Automorphisms of Coxeter groups and Lusztig’s conjectures for Hecke algebras with unequal parameters
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AUTOMORPHISMS OF COXETER GROUPS AND LUSZTIG’S
CONJECTURES FOR HECKE ALGEBRAS
WITH UNEQUAL PARAMETERS

CÉDRIC BONNAFÉ

Abstract. Let \((W, S)\) be a Coxeter system, let \(G\) be a finite solvable group of
automorphisms of \((W, S)\) and let \(\varphi\) be a weight function which is invariant under
\(G\). Let \(\varphi_G\) denote the weight function on \(W^G\) obtained by restriction from \(\varphi\). The
aim of this paper is to compare the \(a\)-function, the set of Duflo involutions and
the Kazhdan-Lusztig cells associated with \((W, \varphi)\) and with \((W^G, \varphi_G)\), provided
that Lusztig’s Conjectures hold.

Contents

1. The set-up 3
   1.A. The group \((W, S)\). 3
   1.B. The group \((W^G, S_G)\). 4
2. Brauer quotient 4
   2.A. Definition. 4
   2.B. Applications to Hecke algebras. 5
3. Lusztig’s conjectures 7
   3.A. Cells. 7
   3.B. Boundedness. 7
   3.C. Asymptotic algebra. 10
4. Open questions 11

References 11

Let \((W, S)\) be a Coxeter system, with \(S\) finite, let \(\Gamma\) be a totally ordered abelian
group and let \(\varphi : W \to \Gamma\) be a \textit{weight function} such that \(\varphi(s) > 0\) for all \(s \in S\).

Let \(G\) be a group of automorphisms of \(W\) stabilizing \(S\) and \(\varphi\). We denote by \(\varphi_G\)
the restriction of \(\varphi\) to the fixed points subgroup \(W^G\). If \(\omega \in S/G\) (the orbit set) is

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such that $W_\omega (=\langle \omega \rangle)$ is finite, we denote by $s_\omega$ the longest element of the standard parabolic subgroup $W_\omega$ and we set $S_G = \{s_\omega \mid \omega \in S/G$ and $W_\omega$ is finite$\}$. Then it is well-known that $(W^G, S_G)$ is a Coxeter system and that $\varphi_G : W^G \rightarrow \Gamma$ is a weight function (such that $\varphi_G(s_\omega) > 0$ for all $\omega \in S/G$).

With the datum $(W, S, \Gamma, \varphi)$ are associated a Hecke algebra $H(W, S, \Gamma, \varphi)$ over the ring $\mathbb{Z}[\Gamma]$, a Kazhdan-Lusztig basis $(C_w)_{w \in W}$ of $H(W, S, \Gamma, \varphi)$, equivalence relations $\sim_L$, $\sim_R$ and $\sim_{LR}$ and two functions $a : W \rightarrow \Gamma$ and $\Delta : W \rightarrow \Gamma$ (see [4]). We set $\mathcal{D} = \{w \in W \mid a(w) = \Delta(w)\}$. With the datum $(W^G, S_G, \Gamma, \varphi_G)$, we associate similarly $\sim^G_L$, $\sim^G_R$, $\sim^G_{LR}$, $a_G$, $\Delta_G$ and $\mathcal{D}_G$. The main result of this paper is the following:

**Theorem A.** Assume that $G$ is a finite solvable group and that Lusztig’s conjectures $(P_1)$, $(P_2)$, $(P_3)$, $(P_4)$ in [4, Chapter 14] hold for the datum $(W^H, S_H, \Gamma, \varphi_H)$ for all subgroups $H$ of $G$. Let $x, y \in W^G$. Then:

(a) $a_G(x) = a(x)$.
(b) $\mathcal{D}_G = \mathcal{D} \cap W^G$.
(c) Assume moreover that Lusztig’s Conjecture $(P_{13})$ in [4, Chapter 14] hold for the datum $(W^H, S_H, \Gamma, \varphi_H)$ for all subgroups $H$ of $G$. If $? \in \{\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{R}\}$, then $x \sim^\mathcal{L} y$ if and only if $x \sim^\mathcal{L}_G y$.
(d) Assume moreover that Lusztig’s Conjectures $(P_3)$ and $(P_{13})$ in [4, Chapter 14] hold for the datum $(W^H, S_H, \Gamma, \varphi_H)$ for all subgroups $H$ of $G$. Then $x \sim_{LR} y$ if and only if $x \sim^G_{LR} y$.

**Remark** - If $G$ is not solvable and if we assume moreover that Lusztig’s conjecture $(P_{12})$ in [4, Chapter 14] holds, then the statements (a), (b) and (c) of Theorem A hold. It is probable that (d) also holds, but the proof should rely on a really different argument than the one presented here. Indeed, using $(P_{12})$ and a theorem of Meinolf Geck [1], one can reduce the problem to the case where $W_\omega$ is finite for all $G$-orbits $\omega$ in $S$. Then, since the automorphism groups of irreducible finite Coxeter systems are solvable, one can assume that $G$ is solvable and apply Theorem A above.

The proof of this Theorem makes essential use of reduction modulo $p$. Indeed, an easy induction argument reduces immediately the problem to the case where $G$ is a $p$-group for some prime number $p$. The main ingredient is then the following: the natural stupid map $H(W^G, S_G, \Gamma, \varphi_G) \rightarrow H(W, S, \Gamma, \varphi)^G$ is not a morphism of algebras in general. However, if we denote by $\text{Br}_G(H(W, S, \Gamma, \varphi))$ the quotient of $H(W, S, \Gamma, \varphi)^G$ by the two-sided ideal $\sum_{H \leq G} \text{Tr}^G_H (H(W, S, \Gamma, \varphi)^H)$ (Brauer’s quotient, see for instance [4, Page 91]), then:
Proposition B. Assume that $G$ is a finite $p$-group. Then the natural linear map $\mathcal{H}(W^G, S_G, \Gamma, \varphi_G) \to \text{Br}_G(\mathcal{H}(W, S, \Gamma, \varphi)^G)$ is a morphism of algebras whose kernel is generated by $p$. Moreover, it preserves the Kazhdan-Lusztig basis.

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1. The set-up

1.A. The group $(W, S)$. Let $(W, S)$ be a Coxeter system (with $S$ finite), let $\ell: W \to \mathbb{N}$ denote the length function, let $\Gamma$ be a totally ordered abelian group and let $\varphi: W \to \Gamma$ be a weight function [L, §3.1] that is, a map such that $\varphi(ww') = \varphi(w) + \varphi(w')$ whenever $\ell(ww') = \ell(w) + \ell(w')$.

Let $A$ be the group algebra $\mathbb{Z}[\Gamma]$: we will use an exponential notation for $A$, namely $A = \bigoplus_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \mathbb{Z}e^\gamma$, where $e^\gamma \cdot e^{\gamma'} = e^{\gamma + \gamma'}$ for all $\gamma, \gamma' \in \Gamma$. If $a = \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma} a_\gamma e^\gamma \in A$, we denote by $\deg a$ (resp. $\val a$) the degree (resp. the valuation) of $a$, that is, the element $\gamma$ of $\Gamma$ such that $a_\gamma \neq 0$ and which is maximal (resp. minimal) for this condition (by convention, $\deg 0 = -\infty$ and $\val 0 = +\infty$).

We shall denote by $H$ the Hecke algebra associated with the datum $(W, S, \Gamma, \varphi)$. It is a free $A$-module, with standard basis $(T_w)_{w \in W}$, and the multiplication is entirely determined by the following rules:

\begin{align*}
T_w T_{w'} &= T_{ww'} \quad \text{if } \ell(ww') = \ell(w) + \ell(w'); \\
(T_s - e^{\varphi(s)}) (T_s + e^{-\varphi(s)}) &= 0 \quad \text{if } s \in S.
\end{align*}

Note that this implies that $T_w$ is invertible in $H$ for all $w \in W$. This algebra is endowed with an $A$-anti-linear involution $\bar{\cdot}: H \to H$ which is determined by the following properties:

\begin{align*}
\bar{e}^\gamma &= e^{-\gamma} \quad \text{if } \gamma \in \Gamma, \\
\bar{T}_w &= T_{w^{-1}} \quad \text{if } w \in W.
\end{align*}

By [L, Theorem 5.2], there exists a unique element $C_w \in H$ such that

\begin{align*}
\bar{C}_w &= C_w, \\
C_w &\equiv T_w \mod H_{<0},
\end{align*}

where $H_{<0} = \bigoplus_{w \in W} A_{<0} T_w$, and where $A_{<0} = \bigoplus_{\gamma < 0} \mathbb{Z}e^\gamma$.

Let $\tau: H \to A$ be the unique $A$-linear map such that

$$\tau(T_w) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } w = 1, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$
If $w \in W$, we set
\[ \Delta(w) = -\deg \tau(C_w), \]
and we denote by $n_w$ the coefficient of $e^{-\Delta(w)}$ in $\tau(C_w)$. Finally, if $x, y \in W$, we write
\[ C_x C_y = \sum_{z \in W} h_{x,y,z} C_z, \]
where the $h_{x,y,z}$'s are in $A$ and satisfy $h_{x,y,z} = h_{x,y,z}$.

1.B. The group $(W^G, S_G)$. Let $G$ be a group of automorphisms of $W$ such that, for all $\sigma \in G$, we have
\[ \sigma(S) = S \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi \circ \sigma = \varphi. \]
If $I$ is a subset of $S$, we denote by $W_I$ the (standard parabolic) subgroup of $W$ generated by $I$. If $\omega \in S/G$ is such that $W_\omega$ is finite, we denote by $s_\omega$ the longest element of $W_\omega$. We denote by $S_G$ the set of $s_\omega$, where $\omega$ runs over the set of $G$-orbits in $S$ such that $W_\omega$ is finite. Recall the following proposition [1, Corollary 3.5 and Proof of Proposition 3.4]:

**Proposition 1.1.** $(W^G, S_G)$ is a Coxeter system. Let $\ell_G : W^G \to \mathbb{N}$ denote the corresponding length function and let $x, y \in W^G$. Then $\ell(xy) = \ell(x) + \ell(y)$ if and only if $\ell_G(xy) = \ell_G(x) + \ell_G(y)$.

Let
\[ \varphi_G : W^G \to \Gamma \quad \text{by} \quad w \mapsto \varphi(w) \]
denote the restriction of $\varphi$ to $W^G$. Then, by Proposition [1.1],

(1.2) \[ \varphi_G \text{ is a weight function.} \]

Therefore, we can define $\mathcal{H}_G, \mathcal{H}_{G,<0}, T^G_w, C^G_w, \tau_G, \Delta_G, n^G_z$ and $h^G_{x,y,z}$ with respect to $(W^G, S_G, \Gamma, \varphi_G)$ in a similar way as $\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{H}_{<0}, T_w, C_w, \tau, \Delta, n_z$ and $h_{x,y,z}$ were defined with respect to $(W, S, \Gamma, \varphi)$.

2. BRAUER QUOTIENT

**Hypothesis and notation.** From now on, and until the end of section [2], we fix a prime number $p$ and we assume that $G$ is a finite $p$-group.
2.A. Definition. For all the facts contained in this subsection, the reader may refer to [1, §11]: even though this reference deals only with $\mathcal{O}$-algebras (where $\mathcal{O}$ is a commutative complete local noetherian $\mathbb{Z}_p$-algebra) which are $\mathcal{O}$-modules of finite type, the proofs can be applied almost word by word to our slightly more general situation.

Let $R$ be a commutative ring and let $M$ be an $RG$-module. If $H$ is a subgroup of $G$, we set

$$\text{Tr}_H^G : M^H \longrightarrow \sum_{\sigma \in [G/H]} \sigma(m).$$

Here, $[G/H]$ denotes a set of representatives classes in $G/H$. We also define

$$\text{Tr}(M) = \sum_{H < G} \text{Tr}_H^G(M^H).$$

This is an $R$-submodule of $M^G$, containing $pM^G$. The Brauer quotient $\text{Br}_G(M)$ is then defined by

$$\text{Br}_G(M) = M^G / \text{Tr}(M)$$

and we denote by $\text{br}_G : M^G \rightarrow \text{Br}_G(M)$ the canonical map.

Lemma 2.1. Assume that $pR \neq R$ and that $M$ admits an $R$-basis $B$ which is permuted by the action of $G$. Then $\text{Br}_G(M)$ is a free $R/pR$-module with basis $(\text{br}_G(b))_{b \in B^G}$.

If $M$ is an $R$-algebra and if $G$ acts on $M$ by automorphisms of algebra, then $\text{Tr}(M)$ is a two-sided ideal of $M^G$ and so $\text{Br}_G(M)$ is an $R$-algebra. Of course, $\text{br}_G$ is a morphism of algebras in this case. We recall the following result:

Lemma 2.2. Assume that $pR \neq R$, that $M$ is an $R$-algebra, that $G$ acts on $M$ by automorphisms of algebra, that $M$ admits an $R$-basis $B$ which is permuted by $G$ and let us write $ab = \sum_{c \in B} \lambda_{a,b,c} c$ for $a, b \in B$. If $a, b \in B^G$, then

$$\text{br}_G(a) \text{br}_G(b) = \sum_{c \in B^G} \pi(\lambda_{a,b,c}) \text{br}_G(c),$$

where $\pi : R \rightarrow R/pR$ is the canonical morphism.

2.B. Applications to Hecke algebras. Since $G$ stabilizes $S$ and $\varphi$, it also acts on $\mathcal{H}$ by automorphisms of $A$-algebra (by $\sigma(T_w) = T_{\sigma(w)}$ for all $w \in W$). Moreover, it permutes the standard basis $(T_w)_{w \in W}$, so it follows from Lemma 2.1 that:

Corollary 2.3. $(\text{br}_G(T_w))_{w \in W^G}$ is an $\mathbb{F}_p[\Gamma]$-basis of the $\mathbb{F}_p[\Gamma]$-algebra $\text{Br}_G(\mathcal{H})$. 
Now, let 
\[ \text{can}_G : \mathcal{H}_G \rightarrow \text{Br}_G(\mathcal{H}) \]
be the unique \( A \)-linear map such that 
\[ \text{can}_G(T^G_w) = \text{br}_G(T_w) \]
for all \( w \in W^G \). The main result of this subsection is the following:

**Proposition 2.4.** The map \( \text{can}_G : \mathcal{H}_G \rightarrow \text{Br}_G(\mathcal{H}) \) is a surjective morphism of \( A \)-algebras whose kernel is \( p\mathcal{H}_G \).

**Proof.** It follows from Corollary 2.3 that \( \text{can}_G \) is surjective and that \( \text{Ker}(\text{can}_G) = p\mathcal{H}_G \). It remains to show that \( \text{can}_G \) is a morphism of algebras. First, note that if \( x, y \in W^G \) satisfy \( \ell_G(xy) = \ell_G(x) + \ell_G(y) \), then \( \ell(xy) = \ell(x) + \ell(y) \) (by Proposition 1.1) and so
\[ \text{can}_G(T^G_xT^G_y) = \text{can}_G(T^G_{xy}) = \text{br}_G(T_{xy}) \]
\[ = \text{br}_G(T_xT_y) = \text{br}_G(T_x) \text{br}_G(T_y) = \text{can}_G(T^G_x) \text{can}_G(T^G_y). \]
So it remains to show that, if \( \omega \) is a \( G \)-orbit in \( S \) such that \( W^G_\omega \) is finite, then
\[ (?) \quad \text{br}_G((T_{s_\omega} - e^{\varphi(s_\omega)})(T_{s_\omega} + e^{-\varphi(s_\omega)})) = 0. \]
Since \( s_\omega \) is the longest element of \( W_\omega \), we have [L, Corollary 12.2]
\[ C_{s_\omega} = \sum_{w \in W_\omega} e^{\varphi(w)-\varphi(s_\omega)}T_w \]
and [L, Theorem 6.6 (b)]
\[ (T_{s_\omega} - e^{\varphi(s_\omega)})C_{s_\omega} = 0. \]
But \( (W_\omega)^G = \{1, s_\omega\} \). Since \( \varphi(w) = \varphi(\sigma(w)) \) for all \( w \in W_\omega \) and all \( \sigma \in G \), we have
\[ C_{s_\omega} \equiv T_{s_\omega} + e^{-\varphi(s_\omega)} \mod \text{Tr}(\mathcal{H}). \]
This completes the proof of (??). \( \square \)

**Corollary 2.5.** \( \mathbb{F}_p \otimes \mathbb{Z} \mathcal{H}_G \simeq \text{Br}_G(\mathcal{H}). \)

**Corollary 2.6.** If \( h \in \mathcal{H}_G \) and \( h' \in \mathcal{H}^G \) are such that \( \text{can}_G(h) = \text{br}_G(h') \), then \( \tau_G(h) \equiv \tau(h') \mod pA. \)

**Proposition 2.7.** If \( w \in W^G \), then \( \text{can}_G(C^G_w) = \text{br}_G(C_w). \)
Proof. Let $C = \text{can}_G(C^G_w) - \text{br}_G(C_w)$. Then

$$\overline{C} = C,$$

where $\overline{\cdot} : \text{Br}_G(\mathcal{H}) \to \text{Br}_G(\mathcal{H})$ is defined by $\overline{\text{br}_G(h)} = \text{br}_G(\overline{h})$ for all $h \in \mathcal{H}^G$. Moreover, there exists a family $(\alpha_w)_{w \in W^G}$ of elements of $\mathbb{F}_p \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} A_{<0}$ such that

$$C = \sum_{w \in W^G} \alpha_w \text{br}_G(T_w).$$

Assume that $C \neq 0$ and let $w$ be maximal (for the Bruhat order) such that $\alpha_w \neq 0$. Then

$$\overline{C} = \overline{\alpha_w} \text{br}_G(T^{-1}_w) + \sum_{x \in W^G, x \neq w} \overline{\alpha_x} \text{br}_G(T^{-1}_x).$$

Therefore, the coefficient of $\text{br}_G(T_w)$ in $\overline{C}$ is equal to $\overline{\alpha_w}$. But $C = \overline{C}$, so $\alpha_w = \overline{\alpha_w}$. Since $\alpha_w \neq 0$ and $\alpha_w \in \mathbb{F}_p \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} A_{<0}$, we get a contradiction. So $C = 0$, as desired. □

Corollary 2.8. If $x$, $y$, $z \in W^G$, then $h_{x,y,z} \equiv h_{x,y,z}^G \mod pA$ and $\tau(C_z) \equiv \tau_G(C_z^G) \mod pA$.

Proof. This follows immediately from Proposition 2.7, from Lemma 2.2 and from Corollary 2.6. □

3. Lusztig’s conjectures

3.A. Cells. With $(W, S, \Gamma, \varphi)$ are associated preorder relations $\leq_L$, $\leq_R$ and $\leq_{LR}$ on $W$ as defined in [L, §8.1]. The associated equivalence relations are denoted by $\sim_L$, $\sim_R$ and $\sim_{LR}$ respectively. The equivalence classes for the relation $\sim_L$ (respectively $\sim_R$, respectively $\sim_{LR}$) are called left (respectively right, respectively two-sided) cells of $W$ (or for $(W, S, \Gamma, \varphi)$ if it is necessary to emphasize the weight function).

Similarly, with $(W^G, S_G, \Gamma, \varphi_G)$ are associated preorder relations $\leq^G_L$, $\leq^G_R$ and $\leq^G_{LR}$ on $W$. The associated equivalence relations are denoted by $\sim^G_L$, $\sim^G_R$ and $\sim^G_{LR}$ respectively. We shall compare in this section the (left, right or two-sided) cells of $W$ and the ones of $W^G$.

3.B. Boundedness. Following Lusztig [L, §13.2], we say that $(W, S, \Gamma, \varphi)$ is bounded if there exists $\gamma_0 \in \Gamma$ such that $\deg \tau(T_x T_y T_z) \leq \gamma_0$ for all $x$, $y$ and $z \in W$. Lusztig has conjectured [L, Conjecture 13.4] that $(W, S, \Gamma, \varphi)$ is always bounded.

Hypothesis. From now on, and until the end of this paper, we assume that $(W, S, \Gamma, \varphi)$ and $(W^G, S_G, \Gamma, \varphi_G)$ are bounded. Recall that $p$ is a prime number and that $G$ is a finite $p$-group.
Remark - A finite group is of course bounded. An affine Weyl group is also bounded \([\text{\ref{rem:bounded}} \S 13.2]\).

By \([\text{\ref{rem:bounded}} \text{Lemma 13.5 (b)}]\), this hypothesis allows us to define Lusztig’s function \(a : W \to \Gamma\) by

\[
\begin{align*}
a(z) &= \max_{x,y,z \in W} (\deg h_{x,y,z}).
\end{align*}
\]

If \(x, y, z \in W\), we shall denote by \(\gamma_{x,y,z}^{-1}\) the unique element of \(Z\) such that

\[
h_{x,y,z} = \gamma_{x,y,z}^{-1} e^{a(z)} \mod \left( \bigoplus_{\gamma \in x(y,z)} Z e^{\gamma} \right).
\]

Similarly, we define a function \(a_{G} : W^{G} \to \Gamma\) and elements \(\gamma_{x,y,z}^{-1} G\) of \(Z\) for \(x, y, z \in W^{G}\).

Let \(\mathcal{D} = \{z \in W \mid a(z) = \Delta(z)\}\). If \(I \subseteq S\), we denote by \(a_{I}\) the analogue of the function \(a\) but defined for \(W_{I}\) instead of \(W\): if \(z \in W_{I}\), then

\[
a_{I}(z) = \max_{x,y,z \in W_{I}} \deg h_{x,y,z}.
\]

Lusztig’s Conjectures for \((W, S, \Gamma, \varphi)\). With the above notation, we have:

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textbf{P}_1. If \(z \in W\), then \(a(z) \leq \Delta(z)\).
  \item \textbf{P}_2. If \(d \in \mathcal{D}\) and if \(x, y \in W\) satisfy \(\gamma_{x,y,d} \neq 0\), then \(x = y^{-1}\).
  \item \textbf{P}_3. If \(y \in W\), then there exists a unique \(d \in \mathcal{D}\) such that \(\gamma_{y^{-1},y,d} \neq 0\).
  \item \textbf{P}_4. If \(z' \leq_{LR} z\), then \(a(z) \leq a(z')\). Therefore, if \(z \sim_{LR} z'\), then \(a(z) = a(z')\).
  \item \textbf{P}_5. If \(d \in \mathcal{D}\) and \(y \in W\) satisfy \(\gamma_{y^{-1},y,d} \neq 0\), then \(\gamma_{y^{-1},y,d} = n_{d} = \pm 1\).
  \item \textbf{P}_6. If \(d \in \mathcal{D}\), then \(d^{2} = 1\).
  \item \textbf{P}_7. If \(x, y, z \in W\), then \(\gamma_{x,y,z} = \gamma_{y,z,x}\).
  \item \textbf{P}_8. If \(x, y, z \in W\) satisfy \(\gamma_{x,y,z} \neq 0\), then \(x \sim_{L} y^{-1}\), \(y \sim_{L} z^{-1}\) and \(z \sim_{L} x^{-1}\).
  \item \textbf{P}_9. If \(z' \leq_{L} z\) and \(a(z') = a(z)\), then \(z' \sim_{L} z\).
  \item \textbf{P}_{10}. If \(z' \leq_{R} z\) and \(a(z') = a(z)\), then \(z' \sim_{R} z\).
  \item \textbf{P}_{11}. If \(z' \leq_{LR} z\) and \(a(z') = a(z)\), then \(z' \sim_{LR} z\).
  \item \textbf{P}_{12}. If \(I \subseteq S\) and \(z \in W_{I}\), then \(a_{I}(z) = a(z)\).
  \item \textbf{P}_{13}. Every left cell \(C\) of \(W\) contains a unique element \(d \in \mathcal{D}\). If \(y \in C\), then \(\gamma_{y^{-1},y,d} \neq 0\).
  \item \textbf{P}_{14}. If \(z \in W\), then \(z \sim_{LR} z^{-1}\).
  \item \textbf{P}_{15}. If \(x, x', y, w \in W\) are such that \(a(y) = a(w)\), then

\[
\sum_{y' \in W} h_{x,w,y'} \otimes_{Z} h_{x,y',y} = \sum_{y' \in W} h_{x',y',y} \otimes_{Z} h_{x,w,y'}
\]

in \(A \otimes_{Z} A\).
Let us recall the following result:

**Lemma 3.1.** Assume that Lusztig’s Conjectures $(P_1)$, $(P_2)$, $(P_3)$ and $(P_4)$ hold for $(W, S, \Gamma, \varphi)$. Then:

(a) Lusztig’s Conjectures $(P_5)$, $(P_6)$, $(P_7)$ and $(P_8)$ hold for $(W, S, \Gamma, \varphi)$.
(b) If $d \in D$, then $\gamma_{d,d,d} = n_d = \pm 1$.
(c) If $x \in W$ and if $d \in D$ is the unique element of $W$ such that $\gamma_{x^{-1},x,d} \neq 0$, then $\gamma_{x,d,x^{-1}} = \pm 1$.

**Proof.** (a) is proved in [L, Chapter 14].

(b) By $(P_6)$, we get that $d^2 = 1$. By $(P_3)$, there exists a unique $e \in D$ such that $\gamma_{d,d,e} \neq 0$. By $(P_5)$, this implies that $\gamma_{d,d,e} = n_e = \pm 1$. By $(P_7)$, this implies that $\gamma_{e,d,d} = \pm 1$. By $(P_2)$, we get that $e = d^{-1} = d$.

(c) If $x \in W$ and if $d \in D$ is the unique element of $W$ such that $\gamma_{x^{-1},x,d} \neq 0$, then $\gamma_{x,d,x^{-1}} = \gamma_{x^{-1},x,d} = 1$ by $(P_7)$ and $(P_5)$. $\square$

We can now state the main result of this paper (from which the Theorem A in the introduction follows easily by an induction argument on the order of $G$):

**Theorem 3.2.** Recall that $G$ is a finite $p$-group. Assume that Lusztig’s conjectures $(P_1)$, $(P_2)$, $(P_3)$ and $(P_4)$ hold for both $(W, S, \Gamma, \varphi)$ and $(W^G, S_G, \Gamma, \varphi_G)$. Let $x$ and $y$ be two elements of $W^G$. Then:

(a) $a_G(x) = a(x)$.
(b) $D_G = D \cap W^G = D^G$.
(c) Assume moreover that Lusztig’s Conjecture $(P_{13})$ holds for both $(W, S, \Gamma, \varphi)$ and $(W^G, S_G, \Gamma, \varphi_G)$. Then $x \sim_L y$ (respectively $x \sim_R y$) if and only if $x \sim_L y$ (respectively $x \sim_R y$).
(d) Assume moreover that Lusztig’s Conjectures $(P_9)$ and $(P_{13})$ hold for both $(W, S, \Gamma, \varphi)$ and $(W^G, S_G, \Gamma, \varphi_G)$. Then $x \sim_{L_R} y$ if and only if $x \sim_{L_R} y$.

**Proof.** (a) By Corollary 2.8, we have, for all $x, y, z \in W^G$:

1. If $\gamma_{x,y,z^{-1}} \neq 0 \mod p$, then $a(z) \leq a_G(z)$.
2. If $\gamma_{x,y,z^{-1}} \neq 0 \mod p$, then $a_G(z) \leq a(z)$. 

Now let \( z \in W^G \). By \((P_3)\), there exists a unique \( d \in D \) such that \( \gamma_{z^{-1}, z, d} \neq 0 \). From the uniqueness, we get that \( d \in D^G \subseteq W^G \). By Lemma 3.1 (c), we get that \( \gamma_{z, d, z^{-1}} = \pm 1 \). So \( a(z) \leq a_G(z) \) by \((1)\).

The same argument shows that there exists \( d \in D^G \) such that \( \gamma_{G, z, d, z} = \pm 1 \), so \((2)\) can be applied to get that \( a_G(z) \leq a(z) \). The proof of \((a)\) is complete.

Before going further, let us state the following consequence of \((a)\):

**Corollary 3.3.** If \( x, y, z \in W^G \), then \( \gamma_{x, y, z} \equiv \gamma_{x, y, z}^G \mod p \).

**Proof.** This follows easily from Theorem 3.2 (a) and Corollary 2.8. \( \square \)

(b) Let \( d \in D^G \). By Lemma 3.1 (b), we have \( n_d = \pm 1 \). Moreover, by Corollary 2.8, we have

\[
\tau(C_d) \equiv \tau_G(C_d^G) \mod pA.
\]

This shows that the coefficient of \( e^{-\Delta(d)} \) in \( \tau_G(C_d^G) \) is non-zero. So \( \Delta_G(d) \leq \Delta(d) \). But, by \((P_1)\),

\[
a_G(d) \leq \Delta_G(d) \leq \Delta(d) = a(d).
\]

So \( a_G(d) = \Delta_G(d) = \Delta(d) = a(d) \) by \((a)\). In particular, \( d \in D_G \).

The same argument shows that, if \( d \in D_G \), then \( \Delta(d) \leq \Delta_G(d) \) and again we get similarly that \( d \in D \). The proof of \((b)\) is complete.

(c) Let \( d \) (respectively \( e \)) be the unique element of \( D \) such that \( \gamma_{x^{-1}, x, d} = \pm 1 \) (respectively \( \gamma_{y^{-1}, y, e} = \pm 1 \)). By uniqueness, we have \( d, e \in D^G = D_G \). By Corollary 3.3, we also get \( \gamma_{x^{-1}, x, d}^G \neq 0 \) and \( \gamma_{y^{-1}, y, e}^G \neq 0 \). Therefore, by \((P_5)\), we have

\[
x \sim_L d, \quad x \sim_L^G d, \quad y \sim_L e \quad \text{and} \quad y \sim_L^G e.
\]

But, by \((P_{13})\), we have \( x \sim_L y \) (respectively \( x \sim_L^G y \)) if and only if \( d = e \). This proves \((c)\).

(d) Recall that \((P_9)\) implies \((P_{10})\). Moreover, it follows easily from \((P_4), (P_9)\) and \((P_{10})\) that \( \sim_{LR} \) (respectively \( \sim_{L}^G \)) is the equivalence relation generated by \( \sim_L \) and \( \sim_R \) (respectively \( \sim_L^G \) and \( \sim_R^G \)). So \((d)\) follows from \((c)\). \( \square \)

3.C. Asymptotic algebra. Let \( J \) (respectively \( J_G \)) be the free abelian group with basis \( (t_w)_{w \in W} \) (respectively \( (t^G_w)_{w \in W} \)).

**Hypothesis.** In this subsection, and only in this subsection, we assume moreover that Lusztig’s Conjectures \((P_1), (P_2), \ldots, (P_{15})\) hold for \((W, S, \Gamma, \varphi)\) and \((W^G, S_G, \Gamma, \varphi_G)\).
By [L, §18.3], $J$ (respectively $J_G$) can be endowed with a structure of associative ring, the multiplication being defined by $t_x t_y = \sum_{z \in W} \gamma_{x,y,z}^{-1} t_z$ (respectively $t_x^{G} t_y^{G} = \sum_{z \in W^G} \gamma_{x,y,z}^{G}^{-1} t_z^{G}$). Then it follows immediately from Corollary 3.3 and from Lemma 2.2 that:

**Theorem 3.4.** Assume that $G$ is a finite $p$-group and that Lusztig’s Conjectures $(P_1)$, $(P_2)$, $\ldots$, $(P_{15})$ hold for $(W, S, \Gamma, \varphi)$ and $(W^G, S_G, \Gamma, \varphi_G)$. Then

$$\mathbb{F}_p \otimes \mathbb{Z} J_G \simeq Br_G(J).$$

4. **Open questions**

The results of this paper should be compared with [L, Chapter 14], where the quasi-split case is considered: more particularly, see [L, Lemmas 16.5, 16.6 and 16.14]. This leads to the following questions:

- Does Theorem A (d) hold if $G$ is not solvable? It is probably the case, but a proof should rely on completely different arguments. For the statements (a), (b) and (c), see the remark after Theorem A in the introduction.
- Let $z \in W^G$. Is it true that $\Delta(z) \leq \Delta_G(z)$? See [L, Lemma 16.5] for the quasi-split case.
- Let $x, y \in W^G$ be such that $x \leq_G y$. Is it true that $x \leq_L y$? See [L, 16.13 (a)] for the quasi-split case.

**References**


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