# Factorizations of a Coxeter element in finite reflection groups

#### Vivien RIPOLL

LaCIM Université du Québec à Montréal

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Factorizations of a Coxeter element

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 $FACT_p(c) := \{block \text{ factorizations of } c \text{ in } p \text{ factors} \}.$ 

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#### Theorem (R.)

Let  $\Lambda$  be a conjugacy class of elements of length 2 of 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.

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Absolute order  $\preccurlyeq_R$  on W

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- if  $W = \mathfrak{S}_n$ , NC(W)  $\simeq$  lattice of noncrossing partitions of an *n*-gon.

Suppose W irreducible of rank n, and let c be a Coxeter element. The number of multichains  $w_1 \preccurlyeq_R w_2 \preccurlyeq_R \dots \preccurlyeq_R w_p \preccurlyeq_R c$  is equal to the "Fuß-Catalan number of type W"

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 $\rightsquigarrow$  how to understand this formula uniformly ?

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 $\sim$  we get an instance of Chapoton's formula, with a more enlightening proof:

### Corollary

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

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

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# Intersection lattice and parabolic subgroups

Complexify V and  $W \subseteq GL(V)$ .

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

 $\mathcal{L} := \left\{ \bigcap_{H \in \mathcal{B}} H \mid \mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{A} \right\} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathsf{PSG}(W) \quad \text{(parabolic subgps of } W)$ 

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

# The quotient-space V/W

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#### 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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$$\stackrel{\text{$\sim\sim$ isomorphism:}}{\sim} V/W \stackrel{\sim}{\rightarrow} \mathbb{C}^n \\ \bar{v} \mapsto (f_1(v), \dots, f_n(v)).$$

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

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

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

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 $D_W := \mathsf{Disc}(\Delta_W(f_1, \ldots, f_n) ; f_n) \in \mathbb{C}[f_1, \ldots, f_{n-1}].$ 

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  $\mathbb{C}^{n-1}$ :

$$\mathcal{K} := \{D_W = 0\}$$

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

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### Bifurcation locus $\mathcal{K}$



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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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# LL morphism and topological factorisations



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 new manifestation of the mysterious connections between the geometry of W and the combinatorics of NC(W).

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# Takk! - Merci! - Thank you!

**Reference:** *Lyashko-Looijenga morphisms and submaximal factorisations of a Coxeter element*, arXiv:1012.3825.