# Advances in the understanding of parabolic subgroups of Artin-Tits groups

María Cumplido Cabello

(with Volker Gebhardt, Juan González-Meneses and Bert Wiest)

Université de Rennes 1 - Universidad de Sevilla

7th February 2018



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- S finite set of generators.
- $M = (m_{s,t})_{s,t \in S}$  symmetric,  $m_{s,t} = 1$ ,  $m_{s,t} \in \{2, \dots, \infty\}$ ,  $s \neq t$

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# Artin-Tits group associated to M $A = \langle S \mid \underbrace{stst...}_{m_{s,t} \text{ elements}} = \underbrace{tsts...}_{m_{s,t} \text{ elements}} \forall s, t \in S, s \neq t, m_{s,t} \neq \infty \rangle.$

#### Coxeter group (finite)

$$W = \left\langle S \middle| \begin{array}{c} s^2 = 1, \\ \underbrace{stst...}_{m_{s,t} \text{ elements}} = \underbrace{tsts...}_{m_{s,t} \text{ elements}}, \\ \underbrace{tsts...}_{m_{s,t} \text{ elements}}, \\ \underbrace{\forall s \in S}_{\forall s, t \in S, s \neq t, m_{s,t} \neq \infty} \right\rangle.$$

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A is called irreducible if  $A = A_1 \times A_2 \Rightarrow A_1 = 1$  or  $A_2 = 1$ ,

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Si m<sub>s,t</sub> ≥ 4



A is called irreducible if  $A = A_1 \times A_2 \Rightarrow A_1 = 1$  or  $A_2 = 1$ , i.e., if its Coxeter graph is connected.

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#### A braid group is an irreducible Artin-Tits group of spherical type.

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#### Example: $\mathcal{B}_4$

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 2 \\ 3 & 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\mathcal{B}_4 = \left\langle \sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3 \middle| \begin{array}{c} \sigma_1 \sigma_3 = \sigma_3 \sigma_1, \\ \sigma_i \sigma_{i+1} \sigma_i = \sigma_{i+1} \sigma_i \sigma_{i+1}, \quad i = 1, 2 \end{array} \right\rangle$$

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# Irreducible Coxeter graphs (of finite type)



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Irreducible parabolic subgroup.

$$Q := \beta A_U \beta^{-1}$$

 $U \subseteq S, \beta \in A, A_U$  has connected Coxeter graph.

 $\sigma_4$  $\sigma_3$  $\sigma_2$ 

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 $A_{\{\sigma_2,\sigma_3\}}$  $\sigma_3$  $\sigma_4$ 

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$$P = \alpha^{-1} A_{\{\sigma_2, \sigma_3\}} \alpha$$
$$\alpha = \sigma_4$$



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- *n*-simplex: *n* + 1 vertices with representatives which are pairwise disjoint.

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We want to use irreducible parabolic subgroups as an algebraic analogue of the curve complex.

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## Analogue of disjoint curves

P, Q standard parabolic subgroups.

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$$P \subsetneq Q$$
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#### Central Garside element

Each Artin–Tits group of spherical type  $A_S$  has Garside structure, which allows to define the following:

•  $A_S$  has a special element  $\Delta_S$ , called Garside element, such that  $\Delta_S^e \in Z(A_S)$  for e = 1 or e = 2.
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Given a standard parabolic subgroup  $A_X$ , we define its central Garside element,  $z_X$ , as  $\Delta_X$  if  $\Delta_X \in Z(A_X)$  and  $\Delta_X^2$  otherwise.

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Given a parabolic subgroup  $P = \alpha^{-1}A_X\alpha$ , we define its central Garside element,  $z_P$ , as  $\alpha^{-1}z_X\alpha$ .

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#### Lemma (Godelle 2003, C. 2017)

Given P, Q parabolic subgroups and  $\alpha \in A_S$  $P = \alpha^{-1}Q\alpha \iff z_P = \alpha^{-1}z_Q\alpha$ 

### Main results

Theorem (Intersection of parabolic subgroups)

Let P and Q be two parabolic subgroups. Then  $P \cap Q$  is also a parabolic subgroup.

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The set of parabolic subgroups is a lattice with respect to the order induced by the inclusion. That is, if P and Q are parabolic subgroups:

- $\exists$ ! maximal parabolic subgroup contained in  $P \cap Q$ .
- $\exists$ ! minimal parabolic subgroup containing  $P \cup Q$ .

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### Theorem ("Disjointness" of parabolic subgroups)

Let *P* and *Q* be two distinct irreducible parabolic subgroups of  $A_S$ . Then  $z_P z_Q = z_Q z_P$  holds if and only if one of the following three conditions are satisfied:

- $Q \subsetneq P.$
- **3**  $P \cap Q = \{1\}$  and xy = yx for every  $x \in P$  and  $y \in Q$ .

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- Vertices: Irreducible parabolic subgroups.
- *n*-simplex:  $\{P(1), \dots, P(n+1)\}$  such that  $z_{P(i)}z_{P(j)} = z_{P(j)}z_{P(i)}$  for all  $1 \le i \le j \le n+1$ .

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Interesting things:

- For the braid group  $\mathcal{P}$  is isomorphic to  $\mathcal{C}$ .
- $\mathcal{P}$  is expected to be hyperbolic.
- The action of  $A_S$  on  $\mathcal{P}$  would allow to generalize results that are known for braids.

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- The *np*-normal form of x ∈ A<sub>S</sub> with respect to Δ<sup>p</sup><sub>S</sub> is canonical way of represent an element:

$$x = x_n^{-1} \cdots x_1^{-1} y_1 \cdots y_m,$$

where  $x_i$ ,  $y_j$  satisfies some coprimality conditions and are prefixes of  $\Delta_S^p$  for every i, j and  $x_1 \cdots x_n$  and  $y_1 \cdots y_m$  have no prefix in common.

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- Decycling:  $d(x) = y_m x_n \cdots x_1^{-1} y_1 \cdots y_{m-1}$ .
- RSSS<sub>p</sub>(x): The set of conjugates of x that are in a period under twisted cycling and decycling. RSSS<sub>∞</sub>(x) = ∩<sub>p<1</sub> RSSS<sub>p</sub>(x).

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- For any  $\alpha \in A_S$  with *np*-normal form  $\alpha = x_n^{-1} \cdots x_1^{-1} y_1 \cdots y_m$  we define  $Supp(\alpha) = Supp(x_1 \cdots x_n) \cup Supp(y_1 \cdots y_m)$ .

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- Given  $\alpha' \in RSSS_{\infty}(\alpha)$ , we define  $\varphi(\alpha) = |\Delta_{Supp(\alpha)}|$ .

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- Take  $\alpha \in P \cap Q$  such that  $\varphi(\alpha)$  is maximal.
- Standardize  $P_{\alpha}$  having  $A_Z$ .
- Prove  $A_Z = P \cap Q$ .

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#### Theorem ("Disjointness" of parabolic subgroups)

Let *P* and *Q* be two distinct irreducible parabolic subgroups of  $A_S$ . Then  $z_P z_Q = z_Q z_P$  holds if and only if one of the following three conditions are satisfied:

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- $Q \subsetneq Q \subsetneq P.$

 $P \cap Q = \{1\} \text{ and } xy = yx \text{ for every } x \in P \text{ and } y \in Q.$ 

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- 1,2,3 are preserved under conjugacy.

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Thank you! Merci! ¡Gracias!

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