

GEOMETRY OF THE JANTZEN REGION IN LUSZTIG'S CONJECTURE

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ABSTRACT. The Lusztig Conjecture expresses the character of a finite-dimensional irreducible representation of a reductive algebraic group G in prime characteristic as a linear combination of characters of Weyl modules for G . The representations described by the conjecture are in one-to-one correspondence with the (finitely many) alcoves in the intersection of the dominant cone and the so-called Jantzen region. Each alcove has a length, defined to be the number of alcove walls (hyperplanes) separating it from the fundamental alcove (the unique alcove in the dominant cone whose closure contains the origin). This article determines the maximum length of an alcove in the intersection of the dominant cone with the Jantzen region.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Lusztig Conjecture [6] expresses the character of a finite-dimensional irreducible representation L_w of a reductive algebraic group G in characteristic p as a linear combination of characters of Weyl modules for G . The parameters w live in the affine Weyl group W_p , an infinite group; this (at first glance) makes actual verification of the Lusztig Conjecture for any given group look like an “infinite” problem. However, the only w 's to which the conjecture actually applies are those for which $w\rho$ is dominant and in the *Jantzen region*

$$(1.1) \quad J = \{ \lambda \in X(T) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{R} \mid (\lambda, \check{\alpha}_0) \leq p(p - h + 2) \},$$

where $X(T)$ denotes the group of characters of a maximal torus T of G , ρ is half the sum of the positive roots, $\check{\alpha}_0$ is the highest coroot, and h is the Coxeter number of G . Geometrically, the relevant w 's are in one-to-one correspondence with the alcoves lying in the intersection of the dominant cone and the Jantzen region, a bounded set in $X = X(T) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{R}$. In particular, the conjecture actually applies only to a *finite* set of w 's; call this set L .

Some questions naturally arise:

1. What is the cardinality of L ?
2. How many elements of W_p must be computed before all elements of L are certain to have appeared?
3. What is the maximum length of an element of L ?

The first question is quite easy to answer (see Lemma 2.1). But if one were programming a computer to check a particular case of the Lusztig Conjecture, one would like to be able to provide the answer to the second question as input. The

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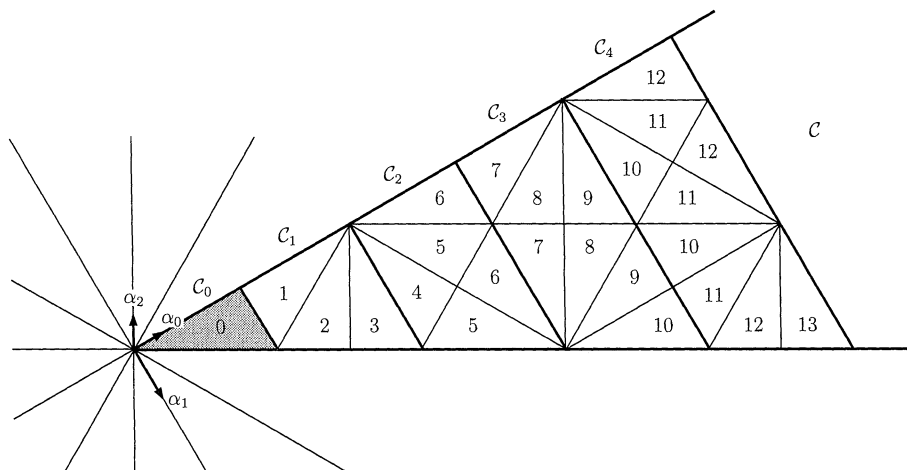


FIGURE 1. Geometry of the affine Weyl group of type G_2

cardinality of L seems to provide very little information about the answer to the second question. On the other hand, an answer to the third question would be almost as useful, from the point of view of predicting in advance how much computation is necessary. It also turns out to be an interesting geometric and combinatorial problem. It is this last question which will be answered in the present article. (See [8] for a survey on the current status of the Lusztig Conjecture itself.)

More precisely (see Section 2 for unexplained notation), let \mathcal{C} be the dominant cone

$$(1.2) \quad \mathcal{C} = \{ \lambda \in X \mid (\lambda, \check{\alpha}) > 0 \text{ for all } \alpha \in R^+ \}$$

and define the k^{th} level ($k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$)

$$(1.3) \quad \mathcal{C}_k = \{ \lambda \in \mathcal{C} \mid kp < (\lambda, \check{\alpha}_0) < (k + 1)p \}.$$

An *alcove* is a set of the form

$$(1.4) \quad A = \{ \lambda \in X \mid k_\alpha p < (\lambda, \check{\alpha}) < (k_\alpha + 1)p \text{ for all } \alpha \in R^+ \}$$

for certain integers k_α , and the *standard alcove* A_0 is obtained by setting all $k_\alpha = 0$. The alcoves are the connected components of $X - \bigcup \mathcal{H}$, where \mathcal{H} is the collection of hyperplanes

$$(1.5) \quad H_{\alpha,k} = \{ \lambda \mid (\lambda, \check{\alpha}) = kp \}, \quad \alpha \in R, k \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

It is well known that W_p permutes the alcoves simply transitively and, for $w \in W_p$, the length $\ell(w)$ of w is equal to the number of hyperplanes $H \in \mathcal{H}$ such that wA_0 and A_0 are on opposite sides of H (cf. [3]); set $\ell(wA_0) = \ell(w)$.

In Figure 1 we show the geometry associated to the affine Weyl group of type G_2 : the simple roots α_1 and α_2 , and the highest short root α_0 ; the root hyperplanes $H_{\alpha,0}$, $\alpha \in R$; the standard alcove A_0 (shaded); levels 0 through 4 of the cone \mathcal{C} ; and the lengths of the alcoves in those levels.

Our main theorem computes the maximum $\ell(w)$ for $wA_0 \subset \mathcal{C}_k$. In the theorem, p may be any positive integer (not necessarily prime).

TABLE 1. Maximum length in level k

Type of G	k even	k odd
A_n	$k \lfloor \frac{(n+1)^2}{4} \rfloor$	
B_n	$k \binom{n+1}{2}$	
C_n	$n \leq 3$	$k(2n - 1)$
	$n \geq 4$	$k \frac{n^2}{2} - \frac{n}{2} + 1$
$D_n, n \geq 4$	$k \binom{n}{2}$	
E_n	$n = 6$	$16k$
	$n = 7$	$27k$
	$n = 8$	$46k - 2 - 8\delta_{k1}$
F_4	$11k$	$11k - 2$
G_2	$\lfloor \frac{10k}{3} \rfloor$	

Theorem 1.1. *Let W_p be an affine Weyl group associated to a simply connected almost simple algebraic group G defined over \mathbb{Z} . Let C_k and A_0 be as above. For each nonnegative integer k , the maximum $\ell(w)$, $w \in W_p$, for which $wA_0 \subset C_k$ is given in Table 1.*

Since (for p sufficiently large) $L = \{w \in W_p \mid w\rho \in \mathcal{C} \cap J\} = \{w \in W_p \mid wA_0 \subset C_k \text{ for some } 0 \leq k \leq p - h + 1\}$, we immediately obtain the answer to Question 3.

Corollary 1.2. *Let G be a simply-connected almost-simple algebraic group over a field of characteristic p , and W_p the affine Weyl group of G ; assume that $p \geq h$, the Coxeter number for G . Then the maximum length of a parameter w to which the Lusztig Conjecture for G applies, $\max\{\ell(w) \mid w \in W_p, wA_0 \subset \mathcal{C} \cap J\}$, is given in Table 2.*

TABLE 2. Maximum length in the Jantzen region

Type of G	Maximum length
A_n	$(p - n) \lfloor \frac{(n+1)^2}{4} \rfloor$
B_n	$(p - 2n + 1) \binom{n+1}{2}$
C_n	$n \leq 3$ $(p - 2n + 1)(2n - 1)$
	$n \geq 4$ $(p - 2n + 1) \frac{n^2}{2}$
$D_n, n \geq 4$	$(p - 2n + 3) \binom{n}{2}$
E_n	$n = 6$ $16(p - 11)$
	$n = 7$ $27(p - 17)$
	$n = 8$ $46(p - 29)$
F_4	$11(p - 11)$
G_2	$\lfloor \frac{10(p-5)}{3} \rfloor$

Proof. Substitute $k = p - h + 1$ in Table 1, along with the known values $h = n + 1, 2n, 2n, 2(n - 1), 12, 18, 30, 12, 6$ in types $A_n, B_n, C_n, D_n, E_6, E_7, E_8, F_4, G_2$ respectively (cf. e.g. [3]), and use the fact that (except in type A_n) p is odd and h is even, thus k is even. □

Notice that the group G and its representations really play no direct role in Theorem 1.1; it is actually a theorem about the geometry of affine Weyl groups. In the next section we will approach the problem from this more elementary point of view, and prove some general preliminary results. The remaining sections are devoted to proving the theorem in each of the various types.

2. NOTATION AND GENERALITIES

We write \mathbb{N} as usual for the set of positive integers, and \mathbb{Z}_+ for the set of non-negative integers. For $a \in \mathbb{R}$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$, write $a \pmod n$ for the remainder when a is divided by n ; i.e., $a = nq + [a \pmod n]$, where $q \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $0 \leq a \pmod n < n$. By a *half-integer* we shall mean an element of $\mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}$.

Let \mathcal{A} be an n_0 -dimensional affine Euclidean space with $n_0 \geq 1$, and \mathcal{H} a set of hyperplanes in \mathcal{A} . The connected components of $\mathcal{A} - \bigcup \mathcal{H}$ are called *alcoves*. For $H \in \mathcal{H}$ write s_H for the orthogonal reflection of \mathcal{A} with fixed point set H , and let $W_{\mathcal{H}}$ be the group generated by the reflections s_H . Write X for the set of translations (i.e. vectors) in \mathcal{A} . Then $X \simeq \mathbb{R}^{n_0}$, and $W_{\mathcal{H}}$ acts naturally on X . Assume that $W_{\mathcal{H}}$ is an infinite discrete subgroup of the group of affine motions of \mathcal{A} leaving \mathcal{H} stable, and that the action of $W_{\mathcal{H}}$ on X is irreducible. It follows from [2] that $W_{\mathcal{H}}$ is an affine Weyl group associated to an irreducible root system R of rank n_0 , and each alcove is an open simplex with $n_0 + 1$ faces. We can therefore define a dominant cone \mathcal{C} , levels \mathcal{C}_k , and fundamental alcove A_0 in this context, and pose Question 3 (see also [5]).

Equivalently, beginning instead with an irreducible root system R of rank n_0 in a Euclidean space X , we can construct its associated affine Weyl group concretely as follows. For $\alpha \in R$ let s_α be the reflection through α acting on X . Fix a system R^+ of positive roots, Δ the corresponding set of simple roots, and W the Weyl group of R . Let h be the Coxeter number of R , ρ half the sum of the positive roots, and α_0 the highest *short* root of R (this makes $\check{\alpha}_0$ the highest coroot). Write $\langle \lambda, \alpha \rangle = 2(\lambda, \alpha) / (\alpha, \alpha) = (\lambda, \check{\alpha})$, for $\lambda \in X, \alpha \in R$. Fix a positive integer p (which need *not* be prime). For $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ let $H_{\alpha,k}$ be the hyperplane defined in (1.5), and $s_{\alpha,k}$ the affine reflection in $H_{\alpha,k}$; i.e., $s_{\alpha,k}(\lambda) = \lambda - (\langle \lambda, \alpha \rangle - kp)\alpha, \lambda \in X$. Then the affine Weyl group W_p is the group generated by all $s_{\alpha,k}, \alpha \in R, k \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Recall the definitions of the dominant cone \mathcal{C} , the standard alcove A_0 , and the Jantzen region J from Section 1. An element $\lambda \in X$ is called *integral*, or a *weight*, provided $\langle \lambda, \alpha \rangle \in \mathbb{Z}$ for all $\alpha \in R$. A weight λ is called *dominant* (resp. *regular dominant*) if $\langle \lambda, \alpha \rangle \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ (resp. \mathbb{N}) for all $\alpha \in R^+$. We assume henceforth that $p \geq h$; this is necessary and sufficient to ensure that A_0 contains a regular dominant integral weight (cf. [4, Part II, 6.2 (10)]). We have

$$(2.1) \quad A_0 = \{ \lambda \in X \mid 0 < \langle \lambda, \alpha \rangle \text{ for all } \alpha \in \Delta, \langle \lambda, \alpha_0 \rangle < p \}$$

(cf. [3, Sec. 4.3]). Similarly

$$(2.2) \quad \mathcal{C} \cap J = \{ \lambda \in X \mid 0 < \langle \lambda, \alpha \rangle \text{ for all } \alpha \in \Delta, \langle \lambda, \alpha_0 \rangle < p(p - h + 2) \}$$

by (1.1, 1.2). Thus $\mathcal{C} \cap J$ is the expansion of A_0 by a factor $p - h + 2$. In particular, $\text{Vol}(\mathcal{C} \cap J) = (p - h + 2)^{n_0} \cdot \text{Vol}(A_0)$. Since, aside from a set of volume zero, $\mathcal{C} \cap J$ is the disjoint union of the alcoves wA_0 , $w \in L$, and since $\text{Vol}(wA_0) = \text{Vol}(A_0)$, we obtain the following easy answer to Question 1.

Lemma 2.1. *The cardinality of L is $(p - h + 2)^{n_0}$.*

We now begin to work on Question 3; more generally, we wish to determine the maximum length of an alcove in any level k of the dominant cone. Notice first that the answer is independent of the choice of p — increasing p simply expands the whole picture, and does not change either the level of an alcove wA_0 or the number of hyperplanes separating wA_0 from A_0 (since this is just $\ell(w)$). It will be convenient to choose p so that there is a *unique* dominant integral weight (namely ρ) in A_0 ; then each alcove $wA_0 \subset \mathcal{C}$ will contain a unique dominant integral weight, $w\rho$. We claim this happens when $p = h$. To see this, recall that $\langle \rho, \alpha \rangle = 1$ for all $\alpha \in \Delta$, and also $h = \langle \rho, \alpha_0 \rangle + 1$. Thus $\rho \in A_0$, by (2.1). If $\lambda \neq \rho$ is regular dominant integral, then $\langle \lambda, \alpha \rangle \in \mathbb{N}$ for all $\alpha \in \Delta$, and $\langle \lambda, \beta \rangle > 1$ for some $\beta \in \Delta$. This implies that $\langle \lambda, \alpha \rangle \geq \langle \rho, \alpha \rangle$ for all $\alpha \in \Delta$, while $\langle \lambda, \beta \rangle > \langle \rho, \beta \rangle$, which in turn implies that $\langle \lambda, \alpha_0 \rangle > \langle \rho, \alpha_0 \rangle$ (write α_0 as a positive integer linear combination of the simple roots, observing that every simple root occurs in the highest short root). By integrality, $\langle \lambda, \alpha_0 \rangle \geq \langle \rho, \alpha_0 \rangle + 1 = h = p$, and thus $\lambda \notin A_0$. **We set $p = h$ for the remainder of this article.**

Fix $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$, let A be an alcove in \mathcal{C}_k , and let $\lambda \in A$. For $\alpha \in R^+$, the number of hyperplanes $H_{\alpha,i}$ ($i \in \mathbb{Z}$) of *type* α separating A and A_0 is $\lfloor \langle \lambda, \alpha \rangle / h \rfloor$. Thus our problem is to compute

$$(2.3) \quad \max_{\alpha \in R^+} \sum \lfloor \langle \lambda, \alpha \rangle / h \rfloor,$$

where the maximum is taken over all elements $\lambda \in \mathcal{C}_k$ with $\langle \lambda, \alpha \rangle \notin h\mathbb{Z}$, $\forall \alpha \in R^+$. Because the value of $\lfloor \langle \lambda, \alpha \rangle / h \rfloor$ is constant on each alcove A (and each alcove contains an integral weight), we may restrict attention to the integral weights $\lambda \in \mathcal{C}_k$. Thus the maximization in (2.3) may be restricted to those weights λ satisfying

1. $kh < \langle \lambda, \alpha_0 \rangle < (k + 1)h$,
2. $\langle \lambda, \alpha \rangle \in \mathbb{N}$ for all $\alpha \in \Delta$, and
3. $\langle \lambda, \alpha \rangle \notin h\mathbb{N}$ for all $\alpha \in R^+$.

The actual determination of the maximum in (2.3) depends on explicit knowledge of the roots, and proceeds case-by-case. The roots and weights “naturally” occur in some \mathbb{R}^n (usually $n = n_0$, but in some cases it is more convenient to take $n > n_0$); we shall use the notation $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ for an integral weight in \mathbb{R}^n . Write

$$(2.4) \quad F(x) = \sum_{\alpha \in R^+} \lfloor \langle x, \alpha \rangle / h \rfloor,$$

the function to be maximized.

Because of the discontinuities in F , it is difficult to maximize using “standard” techniques. Instead, our main tool is provided by the following lemma.

Lemma 2.2. *Assume F attains a maximum on \mathcal{C}_k at x , where x is integral and lies on none of the hyperplanes $H_{\alpha,i}$. Then $\langle x, \alpha_0 \rangle \equiv -1 \pmod{h}$ and $\langle x, \alpha \rangle \not\equiv -1 \pmod{h}$ for $\alpha_0 \neq \alpha \in R^+$.*

Proof. First let $\alpha_0 \neq \alpha \in R^+$, and suppose $\langle x, \alpha \rangle \equiv -1 \pmod{h}$; for definiteness, write $\langle x, \alpha \rangle = ih - 1$ for some $i \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then $s_{\alpha,i}(x) = x + \alpha \in \mathcal{C}$, which means that x belongs to an alcove A having $H_{\alpha,i}$ as one of its walls, and moreover $s_{\alpha,i}A$ and A_0 lie on opposite sides of $H_{\alpha,i}$. Thus $F(s_{\alpha,i}x) = F(x) + 1$, but $s_{\alpha,i}x$ still belongs to C_k (since the only wall that has been crossed is of type α , and $\alpha \neq \alpha_0$ by assumption). This contradicts the hypothesis that $F(x)$ was a maximum value of F in level k .

On the other hand, the alcove A containing x must have *some* wall H such that reflecting A across H produces an alcove in \mathcal{C} with length one greater. The only remaining possibility is that H is of type α_0 ; i.e., $\langle x, \alpha_0 \rangle \equiv -1 \pmod{h}$. □

We have now reduced the problem to maximizing $F(x)$, subject to:

- 1. $\langle x, \alpha_0 \rangle = (k + 1)h - 1$,
 - 2. $\langle x, \alpha \rangle \in \mathbb{N}$ for all $\alpha \in \Delta$,
 - 3. $\langle x, \alpha \rangle \notin h\mathbb{N}$ for all $\alpha \in R^+$, and
 - 4. $\langle x, \alpha \rangle \not\equiv -1 \pmod{h}$ for all $\alpha_0 \neq \alpha \in R^+$.
- (2.5)

In the classical cases, these conditions on x are enough to determine $x \pmod{h}$ to within a handful of choices. We then analyze how to assign each $\lfloor x_i/h \rfloor$ (given $x \pmod{h}$) in order to maximize F , subject to the constraints 1 and 2. Finally, we choose the $x \pmod{h}$ which produces the largest value of F . In Sections 3–6 we implement the strategy just described for each classical irreducible root system in turn. Although the approach is unified, there are interesting subtle differences to each type of root system.

In the exceptional cases, there are longer lists of possible $x \pmod{h}$, and this strategy (while feasible, with the assistance of a computer in type E_n), is tedious. Instead, we adopt a different approach (suggested by the referee), which involves computing the generating function of dominant alcove lengths. (Both methods produced the same answers!) The generating function method is described and carried out in Section 7.

3. TYPE A_{n-1} ($n \geq 2$)

Let $\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n$ be the standard basis for \mathbb{R}^n , and (\cdot, \cdot) the standard inner product. We take the simple roots for A_{n-1} to be the elements $\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_{i+1}$, $1 \leq i < n$. The positive roots are then the $\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_j$, $1 \leq i < j \leq n$. The highest root is $\alpha_0 = \varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_n$, and $h = n$. Thus the conditions (2.5) on x are

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.1) \quad & x_1 - x_n = (k + 1)n - 1, \\
 & x_i - x_{i+1} \in \mathbb{N} \quad (1 \leq i < n), \\
 & x_i - x_j \not\equiv 0 \text{ or } -1 \pmod{n} \quad (i < j, (i, j) \neq (1, n)).
 \end{aligned}$$

Note that $\rho = \frac{1}{2}(n - 1, n - 3, \dots, 1 - n)$, and the weights x we consider are of the form $w\rho = \rho - \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} n_i(\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_{i+1})$ with $n_i \in \mathbb{Z}$. It follows that the entries x_i are all integers when n is odd, and are all half-integers when n is even.

Let's first consider $x \pmod{n}$. Since $x_i - x_j \not\equiv 0 \pmod{n}$ for $i \neq j$, the $x_i \pmod{n}$ are distinct. Since there are exactly n possible distinct integer (resp. half-integer) remainders modulo n , it follows from the Pigeonhole Principle that the $x_i \pmod{n}$ are the n distinct remainders. Moreover, using the condition $x_i - x_j \not\equiv -1 \pmod{n}$ for $i < j$ except when $(i, j) = (1, n)$, we see that the indices i, j associated

with successive remainders (where we view 0 as succeeding $n-1$, and $\frac{1}{2}$ as succeeding $n - \frac{1}{2}$) must be decreasing except when $i = 1, j = n$. This easily implies that

$$(3.2) \quad x_i - x_{i+1} \equiv 1 \pmod{n} \quad \text{for } 1 \leq i < n;$$

notice that this already implies the condition $x_1 - x_n \equiv -1 \pmod{n}$.

Now we need to determine $\lfloor x_i/h \rfloor$. Observe that

$$F(x) = \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \left\lfloor \frac{x_i - x_j}{n} \right\rfloor,$$

and set $F_{ij}^-(x) = \lfloor (x_i - x_j)/n \rfloor$. Set $m = \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$. Recall from (3.1) that $x_i \geq x_{i+1} + 1$. Suppose that $x_{r-1} \geq x_r + h + 1$ for some $1 < r \leq m$; in this situation we say that there is a *gap* between x_{r-1} and x_r . Then x_r can be increased by h (or x_{r-1} decreased by h) without affecting $x \pmod{h}$ (or any of the conditions in (3.1)). Define x' by

$$(3.3) \quad x'_i = \begin{cases} x_i + h, & i = r, \\ x_i, & i \neq r. \end{cases}$$

Now the sum of the coordinates of x' is no longer zero (as required in type A), but we can rectify that by defining x'' via $x''_i = x'_i - 1, 1 \leq i \leq n$ (recall $h = n$ in type A_{n-1}). And since $F(x'') = F(x')$, we may as well work with the simpler x' instead of x'' . We will compare $F(x')$ to $F(x)$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} F_{i,r}^-(x') &= F_{i,r}^-(x) - 1, & i < r, \\ F_{r,j}^-(x') &= F_{r,j}^-(x) + 1, & j > r, \end{aligned}$$

whence $F(x') = F(x) - (r - 1) + (n - r) = F(x) + n + 1 - 2r > F(x)$ since $r < (n + 1)/2$. Similarly, if x has a gap between x_{r-1} and x_r for $r > m + 1$, then we obtain a larger (or equal) value of F by decreasing x_{r-1} by n . In particular, if $F(x)$ is the maximum value of F on level k , we may assume that the only gap in x is between x_m and x_{m+1} . Using (3.1) and (3.2), we deduce that the maximum value of F on level k occurs at

$$\tilde{x} = (a, a - 1, \dots, a - m + 1, a - m - kn, a - m - kn - 1, \dots, a - (k + 1)n + 1)$$

(where a is chosen to make $\sum \tilde{x}_i = 0$). It is easy to see that

$$F(\tilde{x}) = km(n - m) = \begin{cases} k \frac{n^2}{4}, & n \text{ even} \\ k \frac{n^2 - 1}{4}, & n \text{ odd} \end{cases} = k \left\lfloor \frac{n^2}{4} \right\rfloor.$$

Keeping in mind our shift from n to $n - 1$, this proves Theorem 1.1 in type A .

4. TYPE B_n ($n \geq 2$)

We take the simple roots for B_n to be the elements $\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_{i+1}, 1 \leq i < n$, together with ε_n ; the positive roots are $\varepsilon_i \pm \varepsilon_j, 1 \leq i < j \leq n$, together with $\varepsilon_i, 1 \leq i \leq n$. The highest short root is $\alpha_0 = \varepsilon_1$, and $h = 2n$. Thus the conditions on x are:

$$(4.1) \quad \begin{aligned} x_1 &= (k + 1)n - \frac{1}{2}, \\ x_i - x_{i+1} &\in \mathbb{N} \quad (1 \leq i < n), \quad x_n \in \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{N}, \\ x_i - x_j &\not\equiv 0 \text{ or } -1 \pmod{2n} \quad (i < j), \\ x_i + x_j &\not\equiv 0 \text{ or } -1 \pmod{2n} \quad (i \leq j, (i, j) \neq (1, 1)). \end{aligned}$$

Setting

$$(4.2) \quad y = (x_1, \dots, x_n; -x_n, \dots, -x_1),$$

we see from (4.1) that the $y_i \pmod{2n}$ are $2n$ distinct half-integers between 0 and $2n$. By the Pigeonhole Principle, $\{y_i \pmod{2n}\} = \{\frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}, \dots, 2n - \frac{1}{2}\}$. Moreover, $y_i - y_j \not\equiv -1 \pmod{2n}$ when $i < j$ except for $(i, j) = (1, 2n)$, which forces $y \equiv (2n - \frac{1}{2}, 2n - \frac{3}{2}, \dots, \frac{3}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$ or $(n - \frac{1}{2}, n - \frac{3}{2}, \dots, \frac{1}{2}; 2n - \frac{1}{2}, \dots, n + \frac{3}{2}, n + \frac{1}{2}) \pmod{2n}$. Thus $x \equiv (2n - \frac{1}{2}, 2n - \frac{3}{2}, \dots, n + \frac{1}{2})$ or $(n - \frac{1}{2}, n - \frac{3}{2}, \dots, \frac{1}{2}) \pmod{2n}$, and the condition on x_1 in (4.1) implies that the former happens when k is odd, the latter when k is even.

For the ‘‘gap analysis,’’ suppose that x has a gap between x_{r-1} and x_r ; i.e., $x_{r-1} \geq x_r + h + 1$ for some $1 < r \leq n$. Define x' as in (3.3). Observe that

$$F(x) = \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \left\lfloor \frac{x_i - x_j}{2n} \right\rfloor + \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq n} \left\lfloor \frac{x_i + x_j}{2n} \right\rfloor,$$

and set $F_{ij}^\pm(x) = \lfloor (x_i \pm x_j)/(2n) \rfloor$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} F_{i,r}^-(x') &= F_{i,r}^-(x) - 1, & i < r, \\ F_{r,j}^-(x') &= F_{r,j}^-(x) + 1, & j > r, \\ F_{i,r}^+(x') &= F_{i,r}^+(x) + 1, & i \neq r, \\ F_{r,r}^+(x') &= F_{r,r}^+(x) + 2, \end{aligned}$$

whence $F(x') = F(x) - (r - 1) + (n - r) + (n - 1) + 2 = F(x) + 2(n - r) + 2 > F(x)$. In particular, if $F(x)$ is the maximum value of F on level k , then x cannot have any gaps. But we know $x_1 = (k + 1)n - \frac{1}{2}$; combining this with our previously determined expressions for $x \pmod{2n}$, we find that the maximum of F in level k occurs at

$$\tilde{x} = ((k + 1)n - \frac{1}{2}, (k + 1)n - \frac{3}{2}, \dots, kn + \frac{1}{2}).$$

It is easy to compute $F(\tilde{x}) = k \binom{n+1}{2}$. This completes the proof of Theorem 1.1 in type B .

5. TYPE C_n ($n \geq 2$)

We take the simple roots for C_n to be $\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_{i+1}$, $1 \leq i < n$, together with $2\varepsilon_n$; the positive roots are $\varepsilon_i \pm \varepsilon_j$, $1 \leq i < j \leq n$, together with $2\varepsilon_i$, $1 \leq i \leq n$. The highest short root is $\alpha_0 = \varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2$, and $h = 2n$. Thus the conditions on x are:

$$(5.1) \quad \begin{aligned} x_1 + x_2 &= (k + 1)2n - 1, \\ x_i - x_{i+1} &\in \mathbb{N} \quad (1 \leq i < n), \quad x_n \in \mathbb{N}, \\ x_i - x_j &\not\equiv 0 \text{ or } -1 \pmod{2n} \quad (i < j), \\ x_i + x_j &\not\equiv 0 \text{ or } -1 \pmod{2n} \quad (i < j, (i, j) \neq (1, 2)), \\ x_i &\not\equiv 0 \text{ or } -1 \pmod{2n} \quad (1 \leq i \leq n). \end{aligned}$$

Consider the remainders $\pm x_i \pmod{2n}$. These are all positive, and distinct except possibly $x_i \equiv -x_i \pmod{2n}$ for some i . But then $x_i \equiv n \pmod{2n}$, and this can happen for at most one i (otherwise we'd have $x_i - x_j \equiv 0 \pmod{2n}$ for some $i < j$). Defining $y = (y_1, \dots, y_n; y_{n+1}, \dots, y_{2n})$ as in (4.2), the Pigeonhole Principle implies that $\{y_i \pmod{2n}\} = \{1, \dots, 2n - 1\}$ with some $y_t \equiv y_{2n+1-t} \equiv n \pmod{2n}$ ($1 \leq t \leq n$), but with no other duplications among the $y_i \pmod{2n}$. Note also that y_i

(mod $2n$) and y_{2n+1-i} (mod $2n$) are never consecutive integers, because they occur symmetrically with respect to n . Moreover, the conditions $y_i - y_j \not\equiv -1 \pmod{2n}$ when $i < j$ except when $(i, j) = (1, 2n - 1)$ or $(2, 2n)$, and $y_i \not\equiv -1 \pmod{2n}$ when $i \leq n$ force y (mod $2n$) to be one of the following:

$$\begin{aligned} {}^q y &= (2n - q, q - 1, q - 2, \dots, 2, 1, 2n - q - 1, 2n - q - 2, \dots, n + 1, n; \\ &\quad n, n - 1, \dots, q + 2, q + 1, 2n - 1, 2n - 2, \dots, 2n - q + 1, q), \\ {}^q \bar{y} &= (q - 1, 2n - q, q - 2, \dots, 2, 1, 2n - q - 1, 2n - q - 2, \dots, n + 1, n; \\ &\quad n, n - 1, \dots, q + 2, q + 1, 2n - 1, 2n - 2, \dots, q, 2n - q + 1). \end{aligned}$$

The first form is allowable for $1 < q \leq n$, whereas the second (which is obtained from the first by interchanging y_1 and y_2) is allowable only for $1 < q < n$, due to the condition $y_1 - y_2 \not\equiv -1 \pmod{2n}$. Then x (mod $2n$) must be one of

$$\begin{aligned} &(2n - q, q - 1, q - 2, \dots, 2, 1, 2n - q - 1, 2n - q - 2, \dots, n + 1, n), \\ &(q - 1, 2n - q, q - 2, \dots, 2, 1, 2n - q - 1, 2n - q - 2, \dots, n + 1, n). \end{aligned}$$

Anticipating the condition $x_i > x_{i+1}$, we set

$$\begin{aligned} (5.2) \quad {}^q x &= (4n - q, 2n + q - 1, 2n + q - 2, \dots, 2n + 2, 2n + 1, \\ &\quad 2n - q - 1, 2n - q - 2, \dots, n + 1, n), \quad 1 < q < n, \\ {}^q \bar{x} &= (4n + q - 1, 4n - q, 2n + q - 2, \dots, 2n + 2, 2n + 1, \\ &\quad 2n - q - 1, 2n - q - 2, \dots, n + 1, n), \quad 2 < q < n, \\ {}^n x &= (n, n - 1, n - 2, \dots, 2, 1), \\ {}^2 \bar{x} &= (2n + 1, 2n - 2, 2n - 3, \dots, n + 1, n). \end{aligned}$$

We have shown that if F has a maximum on level k at x , then $x \equiv {}^0 x \pmod{2n}$, where ${}^0 x$ is one of the weights in (5.2).

For the ‘‘gap analysis,’’ assume first that x has a gap beyond x_2 ; i.e., $x_{r-1} - x_r > 2n$ for some $2 < r \leq n$. Define x' as in (3.3); then x' is a legitimate parameter in the same level as x . In type C_n ,

$$F(x) = \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \left\lfloor \frac{x_i - x_j}{2n} \right\rfloor + \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \left\lfloor \frac{x_i + x_j}{2n} \right\rfloor + \sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} \left\lfloor \frac{x_i}{2n} \right\rfloor.$$

Thus $F(x') = F(x) - (r - 1) + (n - r) + (n - 1) + 1 = F(x) + 2(n - r) + 1 > F(x)$. We deduce that if $F(x)$ is a maximum on level k , then x has no gaps beyond x_2 .

Next, suppose $x \in C_k$ has a ‘‘double gap’’ between x_1 and x_2 ; i.e., $x_1 - x_2 > 4n$. Define x' by

$$x'_i = \begin{cases} x_i - 2n, & i = 1, \\ x_i + 2n, & i > 1, \end{cases}$$

so that $x' \equiv x \pmod{2n}$ and $x' \in C_k$ (recall that $x_1 + x_2$ is constant on level k). In this case, $F(x') = F(x) - 2(n - 1) + 2\binom{n-1}{2} - 1 + (n - 1) = F(x) + n^2 - 4n + 2$, so that $F(x') > F(x)$ provided $n \geq 4$, whereas $F(x') < F(x)$ if $n = 2, 3$.

Thus, when $n \geq 4$, we obtain the largest value of $F(x)$ on C_k for a given x (mod $2n$) by taking x_1 (resp. x_2) as small (resp. large) as possible (subject to $x_1 + x_2 = (k + 1)2n - 1$ and $x_1 > x_2$), and then taking x_i ($i > 2$) as large as possible (subject to $x_{i-1} > x_i > 0$). When $n \leq 3$ we do exactly the opposite:

choose x_1 as large as possible, and x_i ($i \geq 2$) as small as possible, subject to the aforementioned constraints. More precisely, for $n \geq 4$, we must consider

$$(5.3) \quad x = {}^0x + t \cdot 2n(1, \dots, 1) + \delta \cdot 2n\varepsilon_1,$$

where 0x is one of the weights in (5.2), $t \in \mathbb{Z}_+$, and $\delta \in \{0, 1\}$. When $n \leq 3$, we must consider

$$(5.4) \quad x = {}^0x + t \cdot 2n\varepsilon_1.$$

It is easy to check that $F(x + t \cdot 2n(1, \dots, 1)) = F(x) + tn^2$, and $F(x + t \cdot 2n\varepsilon_1) = F(x) + t(2n - 1)$. Also, if $x \in C_k$ then $x + t \cdot 2n(1, \dots, 1) \in C_{k+2t}$ and $x + t \cdot 2n\varepsilon_1 \in C_{k+t}$.

Now if $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ is either ${}^2\bar{x}$ or qx ($2 < q < n$), then

$$\bar{x} = (x_2, x_1, x_3, \dots, x_n) + 2n \cdot \varepsilon_1$$

(where ${}^2\bar{x} := {}^2x$), with \bar{x} one level above x , and $F(\bar{x}) = F(x) + 2n - 2$. Since $F(\bar{x}) < F(x + 2n\varepsilon_1)$ (and both elements are in the same level), we may disregard weights of the form (5.3) or (5.4) with ${}^0x = {}^2x$ or qx ($2 < q < n$) when trying to maximize F .

For the remaining weights 0x in (5.2), we compute the data in the following table.

0x	Level	$F({}^0x)$
nx	0	0
${}^2\bar{x}$	1	$\frac{1}{2}n^2 - \frac{1}{2}n + 1$
qx ($2 < q < n$)	2	$3n - 2 + \binom{n-1}{2} + \binom{q-1}{2}$

Evidently $F({}^qx)$ ($2 < q < n$) is largest when $q = n - 1$, with $F({}^{n-1}x) = n^2 - \frac{1}{2}n + 1$.

Assume that $n \geq 4$. Then the possible maxima of $F(x)$ on levels 0 through 3 are among the values in the following table.

Level	x	$F(x)$
0	nx	0
1	${}^2\bar{x}$	$\frac{1}{2}n^2 - \frac{1}{2}n + 1$
1	${}^nx + 2n\varepsilon_1$	$2n - 1$
2	${}^{n-1}x$	$n^2 - \frac{1}{2}n + 1$
2	${}^2\bar{x} + 2n\varepsilon_1$	$\frac{1}{2}n^2 + \frac{3}{2}n$
2	${}^nx + 2n(1, \dots, 1)$	n^2
3	${}^{n-1}x + 2n\varepsilon_1$	$n^2 + \frac{3}{2}n$
3	${}^2\bar{x} + 2n(1, \dots, 1)$	$\frac{3}{2}n^2 - \frac{1}{2}n + 1$

(We used the computation on level 1 to avoid considering the translates of ${}^nx + 2n\varepsilon_1$ to levels 2 and 3, etc.) Clearly the maximum value of F on level k is

$$F({}^nx + kn(1, \dots, 1)) = \frac{k}{2}n^2 \quad (k = 0, 2),$$

and

$$F(2\bar{x} + (k - 1)n(1, \dots, 1)) = \frac{k}{2}n^2 - \frac{1}{2}n + 1 \quad (k = 1, 3).$$

Using (5.3), we find that these two formulas extend to arbitrary $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$, for k even or odd, respectively.

Now assume that $n \leq 3$. In a similar fashion, we find that the possible maxima of $F(x)$ on levels 0 through 2 are among the values in the following table.

Level	x	$F(x)$
0	${}^n x$	0
1	$2\bar{x}$	$\frac{1}{2}n^2 - \frac{1}{2}n + 1$
1	${}^n x + 2n\varepsilon_1$	$2n - 1$
2	${}^{n-1} x$	$n^2 - \frac{1}{2}n + 1$
2	${}^n x + 4n\varepsilon_1$	$4n - 2$

A little algebra shows that the maximum value of F on level k , $0 \leq k \leq 2$, is $F({}^n x + k \cdot 2n\varepsilon_1) = k(2n - 1)$. Using (5.4), we find that the same formula holds for arbitrary $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$.

This completes the proof of Theorem 1.1 in type C .

6. TYPE D_n ($n \geq 4$)

We take the simple roots for D_n to be $\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_{i+1}$, $1 \leq i < n$, together with $\varepsilon_{n-1} + \varepsilon_n$; the positive roots are $\varepsilon_i \pm \varepsilon_j$, $1 \leq i < j \leq n$. The highest root is $\alpha_0 = \varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2$, and $h = 2(n - 1)$. Thus the conditions on x are:

$$\begin{aligned}
 (6.1) \quad & x_1 + x_2 = 2(k + 1)(n - 1) - 1, \\
 & x_i - x_{i+1} \in \mathbb{N} \quad (1 \leq i < n), \\
 & x_{n-1} + x_n \in \mathbb{N}, \\
 & x_i - x_j \not\equiv 0 \text{ or } -1 \pmod{2(n - 1)} \quad (i < j), \\
 & x_i + x_j \not\equiv 0 \text{ or } -1 \pmod{2(n - 1)} \quad (i < j, (i, j) \neq (1, 2)).
 \end{aligned}$$

The second and third conditions imply that either all x_i are integers, or all x_i are half-integers. But since $\rho = (n - 1, n - 2, \dots, 1, 0)$ and $x = w\rho$ for some $w \in W_p$, it's clear that in fact all $x_i \in \mathbb{Z}$. The same two conditions imply that $x_i \in \mathbb{N}$ for $1 \leq i < n$, but x_n may be ≤ 0 (provided $x_{n-1} + x_n > 0$). Given $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ satisfying (6.1), notice that $x^- = (x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}, -x_n)$ also satisfies (6.1). Moreover, since

$$(6.2) \quad F(x) = \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \left\lfloor \frac{x_i - x_j}{2(n - 1)} \right\rfloor + \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \left\lfloor \frac{x_i + x_j}{2(n - 1)} \right\rfloor,$$

we have $F(x^-) = F(x)$. Thus, without loss of generality, we may assume $x_i \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ for all i .

Proceeding as in the C_n case, we find that the $\pm x_i \pmod{2(n - 1)}$ are all distinct except that $x_i \equiv -x_i \equiv 0 \pmod{2(n - 1)}$ for some unique i , and $x_j \equiv -x_j \equiv n - 1$

(mod $2(n - 1)$) for some unique j . This in turn leads to the following possibilities for x (mod $2(n - 1)$). The “minimal” (lowest level) weights are

$$(6.3) \quad {}^q x = \begin{cases} (2n - 1, 2n - 4, 2n - 5, \dots, n, n - 1, 0), & q = 1, \\ (4n - q - 4, 2n + q - 3, 2n + q - 4, \dots, 2n - 1, \\ \quad 2n - q - 3, 2n - q - 4, \dots, n, n - 1, 0), & 1 < q < n - 1, \\ (n - 1, n - 2, \dots, 1, 0), & q = n - 1. \end{cases}$$

If ${}^0 x = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ is either a ${}^q x$ ($1 \leq q \leq n - 1$), or (recursively) obtained from a ${}^q x$ via one (or more) of the operations in (6.4) below, then the following are also possibilities for x (mod $2(n - 1)$):

$$(6.4) \quad \begin{aligned} \overline{{}^0 x} &= {}^0 x + (n - 1)(1, \dots, 1), \\ \widetilde{{}^0 x} &= (x_2, x_1, x_3, \dots, x_n) + 2(n - 1)\varepsilon_1 \quad (q \neq 1), \\ \widehat{{}^0 x} &= (x_1, \dots, x_{n-2}, x_n, x_{n-1}) + 2(n - 1)(1, \dots, 1, 0) \quad (q \neq n - 1). \end{aligned}$$

Remark 6.1. If ${}^0 x \in \mathcal{C}_k$, then $\overline{{}^0 x}, \widetilde{{}^0 x} \in \mathcal{C}_{k+1}$ while $\widehat{{}^0 x} \in \mathcal{C}_{k+2}$. Using (6.2), we find that $F(\overline{{}^0 x}) = F({}^0 x) + \binom{n}{2} = F({}^0 x) + \frac{1}{2}n^2 - \frac{1}{2}n$, $F(\widetilde{{}^0 x}) = F({}^0 x) + 2n - 3$, and $F(\widehat{{}^0 x}) = F({}^0 x) + n^2 - n - 1$. Since $\frac{1}{2}n^2 - \frac{1}{2}n > 2n - 3$ (recall $n \geq 4$), $F(\overline{{}^0 x}) > F(\widetilde{{}^0 x})$, and since $2(\frac{1}{2}n^2 - \frac{1}{2}n) > n^2 - n - 1$, $F(\overline{{}^0 x}) > F(\widehat{{}^0 x})$. Thus for the purposes of maximizing F on a given level, we may ignore the operations $\widetilde{}$ and $\widehat{}$.

For the “gap analysis,” assume first that x has a gap beyond x_2 ; i.e., $x_{r-1} - x_r > 2(n - 1)$ for some $2 < r \leq n$. Define x' as in (3.3); then x' is a legitimate parameter in the same level as x . Using (6.2), we compute $F(x') = F(x) - (r - 1) + (n - r) + (n - 1) = F(x) + 2(n - r) \geq F(x)$. So we may assume that x has no gaps beyond x_2 .

Next, suppose x has a gap between x_1 and x_2 : $x_1 - x_2 > 2(n - 1)$. Define x' by

$$x'_i = \begin{cases} x_i - (n - 1), & i = 1, \\ x_i + (n - 1), & i > 1, \end{cases}$$

so that $x' \equiv \bar{x}$ (mod $2(n - 1)$) (notation as in (6.4)), a legitimate parameter in the same level as x . Then $F(x') = F(x) - (n - 1) + \binom{n-1}{2} = F(x) + \frac{1}{2}(n - 1)(n - 4) \geq F(x)$. Thus we may assume x has no gaps at all. More precisely, in view of our earlier analysis of x (mod $2(n - 1)$), we need only consider $x = {}^q x + t(n - 1)(1, \dots, 1)$ for $1 \leq q \leq n - 1$ and $t \in \mathbb{Z}_+$.

The only integral weight in level 0 is, of course, ${}^{n-1}x = \rho$, and $F({}^{n-1}x) = 0$. In level 1 we have $F({}^1x) = \frac{1}{2}n^2 - \frac{3}{2}n + 3$, and $F({}^{n-1}x + (n - 1)(1, \dots, 1)) = \binom{n}{2} = \frac{1}{2}n^2 - \frac{1}{2}n > F({}^1x)$. Thus $\binom{n}{2}$ is the maximum value of F on level 1 (and we need not consider translates of 1x by multiples of $(n - 1)(1, \dots, 1)$ in higher levels). In level 2 we have (for $1 < q < n - 1$) $F({}^q x) = \frac{1}{2}n^2 + \frac{1}{2}n + \binom{q}{2} - 1$, which is maximized when $q = n - 2$: $F({}^{n-2}x) = n^2 - 2n + 2$. The other possibility is $F({}^{n-1}x + 2(n - 1)(1, \dots, 1)) = 2\binom{n}{2} = n^2 - n > F({}^{n-2}x)$. Thus the maximum value of F on level 2 is $2\binom{n}{2}$. Finally, we conclude that the maximum value of F on any level $k > 2$ must be attained at ${}^{n-1}x + k(n - 1)(1, \dots, 1)$, and that maximum value is $k\binom{n}{2}$.

This completes the proof of Theorem 1.1 in type D .

7. THE EXCEPTIONAL TYPES

Recall that if A is an alcove in the dominant cone \mathcal{C} , $\ell(A)$ denotes the length of A : the number of hyperplanes separating A from A_0 . Set $L(A)$ to be the *level* of A , so that $A \subset \mathcal{C}_{L(A)}$. Similarly, if a weight λ is in the dominant alcove A , put $\ell(\lambda) = \ell(A)$ and $L(\lambda) = L(A)$. Concretely (recall (2.3)), $\ell(\lambda) = \sum_{\alpha \in R^+} \lfloor \langle \lambda, \alpha \rangle / h \rfloor$, $L(\lambda) = \lfloor \langle \lambda, \alpha_0 \rangle / h \rfloor$. Let t, z be indeterminates, and define the *alcove length generating function*

$$(7.1) \quad g(t, z) = \sum_{A \subset \mathcal{C}} t^{\ell(A)} z^{L(A)}.$$

Viewing $g(t, z) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} g_k(t) z^k \in \mathbb{Z}[t][[z]]$, our problem is to find the degree of $g_k(t)$ for $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$. It turns out that $g(t, z)$ can be calculated, using the fact that the affine Weyl group is the semidirect product of the Weyl group W and the root lattice (cf. e.g. [3]).

Remark 7.1. It follows from the proof of Lemma 2.1 that $g_k(1) = (k + 1)^{n_0} - k^{n_0}$, the number of alcoves in \mathcal{C}_k . By a result of Bott [1], $g(t, 1) = \prod_1^{n_0} (1 - t^{e_i})^{-1}$, where the e_i are the exponents of W .

Assume for the moment that the root lattice $\mathbb{Z}R$ equals the weight lattice $P = \{ \lambda \in X \mid \langle \lambda, \alpha \rangle \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ for all } \alpha \in R \}$. Let $\omega_1, \dots, \omega_{n_0}$ be the fundamental dominant weights (a basis for P) corresponding to some fixed ordering $\Delta = \{ \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{n_0} \}$, so $\langle \omega_i, \alpha_j \rangle = \delta_{ij}$. For $w \in W$, write $w\rho = \sum n_i^w \omega_i$, and set

$$(7.2) \quad \lambda_w = w\rho + \sum_{i: n_i^w < 0} h\omega_i.$$

Notice that λ_w is a dominant weight, because $n_i^w = \langle w\rho, \alpha_i \rangle = \langle \rho, w^{-1}\alpha_i \rangle = \langle \rho, \alpha \rangle$ for some $\alpha \in R$, and $|\langle \rho, \alpha \rangle|$ is an integer between 1 and $\max_{\beta \in R} \langle \rho, \beta \rangle = h - 1$. It follows analogously that, for any weight ψ , $\lambda_w + h\psi$ lies on none of the root hyperplanes $H_{\alpha, k}$; i.e., it lies in some alcove.

Recall that each dominant alcove A contains a unique regular dominant integral weight λ , which in turn is obtained by applying a unique element of the affine Weyl group W_h to ρ . By the semidirect product description of W_h , taking into account the scaling by h and our assumption that $\mathbb{Z}R = P$, we have

$$(7.3) \quad \lambda = w\rho + h \sum k_i \omega_i = \lambda_w + h\psi$$

for some unique $w \in W$ and $k_i \in \mathbb{Z}$; here $\psi = \sum_{n_i^w > 0} k_i \omega_i + \sum_{n_i^w < 0} (k_i - 1) \omega_i \in P$. In fact, we show that ψ is dominant (though not necessarily regular). For $n_i^w > 0$: $n_i^w + hk_i > 0 \implies hk_i > -n_i^w > -h \implies k_i > -1 \implies k_i \geq 0$; while for $n_i^w < 0$: $n_i^w + hk_i > 0 \implies hk_i > -n_i^w > 0 \implies k_i > 0 \implies k_i \geq 1$. Conversely, to each $w \in W$ and each dominant weight ψ , there corresponds (via (7.3) and the last sentence of the previous paragraph) a unique dominant alcove A .

For $1 \leq i \leq n_0$ define $\ell_i = \ell(h\omega_i + \rho)$ and $L_i = L(h\omega_i + \rho)$.

Lemma 7.2. *Let $\psi = \sum k_i \omega_i$, $k_i \in \mathbb{Z}_+$, $w \in W$, and set $\lambda = \lambda_w + h\psi$. Then $L(\lambda) = L(\lambda_w) + \sum k_i L_i$ and $\ell(\lambda) = \ell(\lambda_w) + \sum k_i \ell_i$.*

Proof. Fix $\alpha = \sum a_i \alpha_i \in R^+$. Note that

$$\lambda = w\rho + h \sum_{n_i^w > 0} k_i \omega_i + h \sum_{n_i^w < 0} (k_i + 1) \omega_i.$$

Thus

$$[\langle \lambda, \alpha \rangle / h] = [\langle w\rho, \alpha \rangle / h] + \sum_{n_i^w > 0} k_i a_i + \sum_{n_i^w < 0} (k_i + 1) a_i,$$

while

$$[\langle \lambda_w, \alpha \rangle / h] = [\langle w\rho, \alpha \rangle / h] + \sum_{n_i^w < 0} a_i$$

and

$$(7.4) \quad [\langle h\psi + \rho, \alpha \rangle / h] = \langle \psi, \alpha \rangle + [\langle \rho, \alpha \rangle / h] = \sum_i k_i a_i,$$

where we have used again the fact that $1 \leq \langle \rho, \alpha \rangle \leq h - 1$. In particular, putting $\psi = \omega_i$ in (7.4), we have $[\langle h\omega_i + \rho, \alpha \rangle / h] = a_i$. Thus $[\langle \lambda, \alpha \rangle / h] = [\langle \lambda_w, \alpha \rangle / h] + \sum_i k_i [\langle h\omega_i + \rho, \alpha \rangle / h]$. Taking $\alpha = \alpha_0$, or summing over all $\alpha \in R^+$, gives the desired results. \square

Proposition 7.3. *When the root lattice equals the weight lattice, the alcove length generating function is given by*

$$(7.5) \quad g(t, z) = \sum_{w \in W} t^{\ell(\lambda_w)} z^{L(\lambda_w)} / \prod_{i=1}^{n_0} (1 - t^{\ell_i} z^{L_i}).$$

Proof. By the lemma and the discussion preceding it,

$$\begin{aligned} g(t, z) &= \sum_{w \in W} \sum_{\substack{k_i \in \mathbb{Z}_+, \\ 1 \leq i \leq n_0}} t^{\ell(\lambda_w) + \sum k_i \ell_i} z^{L(\lambda_w) + \sum k_i L_i} \\ &= \sum_{w \in W} t^{\ell(\lambda_w)} z^{L(\lambda_w)} \sum_{\substack{k_i \in \mathbb{Z}_+, \\ 1 \leq i \leq n_0}} \prod_{i=1}^{n_0} t^{k_i \ell_i} z^{k_i L_i} \\ &= \sum_{w \in W} t^{\ell(\lambda_w)} z^{L(\lambda_w)} \prod_{i=1}^{n_0} \sum_{k_i \in \mathbb{Z}_+} (t^{\ell_i} z^{L_i})^{k_i} \\ &= \sum_{w \in W} t^{\ell(\lambda_w)} z^{L(\lambda_w)} / \prod_{i=1}^{n_0} (1 - t^{\ell_i} z^{L_i}). \end{aligned}$$

\square

In general, the root lattice is a sublattice of index f , say, in the weight lattice. Now for each dominant alcove A there will be f pairs (w, ψ) , with $w \in W$ and ψ dominant integral, for which $\lambda = \lambda_w + h\psi \in A$. Thus the expression on the right hand side of (7.5) will equal $f \cdot g(t, z)$. But since we are only concerned with the highest power of t occurring with each power of z , the scalar coefficient f is irrelevant.

Our strategy then is to compute, for each exceptional Weyl group W , the data $\ell(\lambda_w)$, $L(\lambda_w)$, $w \in W$, and $\ell_i, L_i, 1 \leq i \leq n_0$. Using (7.5), it is then straightforward to read off the maximal alcove length in each level.

Example 7.4. The case of G_2 . Here one finds that

$$g(t, z) = \frac{1 + (t + t^2 + t^3)z + (t^4 + 2t^5 + t^6)z^2 + (t^7 + t^8 + t^9)z^3 + t^{10}z^4}{(1 - t^6 z^2)(1 - t^{10} z^3)}.$$

TABLE 3. Maximal $\ell(\lambda_w)$ for λ_w in level L

L:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
F_4	0	9	21	30	41	50	61	69	77	85	86						
E_6	0	15	30	44	58	72	86	97	108	119	120						
E_7	0	26	51	76	100	124	148	172	196	218	240	262	284	301	318	335	336
E_8	0	36	91	135	181	226	271	316	360	406	449	494	538	582	625	670	711

L, cont'd:	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
E_8	754	796	837	880	917	956	993	1032	1061	1090	1119	1120

TABLE 4. Fundamental weight data

i	F_4		E_6		E_7		E_8	
	ℓ_i	L_i	ℓ_i	L_i	ℓ_i	L_i	ℓ_i	L_i
1	22	2	16	1	34	2	92	2
2	42	4	22	2	49	2	136	3
3	30	3	30	2	66	3	182	4
4	16	2	42	3	96	4	270	6
5			30	2	75	3	220	5
6			16	1	52	2	168	4
7					27	1	114	3
8							58	2

What is the highest power of t occurring in the coefficient of z^k when this expression is expanded as a power series in z ? When $k = 3m$, the highest exponent of t is clearly $10m$, coming from $1 \cdot 1 \cdot (t^{10}z^3)^m$. (The first factor represents a term from the numerator, the second a term from $1/(1 - t^6z^2)$, and the third a term from $1/(1 - t^{10}z^3)$.) When $k = 3m + 1$ we obtain $10m + 3$ from $t^3z \cdot 1 \cdot (t^{10}z^3)^m$. And when $k = 3m + 2$ the highest exponent of t is $10m + 6$, which arises from both $t^6z^2 \cdot 1 \cdot (t^{10}z^3)^m$ and $1 \cdot t^6z^2 \cdot (t^{10}z^3)^m$. Thus the maximal length of an alcove in level k of the dominant cone in type G_2 is $\lfloor (10k)/3 \rfloor$.

Notice that in the numerator of $g(t, z)$, we do not care about the actual coefficient of z^j , but only the degree in t of this coefficient. Thus we need only keep track of the highest length $\ell(\lambda_w)$ which occurs for each level $L(\lambda_w)$, as w varies over W . In Table 3, we present this data for the remaining exceptional types. Except for E_8 , the values for $\ell(w)$ and $L(w)$ were computed using a FORTRAN program written by the author. For E_8 , the calculations were done by the computer algebra software GAP [7], combined with its accompanying Coxeter group package *chevie*, and an extension of *chevie* kindly provided by Frank Lübeck.

The lengths and levels for the regular dominant weights $hw_i + \rho$ are easy to calculate, and are presented in Table 4. (Labeling of the simple roots follows [2].)

Proceeding as in Example 7.4, we find that for F_4 , when $k = 2m$, the maximum length in level k is $22m = 11k$, whereas when $k = 2m + 1$, the maximum length is $22m + 9 = 11k - 2$. In E_6 , the maximum length in level k is $16k$ for all k , and in E_7 it is $27k$. In E_8 , when $k = 2m$, the maximum length is $92m = 46k$; for $k = 2m + 3$ ($m \geq 0$) it is $92m + 136 = 46k - 2$; and for $k = 1$, the maximum length is $36 = 46k - 10$. This completes the verification of Theorem 1.1 for the exceptional types.

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