

# Positive $m$ -divisible non-crossing partitions and their cyclic sieving

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Let  $W$  be a finite real reflection group.

The *absolute length* (*reflection length*)  $\ell_T(w)$  of an element  $w \in W$  is defined by the smallest  $k$  such that

$$w = t_1 t_2 \cdots t_k,$$

where all  $t_i$  are reflections.

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The *absolute order* (*reflection order*)  $\leq_T$  is defined by

$$u \leq_T w \quad \text{if and only if} \quad \ell_T(u) + \ell_T(u^{-1}w) = \ell_T(w).$$

# $m$ -divisible non-crossing partitions associated with reflection groups

## Definition (ARMSTRONG)

The  $m$ -divisible non-crossing partitions for a reflection group  $W$  are defined by

$$NC^{(m)}(W) = \{(w_0; w_1, \dots, w_m) : w_0 w_1 \cdots w_m = c \text{ and} \\ \ell_T(w_0) + \ell_T(w_1) + \cdots + \ell_T(w_m) = \ell_T(c)\},$$

where  $c$  is a Coxeter element in  $W$ .

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In particular,

$$NC^{(1)}(W) \cong NC(W),$$

the “ordinary” non-crossing partitions for  $W$ .

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## Combinatorial realisation in type $A$ (Armstrong)

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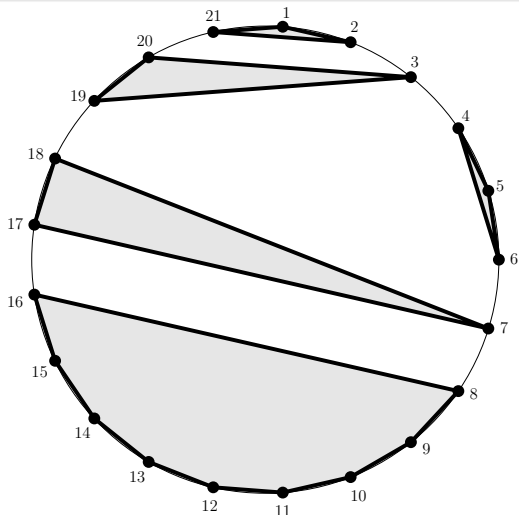
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$$(1, 2, \dots, 21) (7, 16)^{-1} (2, 20)^{-1} (3, 6, 18)^{-1} \\ = (1, 2, 21) (3, 19, 20) (4, 5, 6) (7, 17, 18) (8, 9, \dots, 16).$$

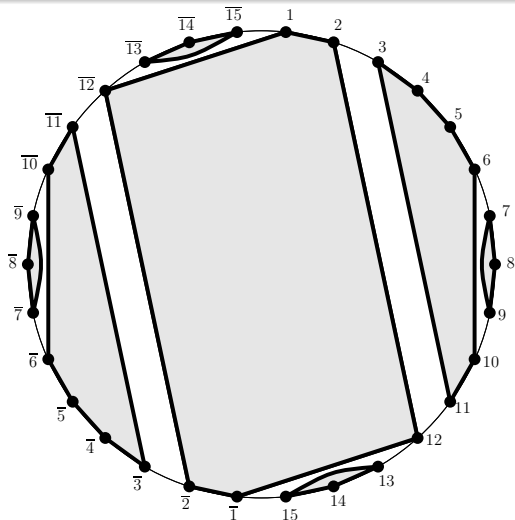
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A 3-divisible non-crossing partition of type  $A_6$

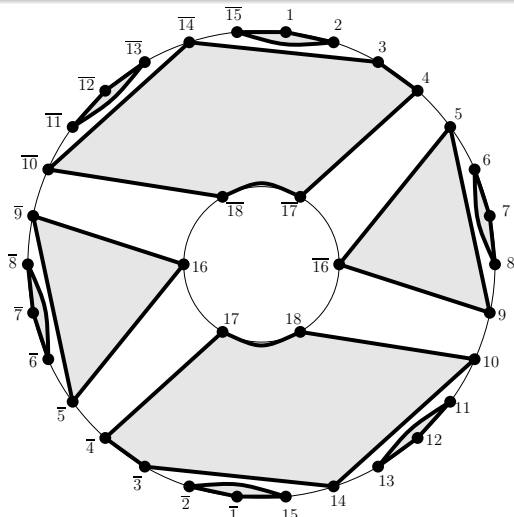


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A 3-divisible non-crossing partition of type  $B_5$

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A 3-divisible non-crossing partition of type  $D_6$

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These were defined by Buan, Reiten and Thomas, as an aside in “ *$m$ -noncrossing partitions and  $m$ -clusters.*” There, they constructed a bijection between the facets of the  $m$ -cluster complex of Fomin and Reading and the  $m$ -divisible non-crossing partitions of Armstrong.

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The positive  $m$ -clusters are those which do not contain any negative roots. They are enumerated by the *positive Fuß–Catalan numbers*

$$\text{Cat}_+^{(m)}(W) := \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{mh + d_i - 2}{d_i}.$$

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The image of the positive  $m$ -clusters under the Buan–Reiten–Thomas bijection constitutes the **positive  $m$ -divisible non-crossing partitions**.

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An  $m$ -divisible non-crossing partition  $(w_0; w_1, \dots, w_n)$  in  $NC^{(m)}(W)$  is **positive**, if and only if  $w_0 w_1 \cdots w_{m-1}$  is not contained in any proper standard parabolic subgroup of  $W$ .



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Let  $NC_+^{(m)}(W)$  denote the set of all positive  $m$ -divisible non-crossing partitions for  $W$ .

Trivial corollary:

$$|NC_+^{(m)}(W)| = \text{Cat}_+^{(m)}(W).$$

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Buan, Reiten and Thomas then write:

*“Other than that, there do not seem to be enumerative results known for these families.”*

# Enumeration of positive $m$ -divisible non-crossing partitions

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For “ordinary”  $m$ -divisible non-crossing partitions, closed-form enumeration results are known for:

- total number;
- number of those of given rank;
- number of those with given block sizes (in types  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $D$ );
- number of chains;
- number of chains with elements at given ranks;
- number of chains with elements at given ranks and bottom element with given block sizes (in types  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $D$ ).

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**Fact:** Under Armstrong's map, the elements of  $NC_+^{(m)}(A_{n-1})$  correspond to those  $m$ -divisible non-crossing partitions of  $\{1, 2, \dots, mn\}$  in which  $mn$  and  $1$  are in the same block.



## Theorem

*Let  $m, n$  be positive integers, The total number of positive  $m$ -divisible non-crossing partitions of  $\{1, 2, \dots, mn\}$  is given by*

$$\frac{1}{n} \binom{(m+1)n-2}{n-1}.$$

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## Theorem

Let  $m, n, l$  be positive integers, The number of multi-chains  $\pi_1 \leq \pi_2 \leq \dots \leq \pi_{l-1}$  in the poset of positive  $m$ -divisible non-crossing partitions of  $\{1, 2, \dots, mn\}$  is given by

$$\frac{1 + (l-1)(m-1)}{n-1} \binom{n-1 + (l-1)(mn-1)}{n-2}.$$

## Theorem

Let  $m$  and  $n$  be positive integers, For non-negative integers  $b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n$ , the number of positive  $m$ -divisible non-crossing partitions of  $\{1, 2, \dots, mn\}$  which have exactly  $b_i$  blocks of size  $mi$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , is given by

$$\frac{1}{mn-1} \binom{b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_n}{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n} \binom{mn-1}{b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_n}$$

if  $b_1 + 2b_2 + \dots + nb_n = n$ , and 0 otherwise.

## Theorem

Let  $m, n, l$  be positive integers, and let  $s_1, s_2, \dots, s_l$  be non-negative integers with  $s_1 + s_2 + \dots + s_l = n - 1$ . The number of multi-chains  $\pi_1 \leq \pi_2 \leq \dots \leq \pi_{l-1}$  in the poset of positive  $m$ -divisible non-crossing partitions of  $\{1, 2, \dots, mn\}$  with the property that  $\text{rk}(\pi_i) = s_1 + s_2 + \dots + s_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, l - 1$ , is given by

$$\frac{mn - s_2 - s_3 - \dots - s_l - 1}{(mn - 1)n} \binom{n}{s_1} \binom{mn - 1}{s_2} \dots \binom{mn - 1}{s_l}.$$

## Theorem

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$$\frac{mn - b_1 - b_2 - \dots - b_n}{(mn - 1)(b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_n)} \binom{b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_n}{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n} \times \binom{(l-1)(mn-1)}{b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_n - 1}$$

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## Theorem

Let  $m, n, l$  be positive integers, and let  $s_1, s_2, \dots, s_l, b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n$  be non-negative integers with  $s_1 + s_2 + \dots + s_l = n - 1$ . The number of multi-chains  $\pi_1 \leq \pi_2 \leq \dots \leq \pi_{l-1}$  in the poset of positive  $m$ -divisible non-crossing partitions of  $\{1, 2, \dots, mn\}$  with the property that  $\text{rk}(\pi_i) = s_1 + s_2 + \dots + s_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, l - 1$ , and that the number of blocks of size  $mi$  of  $\pi_1$  is  $b_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , is given by

$$\frac{mn - b_1 - b_2 - \dots - b_n}{(mn - 1)(b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_n)} \binom{b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_n}{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n} \times \binom{mn - 1}{s_2} \dots \binom{mn - 1}{s_l}$$

if  $b_1 + 2b_2 + \dots + nb_n = n$  and  $s_1 + b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_n = n$ , and 0 otherwise.

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**Fact:** Under Armstrong's map, the elements of  $NC_+^{(m)}(B_n)$  correspond to those  $m$ -divisible non-crossing partitions of  $\{1, 2, \dots, mn, -1, -2, \dots, -mn\}$  which are invariant under rotation by  $180^\circ$ , and in which **the block of 1 contains a negative element.**



# Enumeration in $NC_+^{(m)}(B_n)$

## Theorem

Let  $m, n, l$  be positive integers such that  $r \geq 2$  and  $r \mid mn$ . Furthermore, let  $s_1, s_2, \dots, s_l$  be non-negative integers with  $s_1 + s_2 + \dots + s_l = n$ . The number of multi-chains  $\pi_1 \leq \pi_2 \leq \dots \leq \pi_{l-1}$  in the poset of positive  $m$ -divisible non-crossing partitions in  $NC^{(m)}(B_n)$  which the property that  $\text{rk}(\pi_i) = s_1 + s_2 + \dots + s_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, l-1$ , and that the number of non-zero blocks of size  $mi$  of  $\pi_1$  is  $rb_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , is given by

$$\binom{b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_n}{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n} \binom{mn-1}{s_2} \dots \binom{mn-1}{s_l}.$$

Etc.

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**Fact:** Under CK's map, the elements of  $NC_+^{(m)}(D_n)$  correspond to those  $m$ -divisible non-crossing partitions on the annulus with  $\{1, 2, \dots, m(n-1), -1, -2, \dots, -m(n-1)\}$  on the outer circle and  $\{m(n-1)+1, \dots, mn, -m(n-1)-1, \dots, -mn\}$  on the inner circle which are invariant under rotation by  $180^\circ$ , satisfy the earlier mentioned and non-defined technical constraint, and in which **the block of 1 contains a negative element of the outer circle.**

# Enumeration in $NC_+^{(m)}(D_n)$

Under construction

# A Fundamental Principle of Combinatorial Enumeration (2004ff)



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Ingredients:

- a set  $M$  of *combinatorial objects*,
- a *cyclic group*  $C = \langle g \rangle$  acting on  $M$ ,
- a *polynomial*  $P(q)$  in  $q$  with non-negative integer coefficients.

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## Definition

The triple  $(M, C, P)$  exhibits the *cyclic sieving phenomenon* if

$$|\text{Fix}_M(g^p)| = P\left(e^{2\pi ip/|C|}\right).$$

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$$g : i \mapsto i + 1 \pmod{4}$$

$$P(q) = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}_q = 1 + q + 2q^2 + q^3 + q^4$$

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## Corollary

*The positive  $m$ -divisible non-crossing partitions satisfy the cyclic sieving phenomenon.*

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Let  $K : NC^{(m)}(W) \rightarrow NC^{(m)}(W)$  be the map defined by

$$(w_0; w_1, \dots, w_m) \\ \mapsto ((c w_m c^{-1}) w_0 (c w_m c^{-1})^{-1}; c w_m c^{-1}, w_1, w_2, \dots, w_{m-1}).$$

It generates a cyclic group of order  $mh$ .

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It generates a cyclic group of order  $mh$ .

Furthermore, let

$$\text{Cat}^{(m)}(W; q) := \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{[mh + d_i]_q}{[d_i]_q},$$

where  $[\alpha]_q := (1 - q^\alpha)/(1 - q)$ .

# A cyclic action for $m$ -divisible non-crossing partitions

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$$(w_0; w_1, \dots, w_m) \\ \mapsto ((cw_m c^{-1})w_0(cw_m c^{-1})^{-1}; cw_m c^{-1}, w_1, w_2, \dots, w_{m-1}).$$

It generates a cyclic group of order  $mh$ .

Furthermore, let

$$\text{Cat}^{(m)}(W; q) := \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{[mh + d_i]_q}{[d_i]_q},$$

where  $[\alpha]_q := (1 - q^\alpha)/(1 - q)$ .

**Theorem (with T. W. MÜLLER)**

*The triple  $(NC^{(m)}(W), \langle K \rangle, \text{Cat}^{(m)}(W; q))$  exhibits the cyclic sieving phenomenon.*



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## Theorem (with T. W. MÜLLER)

*Let  $NC^{(m;0)}(W)$  denote the subset of  $NC^{(m)}(W)$  consisting of those elements for which  $w_0 = \text{id}$ . Then the triple  $(NC^{(m;0)}(W), \langle K \rangle, \text{Cat}^{(m-1)}(W; q))$  exhibits the cyclic sieving phenomenon.*

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Bad news:

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Consequently: we have to modify the above action.

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Let  $K_+ : NC^{(m)}(W) \rightarrow NC^{(m)}(W)$  be the map defined by

$$(w_0; w_1, \dots, w_m) \\ \mapsto ((cw_{m-1}^R w_m c^{-1}) w_0 (cw_{m-1}^R w_m c^{-1})^{-1}; \\ cw_{m-1}^R w_m c^{-1}, w_1, \dots, w_{m-1}^L),$$

where  $w_{m-1} = w_{m-1}^L w_{m-1}^R$  is the factorisation of  $w_{m-1}$  into its “good” and its “bad” part.

# A cyclic action for **positive** $m$ -divisible non-crossing partitions?

**Factorisation into “good” and “bad” part**



# A cyclic action for positive $m$ -divisible non-crossing partitions?

## Factorisation into “good” and “bad” part

Fix a reduced word  $c = c_1 \cdots c_n$  for the Coxeter element  $c$ . Define the  $c$ -sorting word  $w(c)$  for  $w \in W$  to be the lexicographically first reduced word for  $w$  when written as a subword of  $c^\infty$ .

Let  $w_o(c) = s_{k_1} \cdots s_{k_N}$  with  $N = nh/2$  be the  $c$ -sorting word of the longest element  $w_o \in W$ .

The word  $w_o(c)$  induces a *reflection ordering* given by

$$T = \left\{ s_{k_1} <_c s_{k_1} s_{k_2} s_{k_1} <_c s_{k_1} s_{k_2} s_{k_3} s_{k_2} s_{k_1} <_c \cdots \right. \\ \left. <_c s_{k_1} \cdots s_{k_{N-1}} s_{k_N} s_{k_{N-1}} \cdots s_{k_1} \right\}.$$

Associate to every element  $w \in NC(W)$  a reduced  $T$ -word  $\mathcal{T}_c(w)$  given by the lexicographically first subword of  $T$  that is a reduced  $T$ -word for  $w$ .

We decompose  $w$  as  $w = w^L w^R$  where  $w^R$  is the part of  $\mathcal{T}_c(w)$  within the last  $n$  reflections in  $T$ .

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## Conjecture

*The triple  $(NC_+^{(m)}(W), \langle K_+ \rangle, \text{Cat}_+^{(m)}(W; q))$  exhibits the cyclic sieving phenomenon.*

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*Let  $NC_+^{(m;0)}(W)$  denote the subset of  $NC_+^{(m)}(W)$  consisting of those elements for which  $w_0 = \text{id}$ . Then the triple  $(NC_+^{(m;0)}(W), \langle K_+ \rangle, \text{Cat}_+^{(m-1)}(W; q))$  exhibits the cyclic sieving phenomenon.*

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**State of affairs:** This is proved for all types except for types  $D_n$ ,  $E_6$ ,  $E_7$ , and  $E_8$ .

# Cyclic sieving for **positive** $m$ -divisible non-crossing partitions for type $A_{n-1}$

Realisation of the cyclic action in type  $A_{n-1}$

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“In principle,” under Armstrong’s combinatorial realisation, the map  $K_+$  becomes rotation by one unit, unless this would produce a non-positive  $m$ -divisible partition.

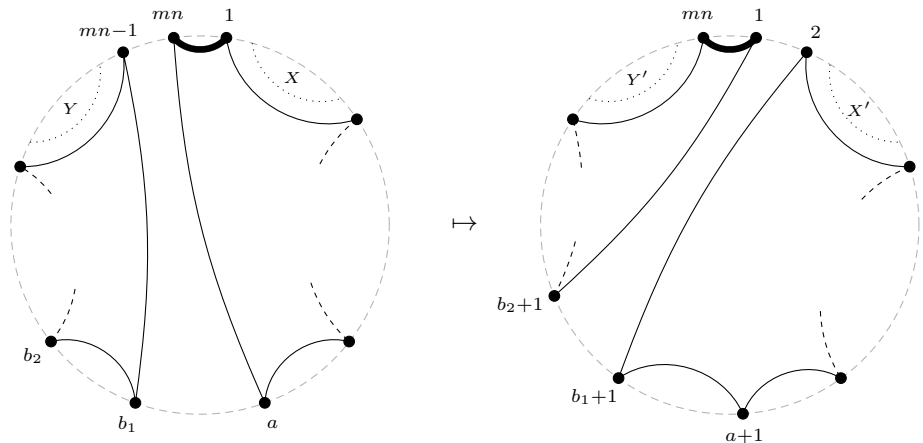


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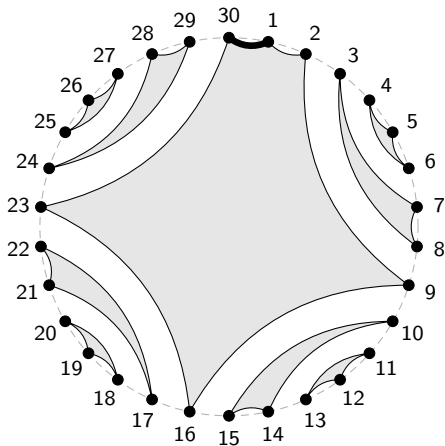


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# Cyclic sieving for **positive** $m$ -divisible non-crossing partitions for type $A_{n-1}$

## Theorem

Let  $m, n, r$  be positive integers with  $r \geq 2$  and  $r \mid (mn - 2)$ . Furthermore, let  $b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n$  be non-negative integers. The number of positive  $m$ -divisible non-crossing partitions of  $\{1, 2, \dots, mn\}$  which are invariant under the  $r$ -pseudo-rotation  $\phi^{(mn-2)/r}$ , the number of non-zero blocks of size  $m_i$  being  $rb_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , the zero block having size  $ma = mn - mr \sum_{j=1}^n jb_j$ , is given by

$$\binom{b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_n}{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n} \binom{(mn-2)/r}{b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_n}$$

if  $b_1 + 2b_2 + \dots + nb_n < n/r$ , or if  $r = 2$  and  $b_1 + 2b_2 + \dots + nb_n = n/2$ , and 0 otherwise.

# Cyclic sieving for **positive** $m$ -divisible non-crossing partitions for type $A_{n-1}$

## Theorem

Let  $C$  be the cyclic group of pseudo-rotations of an  $mn$ -gon generated by  $K_+$ . Then the triple  $(M, P, C)$  exhibits the cyclic sieving phenomenon for the following choices of sets  $M$  and polynomials  $P$ :

- 1  $M = \widetilde{NC}_+^{(m)}(n)$ , and  $P(q) = \frac{1}{[n]_q} \left[ \begin{matrix} (m+1)n-2 \\ n-1 \end{matrix} \right]_q$ ;
- 2  $M$  consists of all elements of  $\widetilde{NC}_+^{(m)}(n)$  the block sizes of which are all equal to  $m$ , and  $P(q) = \frac{1}{[n]_q} \left[ \begin{matrix} mn-2 \\ n-1 \end{matrix} \right]_q$ ;
- 3  $M$  consists of all elements of  $\widetilde{NC}_+^{(m)}(n)$  which have rank  $s$  (or, equivalently, their number of blocks is  $n - s$ ), and

$$P(q) = \frac{1}{[n]_q} \left[ \begin{matrix} n \\ s \end{matrix} \right]_q \left[ \begin{matrix} mn-2 \\ n-s-1 \end{matrix} \right]_q;$$

# Cyclic sieving for **positive** $m$ -divisible non-crossing partitions for type $A_{n-1}$

- ①  $M$  consists of all elements of  $\widetilde{NC}_+^{(m)}(n)$  whose number of blocks of size  $mi$  is  $b_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , and

$$P(q) = \frac{1}{[b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_n]_q} \begin{bmatrix} b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_n \\ b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n \end{bmatrix}_q \times \begin{bmatrix} mn - 2 \\ b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_n - 1 \end{bmatrix}_q.$$

# Cyclic sieving for **positive** $m$ -divisible non-crossing partitions for type $B_n$

Realisation of the cyclic action in type  $B_n$



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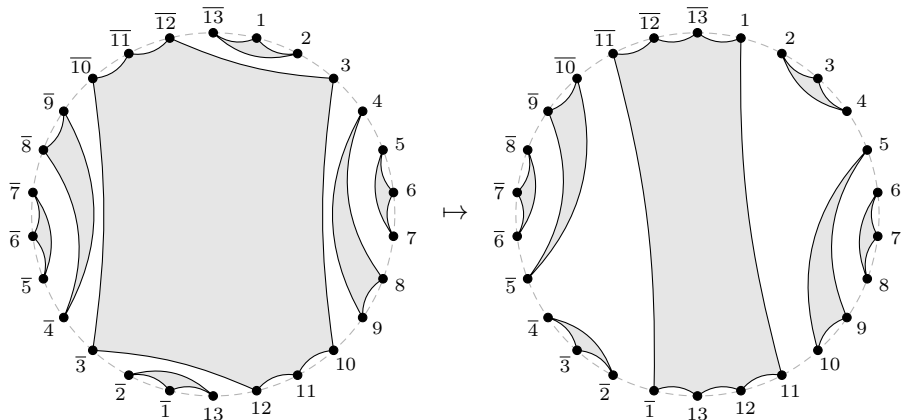
“In principle,” under Armstrong’s combinatorial realisation, the map  $K_+$  becomes rotation by one unit, unless this would produce a non-positive  $m$ -divisible partition.

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# Cyclic sieving for **positive** $m$ -divisible non-crossing partitions for type $B_n$

There are results for the positive  $m$ -divisible non-crossing partitions for type  $B_n$  which are similar to those for type  $A_{n-1}$ .

# Cyclic sieving for **positive** $m$ -divisible non-crossing partitions for the exceptional types

The (positive)  $m$ -divisible non-crossing partitions

$$(w_0; w_1, \dots, w_m)$$

for the exceptional types become “sparse” for large  $m$ .

This allows one to reduce the occurring enumeration problems to **finite** problems. For the types  $E_6, E_7, E_8$ , we have not (yet?) been able to actually carry out the computations necessary for solving the finite problems.

*“Other than that, there do not seem to be enumerative results known for these families.”*