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

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LaCIM — UQÀM

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## Geometry and combinatorics of finite reflection groups

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 $V_{\mathbb{R}}$  : real vector space of finite dimension.

• We will consider W acting on the complex vector space  $V := V_{\mathbb{R}} \otimes \mathbb{C}$ .

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Invariant theory of W (geometry of the discriminant  $\Delta_W$ )

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Invariant theory of W (geometry of the  $\leftrightarrow$  discriminant  $\Delta_W$ )

Combinatorics of the noncrossing partition lattice of *W* (factorizations of a Coxeter element)

• Consider the generating set *R* := {**all** reflections of *W*}.

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 $\mathsf{NC}(W) = \{ w \mid \ell(w) + \ell(w^{-1}c) = \ell(c) \} = \{ \text{"block factors" of } c \}$ 

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#### Theorem (R.)

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

$$|\operatorname{FACT}_{n-1}^{\Lambda}(c)| = rac{(n-1)! \ h^{n-1}}{|W|} \deg D_{\Lambda} \ ,$$

where  $D_{\Lambda}$  is a homogeneous polynomial constructed from the geometry of the discriminant hypersurface of W.

## Intersection lattice and parabolic subgroups

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 $\mathcal{A} := \{ \text{reflecting hyperplanes of } W \}.$ 

Stratification of V with the "flats" (intersection lattice):

 $\mathcal{L} := \left\{ \bigcap_{H \in \mathcal{B}} H \mid \mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{A} \right\}$ 



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Stratification of *V* with the "flats" (intersection lattice):

$$\mathcal{L} := \{ \bigcap_{H \in \mathcal{B}} H \mid \mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{A} \} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathsf{PSG}(W) \text{ (parabolic subgps of } W) \\ \mathcal{L} \mapsto W_L \text{ (pointwise stabilizer of } L)$$

A parabolic subgroup is a reflection group [Steinberg].

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$$\begin{array}{rcccc} L_0 \in \mathcal{L} & \leftrightarrow & W_0 \in \mathsf{PSG}(W) & \leftarrow & c_0 \text{ parabolic Coxeter elt} \\ \mathsf{codim}(L_0) & = & \mathsf{rk}(W_0) & = & \ell_R(c_0) \end{array}$$

## The quotient-space V/W

*W* acts on the polynomial algebra  $\mathbb{C}[V]$ .



Chevalley-Shephard-Todd's theorem

There exist invariant polynomials  $f_1, \ldots, f_n$ , homogeneous and algebraically independent, s.t.  $\mathbb{C}[V]^W = \mathbb{C}[f_1, \ldots, f_n]$ .

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 $\stackrel{\rightsquigarrow}{\to} \text{isomorphism:} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} V/W & \stackrel{\sim}{\to} & \mathbb{C}^n \\ \bar{v} & \mapsto & (f_1(v), \dots, f_n(v)). \end{array}$ 

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- We will suppose that *f<sub>n</sub>* is the invariant of highest degree.
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$$\prod_{H \in \mathcal{A}} \alpha_{H}^{2} \in \mathbb{C}[V]$$
  
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#### Proposition

The set  $\overline{\mathcal{L}}$  is in canonical bijection with:

• the set of conjugacy classes of parabolic subgroups of W;

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- the set of conjugacy classes of elements of NC(W) (block factors of the fixed c).

### Example $W = A_3$ : discriminant ("swallowtail")

$$\bigcup_{H\in\mathcal{A}}H\subseteq V$$



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### Example $W = A_3$ : discriminant ("swallowtail")



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

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Theorem (Orlik-Solomon, Bessis)

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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So if we fix  $f_1, \ldots, f_{n-1}$ , the polynomial  $\Delta_W$ , as a polynomial in  $f_n$ , has generically *n* roots...

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#### Definition

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

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



### $\mathcal{H} \subseteq \mathit{W} \backslash \mathit{V} \simeq \mathbb{C}^3$

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### Submaximal factorizations of type A

- $\overline{\mathcal{L}}_2 := \{ \text{strata of } \overline{\mathcal{L}} \text{ of codimension } 2 \}$ 
  - $\leftrightarrow$  {conjugacy classes of elements of NC(W)}

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### Proposition

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For  $\Lambda \in \overline{\mathcal{L}}_2$ , the number of submaximal factorizations of c of type  $\Lambda$  (i.e., whose unique length 2 element lies in the conjugacy class  $\Lambda$ ) is:

$$|\operatorname{FACT}_{n-1}^{\Lambda}(c)| = rac{(n-1)! \ h^{n-1}}{|W|} \deg D_{\Lambda} \ .$$

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Fuß-Catalan

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#### Corollary

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

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

where  $d_1, \ldots, d_n = h$  are the invariant degrees of W.

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Chapoton's formula for multichains in 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

$$\operatorname{Cat}^{(p)}(W) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} \frac{d_i + ph}{d_i},$$

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Return to thm End

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- Our corollary is also a consequence of Chapoton's formula;
- but the proof is geometric and more enlightening: we travelled from the numerology of FACT<sub>n</sub>(c) to that of FACT<sub>n-1</sub>(c), without adding any case-by=case analysis. I= ∽ac

## Some ingredients of the proof

Return to thm End

Lyashko-Looijenga morphism LL: • Picture

 $y \in Y = \operatorname{Spec} \mathbb{C}[f_1, \dots, f_{n-1}] \mapsto$ multiset of roots of  $\Delta_W(y, f_n)$ .

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

 $\underline{facto}: Y \to FACT(c)$ .

• Fundamental property that the product map:

 $Y \xrightarrow{\mathsf{LL} \times \underline{\mathsf{facto}}} E_n \times \mathsf{FACT}(c)$ 

is injective, and its image is the set of "compatible" pairs. In other words, the map <u>facto</u> induces a bijection between any fiber  $LL^{-1}(\omega)$  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 • Return to proof

