

Thm. Let  $w = s_1 \dots s_r$ ,  $s_i \in S$ . Pick  $t \in T$  (reflection) s.t.  $l(wt) < l(w)$ .  
 $\Rightarrow \exists 1 \leq j \leq r$  s.t.  $wt = s_1 \dots \hat{s}_j \dots s_r$ . If  $s_1 \dots s_r$  reduced, then choice of  $j$  is unique.

Pf. Write  $t = s_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in \Phi^+$ .  $l(wt) < l(w) \Rightarrow w(\alpha) < 0$ .

Hence  $\exists j$  s.t.  $s_j s_{j+1} \dots s_r(\alpha) < 0$ , but,  $s_{j+1} \dots s_r(\alpha) > 0$ .

Since  $s_j$  preserves  $\Phi^+ \setminus \{\alpha_{s_j}\}$ , we know that  $s_{j+1} \dots s_r(\alpha) = \alpha_{s_j}$ .

$$\Rightarrow t = (s_{j+1} \dots s_r)^{-1} s_j (s_{j+1} \dots s_r) = s_r \dots s_{j+1} s_j s_{j+1} \dots s_r.$$

$$\Rightarrow wt = (s_1 \dots s_j)(s_r \dots s_{j+1}) s_j (s_{j+1} \dots s_r) = s_1 \dots s_{j-1} s_{j+1} \dots s_r = s_1 \dots \hat{s}_j \dots s_r.$$

Suppose  $\exists i < j$  s.t.  $wt = s_1 \dots \hat{s}_i \dots s_r = s_1 \dots \hat{s}_j \dots s_r$

$$\Rightarrow s_{i+1} \dots s_j = s_i \dots s_{j-1} \Rightarrow s_i \dots s_j = s_{i+1} \dots s_{j-1}$$

$\Rightarrow w = s_1 \dots \hat{s}_i \dots \hat{s}_j \dots s_r$ , so original expression not reduced.  $\square$

Cor. If  $w = s_1 \dots s_r$  not reduced, then  $\exists i < j$  s.t.  $w = s_1 \dots \hat{s}_i \dots \hat{s}_j \dots s_r$ .

In particular, we can delete an even # of the  $s_i$  to get reduced expression.

Pf. Since  $l(w) < r$ ,  $\exists j$  s.t.  $l(s_1 \dots s_j) < j$ . Let  $w' = s_1 \dots s_{j-1}$ .

By Thm ( $t = s_j$ ),  $\exists i \leq j-1$  s.t.  $w' s_j = s_1 \dots \hat{s}_i \dots s_{j-1}$ .

$$\Rightarrow w = (s_1 \dots s_j) s_{j+1} \dots s_r = (s_1 \dots \hat{s}_i \dots s_{j-1}) s_{j+1} \dots s_r. \quad \square$$

Let  $I \subseteq S$ , define  $w^I = \{w \in W \mid l(ws) > l(w) \text{ for all } s \in I\}$ .

Prop. Given  $w \in W$ ,  $\exists$  unique  $u \in w^I$  &  $v \in W_I$  s.t.  $w = uv$ .

Furthermore,  $l(w) = l(u) + l(v)$ . Moreover,  $u$  is unique element of minimal possible length in coset  $wW_I$ .

Pf. Pick  $u \in wW_I$  of minimal possible length, and  $v = u^{-1}w \in W_I$ .

• Then  $u \in w^I$ : Pick  $s \in I$ : then  $us \in W_I$ , so by choice of  $u$ ,  $l(us) = l(u)$ .

• Pick reduced expressions  $u = s_1 \dots s_p$  &  $v = s'_1 \dots s'_q$ . ( $\Rightarrow s'_i \in I$ )

$w = (s_1 \dots s_p)(s'_1 \dots s'_q)$ . Suppose not reduced: then can delete 2 elements to get shorter expression for  $w$ . If one of these is an  $s_i$ , then we get another coset representative for  $w$  w/ smaller length than  $u \rightarrow \leftarrow$   
 So both elements must be  $s'_i, s'_j \Rightarrow v = s'_1 \dots \hat{s}'_i \dots \hat{s}'_j \dots s'_q \rightarrow \leftarrow$   
 $\Rightarrow l(w) = l(u) + l(v)$ .

• Suppose  $\exists u' \in wW_I$  s.t.  $l(u') = l(u)$ . Then  $u' = uv'$  for some  $v' \in W_I$ . Repeating previous argument,  $l(u') = l(u) + l(v') \Rightarrow l(v') = 0 \Rightarrow v' = 1 \Rightarrow u = u'$ .

• Suppose  $\exists u' \in wW_I$  s.t.  $u' \in wW_I$  &  $u' \neq u \Rightarrow \underbrace{l(u') - l(u)}_r > 0$   
 $\Rightarrow u' = u s_1 \dots s_r$  for  $s_i \in I \Rightarrow l(u's_r) < l(u') \rightarrow \leftarrow \square$

Elements of  $W^I$  are minimal length coset representatives.

Ex.  $W = S_n$  Pick  $i < n$   $I = \{s_1, \dots, \hat{s}_i, \dots, s_{n-1}\}$

$W_I \cong S_i \times S_{n-i}$ .  $W^I = \left\{ w \in S_n \mid \begin{array}{l} w(1) < w(2) < \dots < w(i) \\ w(i+1) < w(i+2) < \dots < w(n) \end{array} \right\}$

$W^I \cong i$ -element subsets of  $\{1, \dots, n\}$

$$|W^I| = \binom{n}{i} = \frac{n!}{i!(n-i)!}$$

Bruhat order. Given  $v, w \in W$ , write  $v \rightarrow w$  if  $l(w) > l(v)$

&  $v^{-1}w \in T$  (i.e.,  $\exists t \in T$  s.t.  $vt = w$ )

Note:  $\rightarrow$  is antisymmetric, we let  $\leq$  (Bruhat order) be the

partial order generated by  $\rightarrow$ , i.e.,  $w' \leq w$  if  $\exists w_0, \dots, w_n$  s.t.

$$w' = w_0 \rightarrow w_1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow w_n = w$$

Prop. let  $w' \leq w$ , pick  $s \in S$ . Then at least one of the following holds:

- ①  $w's \leq w$ , ②  $w's \leq ws$

Pf. First suppose  $w' \rightarrow w$ . So  $\exists t \in T$  s.t.  $w = w't$  &  $l(w) > l(w')$ .

If  $s = t$ , then ① holds, so suppose  $s \neq t$ .

Case 1:  $l(w's) = l(w') - 1$ . Then  $w's \rightarrow w' \rightarrow w \Rightarrow w's \leq w \Rightarrow \textcircled{1}$

Case 2:  $l(w's) = l(w') + 1$ . Pick reduced expression  $w' = s_1 \dots s_r$ . Let  $s_{r+1} = s$ .

Then  $s_1 \dots s_{r+1} = w's$  reduced. Set  $t' = s t s_r$  so  $ws = w's t'$ .

Claim:  $l(w's) < l(ws)$ . If not, then  $l(w's t') < l(w's) \Rightarrow$

$\exists j \leq r+1$  s.t.  $s_1 \dots \hat{s}_j \dots s_{r+1} = w's t' = ws$  is reduced.

Since  $s \neq t$ , we have  $j \leq r \Rightarrow s_1 \dots \hat{s}_j \dots s_r = w \Rightarrow l(w) \leq r-1$

$\Rightarrow l(w') < l(w) \rightarrow \leftarrow$

$\Rightarrow w's \rightarrow ws \Rightarrow \textcircled{2}$

General case:  $\exists w_0, \dots, w_n$  s.t.  $w' = w_0 \rightarrow w_1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow w_n = w$ .

Induction on  $n$ : base  $n=0$  (i.e.,  $w'=w$ )  $\checkmark$

Suppose  $n > 0$ : From what we've done, using  $w' \rightarrow w_1$ , we know

that either  $w's \leq w_1$ , or  $w's \leq w_1 s$ .

Case 1  $w's \leq w_1$ . Since  $w_1 \leq w \Rightarrow w's \leq w_1 \leq w \Rightarrow \textcircled{1}$

Case 2  $w's \leq w_1 s$ . Use induction on  $w_1 \rightarrow w_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow w_n = w$

$\Rightarrow w_1 s \leq w$  or  $w_1 s \leq w s$ .

Case 2a.  $w_1 s \leq w \Rightarrow w's \leq w_1 s \leq w \Rightarrow \textcircled{1}$

Case 2b.  $w_1 s \leq w s \Rightarrow w's \leq w_1 s \leq w s \Rightarrow \textcircled{2}$ .  $\square$

Given an expression  $s_1 \dots s_r$ , a subword is  $s_{i_1} \dots s_{i_p}$  where  
 $1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_p \leq r$

Thm. Pick  $w \in W$ ,  $w = s_1 \dots s_r$  reduced. Then  $v \leq w \Leftrightarrow$   
some subword of  $s_1 \dots s_r$  multiplies to  $v$ .  $\Rightarrow$  # of  $v$  s.t.  $v \leq w$  is finite.

Pf. First suppose  $v \leq w$ , so  $v = w_0 \rightarrow w_1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow w_n = w$ . We

show that some subword of  $s_1 \dots s_r$  gives  $v$  by induction on  $n$ .

Base case  $n=0$ :  $v = w$   $\checkmark$

Assume  $n \geq 1$ . Then  $w_{n-1} \rightarrow w \Rightarrow w_{n-1}^{-1} w \in T$  &  $l(w_{n-1}) < l(w)$ .

$\exists j \in r$  s.t.  $w_{n-1} = s_1 \dots \hat{s}_j \dots s_r \Rightarrow$  some subword  $x$  is reduced expression of  $w_{n-1}$

By induction on  $n$ , using  $v = w_0 \rightarrow w_1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow w_{n-1}$ , we know some subword of  $x$  gives  $v$ , this is also subword of  $s_1 \dots s_r$ .

Prove other implication by induction on  $l(w) = r$ .

Base case  $r = 0: w = 1$

Assume  $r \geq 1$ .  $w = s_1 \dots s_r$ ,  $v = s_{i_1} \dots s_{i_p}$ .

Case 1.  $i_p < r$ . Then  $v$  is subword of  $s_1 \dots s_{r-1}$ . By induction

$v \leq w s_r$ , but  $w s_r \rightarrow w \Rightarrow v \leq w s_r \leq w$ .

Case 2.  $i_p = r$ .  $s_{i_1} \dots s_{i_{p-1}}$  is subword of  $s_1 \dots s_{r-1}$

By induction  $v s_r \leq w s_r$ . By previous result set

$\underbrace{v s_r s_r}_{v \leq w s_r} \leq w s_r \leq w \checkmark$

or  $\underbrace{v s_r s_r}_{v \leq w} \leq w s_r s_r \checkmark$

□

Ex. Dihedral group of order  $2m$  w/  $S = \{s, t\}$ .

$w =$

1	
s	t
st	ts
sts	tst
⋮	

$\Rightarrow v \leq w \Leftrightarrow l(v) < l(w)$

Also valid if  $m = \infty$

alt. products of length  $m-1$

$tst \dots = sts \dots$  length  $m$

Cor. For  $I \subseteq S$ , restriction of  $\leq$  on  $W$  to  $W_I$  is the Bruhat order of  $W_I$ .

Pf. Pick  $v, w \in W_I$ . Every reduced expression for  $w$  only uses  $s \in I$ .

Fix one. Then " $v$  is a subword of this expression" does not depend on ambient Coxeter group. □