

# The Combinatorics of the Waldspurger Decomposition

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# Reflection Groups

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Example:  $G = \mathfrak{S}_n \subset O(n)$  permuting coordinates

# Reducibility

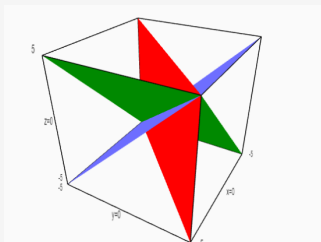


Figure:  $\mathfrak{S}_3 \curvearrowright \mathbb{R}^3$

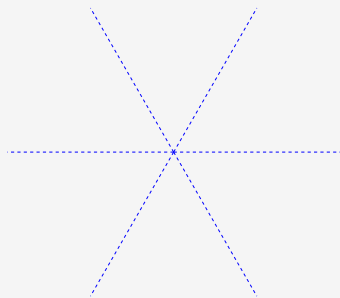


Figure:  $\mathfrak{S}_3 \curvearrowright \mathbb{R}^2 = \mathbb{R}^3 / (1, 1, 1)$

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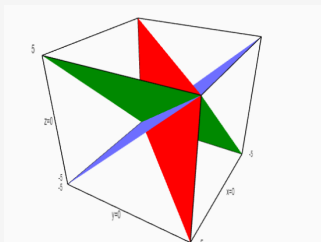


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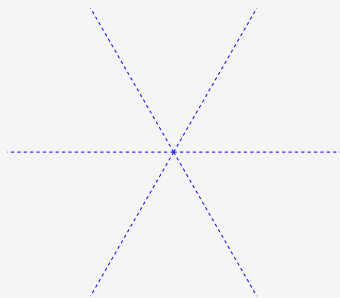


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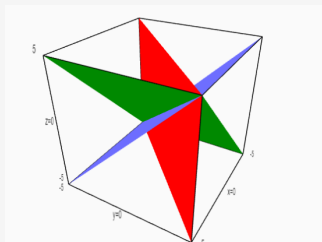


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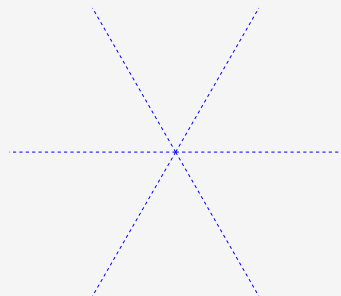


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FACT: Finite reflection groups are completely reducible.

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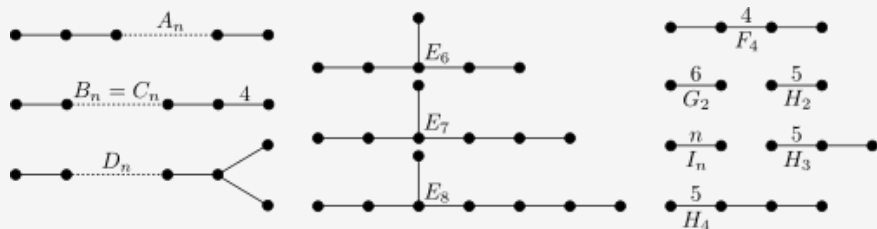
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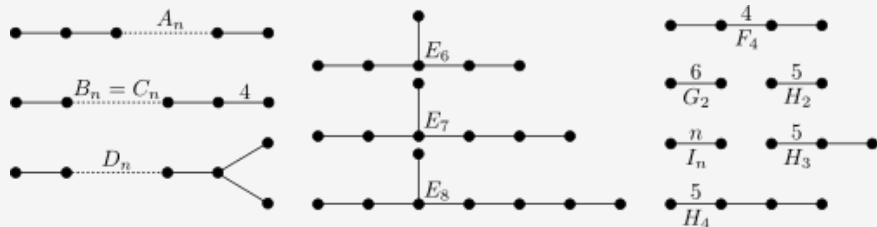
In 1934, building on the work of Möbius, Jordan, Shläfli, Killing, Cartan, and Weyl, HSM Coxeter used diagrams for the classification of finitely generated reflection groups.

# Classification of Irreducible Finite Reflection Groups



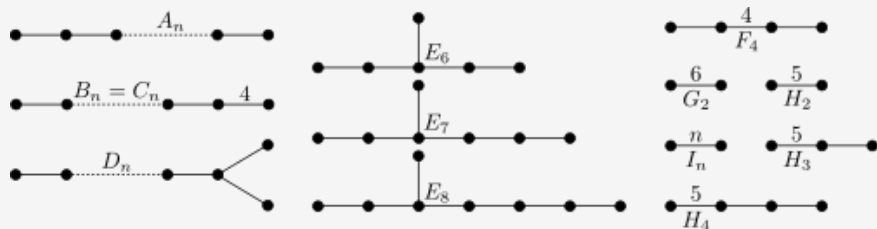
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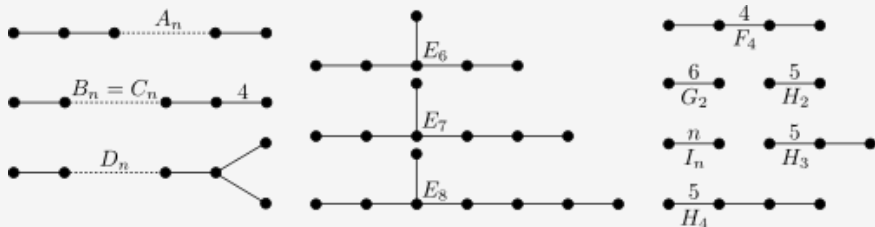
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- No edge means the generators commute.
- Unlabeled edges between vertices  $i$  and  $j$  impose the relation  $(S_i S_j)^3 = 1$ .
- Edges labeled  $k$  between vertices  $i$  and  $j$  impose the relation  $(S_i S_j)^k = 1$ .

Theorem (Coxeter): Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be an arrangement in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  of reflecting hyperplanes for the reflection group  $G$ . Then  $G \curvearrowright (\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \cup_{H \in \mathcal{A}} H)$  freely and transitively on the chambers.

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We pick one such chamber and call it the “weight cone” denoted  $C_W$ . The cone dual to  $C_W$  we call the “root cone” and denote  $C_R$ .

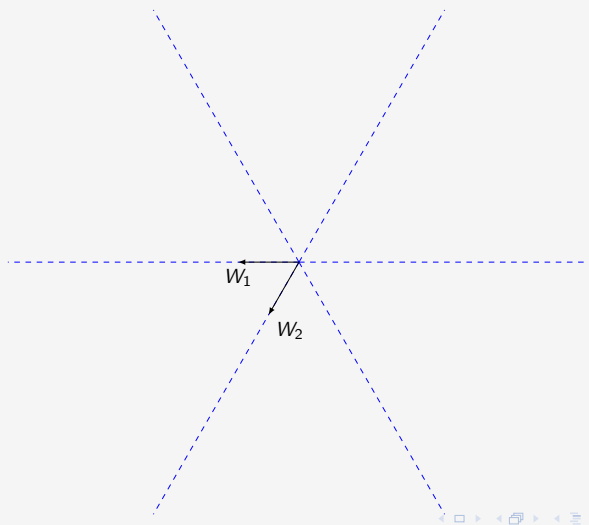


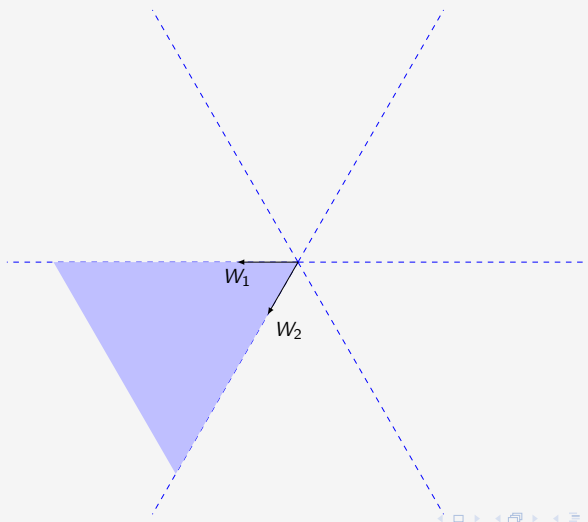
Fact (Coxeter):  $C_W$  is a simplicial cone.

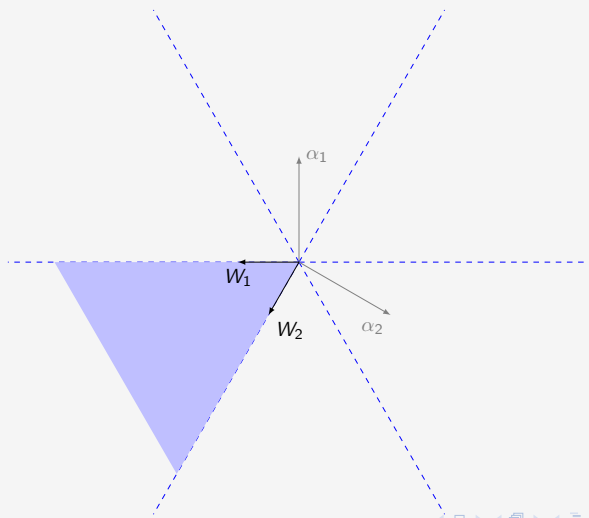
Let  $w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n$  be vectors generating the rays of  $C_W$  [Jargon: called the “fundamental weights”] Then the dual cone is defined as

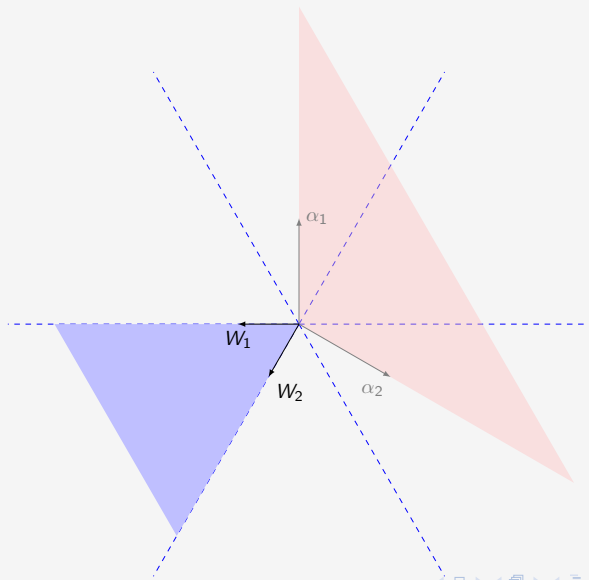
$$C_R := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : (x, y) \leq 0 \forall y \in C_W\}$$

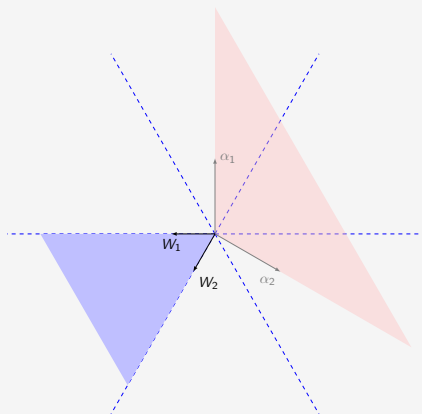
Let  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n$  be vectors which generate rays of  $C_R$  [Jargon: called the “simple roots”]

The first example  $A_2 (\mathfrak{S}_3)$ 

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$$3w_1 = -2\alpha_2 - 1\alpha_1$$

$$3w_2 = -1\alpha_2 - 2\alpha_1$$

$$-\alpha_1 = 2w_2 - 1w_1$$

$$-\alpha_2 = -1w_2 + 2w_1$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

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The matrix of  $\alpha$ 's is called the Cartan Matrix. It gives the coordinates of the simple roots in the basis of fundamental weights.

# Waldspurger's Theorem

Waldspurger's Theorem (2005!):

For  $G$  a finite reflection group acting on a Euclidean vector space  $V$ ,  $C_R$  the (closed) root cone, and  $\mathring{C}_W \subset V$  the interior of the weight cone, one has the following decomposition:

$$C_R = \bigsqcup_{g \in G} (1 - g)\mathring{C}_W$$

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It is amazing that this decomposition exists for all reflection groups!

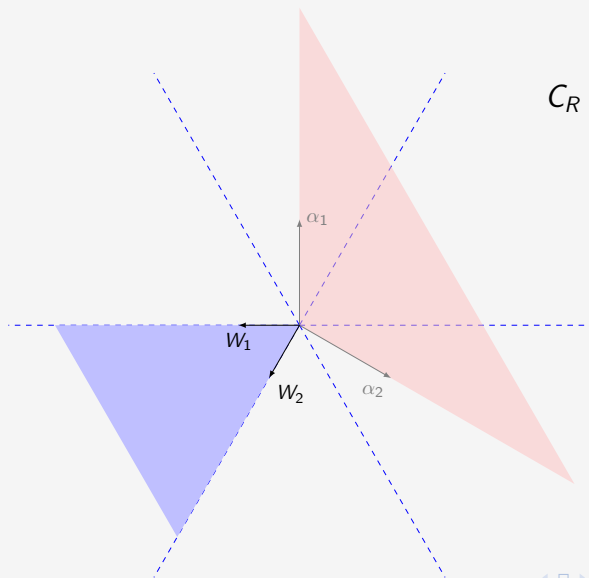
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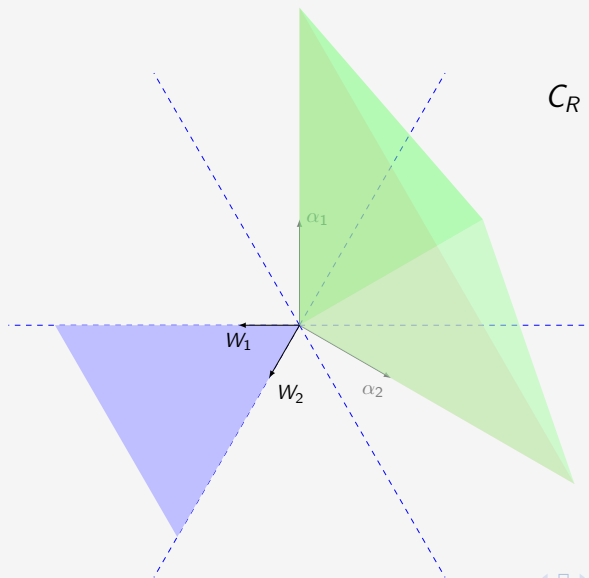
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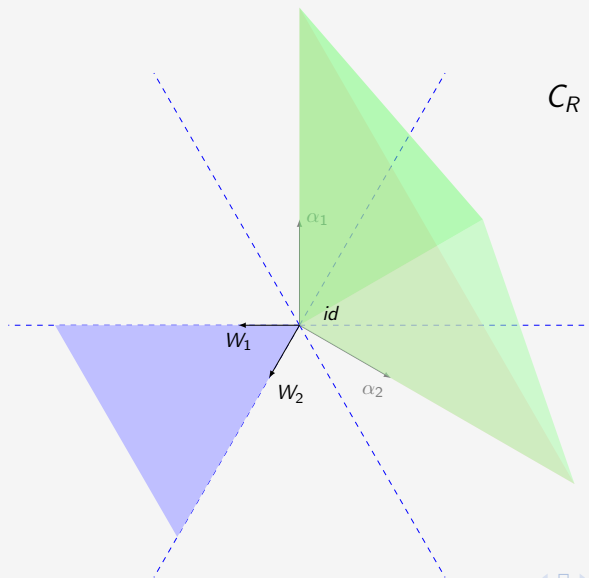
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In type  $A_n$  what does it tell us about the symmetric group  $\mathfrak{S}_{n+1}$ ?

The Waldspurger Decomposition for  $A_2(\mathfrak{S}_3)$ 

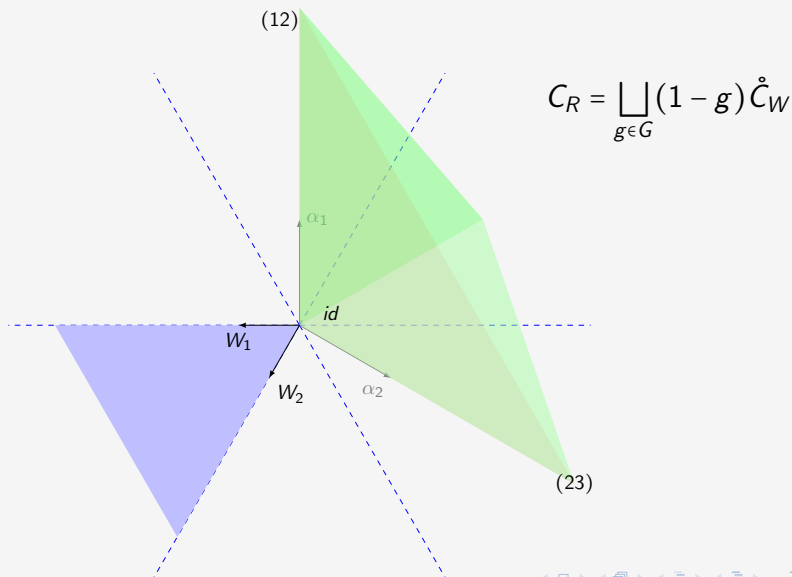
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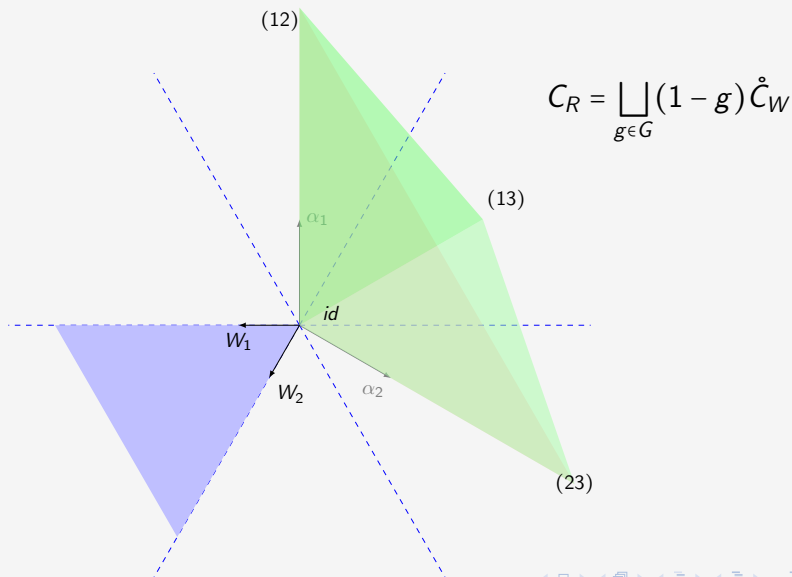
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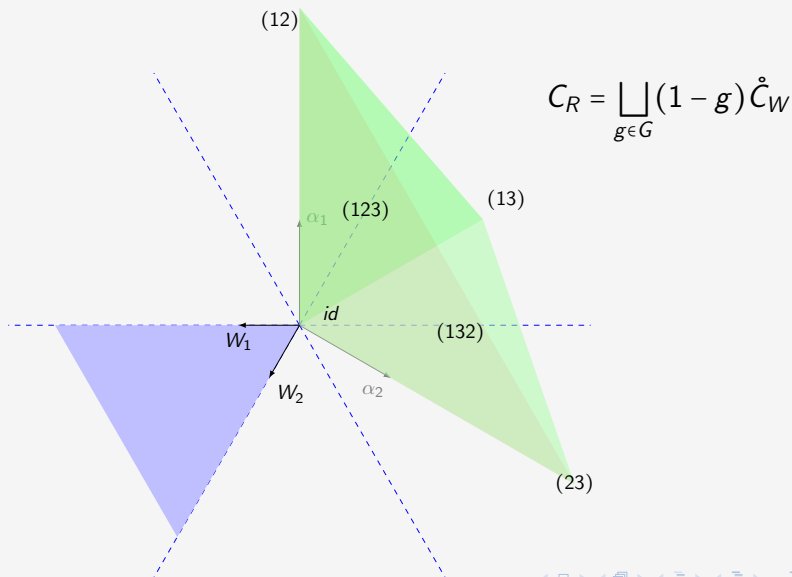
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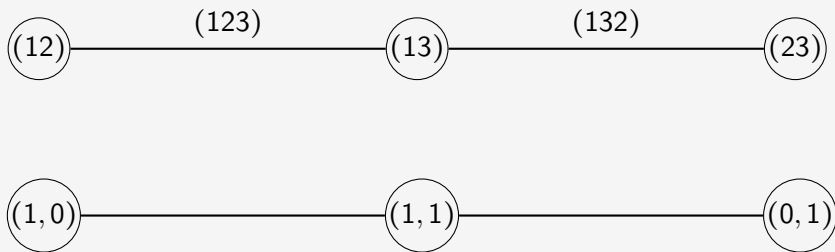
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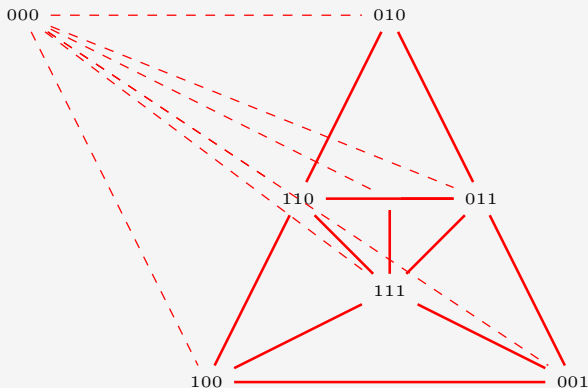


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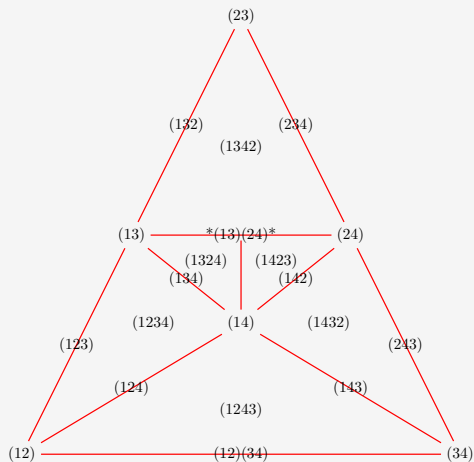
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## Slice it, put it in root coordinates



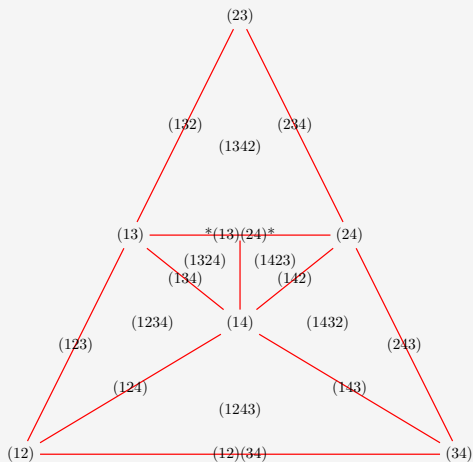
The Waldspurger Decomposition for  $A_3$  ( $\mathfrak{S}_4$ )

## Classical Permutation Statistics, something weird...

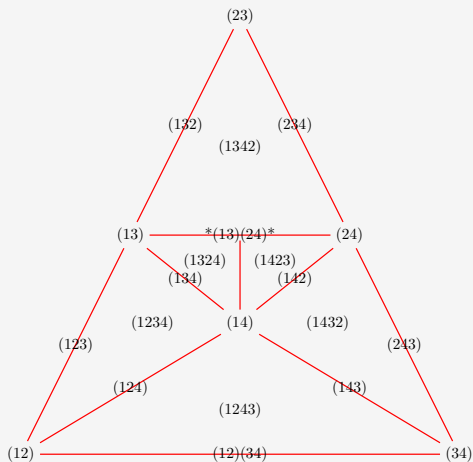


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- four copies of  $\mathfrak{S}_3$  picture



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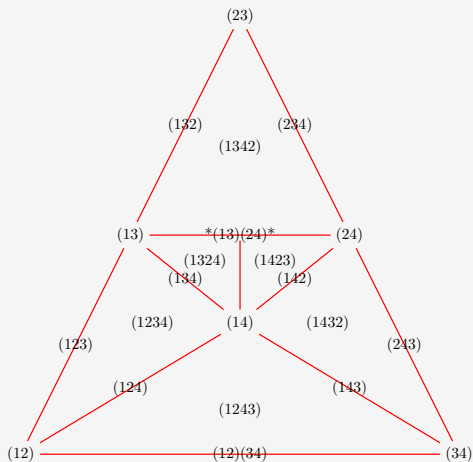
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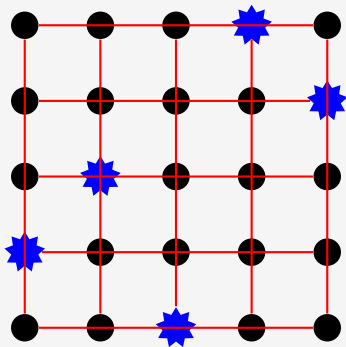
- NOT A CW-complex!



Theorem (Armstrong, M. 2015): The following algorithm turns linear algebra into combinatorics:

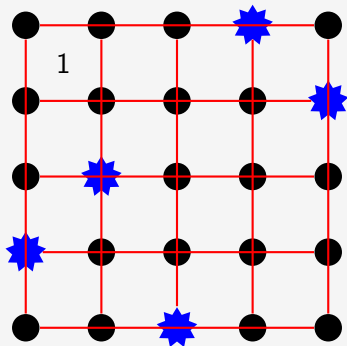
# A Cute Algorithm

Consider  $43512 \in \mathfrak{S}_5$



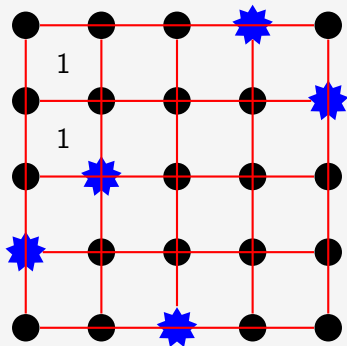
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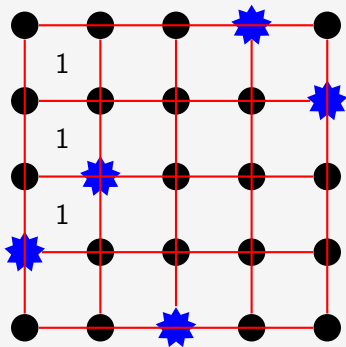
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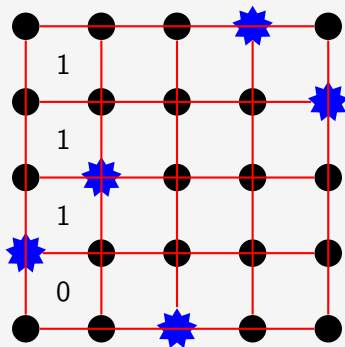
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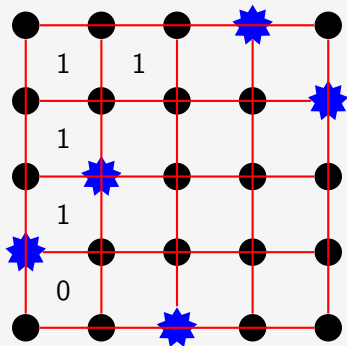
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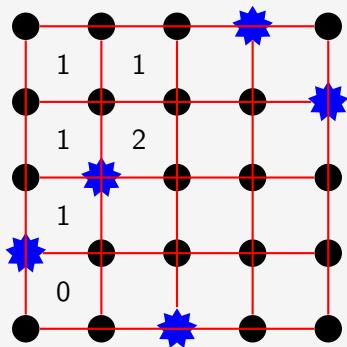
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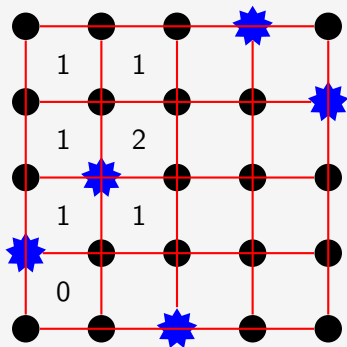
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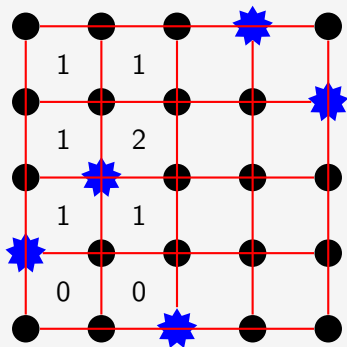
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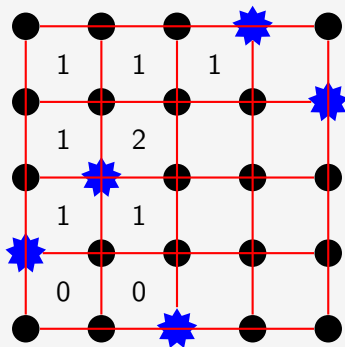
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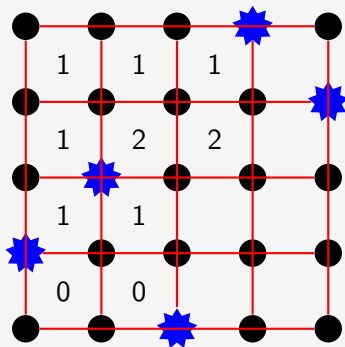
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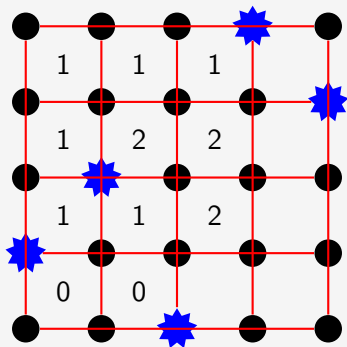
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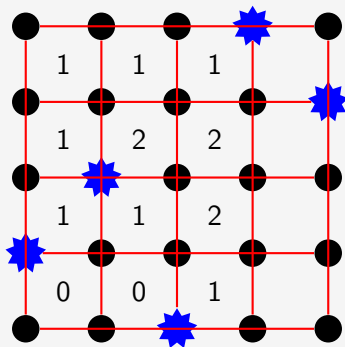
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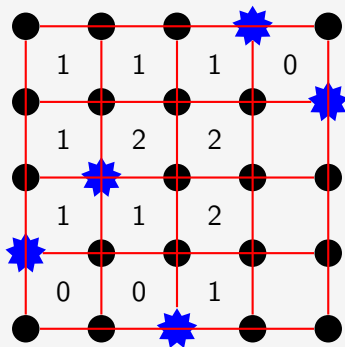
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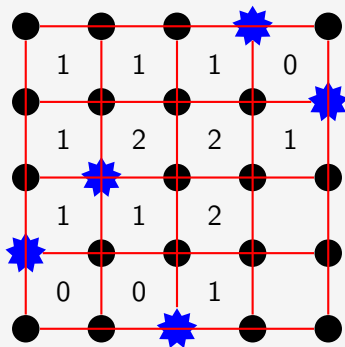
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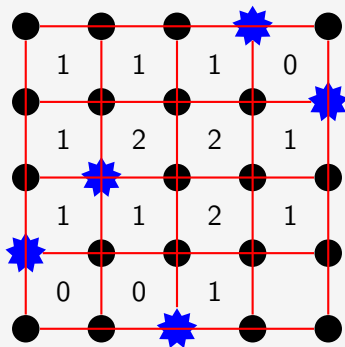
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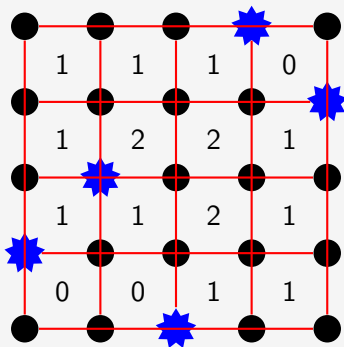
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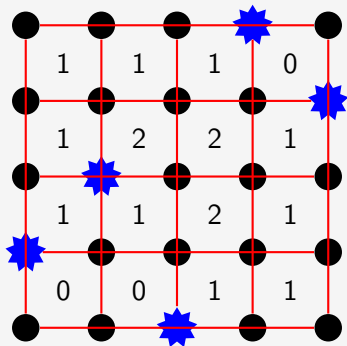


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that is,

$$43512 \mapsto \left\{ a \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + b \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + c \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + d \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \mid a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \right\}$$

## proof

Proof: Let  $P$  be the  $(n-1) \times (n-1)$  matrix for the permutation  $\pi \in S_n$  expressed in root coordinates. Let  $C$  be the  $(n-1) \times (n-1)$  Cartan matrix and let  $D$  be the  $(n-1) \times (n-1)$  matrix

$$D_{i,j} = \begin{cases} \sum_{\substack{a \leq i \\ b > j}} \pi_{a,b} & i \leq j \\ \sum_{\substack{a > i \\ b \leq j}} \pi_{a,b} & i \geq j \end{cases}.$$

We will show  $(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{P}) = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{C}$ .

## proof

We use the fact that  $C = A^T A$  where  $A$  is the  $n \times (n-1)$  matrix

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

to rewrite the conjecture :

$$P = I - DA^T A$$

We multiply both sides on the left by  $A$ :

$$AP = A - ADA^T A$$

Substitute  $AP = \pi A$  and cancel the  $A$ 's on the right:

$$\pi = I - ADA^T$$

This we will verify.

Simply multiplying  $A$  and  $D$  we see that  $(AD)_{i,j} = D_{i,j} - D_{i-1,j}$  with the understanding  $D_{0,k} := 0$  for all  $k$ . One more multiplication gives us that

$$(ADA^T)_{i,j} = D_{i,j} - D_{i-1,j} - D_{i,j-1} + D_{i-1,j-1}$$

once again, with the understanding that if either  $i = 0$  or  $j = 0$  then  $D_{i,j} := 0$

## Case 1

If  $i = j$  then

$$\begin{aligned}
 (ADA^T)_{i,j} &= D_{i,j} - D_{i-1,j} - D_{i,j-1} + D_{i-1,j-1} \\
 &= \sum_{\substack{a \leq i \\ b > j}} \pi_{a,b} - \sum_{\substack{a \leq i-1 \\ b > j}} \pi_{a,b} - \sum_{\substack{a > i \\ b \leq j-1}} \pi_{a,b} + \sum_{\substack{a > i-1 \\ b \leq j-1}} \pi_{a,b} \\
 &= \sum_{k \neq j} \pi_{i,k} \\
 &= \begin{cases} 0 & \pi_{i,j} = 1 \\ 1 & \pi_{i,j} = 0 \end{cases}
 \end{aligned}$$

If the second to last equality seems like a bit of a jump consider that we are summing over the following terms of permutation matrices:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \dots & \pi_{i-1,j-1} & \pi_{i-1,j} & \pi_{i-1,j+1} & \dots \\ \dots & \pi_{i,j-1} & \pi_{i,j} & \pi_{i,j+1} & \dots \\ \dots & \pi_{i+1,j-1} & \pi_{i+1,j} & \pi_{i+1,j+1} & \dots \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \dots & \pi_{i-1,j-1} & \pi_{i-1,j} & \pi_{i-1,j+1} & \dots \\ \dots & \pi_{i,j-1} & \pi_{i,j} & \pi_{i,j+1} & \dots \\ \dots & \pi_{i+1,j-1} & \pi_{i+1,j} & \pi_{i+1,j+1} & \dots \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \dots & \pi_{i-1,j-1} & \pi_{i-1,j} & \pi_{i-1,j+1} & \dots \\ \dots & \pi_{i,j-1} & \pi_{i,j} & \pi_{i,j+1} & \dots \\ \dots & \pi_{i+1,j-1} & \pi_{i+1,j} & \pi_{i+1,j+1} & \dots \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \dots & \pi_{i-1,j-1} & \pi_{i-1,j} & \pi_{i-1,j+1} & \dots \\ \dots & \pi_{i,j-1} & \pi_{i,j} & \pi_{i,j+1} & \dots \\ \dots & \pi_{i+1,j-1} & \pi_{i+1,j} & \pi_{i+1,j+1} & \dots \end{pmatrix}$$

Thus,  $(I - ADA^T)_{i,j} = \pi_{i,j}$  for this case.

## Case 2

If  $i < j$  then

$$\begin{aligned}
 (ADA^T)_{i,j} &= D_{i,j} - D_{i-1,j} - D_{i,j-1} + D_{i-1,j-1} \\
 &= \sum_{\substack{a \leq i \\ b > j}} \pi_{a,b} - \sum_{\substack{a \leq i-1 \\ b > j}} \pi_{a,b} - \sum_{\substack{a \leq i \\ b > j-1}} \pi_{a,b} + \sum_{\substack{a \leq i-1 \\ b > j-1}} \pi_{a,b} \\
 &= -\pi_{i,j}
 \end{aligned}$$

This last equality is, again, perhaps more easily understood visually:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \dots & \pi_{i-1,j-1} & \pi_{i-1,j} & \pi_{i-1,j+1} & \dots & \vdots \\ \dots & \pi_{i,j-1} & \pi_{i,j} & \pi_{i,j+1} & \dots & \vdots \\ \dots & \pi_{i+1,j-1} & \pi_{i+1,j} & \pi_{i+1,j+1} & \dots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \end{array} \right) - \left( \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \dots & \pi_{i-1,j-1} & \pi_{i-1,j} & \pi_{i-1,j+1} & \dots & \vdots \\ \dots & \pi_{i,j-1} & \pi_{i,j} & \pi_{i,j+1} & \dots & \vdots \\ \dots & \pi_{i+1,j-1} & \pi_{i+1,j} & \pi_{i+1,j+1} & \dots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \end{array} \right) - \left( \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \dots & \pi_{i-1,j-1} & \pi_{i-1,j} & \pi_{i-1,j+1} & \dots & \vdots \\ \dots & \pi_{i,j-1} & \pi_{i,j} & \pi_{i,j+1} & \dots & \vdots \\ \dots & \pi_{i+1,j-1} & \pi_{i+1,j} & \pi_{i+1,j+1} & \dots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \end{array} \right) + \left( \begin{array}{ccc|ccc} \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \dots & \pi_{i-1,j-1} & \pi_{i-1,j} & \pi_{i-1,j+1} & \dots & \vdots \\ \dots & \pi_{i,j-1} & \pi_{i,j} & \pi_{i,j+1} & \dots & \vdots \\ \dots & \pi_{i+1,j-1} & \pi_{i+1,j} & \pi_{i+1,j+1} & \dots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \end{array} \right)$$

Thus,  $(I - ADA^T)_{i,j} = \pi_{i,j}$  for this case as well.



## Case 3

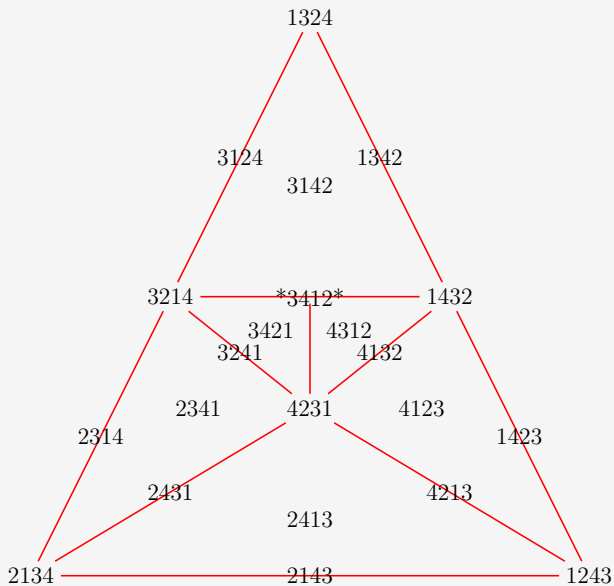
If  $i > j$  then

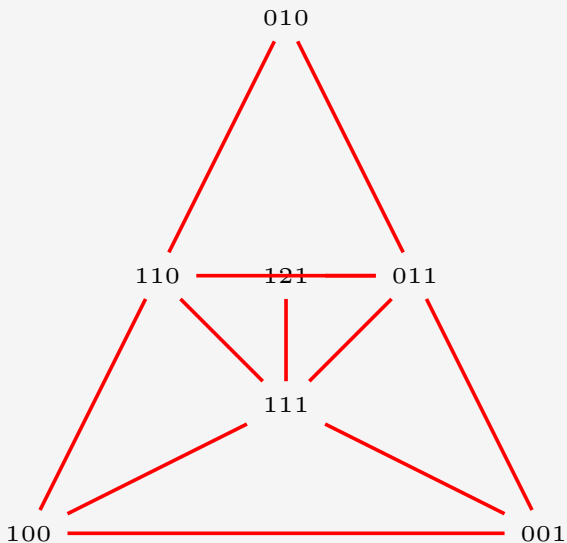
$$\begin{aligned}
 (ADA^T)_{ij} &= D_{i,j} - D_{i-1,j} - D_{i,j-1} + D_{i-1,j-1} \\
 &= \sum_{\substack{a>i \\ b\leq j}} \pi_{a,b} - \sum_{\substack{a>i-1 \\ b\leq j}} \pi_{a,b} - \sum_{\substack{a>i \\ b\leq j-1}} \pi_{a,b} + \sum_{\substack{a>i-1 \\ b\leq j-1}} \pi_{a,b} \\
 &= -\pi_{i,j}
 \end{aligned}$$

Here once more, the visual aid comes to the rescue and makes the last equality apparent.

$$\begin{pmatrix} \ddots & & & & & \\ \cdots & \pi_{i-1,j-1} & \pi_{i-1,j} & \pi_{i-1,j+1} & \cdots & \\ \cdots & \pi_{i,j-1} & \pi_{i,j} & \pi_{i,j+1} & \cdots & \\ \cdots & \pi_{i+1,j-1} & \pi_{i+1,j} & \pi_{i+1,j+1} & \cdots & \\ \swarrow & & & & & \searrow \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} \ddots & & & & & \\ \cdots & \pi_{i-1,j-1} & \pi_{i-1,j} & \pi_{i-1,j+1} & \cdots & \\ \cdots & \pi_{i,j-1} & \pi_{i,j} & \pi_{i,j+1} & \cdots & \\ \cdots & \pi_{i+1,j-1} & \pi_{i+1,j} & \pi_{i+1,j+1} & \cdots & \\ \swarrow & & & & & \searrow \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} \ddots & & & & & \\ \cdots & \pi_{i-1,j-1} & \pi_{i-1,j} & \pi_{i-1,j+1} & \cdots & \\ \cdots & \pi_{i,j-1} & \pi_{i,j} & \pi_{i,j+1} & \cdots & \\ \cdots & \pi_{i+1,j-1} & \pi_{i+1,j} & \pi_{i+1,j+1} & \cdots & \\ \swarrow & & & & & \searrow \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \ddots & & & & & \\ \cdots & \pi_{i-1,j-1} & \pi_{i-1,j} & \pi_{i-1,j+1} & \cdots & \\ \cdots & \pi_{i,j-1} & \pi_{i,j} & \pi_{i,j+1} & \cdots & \\ \cdots & \pi_{i+1,j-1} & \pi_{i+1,j} & \pi_{i+1,j+1} & \cdots & \\ \swarrow & & & & & \searrow \end{pmatrix}$$

Thus,  $(I - ADA^T)_{ij} = \pi_{i,j}$  in this final case.





# Consequences of the algorithm

Theorem:

$2^n$  vertices arise as columns of Waldspurger matrices for type  $A_n$ .

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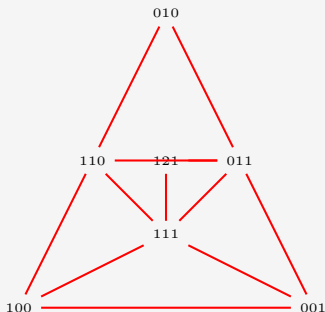
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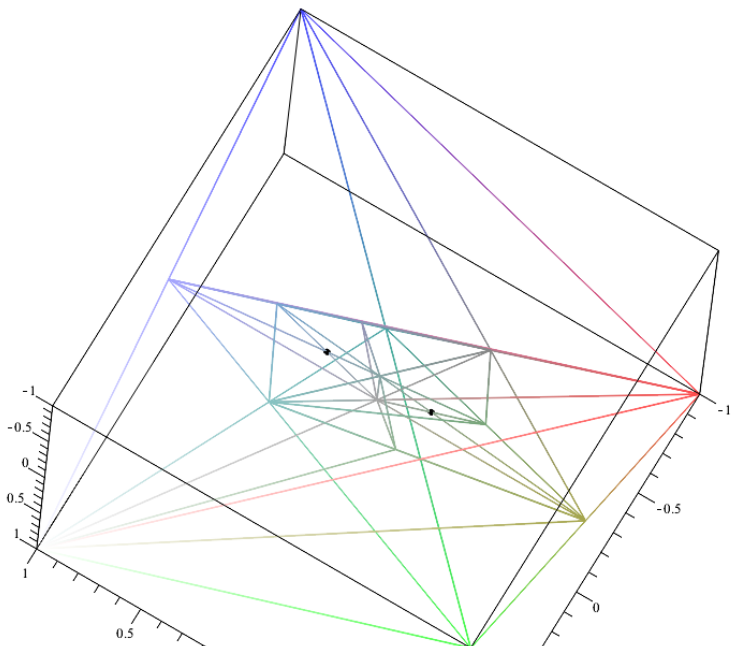
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- Entries in the columns are unimodal.
- Entries in the columns can only increase or decrease by one.
- There are  $2^{n-1}$  Unimodal Motzkin Paths of length  $n$ .
- Given any column with these properties, one has enough freedom to complete it to a Waldspurger matrix.

# Not all [virtual] vertices come from Waldspurger Matrices!

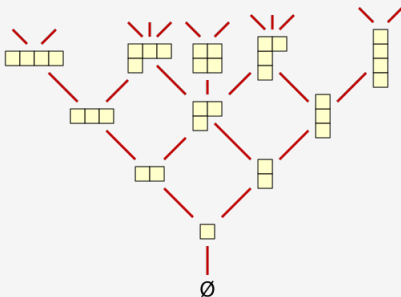


Our plan was to complete the Waldspurger decomposition to a polytopal complex intersecting facets to get faces of codimension one, intersecting those to get faces of codimension two, etc. This is problematic.

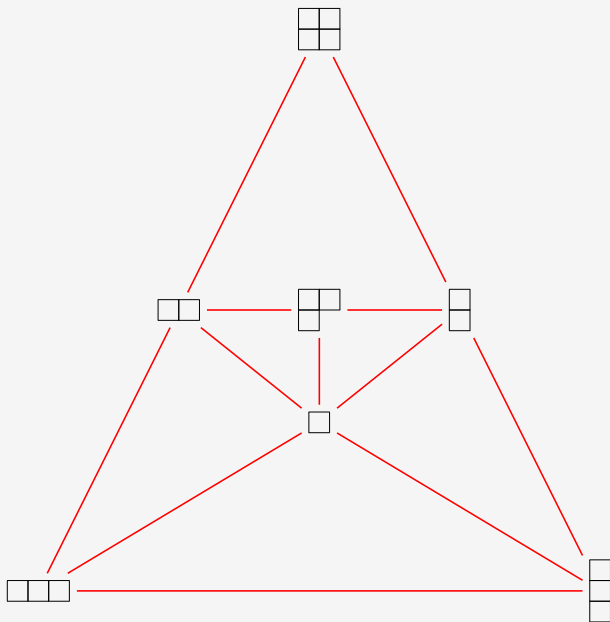


# Connection to Young's lattice

In 2002 Ruedi Suter exhibited a subposet of Young's lattice with dihedral symmetry.







## Why this bijection?... Abelian Ideals!

- Ruedi Suter showed that elements in  $Y_n$  represent abelian ideals of the Borel subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{sl}_n(\mathbb{C})$



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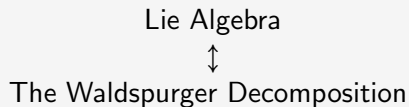
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- Ruedi Suter showed that elements in  $Y_n$  represent abelian ideals of the Borel subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{sl}_n(\mathbb{C})$
- An ideal of a Lie algebra is a set with the absorbing property with respect to the bracket.
- An ideal of a Lie algebra is called abelian if the Lie bracket vanishes on it.

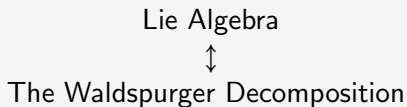


## Open Questions:



Does this connection with abelian ideals hold in other types?

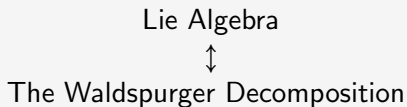
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Is there more going on here?

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- Complete the Waldspurger decomposition to a CW-complex and compute its f-vector.

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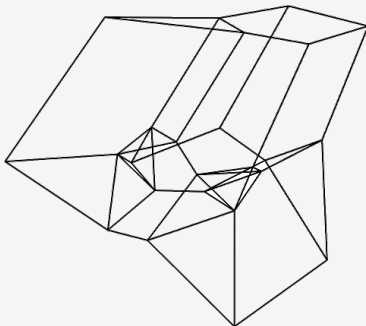
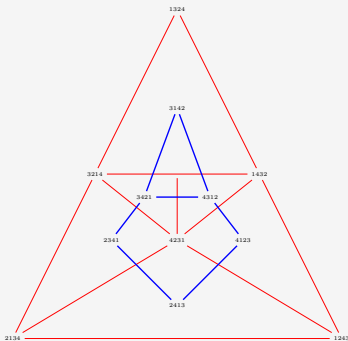


# Original Goal, backtracking

- Complete the Waldspurger decomposition to a CW-complex and compute its f-vector.
- This gives even more “virtual vertices” than those from Waldspurger matrices.
- New approach: Use the recursive structure and consider facets.

Theorem (Bibikov, Zhgoon): Two facets  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  share a codimension one boundary iff  $c_1 s_i = c_2 s_j$  for  $s_i$  and  $s_j$  adjacent transpositions.

This defines a graph on  $n - \text{cycles}$ .



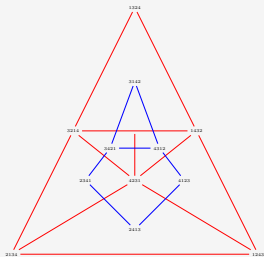
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# "Adjacent Adjacent Transpositions" and Bounds on degrees

Lemma: Let  $c$  be an  $n$ -cycle and  $s_i$  be the transposition switching  $i$  and  $i + 1$ . Either  $cs_i s_{i+1}$  is an  $n$ -cycle, or  $cs_{i+1} s_i$  is an  $n$ -cycle. Not both.

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## ” Non-adjacent Adjacent transpositions”

Lemma 2: If  $j > i + 1$ , then there are two classes of  $n$ -cycles related by  $(i, i + 1)(j, j + 1)$

$$(\mathbf{i}, a_1, \dots, a_k, \mathbf{j}, b_1, \dots, b_l, \mathbf{i} + \mathbf{1}, c_1, \dots, c_m, \mathbf{j} + \mathbf{1}, d_1, \dots, d_n) \quad (1)$$

and

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Corollary 1: If  $cs_i s_j$  is an  $n$ -cycle, then so is  $c^{-1} s_i s_j$ . In particular,  $c$  and  $c^{-1}$  have the same degree in  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  dual graph.

## When does $s_i s_j$ take you to another $n$ -cycle?

Lemma 2: If  $j > i + 1$ , then there are two classes of  $n$ -cycles related by  $(i, i + 1)(j, j + 1)$

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Example:  $(1, 2, 3, 4)$   $(1, 3, 4, 2)$   $(1, 4, 3, 2)$   $(1, 2, 4, 3)$  are the four vertices of degree two in the  $\mathfrak{S}_4$  dual graph.

Lemma 2: If  $j > i + 1$ , then there are two classes of  $n$ -cycles related by  $(i, i + 1)(j, j + 1)$

$$(\mathbf{i}, a_1, \dots, a_k, \mathbf{j}, b_1, \dots, b_l, \mathbf{i} + \mathbf{1}, c_1, \dots, c_m, \mathbf{j} + \mathbf{1}, d_1, \dots, d_n)$$

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Corollary 3:  $(1, 3, 5, \dots, 2, 4, 6, \dots)$  and its inverse are the two vertices of degree  $\binom{n-1}{2}$ .



# "Adjacent Adjacent" vs "Non-adjacent Adjacent"

Our Dual graph  $G = G_A + G_B$  where  $G_A$  has edges from  $\{s_i s_{i+1}\}$  and  $G_B$  has edges from the other  $\{s_i s_j\}$ .

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$n \backslash deg$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
3	2															
4	4	2														
5	8	10	4	2												
6	16	34	30	24	8	6	2									
7	32	98	138	158	106	80	58	28	16	4	2					
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The trailing numbers appear to stabilize for even and odd  $n$ .

# More Observations, Conjectures and Questions about the dual graph

$n \backslash \text{deg}$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
3	1																					
4		2	1																			
5			4	5	2	1																
6				8	17	15	12	4	3	1												
7					16	49	69	79	53	40	29	14	8	2	1							
8						32	129	252	382	287	346	316	246	190	110	61	37	23	5	3	1	

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- 2, 15, 69, 252, ... counts the number of Dyck paths with exactly two "long ascents."
- The OEIS doesn't know any more diagonals.



# More Observations, Conjectures and Questions about the dual graph

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5	48
6	360
7	3000
8	27720
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10	3144960
$\vdots$	$\vdots$
$n$	$\frac{(n+3)(n-2)(n-1)!}{12}$

These numbers appear in the OEIS in relation to two things:

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- There are 7 ways of labeling the tableau of shape  $(3, 1, 1)$  with 1, 2 and 3 (with each label being used once) such that the first row is decreasing and the first column has 1 label.

## What next?

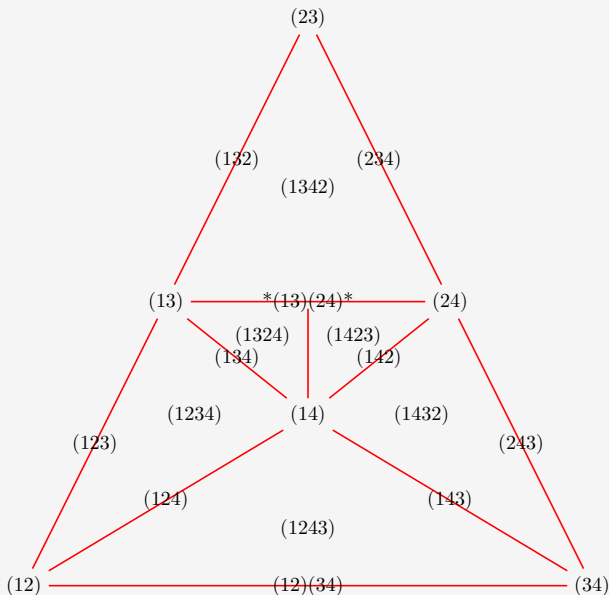
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- Further interpret the degree sequence of the Waldspurger dual graph of  $\mathfrak{S}_n$ .
- The "adjacent adjacent" transpositions  $\{s_i s_{i+1} : 1 \leq i \leq n-2\}$ , form a generating set for the alternating group  $A_n$ . In the Waldspurger decomposition, they act like hyperplanes and give the alternating group a "Coxeter like structure." Make this precise and understand it better.

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- Is there a better dual object, say a dual complex that would help better understand the Waldspurger decomposition?



# Thanks!