# Factorizations of a Coxeter element and discriminant of a reflection group 

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Combinatorial Algebra meets Algebraic Combinatorics
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Invariant theory of
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$\mathrm{NC}(W)=\left\{w \mid \ell(w)+\ell\left(w^{-1} c\right)=\ell(c)\right\}=\{$ "block factors" of $c\}$

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## Theorem (R.)

Let $\wedge$ be a conjugacy class of elements of length 2 in W. Call submaximal factorizations of $c$ of type $\wedge$ the block factorizations containing $n-2$ reflections and one element (of length 2) in the conjugacy class $\wedge$. Then, their number is:

$$
\left|\operatorname{FACT}_{n-1}^{\wedge}(c)\right|=\frac{(n-1)!h^{n-1}}{|W|} \operatorname{deg} D_{\wedge},
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where $D_{\wedge}$ is a homogeneous polynomial constructed from the geometry of the discriminant hypersurface of W.

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- We will suppose that $f_{n}$ is the invariant of highest degree.


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## Example $W=A_{3}$ : discriminant ("swallowtail")

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hypersurface $\mathcal{H}$ (discriminant) $\subseteq W \backslash V \simeq \mathbb{C}^{3}$

## Example of $W=A_{3}$ : stratification of the discriminant



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## Bifurcation locus

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If $W$ is a real (or complex well-generated) reflection group, then the discriminant $\Delta_{W}$ is monic of degree $n$ in the variable $f_{n}$.

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## Definition

The bifurcation locus of $\Delta_{W}$ (w.r.t. $f_{n}$ ) is the hypersurface of $\mathbb{C}^{n-1}$ :

$$
\mathcal{K}:=\left\{D_{W}=0\right\}
$$

## Example of $A_{3}$ : bifurcation locus $\mathcal{K}$



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$\rightsquigarrow$ we can write $D_{W}=\prod_{\Lambda \in \overline{\mathcal{L}}_{2}} D_{\Lambda}^{r_{\Lambda}}$, where $r_{\Lambda} \geq 1$ and the $D_{\Lambda}$ are polynomials in $f_{1}, \ldots, f_{n-1}$.

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$\rightsquigarrow$ we can write $D_{W}=\prod_{\Lambda \in \overline{\mathcal{L}}_{2}} D_{\Lambda}^{r_{\Lambda}}$, where $r_{\Lambda} \geq 1$ and the $D_{\Lambda}$ are polynomials in $f_{1}, \ldots, f_{n-1}$.

## Theorem (R.)

For $\Lambda \in \overline{\mathcal{L}}_{2}$, the number of submaximal factorizations of $c$ of type $\wedge$ (i.e., whose unique length 2 element lies in the conjugacy class $\Lambda$ ) is:

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\left|\operatorname{FACT}_{n-1}^{\wedge}(c)\right|=\frac{(n-1)!h^{n-1}}{|W|} \operatorname{deg} D_{\wedge} .
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## Submaximal factorizations of type $\wedge$

$\overline{\mathcal{L}}_{2}:=\{$ strata of $\overline{\mathcal{L}}$ of codimension 2$\}$
$\leftrightarrow \quad$ \{conjugacy classes of elements of $\mathrm{NC}(W)\}$

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$\square$ - Fuß-Catalan - Proof - End $\square>$

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## Corollary

The number of block factorisations of a Coxeter element c in $n-1$ factors is:

$$
\left|\operatorname{FACT}_{n-1}(c)\right|=\frac{(n-1)!h^{n-1}}{|W|}\left(\frac{(n-1)(n-2)}{2} h+\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} d_{i}\right)
$$

where $d_{1}, \ldots, d_{n}=h$ are the invariant degrees of $W$.

## Conclusion

- We discovered an new manifestation of the deep connections between the geometry of $W$ and the combinatorics of $\mathrm{NC}(W)$.


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## Thank you!

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## Fuß-Catalan combinatorics

Chapoton's formula for multichains in $\mathrm{NC}(W)$
Suppose $W$ irreducible of rank $n$, and let $c$ be a Coxeter element.
The number of "broad" block factorisations of $c$ in $p+1$ factors is the Fuß-Catalan number of type $W$

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\operatorname{Cat}^{(p)}(W)=\prod_{i=1}^{n} \frac{d_{i}+p h}{d_{i}},
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Proof: [Athanasiadis, Reiner, Bessis...] case-by-case.

- Our corollary is also a consequence of Chapoton's formula;
- but the proof is geometric and more enlightening: we travelled from the numerology of $\mathrm{FACT}_{n}(c)$ to that of $\mathrm{FACT}_{n-1}(c)$, without adding any case-by-case analysis.


## Some ingredients of the proof

- Lyashko-Looijenga morphism LL:

$$
y \in Y=\operatorname{Spec} \mathbb{C}\left[f_{1}, \ldots, f_{n-1}\right] \mapsto \text { multiset of roots of } \Delta_{w}\left(y, f_{n}\right)
$$

- Construction of topological factorisations: [Bessis, R.]

$$
\text { facto }: Y \rightarrow \operatorname{FACT}(c) .
$$

- Fundamental property that the product map:

$$
Y \xrightarrow{\mathrm{LL} \times \text { facto }} E_{n} \times \mathrm{FACT}(c)
$$

is injective, and its image is the set of "compatible" pairs. In other words, the map facto induces a bijection between any fiber $L L L^{-1}(\omega)$ and the set of factorisations of same "composition" as $\omega$.

- Consequently, we can use some algebraic properties of LL to obtain cardinalities of certain fibers, and deduce enumeration of certain factorisations.


## Lyashko-Looijenga morphism and topological factorisations crasm topeon



