) > l(w)$  if and only if  $w(e_s) > 0$ .*

For a subset  $X$  of  $S$ , we write

$$E_X = \{e_s; s \in X\}.$$

The following lemma is an easy consequence of Propositions 3.5 and 3.6.

**Lemma 3.7.** *Let  $X$  and  $X'$  be two subsets of  $S$ , and let  $w$  be an element of  $W$ . The following statements are equivalent.*

- (1)  $w(E_X) = E_{X'}$ .
- (2)  $wXw^{-1} = X'$  and  $l(ws) > l(w)$  for all  $s \in X$ .

For  $X \subseteq S$  such that  $W_X$  is finite, we denote by  $w_X$  the unique element of maximal length in  $W_X$ .

Let  $X$  be a subset of  $S$ , and let  $t$  be an element of  $S \setminus X$ . Let  $\Gamma_0$  be the connected component of  $\Gamma_{\{t\} \cup X}$  containing  $t$ , and let  $Y_0$  be the set of vertices of  $\Gamma_0$ . We say that  $t$  is  *$X$ -admissible* if  $W_{Y_0}$  is finite. In that case, we write

$$c(t, X) = w_{Y_0} w_{X_0},$$

where  $X_0 = Y_0 \setminus \{t\}$ . It is the element of minimal length in  $w_{Y_0} W_X$ . In particular,  $c(t, X)$  is  $(\emptyset, X)$ -reduced. By Lemma 3.2 and Lemma 3.7, there exists a subset  $X'$  of  $\{t\} \cup X$  such that

$$c(t, X)(E_X) = E_{X'}.$$

If  $X = X^\infty$ , then  $t$  is  $X$ -admissible if and only if  $m_{s,t} = 2$  for all  $s \in X$ . In that case,  $c(t, X) = t$  and  $c(t, X)(E_X) = E_X$ .

**Proposition 3.8** (Deodhar [De, Prop. 5.5]). *Let  $X$  and  $X'$  be two subsets of  $S$ , and let  $w$  be an element of  $W$ . If  $w(E_X) = E_{X'}$ , then there exist sequences*

$$X_0 = X, X_1, \dots, X_n = X' \text{ of subsets of } S,$$

$$t_0, t_1, \dots, t_{n-1} \text{ of elements of } S,$$

such that

- (a)  $t_i \in S \setminus X_i$  and  $t_i$  is  $X_i$ -admissible ( $i = 0, 1, \dots, n - 1$ ),
- (b)  $c(t_i, X_i)(E_{X_i}) = E_{X_{i+1}}$  ( $i = 0, 1, \dots, n - 1$ ),
- (c)  $w = c(t_{n-1}, X_{n-1}) \dots c(t_1, X_1)c(t_0, X_0)$ .

The following Lemmas 3.9 and 3.10 are preliminary results to the proof of Proposition 2.6.

**Lemma 3.9.** *Let  $X$  and  $X'$  be two subsets of  $S$ , and let  $w$  be an element of  $W$ . If  $wXw^{-1} = X'$ , then  $w$  can be written  $w = vu$ , where  $u \in QZ(W_X, X)$ ,  $vXv^{-1} = X'$ , and  $l(vs) > l(v)$  for all  $s \in X$ .*

*Proof.* We write  $w = vu$ , where  $u \in W_X$ ,  $v$  is  $(\emptyset, X)$ -reduced, and  $l(w) = l(v) + l(u)$ . We have

$$wW_Xw^{-1} = vW_Xv^{-1} = W_{X'}.$$

The element  $v$  is of minimal length in  $vW_X = W_{X'}v$ ; thus  $v$  is also  $(X', \emptyset)$ -reduced. If  $s \in X$ , then, by Lemma 3.1,

$$l(v) + 1 = l(vs) = l(vsv^{-1}v) = l(vsv^{-1}) + l(v)$$

$$\Rightarrow l(vsv^{-1}) = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow vsv^{-1} \in W_{X'} \cap S = X'.$$

So,  $vXv^{-1} \subseteq X'$ . Similarly,  $v^{-1}X'v \subseteq X$ . Thus  $vXv^{-1} = X'$ .

Since  $v$  is  $(\emptyset, X)$ -reduced, by Lemma 3.1,  $l(vs) > l(v)$  for all  $s \in X$ .

Finally,

$$wXw^{-1} = vuXu^{-1}v^{-1} = X'$$

$$\Rightarrow uXu^{-1} = v^{-1}X'v = X.$$

Thus  $u \in QZ(W_X, X)$ . □

**Lemma 3.10** (Bourbaki [Bo, Ch. V, §4, Ex. 3]). *We suppose that  $(W, S)$  is irreducible.*

- (i) *If  $W$  is finite, then  $QZ(W, S) = \{1, w_0\}$ , where  $w_0$  is the unique element of maximal length in  $W$ .*
- (ii) *If  $W$  is infinite, then  $QZ(W, S) = \{1\}$ .*

*Proof of Proposition 2.6.* The inclusion

$$W_Y \subseteq QZ_W(W_X)$$

is obvious.

Let  $w \in QZ_W(W_X)$ . By Lemma 3.9,  $w$  can be written  $w = vu$ , where  $u \in QZ(W_X, X)$ ,  $vXv^{-1} = X$ , and  $l(vs) > l(v)$  for all  $s \in X$ . Since  $X = X^\infty$ , by Lemma 3.10,  $QZ(W_X, X) = \{1\}$ ; thus  $u = 1$ . By Lemma 3.7,  $v(E_X) = E_X$ . By Proposition 3.8, there exist sequences

$$X = X_0, X_1, \dots, X_n = X \text{ of subsets of } S,$$

$$t_0, t_1, \dots, t_{n-1} \text{ of elements of } S,$$

such that

- (a)  $t_i \in S \setminus X_i$  and  $t_i$  is  $X_i$ -admissible ( $i = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$ ),
- (b)  $c(t_i, X_i)(E_{X_i}) = E_{X_{i+1}}$  ( $i = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$ ),
- (c)  $v = c(t_{n-1}, X_{n-1}) \dots c(t_1, X_1)c(t_0, X_0)$ .

Since  $X = X^\infty$ , if  $X_i = X$ , then  $m_{t_i, s} = 2$  for all  $s \in X$  (namely,  $t_i \in Y$ ),  $c(t_i, X_i) = t_i$ , and  $X_{i+1} = X$  (since  $t_i(E_X) = E_X$ ). Since  $X_0 = X$ , it follows that  $c(t_i, X_i) = t_i \in Y$  for all  $i = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$ . Thus

$$w = v = t_{n-1} \dots t_1 t_0 \in W_Y .$$

This shows that  $QZ_W(W_X) \subseteq W_Y$ . □

#### REFERENCES

- [Bo] N. Bourbaki, “*Groupes et algèbres de Lie, Chapitres IV–VI*”, Hermann, Paris, 1968. MR **39**:1590
- [Br] K. S. Brown, “*Buildings*”, Springer-Verlag, New York, 1989. MR **90e**:20001
- [BH] M. Burger and P. de la Harpe, *Irreducible representations of discrete groups*, in preparation.
- [De] V. V. Deodhar, *On the root system of a Coxeter group*, Comm. Algebra **10** (1982), 611–630. MR **83j**:20052a
- [Ho] R. B. Howlett, *Normalizers of parabolic subgroups of reflection groups*, J. London Math. Soc. (2) **21** (1980), 62–80. MR **81g**:20094
- [Hu] J. E. Humphreys, “*Reflection groups and Coxeter groups*”, Cambridge studies in advanced mathematics, vol. 29, Cambridge University Press, 1990. MR **92h**:20002
- [Kr] D. Kramer, “*The conjugacy problem for Coxeter groups*”, Ph. D. Thesis, Utrecht, 1994.
- [Ma] G. W. Mackey, “*The theory of unitary group representations*”, The University of Chicago Press, 1976. MR **53**:686
- [So] L. Solomon, *A Mackey formula in the group ring of a Coxeter group*, J. Algebra **41** (1976), 255–264. MR **56**:3104

LABORATOIRE DE TOPOLOGIE, DÉPARTEMENT DE MATHÉMATIQUES, UNIVERSITÉ DE BOURGOGNE, U.M.R. 5584, B.P. 138, 21004 DIJON CEDEX, FRANCE

*E-mail address*: lparis@satie.u-bourgogne.fr