# A Combinatorial Proof of the Cyclic Sieving Phenomenon for Faces of Coxeterhedra 

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Based on joint work with S.-P. Eu and Y.-J. Pan

## Cyclic sieving phenomenon

- $X$ : a finite set
- $X(q)$ : a polynomial in $\mathbb{Z}[q](X(1)=|X|)$
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Definition (Reiner-Stanton-White 2004)
The triple $(X, X(q), C)$ exhibits the cyclic sieving phenomenon (CSP) if, for every $c \in C$, we have

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\left|X^{c}\right|=X\left(\omega_{o(c)}\right)
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Note. The case $|C|=2$ was first studied by Stembridge and called the " $q=-1$ phenomenon".

## Example

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For example, consider $n=4$ and $k=2$. We have

$$
\begin{aligned}
X & =\{12,13,14,23,24,34\} \\
C & =\{e,(1,2,3,4),(1,3)(2,4),(1,4,3,2)\}
\end{aligned}
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$$

For $c=(1,3)(2,4)$, we have

$$
\begin{array}{lll}
c(12)=34, & c(13)=13, & c(14)=23 \\
c(34)=12, & c(24)=24, & c(23)=14
\end{array}
$$

A $q$-polynomial for $X(q)$
Let $[n]_{q}=1+q+\cdots+q^{n-1}$ and $[n]_{q}!=[1]_{q}[2]_{q} \cdots[n]_{q}$.

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\begin{gathered}
{\left[\begin{array}{l}
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2
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\omega=1 \Rightarrow\left[\begin{array}{l}
4 \\
2
\end{array}\right]_{q=1}=1+1+2+1+1=6 \\
\text { Then } \omega=-1 \Rightarrow\left[\begin{array}{l}
4 \\
2
\end{array}\right]_{q=-1}=1-1+2-1+1=2 \\
\omega=-i
\end{gathered} \quad \Rightarrow\left[\begin{array}{l}
4 \\
2
\end{array}\right]_{q=-i}=1-i-2+i+1=0 .
$$

## An instance of CSP

Theorem (Reiner-Stanton-White)
The following triple exhibits the CSP

$$
\left(\binom{[n]}{k},\left[\begin{array}{l}
n \\
k
\end{array}\right]_{q}, C\right),
$$

where $C=\langle(1, \ldots, n)\rangle$.

## An equivalent condition for CSP

If $X(q)$ is expanded as

$$
X(q) \equiv a_{0}+a_{1} q+\cdots+a_{n-1} q^{n-1} \quad\left(\bmod q^{n}-1\right)
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where $n=|C|$, then $a_{k}$ counts the number of orbits whose stabilizer-order divides $k$.

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In particular,

- $a_{0}$ is the total number of orbits.
- $a_{1}$ the number of free orbits (i.e., of size $n$ ).
- $a_{2}-a_{1}$ is the number of orbits of size $\frac{n}{2}$.


## Permutation polytopes

The permutohedron $\mathrm{PA}_{n-1}$ of dimension $n-1$ is the the convex hull of all permutations of the vector $(1, \ldots, n) \in \mathbb{R}^{n}$.

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Figure: The permutohedron $\mathrm{PA}_{2}$

## An instance of CSP

- $X$ : vertex set of $\mathrm{PA}_{2}$
- $X(q)=[3]_{q}!\equiv 2 q^{2}+2 q+2\left(\bmod q^{3}-1\right)$
- $C=\mathbb{Z} / 3 \mathbb{Z}$ acts on $X$ by rotating the coordinates

Then $(X, X(q), C)$ exhibits the CSP.

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- $X$ : edge set of $\mathrm{PA}_{2}$
- $X(q)=\left[\begin{array}{l}3 \\ 1\end{array}\right]_{q}+\left[\begin{array}{l}3 \\ 2\end{array}\right]_{q} \equiv 2 q^{2}+2 q+2\left(\bmod q^{3}-1\right)$
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Then $(X, X(q), C)$ exhibits the CSP.

## The permutohedron $\mathrm{PA}_{3}$



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- Vertex $\left(\sigma^{-1}(1), \ldots, \sigma^{-1}(n)\right) \in \mathbb{R}^{n}$ is labeled by $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_{n}$.
- Two vertices are adjacent iff the corresponding permutations differ by an adjacent transposition.


## Description for faces of $\mathrm{PA}_{n-1}$

Theorem (Billera-Sarangarajan 1996)
The face lattice of the permutohedron $P A_{n-1}$ is isomorphic to the lattice of all ordered partitions of the set $\{1, \ldots, n\}$, ordered by refinement.

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Face numbers
For $2 \leq k \leq n$, the number of $(n-k)$-faces in $\mathrm{PA}_{n-1}$ is given by

$$
k!\cdot S_{n, k}
$$

where $S_{n, k}$ is the Stirling number of the second kind.

## The facets of $\mathrm{PA}_{n-1}$



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facet-orbits: | 1.234 | 12.34 | 13.24 | 123.4 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2.134 | 23.14 | 24.13 | 234.1 |
| 3.124 | 34.12 |  | 134.2 |
| 4.123 | 14.23 |  | 124.3 |

## Face numbers of $\mathrm{PA}_{n-1}$

Let $x_{n, k}=k!S_{n, k}$. Then $x_{n, k}$ satisfies the following recurrence relation

$$
x_{n, k}= \begin{cases}1 & \text { if } k=1 \\ \sum_{i=1}^{n-k+1}\binom{n}{i} x_{(n-i, k-1)} & \text { if } 2 \leq k \leq n\end{cases}
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For example,

$$
\begin{aligned}
& x_{n, 2}=\binom{n}{1}+\binom{n}{2}+\cdots+\binom{n}{n-1}, \\
& x_{n, 3}=\binom{n}{1} x_{n-1,2}+\binom{n}{2} x_{n-2,2}+\cdots+\binom{n}{n-2} x_{2,2} .
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Note that $x_{n, 2}$ is number of facets of $\mathrm{PA}_{n-1}$.

## A feasible $q$-polynomial for face numbers

Let $X(n, k ; q) \in \mathbb{Z}[q]$ be the polynomial recursively defined by

$$
X(n, k ; q)= \begin{cases}1 & \text { if } k=1 \\
\sum_{i=1}^{n-k+1}\left[\begin{array}{c}
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For example, take $n=4$ and $k=2$,

$$
\begin{aligned}
X(4,2 ; q) & =\left[\begin{array}{l}
4 \\
1
\end{array}\right]_{q}+\left[\begin{array}{l}
4 \\
2
\end{array}\right]_{q}+\left[\begin{array}{l}
4 \\
3
\end{array}\right]_{q} \\
& \equiv 4+3 q+4 q^{2}+3 q^{3}\left(\bmod q^{4}-1\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

## $q$-Lucas Theorem

Theorem ( $q$-Lucas Theorem)
Let $\omega$ be a primitive dth root of unity. If $n=a d+b$ and $k=r d+s$, where $0 \leq b, s \leq q-1$, then

$$
\left[\begin{array}{l}
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e.g., for $n=4$ and $d=2$, then $\omega=-1$ and $\left[\begin{array}{l}4 \\ 2\end{array}\right]_{q=-1}=\binom{2}{1}$.

## The CSP for faces of $\mathrm{PA}_{n-1}$

## Proposition

For $d \geq 2$ a divisor of $n$, let $\omega$ be a primitive $d$ th root of unity. Then

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[X(n, k ; q)]_{q=\omega}= \begin{cases}x_{\left(\frac{n}{d}, k\right)} & \text { if } n \geq k d \\ 0 & \text { otherwise. }\end{cases}
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For $d \geq 2$ a divisor of $n$, let $C_{d}$ be the subgroup of order $d$ of $C$, and let $X_{n, k, d}$ be the set of $(n-k)$-faces of $P A_{n-1}$ that are invariant under $C_{d}$. Then

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\left|X_{n, k, d}\right|= \begin{cases}x_{\left(\frac{n}{d}, k\right)} & \text { if } n \geq k d \\ 0 & \text { otherwise } .\end{cases}
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$$

Count the number of $k$-block ordered partitions of $[n]$ that are invariant under

$$
\begin{aligned}
C_{d}= & \left\langle\left(1, \frac{n}{d}+1, \ldots, \frac{n}{d}(d-1)+1\right)\right. \\
& \left.\left(2, \frac{n}{d}+2, \ldots, \frac{n}{d}(d-1)+2\right) \cdots\left(\frac{n}{d}, \frac{2 n}{d}, \ldots, n\right)\right\rangle .
\end{aligned}
$$

Algebraic Background: Coxeter system ( $W, S$ )
$W=A_{n-1}$, the Coxeter group of type $\mathbf{A}$

- Group $A_{n-1}=\mathfrak{S}_{n}$, the symmetric group on the set $[n]$


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- The Coxeter element $c=s_{1} s_{2} \cdots s_{n-1}=(1,2, \ldots, n) \in \mathfrak{S}_{n}$ generates a cyclic group of order $n$.


## Example: permutohedron $A_{3}$

- $W=\mathfrak{S}_{4}$.
- $S=\left\{s_{1}, s_{2}, s_{3}\right\}$, i.e., $s_{1}=(1,2), s_{2}=(2,3), s_{3}=(3,4)$.


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| $J \subseteq S$ | $\left\{s_{2}, s_{3}\right\}$ | $\left\{s_{1}, s_{3}\right\}$ | $\left\{s_{1}, s_{2}\right\}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1234,1342 | 1234 | 1234,2314 |
| $W_{J}$ | 1243,1423 | 2134 | 1324,3124 |
|  | 1324,1432 | 2143 | 2134,3214 |
|  |  | 1243 |  |

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|  | $\mathbf{1 . 2 3 4}$ | $\mathbf{1 2 . 3 4}$ | $\mathbf{1 2 3 . 4}$ |

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| $w W_{J}$ | 3.124 | 14.23 | 134.2 |
| (cosets) | 4.134 | $\mathbf{2 3 . 1 4}$ | $\mathbf{1 2 4 . 3}$ |
|  |  | 24.13 |  |
|  |  | 34.12 |  |

## Coxeterhedron

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The Coxeterhedron PW associated to $(W, S)$ is the finite poset of all cosets $\left\{w W_{J}\right\}_{w \in W, J \subseteq S}$ of all parabolic subgroups of $W$, ordered by inclusion.

## $W=B_{n}$, the Coxeter group of type B

- The group $B_{n}$ is the group of all signed permutations $w$ on the set $\{ \pm 1, \pm 2, \ldots, \pm n\}$ such that $w(-i)=-w(i)$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$.


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- The Coxeter generators $\left\{s_{1}, \ldots, s_{n}\right\}$ of $B_{n}$ are defined by

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
s_{i}=(i, i+1)(-i,-i-1), \quad 1 \leq i \leq n-1 \\
s_{n}=(n,-n)
\end{array}\right.
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- The Coxeter element
$c=s_{1} \cdots s_{n}=(1,2, \ldots, n,-1,-2, \ldots,-n)$ generates a cyclic group of order $2 n$.


## Notation for signed permutations

Given $w \in B_{n}$, let $w=w_{1} w_{2} \cdots w_{n}$, where

$$
w_{i}= \begin{cases}j & \text { if } w_{i}=+j \\ \bar{j} & \text { if } w_{i}=-j\end{cases}
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## Notation for signed permutations

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$$
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$$

For example,

$$
\begin{array}{lllll}
B_{2} \text { consists of } & \begin{array}{lll}
12, & \overline{1} 2, & 1 \overline{2}, \\
21, & \overline{2} 1, & 2 \overline{12}, \\
\hline 21
\end{array}
\end{array}
$$

## The coxeterhedron $\mathrm{PB}_{2}$



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Under the cyclic group action generated by $c=(1,2,-1,-2)$, there are 2 free vertex-orbits and 2 free edge-orbits.

## $W=D_{n}$, the Coxeter group of type D

- The group $D_{n}$ is the subgroup of $B_{n}$ consisting of all signed permutations with an even number of sign changes.


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- The Coxeter generators $\left\{s_{1}, \ldots, s_{n}\right\}$ of $D_{n}$ are defined by

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
s_{i}=(i, i+1)(-i,-i-1), \quad 1 \leq i \leq n-1 \\
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- The Coxeter element $c=s_{1} \cdots s_{n}=$ $(1,2, \ldots, n-1,-1,-2, \ldots,-n+1)(n,-n)$ generates a cyclic group of order $2 n-2$.


## Reiner-Ziegler's representation for faces of PW

Representing the faces $w W_{J}$ of PW by boxed ordered partitions:

| $13.4 \cdot 256$ | $\longleftrightarrow$ | $314652 W_{\left\{s_{1}, s_{4}, s_{5}\right\}}$ | in $\mathrm{PA}_{5}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $1 \overline{3} \cdot 4 \cdot \overline{2} 5 \overline{6}$ | $\longleftrightarrow$ | $\overline{3} 14 \overline{6} 5 \overline{2} W_{\left\{s_{1}, s_{4}, s_{5}\right\}}$ | in $\mathrm{PB}_{6}$ |
| $1 \overline{3} \cdot 4 \cdot .256$ | $\longleftrightarrow$ | $\overline{3} 14 \overline{6} 5 \overline{2} W_{\left\{s_{1}, s_{4}, s_{5}, s_{6}\right\}}$ | in $\mathrm{PB}_{6}$ |
| $1 \overline{3} \cdot 4 . \overline{256}$ | $\longleftrightarrow$ | $\overline{3} 14 \overline{652} W_{\left\{s_{1}, s_{4}, s_{5}\right\}}$ | in $\mathrm{PD}_{6}$ |
| $1 \overline{3} \cdot 4 . \overline{25 \overline{6}}$ | $\longleftrightarrow$ | $\overline{3} 14 \overline{652} W_{\left\{s_{1}, s_{4}, s_{5}, s_{6}\right\}}$ | in $\mathrm{PD}_{6}$ |
| $1 \overline{3} \cdot 4 \cdot . \overline{2 \overline{5} .6}$ | $\longleftrightarrow$ | $\overline{3} 14 \overline{652} W_{\left\{s_{1}, s_{4}, s_{6}\right\}}$ | in $\mathrm{PD}_{6}$ |

## Face numbers of PW

For the groups $W=A_{n-1}, B_{n}, D_{n}$, the number $f_{W}(k)$ of $(n-k)$-faces of the Coxeterhedron PW is given by

$$
\begin{aligned}
f_{A_{n-1}}(k)= & x_{n, k} \\
f_{B_{n}}(k)= & \sum_{j=0}^{n-k}\binom{n}{j} x_{(n-j, k)} \cdot 2^{n-j}, \\
f_{D_{n}}(k)= & \left(2 x_{n, k}-n \cdot x_{(n-1, k-1)}\right) \cdot 2^{n-1} \\
& \quad+\sum_{j=2}^{n-k}\binom{n}{j} x_{(n-j, k)} \cdot 2^{n-j},
\end{aligned}
$$

where $x_{n, k}= \begin{cases}1 & \text { if } k=1 \\ \sum_{i=1}^{n-k+1}\binom{n}{i} x_{(n-i, k-1)} & \text { if } 2 \leq k \leq n .\end{cases}$

## $q$-polynomials for face numbers of PW

For the groups $W=A_{n-1}, B_{n}, D_{n}$, the number $f_{W}(k)$ of ( $n-k$ )-faces of the Coxeterhedron PW is given by

$$
\begin{aligned}
f_{A_{n-1}}(k ; q)= & X(n, k ; q), \\
f_{B_{n}}(k ; q)= & \sum_{j=0}^{n-k}\left[\begin{array}{l}
n \\
j
\end{array}\right]_{q} X(n-j, k ; q) \prod_{i=j+1}^{n}\left(1+q^{i}\right), \\
f_{D_{n}}(k ; q)= & \left(2 X(n, k ; q)-\left[\begin{array}{l}
n \\
1
\end{array}\right]_{q} X(n-1, k-1 ; q)\right) \prod_{i=1}^{n-1}\left(1+q^{i}\right) \\
& +\sum_{j=2}^{n-k}\left[\begin{array}{l}
n \\
j
\end{array}\right]_{q} X(n-j, k ; q) \prod_{i=j}^{n-1}\left(1+q^{i}\right) .
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$$

## Poincaré polynomials

For a subset $W^{\prime} \subseteq W$, let $W^{\prime}(q)$ be the Poincaré polynomial of $W^{\prime}$, which is defined by

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W^{\prime}(q):=\sum_{w \in W^{\prime}} q^{\ell(w)}
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The cardinality and Poincaré polynomial of $W$ are given by

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|W|=\prod_{i=1}^{|S|}\left(e_{i}+1\right), \quad W(q)=\prod_{i=1}^{|S|}\left[e_{i}+1\right]_{q}
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| $\Phi$ | $e_{1}, \ldots, e_{n}$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| $A_{n}$ | $1,2,3, \ldots, n$ |
| $B_{n}$ | $1,3,5, \ldots, 2 n-1$ |
| $D_{n}$ | $1,3,5, \ldots, 2 n-3, n-1$ |

## The number of cosets for parabolic subgroups

For any parabolic subgroup $W_{J}$ and $J \subseteq S$,

- the diagram for $\left(W_{J}, J\right)$ is obtained from the diagram for ( $W, S$ ) by removing all nodes in $S \backslash J$,


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- $\left|W_{J}\right|$ and $W_{J}(q)$ can be expressed in terms exponents as a product derived from the connected components of the diagram for $W_{J}$,
- $\left|W^{J}\right|=|W| /\left|W_{J}\right|$ and $W^{J}(q)=W(q) / W_{J}(q)$.


## The CSP for faces of Coxeterhedron

Theorem (Reiner-Stanton-White 2004)
For a Coxeter system $(W, S)$ and $J \subseteq S$, let $C$ be a cyclic group generated by a regular element. Let $X$ be the set of cosets $W / W_{J}$, and $X(q):=W^{J}(q)$. Then the triple $(X, X(q), C)$ exhibits the cyclic sieving phenomenon.

## Remarks

We prove a special case of Theorem [RSW] with the following restrictions.

- The cyclic group we considered is generated by a Coxeter element, while Theorem [RSW] holds for the cyclic group generated by a regular element.


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- The CSP that we show is collectively on the set of all cosets $\cup_{J \subseteq S,|J|=n-k} W / W_{J}$, while Theorem [RSW] shows a refinement of such phenomenon that holds individually for each $W_{J}$ on the cosets $W / W_{J}$.
- The polynomial $f_{W}(k ; q)$ that we use is exactly the sum of the Poincaré polynomials $W^{J}(q)$ for all $J \subseteq S$ and $|J|=n-k$, while in Theorem [RSW] a single polynomial $W^{J}(q)$ is used.

