

## Length Functions for $G(r, p, n)$

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### Abstract.

In this paper, we construct a length function  $n(w)$  for the complex reflection group  $W = G(r, p, n)$  by making use of certain partitions of the root system associated to  $\widetilde{W} = G(r, 1, n)$ . We show that the function  $n(w)$  yields the Poincaré polynomial  $P_W(q)$ . We give some characterization of this function in a way independent of the choice of the root system.

### §1. Introduction

Let  $\widetilde{W} = G(r, 1, n)$  be an imprimitive complex reflection group. In [BM1], K. Bremke and G. Malle introduced a certain type of root system (and its partition into positive and negative roots) associated to  $\widetilde{W}$ , and defined a length function  $n_1$  on  $\widetilde{W}$  by making use of the root system. They showed that this function satisfies some good properties as a generalization of the length function of finite Coxeter groups. In particular, the polynomial  $\sum_{w \in \widetilde{W}} q^{n_1(w)}$  coincides with the Poincaré polynomial  $P_{\widetilde{W}}(q)$  of  $\widetilde{W}$ . In [RS], we studied further properties of  $n_1$ , and gave some characterization of it in a way independent of the choice of the root system, in connection with the usual length function defined by standard generators of  $\widetilde{W}$ .

In [BM2], a similar problem was studied for the reflection subgroup  $G(r, r, n)$  of  $\widetilde{W}$ . They defined a length function  $\tilde{n}_2$  on  $\widetilde{W}$  by using a similar root system as above, but by using completely different partition into positive and negative roots. They defined a length function  $n_2$  on  $G(r, r, n)$  as the restriction of  $\tilde{n}_2$ , and showed that  $n_2$  yields the Poincaré polynomial  $P_{G(r, r, n)}(q)$ .

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In this paper, we consider a more general group  $W = G(r, p, n)$ . The group  $W$  is a reflection subgroup of  $\widetilde{W}$  containing  $G(r, r, n)$ . We construct some partitions of the root system, (in fact, we need two kinds of such partitions) and define a length function  $\tilde{n}$  on  $\widetilde{W}$  associated to the root system. We also define a function  $n$  on  $W$  as the restriction of  $\tilde{n}$  on  $W$ . We then show that our length functions satisfy the property that

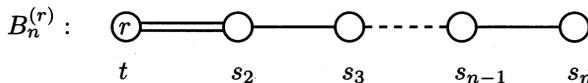
$$\frac{1}{p} \sum_{w \in \widetilde{W}} q^{\tilde{n}(w)} = \sum_{w \in W} q^{n(w)} = P_W(q),$$

where  $P_W(q)$  is the Poincaré polynomial associated to  $W$ . Our function  $n(w)$  is much more complicated than the previous cases. But in some sense, it is the mixture of the functions  $n_1$  and  $n_2$ . In fact, if  $p = 1$ ,  $n(w)$  coincides with  $n_1(w)$ , while if  $p = r$ ,  $n(w)$  coincides with  $n_2(w)$ .

We give a characterization of the function  $\tilde{n}$  on  $\widetilde{W}$  in a similar way as in [RS], in an independent way of the choice of the root system. This is done by making use of a certain length function on  $\widetilde{W}$  defined without using the root data. However, in contrast to the case treated in [RS], it is not the function defined by generators of  $\widetilde{W}$  or  $W$ .

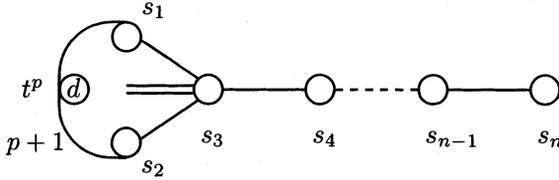
**§2. Length functions associated to a root system**

**2.1** Let  $V$  be the unitary space  $\mathbb{C}^n$  with the standard basis vectors  $e_1, \dots, e_n$ . We denote by  $\widetilde{W} = G(r, 1, n)$  the imprimitive complex reflection group generated by reflections  $t, s_2, \dots, s_n$ . Here  $s_i$  is the permutation of  $e_i$  and  $e_{i-1}$  for  $i = 2, \dots, n$ , and  $t$  is the complex reflection of order  $r$  defined by  $te_1 = \zeta e_1$  and  $te_i = e_i$  for  $i \neq 1$ , where  $\zeta$  is a fixed primitive  $r$ -th root of unity. The group  $\widetilde{W}$  has a Coxeter-like diagram with respect to the set  $\tilde{S} = \{t, s_2, \dots, s_n\}$  of generators as follows;



For each factor  $p$  of  $r$ , we denote by  $W = G(r, p, n)$  the reflection subgroup of  $\widetilde{W}$  of index  $p$  generated by  $S = \{t^p, s_1 = t^{-1}s_2t, s_2, \dots, s_n\}$ . The special case where  $p = r$ , the group  $W' = G(r, r, n)$  is generated by  $S' = \{s_1, \dots, s_n\}$ . We have  $W' \subset W \subset \widetilde{W}$ . We put  $r = pd$ . The presentation of the group  $W$  in terms of the set  $S$  is determined by

[BMR]. In particular, if  $p \geq 3, d \neq 1$ , the Coxeter-like diagram of  $W$  is given as follows.



**2.2** Let  $\Phi$  be a root system associated to  $\widetilde{W}$  defined in [BM1]. Here we follow the description of  $\Phi$  given in [RS]. Hence we consider a set  $X = \{e_i^{(a)} \mid 1 \leq i \leq n, a \in \mathbf{Z}/r\mathbf{Z}\}$ , and we express an element  $(e_i^{(a)}, e_j^{(b)}) \in X \times X$  as  $e_i^{(a)} - e_j^{(b)}$  whenever  $i \neq j$ . The root system  $\Phi$  is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi &= \Phi_l \amalg \Phi_s \quad \text{with} \\ \Phi_l &= \{e_i^{(a)} - e_j^{(b)} \mid 1 \leq i, j \leq n, i \neq j, a, b \in \mathbf{Z}/r\mathbf{Z}\}, \\ \Phi_s &= X = \{e_i^{(a)} \mid 1 \leq i \leq n, a \in \mathbf{Z}/r\mathbf{Z}\} \end{aligned}$$

An element in  $\Phi_l$  (resp. in  $\Phi_s$ ) is called a long root (resp. a short root), respectively. The group  $\widetilde{W}$  acts naturally on the set  $\Phi$  in such a way that  $s_i$  permutes  $e_i^{(a)}$  and  $e_{i-1}^{(a)}$ , and  $te_1^{(a)} = e_1^{(a+1)}, te_j^{(a)} = e_j^{(a)}$  for  $j \neq 1$ .

For  $\alpha = e_i^{(a)} - e_j^{(b)} \in \Phi_l$ , we define  $-\alpha \in \Phi_l$  by  $-\alpha = e_j^{(b)} - e_i^{(a)}$ . We shall define two types of partitions,  $\Phi_l = \Phi_l^+ \cup \Phi_l^- = \Phi_l^{++} \cup \Phi_l^{--}$  such that  $\Phi_l^- = -\Phi_l^+, \Phi_l^{--} = -\Phi_l^{++}$ . In the following formulae, long roots  $\alpha \in \Phi_l$  are always denoted as  $\alpha = e_i^{(a)} - e_j^{(b)}$ . Also for each  $a \in \mathbf{Z}$ , let  $\bar{a}$  be the integer determined by the condition that  $\bar{a} \equiv a \pmod{p}$  and that  $-p/2 < \bar{a} \leq p/2$ . The partition of the first type is given as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} (2.2.1) \quad \Phi_l^+ &= \{\alpha \mid -p/2 < a \leq 0, i > j\} \\ &\cup \{\alpha \mid 0 < \bar{a} \leq p/2, p/2 < b \leq r - p/2, i > j\} \\ &\cup \{\alpha \mid -p/2 < \bar{b} \leq 0, 0 < b \leq r - p/2, i < j\} \\ &\cup \{\alpha \mid 0 < \bar{b} \leq p/2, -p/2 < a \leq p/2, i < j\}, \\ \Phi_l^- &= \{\alpha \mid -p/2 < b \leq 0, i < j\} \\ &\cup \{\alpha \mid 0 < \bar{b} \leq p/2, p/2 < a \leq r - p/2, i < j\} \\ &\cup \{\alpha \mid -p/2 \leq \bar{a} \leq 0, 0 < a \leq r - p/2, i > j\} \\ &\cup \{\alpha \mid 0 < \bar{a} \leq p/2, -p/2 < b \leq p/2, i > j\}. \end{aligned}$$

The fact that  $\Phi_l^- = -\Phi_l^+$ , and that  $\Phi_l$  is a disjoint union of  $\Phi_l^+$  and  $\Phi_l^-$  is verified as follows. Set

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \{\alpha \mid -p/2 < a \leq 0, i > j\}, \\ B &= \{\alpha \mid 0 < \bar{a} \leq p/2, p/2 < b \leq r - p/2, i > j\}, \\ C &= \{\alpha \mid -p/2 < \bar{a} \leq 0, 0 < a \leq r - p/2, i > j\}, \\ D &= \{\alpha \mid 0 < \bar{a} \leq p/2, -p/2 < b \leq p/2, i > j\}. \end{aligned}$$

Then, it is easy to see that  $A, B, C$  and  $D$  are mutually disjoint, and  $A \cup B \cup C \cup D$  coincides with the set  $\{\alpha \in \Phi_l \mid i > j\}$ . Moreover, we have

$$\Phi_l^+ = A \cup B \cup -C \cup -D, \quad \Phi_l^- = -A \cup -B \cup C \cup D.$$

This shows the required property.

The partition of the second type is given as follows.

$$(2.2.2) \quad \begin{aligned} \Phi_l^{++} &= \{\alpha \mid -p/2 < \bar{a} \leq 0, i > j\} \cup \{\alpha \mid 0 < \bar{b} \leq p/2, i < j\}, \\ \Phi_l^{--} &= \{\alpha \mid 0 < \bar{a} \leq p/2, i > j\} \cup \{\alpha \mid -p/2 < \bar{b} \leq 0, i < j\}. \end{aligned}$$

We also define a grading of  $\Phi_s$  by modifying the grading of  $\Phi_s$  given in [RS] as follows. Let  $\Phi_s = \Phi_{s,0} \cup \Phi_{s,1} \cup \dots \cup \Phi_{s,d-1}$ , where

$$(2.2.3) \quad \Phi_{s,m} = \{e_i^{(a)} \mid mp - p/2 < a \leq mp + p/2, 1 \leq i \leq n\} \quad (0 \leq m < d).$$

Next we define a subset  $\Omega = \Omega'_l \cup \Omega''_l \cup \Omega_s$  of  $\Phi$  as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega_s &= \{e_i^{(0)} \mid 1 \leq i \leq n\}, \\ \Omega'_l &= \{e_i^{(0)} - e_j^{(b)} \mid b \equiv 0 \pmod{p}, i > j\}, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega''_l &= \{e_i^{(a)} - e_j^{(mp-a)} \mid -p/2 < a < 0, 0 \leq m < d, i > j\} \\ &\quad \cup \{e_i^{(mp-b+\delta)} - e_j^{(b)} \mid 0 < b \leq p/2, 0 \leq m < d, i < j\}, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\delta = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } p \text{ is even,} \\ 0 & \text{if } p \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

We define functions  $\tilde{n}'_l, \tilde{n}''_l, \tilde{n}_s : \widetilde{W} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$  by

$$\tilde{n}'_l(w) = |w\Omega'_l \cap \Phi_l^-|, \quad \tilde{n}''_l(w) = |w\Omega''_l \cap \Phi_l^{- -}|,$$

and by

$$\tilde{n}_s(w) = \sum_{\alpha \in \Omega_s} \nu(w(\alpha)),$$

where for each  $\alpha \in \Phi_s$ , we put  $\nu(\alpha) = k$  if  $\alpha \in \Phi_{s,k}$ . We define a length function  $\tilde{n} : \widetilde{W} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$  by  $\tilde{n} = \tilde{n}'_l + \tilde{n}''_l + \tilde{n}_s$ . We consider the restriction of these functions to  $W$ , and define  $n'_l, n''_l$  and  $n_s$  as the restriction of  $\tilde{n}'_l, \tilde{n}''_l$ , and  $\tilde{n}_s$ , respectively. Then we define a length function  $n$  of  $W$  by  $n = n'_l + n''_l + n_s$ .

**Remark 2.3.** In the case where  $p = 1$ , we have  $\Omega''_l = \emptyset$ . Moreover,  $\Phi_l^+ = \{\alpha \mid a = 0\} \cup \{\alpha \mid b \neq 0\}$ , and  $\Phi_l^- = -\Phi_l^+$ . This partition together with the set  $\Omega'_l \cup \Omega_s$  coincide with the set  $\Omega_l \cup \Omega_s$  of  $\Phi_l$  given in [RS], and the grading of  $\Phi_s$  also coincides with that of  $\Phi_s$  given there. Hence the function  $n$  coincides with the length function of  $G(r, 1, n)$  defined in [BM1].

While in the case where  $p = r$ , we have  $\Phi_s = \Phi_{s,0}$ . Moreover  $\Phi_l^+ = \Phi_l^{++}, \Phi_l^- = \Phi_l^{--}$ , and this partition of  $\Phi_l$  together with  $\Omega'_l \cup \Omega''_l$  coincide essentially with those given in [BM2]. (Also note that  $\Omega'_l$  coincides with the root system of the symmetric group  $S_n$ ). Hence  $n$  agrees with the length function of  $G(r, r, n)$  defined there.

**2.4.** Let  $W_I$  be the reflection subgroup of  $W$  generated by  $I = \{t^p, s_1, s_2, \dots, s_m\}$  for some  $m \leq n$ . Then  $W_I$  is isomorphic to  $G(r, p, m)$ . It is clear from the definition that the restriction of  $n$  on  $W_I$  coincides with the function  $n_I$  defined similarly for  $G(r, p, m)$ . On the other hand, let  $J = \{t^p, s_2, \dots, s_n\}$  be a subset of  $S$ , and  $W_J$  the subgroup of  $W$  generated by  $J$ . If  $d > 1$ , then  $W_J$  is isomorphic to  $G(d, 1, n)$ , and  $J$  coincides with the standard set of generators of  $G(d, 1, n)$ . While if  $d = 1$ ,  $W_J$  is isomorphic to  $S_n$ . Let  $n_J$  be the length function of  $W_J$  as given in [RS]. In the case where  $d > 1$ , we denote by  $n_{J,l}$  and  $n_{J,s}$  the functions associated to long roots and short roots, respectively.

**Lemma 2.5.** *The restriction of  $n$  on  $W_J$  coincides with  $n_J$ .*

*Proof.* The case where  $d = 1$  is easy. So, we assume that  $d > 1$ . Let  $\Phi_{l,J}$  be the subset of  $\Phi_l$  consisting of roots of the form  $e_i^{(a)} - e_j^{(b)}$  with  $p \mid a, p \mid b$ . Then  $\Phi_{l,J}$  is in a natural correspondence, via the map  $e_i^{(a)} - e_j^{(b)} \mapsto e_i^{(a')} - e_j^{(b')}$  with  $a' = a/p, b' = b/p$ , with the set of long roots for  $G(d, 1, n)$ , where  $\Phi_{l,J} \cap \Phi_l^+$  (resp.  $\Phi_{l,J} \cap \Phi_l^-$ ) corresponds to

the set of positive (resp. negative) roots, respectively. Similarly, let  $\Phi_{s,J}$  be the subset of  $\Phi_s$  consisting of  $e_i^{(a)}$  with  $p \mid a$ . Then  $\Phi_{s,J}$  corresponds naturally to the set of short roots for  $G(d, 1, n)$ , and the restriction of the grading of  $\Phi_s$  to  $\Phi_{s,J}$  coincides with the grading of the set of short roots. Note that the above correspondence is compatible with the actions of  $W_J$ . Under this correspondence, the sets  $\Omega'_l$  and  $\Omega_s$  are mapped to the sets  $\Omega_l$  and  $\Omega_s$  in the root system for  $G(d, 1, n)$ . Since  $w(\Omega_s) \subset \Phi_{s,J}$  (resp.  $w(\Omega'_l) \subset \Phi_{l,J}$ ) for each  $w \in W_J$ , we see that the restriction of  $n_s$  (resp.  $n'_l$ ) on  $W_J$  coincides with  $n_{J,s}$  (resp.  $n_{J,l}$ ), respectively. Hence in order to prove the lemma, it suffices to show that  $n''_l(w) = 0$ , i.e.,  $w(\Omega''_l) \subset \Phi_l^{++}$  for  $w \in W_J$ . Take an element  $\alpha = e_i^{(a)} - e_j^{(b)} \in w(\Omega''_l)$ . Then either  $-p/2 < \bar{a} < 0$  and  $\bar{b} = -\bar{a}$ , or  $0 < \bar{b} \leq p/2$  and  $\bar{a} = -\bar{b} + \delta$ . This implies that  $\alpha \in \Phi_l^{++}$  and the lemma follows. Q.E.D.

**2.6.** By applying Lemma 2.5, we can determine the values  $n(s)$  for  $s \in S$  as follows.

$$(2.6.1) \quad n(s) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } s \in \{s_2, \dots, s_n\}, \\ 1 & \text{if } s = t^p \text{ with } d > 1, \\ d & \text{if } s = s_1 \text{ with } p \geq 3 \text{ or } d = 1, \\ 3d - 1 & \text{if } s = s_1 \text{ with } p = 2, d > 1. \end{cases}$$

In fact, the first two case follow from the lemma. We consider the remaining cases. We have  $s_1(\Omega'_l) \subset \Phi_l^+$  if  $p \geq 3$  or  $d = 1$ . While if  $p = 2$ , and  $d > 1$ , then  $s_1(e_2^{(0)} - e_1^{(b)}) < 0$  for  $b \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ . On the other hand,  $s_1(e_1^{(0)}) = e_2^{(1)}$  and  $s_1(e_2^{(0)}) = e_1^{(-1)}$ , and  $s_1$  leaves other short roots fixed. Hence by (2.2.3),  $s_1(\Omega_s) \subset \Phi_{s,0}$  if  $p \geq 3$ . While if  $p = 2$ , we have  $s_1(e_2^{(0)}) \in \Phi_{l,d-1}$ , and  $s_1$  maps all other elements in  $\Omega_s$  to  $\Phi_{s,0}$ . Moreover we have

$$\Omega''_l \cap s_1(\Phi_l^{--}) = \begin{cases} \{e_1^{(mp)} - e_2^{(1)} \mid 0 \leq m < d\} & \text{if } p \text{ is even,} \\ \{e_2^{(-f)} - e_1^{(mp+f)} \mid 0 \leq m < d\} & \text{if } p \text{ is odd,} \end{cases}$$

where  $p = 2f + 1$ . This implies that  $n'_l(s_1) = 0$ ,  $n''_l(s_1) = d$  and  $n_s(s_1) = 0$  if  $p \geq 3$  or  $d = 1$ , and  $n'_l(s_1) = d$ ,  $n''_l(s_1) = d$  and  $n_s(s_1) = d - 1$  otherwise. So we have  $n(s_1) = d$  or  $3d - 1$  and (2.6.1) follows.

Let  $\Phi_{l,J}$  be the subset of  $\Phi_l$  defined in the beginning of the proof of Lemma 2.5. Set  $\Phi_{l,J}^+ = \Phi_{l,J} \cap \Phi_l^+$ . We define a subset  $\widetilde{W}^J$  of  $\widetilde{W}$  by

$$(2.6.2) \quad \widetilde{W}^J = \{w \in \widetilde{W} \mid w(\Phi_{l,J}^+) \subset \Phi_l^+, w(\Omega_s) \subset \Phi_{s,0}\}.$$

Then the following lemma holds.

**Lemma 2.7.** *Let  $w \in \widetilde{W}^J, w' \in W_J$ . Then we have*

$$(2.7.1) \quad \begin{aligned} \tilde{n}'_i(ww') &= \tilde{n}'_i(w'), \\ \tilde{n}''_i(ww') &= \tilde{n}''_i(w), \\ \tilde{n}_s(ww') &= \tilde{n}_s(w'). \end{aligned}$$

In particular,  $\tilde{n}(ww') = \tilde{n}(w) + \tilde{n}(w')$ .

*Proof.* Since  $\Omega'_i \subset \Phi_{i,J}^+$ , it follows from (2.6.2) that  $\tilde{n}'_i(w) = 0$ . (2.6.2) implies also  $\tilde{n}_s(w) = 0$ . On the other hand, we know that  $\tilde{n}''_i(w') = n''_i(w') = 0$  from the proof of Lemma 2.4. Hence the last formula follows from (2.7.1). We show (2.7.1). Since  $w(\Phi_{i,J}^-) \subset \Phi_i^-$ ,  $w'(\alpha)$  and  $ww'(\alpha)$  have the same sign for  $\alpha \in \Omega'_i$ . This implies the first assertion of (2.7.1). Let

$$\begin{aligned} \widetilde{\Omega}''_i &= \{e_i^{(a)} - e_j^{(b)} \mid -p/2 < \bar{a} < 0, \bar{a} + \bar{b} = 0, i > j\} \\ &\cup \{e_i^{(a)} - e_j^{(b)} \mid 0 < \bar{b} \leq p/2, \bar{a} + \bar{b} = \delta, i < j\}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $w'(\Omega''_i) \subset \Phi_i^{++}$ , we see that  $w'$  stabilizes  $\widetilde{\Omega}''_i$ . The second assertion follows from this if we notice that the definition of the sets  $\Phi_i^{++}$  or  $\Phi_i^{--}$  depends only on  $\bar{a}$  and  $\bar{b}$  for  $\alpha = e_i^{(a)} - e_j^{(b)}$ , and that  $\widetilde{\Omega}''_i$  has the same pattern as  $\Omega''_i$  for the action of  $w'$ . The last assertion is also immediate from (2.2.3). This proves the lemma. Q.E.D.

**2.8.** By modifying the definition in [BM2], we define an element  $w(a, m) \in \widetilde{W}$  for  $-p/2 < a \leq p/2, 1 \leq m \leq n$  as follows.

$$(2.8.1) \quad w(a, m) = \begin{cases} s_m \cdots s_2 t^a & \text{if } 0 < a \leq p/2, \\ s_m \cdots s_2 t^a s_2 \cdots s_m & \text{if } -p/2 < a \leq 0. \end{cases}$$

Let us define a subset  $\mathcal{N}$  of  $\widetilde{W}$  by

$$\mathcal{N} = \{w(a_1, 1)w(a_2, 2) \cdots w(a_n, n) \mid -p/2 < a_i \leq p/2\}.$$

We set  $\mathcal{N}' = \mathcal{N} \cap W$ . Then  $\mathcal{N}'$  can be written as

$$(2.8.2) \quad \mathcal{N}' = \{w(a_1, 1)w(a_2, 2) \cdots w(a_n, n) \in \mathcal{N} \mid \sum a_i \equiv 0 \pmod{p}\}.$$

Also we set  $W^J = \widetilde{W}^J \cap W$ . We have the following proposition.

**Proposition 2.9.** *The set  $\mathcal{N}$  (resp.  $\mathcal{N}'$ ) coincides with the set  $\widetilde{W}^J$  (resp.  $W^J$ ). Moreover,  $\mathcal{N}$  (resp.  $\mathcal{N}'$ ) gives rise to a system of complete representatives of left cosets  $\widetilde{W}/W_J$  (resp.  $W/W_J$ ), respectively.*

*Proof.* First we show that  $\mathcal{N}$  is contained in  $\widetilde{W}^J$ . Take  $\alpha = e_i^{(mp)} - e_j^{(m'p)} \in \Phi_{l,J}$ . Then for  $w \in \mathcal{N}$ ,  $w(\alpha)$  is expressed as  $w(\alpha) = e_k^{(mp+a_k)} - e_l^{(m'p+a_l)}$ , where  $a_k$  and  $a_l$  satisfy the following condition;

$$\begin{aligned} -p/2 < a_k \leq p/2, & \quad 0 < a_l \leq p/2 & \text{if } i > j, k < l, \\ -p/2 < a_k \leq 0, & \quad -p/2 < a_l \leq p/2 & \text{if } i > j, k > l, \\ -p/2 < a_k \leq p/2, & \quad -p/2 < a_l \leq 0 & \text{if } i < j, k < l, \\ 0 < a_k \leq p/2, & \quad -p/2 < a_l \leq p/2 & \text{if } i < j, k > l. \end{aligned}$$

Then it is easy to see that  $w(\alpha) \in \Phi_l^+$  exactly when  $m = 0$  if  $i > j$ , and when  $m' \neq 0$  if  $i < j$ . But this condition is equivalent to the condition that  $\alpha \in \Phi_{l,J}^+$ . It follows that  $w(\Phi_{l,J}^+) \subset \Phi_l^+$ . Next take  $e_i^{(0)} \in \Omega_s$ . Then we have  $w(e_i^{(0)}) = e_j^{(a_j)}$  for some  $j$  with  $-p/2 < a_j \leq p/2$ . This implies that  $w(\Omega_s) \subset \Phi_{s,0}$ . Hence we have  $\mathcal{N} \subset W^J$ .

Next we note that  $W^J$  is a subset of the set of left coset representatives of  $W$  by  $W_J$ . In fact assume that there exist  $w_1, w_2 \in W^J$  such that  $w_1 = w_2x$  with  $x \in W_J$ . Then by (2.7.1) in the proof of Lemma 2.7, we have  $n'_i(w_2x) = n'_i(x)$  and  $n'_i(w_1) = 0$ . Hence  $n'_i(x) = 0$ . Since the restriction of  $n'_i$  on  $W_J$  is the length function on  $W_J = G(d, 1, n)$ , we have  $x = 1$ . So  $w_1 = w_2$ .

It follows from the above remark that  $|\widetilde{W}^J| \leq |\widetilde{W}/W_J| = p^n$ . On the other hand, we have  $|\mathcal{N}| = p^n$ . (In fact, if  $w = w(a_1, 1) \cdots w(a_n, n) \in \mathcal{N}$ , then there exists  $e_i^{(0)}$  such that  $w(e_i^{(0)}) = e_n^{(a_n)}$ . Hence the elements in  $\mathcal{N}$  are parametrized by  $n$ -tuples  $(a_1, \dots, a_n)$  with  $-p/2 < a_i \leq p/2$ ). This shows that  $\mathcal{N} = \widetilde{W}^J$  gives a complete set of representatives for  $\widetilde{W}/W_J$ .

The statement for  $W$  follows from this by noticing that  $|\mathcal{N}'| = |W/W_J| = p^{n-1}$ . Q.E.D.

**Remark 2.10.** The above proposition shows that any element  $w \in \widetilde{W}$  (resp.  $w \in W$ ) can be expressed in a unique way as

$$(2.10.1) \quad w = w(a_1, 1)w(a_2, 2) \cdots w_n(a_n, n)w',$$

where  $w' \in W_J$  (resp. and  $\sum_i a_i \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ ). The numbers  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  occuring in the decomposition (2.10.1) can be interpreted directly as follows; since  $\widetilde{W} \simeq S_n \times (\mathbf{Z}/r\mathbf{Z})^n$ , an element  $w$  in  $\widetilde{W}$  can be written

in a form  $w = \sigma z$ , with  $\sigma \in S_n$  and  $z \in (\mathbf{Z}/r\mathbf{Z})^n$ . Note that  $z$  can be written uniquely as  $z = (z_1, \dots, z_n)$  with  $z_i \in \mathbf{Z}$  such that  $-r/2 < z_i \leq r/2$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . Each  $z_i$  determines an integer  $\bar{z}_i$  such that  $-p/2 < \bar{z}_i \leq p/2$ , and that  $\bar{z}_i \equiv z_i \pmod{p}$  as in 2.2. Under these notations, we have  $a_i = \bar{z}_i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . See also 3.2 for more details.

We shall compute the values  $\tilde{n}_i''(w)$  for  $w \in \mathcal{N}$ , and  $n_i''(w)$  for  $w \in \mathcal{N}'$ .

**Lemma 2.11.** *The following formulae hold.*

$$(i) \quad \tilde{n}_i''(w(a, m)) = \begin{cases} d(m-1)(2a-1) & \text{if } 0 < a \leq p/2, \\ d(m-1)(-2a) & \text{if } -p/2 < a \leq 0. \end{cases}$$

(ii) For  $w = w(a_1, 1)w(a_2, 2) \cdots w(a_n, n) \in \mathcal{N}$  we have,

$$(2.11.1) \quad \tilde{n}_i''(w) = \sum_{i=1}^n \tilde{n}_i''(w(a_i, i)).$$

Moreover, the function  $\tilde{n}_i''$  coincides with  $\tilde{n}$  on  $\mathcal{N}$ . In particular, if  $w \in \mathcal{N}'$ , the value  $n(w)$  is given by the right hand side of (2.11.1).

*Proof.* First we show (i). Let  $w = w(a, m)$ . Assume that  $0 < a \leq p/2$ . Then  $w = s_m s_{m-1} \cdots s_2 t^a$ . Take  $\alpha = e_i^{(b)} - e_j^{(kp-b)} \in \Omega_i''$ , where  $i > j$  and  $-p/2 < b < 0$ . Then  $w(\alpha)$  becomes positive unless  $j = 1, i \leq m$ . In that case we have  $w(\alpha) = e_{i-1}^{(b)} - e_m^{(kp-b+a)}$ , and  $w(\alpha) < 0$  if and only if  $-p/2 < -b+a \leq 0$ . This condition is equivalent to  $p/2 < a-b < p$ , and we have

$$\begin{aligned} \#\{\alpha = e_i^{(b)} - e_j^{(kp-b)} \in \Omega_i'' \mid w(\alpha) < 0\} \\ = \#\{\alpha \mid p/2 < a-b < p, 0 \leq k < d, 2 \leq i \leq m\} \\ = \begin{cases} d(m-1)(a-1) & \text{if } p \text{ is even,} \\ d(m-1)a & \text{if } p \text{ is odd.} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Next take  $\alpha = e_i^{(mp-b+\delta)} - e_j^{(b)} \in \Omega_i''$ , where  $i < j$  and  $0 < b \leq p/2$ . A similar consideration as above shows that  $w(\alpha) < 0$  if and only if  $i = 1$  and  $0 < a-b+\delta \leq p/2$ . Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \#\{\alpha = e_i^{(mp-b+\delta)} - e_j^{(b)} \in \Omega_i'' \mid w(\alpha) < 0\} \\ = \#\{\alpha \mid 0 < a-b+\delta \leq p/2, 0 \leq k < d, 2 \leq j \leq m\}, \\ = \begin{cases} d(m-1)a & \text{if } p \text{ is even,} \\ d(m-1)(a-1) & \text{if } p \text{ is odd.} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

It follows that  $\tilde{n}_l''(w) = d(m-1)(2a-1)$ .

Next assume that  $-p/2 < a \leq 0$ . Then  $w = s_m \cdots s_2 t^a s_2 \cdots s_m$ . First take  $\alpha = e_i^{(b)} - e_j^{(kp-b)}$ , where  $i > j$  and  $-p/2 < b < 0$ . Then  $w(\alpha)$  is positive unless  $i = m$ . In that case,  $w(\alpha) = e_m^{(a+b)} - e_j^{(kp-b)}$  and  $w(\alpha) < 0$  if and only if  $0 < \overline{a+b} \leq p/2$ . This implies that  $-p < a+b \leq -p/2$ , and we have

$$\begin{aligned} \#\{\alpha = e_i^{(b)} - e_j^{(kp-a)} \in \Omega_l'' \mid w(\alpha) < 0\} \\ = \#\{\alpha \mid -p < a+b \leq -p/2, 0 \leq k < d, 1 \leq j < m\} \\ = d(m-1)(-a). \end{aligned}$$

Next take  $\alpha = e_i^{(kp-b+\delta)} - e_j^{(b)}$ , where  $i < j$  and  $0 < b \leq p/2$ . Then  $w(\alpha)$  is positive unless  $j = m$ . In that case  $w(\alpha) = e_i^{(kp-b+\delta)} - e_m^{(a+b)}$ , and  $w(\alpha) < 0$  if and only if  $-p/2 < \overline{a+b} \leq 0$ . Hence we have

$$\begin{aligned} \#\{\alpha = e_i^{(kp-b+\delta)} - e_j^{(b)} \in \Omega_l'' \mid w(\alpha) < 0\} \\ = \{\alpha \mid -p/2 < a+b \leq 0, 0 \leq k < d, 1 \leq i < m\} \\ = d(m-1)(-a) \end{aligned}$$

It follows that  $\tilde{n}_l''(w) = (m-1)d(-2a)$ , and we get (i).

Next we show (ii). Take  $\alpha = e_i^{(b)} - e_j^{(mp-b)} \in \Omega_l''$ , with  $i > j$ , and assume that  $w(\alpha) < 0$ . Now  $w(\alpha)$  can be written as  $w(\alpha) = e_k^{(b+a_k)} - e_l^{(mp-b+a_l)}$  for some  $k, l$ . First consider the case where  $k > l$ . Let  $w' = w(a_{k+1}, k+1) \cdots w(a_n, n)$ . Then  $w'(\alpha)$  can be written as  $w'(\alpha) = e_k^{(b)} - e_{j'}^{(mp-b)}$  for some  $j' < k$ . It follows that  $\beta = w'(\alpha) \in \Omega_l''$  and  $w(a_k, k)\beta < 0$ . If  $k < l$ , we consider  $w'' = w(a_{l+1}, l+1) \cdots w(a_n, n)$  instead of  $w'$ . Then  $w''(\alpha)$  can be written as  $w''(\alpha) = e_{i'}^{(b)} - e_1^{(mp-b)}$  for some  $i' > 1$ . Hence  $\beta = w''(\alpha) \in \Omega_l''$  and  $w(a_l, l)\beta < 0$ . Conversely, we take  $\beta = e_{i'}^{(b)} - e_{j'}^{(mp-b)} \in \Omega_l''$  with  $i' > j'$ , and assume that  $w(a_k, k)\beta < 0$ . Then  $i' = k$  or  $j' = 1$ . If we set  $\alpha = w'^{-1}(\beta)$ , then we see that  $\alpha = e_i^{(b)} - e_j^{(mp-b)} \in \Omega_l''$  with  $i > j$ , and that  $w(\alpha) < 0$ .

A similar fact as above also holds for  $\alpha = e_i^{(mp-b+\delta)} - e_j^{(b)} \in \Omega_l''$ . (Here,  $\beta = e_{i'}^{(mp-b+\delta)} - e_k^{(b)}$  with  $i' < k$ , or  $\beta = e_1^{(mp-b+\delta)} - e_{j'}^{(b)}$  with  $1 < j'$ , and so  $\beta \in \Omega_l''$ ). This proves (2.10.1).

Finally, assume that  $w \in \mathcal{N}'$ . Then  $n(w) = \tilde{n}_l''(w)$  by (2.7.1). Hence (2.10.1) gives the value  $n(w)$ . Q.E.D.

**Remark 2.12.** If  $p \geq 3$  or  $d = 1$ , then  $s_1 = w(-1, 1)w(1, 2) \in \mathcal{N}'$ . While if  $p = 2, d \neq 1$ , we have  $s_1 = ww'$  with  $w = w(1, 1)w(1, 2) \in \mathcal{N}'$

and  $w' = s_2 t^{-2} s_2 \in W_J$ . Here  $n(w) = d$  and  $n(w') = n_J(w') = 2d - 1$ . So, in this case we have  $n(s_1) = 3d - 1$  by Lemma 2.7. This justifies (2.6.1).

**2.13.** For a complex reflection group  $G$ , we denote by  $P_G(q)$  the Poincaré polynomial associated to the coinvariant algebra of  $G$ . The Poincaré polynomial  $P_W(q)$  for  $W = G(r, p, n)$  is given as

$$(2.13.1) \quad P_W(q) = \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{q^{ri} - 1}{q - 1} \cdot \frac{q^{dn} - 1}{q - 1}.$$

Then the following proposition holds.

**Proposition 2.14.** *We have*

$$\frac{1}{p} \sum_{w \in \widetilde{W}} q^{\tilde{n}(w)} = \sum_{w \in W} q^{n(w)} = P_W(q).$$

*Proof.* We show the second equality. By Lemma 2.7 and Proposition 2.9, we have

$$(2.14.1) \quad \sum_{w \in W} q^{n(w)} = \sum_{w \in \mathcal{N}'} q^{(n(w))} \sum_{w \in W_J} q^{n(w)}.$$

Now  $W_J$  is isomorphic to  $G(d, 1, n)$  and the restriction of  $n$  on  $W_J$  coincides with  $n_J$  by Lemma 2.5. Hence by [BM1, Prop. 2.12] we have

$$(2.14.2) \quad \sum_{w \in W_J} q^{n(w)} = P_{G(d,1,n)}(q) = \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{q^{di} - 1}{q - 1}.$$

On the other hand, in the expression  $w = \sum_i w(a_i, i) \in \mathcal{N}'$ , we can choose  $a_2, \dots, a_n$  freely, and  $a_1$  is determined uniquely by  $a_2, \dots, a_n$ . Moreover, we have  $\tilde{n}'_i(w(a, 1)) = 0$  by Lemma 2.11. Hence again by using Lemma 2.10, we have

$$(2.14.3) \quad \sum_{w \in \mathcal{N}'} q^{n(w)} = \prod_{i=2}^n \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} q^{dk(i-1)} = \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{q^{ri} - 1}{q^{di} - 1}.$$

Substituting (2.14.2) and (2.14.3) into (2.14.1), we get the second equality. The formula  $\frac{1}{p} \sum_{w \in \widetilde{W}} q^{\tilde{n}(w)} = P_W(q)$  can be proved in a similar way if one notices that

$$\sum_{w \in \mathcal{N}} q^{\tilde{n}(w)} = \prod_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} q^{dk(i-1)}.$$

Q.E.D.

§3. A characterization of the function  $\tilde{n}$

3.1. In this section we shall characterize the length function  $\tilde{n}$  in terms of a certain length function on  $\widetilde{W}$ , which is defined independent of the root system. We use the same notation as in Remark 2.10.

Let  $\widetilde{W}_0 = G(2, 1, n)$  be the Weyl group of type  $B_n$ . We define a map  $\varphi : \widetilde{W} \rightarrow \widetilde{W}_0$  by  $\varphi(w) = \sigma(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n)$ , where  $w = \sigma(z_1, \dots, z_n)$  is as above, and  $\varepsilon_i$  is determined by

$$\varepsilon_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \bar{z}_i > 0, \\ 0 & \text{if } \bar{z}_i \leq 0. \end{cases}$$

(Here we use the same notation for  $\widetilde{W}_0$  as the special case  $r = 2$  for  $G(r, 1, n)$ ). Let us define a length function  $\ell_1 : \widetilde{W} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$  as follows. For  $w = \sigma z$ , we put  $\ell_1(w) = \ell_0(\varphi(w))$ , where  $\ell_0$  is the length function on  $\widetilde{W}_0$  with respect to the long roots. (More precisely, using the basis  $e_1, \dots, e_n$  of  $V$ , the set of long roots  $\Phi_l \subset V$  associated to  $\widetilde{W}_0$  is given as  $\Phi_l = \{\pm e_i \pm e_j \mid 1 \leq i, j \leq n, i \neq j\}$ , on which  $\widetilde{W}_0$  acts naturally. Now the set  $\Phi_l^+$  of positive roots is given as  $\Phi_l^+ = \{e_i \pm e_j \mid i > j\}$ . For  $w' \in \widetilde{W}_0$ , we put  $\ell_0(w') = |\Phi_l^+ \cap -w'(\Phi_l^+)|$ ). Next we define a function  $\ell_2 : \widetilde{W} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$  by  $\ell_2(w) = \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{z}_i$ , where

$$\hat{z}_i = \begin{cases} 2z_i - 1 & \text{if } z_i > 0, \\ -2z_i & \text{if } z_i \leq 0. \end{cases}$$

Then we define a length function  $\ell$  by  $\ell = \ell_1 + \ell_2$ . It is clear from the definition that if  $r = 2$ ,  $\ell_2$  coincides with the length function of  $W_0$  with respect to short roots, and so the function  $\ell$  coincides with the usual length function of the Weyl group of type  $B_n$ .

3.2. Let  $w = w(a_1, 1) \cdots w(a_n, n)$  be an element in  $\mathcal{N}$ . The expression  $w = \sigma z$  of  $w$  as in 3.1 can be described as follows. Let  $I = \{1 \leq i \leq n \mid a_i > 0\}$ , and  $J$  the complement of  $I$  in  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ . We write  $I = \{i_1 > i_2 > \dots > i_k\}$  with  $k = |I|$ , and  $J = \{j_1 < j_2 < \dots < j_l\}$  with  $l = |J|$ . Set

$$(3.2.1) \quad \sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & \cdots & k & k+1 & \cdots & n \\ i_1 & i_2 & \cdots & i_k & j_1 & \cdots & j_l \end{pmatrix}.$$

and

$$(3.2.2) \quad z = (a_{i_1}, \dots, a_{i_k}, a_{j_1}, \dots, a_{j_l}) \in \mathbf{Z}_{>0}^k \times \mathbf{Z}_{\leq 0}^l.$$

Then we have  $w = \sigma z$ . Conversely, any element  $w = \sigma z$  with  $\sigma, z$  defined as above in terms of  $I, J$ , together with the condition that  $-p/2 < a_i \leq p/2$ , gives an element of  $\mathcal{N}$ . These facts can be checked by using the induction on  $n$ .

Now  $\varphi(w) \in \widetilde{W}_0$  can be expressed as a signed permutation,

$$(3.2.3) \quad \varphi(w) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & \cdots & k & k+1 & \cdots & n \\ -i_1 & -i_2 & \cdots & -i_k & j_1 & \cdots & j_l \end{pmatrix}.$$

From this we see that the set  $\{\varphi(w) \mid w \in \widetilde{W}\}$  coincides with the set of distinguished representatives for the set  $\widetilde{W}_0/S_n$ .

We have the following lemma.

**Lemma 3.3.** *Let  $\mathcal{N}$  and  $W_J$  be as before. Then for each  $w \in \mathcal{N}$ ,  $w$  is the unique minimal length element in the coset  $wW_J$  with respect to  $\ell$ . In other words,*

$$\mathcal{N} = \{w \in \widetilde{W} \mid \ell(w) \leq \ell(ww') \text{ for any } w' \in W_J\}.$$

*Proof.* Let  $w = \sigma z \in \mathcal{N}$ . To prove the lemma, it is enough to show  $\ell(w) < \ell(ww')$  for any  $w' \in W_J - \{1\}$ . Since  $w' \in W_J$ , one can write  $w' = \sigma' z'$  with  $\sigma' \in S_n$  and  $z' = (z'_1, \dots, z'_n)$  such that  $z'_i \equiv 0 \pmod p$ . Here  $\sigma' \neq 1$  or  $z' \neq 0$ . Then  $ww' = \overline{\sigma\sigma'\sigma'^{-1}}(z)z'$ , and  $\sigma'^{-1}(z)_i = z_{\sigma'(i)}$ . Since  $z'_i \equiv 0 \pmod p$ , we have  $\overline{z_{\sigma'(i)} + z'_i} = \bar{z}_{\sigma'(i)}$ . Hence  $\varphi(ww') = \varphi(w)\sigma'$ . But since  $\varphi(w)$  is a distinguished representative for the cosets  $\widetilde{W}_0/S_n$ , we see that  $\ell_1(w) < \ell_1(ww')$  if  $\sigma' \neq 1$ .

Next we show that  $\ell_2(w) < \ell_2(ww')$  if  $z' \neq 0$ . We may assume that  $r \neq p$ . By our assumption, we have  $-p/2 < z_{\sigma'(i)} \leq p/2$ , and  $z'_i \equiv 0 \pmod p$ . If  $z_{\sigma'(i)}$  and  $z'_i$  have the same sign, clearly  $|z_{\sigma'(i)} + z'_i| > |z_{\sigma'(i)}|$ . (In this case, if  $|z_{\sigma'(i)} + z'_i| > r/2$ , one has to replace  $z_{\sigma'(i)} + z'_i$  by  $z_{\sigma'(i)} + z'_i \pm r$ . But since  $r \neq p$ , still the inequality holds). Now assume that  $z_{\sigma'(i)}$  and  $z'_i$  have the distinct sign. Then we have  $|p - z_{\sigma'(i)}| \geq |z_{\sigma'(i)}|$ , and the equality holds only when  $z_{\sigma'(i)} = p/2$ . So the only case we have to care about is the case that  $z_{\sigma'(i)} = p/2$  and  $z'_i = -p$ . But in this case,  $(z_{\sigma'(i)} + z'_i)^\wedge = p > \hat{z}_{\sigma'(i)} = p - 1$ . This shows that  $\ell_2(w) < \ell_2(ww')$  if  $z' \neq 0$ . Hence we have  $\ell(w) < \ell(ww')$  if  $w' \neq 1$  as asserted. Q.E.D.

**3.4.** Let  $I = \{t^p, s_1, s_2, \dots, s_{n-1}\}$  be a subset of  $S$ , and we consider the subgroup  $\widetilde{W}_I$  of  $\widetilde{W}$  generated by  $I$ . Hence  $\widetilde{W}_I$  is isomorphic to  $G(r, p, n - 1)$ . We set  $\mathcal{D} = \{w(a, n) \mid -p/2 < a \leq p/2\}$ . Then we have the following lemma.

- Lemma 3.5.** (i) *The set  $\mathcal{D}$  is a set of complete representatives of the double cosets  $\widetilde{W}_I \backslash \widetilde{W} / W_J$ .*  
(ii) *For  $w = w(a_1, 1) \cdots w(a_n, n) \in \mathcal{N}$ , we have  $\ell(w) = \sum_i \ell(w(a_i, i))$ .*  
(iii) *The set  $\mathcal{D}$  is characterized as the set of elements  $w \in \widetilde{W}$  such that  $w$  is the unique minimal length element in  $\widetilde{W}_I w W_J$  with respect to  $\ell$ .*

*Proof.* We know already by Remark 2.10 that  $\widetilde{W} = \widetilde{W}_I D W_J$ . On the other hand, let  $x = w(a, n) \in \mathcal{D}$ . Then any element  $y \in \widetilde{W}_I x W_J$  has the property that  $y$  maps some  $e_i^{(0)}$  to  $e_n^{(a')}$  with  $a' \equiv a \pmod{p}$ . This implies that the double cosets are disjoint for distinct elements in  $\mathcal{D}$ , and we get (i).

We show (ii). Let  $w \in \mathcal{N}$ . Then by using (3.2.3), one can check that  $\varphi(w) = \varphi(w(a_1, 1)) \cdots \varphi(w(a_n, n))$ , and that  $\varphi(w(a_n, n))$  is a distinguished representatives for the cosets  $(\widetilde{W}_I)_0 \backslash \widetilde{W}_0$ . (Here  $(\widetilde{W}_I)_0$  denotes the subgroup of  $\widetilde{W}_0$  of type  $B_{n-1}$  obtained from  $\widetilde{W}_I$ ). Hence the function  $\ell_0$  is additive with respect to the decomposition of  $\varphi(w)$ , and so we have  $\ell_1(w) = \sum_i \ell(w(a_i, i))$ . On the other hand, if we write  $w = \sigma z$  as in 3.2,  $z$  is given as in (3.2.2). This implies that  $\ell_2(w) = \sum_i \ell_2(w(a_i, i))$ , and the assertion follows.

Finally we show (iii). Take  $x = w(a, n) \in \mathcal{D}$ . Then by Remark 2.10, any element  $y \in \widetilde{W}_I x W_J$  can be written uniquely as  $y = w_1 x w_2$  with  $w_1 \in \mathcal{N}_I$  and  $w_2 \in W_J$ . (Here  $\mathcal{N}_I = \mathcal{N} \cap \widetilde{W}_I$ ). Then by Lemma 3.3,  $\ell(w_1 x) \leq \ell(w_1 x w_2)$ , where the equality holds only when  $w_2 = 1$ . On the other hand, by (ii), we have  $\ell(w_1 x) = \ell(w_1) + \ell(x)$ . Hence (iii) holds. Q.E.D.

**Remark 3.6.** The set  $\mathcal{N}$  (resp.  $\mathcal{D}$ ) is also characterized as the set of minimal length elements in each coset in  $\widetilde{W} / W_J$  (resp.  $\widetilde{W}_I \backslash \widetilde{W} / W_J$ ) by Proposition 2.9 and Lemma 2.11.

**3.7.** We now give a characterization of the function  $\tilde{n}$  in terms of the function  $\ell$ . In some sense this gives a characterization of the function  $n$  on  $W$  since  $\tilde{n}|_W = n$ . Note that by Lemma 3.3 and Lemma 3.5, the sets  $\mathcal{N}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$  are determined by the function  $\ell$  independently of the choice of the root system.

**Theorem 3.8.** *Assume that  $d \neq 1$ . Then the function  $\tilde{n} : \widetilde{W} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$  is the unique function satisfying the following properties.*

- (i) *The restriction of  $\tilde{n}$  on  $W_J$  (resp. on  $\widetilde{W}_I$ ) coincides with  $n_J$  (resp.  $\tilde{n}_I$ ), where  $\tilde{n}_I$  denotes the function on  $\widetilde{W}_I = G(r, 1, n - 1)$  defined in a similar way as  $\tilde{n}$  on  $\widetilde{W}$ .*

- (ii) For  $w \in \mathcal{N}$ ,  $w' \in W_J$ , we have  $\tilde{n}(ww') = \tilde{n}(w) + \tilde{n}(w')$ . For  $w \in \mathcal{N}_I$ ,  $w' \in \mathcal{D}$ , we have  $\tilde{n}(ww') = \tilde{n}(w) + \tilde{n}(w')$ .
- (iii) Let  $g$  be an element in  $\widetilde{W}$  which is conjugate to  $t$ , with  $g \neq t$ . Set  $\alpha = p/2$  if  $p$  is even, and  $\alpha = -(p-1)/2$  if  $p$  is odd. Then we have

$$0 < \tilde{n}(g) < \tilde{n}(g^{-1}) < \tilde{n}(g^2) < \tilde{n}(g^{-2}) < \dots < \tilde{n}(g^\alpha),$$

$$(iv) \frac{1}{p} \sum_{w \in \widetilde{W}} q^{\tilde{n}(w)} = P_W(q).$$

*Proof.* We have already seen in section 2 that  $\tilde{n}$  satisfies the condition (i), (ii) and (iv). We show that  $\tilde{n}$  satisfies (iii). Take  $g \in \widetilde{W}$  as in (iii). Then  $g$  can be written as  $g = s_i s_{i-1} \dots s_2 t s_2 \dots s_{i-1} s_i$  for some  $i \geq 2$ . Hence we have

$$(3.8.1) \quad g^a = \begin{cases} w(a, i) s_i \dots s_2 & \text{if } 0 < a \leq p/2, \\ w(a, i) & \text{if } -p/2 < a \leq 0. \end{cases}$$

Since  $s_i \dots s_2 \in W_J$ , the length  $\tilde{n}(g^a)$  can be computed by Lemma 2.7 and Lemma 2.11, as follows.

$$\tilde{n}(g^a) = \begin{cases} (i-1)\{d(2a-1) + 1\} & \text{if } 0 < a \leq p/2, \\ (i-1)(-2ad) & \text{if } -p/2 < a \leq 0. \end{cases}$$

Since  $d \neq 1$ , the condition (iii) is verified by using the above formula.

Next we show the uniqueness of  $\tilde{n}$ . If  $n = 1$ ,  $\widetilde{W}$  is the cyclic group generated by  $t$  and  $W_J$  is the subgroup of  $\widetilde{W}$  generated by  $t^p$ . Hence it is determined by the conditions (i) and (ii). So we assume that  $n > 1$ . By (i) and (ii), it is enough to see that  $\tilde{n}(w)$  is determined uniquely for  $w \in \mathcal{D}$ . Let  $w = w(a, n) \in \mathcal{D}$  and set  $c(a) = \tilde{n}(w)/(n-1)$ . Then by (iv), we have

$$(3.8.2) \quad \{c(a) \mid -p/2 < a \leq p/2\} = \{0, d, 2d, \dots, (p-1)d\}.$$

Since  $|\mathcal{D}| = p$ ,  $c(a)$  are all distinct. On the other hand, let  $g = s_n \dots s_2 t s_2 \dots s_n$ . Then by (3.8.1) and (ii), we have

$$\tilde{n}(g^a) = \begin{cases} (n-1)(c(a) + 1) & \text{if } 0 < a \leq p/2, \\ (n-1)c(a) & \text{if } -p/2 < a \leq 0. \end{cases}$$

Hence by using (iii), we have

$$c(i) + 1 < c(-i) < c(i+1) + 1$$

for  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ . Since  $c(a) \equiv 0 \pmod{d}$ , and  $d \neq 1$ , we have  $c(i) < c(-i) < c(i+1)$ . It follows, by (3.8.2), that we have

$$c(a) = \begin{cases} (2a-1)d & \text{if } a > 0, \\ (-2a)d & \text{if } a \leq 0. \end{cases}$$

The function  $\tilde{n}$  is now determined on  $\mathcal{D}$ , and so the theorem follows. Q.E.D.

**Remark 3.9.** In the case where  $d = 1$ , the property (iii) in the theorem does not hold. Instead, we have the following relation.

$$(iii') \quad 0 < \tilde{n}(g) = \tilde{n}(g^{-1}) < \tilde{n}(g^2) = \tilde{n}(g^{-2}) < \dots \leq \tilde{n}(g^\alpha).$$

Then the function  $\tilde{n}$  is characterized by the properties (i)  $\sim$  (iv), but replacing (iii) by (iii'). In fact, by a similar argument as above, we have

$$c(i) + 1 = c(-i) < c(i+1) + 1$$

for  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ . Thus  $c(i)$  is the smallest integer among all the  $c(a)$  such that  $|a| \geq i$ . Since the set  $\{c(a) \mid -p/2 < a \leq p/2\}$  coincides with the set  $\{0, 1, \dots, p-1\}$ , this determines  $c(i)$  and so  $c(-i)$  successively for  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ . Hence the function  $\tilde{n}$  is determined uniquely.

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