

COXETER GROUPS

1) Geometric Reflection Groups

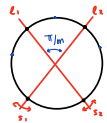
$\text{Isom}(\mathbb{X}^n) :=$ isometry group of $\mathbb{X}^n$

1.3. Definition: A hyperplane $\mathcal{H} \in \mathbb{X}^n$ is a totally geodesic, codimension 1 submanifold of $\mathbb{X}^n$

A hyperplane $\mathcal{H}$ separates $\mathbb{X}^n$ into two connected components, called half-spaces

For each $\mathcal{H} \subset \mathbb{X}^n$, $\exists$ a reflection $e \in \text{Isom}(\mathbb{X}^n)$ which a) fixes $\mathcal{H}$ and b) exchanges the associated half-spaces.

1.4 Example: finite dihedral groups

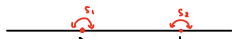


$s^2 \subset \pi^2$

s_1, s_2 is a rotation by $\frac{2\pi}{m}$

$$W = \langle s_1, s_2 \rangle \cong D_{2m} = \langle s_1, s_2 \mid s_1^2 = s_2^2 = (s_1 s_2)^m = e \rangle \text{ order } 2m$$

1.5 Example: infinite dihedral group



$$W = \langle s_1, s_2 \mid s_1^2 = s_2^2 = (s_1 s_2)^\infty = e \rangle$$

1.7. Definition: $G \curvearrowright X$ by homeomorphisms. $Gx = \text{orbit of } x \in X$. Then a fundamental domain

for $G \curvearrowright X$ is $K \subset X$ s.t.

- K is closed and connected
- $Gx \cap K \neq \emptyset \quad \forall x \in X$
- $Gx \cap K = x$ if $x \in \text{int}(K)$

K is a strict fundamental domain if $Gx \cap K = x \quad \forall x \in K$ K contain exactly one point from each orbit.

Defn: Simplex $\sigma_k \subseteq \mathbb{X}^n$ ($k \leq n$) is the convex hull of $k+1$ basis vectors in $\mathbb{X}^n$. regular if all edges have the same length.

1.9. Definition: a convex polytope $P \subseteq \mathbb{X}^n$ is a convex, compact intersection of a finite number of closed half spaces in $\mathbb{X}^n$ with nonempty interior

The link of a vertex v of P is $\text{link}_P(v) = P \cap \text{unit } (n-1)\text{-sphere centred at } v$ (sphere in $T_v \mathbb{X}^n$). This is a spherical $(n-1)$ -dimensional polytope. P is called simple if $\forall v \in P$, $\text{link}_P(v)$ is a regular spherical simplex. Equivalently, P is called simple if each vertex is adjacent to exactly n edges.

Polytope $\neq$ Simplex.

1.11. Theorem (to prove later) $P \subseteq \mathbb{X}^n$ a simple convex polytope with $n \geq 2$. Let $\{F_i\}_{i \in I}$ be the set of codimension-1 faces of P . Then each F_i lies in an $\mathcal{H}_i \in \mathbb{X}^n$. Suppose $\forall i \neq j$ if $F_i \cap F_j \neq \emptyset$, then $\mathcal{H}_i$ and $\mathcal{H}_j$ intersect at an angle $\frac{\pi}{m_{ij}}$ $m_{ij} \geq 2 \in \mathbb{Z}$. Set $m_{ii} = 1$ and $m_{ij} = \infty$ when $F_i \cap F_j = \emptyset$, and s_i be reflection across $\mathcal{H}_i$ in $\text{Isom}(\mathbb{X}^n)$

Let W be the group generated by $\{s_i\}_{i \in I}$. Then:

- 1) W has the following presentation: $W = \langle s_i : (s_i s_j)^{m_{ij}} = e \quad \forall i, j \in I \rangle$
- 2) W is a discrete subgroup of $\text{Isom}(\mathbb{X}^n)$
- 3) P is a strict fundamental domain for $W \curvearrowright \mathbb{X}^n$, and the action induces a tessellation of $\mathbb{X}^n$ by copies of P .
killing

1.13. Definition: a group W is a geometric reflection group if it is D_{2m} , D_∞ or a group from Thm 1.11. W is spherical if $\mathbb{X}^n = \mathbb{S}^n$, Euclidean if $\mathbb{X}^n = \mathbb{E}^n$, and Hyperbolic if $\mathbb{X}^n = \mathbb{H}^n$.

2. Defining Abstract reflection groups

2.1 Definition (Tits 1950s)

Let $S = \{s_i\}_{i \in I}$, I finite indexing set. A Coxeter matrix is a symmetric matrix $(S \times S)$, $M = (m_{ij})_{i, j \in I}$ such that the following hold

- $m_{ii} = 1 \quad \forall i \in I$
- $m_{ij} = m_{ji} \in \{2, 3, 4, \dots\} \cup \{\infty\} \quad \forall i \neq j$.

The Coxeter group W is the group $W = \langle S \mid (s_i s_j)^{m_{ij}} = e \quad \forall i, j \in I \rangle$ and the pair (W, S) is called a Coxeter system.

Let G be a group with generating set $S \neq \emptyset$.

2.4. Definition: The Cayley graph of G wrt. S , $\text{Cay}_S(G)$ is the graph with vertex set $= G$. It has the directed edge set $\{(g, gs) : g \in G, s \in S, s^2 \neq e\}$ and undirected edge set $\{\{g, gs\} : g \in G, s \in S, s^2 = e\}$.

All edges are labelled by corresponding $s \in S$.

$\text{Cay}_S(G)$ is connected, for a Cox. syst, $\text{Cay}_S(W)$ is simple. $\rightarrow$ also all edges undirected

2.6. Lemma: G acts on $\text{Cay}_S(G)$ via multiplication on the left. This action preserves edge labels: if $s^2 = e$, then $gs g^{-1}$ is the unique group element which flips the edge $\{g, gs\}$.

2.10 Definition: given a group G with generating set S of involutions, an element is a product of generators $s_1, \dots, s_n, s_i \in S$, and a word is a finite sequence of generators $(s_1, \dots, s_n)$ (care particularly about the order) $s_i \in S$. The word length of $g \in G$ wrt S is

$\ell_S(g) = \min \{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid g = s_1 \dots s_n, s_i \in S\}$, and we set $\ell_S(e) = 0$. If $\ell_S(g) = n \geq 1$

and $g = s_1 \dots s_n$, then the sequence $(s_1, \dots, s_n)$ is called a reduced word for g .

2.11 Definition: word metric on G is $d_S(g, h) := \ell_S(g^{-1}h) \rightarrow$ path metric on $\text{Cay}_S(G)$. Each edge has length 1.

2.13 Definition: A pre-reflection system for G is a pair (X, R) such that:

- X is a connected, simple graph
- $G \curvearrowright X$ by graph automorphisms
- R is a subset of G and
 - a) every $r \in R$ is an involution
 - b) R is closed under conjugation: $\forall g \in G, r \in R, grg^{-1} \in R$
 - c) R generates G
 - d) $\forall \{v, w\} \in E(X) \exists ! r \in R$ which flips $\{v, w\}$ (i.e. interchanges v and w)
 - e) each $r \in R$ flips at least one edge.

For $r \in R$, let $H_r = \{ \text{midpoints of edges flipped by } r \}$

2.15. Lemma: If (X, R) is a pre-reflection system for G , then G acts transitively on $V(X)$.

2.16. Lemma: let (W, S) be a Coxeter system and $R = \{ws_i w^{-1} \mid s_i \in S, w \in W\}$. Then $(\text{Cay}_S(W), R)$ is a pre-reflection system for W .

2.17 Definition: Let (X, R) be a pre-reflection system for G . Then (X, R) is a reflection system if in addition it satisfies f) for each $r \in R$, $X \setminus H_r$ has exactly two components.

3. Combinatorics of Coxeter Groups

3.1 Theorem: Let W be a group generated by a set S of distinct involutions.

Then the following are equivalent:

- (1) (W, S) is a Coxeter system
- (2) Let $X = \text{Cay}_S(W)$, $R = \{ws w^{-1} \mid s \in S, w \in W\}$. Then (X, R) is a reflection system
- (3) (W, S) satisfies the 'deletion' condition
- (4) (W, S) satisfies the 'exchange' condition

3.2 Definition: (W, S) satisfies the deletion condition if the following holds

- (D) if $w = (s_1, \dots, s_k)$ is a word in S with $\ell_S(s_1, \dots, s_k) < k$, then $\exists$ indices $i < j$ such that $s_1, \dots, s_k = s_1, \dots, \hat{s}_i, \dots, \hat{s}_j, \dots, s_k$

3.3 Definition: (W, S) satisfies the exchange condition if the following holds

- (E) If $(s_1, \dots, s_k)$ is a reduced word, then for any $s \in S$, either $\ell_S(ss_1, \dots, s_k) = k+1$, or $w = s_1, \dots, s_k = ss_1, \dots, \hat{s}_i, \dots, s_k$ for $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$

Let $R = \{ws w^{-1} : w \in W, s \in S\}$. $\exists ! r \in R$ which flips each edge

$$s_1, \dots, s_{j-1} \xrightarrow{\quad} s_1, \dots, s_j$$

given by $r_j = s_1, \dots, s_j, s_{j-1}, \dots, s_1$. get a reflection sequence $(r_1, \dots, r_k)$ for a word $(s_1, \dots, s_k)$

3.5 Lemma: $\forall r \in R$, $\text{Cay}_S(W) \setminus H_r$ has at most two connected components.

(W, S) a Coxeter system. For any word $(s_1, \dots, s_k) = \underline{s}$, let $n(r, \underline{s})$ be the number of times the corresponding path crosses H_r in $\text{Cay}_S(W)$.

3.6 Lemma: (i) for any word $\underline{s} = (s_1, \dots, s_k)$ with $w = s_1, \dots, s_k$, then for any $r \in R$, $(-1)^{n(r, \underline{s})} \in \{\pm 1\}$ depends only on $w \in W$ (not the word representation but the actual element).

(ii) $\exists$ a group homomorphism $w \mapsto \text{Sym}(R \times \{\pm 1\})$; $w \mapsto \phi_w$ s.t. $\phi_w(r, \underline{s}) = (wrw^{-1}, (-1)^{n(r, \underline{s})})$, where $\underline{s}$ is any word representing w .

3.7 Definition: Let W be gen by a set of distinct involutions S and $s, t \in S$ s.t. order of st , m_{st} , is finite. A braid move on a word in S swaps a subword $(s, t, s, t, \dots)$ of length m_{st} with a subword $(t, s, t, s, \dots)$ of length m_{st} .

Theorem 3.10 (Tits) Suppose W a group gen by a set S of distinct involutions, (W, S) satisfies (E). Then

- (1) a word $(s_1, \dots, s_k)$ is reduced $\Leftrightarrow$ it cannot be shortened by a sequence of (i) deleting a subword (s, s) $s \in S$, or (ii) a braid move
- (2) Two reduced words in S represent the same element $w \in W \Leftrightarrow$ they are related by a finite sequence of Braid moves.

4. Tits representation

Thm (Tits): Let I be a finite indexing set, and let $S = \{s_i : i \in I\}$, and let $M = \{m_{ij} : i, j \in I\}$ be a Coxeter matrix. Then there's a faithful representation $\rho : W \rightarrow \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{R})$, where $w = \langle s_1, s_2 \rangle^{m_{12}} \dots$, where $n = |I| = |I|$, and s.t.

- $\forall i$, $\rho(s_i) = \sigma_i$ is a linear involution with fixed point set a hyperplane
- for all i, j , the product $\sigma_i \sigma_j$ has order m_{ij} .

The homo $\rho : W \rightarrow \text{GL}(n, \mathbb{R})$ is known as the canonical representation.

Constructing Tits repⁿ: $|I| = |S| = n$. V have basis $\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$.

(1) Define Sym. bilin. form $B : V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$B(e_i, e_j) = \begin{cases} -\cos(\pi/m_{ij}) & \text{if } m_{ij} \text{ finite} \\ -1 & \text{if } m_{ij} \text{ infinite} \end{cases}$$

rem: $B(e_i, e_i) = 1$, and $B(e_i, e_j) \leq 0$

(2) Define $\sigma_i : V \rightarrow V$ by $\sigma_i(v) = v - 2B(e_i, v)e_i$

$$\hookrightarrow \sigma_i(e_i) = -e_i, \quad \text{Fix}(\sigma_i) = \{v \in V : B(e_i, v) = 0\} =: H_i$$

$$\hookrightarrow B(\sigma_i(e_j), \sigma_i(e_k)) = B(e_j, e_k)$$

(3) Prop 4.2: $\sigma_i \sigma_j$ has order $m_{ij} \quad \forall i, j \in I$

Cor 4.3: $S \mapsto \sigma_i$ extends to $\rho : W \rightarrow \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{R})$

pf: consider cases $i=j$: automatic from formula

m_{ij} finite: restrict to V_{ij} , $B|_{V_{ij}}$ is the def, so σ_i, σ_j look like ortho ref^s.

Then $\sigma_i \sigma_j =$ rotation by $\frac{\pi}{m_{ij}} \Rightarrow$ order m_{ij} on V_{ij} . Then note $V = V_{ij} \oplus V_{ij}^\perp$,

and $\sigma_i \sigma_j$ acts like id on $V_{ij}^\perp \Rightarrow$ order m_{ij} on all V .

m_{ij} infinite: $B|_{V_{ij}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \text{pos. semidef.}$ $(\sigma_i \sigma_j)^k(e_i) = e_i + 2k(e_i + e_j)$

$\hookrightarrow$ infinite on $V_{ij} \Rightarrow$ infinite on V .

Faithfulness of Tits repⁿ: Show dual repⁿ $\rho^* : W \rightarrow \text{GL}(V^*)$ given by

$$(\rho^*(w)(\varphi))(w) = \varphi(\rho(w^{-1})v) \text{ is faithful, } (\Leftrightarrow \rho \text{ is faithful}).$$

Rem: $\varphi_i \in V^*$ by $\varphi_i = B(e_i, -)$. Then $\rho^*(s_i) = \sigma_i^*$,

$$\sigma_i^*(\varphi) = \varphi - 2\varphi(e_i)e_i$$

$$H_i^* = \{\varphi \in V^* \mid \varphi(e_i) = 0\} \leftarrow \text{hyperplane of fixed points of } \sigma_i^*$$

$$C_i = \{\varphi \in V^* \mid \varphi(e_i) > 0\}, \quad C = \bigcap_{i \in I} C_i, \quad \bar{C} = \text{chamber ass. to rep}^n.$$

Defn: G a group acting on a set Π . $\mathcal{C} \subset \Pi$ is **prefundamental** for G if

$$\forall g \in G, \quad g\mathcal{C} \cap \mathcal{C} \neq \emptyset \Rightarrow g = 1 \in G.$$

$\hookrightarrow C_i$ prefundamental for $W_i = \langle s_i \rangle$ acting on V^* :

$$(s_i \cdot \varphi)(e_i) = \varphi(\rho(s_i^{-1})(e_i)) = \varphi(\sigma_i(e_i)) = \varphi(-e_i) = -\varphi(e_i) < 0$$

unless s_i is the identity.

Thm 4.6 (Tits) $\{W, S, \{C_i\}\}$ satisfies property p: $\forall w \in W, i \in I$, either $wC \subset C_i$, or $wC \subset s_i C_i$. In the second case, $\ell_S(s_i w) = \ell_S(w) - 1$.

Cor 4.7: C prefundamental for $W \Rightarrow \rho^*$ is faithful.

Change in notation: replace C with C° , $\bar{C}$ with C .

Defn 4.7: Tits cone of (W, S) is $\bigcup_{w \in W} wC \subset V^*$

5. Finite Coxeter Groups

Dfn 5.1: (W, S) Cox. syst. Then (W, S) is **reducible** if $S = S' \cup S''$ s.t. $m_{ij} = 2$

$\forall s_i \in S', s_j \in S'', \text{ i.e. } s_i s_j = s_j s_i \text{ is a rel in } W$

$\hookrightarrow (W, S)$ reducible, then $W \cong \langle S' \rangle \times \langle S'' \rangle$

Rem: irreducible can still split as a product: $D_{2r+2} \cong D_{2r} \times C_2$

Thm 5.3: (W, S) irreducible, $|S| = n$. TFAE:

(1) W a geom. reflⁿ group on S^{n-1} gen by $S = \{s_i\}_{i \in I}$, and set of refl²s in codim. 1 are faces $\{F_i\}_{i \in I}$ of a simplex in S^{n-1} s.t F_i, F_j meet at $\frac{\pi}{m_{ij}}$.

(2) B is pos. def.

(iii) W is finite

W fin. Cox. group, $|S| = n$, then $V^* \hookrightarrow E^n$, and C is a closed Euclidean simplicial cone with boundary given by H_i^* 's.

Cor 4.7 $\leadsto \rho^*$ fundamental for $W \Leftrightarrow W C^0 \cap C^0 \neq \emptyset \Rightarrow w = e$. So if $x \in \rho^*$, then

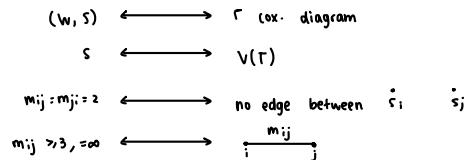
Wx has $|W|$ distinct points

Dfn 5.4: (W, S) finite. **Coxeter polytope** for W is the convex hull of the W orbit on V^* of a point $x \in C^0$. (not in general regular)

Dfn 5.6: **Cox-Dynkin diagram** Γ is a simple labelled graph w/ fin. vertex set

$V(\Gamma) = S = \{s_i\}_{i \in I}$, edge labels $s_i \xrightarrow{m_{ij}} s_j$ $m_{ij} \geq 3$ or $= \infty$

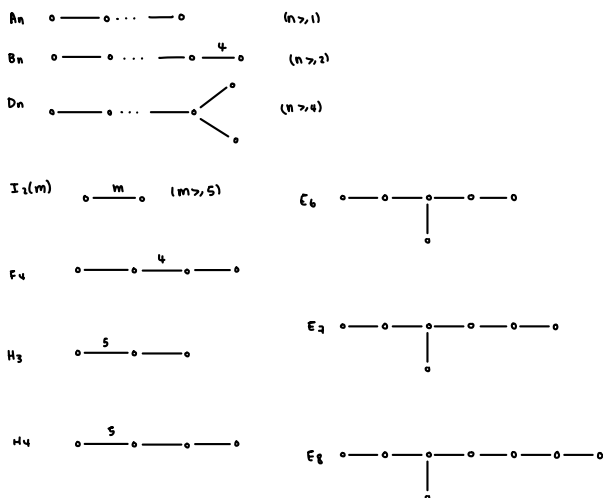
Lem 5.7: 1-1 correspondence $(W, S) \leftrightarrow$ Cox-Dynk diagrams: omit $m_{ij} = 3$ label.



Denote $\text{Im}(\Gamma)$ by $(W(\Gamma), V(\Gamma))$.

Thm 5.10 (Coxeter) (Classification of finite Coxeter groups)

(W, S) gives fin. Cox. group $\Leftrightarrow (W, S) = (W(\Gamma), V(\Gamma))$ for Γ a disj. U of a fin. # of following graphs:



Dfn 5.13: Given a Cox. system (W, S) , $T \subseteq S$, then **parabolic subgroup** W_T of W is $:= \langle T \rangle$, $T = \emptyset$, take $W_T = \{e\}$ Then (W_T, T) a Cox system

Lem 5.14: (W, S) , then $W(T_1) \cong W_T \quad \forall$ subsets $T \subseteq S$.

$\hookrightarrow$ nontrivial proof!

Dfn 5.15: **spherical subgroup** $:=$ finite parabolic subgroup

Cor 5.16: all spherical subgroups come from full subgraphs of Γ of (W, S)

Thm 5.18: (W, S) Cox. system. Then

(a) (W_T, T) a Cox. system $\forall T \subseteq S$

(b) $\forall T \subseteq S, w \in W_T$, then $\ell_T(w) = \ell_S(w)$, and any reduced word $w = s_1 \dots s_k$ in S satisfies $s_i \in T \quad \forall i$.

(c) $T, T' \subseteq S, W_{T \cap T'} = W_T \cap W_{T'}, \quad \langle W_T, W_{T'} \rangle = W_{T \cup T'}$

(d) $T \rightarrow W_T, \{T \subseteq S\} \rightarrow \{\text{parabolic } W_T \subseteq W\}$ preserves partial ordering by inclusion.

Lem 5.19: (W, S) Cox. syst, $w \in W$, then $\exists$ subset $S(w) \subseteq S$ s.t given any reduced word $s_1 \dots s_k$ for w , $S(w) = \{s_1, \dots, s_k\}$.

Dfn 5.20: Cox syst. (W, S) , let $\mathcal{S} = \{T \subseteq S : W_T \text{ irreducible}\}$

6. The Basic Construction

Dfn 6.1: **Abstract simplicial complex** is a set V (vertex set), and a collection X of finite subsets of V such that

- (1) $\forall v \in X \ \forall v \in V$ (2) if $\Delta \in X$, and $\Delta' \subset \Delta$, then $\Delta' \in X$

$\Delta = \text{"abstract simplex"}$. $\Delta' \subset \Delta$, then Δ' a face of Δ

Dfn 6.2: (W, S) Cox. sys., X a connected, Hausdorff topological space, a **mirror**

structure on X over S is a family of closed, nonempty subsets of X . X is called a **mirrored space** over S , and X_s is the **S -mirror** of X .

Dfn 6.4: (W, S) Cox. sys. and X a mirrored space over S , the **nerve** of X $N(X)$ is an abstract simplicial complex with vertex set S and TSS is a simplex iff $\bigcap_{t \in T} X_t \neq \emptyset$

Examples 6.5:

- (1) $X = \text{cone } \{\sigma_s : s \in S\}$, $X_s = \{\sigma_s\}$, $N(X) = \bigcup \{\sigma_s\}$

- (2) Δ^n , $|S| = n+1$. $|S|$ codim-1 faces, labelled by $S : \{\Delta_s : s \in S\}$
 $X_s = \Delta_s$

- (5) W finite, $V^0 \hookrightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$; $\mathcal{C} = \{v \in \mathbb{R}^n : \langle v, e_i \rangle \geq 0 \ \forall i\}$. Then $x \in \mathcal{C}^0$, Cox. polytope is orbit Wx . Take $x = \mathcal{C} \cap \text{Cox. poly.}$, $X_s = x \cap H_s$

(W, S) Cox. sys., X mirrored over S , $\exists x \in X$ s.t. $x \notin \bigcup_s X_s$. Define $\forall x \in X$
 $s(x) = \{s \in S : x \in X_s\}$

Dfn 6.7: W as top. space w/ discrete top., and $W \times X$ with x top. The

basic construction is top. space w/ quotient top:

$$\mathcal{U}(W, X) = W \times X / \sim$$

where $(w, x) \sim (w', x') \Leftrightarrow x = x'$, and $w^{-1}w' \in W_{s(x)}$

Equiv. class: $[w, x]$

Rem: $x \in X_s$, then $s \in S(x)$, $\Rightarrow (w, x) \sim (ws, x)$ since $w^{-1}ws = s \in W_{s(x)}$.

Dfn 6.8: $wX := \{wx : x \in X \text{ in } \mathcal{U}(W, X)\}$. Then wX is a **chamber** of $\mathcal{U}(W, X)$

Fundamental chamber eX . wX and wsX are glued along X_s .

Lem 6.9: $X = \text{cone } \{\sigma_s : s \in S\}$, then up to subdivision $\mathcal{U}(W, X) = \text{Cay}_S(W)$

Dfn 6.10: X mirrored space in Exm 6.5 (2), $\mathcal{U}(W, X)$ is called the

Coxeter complex.

Lemma 6.13: $\mathcal{U}(W, X)$ a connected topological space

Dfn 6.14: $\mathcal{U}(W, X)$ is said to be **locally finite** if $\forall [w, x] \in \mathcal{U}(W, X)$,

$\exists$ an open nhood which meets only finitely many chambers.

Lem 6.16: TFAE:

- (1) $\mathcal{U}(W, X)$ locally finite
(2) $\forall x \in X$, $W_{s(x)}$ is finite
(3) $\forall T \subseteq S$ s.t. W_T infinite, then $\bigcap_{t \in T} X_t = \emptyset$

W acts on $\mathcal{U}(W, X)$ by homeos via left action on $W \times X$:

$$w' \cdot (w, x) = (w'w, x)$$

Lem 6.17: Fundamental chamber eX is a strict fund^l domain for $W \curvearrowright \mathcal{U}(W, X)$

$$\hookrightarrow \mathcal{U}(W, X)/W \cong X.$$

Bijection: $W \rightarrow \mathcal{U}(W, X)$; $w \mapsto wX$

Lem 6.18: $\text{Stab}_W([w, x]) = \{w' \in W : w^{-1}w'w \in W_{s(x)}\}$ (dfn)
 $= W_{s(x)} w^{-1}$.

Lem 6.19: $\mathcal{U}(W, X)$ is Hausdorff

Dfn 6.20: G discrete group, Y Hausdorff, then an action by homeos $G \curvearrowright Y$ is **properly discontinuous** if

- (i) Y/G is Hausdorff
(ii) $\forall y \in Y$, $G_y = \text{stab}_G(y)$ is finite
(iii) $\forall y \in Y$, $\exists$ open nhood U_y of y in Y s.t. $G_y \cdot U_y = U_y$ (not necessarily pointwise)
and $gU_y \cap U_y = \emptyset \ \forall g \notin G_y$

Lem 6.21: $W \curvearrowright \mathcal{U}(W, X)$ is properly discontinuous iff $W_{s(x)}$ is spherical (finite) $\forall x \in X$.