

AUTOMORPHISMS OF NEARLY FINITE COXETER GROUPS

W. N. FRANZSEN AND R. B. HOWLETT

ABSTRACT. Suppose that W is an infinite Coxeter group of finite rank n , and suppose that W has a finite parabolic subgroup W_J of rank $n - 1$. Suppose also that the Coxeter diagram of W has no edges with infinite labels. Then any automorphism of W that preserves reflections lies in the subgroup of $\text{Aut}(W)$ generated by the inner automorphisms and the automorphisms induced by symmetries of the Coxeter graph. If, in addition, W_J is irreducible and every conjugacy class of reflections in W has nonempty intersection with W_J , then all automorphisms of W preserve reflections, and it follows that $\text{Aut}(W)$ is the semi-direct product of $\text{Inn}(W)$ by the group of graph automorphisms.

There is not much literature dealing with the automorphism groups of infinite Coxeter groups.¹ It seems that complete results are known only for rank 3 Coxeter groups and the so-called *right-angled* Coxeter groups.

A Coxeter group is right-angled if the labels on all edges in the Coxeter diagram are ∞ . These were investigated by James, [12], who described the automorphism groups of Coxeter groups whose diagrams have the following form:



James's result was extended by Tits, [16], to include all irreducible right-angled Coxeter groups whose diagrams do not contain triangles. Finally, in [14], Mühlherr gave a presentation for the automorphism group of any right-angled Coxeter group.

The automorphism groups of infinite rank 3 Coxeter groups whose diagrams have no edges with infinite labels are described in [9]; in this case the automorphism group is the semi-direct product of $\text{Inn}(W)$ and the group of graph automorphisms. The automorphism groups of rank 3 Coxeter groups with both finite and infinite edge labels are described in [7].

For the purposes of this paper, we say that an infinite Coxeter group is *nearly finite* if it has finite rank n and has a finite parabolic subgroup of rank $n - 1$. It is shown that if W is nearly finite and does not have an edge labelled ∞ then the group of all automorphisms of W that preserve reflections is the semi-direct product of $\text{Inn}(W)$ and the group of graph automorphisms. In certain special cases we are able to show that all automorphisms of W preserve reflections. In fact, if we restrict attention to infinite irreducible Coxeter groups whose diagrams have no infinite edge labels, then we know of no example having an automorphism that does not preserve reflections.

1. PRELIMINARIES

Recall that a Coxeter group is a group with a presentation of the form

$$(1.1) \quad W = \text{gp} \langle \{ r_a \mid a \in \Pi \} \mid (r_a r_b)^{m_{ab}} = 1 \text{ for all } a, b \in \Pi \rangle$$

where Π is some indexing set, whose cardinality is called the *rank* of W , and the m_{ab} satisfy the following conditions: $m_{ab} = m_{ba}$, each m_{ab} lies in the set $\{ m \in \mathbb{Z} \mid m \geq 1 \} \cup \{ \infty \}$, and $m_{ab} = 1$ if and only if $a = b$. When $m_{ab} = \infty$ the relation $(r_a r_b)^{m_{ab}} = 1$ is interpreted as vacuous. We shall restrict attention to finite rank groups with $m_{ab} \neq \infty$ for all $a, b \in \Pi$.

2000 *Mathematics Subject Classification*. Primary 20F55.

¹The closely related question of whether a Coxeter group may contain more than one class of Coxeter generating sets is investigated in [5].

As is well known, the isomorphism type of W as an abstract group does not determine either the parameters m_{ab} or the rank of W as a Coxeter group. Hence we always assume that the presentation (1.1) is given; in particular, $\{r_a \mid a \in \Pi\}$ is a distinguished set of generators for the group W .

A *reduced expression* for an element $w \in W$ is a minimal length word expressing w as a product of elements of the distinguished generating set. We define $l(w)$ to be the length of a reduced expression for w .

The *Coxeter diagram* of W is a graph with vertex set Π and edge set consisting of those pairs of vertices $\{a, b\}$ for which $m_{ab} \geq 3$. The edge $\{a, b\}$ is given the label m_{ab} . We say that W is *irreducible* if its diagram is connected.

Let \mathbb{R} be the real field, and V the vector space over \mathbb{R} with basis Π . Let B the bilinear form on V such that for all $a, b \in \Pi$,

$$B(a, b) = -\cos(\pi/m_{ab}).$$

To make our notation more compact we define $u \cdot v = B(u, v)$ for all $u, v \in V$. Note that $a \cdot a = 1$ for all $a \in \Pi$, since $m_{aa} = 1$.

For each $a \in V$ such that $a \cdot a = 1$ the transformation of V given by $v \mapsto v - 2(a \cdot v)a$ is called the *reflection along a* . It is well known (see, for example, Corollary 5.4 of [11]) that W has a faithful representation on V such that, for all $a \in \Pi$, the element r_a acts as the reflection along a . We shall identify elements of W with their images in this representation. We also use the notation r_a for the reflection along a whenever $a \in V$ satisfies $a \cdot a = 1$. It is straightforward to show that each reflection r_a preserves the form B ; hence all elements of W preserve B . Furthermore, the equation $gr_ag^{-1} = r_{ga}$ holds for all $a \in V$ such that $a \cdot a = 1$ and all transformations g that preserve B .

We write $\text{Ref}(W)$ for the set of all reflections in W . It is immediate from the above comments that if $\Phi = \{wa \mid w \in W, a \in \Pi\}$ then $\{r_b \mid b \in \Phi\} \subseteq \text{Ref}(W)$.

The set Φ is called the *root system* of W , and elements of Φ are called *roots*. Elements of the basis Π are called *simple roots*, and the reflections r_a for $a \in \Pi$ are called *simple reflections*. A root is said to be *positive* if it has the form $\sum_{a \in \Pi} \lambda_a a$ with $\lambda_a \geq 0$ for all $a \in \Pi$, and *negative* otherwise. We write Φ^+ for the set of all positive roots and Φ^- for the set of all negative roots.

Lemma 1. *With the notation as above, the following statements hold.*

- (1) *Every negative root has the form $\sum_{a \in \Pi} \lambda_a a$ with $\lambda_a \leq 0$ for all $a \in \Pi$. Furthermore, $\Phi^- = \{-b \mid b \in \Phi^+\}$.*
- (2) *If $w \in W$ and $a \in \Pi$ then*

$$l(wr_a) = \begin{cases} l(w) + 1 & \text{if } wa \in \Phi^+, \\ l(w) - 1 & \text{if } wa \in \Phi^-. \end{cases}$$

- (3) *If $t \in \text{Ref}(W)$ then $t = r_b$ for some $b \in \Phi$.*
- (4) *The group W is finite if and only if the bilinear form B is positive definite.*
- (5) *The root system Φ is finite if and only if the group W is finite.*

Proof. Proofs of (1) and (2) can be found in [11, Section 5.4], Theorem 4.1 in [6] includes both (4) and (5), and (3) is [10, Lemma 2.2]. \square

For each $w \in W$ we define $N(w) = \{b \in \Phi^+ \mid wb \in \Phi^-\}$. By Part (2) of Lemma 1, if $w \neq 1$ then $N(w) \cap \Pi \neq \emptyset$. An easy induction shows that $N(w)$ has exactly $l(w)$ elements. In particular, $N(w)$ is a finite set. It is also easily shown that if Φ is finite then there is a unique $w \in W$ such that $N(w) = \Phi^+$. This element, which we denote by w_Π , is also the unique element of maximal length in W (which is a finite group).

We need the following simple fact.

Lemma 2. *Suppose that $w \in W$ is an involution, and let $a \in N(w) \cap \Pi$. Then either $wa = -a$ or $l(r_a wr_a) = l(w) - 2$.*

Proof. Observe that $-wa \in \Phi^+$, since $a \in N(w)$. Now $N(r_a) = \{a\}$, since $a \in \Pi$, and so if $-wa \neq a$ it follows that $r_a(-wa) \in \Phi^+$. But this implies that $(r_a w)a \in \Phi^-$, and so by Lemma 1 combined with the obvious fact that each element has the same length as its inverse,

$$l(r_a wr_a) = l(r_a w) - 1 = l(wr_a) - 1 = l(w) - 2$$

as claimed. \square

The following lemma is one of the key ingredients in the proof of our main theorem.

Lemma 3 (Brink [2]). *Suppose that b is a positive root, and write $b = \sum_{a \in \Pi} \lambda_a a$. For each $a \in \Pi$, if $\lambda_a > 0$ then $\lambda_a \geq 1$.*

2. PARABOLIC SUBGROUPS AND REFLECTION PRESERVING AUTOMORPHISMS

Let W be a Coxeter group, and continue with the notation introduced in the preceding section. For each $I \subseteq \Pi$ we define W_I to be the subgroup of W generated by $\{r_a \mid a \in I\}$. These subgroups are called the *standard parabolic subgroups* of W . A *parabolic subgroup* of W is any subgroup of the form wW_Iw^{-1} for some $w \in W$ and $I \subseteq \Pi$. We shall use the phrase “maximal parabolic subgroup” to mean “maximal proper parabolic subgroup”.

It is clear that if $I \subseteq \Pi$ then W_I preserves the subspace V_I of V spanned by I , and acts on this subspace as a Coxeter group with I as its set of simple roots. We write Φ_I for the root system of W_I in V_I , and Φ_I^+ , Φ_I^- for the sets of positive and negative roots in Φ_I .

Lemma 4. *In the above situation, $\Phi_I = \Phi \cap V_I$.*

Proof. For each $b = \sum_{a \in \Pi} \lambda_a a \in \Phi$ define $\text{supp}(b) = \{a \in \Pi \mid \lambda_a \neq 0\}$. It is clear that if $b = wa$ for some $a \in I$ and $w \in W_I$ then $\text{supp}(b) \subseteq I$; we must prove that the converse also holds. Without loss of generality we may assume that b is positive.

Let $b \in \Phi^+$ with $\text{supp}(b) \subseteq I$. Since $r_b \neq 1$ we may choose a simple root $c \in N(r_b) \cap \Pi$. Then $c - 2(b \cdot c)b = r_b c \in \Phi^-$, and so $b \cdot c > 0$. Since $a \cdot c \leq 0$ for all $a \in \Pi \setminus \{c\}$ it follows that $c \in \text{supp}(b)$.

We proceed by induction on $l(r_b)$. If $l(r_b) = 1$ then we must have $b = c$, and $b = wa$ holds with $w = 1 \in W_I$ and $a = c \in I$. Now suppose that $l(r_b) > 1$, so that $b \neq c$, and put $d = r_c b$. Lemma 2 gives $l(r_d) = l(r_c r_b r_c) = l(r_b) - 2$; moreover, since $d = b - 2(c \cdot b)c$ we see that $\text{supp}(d) \subseteq \text{supp}(b)$. By the inductive hypothesis $d = wa$ for some $w \in W_I$ and $a \in I$, and since $c \in I$ it follows that $r_c w \in W_I$, and $b = (r_c w)a$ is an equation of the desired form. \square

The next proposition, classifying involutions in Coxeter groups, is a useful tool in the analysis of automorphisms.

Proposition 5 (Richardson [15]). *Suppose that $w \in W$ is an involution. Then there is an $I \subseteq \Pi$ such that W_I is finite, w is conjugate to w_I (the maximal length element of W_I) and w_I is central in W_I .*

Proof. Let $L = \{a \in \Pi \mid wa = -a\}$. First observe that $\Phi_L^+ \subset N(w)$ is finite, and so, by Lemma 1, W_L is finite. If $a \in L$ then $wr_a w = r_{wa} = r_{-a} = r_a$, and so it follows that w centralizes W_L .

If $w = w_L$ then we are finished; so suppose that $w \neq w_L$. Then $w_L w \neq 1$, and so we may choose an $a \in N(w_L w) \cap \Pi$. If $wa \in \Phi^+$, then, as $w_L wa \in \Phi^-$, we have $wa \in N(w_L) = \Phi_L^+$. But then

$$a = w(wa) \in w\Phi_L^+ = \Phi_L^-,$$

which is a contradiction. Hence $a \in N(w) \cap \Pi$. Now $wa \neq -a$, since $wa = -a$ would mean that $a \in L$, and

$$w_L wa = w_L(-a) \in w_L \Phi_L^- = \Phi_L^+,$$

contradicting $a \in N(w_L w)$. Hence $l(r_a w r_a) = l(w) - 2$ by Lemma 2, and we can use induction on the length to complete the proof. \square

Note that the above proof in fact shows that $w = t^{-1} w_I t$ for some $t \in W$ such that $l(w) = 2l(t) + l(w_I)$.

Our main tool in the analysis of automorphisms of infinite Coxeter groups is the following lemma, which appears in [1, Exercise 2d, p. 130].

Lemma 6 (Tits). *If W is a Coxeter group and $H \leq W$ is finite, then H is contained in a finite parabolic subgroup of W .*

One immediate consequence of Lemma 6 is that every maximal finite subgroup of a Coxeter group is parabolic.

Lemma 7 (Kilmoyer). *Let $I, J \subseteq \Pi$. Then every (W_I, W_J) double coset in W contains a unique element of minimal length; moreover, if d is the minimal length element of $W_I d W_J$ then $W_I \cap d W_J d^{-1} = W_K$, where $K = I \cap dJ$.*

Proof. See [4, Theorem 2.7.4]. \square

Corollary 8. *The intersection of a finite number of parabolic subgroups is a parabolic subgroup.*

Proof. If H and K are parabolic subgroups then $H = x^{-1} W_I x$ and $K = y^{-1} W_J y$ for some $I, J \subseteq \Pi$ and $x, y \in W$. Let d be the minimal length element in $W_I x y^{-1} W_J$, and choose $u \in W_I$ and $t \in W_J$ such that $d = u x y^{-1} t$. Then

$$H \cap K = x^{-1} u^{-1} W_I u x \cap y^{-1} t W_J t^{-1} y = x^{-1} u^{-1} (W_I \cap d W_J d^{-1}) u x,$$

which is a parabolic subgroup by Lemma 7. Induction completes the proof. \square

Since the image under any automorphism of a maximal finite subgroup must be another maximal finite subgroup, Corollary 8 immediately yields the following result.

Corollary 9. *Let W be an infinite Coxeter group, and $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(W)$. If H is a subgroup of W that can be written as the intersection of a collection of maximal finite subgroups, then $\alpha(H)$ is a parabolic subgroup of W .*

A special case of Corollary 9 provides a possible method for proving that an automorphism preserves reflections.

Corollary 10. *If W is an infinite Coxeter group, $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(W)$ and r is a reflection such that $\langle r \rangle$ can be written as an intersection of maximal finite subgroups, then $\alpha(r)$ is a reflection.*

Suppose that $I \subseteq \Pi$ is such that W_I is a maximal finite standard parabolic subgroup of W (in the sense that W_I is finite and W_J is infinite for all J with $I \subsetneq J \subseteq \Pi$). We shall show that W_I is not properly contained in any finite subgroup of W .

Lemma 11. *Let W_I be a maximal finite standard parabolic subgroup. Then W_I is not conjugate to a subgroup of any other finite standard parabolic subgroup.*

Proof. Suppose that $W_I \subseteq t W_K t^{-1}$ for some $t \in W$ and some $K \subseteq \Pi$ such that W_K is finite and $K \neq I$. These assumptions are not altered by replacing t by another element of the double coset $W_I t W_K$; so we may assume that t is the minimal length element of $W_I t W_K$. By Corollary 7 it follows that $W_I = W_{I \cap tK}$, and so $I \subseteq tK$.

Since W_I is a maximal finite standard parabolic subgroup, $t \neq 1$. So, by Lemma 1, we may choose a simple root c such that $t^{-1} c = d$ is negative. As t has minimal length in $t W_K$, Lemma 1 guarantees that ta is positive for all $a \in K$, and hence tb is positive for all $b \in \Phi_K^+$.

But $-d$ is positive while $t(-d) = -c$ is negative, and so we conclude that d is not in Φ_K . Thus when $d = t^{-1}c$ is expressed as a linear combination of simple roots, some $e \notin K$ appears with a negative coefficient. Now suppose that $b \in \Phi_{I \cup \{c\}}^+ \setminus \Phi_I$, so that $b = \lambda c + v$ for some $\lambda > 0$ and some $v \in V_I$. Since $t^{-1}I \subseteq K$ it follows that $t^{-1}v \in V_K$, and hence $t^{-1}b = \lambda(t^{-1}c) + t^{-1}v$ involves e with negative coefficient. So $t^{-1}b \in \Phi^-$. But $\Phi_{I \cup \{c\}}$ is infinite, while Φ_I is not. So t^{-1} takes an infinite number of positive roots to negative roots, and hence has infinite length. This is a contradiction. \square

Corollary 12. *If W is any infinite Coxeter group, then all maximal finite standard parabolic subgroups of W are maximal finite subgroups of W .*

Proof. If W_I is a maximal finite standard parabolic subgroup but not a maximal finite subgroup then $W_I \leq tW_Jt^{-1}$ for some $t \in W$ and $J \subseteq \Pi$ with $|W_I| < |W_J| < \infty$, by Lemma 6. But this contradicts Lemma 11. \square

If I and J are disjoint subsets of Π such that $m_{ab} = 2$ for all $a \in I$ and $b \in J$, then V_I and V_J are orthogonal to each other, and it follows readily that $W_{I \cup J} = W_I \times W_J$. Moreover, $\Phi_{I \cup J} = W_{I \cup J}(I \cup J) = W_I I \cup W_J J = \Phi_I \cup \Phi_J$, since each $w \in W_I$ fixes each $a \in J$ and each $w \in W_J$ fixes each $a \in I$. So we obtain the following result.

Lemma 13. *Let W be a Coxeter group of rank n and Π the set of simple roots. If I and J are disjoint subsets of Π such that no edge of the Coxeter diagram joins a root in I and a root in J , then*

$$\text{Ref}(W_{I \cup J}) = \text{Ref}(W_I) \dot{\cup} \text{Ref}(W_J).$$

(where the symbol $\dot{\cup}$ signifies a disjoint union).

Corresponding to the connected components of the Coxeter diagram we obtain a decomposition $\Pi = L_1 \dot{\cup} L_2 \dot{\cup} \dots \dot{\cup} L_m$ such $a, b \in \Pi$ lie in the same subset L_i if and only if there exists a chain of simple roots $a = a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k = b$ such that the reflections along consecutive terms do not commute. We call the L_i the irreducible components of Π , and the corresponding standard parabolic subgroups W_{L_i} the irreducible components of W . Note that $W = W_{L_1} \times W_{L_2} \times \dots \times W_{L_m}$ and $\text{Ref}(W) = \text{Ref}(W_{L_1}) \dot{\cup} \dots \dot{\cup} \text{Ref}(W_{L_m})$.

It is clear that reflections belonging to different irreducible components commute. On the other hand if $b \in \Phi$ is not simple then it is clear that there exists a simple root a such that $r_a(b) \neq b$, and so r_a and r_b do not commute. It follows that reflections r and r' belong to the same component if and only if there is a chain of reflections $r = r_1, r_2, \dots, r_k = r'$ such that consecutive terms do not commute.

Lemma 14. *Let $\alpha: W_1 \rightarrow W_2$ be an isomorphism of finite rank Coxeter groups with $\alpha(\text{Ref}(W_1)) \subseteq \text{Ref}(W_2)$, and let $r, r' \in \text{Ref}(W_1)$. If r and r' belong to the same component of W_1 then $\alpha(r)$ and $\alpha(r')$ belong to the same component of W_2 .*

Proof. This follows from the discussion above, since the image of a non-commuting chain from r to r' is a non-commuting chain from $\alpha(r)$ to $\alpha(r')$. \square

Clearly symmetries of the Coxeter diagram give rise to automorphisms that permute the simple reflections; we call these *graph automorphisms*. We say that an automorphism is *inner by graph* if it lies in the subgroup of $\text{Aut}(W)$ generated by the inner automorphisms and the graph automorphisms.

Note that since every reflection in W is conjugate to a simple reflection, there are only finitely many conjugacy classes of reflections. Moreover, it is clear that if α is an automorphism and C, C' conjugacy classes such that $\alpha(C) \subseteq C'$, then $\alpha(C) = C'$. So if α preserves reflections, in the sense that $\alpha(\text{Ref}(W)) \subseteq \text{Ref}(W)$, then $\alpha(\text{Ref}(W)) = \text{Ref}(W)$. In particular, α^{-1} also preserves reflections.

We denote by $R(W)$ the set of all automorphisms of W that preserve reflections. In view of the reasoning above we see that $R(W)$ is a subgroup of $\text{Aut}(W)$. Clearly $R(W)$ includes all automorphisms that are inner by graph.

Given $\alpha \in R(W)$ there exists a function $\phi_\alpha: \Pi \rightarrow \Phi$ such that α maps the reflection along a to the reflection along $\phi_\alpha(a)$, for all $a \in \Pi$. Note that ϕ_α is not uniquely determined by α ; indeed, since $r_b = r_c$ if and only if $b = \pm c$ (given that $b, c \in \Phi$), there are exactly two choices for each $\phi_\alpha(a)$. Since the reflections $\{r_b \mid b \in \phi_\alpha(\Pi)\}$ generate W , the roots in $\phi_\alpha(\Pi)$ must span V (by [10, Lemma 2.8]). Hence $\phi_\alpha(\Pi)$ is a basis of V .

If $a, b \in \Pi$ then $r_a r_b$ has order $m = m_{ab}$ and $a \cdot b = \cos(\pi/m)$. So if $\phi_\alpha(a) = c$ and $\phi_\alpha(b) = d$ then $r_c r_d = \alpha(r_a r_b)$ has order m . Since $r_c r_d$ acts as a rotation on the plane spanned by c and d , we deduce that

$$(2.1) \quad \phi_\alpha(a) \cdot \phi_\alpha(b) = \cos(l\pi/m_{ab})$$

for some l coprime to m_{ab} . In particular, $\phi_\alpha(a) \cdot \phi_\alpha(b) = 0$ if $m = 2$.

Lemma 15. *Let $\alpha \in R(W)$, and suppose that Γ , the Coxeter diagram of W , is a forest. Then the function ϕ_α above can be chosen so that $\phi_\alpha(a) \cdot \phi_\alpha(b) \leq 0$ for all distinct $a, b \in \Pi$.*

Proof. Observe that we can write $\Pi = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$, choosing the numbering so that for each i the valency of a_i in the diagram associated with the subset $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_i\}$ is at most 1. If b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n are chosen arbitrarily subject to $\alpha(r_{a_i}) = r_{b_i}$, then for each i there is at most one $j < i$ such that $b_i \cdot b_j \neq 0$, and we can successively choose signs $\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \dots, \varepsilon_n$ so that $(\varepsilon_i b_i) \cdot (\varepsilon_j b_j) \leq 0$ whenever $i \neq j$. \square

It is not necessarily true that $\phi_\alpha(a) \cdot \phi_\alpha(b) = a \cdot b$, even if they agree in sign. However, if $m = 2, 3, 4$ or 6 , then the only numbers $l \in \{1, 2, \dots, m-1\}$ coprime to m are $l = 1$ and $l = m-1$, and $\cos((m-1)\pi/m)$ and $\cos(\pi/m)$ have opposite signs. Hence we deduce the following result.

Corollary 16. *Suppose that $\alpha \in R(W)$ and Γ is a forest with edge labels in the set $\{3, 4, 6\}$. Then we can choose ϕ_α so that $\phi_\alpha(a) \cdot \phi_\alpha(b) = a \cdot b$ for all $a, b \in \Pi$.*

The next result is an unpublished theorem of J-Y Hée. It follows immediately from [10, Theorem 4.1].

Theorem 17. *Suppose that W_1, W_2 are irreducible Coxeter groups, with root systems Φ_1, Φ_2 and sets of simple roots Π_1, Π_2 in the spaces V_1, V_2 . Suppose that $g: V_1 \rightarrow V_2$ is linear, maps Φ_1 to Φ_2 bijectively, and satisfies $(gu) \cdot (gv) = u \cdot v$ for all $u, v \in V_1$. Then there exists $w \in W_2$ and $\varepsilon = \pm 1$ such that $g\Pi_1 = \varepsilon w\Pi_2$.*

Clearly $g\Pi_1 = \varepsilon w\Pi_2$ implies that the Coxeter diagrams of W_1 and W_2 are isomorphic. In the case $W_1 = W_2$ we see that the automorphism $x \mapsto g^{-1}xg$ is inner by graph.

Theorem 18. *Suppose that $\alpha \in R(W)$ and suppose that the function ϕ_α can be chosen so that $\phi_\alpha(a) \cdot \phi_\alpha(b) = a \cdot b$ for all $a, b \in \Pi$. Then α is inner by graph.*

Proof. The function $\phi_\alpha: \Pi \rightarrow \Phi$ extends uniquely to a linear map $g: V \rightarrow V$. The hypothesis that $\phi_\alpha(a) \cdot \phi_\alpha(b) = a \cdot b$ for all $a, b \in \Pi$ ensures that $(gu) \cdot (gv) = u \cdot v$ for all $u, v \in V$.

Let W_1, W_2, \dots, W_m be the irreducible components of W , and L_1, L_2, \dots, L_m the corresponding subsets of Π . Write V_j for the subspace of V spanned by L_j . By Lemma 14 the sets $\text{Ref}(W_1), \text{Ref}(W_2), \dots, \text{Ref}(W_m)$ are permuted by α . Now if $i, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$ satisfy $\alpha(\text{Ref}(W_i)) = \text{Ref}(W_j)$ then $\phi_\alpha(a) \in V_j$ for all $a \in L_i$, and so g restricts to a linear map $V_i \rightarrow V_j$. Moreover, g maps the root system of W_i bijectively onto the root system of W_j , since α is bijective. Hence Theorem 17 applies, and we conclude that there exists $w_j \in W_j$ and $\varepsilon_j = \pm 1$ such that $\varepsilon_j w_j^{-1} \phi_\alpha(a) \in L_j$ for all $a \in L_i$. Repeating this construction

for all values of j yields a bijective map $\theta: \Pi \rightarrow \Pi$ such that $\varepsilon_j w_j^{-1} \theta(a) = \phi_\alpha(a)$ when $\theta(a) \in L_j$.

If $a, b \in \Pi$ belong to different components then so do $\theta(a)$ and $\theta(b)$, while if they belong to the same L_i then

$$\theta(a) \cdot \theta(b) = w_j \theta(a) \cdot w_j \theta(b) = \varepsilon_j w_j \theta(a) \cdot \varepsilon_j w_j \theta(b) = \phi_\alpha(a) \cdot \phi_\alpha(b) = a \cdot b.$$

So in all cases we must have that $m_{\theta(a)\theta(b)} = m_{ab}$, whence θ gives rise to a graph automorphism of W . We denote this graph automorphism by γ .

Let $a \in \Pi$, and define $b \in \Phi$ and $j \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$ by $b = \phi_\alpha(a)$ and $\theta(a) \in L_j$. Then $b = \varepsilon_j w_j^{-1} \theta(a) \in \text{Ref}(W_j)$, and we have

$$\gamma(r_a) = r_{\theta(a)} = r_{\varepsilon_j w_j b} = r_{w_j b} = w_j r_b w_j^{-1} = (w_1 w_2 \cdots w_m) r_b (w_1 w_2 \cdots w_m)^{-1}$$

since w_1, w_2, \dots, w_m centralize each other, and w_i centralizes r_b when $i \neq j$. But $r_b = \alpha(r_a)$ (since $b = \phi_\alpha(a)$), and so, writing $w = w_1 w_2 \cdots w_m$, we deduce that $\gamma(r_a) = w \alpha(r_a) w^{-1}$ for all $a \in \Pi$. Since the r_a generate W it follows that $\alpha(x) = w^{-1} \gamma(x) w$ for all $x \in W$, whence α is inner by graph. \square

Corollary 19. *If the Coxeter diagram is a forest whose edge labels all belong to the set $\{3, 4, 6\}$, then all automorphisms of W that preserve reflections are inner by graph.*

Proof. This follows immediately from Theorem 18 and Corollary 16. \square

3. NEARLY FINITE COXETER GROUPS

Recall our definition of ‘‘nearly finite’’: a Coxeter group of rank n is nearly finite if it is infinite and has a finite parabolic subgroup of rank $n - 1$. In this section we begin our investigation of nearly finite Coxeter groups and their automorphisms. We show, in particular, that if W is irreducible and nearly finite, and α is an automorphism of W whose restriction to a finite subgroup of rank $n - 1$ is inner by graph, then α itself is inner by graph.

If W is a Coxeter group and Π its set of simple roots, then we shall say that a subset J of Π is of *finite type* if the corresponding standard parabolic subgroup W_J is finite.

The $n \times n$ symmetric matrix M is *reducible* if there are non-empty sets I and J such that $I \cup J = \{1, \dots, n\}$ and the (i, j) -entry of M is zero for all $i \in I$ and $j \in J$. Otherwise M is *irreducible*. We define the *Gram matrix* of the Coxeter group W to be the $n \times n$ matrix whose (i, j) -entry is $a_i \cdot a_j$, where $\Pi = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$. Clearly, the Gram matrix of W is irreducible if and only if W is irreducible. We say that W is *nondegenerate* if the Gram matrix is nonsingular. Note that if W is finite then it is nondegenerate, since the Gram matrix is positive definite (by Lemma 1).

Lemma 20. *Suppose that M is a positive definite real symmetric matrix such that the off-diagonal entries of M are nonpositive, and let $Q = M^{-1}$. Then all entries of Q are nonnegative. Moreover, if M is irreducible then all entries of Q are strictly positive.*

Proof. Let n be the degree of M , and write m_{ij} and q_{ij} for the (i, j) -entries of M and Q , for all $i, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$. Let e_i be the i -th vector in the standard basis of \mathbb{R}^n , written as a column vector, and let v_i be the i -th column of Q . Note that since M is symmetric, so too is Q . Hence v_i^t is the i -th row of Q (where the ‘‘t’’ means ‘‘transpose’’).

The principal minors of M are all positive, since M is positive definite, and q_{ii} equals the (i, i) -th cofactor of M divided by the determinant of M . So it follows that $q_{ii} > 0$ for all i .

Fix $k \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$, and define

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \{i \mid 1 \leq i \leq n \text{ and } q_{ik} \geq 0\}, \\ J &= \{i \mid 1 \leq i \leq n \text{ and } q_{ik} < 0\}. \end{aligned}$$

Let $x = \sum_{i \in I} q_{ik} e_i$ and $y = \sum_{i \in J} q_{ik} e_i$, and observe that $x + y = v_k$. Now $v_k^t M = e_k^t$, since $Q = M^{-1}$, and so $v_k^t M y$ is the k -th entry of y . But all the entries of y are nonpositive; so

$$0 \geq v_k^t M y = y^t M y + x^t M y = y^t M y + \sum_{\substack{i \in I \\ j \in J}} q_{ik} q_{jk} e_i^t M e_j = y^t M y + \sum_{\substack{i \in I \\ j \in J}} q_{ik} q_{jk} m_{ij}.$$

Each term in this last sum is nonnegative, since $i \in I$ gives $q_{ik} \geq 0$ and $j \in J$ gives $q_{jk} < 0$, while $m_{ij} \leq 0$ since $i \neq j$. Hence

$$0 \geq y^t M y + \sum_{I, J} q_{ik} q_{jk} m_{ij} \geq y^t M y,$$

and since M is positive definite it follows that $y = 0$. Hence $v_k = x$, and so all entries of v_k are nonnegative. This applies for all k ; so the entries of Q are all nonnegative.

Suppose that Q has at least one zero entry; say $q_{hk} = 0$. Let $I = \{i \mid q_{hi} > 0\}$ and $J = \{j \mid q_{hj} = 0\}$. Then $I \cup J = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$, since $q_{ij} \geq 0$ for all i and j . Our hypothesis says that $k \in J$, whereas $h \in I$, since we proved above that $q_{hh} > 0$. Hence both I and J are nonempty. Furthermore, if $j \in J$ then $j \neq h$, and we have

$$0 = e_h^t e_j = v_h^t M e_j = \sum_{i \in I} q_{hi} e_i^t M e_j = \sum_{i \in I} q_{hi} m_{ij}.$$

Note that $m_{ij} < 0$ for all $i \in I$, since $j \notin I$, and since $q_{hi} > 0$ for all $i \in I$ we see that all the terms $q_{hi} m_{ij}$ in the above sum are nonpositive. So they must all be zero. Since $q_{hi} > 0$ for all $i \in I$, we deduce that $m_{ij} = 0$ for all $i \in I$. Thus $m_{ij} = 0$ for all $i \in I$ and $j \in J$, and hence M is reducible. \square

Corollary 21. *Suppose that W is a finite Coxeter group, and let $(\xi_a)_{a \in \Pi}$ be a family of nonnegative real numbers indexed by the set Π of simple roots. Then there exist nonnegative numbers $(\mu_a)_{a \in \Pi}$ such that $x = \sum_{a \in \Pi} \mu_a a$ satisfies $x \cdot a = \xi_a$ for all $a \in \Pi$. If $\xi_a > 0$ for some $a \in \Pi$ then $\mu_b > 0$ for all b in the same component of Π as a .*

In particular, if W is irreducible and $\xi_a > 0$ for some a , then $\mu_b > 0$ for all b .

Proof. Let L be an irreducible component of Π , and let M be the Gram matrix of W_L . Then M is positive definite, by Lemma 1, and the off-diagonal entries of M are non-positive since $a \cdot b = -\cos(\pi/m_{ab}) \leq 0$ whenever $a, b \in \Pi$ with $a \neq b$. Furthermore, M is irreducible since W_L is irreducible. By Lemma 20 the entries of M^{-1} are all positive.

Writing q_{bc} for the (b, c) -entry of M^{-1} , define $\mu_c = \sum_{b \in L} q_{bc} \xi_b$ for each $c \in L$. Then $\mu_c \geq 0$, and $\mu_c > 0$ if any ξ_b is nonzero. Furthermore, if $x_L = \sum_{c \in L} \mu_c c$, then $x_L \cdot a = \xi_a$ for all $a \in L$. Repeating this construction for all components L , and defining $x = \sum_L x_L$, we see that $x \cdot a = \xi_a$ for all $a \in \Pi$, since distinct components are orthogonal to each other; moreover, $x = \sum_{a \in \Pi} \mu_a a$ with coefficients μ_a that are nonnegative, and positive when $\xi_c \neq 0$ for some c in the same component as a . \square

We shall make use of the following triviality.

Lemma 22. *Suppose that W is a Coxeter group, α an automorphism of W , and a, b, c and d simple roots such that $\alpha(r_a) = r_c$ and $\alpha(r_b) = r_d$. Then $a \cdot b = c \cdot d$.*

Proof. We have $a \cdot b = -\cos(\pi/m_{ab})$ and $c \cdot d = -\cos(\pi/m_{cd})$, where m_{ab} and m_{cd} are the orders of $r_a r_b$ and $r_c r_d$. But these orders are equal since $\alpha(r_a r_b) = r_c r_d$. \square

We now come to the main result of this section.

Theorem 23. *Suppose that W is irreducible, non-degenerate and nearly finite, and the Coxeter diagram of has no infinite edge labels. Let S be the set of simple reflections. Suppose that α is an automorphism of W that preserves reflections, and suppose that there exist $a, b \in \Pi$ (possibly equal) such that $\Pi \setminus \{a\}$ and $\Pi \setminus \{b\}$ are of finite type and $\alpha(S \setminus \{r_a\}) = S \setminus \{r_b\}$. Then α is inner by graph.*

Proof. Let V_a and V_b be the subspaces of V spanned by $\Pi \setminus \{a\}$ and $\Pi \setminus \{b\}$. Let $x \in V_a$ be such that the vector $u = x + a$ lies in the orthogonal complement of V_a (which exists since W is nondegenerate), and, similarly, let $y \in V_b$ be such that the vector $v = y + b$ lies in the orthogonal complement of V_b . We shall show that $y \cdot y \leq x \cdot x$. Since the same argument with a and b interchanged and α replaced by α^{-1} will show that $x \cdot x \leq y \cdot y$, it will follow that $x \cdot x = y \cdot y$.

Write $\Pi \setminus \{a\} = J_1 \cup J_2 \cup \dots \cup J_k$, where the J_j are the irreducible components of $\Pi \setminus \{a\}$. For each $c \in \Pi \setminus \{a\}$ define

$$\xi_c = \cos(\pi/m_{ca}) = -c \cdot a,$$

and observe that, since W is irreducible, each J_j contains at least one c such that $\xi_c \neq 0$. Now x is the orthogonal projection of $-a$ onto V_a , and since the sets J_j are mutually orthogonal it follows that

$$x = x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_k$$

where x_j is the orthogonal projection of $-a$ onto the subspace spanned by J_j . For all $c \in J_j$ we have

$$c \cdot x_j = -c \cdot a = \xi_c \geq 0,$$

with strict inequality for at least one $c \in J_j$, and so if we write $x_j = \sum_{c \in J_j} \mu_c c$ then it follows from Corollary 21 that $\mu_c > 0$ for all $c \in J_j$. Thus $x = \sum_{c \in \Pi \setminus \{a\}} \mu_c c$ with all coefficients μ_c positive.

Since $\alpha(S \setminus \{r_a\}) = S \setminus \{r_b\}$ there is a bijection $\sigma: \Pi \setminus \{a\} \rightarrow \Pi \setminus \{b\}$ with $\alpha(r_c) = r_{\sigma(c)}$ for all $c \in \Pi \setminus \{a\}$. By Lemma 22 we have $c \cdot d = \sigma(c) \cdot \sigma(d)$ for all $c, d \in \Pi \setminus \{a\}$, and extending σ linearly gives an isomorphism $\tilde{\sigma}: V_a \rightarrow V_b$.

Let $f \in \Phi^+$ be such that $\alpha(r_a) = r_f$. Since $r_{\sigma(c)} r_f$ has the same order as $r_c r_a$, namely m_{ca} , we have that

$$f \cdot \sigma(c) = \cos(l_c \pi / m_{ca})$$

for some l_c coprime to m_{ca} . Write $\theta_c = \cos(l_c \pi / m_{ca})$, and note that $\xi_c \geq |\theta_c|$ for all $c \in \Pi \setminus \{a\}$, with $\theta_c = 0$ if and only if $\xi_c = 0$.

Let $z = \sum_{c \in \Pi \setminus \{b\}} \lambda_c c$ be the orthogonal projection of f onto V_b , so that

$$\sigma(c) \cdot z = \sigma(c) \cdot f = \theta_c$$

for all $c \in \Pi \setminus \{a\}$. Since $v = b + y$ is a nonzero element of the orthogonal complement of V_b we have that $f = z + \omega v$ for some scalar ω . Now since $f = \omega b + (z + \omega y)$ and $z + \omega y \in V_b$, it follows from Lemma 3 that $\omega \geq 1$. Note also that

$$z = z_1 + z_2 + \dots + z_k$$

where $z_j = \sum_{c \in J_j} \lambda_{\sigma(c)} \sigma(c)$ is the projection of f onto the space spanned by $\sigma(J_j)$.

Fix an arbitrary $j \in \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$. Since $\xi_c \geq |\theta_c|$ for all $c \in J_j$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \leq \xi_c - \theta_c &= c \cdot x - \sigma(c) \cdot z = c \cdot \left(\sum_{d \in J_j} \mu_d d \right) - \sigma(c) \cdot \left(\sum_{d \in J_j} \lambda_{\sigma(d)} \sigma(d) \right) \\ &= \sum_{d \in J_j} (c \cdot d) \mu_d - \sum_{d \in J_j} (c \cdot d) \lambda_{\sigma(d)} = \sum_{d \in J_j} (c \cdot d) (\mu_d - \lambda_{\sigma(d)}), \end{aligned}$$

since $\sigma(c) \cdot \sigma(d) = c \cdot d$ for all $c, d \in J_j$. Now by Corollary 21 it follows that $\mu_d - \lambda_{\sigma(d)} \geq 0$ for all $d \in J_j$, and, moreover, if $\mu_d - \lambda_{\sigma(d)} = 0$ for some $d \in J_j$ then we must have $\xi_c - \theta_c = 0$ for all $c \in J_j$. Similarly,

$$0 \leq \xi_c + \theta_c = \sum_{d \in J_j} (c \cdot d) (\mu_d + \lambda_{\sigma(d)})$$

for all $c \in J_j$; so $\mu_d + \lambda_{\sigma(d)} \geq 0$ for all $d \in J_j$, equality occurring for some d only if $\xi_c + \theta_c = 0$ for all $c \in J_j$. Note in particular that, since j is arbitrary in the above argument, $\mu_d \geq |\lambda_{\sigma(d)}|$ for all $d \in \Pi \setminus \{a\}$.

Each $t \in V$ can be written in the form $t = t_0 + vu$ with $t_0 \in V_a$ and $v \in \mathbb{R}$. If $u \cdot u > 0$ this gives

$$t \cdot t = t_0 \cdot t_0 + v^2 u \cdot u,$$

which is positive if $t_0 \neq 0$ or if $v \neq 0$. Since W is infinite this contradicts Part (3) of Lemma 1. If $u \cdot u = 0$ then $t \cdot u = 0$ for all $t \in V$, contrary to the assumption that W is nondegenerate. So $u \cdot u < 0$, and, by the same reasoning, $v \cdot v < 0$.

Since $f \in \Phi$

$$1 = f \cdot f = (z + \omega v) \cdot (z + \omega v) = z \cdot z + \omega^2 v \cdot v,$$

and we also have that

$$z \cdot z = \sum_{c \in \Pi \setminus \{a\}} \lambda_{\sigma(c)} \sigma(c) \cdot z = \sum_{c \in \Pi \setminus \{a\}} \lambda_{\sigma(c)} \theta_c.$$

Similarly,

$$1 = a \cdot a = (-x + u) \cdot (-x + u) = x \cdot x + u \cdot u,$$

and also

$$x \cdot x = \sum_{c \in \Pi \setminus \{a\}} \mu_c c \cdot x = \sum_{c \in \Pi \setminus \{a\}} \mu_c \xi_c.$$

Thus

$$u \cdot u + \sum_{c \in \Pi \setminus \{a\}} \mu_c \xi_c = \omega^2 v \cdot v + \sum_{c \in \Pi \setminus \{a\}} \lambda_{\sigma(c)} \theta_c,$$

and so

$$\sum_{c \in \Pi \setminus \{a\}} (\mu_c \xi_c - \lambda_{\sigma(c)} \theta_c) = \omega^2 v \cdot v - u \cdot u.$$

Since $\mu_c \geq |\lambda_{\sigma(c)}|$ and $\xi_c \geq |\theta_c|$ for all c , we see that $\sum_{c \in \Pi \setminus \{a\}} (\mu_c \xi_c - \lambda_{\sigma(c)} \theta_c) \geq 0$, and so $\omega^2 v \cdot v \geq u \cdot u$. But $\omega^2 \geq 1$, and since $v \cdot v < 0$ it follows that $v \cdot v \geq \omega^2 v \cdot v$, and hence $v \cdot v \geq u \cdot u$. Since $1 = x \cdot x + u \cdot u$ (shown above) and $1 = y \cdot y + v \cdot v$ (similarly), it follows that $y \cdot y \leq x \cdot x$, as desired.

In view of our earlier remarks, we must have $v \cdot v = u \cdot u$, and

$$0 \leq \sum_{c \in \Pi \setminus \{a\}} (\mu_c \xi_c - \lambda_{\sigma(c)} \theta_c) = (\omega^2 - 1) u \cdot u \leq 0$$

since $\omega \geq 1$ and $u \cdot u < 0$. Thus $(\omega^2 - 1) u \cdot u = 0$, giving $\omega = 1$, and

$$\sum_{c \in \Pi \setminus \{a\}} (\mu_c \xi_c - \lambda_{\sigma(c)} \theta_c) = 0,$$

giving $\mu_c \xi_c = \lambda_{\sigma(c)} \theta_c = |\lambda_{\sigma(c)} \theta_c|$ for all $c \in \Pi \setminus \{a\}$. Furthermore, we have

$$0 \leq (\mu_c - |\lambda_{\sigma(c)}|) \xi_c \leq \mu_c \xi_c - |\lambda_{\sigma(c)}| |\theta_c| = 0,$$

and it follows that, for all $c \in \Pi \setminus \{a\}$, either $\xi_c = 0$ or $|\lambda_{\sigma(c)}| = \mu_c$. As noted above, for each $j \in \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$ there exists at least one $d \in J_j$ with $\xi_d > 0$, so that $\lambda_{\sigma(d)} = \pm \mu_d$. But as we have shown, if $\lambda_{\sigma(d)} = \mu_d$ then $\theta_c = \xi_c$ for all $c \in J_j$, and if $\lambda_{\sigma(d)} = -\mu_d$ then $\theta_c = -\xi_c$ for all $c \in J_j$. In the former case we have

$$z_j \cdot \sigma(c) = \theta_c = \xi_c = x_j \cdot c$$

for all $c \in J_j$, and it follows that $z_j = \tilde{\sigma}(x_j)$. In the latter case,

$$z_j \cdot \sigma(c) = \theta_c = -\xi_c = -x_j \cdot c$$

for all $c \in J_j$, giving $z_j = -\tilde{\sigma}(x_j)$.

Let w be the the longest element of the parabolic subgroup corresponding to the union of the sets $\sigma(J_j)$ for which $z_j = \tilde{\sigma}(x_j)$, let β be the inner automorphism of W given by

conjugation by w , and let $\alpha' = \beta\alpha$. Since β permutes $S \setminus \{r_b\}$ we see that α' satisfies the same hypotheses as α . Now $\alpha'(r_a) = wr_f w^{-1} = r_{wf}$, and

$$wf = wz + v = (wz_1 + wz_2 + \cdots + wz_k) + v,$$

and here wz_j is the projection of wf onto the span of $\sigma(J_j)$. Applying to α' the arguments used above for α enables us to deduce that for each j

$$wz_j = \pm \tilde{\sigma}'(x_j) = \pm \sum_{c \in J_j} \mu_c \sigma'(c),$$

where $\alpha'(r_c) = r_{\sigma'(c)}$ for all $c \in \Pi \setminus \{a\}$. But w was chosen so that for each j the element wz_j is a negative linear combination simple roots, and so $wz_j = -\tilde{\sigma}'(x_j)$. Thus

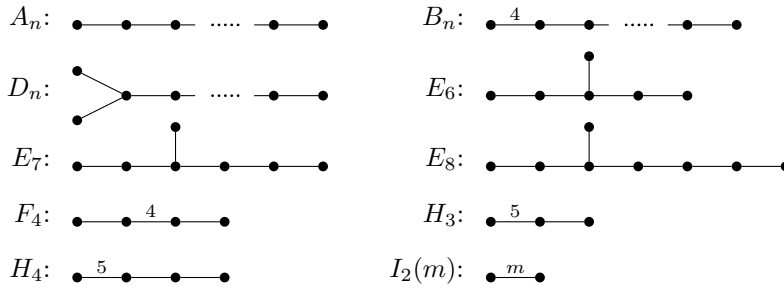
$$wf = (-\tilde{\sigma}'(x_1) - \tilde{\sigma}'(x_2) - \cdots - \tilde{\sigma}'(x_k)) + v = -\tilde{\sigma}'(x) + v,$$

showing that $wf \cdot \sigma'(c) = -\xi_c = a \cdot c$ for all $c \in \Pi \setminus \{a\}$. Since also $\sigma'(d) \cdot \sigma'(c) = d \cdot c$ for all $c, d \in \Pi \setminus \{a\}$, Theorem 18 shows that α' is inner by graph. (Indeed, Theorem 17 yields that there exists a $w' \in W$ and $\varepsilon = \pm 1$ such that $\varepsilon w'(\Pi) = wf \cup \Pi \setminus \{b\}$. But wf is easily shown to be positive, and it follows readily that $\varepsilon = 1$ and $N(w') = \emptyset$. Hence $wf = b$, and α' is in fact a graph automorphism.) \square

Our main objective is to prove that Theorem 23 holds without the hypothesis that $\alpha(S \setminus \{r_a\}) = S \setminus \{r_b\}$. Our basic strategy is to show that if the given automorphism α is replaced by $\alpha\beta$ for some suitably chosen β that is inner by graph, then the hypotheses of Theorem 23 are satisfied. Our next theorem accomplishes this in the case that α preserves some maximal finite subgroup. We need to use a modification of the argument used in the proof of Theorem 23 to deal with some of the cases.

Theorem 24. *Suppose that W is irreducible, non-degenerate and nearly finite, and the Coxeter diagram has no infinite edge labels. Suppose that α is an automorphism of W that preserves reflections, and suppose that there exists $a \in \Pi$ such that $\alpha(W_{\Pi \setminus \{a\}}) = W_{\Pi \setminus \{a\}}$. Then α is inner by graph.*

Proof. Write $J = \Pi \setminus \{a\}$. Since W_J is finite, the classification of finite Coxeter groups (see [11, Section 2.7]) tells us that each irreducible component of J is of one of the types in the following list. As is customary, labels equal to 3 are suppressed.



Thus the Coxeter diagram of W_J is a forest, and so by Lemma 15 there is a function $\phi_\alpha: J \rightarrow \Phi$ such that $\alpha(r_b) = r_{\phi_\alpha(b)}$ for all $b \in J$ and $\phi_\alpha(b) \cdot \phi_\alpha(c) \leq 0$ for all $b, c \in J$ with $b \neq c$. As in Corollary 16 it follows that

$$(3.1) \quad \phi_\alpha(b) \cdot \phi_\alpha(c) = b \cdot c$$

unless $m_{bc} = 5$ or $m_{bc} \geq 7$. Furthermore, these values for m_{bc} can only occur if b and c lie in an irreducible component of J of type H_3 , H_4 or $I_2(m)$, and then only for one pair of simple roots in the component.

If Eq. (3.1) does hold for all $b, c \in J$ then by Theorem 17 there exists $w \in W_J$ and $\varepsilon = \pm 1$ such that $\varepsilon w\phi_\alpha(b) \in J$ for all $b \in J$, and if β is the inner automorphism of W given

by $x \mapsto wxw^{-1}$ then we see that $\beta\alpha$ permutes the simple reflections of W_J . Theorem 23 can then be applied, and it follows that $\beta\alpha$ is inner by graph, whence α is also inner by graph.

It remains to deal with those cases in which J has at least one irreducible component of type H_3 , H_4 or $I_2(m)$ (where $m = 5$ or $m \geq 7$) on which Eq. (3.1) does not hold. Accordingly, assume that J has such a component. We use an argument similar to that used in the proof of Theorem 23 to derive a contradiction.

In our calculations below we use the abbreviations $c(\theta)$ and $s(\theta)$ for $\cos(\theta)$ and $\sin(\theta)$, and we also write π_m for π/m .

If $b, c \in J$ are such that Eq. (3.1) fails, then $b \cdot c = -c(\pi_m)$, where $m = m_{bc}$, and $\phi_\alpha(b) \cdot \phi_\alpha(c) = -c(j\pi_m)$ for some j coprime to m . Since $\phi_\alpha(b) \cdot \phi_\alpha(c) \leq 0$ we have that $1 < j < m/2$. If the component of J containing b and c is of type H_3 or H_4 then $m = 5$ and $j = 2$.

Let M and M' be matrices with rows and columns indexed by J , such that, for all $b, c \in J$, the (b, c) -entry of M is $b \cdot c$ and the (b, c) -entry of M' is $\phi_\alpha(b) \cdot \phi_\alpha(c)$. We assume that J is ordered so that M is a diagonal sum of matrices corresponding to the various irreducible components of J . Since $\phi_\alpha(b) \cdot \phi_\alpha(c) = 0$ if and only if $b \cdot c = 0$, we see that M' is also a diagonal sum, with blocks of the same sizes as those of M .

The blocks of M corresponding to components of types $I_2(m)$, H_3 and H_4 are as follows (assuming the ordering is chosen appropriately).

$$M_I = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -c(\pi_m) \\ -c(\pi_m) & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -c(\pi_5) & 0 \\ -c(\pi_5) & 1 & -1/2 \\ 0 & -1/2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -c(\pi_5) & 0 & 0 \\ -c(\pi_5) & 1 & -1/2 & 0 \\ 0 & -1/2 & 1 & -1/2 \\ 0 & 0 & -1/2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

The following matrices T_3 , T_4 and T_I are the inverses of M_3 , M_4 and M_I .

$$T_I = \begin{bmatrix} 1/s^2(\pi_m) & c(\pi_m)/s^2(\pi_m) \\ c(\pi_m)/s^2(\pi_m) & 1/s^2(\pi_m) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$T_3 = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{9+3\sqrt{5}}{2} & 4+2\sqrt{5} & 2+\sqrt{5} \\ 4+2\sqrt{5} & 6+2\sqrt{5} & 3+\sqrt{5} \\ 2+\sqrt{5} & 3+\sqrt{5} & \frac{5+\sqrt{5}}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$T_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 28+12\sqrt{5} & 33+15\sqrt{5} & 22+10\sqrt{5} & 11+5\sqrt{5} \\ 33+15\sqrt{5} & 42+18\sqrt{5} & 28+12\sqrt{5} & 14+6\sqrt{5} \\ 22+10\sqrt{5} & 28+12\sqrt{5} & 20+8\sqrt{5} & 10+4\sqrt{5} \\ 11+5\sqrt{5} & 14+6\sqrt{5} & 10+4\sqrt{5} & 6+2\sqrt{5} \end{bmatrix}$$

For components on which Eq (3.1) fails, the corresponding blocks of M' are as follows.

$$M'_I = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -c(j\pi_m) \\ -c(j\pi_m) & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M'_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -c(2\pi_5) & 0 \\ -c(2\pi_5) & 1 & -1/2 \\ 0 & -1/2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M'_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -c(2\pi_5) & 0 & 0 \\ -c(2\pi_5) & 1 & -1/2 & 0 \\ 0 & -1/2 & 1 & -1/2 \\ 0 & 0 & -1/2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

The corresponding inverses are as follows.

$$T'_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1/s^2(j\pi_m) & c(j\pi_m)/s^2(j\pi_m) \\ c(j\pi_m)/s^2(j\pi_m) & 1/s^2(j\pi_m) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$T'_3 = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{9-3\sqrt{5}}{2} & -4+2\sqrt{5} & -2+\sqrt{5} \\ -4+2\sqrt{5} & 6-2\sqrt{5} & 3-\sqrt{5} \\ -2+\sqrt{5} & 3-\sqrt{5} & \frac{5-\sqrt{5}}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$T'_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 28-12\sqrt{5} & -33+15\sqrt{5} & -22+10\sqrt{5} & -11+5\sqrt{5} \\ -33+15\sqrt{5} & 42-18\sqrt{5} & 28-12\sqrt{5} & 14-6\sqrt{5} \\ -22+10\sqrt{5} & 28-12\sqrt{5} & 20-8\sqrt{5} & 10-4\sqrt{5} \\ -11+5\sqrt{5} & 14-6\sqrt{5} & 10-4\sqrt{5} & 6-2\sqrt{5} \end{bmatrix}$$

It can be checked that all the entries of T'_1 , T'_3 and T'_4 are positive and strictly less than the corresponding entries of T_1 , T_3 and T_4 . Hence if we write t_{bc} and t'_{bc} for the (b, c) -entries of M^{-1} and $(M')^{-1}$, then we have $t_{bc} \geq t'_{bc}$ for all $b, c \in J$. Since there is a component for which Eq. (3.1) fails, there is a block in which $t_{bc} > t'_{bc}$ for all b and c .

As in the proof of Theorem 23, we suppose that $\alpha(r_a) = r_f$, where $f \in \Phi^+$, and let z be the projection of f onto V_J . Let x be the projection of $-a$ onto V_J . Then $u = x + a$ spans the orthogonal complement of V_J in V , and $u \cdot u < 0$ since W is non-degenerate and infinite. Moreover, $f = z + \omega u$ for some scalar ω , and by Lemma 3 we have $\omega \geq 1$.

For each $c \in J$ let $c \cdot a = -c(\pi_{m_{ca}}) = -\xi_c$. Write $x = \sum_{c \in J} \mu_c c$. For all $c \in J$,

$$c \cdot x = -c \cdot a = \xi_c,$$

so that $\xi_c = \sum_{d \in J} (c \cdot d) \mu_d$, and

$$\mu_c = \sum_{d \in J} t_{cd} \xi_d.$$

Now for each $c \in J$ there is an integer j_c such that

$$\phi_\alpha(c) \cdot z = \phi_\alpha(c) \cdot f = c(j_c \pi_{m_{ca}}) = \theta_c,$$

where $|\theta_c| \leq \xi_c$ and $\theta_c = 0$ if and only if $\xi_c = 0$. Writing $z = \sum_{c \in J} \lambda_c \phi_\alpha(c)$, we have

$$\lambda_c = \sum_{d \in J} t'_{cd} \theta_d$$

for all $c \in J$. Now observe that

$$z \cdot z = \sum_{c \in J} \lambda_c (\phi_\alpha(c) \cdot z) = \sum_{c \in J} \lambda_c \theta_c = \sum_{c \in J} \sum_{d \in J} t'_{cd} \theta_c \theta_d$$

and

$$x \cdot a = \sum_{c \in J} \mu_c (c \cdot a) = - \sum_{c \in J} \mu_c \xi_c = - \sum_{c \in J} \sum_{d \in J} t_{cd} \xi_c \xi_d.$$

Since $\xi_c \xi_d \geq |\theta_c \theta_d| \geq \theta_c \theta_d$ and $t_{cd} \geq t'_{cd} \geq 0$ for all $c, d \in J$,

$$\sum_c \sum_d t_{cd} \xi_c \xi_d \geq \sum_c \sum_d t'_{cd} \theta_c \theta_d.$$

But there is an irreducible component of W_J for which $t_{cd} > t'_{cd}$. As W is irreducible there is an edge joining a to this component, and hence there is a c in this component for which $\xi_c > 0$. Then $t_{cc} \xi_c^2 \geq t_{cc} \theta_c^2 > t'_{cc} \theta_c^2$, and so

$$-x \cdot a = \sum_c \sum_d t_{cd} \xi_c \xi_d > \sum_c \sum_d t'_{cd} \theta_c \theta_d = z \cdot z.$$

Therefore $1 + x \cdot a < 1 - z \cdot z$. Now

$$u \cdot u = (x + a) \cdot u = a \cdot u = a \cdot a + a \cdot x = 1 + a \cdot x.$$

Thus $u \cdot u < 1 - z \cdot z$, and, since $u \cdot u < 0$,

$$1 > \frac{1 - z \cdot z}{u \cdot u}.$$

Since $x \in \Phi$,

$$1 = x \cdot x = (z + \omega u) \cdot (z + \omega u) = z \cdot z + \omega^2 u \cdot u.$$

Hence

$$\omega^2 = \frac{1 - z \cdot z}{u \cdot u} < 1.$$

But $\omega \geq 1$, and so we have obtained the desired contradiction. \square

4. GROUPS WITH TWO FINITE MAXIMAL PARABOLIC SUBGROUPS

If $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(W)$ and F is a maximal finite subgroup of W , then clearly $\alpha(F)$ is also a maximal finite subgroup of W . Theorem 24 was concerned with the case $\alpha(F) = F$; in this section we dispense with this assumption.

Proposition 25. *Suppose that $\alpha: W \rightarrow W'$ is an isomorphism of finite Coxeter groups that maps reflections to reflections. Then W and W' have the same type.*

Proof. Since the irreducible components of W and W' are generated by the reflections they contain, it follows from Lemma 14 that α maps the components of W to the components of W' . Hence it is sufficient to prove the result for irreducible W and W' .

If W is of type $I_2(m)$ then exactly half the elements of W are reflections, and since α maps reflections to reflections it follows that half the elements of W' are reflections. Since $I_2(m)$ is the only type of Coxeter group with this property, it follows that W' is of the same type as W . Of course a similar argument applies whenever W' is of type $I_2(m)$; so we may assume that neither W nor W' is of type $I_2(m)$.

The only coincidences of order for finite irreducible Coxeter groups, excluding groups of type $I_2(m)$, occurs for types A_4 and H_3 , which both have order 120. They are not isomorphic, since, for example, A_4 has trivial centre while H_3 does not. Since W and W' have the same order and are isomorphic, we conclude that they are of the same type. \square

Proposition 26. *Suppose that W is an irreducible nearly finite Coxeter group, and let $a \in \Pi$ be such that $\Pi \setminus \{a\}$ is of finite type. Suppose that there exists $b \in \Pi$ with $b \neq a$ and $\Pi \setminus \{b\}$ of the same type as $\Pi \setminus \{a\}$. If $\Pi \setminus \{a\}$ and $\Pi \setminus \{b\}$ have at least one component of type H_3 , H_4 or $I_2(m)$ for $m > 4$, then the Coxeter diagram associated with W either has a symmetry of order two that interchanges a and b , or is of type $X(q)$ for some $q \geq 2$, where these diagrams are as follows:*

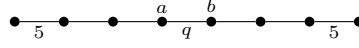


Proof. Let Γ be the Coxeter diagram of W , and Γ_a, Γ_b the diagrams obtained by deleting a, b respectively. For each $c \in \Pi$ let $\text{val}(c)$ be the valency of c as a vertex of Γ . Observe that the valency of $c \neq a$ as a vertex of Γ_a is $\text{val}(c) - 1$ or $\text{val}(c)$ if c is adjacent to a or not adjacent to a in Γ ; so the sum of the valencies in Γ_a is $(\sum_{c \in \Pi} \text{val}(c)) - 2\text{val}(a)$. Applying the same reasoning also to Γ_b we deduce that $\text{val}(a) = \text{val}(b)$, since Γ_a and Γ_b are isomorphic.

Suppose first that Γ_a and Γ_b are reducible, and b does not lie in a component of Γ_a of type H_3, H_4 or $I_2(m)$ for $m > 4$. Note that $\text{val}(a) \geq 2$ since there must be edges from a to all components of Γ_a .

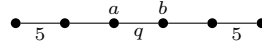
By hypothesis Γ_a has a component Δ of type H_3, H_4 or $I_2(m)$ that does not contain b . Observe that Δ lies in a component Δ' of Γ_b that also contains a , since a is connected to Δ . Since H_4 and $I_2(m)$ for $m > 5$ are not contained in any larger diagrams of finite type, it follows that Δ is of type H_3 or $I_2(5)$. Furthermore, the valency of a in Δ' is at most 2, since no diagram of finite type has a vertex of valency greater than 2 as well as an edge label greater than 3. So $\text{val}(a) \leq 3$.

If Δ is of type H_3 then Δ' must be of type H_4 , and the valency of a in Δ' is 1. So a is adjacent to b in Γ , and $\text{val}(a) = 2$. Hence Γ_a has exactly two components (given that it is reducible). One of these is Δ' , of type H_4 , and the other must be of type H_3 since Γ_b has a component of type H_3 . Thus Γ is

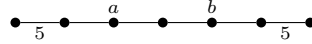


and we see that there is a symmetry interchanging a and b .

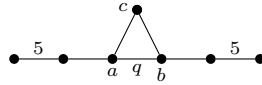
If Δ is of type $I_2(5)$ then Δ' is of type H_3 or H_4 . In the former case a has valency 1 in Δ' ; so a is adjacent to b and $\text{val}(a) = 2$. Thus Γ_a and Γ_b are of type $I_2(5) \times H_3$, whence Γ is



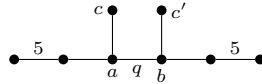
and there is a symmetry interchanging a and b . Turning to the other case, observe that the valency of a in Δ' (of type H_4) is 2, since deleting a gives a component of type $I_2(5)$. If a and b are not adjacent then $\text{val}(a) = 2$, and Γ_a has two components, which must be of types $I_2(5)$ and H_4 . So Γ is



which has a symmetry swapping a and b . So suppose that a and b are adjacent, so that $\text{val}(a) = \text{val}(b) = 3$. Let c be the end vertex of Δ' adjacent to a . If c is also adjacent to b then Γ_a has only two components, and they are of types $I_2(5)$ and H_4 . Furthermore, the valency of c in Γ_b is 1; so $\text{val}(c) = 2$, and Γ must be



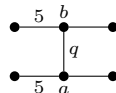
which has a symmetry swapping a and b . Finally, suppose that c is not adjacent to b . Then Γ_a and Γ_b are of type $I_2(5) \times A_1 \times H_4$, and there is a c' adjacent to b that is not adjacent to a . In this case Γ is



and again there is a symmetry swapping a and b .

Next we consider those cases for which Γ_a and Γ_b are reducible, and b lies in a component Δ of Γ_a of type H_3 , H_4 or $I_2(m)$ for $m > 4$.

Suppose that Δ has type H_3 . Then the valency of b in Γ_a is at most 2, and consequently $2 \leq \text{val}(a) = \text{val}(b) \leq 3$. Suppose $\text{val}(a) = \text{val}(b) = 3$. Then a and b must be adjacent. The two end vertices of Δ cannot both be adjacent to a , since Γ_b is reducible. If neither of them are adjacent to a then Γ_b has three components, and is thus of type $A_1 \times A_1 \times H_3$. We see that in this case Γ is



and has a symmetry interchanging a and b . If one of the end vertices of Δ is adjacent to a , then Γ_b has two components and is of type $A_1 \times H_3$. There are four possibilities: two choices for the vertex of Δ that is adjacent to a , and then two choices for the edge incident with a that has the label 5.



The first and third of these have symmetries interchanging a and b , while the other two are both of type $X(q)$.

Now suppose that $\text{val}(a) = \text{val}(b) = 2$, still in the case that Δ is of type H_3 . Note that Γ_a and Γ_b must have two components. If b is adjacent to a then it must be an end vertex of Δ , and Γ_b must be of type $I_2(5) \times H_3$ or of type $A_2 \times H_3$. The two possibilities for Γ are as follows.



In both cases there is a symmetry interchanging a and b . If b is not adjacent to a then it is the middle vertex of Δ , and, since only one of the end vertices can be adjacent to a (given that Γ_b is not irreducible), we see that the one that is not adjacent to a constitutes a component of Γ_b of type A_1 . So Γ_a and Γ_b are of type $A_1 \times H_3$. The four possibilities for Γ are as follows.



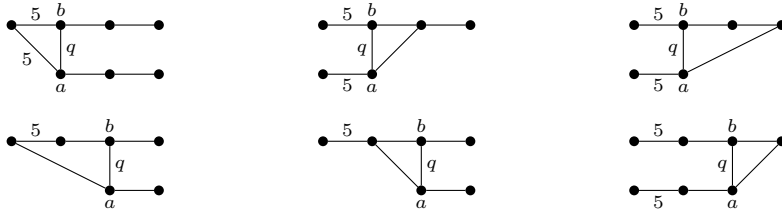
The first and third of these have symmetries interchanging a and b , while the other two are both of type $X(2)$.

We have dealt with all possible cases for which Δ is of type H_3 . Suppose now that Δ is of type H_4 . As in the H_3 case we have $2 \leq \text{val}(a) = \text{val}(b) \leq 3$.

Suppose first that $\text{val}(a) = \text{val}(b) = 3$. Then a and b are adjacent, and b is not an end vertex of Δ . If no other vertex of Δ is adjacent to a , then Γ_b has three components and is of type $A_1 \times A_2 \times H_4$ or $A_1 \times I_2(5) \times H_4$. Since a may be either of the inner vertices of of the H_4 there are potentially four possibilities, but only two of these give Γ_a isomorphic to Γ_b . The two possibilities for Γ are



and there is a symmetry interchanging a and b . If there were two vertices of $\Delta \setminus \{b\}$ adjacent to a then these vertices could not be adjacent to each other, since if they were then Γ_b would contain a triangle, contradicting the fact that it is of finite type. So the two components of $\Delta \setminus \{b\}$ would have to each contain one of these vertices, and this is also impossible since then Γ_b would be irreducible. So it remains to consider the cases in which a is adjacent to exactly one of the vertices in $\Delta \setminus \{b\}$. In each case Γ_b must have exactly two components, one of which is a component $\Delta \setminus \{b\}$ and the other of which has type H_4 . Now b may be either of the two inner vertices of Δ , and a may be joined to any of the three vertices of $\Delta \setminus \{b\}$. Each of the six choices gives a unique possibility for Γ .



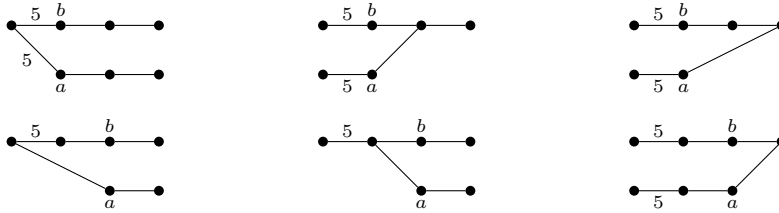
In each case there is a symmetry of Γ interchanging a and b .

Now suppose that $\text{val}(a) = \text{val}(b) = 2$, still in that case that Δ is of type H_4 . Observe that Γ_a and Γ_b have two components. If b is an end vertex of Δ then it must be adjacent to a , and Γ_b must be either of type $A_3 \times H_4$ or of type $H_3 \times H_4$. The corresponding two

possibilities for Γ are

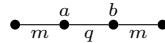


and in both cases there is a symmetry interchanging a and b . If b is not adjacent to a then it is an inner vertex of Δ , and, since only one of the other vertices can be adjacent to a (given that Γ_b is not irreducible and does not contain a triangle), we again obtain six possibilities: b can be either inner vertex of Δ and a can be adjacent to any of the three vertices of $\Delta \setminus \{b\}$.



In each case there is a symmetry interchanging a and b .

Having dealt with all possible cases for which Δ is of type H_3 or H_4 , we assume now that Δ is of type $I_2(m)$. In this case b has valency 1 in Γ_a , and hence has valency 2 in Γ . We see that a and b are adjacent, and a is not adjacent to the other vertex of Δ since Γ_b is reducible. So Γ_a and Γ_b are of type $A_1 \times I_2(m)$. Thus Γ is



and there is a symmetry swapping a and b .

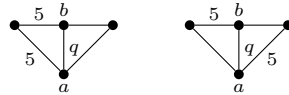
We have now dealt with all cases in which Γ_a and Γ_b are reducible, and it remains to deal with the possibility that they are irreducible of type $I_2(m)$, H_3 or H_4 . Observe that Γ has three vertices in the first case, four in the second and five in the third.

If Γ_a is of type $I_2(m)$, with vertices b and c , then Γ_b has vertices a and c , which must be joined by an edge labelled m . So Γ is

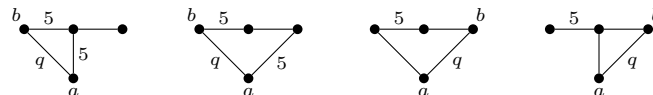


where $q = 2$ is allowed. There is a symmetry of the desired kind.

If Γ_a is of type H_3 and b is the middle vertex, then a must also be adjacent to the other two vertices, since $\text{val}(a) = \text{val}(b)$. One of these edges must be labelled 5 and the other 3, since Γ_b is of type H_3 . So there are two possibilities for Γ ,



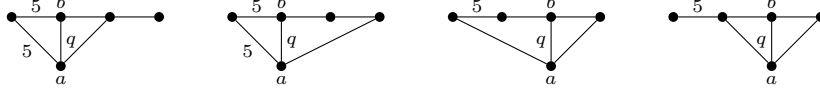
again allowing $q = 2$. In each case there is a symmetry swapping a and b . If b is an end vertex of Γ_a then a must be adjacent to exactly one of the remaining two vertices, and since there are two choices for b there are four possibilities for Γ .



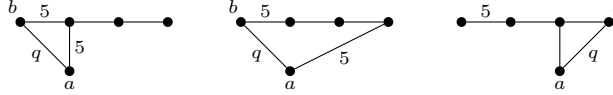
Here again we allow $q = 2$, and again each of the diagrams has a symmetry swapping a and b .

Finally suppose that Γ_a is of type H_4 . If b is an inner vertex of Γ_a then a must be adjacent to exactly two of the other vertices of Γ_a to ensure that $\text{val}(a) = \text{val}(b)$. Furthermore,

these two must not belong to the same component of $\Gamma_a \setminus \{b\}$ since Γ_b must not contain a triangle. There are two possibilities for b , and then two possibilities for the vertices of $\Gamma_a \setminus \{b\}$ adjacent to a . The four possibilities for Γ are



allowing $q = 2$. In each case there is a symmetry swapping a and b . We are left to consider the cases when b is an end vertex of Γ_a . Suppose first that b at the end with the edge labelled 5. Since $\text{val}(a) = \text{val}(b)$ we see that a , like b , is adjacent to exactly one of the other three vertices of Γ_a . It cannot be the middle one, or this would have valency 3 in Γ_b , contrary to the requirement that Γ_b is of type H_4 . The other two are both possible. If b is at the end of Γ_a that does not have the edge labelled 5, we again deduce that a must be adjacent to exactly one of the other three vertices of Γ_a . However, only one of these three choices satisfies the requirement that Γ_b is of type H_4 . So altogether we have three more possibilities for Γ . They are



allowing $q = 2$. In each case there is a symmetry swapping a and b . □

5. COMPLETION OF THE PROOF OF THE MAIN THEOREM

Recall first the following trivial fact.

Lemma 27. *Let W be a Coxeter group, and $a, b \in \Pi$. If m_{ab} is odd then r_a and r_b are conjugate in W .*

Proof. If $m_{ab} = 2k + 1$ then $r_b = (r_a r_b)^k r_a (r_a r_b)^{-k}$. □

Our main theorem is as follows.

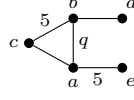
Theorem 28. *If W is an irreducible non-degenerate nearly finite Coxeter group with finite edge labels, then any automorphism of W that preserves reflections is inner by graph.*

Proof. Let $\alpha \in R(W)$, and let $a \in \Pi$ be such that $J = \Pi \setminus \{a\}$ is of finite type. Then $\alpha(W_J)$ is a maximal finite subgroup of W , and so equals $tW_K t^{-1}$ for some $t \in W$ and some $K \subseteq \Pi$. Replacing α by $w \mapsto t\alpha(w)t^{-1}$ permits us to assume that $\alpha(W_J) = W_K$. By Proposition 25 and the fact that α preserves reflections, W_J and W_K are of the same type. Thus $K = \Pi \setminus \{b\}$ for some $b \in \Pi$ (possibly equal to a).

Suppose that J does not contain any component of type H_3 , H_4 or $I_2(m)$ for $m > 4$. As W_J and W_K are of the same type there is an isomorphism $\beta: W_J \rightarrow W_K$ taking simple reflections to simple reflections. Applying Corollary 19 to the automorphism of W_J given by $w \mapsto \beta^{-1}(\alpha(w))$, we deduce that there exists $t \in W_J$ such that $\gamma: w \mapsto t(\beta^{-1}(\alpha(w)))t^{-1}$ is a graph automorphism of W_J . Thus $\beta\gamma$ is an isomorphism $W_J \rightarrow W_K$ that takes simple reflections to simple reflections. But $\beta\gamma$ is the restriction to W_J of the automorphism $w \mapsto \beta(t\alpha(w)\beta(t)^{-1})$, and it follows from Theorem 23 that this automorphism is inner by graph. Hence α is inner by graph.

Suppose, on the other hand, that J has a component of type H_3 , H_4 or $I_2(m)$ for $m > 4$. If W is not of type $X(q)$ then by Proposition 26 there is a graph automorphism γ of W that takes W_K to W_J . Now $\gamma\alpha$ preserves W_J , and so Theorem 24 tells us that $\gamma\alpha$ is inner by graph. Hence α is inner by graph.

It remains to consider that possibility that W is of type $X(q)$ for some $q \geq 2$ and $J \neq K$. Let $\Pi = \{a, b, c, d, e\}$, the Coxeter diagram being as follows.



Note that $q = 2$ is allowed.

The simple reflection r_e is central in W_J ; therefore

$$\alpha(r_e) \in Z(W_K) = \langle r_d, w_K \rangle,$$

where w_K is the longest element in W_K . As $\alpha(r_e)$ is a reflection and r_d is the only reflection in $Z(W_K)$ we deduce that $\alpha(r_e) = r_d$. Now by Lemma 13

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ref}(W_J) &= \text{Ref}(W_{\{c,b,d\}}) \cup \{r_e\} \\ \text{Ref}(W_K) &= \text{Ref}(W_{\{c,a,e\}}) \cup \{r_d\}, \end{aligned}$$

and it follows that $\alpha(\text{Ref}(W_{\{c,b,d\}})) = \text{Ref}(W_{\{c,a,e\}})$. So $\alpha(W_{\{c,b,d\}}) = W_{\{c,a,e\}}$.

Since the group $W_{\{c,a,e\}}$ has only one conjugacy class of reflections (by Lemma 27), replacing α by $w \mapsto t(\alpha(w))t^{-1}$ for a suitably chosen $t \in W_{\{c,a,e\}}$ allows us to assume that $\alpha(r_d) = r_c$. Now $r = \alpha(r_b)$ has the property that the order of rr_c is three (since $r_b r_d$ has order three), and of the fifteen reflections in $W_{\{c,a,e\}}$ only four satisfy this requirement. Furthermore, these four are permuted transitively by the group $W_{\{a,c\}}$; so again replacing α by $w \mapsto t(\alpha(w))t^{-1}$ for a suitably chosen t permits us to assume that $r = r_a$.

Since r_c commutes with r_d we deduce that $\alpha(r_c)$ is a reflection that commutes with r_c . There are just two possibilities for this: the reflection along e and the reflection along $g = -(\lambda + 1)e - 2\lambda a - \lambda c$, where $\lambda = 2\cos(\pi/5)$ (the positive solution of $\lambda^2 = \lambda + 1$). If $\alpha(r_c) = r_e$ then Theorem 24 tells us that α is inner by graph. So assume that $\alpha(r_c) = r_g$, and let $\alpha(r_a) = r_f$, where $f \in \Phi$. We now have

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha(r_a) &= r_f & \alpha(r_b) &= r_a \\ \alpha(r_c) &= r_g & \alpha(r_d) &= r_c \\ \alpha(r_e) &= r_d. \end{aligned}$$

Since $r_f r_g$ has order three, $f \cdot g = \pm 1/2$. Replacing f by $-f$ if necessary, we may assume that $f \cdot g = -1/2$. Since $r_f r_c$ has order two, $f \cdot c = 0$. Since $r_f r_a$ has order q and $r_f r_d$ has order five, $f \cdot a = \cos(j\pi/q)$ for some j coprime to q and $f \cdot d = -\cos(k\pi/5)$ for some k coprime to 5. Let us write $\theta_a = \cos(j\pi/q) = f \cdot a$ and $\xi_a = \cos(\pi/q)$; note that $|\theta_a| \leq \xi_a$. Let us also write $\theta_d = \cos(k\pi/5) = -f \cdot d$; note that $|\theta_d| \leq \cos(\pi/5) = \lambda/2$.

For later reference, note that $a \cdot g = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \lambda)$, while $c \cdot g = e \cdot g = d \cdot g = 0$.

Define $x = \lambda a + \frac{1}{2}\lambda c - \theta_d d + (\frac{3}{2} + (2 - 2\lambda)\theta_a)e$. Note that $x \in V_K$. We compute $x \cdot v$ for each v in the basis $\{a, c, d, g\}$ of V_K .

$$\begin{aligned} x \cdot a &= \lambda - \frac{1}{4}\lambda + 0 + (\frac{3}{2} + (2 - 2\lambda)\theta_a)(-\frac{1}{2}\lambda) \\ &= \frac{3}{4}\lambda - \frac{3}{4}\lambda + (\lambda^2 - \lambda)\theta_a \\ &= \theta_a \\ &= f \cdot a, \\ x \cdot c &= -\frac{1}{2}\lambda + \frac{1}{2}\lambda + 0 + 0 \\ &= 0 \\ &= f \cdot c, \\ x \cdot d &= 0 + 0 - \theta_d + 0 \\ &= f \cdot d, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
x \cdot g &= \frac{1}{2}\lambda(1-\lambda) + 0 + 0 + 0 \\
&= -\frac{1}{2} \\
&= f \cdot g.
\end{aligned}$$

Thus x is the orthogonal projection of f onto V_K .

Now define

$$y = ((1+2\lambda) + (4+4\lambda)\xi_a)a + ((\frac{1}{2} + \frac{3}{2}\lambda) + (2+2\lambda)\xi_a)c + \frac{1}{2}d + ((1 + \frac{3}{2}\lambda) + (2+4\lambda)\xi_a)e.$$

We find that

$$\begin{aligned}
y \cdot a &= (1+2\lambda) + (4+4\lambda)\xi_a - \frac{1}{2}((\frac{1}{2} + \frac{3}{2}\lambda) + (2+2\lambda)\xi_a) + 0 \\
&\quad - \frac{1}{2}\lambda((1 + \frac{3}{2}\lambda) + (2+4\lambda)\xi_a) \\
&= \frac{3}{4} + \frac{3}{4}\lambda - \frac{3}{4}\lambda^2 + (3+2\lambda - 2\lambda^2)\xi_a \\
&= \xi_a = -b \cdot a, \\
y \cdot c &= -\frac{1}{2}((1+2\lambda) + (4+4\lambda)\xi_a) + ((\frac{1}{2} + \frac{3}{2}\lambda) + (2+2\lambda)\xi_a) + 0 + 0 \\
&= \frac{1}{2}\lambda = -b \cdot c, \\
y \cdot d &= \frac{1}{2} = -b \cdot d, \\
y \cdot e &= -\frac{1}{2}\lambda((1+2\lambda) + (4+4\lambda)\xi_a) + 0 + 0 + ((1 + \frac{3}{2}\lambda) + (2+4\lambda)\xi_a) \\
&= 1 + \lambda - \lambda^2 + (2+2\lambda - 2\lambda^2)\xi_a \\
&= 0 = -b \cdot e.
\end{aligned}$$

Thus y is the projection of $-b$ onto V_K . Put $u = b + y$, a nonzero element of the orthogonal complement of V_K . We can confirm that W is nondegenerate by checking that $u \cdot u < 0$. Indeed,

$$\begin{aligned}
u \cdot u &= (y+b) \cdot u = b \cdot u = 1 + b \cdot y \\
&= 1 - \xi_a((1+2\lambda) + (4+4\lambda)\xi_a) - \frac{1}{2}\lambda((\frac{1}{2} + \frac{3}{2}\lambda) + (2+2\lambda)\xi_a) - \frac{1}{4} \\
&= -\lambda - 2(1+2\lambda)\xi_a - (4+4\lambda)\xi_a^2 \\
&< 0,
\end{aligned}$$

as expected. Now we find that

$$x \cdot e = -\frac{1}{2}\lambda^2 + 0 + 0 + \frac{3}{2} + (2-2\lambda)\theta_a = 1 - \frac{1}{2}\lambda + (2-2\lambda)\theta_a,$$

and thus

$$\begin{aligned}
x \cdot x &= \lambda a \cdot x + \frac{1}{2}\lambda c \cdot x - \theta_a d \cdot x + (\frac{3}{2} + (2-2\lambda)\theta_a)e \cdot x \\
&= \lambda\theta_a + 0 + \theta_a^2 + (\frac{3}{2} + (2-2\lambda)\theta_a)(1 - \frac{1}{2}\lambda + (2-2\lambda)\theta_a) \\
&= \theta_a^2 + \frac{3}{2} - \frac{3}{4}\lambda + (\lambda + 3(1-\lambda) + (3-3\lambda + \lambda^2))\theta_a + 4(1-\lambda)^2\theta_a^2 \\
&= \theta_a^2 + \frac{3}{2} - \frac{3}{4}\lambda + 2(3-2\lambda)\theta_a + 4(2-\lambda)\theta_a^2.
\end{aligned}$$

Note that $\theta_a^2 \leq \frac{1}{4}\lambda^2 = \frac{1}{4}(1+\lambda)$. Furthermore, since we also have that $|\theta_a| \leq \xi_a$,

$$\begin{aligned}
x \cdot x &\leq \frac{7}{4} - \frac{1}{2}\lambda + 2|3-2\lambda||\theta_a| + 4|2-\lambda||\theta_a|^2 \\
&\leq \frac{7}{4} - \frac{1}{2}\lambda + 2(2\lambda-3)\xi_a + 4(2-\lambda)\xi_a^2,
\end{aligned}$$

and therefore

$$\begin{aligned}
1 - x \cdot x - u \cdot u &\geq 1 - \frac{7}{4} + \frac{1}{2}\lambda - 2(2\lambda-3)\xi_a - 4(2-\lambda)\xi_a^2 \\
&\quad + \lambda + 2(1+2\lambda)\xi_a + (4+4\lambda)\xi_a^2 \\
&= (\frac{3}{2}\lambda - \frac{3}{4}) + 8\xi_a + (8\lambda-4)\xi_a^2,
\end{aligned}$$

which is clearly positive since all the terms are positive. Therefore

$$\frac{1 - x \cdot x}{u \cdot u} < 1,$$

as $u \cdot u < 0$.

As in our earlier proofs we write $f = x + \omega u$, and use Lemma 3 to deduce that either $\omega \geq 1$ (if $x \in \Phi^+$) or $\omega \leq -1$ (if $x \in \Phi^-$), and hence that $\omega^2 \geq 1$. Since f is a root,

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= f \cdot f \\ &= (x + \omega u) \cdot (x + \omega u) \\ &= x \cdot x + \omega^2 u \cdot u, \end{aligned}$$

and hence

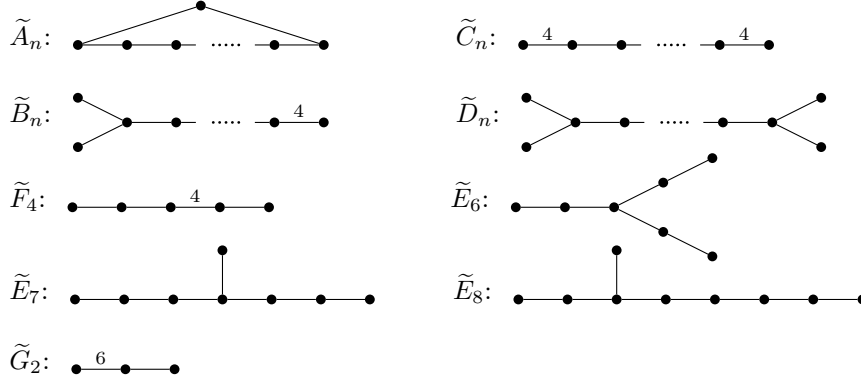
$$\omega^2 = \frac{1 - x \cdot x}{u \cdot u} < 1,$$

and this is a contradiction. So this case cannot arise, and we conclude that α is inner by graph. \square

The next result provides a strengthening of our main theorem.

Theorem 29. *Theorem 28 remains valid if the assumption that W is nondegenerate is omitted.*

Proof. Let n be the rank of W . Since W is nearly finite there is a subspace of V of dimension $n - 1$ on which the bilinear form B associated with W is positive definite. If B is degenerate then its radical must be complementary to this positive definite subspace, and so B is positive semidefinite with a 1-dimensional radical. The classification of irreducible positive semidefinite Coxeter groups is given in [11, Section 2.7]; the groups concerned are isomorphic to the affine Weyl groups, and correspond to the following list of Coxeter diagrams.



In each case the rank is one greater than the name might suggest: for example, \tilde{A}_n has rank $n + 1$. For types \tilde{C}_n and \tilde{A}_n we require $n \geq 2$; type \tilde{A}_1 is not covered by the present theorem since its diagram has ∞ as an edge label (although the conclusion of the theorem in fact remains valid). For \tilde{B}_n and \tilde{D}_n we require $n \geq 3$ and $n \geq 4$ respectively.

For all cases except \tilde{A}_n the desired conclusion that every reflection-preserving automorphism is inner by graph follows immediately from Corollary 19. So suppose that W is of type \tilde{A}_n , and let $\alpha \in R(W)$. Choose a function $\phi_\alpha: \Pi \rightarrow \Phi$ such that $\alpha(r_a) = r_{\phi_\alpha(a)}$ for all $a \in \Pi$. Write $\Pi = \{a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n\}$, where a_0 is adjacent to a_n and a_i is adjacent to a_{i-1} for $1 \leq i \leq n$. Then $\phi_\alpha(a_i) \cdot \phi_\alpha(a_j)$ is $\pm 1/2$ if a_i and a_j are adjacent, and zero otherwise. We can successively choose signs $\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \dots, \varepsilon_n$ so that when $\phi_\alpha(a_i)$ is replaced by $\varepsilon_i \phi_\alpha(a_i)$ we have $\phi_\alpha(a_{i-1}) \cdot \phi_\alpha(a_i) = -1/2$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$. Now if $\phi_\alpha(a_0) \cdot \phi_\alpha(a_n) = -1/2$

then Theorem 18 guarantees that α is inner by graph. But if $\phi_\alpha(a_0) \cdot \phi_\alpha(a_n) = 1/2$ then it is readily checked that the matrix whose (i, j) entry is $\phi_\alpha(a_i) \cdot \phi_\alpha(a_j)$ is positive definite, contradicting the fact that B is degenerate. \square

6. GROUPS WITH A FINITE IRREDUCIBLE MAXIMAL PARABOLIC SUBGROUP

In this section we shall not assume that the automorphism α preserves reflections; instead we shall prove that it must preserve reflections, given appropriate extra hypotheses. Specifically, we shall investigate nearly finite Coxeter groups with a finite irreducible maximal parabolic subgroup.

Our analysis depends upon some facts concerning automorphism groups of finite irreducible Coxeter groups. We proceed to give a brief discussion of this topic.

Let W be a finite irreducible Coxeter group. The centre of W is either trivial or of order two. We denote the nonidentity element of the centre by z , when it exists. In all of these cases, z is equal to w_Π , the longest element of W . The group of all homomorphisms from W to the cyclic group of order two is isomorphic to the abelianization of W , and has order four if the Coxeter diagram has an even edge label, and order two otherwise. Let \mathcal{H} denote the group of all homomorphisms from W to its centre. It is clear that for all $f \in \mathcal{H}$ the mapping $\alpha_f: w \mapsto wf(w)$ is a homomorphism from W to itself, and is an automorphism precisely when z is in the kernel of f (so that $zf(z) \neq 1$). These automorphisms are reflection preserving if and only if W is of rank 2. Moreover, $\alpha_{fg} = \alpha_f \alpha_g$ whenever $f(z) = g(z) = 1$; hence $\mathcal{A}(W) = \{\alpha_f \mid z \in \ker f\}$ is a subgroup of $\text{Aut}(W)$. Clearly all elements of $\mathcal{A}(W)$ are self-inverse.

If W is of type B_n , with the following diagram,



we let $\zeta: W \rightarrow Z(W)$ be the homomorphism that maps $r_a \mapsto 1$ and all other simple reflections to z . It is easily checked that $\zeta(z) = 1$, and so $\alpha_\zeta \in \text{Aut}(W)$. Similarly, for type F_4 there are two conjugacy classes of reflections, and we let $\zeta: W \rightarrow Z(W)$ map the reflections in one of these to z and those in the other to 1. Again $\alpha_\zeta \in \text{Aut}(W)$. In all cases where $w_\Pi = z \in Z(W)$, let $\xi: W \rightarrow Z(W)$ be the homomorphism that maps each simple reflection to z . Then $\xi(w) = z^{l(w)}$ for all $w \in W$, and so $\xi(z) = 1$ precisely when $l(z)$ is even. In particular, $\alpha_\xi \in \text{Aut}(W)$ when W is of type B_{2k}, D_{2k}, E_8, F_4 or H_4 . A straightforward calculation shows that α_ξ commutes with all reflection preserving automorphisms.

Proposition 30. *The group $\mathcal{A}(W)$ defined above is trivial if W is of type A_n, D_{2k+1}, E_6, E_7 or H_3 , has order two if W is of type B_{2k+1}, D_{2k}, E_8 or H_4 , and has order four if W is of type B_{2k} or F_4 .*

Indeed, $\mathcal{A}(W) = \langle \alpha_\xi \rangle$ for types D_{2k}, E_8 and H_4 , while $\mathcal{A}(W) = \langle \alpha_\zeta \rangle$ for B_{2k+1} , and $\mathcal{A}(W) = \langle \alpha_\xi, \alpha_\zeta \rangle$ for B_{2k} and F_4 .

When W is of type $I_2(m)$ it is obvious that $\text{Aut}(W) = R(W)$, and in all other cases $\mathcal{A}(W) \cap R(W)$ is trivial. So in these cases $\text{Aut}(W)$ has a subgroup isomorphic to the semidirect product $R(W) \rtimes \mathcal{A}(W)$ (since it is obvious that $R(W)$ is normal in $\text{Aut}(W)$). Let $\text{Gr}(W)$ be the group of all graph automorphisms of W . By Theorem 18 we know that $R(W) = \text{Inn}(W)\text{Gr}(W)$ unless W is of type H_3 or H_4 . In these cases there are at most two possibilities for the function ϕ_α in Lemma 15, and so $[R(W) : \text{Inn}(W)\text{Gr}(W)] \leq 2$. In fact, as we shall see in the proof of Proposition 32, types H_3 and H_4 do possess reflection preserving automorphisms that are not inner by graph; so $[R(W) : \text{Inn}(W)\text{Gr}(W)] = 2$ in each case. For W of type $I_2(m)$ it can be checked that $R(W)/\text{Inn}(W)\text{Gr}(W)$ is isomorphic to the group of units of the ring of integers modulo m .

As is well known, the groups of type A_n are isomorphic to the finite symmetric groups, and all automorphisms are inner except when $n = 5$, in which case $\text{Inn}(W) = R(W)$ has

index two in $\text{Aut}(W)$. The main assertion of Theorem 31 below is that there are no other finite irreducible Coxeter groups W such that $\text{Aut}(W) \neq R(W)\mathcal{A}(W)$.

Whenever the group of symmetries of the Coxeter diagram has order 2, we let γ be the corresponding nontrivial graph automorphism of W . If W is of type H_3 or H_4 we let ρ be the non-inner reflection preserving automorphism constructed in the proof of Proposition 32 below. The following theorem then describes the classification of automorphisms of finite irreducible Coxeter groups.

Theorem 31. *If W is a Coxeter group of type $B_n, D_n, E_6, E_7, E_8, F_4, H_3$ or H_4 then $\text{Aut}(W) = R(W)\mathcal{A}(W)$. Specifically:*

- (1) *If W is of type B_n , n odd, then $\text{Aut}(W) \cong W/\langle w_\Pi \rangle \rtimes \langle \alpha_\zeta \rangle$.*
- (2) *If W is of type B_n , n even, then $\text{Aut}(W) \cong ((W/\langle w_\Pi \rangle) \rtimes \langle \alpha_\zeta \rangle) \times \langle \alpha_\xi \rangle$.*
- (3) *If W is of type D_n , n odd, then $\text{Aut}(W) = R(W) \cong W$.*
- (4) *If W is of type D_n , n even and $n > 4$, then $\text{Aut}(W) \cong ((W/\langle w_\Pi \rangle) \rtimes \langle \gamma \rangle) \times \langle \alpha_\xi \rangle$.*
- (5) *If W is of type D_4 then $\text{Aut}(W) \cong ((W/\langle w_\Pi \rangle) \rtimes \text{Sym}_3) \times \langle \alpha_\xi \rangle$.*
- (6) *If W is of type E_6 then $\text{Aut}(W) = R(W) \cong W$.*
- (7) *If W is of type E_7 then $\text{Aut}(W) = R(W) \cong W/\langle w_\Pi \rangle$.*
- (8) *If W is of type E_8 then $\text{Aut}(W) \cong (W/\langle w_\Pi \rangle) \times \langle \alpha_\xi \rangle$.*
- (9) *If W is of type F_4 then $\text{Aut}(W) \cong (W/\langle w_\Pi \rangle) \rtimes \langle \gamma, \alpha_\chi \rangle$.*
- (10) *If W is of type H_3 then $\text{Aut}(W) \cong (W/\langle w_\Pi \rangle) \rtimes \langle \rho \rangle$.*
- (11) *If W is of type H_4 then $\text{Aut}(W) \cong ((W/\langle w_\Pi \rangle) \rtimes \langle \rho \rangle) \times \langle \alpha_\xi \rangle$.*

Proof. (Outline) In all cases we consider the sizes of the conjugacy classes of involutions; see [3]. We consider the simpler cases first.

For type E_6 there are 4 classes of involutions, of sizes 270, 540, 45 and 36, the class of reflections being the one of size 36. Clearly all automorphisms must preserve reflections and hence are inner by Corollary 19. In this case the graph automorphism γ is inner, being conjugation by w_Π . Thus we have:

$$\text{Aut}(W) = R(W) \cong W.$$

For type E_7 there are 63 reflections, and the other classes of involutions have sizes 945, 3780, 315, 3780, 316, 945, 63 and 1. In this case w_Π is central and so if r is a simple reflection then rw_Π is an involution. Thus the other class of involutions that has size 63 must be the class of rw_Π . But $l(rw_\Pi) = 62$ is even, and so this class does not generate W . In the absence of graph automorphisms we therefore have:

$$\text{Aut}(W) = R(W) \cong W/\langle w_\Pi \rangle.$$

For type E_8 there are 120 reflections, and the other classes of involutions have sizes 3780, 37800, 113400, 3150, 37800, 3780, 120 and 1. Again the second class of size 120 is the class of rw_Π , where r is a reflection. But α_ξ is an automorphism that interchanges these two classes. Thus, up to α_ξ , automorphisms preserve reflections and hence are inner. We have:

$$\text{Aut}(W) \cong (W/\langle w_\Pi \rangle) \times \langle \alpha_\xi \rangle.$$

For type H_3 the class of reflections has size 15 while the other classes have sizes 15 and 1. By an argument similar to that used for type E_7 , the second class of size 15 does not generate W . Thus $\text{Aut}(W) = R(W)$. Since w_Π is central, $\text{Inn}(W) \cong W/\langle w_\Pi \rangle$. But, as explained above, $\text{Inn}(W)$ has index two in $R(W)$ in this case. So we have:

$$\text{Aut}(W) \cong (W/\langle w_\Pi \rangle) \rtimes \langle \rho \rangle.$$

For type H_4 the class of reflections has size 60 while the other classes have sizes 450, 60 and 1. In this case α_ξ is an automorphism that swaps the two classes of size 60, and so $\text{Aut}(W)$ is the product of $R(W)$ and $\langle \alpha_\xi \rangle$. So we have:

$$\text{Aut}(W) \cong ((W/\langle w_\Pi \rangle) \rtimes \langle \rho \rangle) \times \langle \alpha_\xi \rangle.$$

For type F_4 there are two classes of reflections, each of size 12, and they are interchanged by the graph automorphism γ . The remaining classes have sizes 18, 77, 12, 12 and 1. If r and s are representatives of the classes of reflections then rw_Π and sw_Π are representatives of the other classes of size 12. We can take the homomorphism $\zeta: W \rightarrow Z(W)$ defined above to satisfy $\zeta(r) = w_\Pi$ and $\zeta(s) = 1$. The reflection subgroup generated by the reflections conjugate to r is of type D_4 , and contains w_Π . Thus classes of r and rw_Π together do not generate W , and the same applies for the classes of s and sw_Π . This leaves 8 possible targets for the images of the two classes of reflections under the action of an automorphism. Since γ and α_ζ generate a copy of the dihedral group of order eight, we have:

$$\text{Aut}(W) \cong (W/\langle w_\Pi \rangle) \rtimes \langle \gamma, \alpha_\zeta \rangle.$$

For types B_n and D_n we use the well known fact that groups of these types are isomorphic to $\mathcal{E}_n \rtimes \text{Sym}_n$ and $\mathcal{E}'_n \rtimes \text{Sym}_n$, where $\mathcal{E}_n = \langle x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \rangle$ is an elementary abelian 2-group of order 2^n , and \mathcal{E}'_n is the subgroup of \mathcal{E}_n generated by elements of the form $x_i x_j$. Thus involutions have the form $\beta_i \pi_j$ where β_i is a product of i distinct transpositions and π_j is a product of j distinct x_k 's, with the proviso that if x_h appears in π_j and the transposition (hk) appears in β_i then x_k also appears in π_j . It can be shown that if W is of type B_n then $\beta_i \pi_j$ is conjugate to an element $\beta_i \pi'_l$ where no term x_k in π'_l is moved by β_i . The same is true in type D_n provided that $2i < n$, although j (and l) must be even in this case. The number of elements in the class is

$$\frac{n!}{i!j!(n-j-2i)!}$$

If $n = 2t$ then the involutions in D_n of the form $\beta_i \pi_j$ are conjugate either to β_i or to $\beta_i x_k x_l$, where (kl) is some transposition in β_i . We obtain two classes of size

$$\frac{(2i)!}{2i!}$$

In type B_n the classes of reflections have representatives $\beta_1 \pi_0$ and $\beta_0 \pi_1$, with sizes $n(n-1)$ and n respectively. The latter class does not occur in type D_n . The only coincidences of class sizes that involve classes of reflections are as follows.

- In type B_4 the class of $(12)(34)$ has the same size as that of (12) .
- In type D_4 the class of $(12)(34)x_1 x_2$ has the same size as that of (12) .
- In type B_8 the classes of $x_1 x_2 x_3$ and $x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4 x_5$ have the same size as that of (12) .
- In type B_n the class of $x_1 w_\Pi$ has the same size as that of x_1 .
- In types B_n and D_{2t} the class of $(12)w_\Pi$ has the same size as that of (12) .

The first three cannot give rise to automorphisms as the classes that would contain the images of the reflections do not generate W . The same applies in the fourth case when n is odd, while when n is even the automorphism α_ξ interchanges the two classes in question. In the fifth case the two classes are interchanged by the automorphism α_ζ of B_n or the automorphism α_ξ of D_{2t} . Thus in all cases $\text{Aut}(W)$ is generated by $\mathcal{A}(W)$ and $R(W)$. Finally, observing that for n odd the graph automorphism of groups of type D_n is induced by conjugation by w_Π and that the group of graph automorphisms of type D_4 is isomorphic to Sym_3 , we have the following conclusions.

If W is of type B_n , n odd, then

$$\text{Aut}(W) \cong W/\langle w_\Pi \rangle \rtimes \langle \alpha_\zeta \rangle.$$

If W is of type B_n , n even, then

$$\text{Aut}(W) \cong ((W/\langle w_\Pi \rangle) \rtimes \langle \alpha_\zeta \rangle) \times \langle \alpha_\xi \rangle.$$

If W is of type D_n , n odd, then

$$\text{Aut}(W) = R(W) \cong W.$$

If W is of type D_n , $n > 4$ even, then

$$\text{Aut}(W) \cong ((W/\langle w_\Pi \rangle) \rtimes \langle \gamma \rangle) \times \langle \alpha_\xi \rangle.$$

If W is of type D_4 then

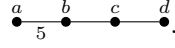
$$\text{Aut}(W) \cong ((W/\langle w_\Pi \rangle) \rtimes \text{Sym}_3) \times \langle \alpha_\xi \rangle. \quad \square$$

We now use the above discussion to prove the results that we actually need.

Proposition 32. *Let W be a finite Coxeter group, and let α be an automorphism of W that preserves reflections. Then α preserves the set of parabolic subgroups of W .*

Proof. By Lemma 14 we know that α permutes the irreducible components of W , and by Proposition 25 it maps each component to a component of the same type. So replacing α by $\gamma\alpha$ for a suitable graph automorphism γ , we can assume that α preserves each component. So it is sufficient to prove the result for irreducible Coxeter groups. Since the group of all automorphisms that preserve parabolic subgroups contains the inner and graph automorphisms we have only to consider types H_3 and H_4 , and it is sufficient to prove that one element of $R(W)$ that is not inner by graph preserves the set of parabolic subgroups.

Let W be of type H_4 and let $\Pi = \{a, b, c, d\}$, with the following diagram:



Let $\lambda = \frac{1}{2}(1 + \sqrt{5})$, and define $a' = (3\lambda + 2)a + (3\lambda + 3)b + 2(\lambda + 1)c + (\lambda + 1)d$. It can be checked that $a' \in \Phi$ and $a' \cdot c = a' \cdot d = 0$; furthermore, $a' \cdot b = \frac{1}{2}(\lambda - 1) = -\cos(2\pi/5)$. So there is an automorphism $\rho \in R(W)$ that fixes r_b, r_c and r_d and takes r_a to $r_{a'}$. If we define

$$\begin{aligned} w_1 &= r_b r_a r_c r_b r_a r_b r_d r_c r_b r_a r_b r_a r_c r_b r_a r_d r_c r_b r_a, \\ w_2 &= r_c r_b r_a r_b r_a r_d r_c r_b r_a r_b r_a r_c r_b r_a r_b r_d r_c r_b r_a r_b r_a, \\ w_3 &= r_b r_a r_b r_a r_d r_c r_b r_a r_b r_a r_c r_b r_a r_b r_d r_c r_b r_a r_b r_a r_c r_b r_a, \end{aligned}$$

then a straightforward calculation reveals that

$$\begin{aligned} \{w_1 a', w_1 c, w_1 d\} &= \{a, d, c\}, \\ \{w_2 a', w_2 b, w_2 d\} &= \{a + \lambda b, a, d\}, \\ \{w_3 a', w_3 b, w_3 c\} &= \{c, \lambda a + (\lambda + 1)b + c, a\}, \end{aligned}$$

and therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(W_{\{a,c,d\}}) &= w_1^{-1} W_{\{w_1 a', w_1 c, w_1 d\}} w_1 = w_1^{-1} W_{\{a,d,c\}} w_1, \\ \rho(W_{\{a,b,d\}}) &= w_2^{-1} W_{\{w_2 a', w_2 b, w_2 d\}} w_2 = w_2^{-1} W_{\{a,b,d\}} w_2, \\ \rho(W_{\{a,b,c\}}) &= w_3^{-1} W_{\{w_3 a', w_3 b, w_3 c\}} w_3 = w_3^{-1} W_{\{a,b,c\}} w_3. \end{aligned}$$

In particular, these are all parabolic subgroups. It is obvious that $\rho(W_{\{b,c,d\}})$ is parabolic, and so ρ preserves maximal parabolic subgroups. Since the result is known for groups of lower rank apart from H_3 , the proof for H_3 is all that remains to be done.

So now let W be a group of type H_3 , and let $\Pi = \{a, b, c\}$, arranged as for H_4 . Let $a' = (\lambda + 1)a + (\lambda + 1)b + c$. It is readily checked that $a' \in \Phi$, and also that $a' \cdot c = \frac{1}{2}(\lambda - 1)$ and $a' \cdot b = 0$. So there is an automorphism ρ that interchanges r_b and r_c and takes r_a to $r_{a'}$. If $w = r_b r_a r_b r_a$ then $\{w a', w b\} = \{c, a\}$, and so $\rho(W_{\{a,c\}})$ is a parabolic subgroup. If $w = r_c r_b r_a$ then $\{w a', w c\} = \{\lambda a + b, b\}$, and so $\rho(W_{\{a,b\}})$ is a parabolic subgroup. So ρ preserves maximal parabolic subgroups, and hence all parabolic subgroups, since the result is already known for smaller rank. \square

Proposition 33. *Suppose that W is a finite irreducible Coxeter group of rank at least three, and suppose that α is a nonidentity automorphism in $\mathcal{A}(W)$. If W' is a maximal parabolic subgroup of W such that $\alpha(W')$ is also a parabolic subgroup then $\alpha(w) = w$ for all $w \in W'$.*

Proof. Let $\alpha = \alpha_f$ where $f \in \mathcal{H}$, and let z be the element of W of maximal length. Suppose that W' is a maximal parabolic subgroup such that $\alpha(w) \neq w$ for at least one element $w \in W'$, and suppose, for a contradiction, that $\alpha(W')$ is a parabolic subgroup. It is trivial to check that inner automorphisms commute with all elements of $\mathcal{A}(W)$; so without loss of generality we may assume that $W' = W_J$ for some $J \subseteq \Pi$.

Let V' be the subspace of V spanned by the root system of $\alpha(W_J)$, and let v be a nonzero element of the orthogonal complement of V' in V . Then $wv = v$ for all $w \in \alpha(W_J)$, and in particular $\alpha(r_a)v = v$ for all roots $a \in \Phi_J^+$. There is at least one $a \in \Phi_J^+$ such that $\alpha(r_a) \neq r_a$, since otherwise we would have $\alpha(w) = w$ for all $w \in W_J$. Moreover, $\alpha(r_a) \neq r_a$ implies that $\alpha(r_a) = r_az$. Now since z acts on V as multiplication by -1 , if $\alpha(r_a) = r_az$ then $r_av = -v$, which implies that v is a scalar multiple of a . Since there is at least one such $a \in \Phi_J^+$, it is unique. Fix this root a , and note that it is orthogonal to V' .

If $b \in \Phi_J^+$ and $b \neq a$ then $r_ba = \alpha(r_b)a = a$. Hence a is orthogonal to $\Phi_J^+ \setminus \{a\}$. Thus r_a generates a component of W_J of type A_1 , and every other component of W_J is contained in $\alpha(W_J)$. Furthermore, r_a is not conjugate in W to any other reflection $r_b \in W_J$, since $f(r_a) = z \neq f(r_b)$. So W is of type B_n or F_4 and W_J is of type $A_1 \times A_{n-2}$, where n is the rank of W . Let $K = J \setminus \{a\}$, and note that W_K is a parabolic subgroup of $\alpha(W_J)$. Thus $\alpha(W_J)$ is also of type $A_1 \times A_{n-2}$. If $n > 3$ then the centre of $\alpha(W_J)$ has order two and is generated by a reflection; however, this contradicts the fact that r_az is not a reflection, since it acts as multiplication by -1 on the space V' , which has dimension greater than 1. So $n = 3$, and W is of type B_3 . Writing b for the unique element of $J \setminus \{a\}$ we find that the two reflections in $\alpha(W_J)$ are r_b and r_br_az . But these are conjugate in W , whereas in type B_3 the parabolic subgroups of type $A_1 \times A_1$ are generated by a pair of non-conjugate reflections. \square

Proposition 34. *Let W be a finite irreducible Coxeter group of rank n , and suppose that W is not of type A_5 . Let $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(W)$, and suppose that for every reflection $r \in W$ the element $\alpha(r)$ lies in a parabolic subgroup of W of rank less than $n - 1$. Then $\alpha \in R(W)$.*

Proof. Suppose that $\alpha \notin R(W)$. The image of a proper parabolic subgroup under the action of an element of $R(W)$ is clearly always a proper parabolic subgroup. So we may replace α by $\alpha\beta$ for any $\beta \in R(W)$ without affecting either the hypotheses of the proposition or the assumption that $\alpha \notin R(W)$. Since W is not of type A_5 we may assume that $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}(W)$. Let $\alpha = \alpha_f$, where $f \in \mathcal{H}$. Now $f \neq 1$ since $\alpha \neq 1$, and so there exists a simple reflection r_a such that $f(r_a) = z$. It follows that $r_az = \alpha(r_a)$ lies in a parabolic subgroup W' of rank less than $n - 1$. If V' is the subspace of V spanned by the root system of W' then all elements of W' act trivially on the quotient space V/V' , which has dimension at least 2. So r_az has 1 as a repeated eigenvalue, contradicting the fact that it acts as -1 on the $(n - 1)$ -dimensional space $\{v \in V \mid v \cdot a = 0\}$. \square

Note that if W is of type A_5 then the automorphisms that do not preserve reflections take them to conjugates of the central element of a parabolic subgroup of type A_1^3 . However, to deal with type A_5 we have the following fact.

Proposition 35. *Let W be a Coxeter group of type A_5 , and let $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(W)$. If there exists a nontrivial proper parabolic subgroup W' of W such that $\alpha(W')$ is also a parabolic subgroup of W then α is inner.*

Proof. We can identify W with the symmetric group of degree 6, and, modifying α by an appropriate inner automorphism, we may assume that the action of α on the generators

$r_i = (i, i + 1)$ (for $1 \leq i \leq 5$) is as follows:

$$(12) \mapsto (13)(24)(56)$$

$$(23) \mapsto (16)(25)(34)$$

$$(34) \mapsto (14)(23)(56)$$

$$(45) \mapsto (16)(24)(35)$$

$$(56) \mapsto (12)(34)(56).$$

If W' is a nontrivial proper parabolic subgroup such that $\alpha(W')$ is also parabolic then $\alpha(W')$ certainly contains an element from the conjugacy class of W containing the element $(12)(34)(56)$. Hence $\alpha(W')$ is of type A_1^3 or $A_1 \times A_3$. Since α^2 is inner, it suffices now to check that neither $\alpha(\langle r_1, r_3, r_5 \rangle)$ nor $\alpha(\langle r_1, r_2, r_3, r_5 \rangle)$ is a parabolic subgroup. We leave this straightforward task to the reader. \square

Suppose that W is a nearly finite Coxeter group of rank n with no infinite edge labels. Suppose that $a \in \Pi$ is such that $J = \Pi \setminus \{a\}$ is irreducible and of finite type, and let α be an automorphism of W . From Corollary 12 we know that $\alpha(W_J)$ is a maximal finite parabolic subgroup. Replacing α by its composite with an inner automorphism permits us to assume that $\alpha(W_J) = W_K$ for some $K \subseteq \Pi$. Clearly the rank of W_K is at most $n - 1$.

We claim that W_K is of the same type as W_J . This depends on the following fact, whose proof we omit.

Proposition 36. *Suppose that W is an irreducible finite Coxeter group that is abstractly isomorphic to a direct product of two nontrivial Coxeter groups. Then W is either of type B_k for some odd $k > 1$ or $I_2(2m)$ for some odd $m > 1$. The factors are of types A_1 and D_k in the former case (or A_1 and A_3 if $k = 3$), and of types A_1 and $I_2(m)$ in the latter case.*

This can be proved, for example, by an examination of the list of normal subgroups of finite irreducible Coxeter groups given by Maxwell [13]. The proposition tells us that if an irreducible finite Coxeter group is abstractly isomorphic to a reducible Coxeter group, then the rank of the reducible group is one greater than the rank of the irreducible group.

Hence in our situation above, W_K must be irreducible. As we noted in the proof of Proposition 25, if two irreducible finite Coxeter groups are abstractly isomorphic then they are of the same type. So W_J and W_K are of the same type. Thus we have proved the following result.

Theorem 37. *If W is a nearly finite Coxeter group of rank n , and W_J a standard parabolic subgroup of W that is irreducible and of rank $n - 1$, then any automorphism of W will map W_J to a conjugate of a standard parabolic subgroup W_K of the same type as W_J .*

The following is Lemma 9 in [9].

Lemma 38. *If W is any infinite irreducible Coxeter group then the only graph automorphism that is inner is the identity.*

Our objective is to prove the following result.

Theorem 39. *Suppose that W is a nearly finite Coxeter group with finite edge labels, and suppose that $J = \Pi \setminus \{a\}$ is irreducible and of finite type. Suppose also that m_{ab} is odd for at least one $b \in J$. Then all automorphisms of W are inner by graph, and indeed*

$$\text{Aut}(W) = \text{Inn}(W) \rtimes \text{Gr}(W),$$

where $\text{Gr}(W)$ is the group of all graph automorphisms of W .

Proof. Since Lemma 38 above tells us that $\text{Inn}(W) \cap \text{Gr}(W) = \{1\}$, the assertion that $\text{Aut}(W) = \text{Inn}(W) \rtimes \text{Gr}(W)$ will follow once it has been shown that all automorphisms are inner by graph. By Theorem 29 it suffices to prove that all automorphisms preserve reflections.

Suppose, for a contradiction, that $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(W)$ does not preserve reflections. By Theorem 37 we may assume that $\alpha(W_J) = W_K$ for some $K \subseteq \Pi$ of the same type as J . Let $\beta: W_K \rightarrow W_J$ be an isomorphism that takes simple reflections to simple reflections. Since r_a is conjugate to an element of W_J there exists at least one reflection $r \in W_J$ such that $\alpha(r)$ is not a reflection; hence the automorphism γ of W_J given by $w \mapsto \beta(\alpha(w))$ is not in $R(W_J)$.

Let us first assume that J and K are not of type A_5 . By Proposition 34 there is a $b \in J$ such that $\gamma(b)$ does not lie in any parabolic subgroup of W_J of rank less than $n - 2$, where n is the rank of W . So $\alpha(r_b)$ does not lie in any parabolic subgroup of W_K of rank less than $n - 2$. Since $m_{ab} \neq \infty$ there exists at least one maximal finite parabolic subgroup W' containing both r_a and r_b . Suppose there are more than one of these, say W' and W'' . Then $\alpha(W')$ and $\alpha(W'')$ are distinct proper parabolic subgroups of W , and so $\alpha(W') \cap \alpha(W'')$ is a parabolic subgroup of W of rank at most $n - 2$ (by Lemma 7). Furthermore, $\alpha(W') \cap \alpha(W'')$ is not contained in W_K , since $W' \cap W''$ is not contained in W_J . So $\alpha(W') \cap \alpha(W'') \cap W_K$ has rank at most $n - 3$ and is a parabolic subgroup of W_K containing $\alpha(r_b)$. This contradiction shows that there is a unique maximal finite parabolic subgroup W' containing r_a and r_b . Since there is obviously a maximal finite standard parabolic subgroup containing r_a and r_b , it follows from Lemma 12 that $W' = W_L$ for some $L \subseteq \Pi$. If W_L has rank $n - 2$ or less then $\alpha(W_L) \cap W_K$ has rank $n - 3$ or less and is a parabolic subgroup of W_K containing r_b ; as before, this is a contradiction. So $L = \Pi \setminus \{c\}$ for some $c \in J$; moreover, $\alpha(W_L) \cap W_K$ has rank $n - 2$.

Since W_J is not of type A_5 , there is a reflection preserving automorphism δ of W_J such that $\delta\gamma \in \mathcal{A}(W_J)$. Now

$$(\delta\gamma)(W_{L \cap J}) = \delta(\beta(\alpha(W_L \cap W_J))) = \delta(\beta(\alpha(W_L) \cap W_K))$$

is a maximal parabolic subgroup of W_J , by Proposition 32. So by Proposition 33 it follows that $(\delta\gamma)(w) = w$ for all $w \in W_{L \cap J}$. Since $r_b \in W_{J \cap L}$ and δ preserve reflections, it follows that $\gamma(r_b)$ is a reflection, and hence $\alpha(r_b)$ is a reflection. This is a contradiction, and completes the proof in the case that J and K are not of type A_5 .

So suppose that J and K are of type A_5 . Let W_L be a maximal finite standard parabolic subgroup of W containing r_a and r_b . Then $\alpha(W_L) \cap W_K$ is the intersection of two maximal finite subgroups of W , and hence is a nontrivial proper parabolic subgroup of W_K . So $\beta(\alpha(W_L) \cap W_K) = \gamma(W_{L \cap J})$ is a proper parabolic subgroup of W_J . By Proposition 35 it follows that γ is inner, contradicting the fact that $\gamma \notin R(W_J)$. \square

REFERENCES

- [1] N. Bourbaki, *Groupes et algèbres de Lie*, Chapitres 4, 5 et 6, Hermann, Paris, 1968.
- [2] Brigitte Brink, The dominance minimal roots, *Journal of Algebra* **206** (1998), 371–412.
- [3] R. W. Carter, Conjugacy classes in the Weyl group, *Compositio Mathematica* **25** (1972), 1–59.
- [4] Roger W. Carter, *Finite Groups of Lie Type: Conjugacy Classes and Complex Characters.*, J. Wiley & Sons, 1985.
- [5] R. Charney and M. Davis, When is a Coxeter system determined by its Coxeter group? *J. London Math. Soc.* **61** (2000), 441–461.
- [6] V. V. Deodhar, On the root system of a Coxeter group, *Communications in Algebra* **10** (1982), 611–630.
- [7] W. N. Franzsen, Automorphisms of rank three Coxeter groups with infinite bonds, *Journal of Algebra* **248** (2002), 381–396.
- [8] ———, *Automorphisms of Coxeter Groups*, PhD thesis, January 2001 (University of Sydney).
- [9] W. N. Franzsen and R. B. Howlett, Automorphisms of Coxeter groups of rank three, *Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society* **129** (2001), 2607–2616.
- [10] R. B. Howlett, P. J. Rowley, and D. E. Taylor, On outer automorphism groups of Coxeter groups, *Manuscripta Mathematica* **93** (1997), 499–513.
- [11] James E. Humphreys, *Reflection Groups and Coxeter Groups*, Cambridge University Press, 1990 (Cambridge Studies in Advanced Mathematics, Vol. 29).
- [12] L. D. James, Complexes and Coxeter groups—operations and outer automorphisms, *Journal of Algebra* **113** (1988), 339–345.
- [13] G. Maxwell, The normal subgroups of finite and affine Coxeter groups, *Proceedings of the London Mathematical Society* **3** (1998), 359–382.

- [14] B. Mühlherr, Automorphisms of graph-universal Coxeter groups, *Journal of Algebra* **200** (1998), 629–649.
- [15] R. W. Richardson, Conjugacy classes of involutions in Coxeter groups, *Bulletin of the Australian Mathematical Society* **26** (1982), 1–15.
- [16] J. Tits, Sur le groupe des automorphismes de certain groupes de Coxeter, *Journal of Algebra* **113** (1988), 346–357.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY, 25A BARKER RD, STRATHFIELD NSW 2135, AUSTRALIA
E-mail address: b.franzsen@mary.acu.edu.au

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS, UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY, NSW 2006, AUSTRALIA
E-mail address: R.Howlett@maths.usyd.edu.au