# Coxeter sortable elements and dual braid monoids

Thomas Gobet

The University of Sydney

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Main result

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Let G be a group, A ⊆ G a subset which generates G as monoid. Let ℓ<sub>A</sub> be the length function w.r.t. A. Say that x is a *left prefix* (resp. *right prefix*) of y, written x ≤<sub>l</sub> y (resp x ≤<sub>r</sub> y) if ℓ<sub>A</sub>(x) + ℓ<sub>A</sub>(x<sup>-1</sup>y) = ℓ<sub>A</sub>(y) (resp. ℓ<sub>A</sub>(x) + ℓ<sub>A</sub>(yx<sup>-1</sup>) = ℓ<sub>A</sub>(y)).

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- An element g ∈ G is balanced if the set of left and right prefixes of g coincide.

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- An element  $g \in G$  is *balanced* if the set of left and right prefixes of g coincide.
- If g ∈ G is balanced, define a monoid M by taking a copy P of the set P of prefixes of g as generators, and relations uv = w if u, v, w ∈ P, uv = w and ℓ<sub>A</sub>(u) + ℓ<sub>A</sub>(v) = ℓ<sub>A</sub>(w).

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- If g ∈ G is balanced, define a monoid M by taking a copy P of the set P of prefixes of g as generators, and relations
  uv = w if u, v, w ∈ P, uv = w and l<sub>A</sub>(u) + l<sub>A</sub>(v) = l<sub>A</sub>(w). Let G(M) be the group with the same presentation as M.

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  uv = w if u, v, w ∈ P, uv = w and ℓ<sub>A</sub>(u) + ℓ<sub>A</sub>(v) = ℓ<sub>A</sub>(w). Let G(M) be the group with the same presentation as M.

Theorem (Bessis)

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#### Theorem (Bessis)

Let  $A \subseteq G$  as above, and let  $g \in G$  be balanced. If  $A \subseteq P$  and the posets  $(P, \leq_l)$ ,  $(P, \leq_r)$  are lattices, then M is a (quasi-)Garside monoid. As a consequence, the word problem in G(M) is solvable.

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Let (W, S) be a finite Coxeter system.

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Let (W, S) be a finite Coxeter system.

• Let G = W, A = S,  $g = w_0$ .



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Let (W, S) be a finite Coxeter system.

▶ Let G = W, A = S,  $g = w_0$ . Then  $w_0$  is balanced (with P = W), and  $(W, \leq_l)$ ,  $(W, \leq_r)$  are lattices (left and right weak Bruhat order).

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Let G = W, A = S, g = w<sub>0</sub>. Then w<sub>0</sub> is balanced (with P = W), and (W, ≤<sub>l</sub>), (W, ≤<sub>r</sub>) are lattices (left and right weak Bruhat order). The corresponding Garside monoid M is the positive braid monoid B<sup>+</sup>, and G(M) is isomorphic to the Artin-Tits group B. Coxeter sortable elements and dual braid monoids

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- Let G = W, A = T = ⋃<sub>w∈W</sub> wSw<sup>-1</sup>, g a Coxeter element in W (product of all the elements of S in some order).

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- Let G = W, A = S, g = w<sub>0</sub>. Then w<sub>0</sub> is balanced (with P = W), and (W, ≤<sub>l</sub>), (W, ≤<sub>r</sub>) are lattices (left and right weak Bruhat order). The corresponding Garside monoid M is the positive braid monoid B<sup>+</sup>, and G(M) is isomorphic to the Artin-Tits group B. For infinite W, there is no w<sub>0</sub>.
- ▶ Let G = W,  $A = T = \bigcup_{w \in W} wSw^{-1}$ , g a Coxeter element in W (product of all the elements of S in some order). Then c is balanced (we write  $P_c := P$ ), it can be shown that  $A \subseteq P_c$ , and  $(P_c, \leq_r)$ ,  $(P_c, \leq_l)$  are lattices.

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- Let G = W, A = S, g = w<sub>0</sub>. Then w<sub>0</sub> is balanced (with P = W), and (W, ≤<sub>l</sub>), (W, ≤<sub>r</sub>) are lattices (left and right weak Bruhat order). The corresponding Garside monoid M is the positive braid monoid B<sup>+</sup>, and G(M) is isomorphic to the Artin-Tits group B. For infinite W, there is no w<sub>0</sub>.
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- Let G = W, A = S, g = w<sub>0</sub>. Then w<sub>0</sub> is balanced (with P = W), and (W, ≤<sub>l</sub>), (W, ≤<sub>r</sub>) are lattices (left and right weak Bruhat order). The corresponding Garside monoid M is the positive braid monoid B<sup>+</sup>, and G(M) is isomorphic to the Artin-Tits group B. For infinite W, there is no w<sub>0</sub>.
- Let G = W, A = T = ⋃<sub>w∈W</sub> wSw<sup>-1</sup>, g a Coxeter element in W (product of all the elements of S in some order). Then c is balanced (we write P<sub>c</sub> := P), it can be shown that A ⊆ P<sub>c</sub>, and (P<sub>c</sub>, ≤<sub>r</sub>), (P<sub>c</sub>, ≤<sub>l</sub>) are lattices. The corresponding Garside monoid M =: B<sup>\*</sup><sub>c</sub> is called the *dual braid monoid*, and G(M) is isomorphic to B. For infinite W, there are still Coxeter elements.

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• Let (W, S) be an arbitrary Coxeter group,  $c \in W$  a Coxeter element.

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Main result

Let (W, S) be an arbitrary Coxeter group, c ∈ W a Coxeter element. Then B<sup>\*</sup><sub>c</sub> can still be defined (c is always balanced, in fact ≤<sub>r</sub>=≤<sub>l</sub>=:≤<sub>T</sub>). Coxeter sortable elements and dual braid monoids

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- Two questions which one can ask about  $B_c^*$  and  $G(B_c^*)$ :

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1. Is  $G(B_c^*)$  isomorphic to B ?

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- ► A positive answer to both questions implies that *B* has
  - a solvable word problem.

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  - 1. Is  $G(B_c^*)$  isomorphic to B ?
  - 2. Is  $B_c^*$  a Garside monoid ?
- A positive answer to both questions implies that B has a solvable word problem.
- ► Conjecture 1 is true for finite, affine and universal W.

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- A positive answer to both questions implies that B has a solvable word problem.
- ► Conjecture 1 is true for finite, affine and universal W. Conjecture 2 is true for finite W, Ã<sub>n</sub> and C̃<sub>n</sub> (for suitable choices of Coxeter element), G̃<sub>2</sub>, universal W.

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- Conjecture 1 is true for finite, affine and universal W. Conjecture 2 is true for finite W, Ã<sub>n</sub> and C̃<sub>n</sub> (for suitable choices of Coxeter element), G̃<sub>2</sub>, universal W. It fails for the other affine Artin groups. One always has S ⊆ P<sub>c</sub>; this extends to a group homomorphism B → G(B<sup>\*</sup><sub>c</sub>). This map is known to be surjective.

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Hence finding a way to express the elements P<sub>c</sub> in terms of the classical Artin group generators is an important question. Coxeter sortable elements and dual braid monoids

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Lemma (Dyer)

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#### Lemma (Dyer)

Let  $x, y \in W$ . Let  $N(y) = \{t \in T \mid \ell_S(ty) < \ell_S(y)\}$ . Let  $s_1s_2 \cdots s_k$  be a reduced expression of x.

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Dual and classical generators of Artin groups

Coxeter sortable elements

Main result

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► Hence finding a way to express the elements P<sub>c</sub> in terms of the classical Artin group generators is an important question. Even for finite W there is no known nice expression for the elements of P<sub>c</sub> in B. In that case, B<sup>\*</sup><sub>c</sub> is generated by T ⊆ P<sub>c</sub>.

#### Lemma (Dyer)

Let  $x, y \in W$ . Let  $N(y) = \{t \in T \mid \ell_S(ty) < \ell_S(y)\}$ . Let  $s_1s_2 \cdots s_k$  be a reduced expression of x. The element

 $x_{N(y)} := \sigma_1^{\varepsilon_1} \sigma_2^{\varepsilon_2} \cdots \sigma_k^{\varepsilon_k} \in B,$ 

where  $\varepsilon_i = -1$  if  $s_k s_{k-1} \cdots s_i s_{i+1} \cdots s_k \in N(y)$ ,  $\varepsilon_i = 1$  otherwise,

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• If y = 1,  $x_{\emptyset}$  is just the positive lift of x in  $B^+ \subseteq B$ .

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► For every w ∈ W, define the c-sorting word w<sub>c</sub> for w as the lexicographically first reduced expression of w appearing as a subword of c<sup>∞</sup>. Coxeter sortable elements and dual braid monoids

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#### Definition (Reading)

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#### Definition (Reading)

An element  $w \in W$  is *c*-sortable if  $w_k \subseteq w_{k-1} \subseteq \cdots \subseteq w_1$ .

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Theorem (Reading)

Let w be c-sortable, let  $Cov(w) := wD_R(w)w^{-1}$ .

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Let w be c-sortable, let  $Cov(w) := wD_R(w)w^{-1}$ . There is a unique  $u \in P_c$  such that  $(Cov(w)) = \langle t \in T | t \leq_T u \rangle$ .

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Let 
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Let 
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It gives a canonical expression for any simple dual braid in terms of the classical generators of B, and gives a new proof of the fact that every x ∈ P<sub>c</sub> we be written in the form u<sub>∅</sub>v<sub>∅</sub><sup>-1</sup> (Digne-G., Baumeister-G., Licata-Queffelec). Coxeter sortable elements and dual braid monoids

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