

# Refined Cyclic Sieving on Words and Tableaux

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based on joint work with  
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# The Cyclic Sieving Phenomenon (CSP)

Definition (Reiner–Stanton–White, 2004)

Take  $(X, C, f(q))$  where  $X$  is a finite set,  $C$  is a finite cyclic group acting on  $X$ , and  $f(q) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}[q]$ .

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We say  $(X, C, f(q))$  exhibits *the cyclic sieving phenomenon (CSP)* if for all  $c \in C$  and roots of unity  $\omega \in \mathbb{C}$  of the same order as  $c$ ,

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$$\#\{x \in X : c \cdot x = x\} = f(\omega).$$

(Equivalently,  $f(\omega)$  is  $\text{Tr}_{\mathbb{C}\{X\}}(c)$ . Note  $f(1) = \#X$ .)

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## Example

Let  $X = \binom{[n]}{k}$  and let  $C = \mathbb{Z}/n$  act on  $X$  by addition mod  $n$ : if  $n = 6, k = 3$ , then

$$\bar{2} \cdot \{2, 3, 5\} = \{4, 5, 1\}.$$



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Recall:

- ▶  $\binom{(n)}{k}_q := \frac{[n]_q!}{[k]_q! [n-k]_q!}$
- ▶  $[n]_q! := [n]_q [n-1]_q \cdots [1]_q$
- ▶  $[c]_q := 1 + q + \cdots + q^{c-1}$

# CSP Refinements

## Notation

Given  $\text{stat}: X \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , write

$$\chi^{\text{stat}}(q) := \sum_{x \in X} q^{\text{stat}(x)} \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}[q].$$

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Note  $X^{\text{stat}}(1) = \#X$ .

In *many* CSP triples,  $f(q) = X^{\text{stat}}(q)$  for some  $\text{stat}$ .

## Example

$$\binom{n}{k}_q = \binom{[n]}{k}^{\text{Sum}'}(q) \text{ where } \text{Sum}'(A) = \left(\sum_{a \in A} a\right) - (1 + 2 + \cdots + k).$$

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Take  $X = \begin{pmatrix} [6] \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $Y = \mathbb{Z}/6 \cdot \{2, 3, 4\}$

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Take  $X = \binom{[6]}{3}$ ,  $Y = \mathbb{Z}/6 \cdot \{2, 3, 4\}$ . Then

$Y^{\text{Sum}'}(q) = 1 + 2q^3 + 2q^6 + q^9$ , and

$$Y^{\text{Sum}'}(1) = 6, \quad Y^{\text{Sum}'}(-1) = 0,$$

$$Y^{\text{Sum}'}(\omega_3) = 6, \quad Y^{\text{Sum}'}(\omega_6) = 0.$$

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We would need  $Y^{\text{Sum}'}(\omega_3) = 0$ , not 6. So,  $(Y, \mathbb{Z}/n, Y^{\text{Sum}'}(q))$  does NOT quite refine the RSW CSP  $(X, \mathbb{Z}/n, X^{\text{Sum}'}(q))$ .

## A First Refinement Result

The *cyclic blocks* of a subset of  $[n]$  are maximal sequences of adjacent elements in the subset, where 1 is considered adjacent to  $n$ . (Ex:  $\{1, 2, 4, 6\} \subset [6]$  has two cyclic blocks, 612 and 4.)

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Here  $X^{\text{Sum}'}(q)$  is “equivalent” to  $\binom{n}{k}_q$ , so the unrefined triple is essentially RSW’s.



# Word Combinatorics

## Definition

Given a word  $w = w_1 \cdots w_n$  with letters  $w_i \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 1}$ , the *descent set* of  $w$  is

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(Ex: If  $w = 323314$ , then  $\text{Des}(w) = \{1, 4\}$ ,  $\text{maj}(w) = 1 + 4 = 5$ , and  $\alpha = (1, 1, 3, 1)$ .)

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## Remark

They actually proved a generalization valid for all finite Coxeter groups using Springer's regular elements, representation theory, coinvariant algebras, and  $\text{len}$  instead of  $\text{maj}$ .



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## Notation

Let

$$W_{\alpha, \delta} := \text{words } w \text{ with content } \alpha \text{ and } \text{CDT}(w) = \delta.$$

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Theorem (Ahlbach-S.)

$(W_{\alpha,\delta}, \mathbb{Z}/n, W_{\alpha,\delta}^{\text{maj}}(q))$  refines the CSP triple  $(W_{\alpha}, \mathbb{Z}/n, W_{\alpha}^{\text{maj}}(q))$ .

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## Remark

Completely different proof than RSW. Combinatorial and largely recursive. Involves Carlitz-style decomposition, (more or less new) notion of “modular periodicity,” a CSP extension lemma, a non-equivariant-but-fixed-point-preserving bijection, products of CSP’s on sets and multisets.

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## Theorem (Ahlbach-S.)

Let  $\alpha \vDash n$  be a strong composition with  $m$  parts,  $\delta \vDash k$ ,  $n_i := |w^{(i)}|$ ,  $k_i := \text{cdes}(w^{(i)})$ ,  $d := \text{gcd}(n, k)$ . Then, modulo  $q^n - 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} W_{\alpha, \delta}^{\text{maj}}(q) &\equiv \frac{d}{\alpha_1} [n/d]_{q^d} \prod_{\ell=2}^m q^{k_\ell \alpha_\ell} \binom{n_{\ell-1} - k_{\ell-1}}{\delta_\ell}_q \binom{k_\ell}{\alpha_\ell - \delta_\ell}_{q^{-1}} \\ &\equiv \frac{d}{\alpha_1} [n/d]_{q^d} q^\eta \prod_{\ell=2}^m \binom{n_{\ell-1} - k_{\ell-1}}{\delta_\ell}_q \binom{k_\ell}{\alpha_\ell - \delta_\ell}_q \end{aligned}$$

where  $\eta := \binom{k}{2} + \sum_{\ell=2}^m \binom{\delta_\ell}{2} - \alpha_1$ .



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## Definition

Given  $\lambda \vdash n - 1$ , let  $\lambda^\square \vdash n$  be the following “slightly skew partition”:

$$\lambda = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square & \\ \hline \square & \square & \\ \hline \end{array} \Rightarrow \lambda^\square = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline & & & \square \\ \hline \square & \square & \square & \\ \hline \square & \square & & \\ \hline \square & \square & & \\ \hline \end{array}$$

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## Remark

Elizalde–Roichman (2017) defined a bijection

$\sigma: \text{SYT}(\lambda^\square) \rightarrow \text{SYT}(\lambda^\square)$  whose orbits are size  $n$ .

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- (i)  $\text{cDes}(T) \cap [n-1] = \text{Des}(T)$
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Proof reduces to showing  $[n]_q$  divides  $\text{SYT}(\lambda^\square)^{\text{maj}}(q)$ . Follows from

$$\begin{aligned} \text{SYT}(\lambda^\square)^{\text{maj}}(q) &= \binom{n}{n-1, 1}_q \text{SYT}(\lambda)^{\text{maj}}(q) \text{SYT}(\square)^{\text{maj}}(q) \\ &= [n]_q \text{SYT}(\lambda)^{\text{maj}}(q). \end{aligned}$$

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## Remark

Showing  $[n]_q \mid \text{SYT}(\lambda^\square; k)^{\text{maj}}(q)$  is significantly more involved. Uses an inner product formula of Adin–Reiner–Roichman (2017) for Elizalde–Roichman’s cyclic descent extensions, a “change of basis,” and the  $W_{\alpha, \delta}^{\text{maj}}(q)$  product formula above.

## Further work

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- ▶ Give a representation-theoretic proof of  $W_{\alpha,\delta}$  result



Thanks!

THANKS!