

# Symmetry and partial symmetry

Contents: 1. Motivation

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## Lecture 1: Motivation

(i).

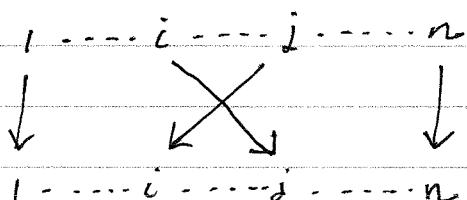
- Symmetry:  $X$  set,  $G_X$  symmetric group on  $X$   
 $\tilde{\omega}$ : group of all bijections  $X \rightarrow X$   
 (under composition)  
 "measures symmetry" of  $X$ .

$X = \{1, \dots, n\}$ , write  $G_n$  for  $G_X$ .

recall: any  $\pi \in G_n$  is a product of transpositions,

$\alpha$ : permutations  $(i, j)$ .

$G_n$  generated by the transpositions



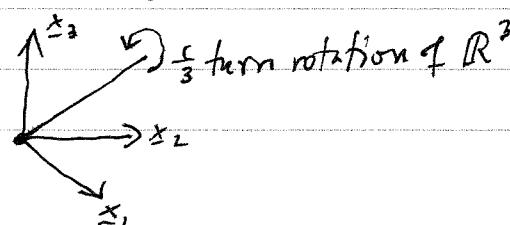
(ii). Another version:  $V = \mathbb{R}^n$  with usual basis  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ .

$GL(V) =$  group of invertible linear maps  $V \rightarrow V$ .

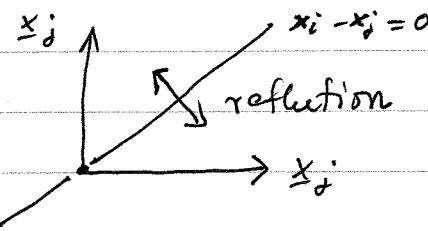
$\pi \in G_n \rightsquigarrow$  invertible linear map s.t.  $x_i \mapsto x_{i\pi}$

embeds  $G_n \subset GL(V)$  (permuting coordinates)

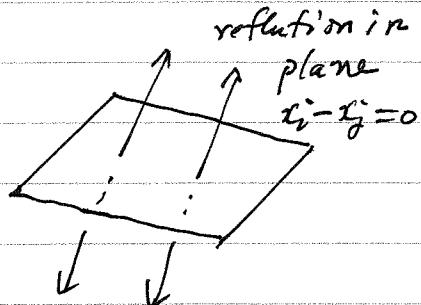
Eg:  $\pi = (1, 2, 3) \in G_3 \rightsquigarrow$



Eg:  $\pi = (i, j) \in G_n$



$\hat{\alpha}: \pi \rightsquigarrow$



Conclusion:  $G_n \subset GL(V)$  generated by reflections, i.e. is a reflection group (see lecture 2).

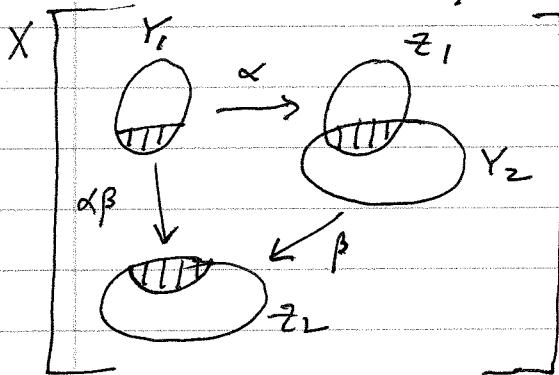
(iii). Yet another version:  $G_n$  is the Weyl group of the linear algebraic group  $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$ .

• Partial symmetry: (i).  $X$  set and  $T_X$  symmetric inverse monoid on  $X$   
= inverse monoid partial bijections of  $X$ .

partial bijection a bijection  $Y \rightarrow Z$  for  $Y, Z \subset X$ .

(In particular "full" bijections  $X \rightarrow X$  and "empty" bijection

$\emptyset: \emptyset \rightarrow \emptyset$ ).



$$\alpha\beta: (Z_1 \cap Y_2) \xrightarrow{\alpha} (Z_1 \cap Y_2) \xrightarrow{\beta}$$

$$\text{or, } (Z_1 = Y_1 \alpha)$$

$$\alpha\beta: Y_1 \cap Y_2 \xrightarrow{\alpha} Y_1 (\alpha\beta) \cap Y_2 \beta.$$

gives  $T_X$  structure of a monoid: { associative  
identity  $\text{id}: X \rightarrow X$   
no inverses in general }

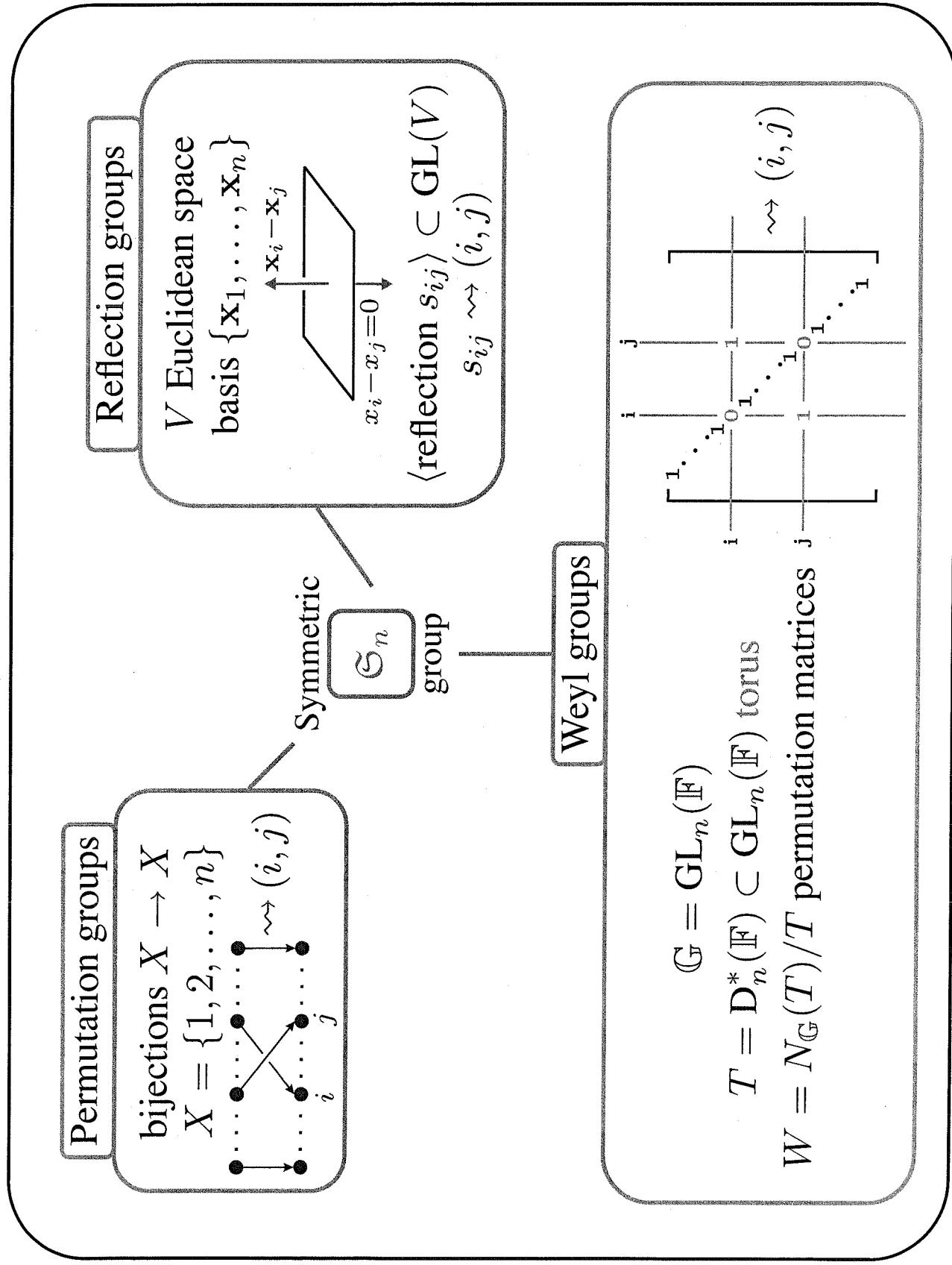
inverse monoid: There are "local" inverses

$$x \left[ \begin{matrix} \textcircled{1} & \xleftarrow{\beta} \\ \textcircled{2} & \xrightarrow{\alpha} \end{matrix} \right] z \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{for } \alpha \in I_x \text{ there is } \beta \in I_x \\ \text{with } \alpha\beta = id_y \\ \beta\alpha = id_z \end{array}$$

(ii).  $G_n$  a reflection group ...  $I_n$  a reflection monoid?

(yes: see lecture 5)

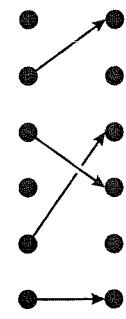
(iii).  $G_n$  a Weyl group ... In the R-matrix monoid of the  
Givental algebraic monoid  
 $M_n \mathbb{R}$  ( $\underset{\text{all}}{=} n \times n \mathbb{R}$ -matrices).



### Partial permutations

bijections  $X \supset Y \rightarrow Y' \subset X$

$$X = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$$



inverse monoid

### Reflection monoids

?

Symmetric



### Renner monoids

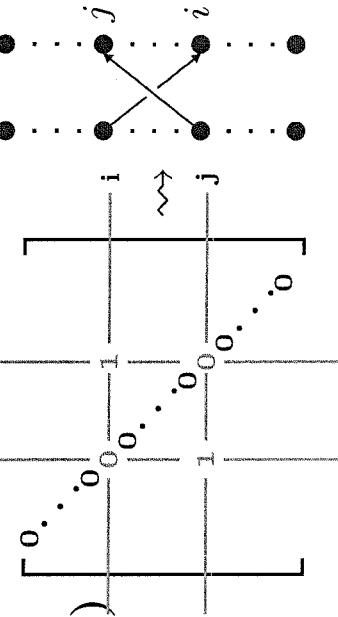
$$\mathbb{G} = \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{F}) \subset \mathrm{M}_n(\mathbb{F}) = \mathbb{M}$$

$$T = \mathrm{D}_n^*(\mathbb{F}) \subset \mathrm{D}_n(\mathbb{F}) = \overline{T} \text{ (Zariski closure)}$$

$$W = N_{\mathbb{G}}(T)/T \subset \overline{N_{\mathbb{G}}(T)}/T$$

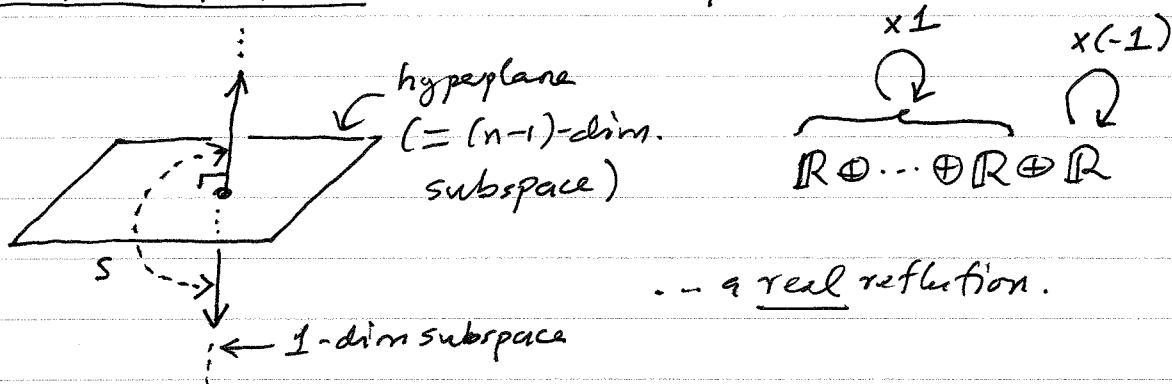
partial permutation matrices

=Rook monoid



## Lecture 2 : Reflection groups

- What is a reflection?  $V = n$ -dim.  $\mathbb{R}$ -space



$-1 = \underbrace{\text{the primitive } n\text{-th root of } 1 \text{ in } \mathbb{R}}$ .

in any field, then a  $k$ -reflection :  $k \oplus \dots \oplus k \oplus k$

If  $V$  a  $k$ -space,  $GL(V) = \text{gp. invertible linear maps of } V$

then a  $k$ -reflection gp := subgp. of  $GL(V)$  generated by  $k$ -reflections.

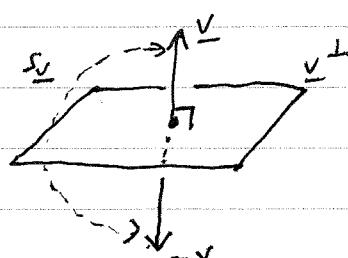
In these lectures, we will restrict to finite, real reflection gps.

- Throughout,  $V$  a real space with basis  $\{\underline{x}_1, \dots, \underline{x}_n\}$  and inner

product  $(\underline{x}_i, \underline{x}_j) = \delta_{ij}$  ( $\underline{u} : V$  Euclidean).

$\underline{v} \in V$ ,  $s_{\underline{v}} :=$  linear map  $V \rightarrow V$   
 $(\underline{x} \mapsto \underline{x})$  fixing  $\underline{v}^\perp$  pt.-wise  
 and sending  $\underline{v} \mapsto -\underline{v}$

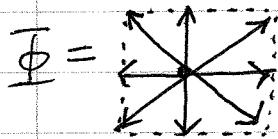
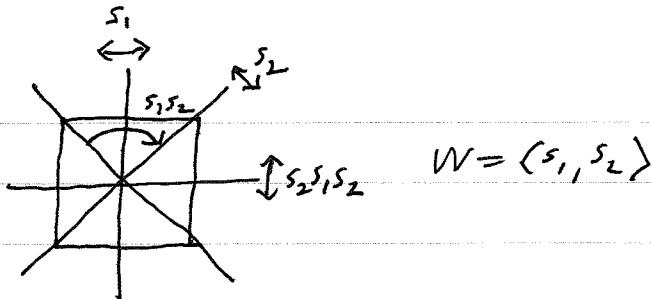
$$\left( \text{Ex: } s_{\underline{v}} : \underline{u} \mapsto \underline{u} - 2 \frac{(\underline{u}, \underline{v})}{(\underline{v}, \underline{v})} \underline{v} \right).$$



$W \subset GL(V)$  finite is a reflection gp  $\iff W = \{s_{\underline{v}_1}, \dots, s_{\underline{v}_m}\}$ .

- Eg:  $V = \mathbb{R}^2$

$W$  = symmetries of square



$\Phi = \{\underline{v} \in V \text{ with } s_v \in W\}$

$$\left( \begin{array}{l} \Phi \text{ finite set non-zero vectors} \\ \underline{v} \in \Phi \Rightarrow \mathbb{R}\underline{v} \cap \Phi = \pm \underline{v} \\ \underline{v} \in \Phi \Rightarrow \Phi s_{\underline{v}} = \Phi \end{array} \right) \quad (*)$$

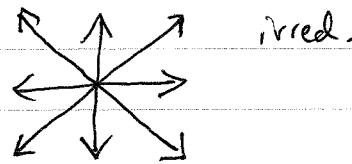
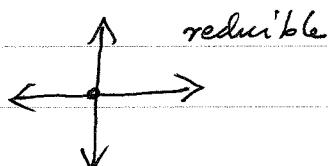
- A  $\Phi \subset V$  satisfying  $(*)$  a root system ( $\forall \underline{v} \in \Phi$  a root)

$W(\Phi) = \langle s_{\underline{v}} \mid \underline{v} \in \Phi \rangle \subset \mathrm{GL}(V)$  a finite ref. gp.

root systems  $\rightsquigarrow$  finite  $\mathbb{R}$ -ref. gp's.  
(combinatorics)  $\rightsquigarrow$  (gp. theory)

$\Phi$  reducible iff  $V = V_1 \perp V_2$  with  $\Phi_i \subset V_i$ ; irreducible otherwise.

$$\Phi = \Phi_1 \cup \Phi_2$$



(Ex:  $\Phi$  reducible  $\Rightarrow W(\Phi) \cong W(\Phi_1) \times W(\Phi_2)$ ).

- the irreduc. rootsystems have been "classified":

$A_{n-1}$  ( $n \geq 2$ ),  $B_n$  ( $n \geq 2$ ),

$D_n$  ( $n \geq 4$ ),  $I_2(m)$  ( $m \geq 3$ )

$H_3, H_4, F_4, E_6, E_7, E_8$ .

- Eg:  $B_n = \{\pm x_i \pm x_j\} \cup \{x_i\}$  ( $B_2 = \begin{array}{c} \nearrow \\ \searrow \\ \swarrow \\ \nwarrow \end{array}$ )

$W(B_n) \cong$  symmetries of  $n$ -cube /  $n$ -octahedron.

- Eg:  $A_{n-1} = \{\underline{x}_i - \underline{x}_j\}$   $\sigma_{\underline{x}_i - \underline{x}_j}: \underline{x}_i - \underline{x}_j \mapsto \underline{x}_j - \underline{x}_i$ 
  - $\rightsquigarrow (i, j) \in G_n$
  - $W(A_{n-1}) \cong G_n \subset GL(V)$  under permutation action
  - $\underline{x}_i \mapsto \underline{x}_{\pi(i)}$

= symmetries of  $(n-1)$ -simplex  $\subset \mathbb{R}^n$ .

$= \{ \sum \lambda_i \underline{x}_i \mid \sum \lambda_i = 1 \text{ and } \lambda_i \geq 0 \}$

- Eg:  $W(O_n) \cong$  symmetries of  $n$ -dim. cross polytope.

- Eg:  $W(H_3) \cong$  —“— icosahedron/dodecahedron

$W(H_4) \cong$  —“— 120/600-cell } 4-dim.  
Platonic solids

$W(F_4) \cong$  —“— 24-cell

## Lecture 3 : Hyperplane arrangements

throughout:  $V$  Euclidean with orthonormal basis  $\{\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n\}$ .

- A real arrangement  $A$  is a <sup>finite</sup> set of linear hyperplanes in  $V$ .

describing hyperplanes: (i).  $v \in V$  and hyperplane

$$H := v^\perp = \{u \in V \mid (u, v) = 0\}, \text{ or (ii). coordinate maps}$$

$x_i : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with  $x_i(\sum t_i \xi_i) = t_i$ . If  $v = \sum a_i \xi_i$  then

$v^\perp$  the kernel of map  $a_1 x_1 + \dots + a_n x_n : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . ( $\alpha$ : Cartesian equation)

- Eg: the Boolean arrangement  $A = \{\xi_1^\perp, \dots, \xi_n^\perp\}$  or

{hyperplanes with equations  $x_1=0, x_2=0, \dots, x_n=0$ }.

- Eg: braid arrangement  $A = \{ \text{hyperplanes } x_i - x_j = 0 \text{ for all } i \neq j \}$ .

recall (lecture 2) the root system  $A_{n-1} = \{ \xi_i - \xi_j \mid i \neq j \} \subset V$

with reflection gp.  $W(A_{n-1}) \cong \mathfrak{S}_n$

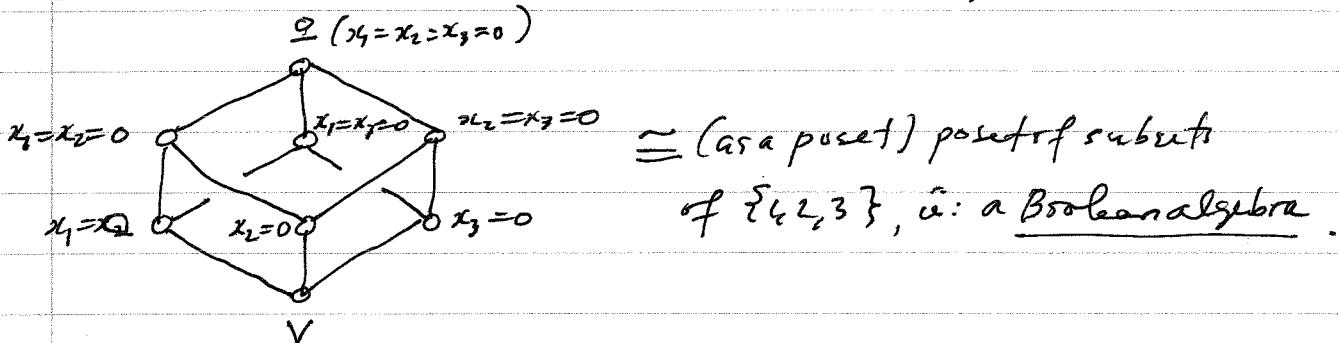
Thus, braid arrangement = the reflecting hyperplanes of this ref. gp.

In general, a reflection arrangement = {reflecting hyperplanes of some reflection gp}.

- Combinatorics (of hyperplane arrangements).

Intersection lattice  $L(A) :=$  all possible intersections of elements of  $A$   
partially ordered by reverse inclusion.  
- a poset. (together with  $V$  itself).

Eg: Boolean arrangement ( $n=3$ ):  $A = \{x_1=0, x_2=0, x_3=0\}$



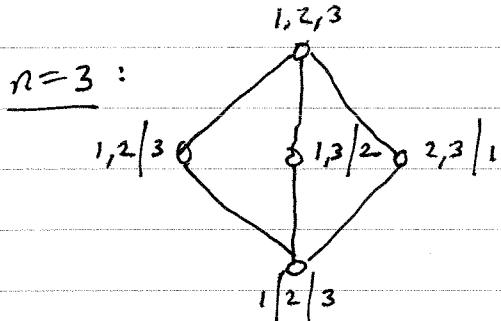
Eg: braid arrangement: let  $I = \{1, \dots, n\}$ . A partition of  $I$  into  $\nwarrow$  blocks

is a  $\Lambda = \{\Lambda_1, \dots, \Lambda_p\}$  with  $\Lambda_i \subset I$ ,  $\Lambda_i \cap \Lambda_j = \emptyset$  and  $I = \bigcup \Lambda_i$ .

If  $\Lambda' = \{\Lambda'_1, \dots, \Lambda'_q\}$  then define  $\Lambda \leq \Lambda'$   $\stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff}$  for each  $\Lambda_i$  there is

a  $\Lambda'_j$  with  $\Lambda_i \subset \Lambda'_j$ . Write  $\Pi(n)$  for set of partitions of  $I$ ; the set

$\Pi(n)$  with partial order  $\leq$  is a poset called the partition lattice.



bijection  
Ex: there is a  $\nwarrow$  map  $\Lambda \mapsto X(\Lambda)$   
from  $\Pi(n) \rightarrow L(A)$  such that

$\Lambda \leq \Lambda' \iff X(\Lambda) \supseteq X(\Lambda')$ .

$\hat{\cup}$ : an isomorphism of posets.

def<sup>n</sup>: for any  $L(A)$  the Möbius function  $\mu: L(A) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is

$$\mu(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } x = V \\ -\sum_{Y \supset x} \mu(Y), & \text{if } x \neq V \end{cases}$$

and the Poincaré polynomial is

$$\pi(A, t) := \sum_{X \in L(A)} \mu(X)(-t)^{\text{codim } X}$$

beautiful result 1 (Zaslavsky):  $\pi(A, 1) = N^c$  regions, i.e.:

$N^c$  of connected components in  $V - \bigcup_{x \in A} X$ .

• Topology (of hyperplane arrangements)

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{complexity } V_C = V \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{C} \\ A \subset V \text{ hyperplane arrangement} \rightsquigarrow A_C = \{X \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{C} \mid X \in A\} \end{array}$$

Ex (amusing):  $V \setminus X$  disconnected  
 $V_C \setminus (X \otimes \mathbb{C})$  connected!

Form space  $M_A := V_C - \bigcup_{A_C} (X \otimes \mathbb{C})$ , the complements of the hyperplanes in  $V_C$ .

The Poincaré polynomial

$$\text{of } M_A \text{ defined to be } \text{Poin}(M_A, t) := \sum_{k \geq 0} rk H^k(M_A, \mathbb{Z}) t^k.$$

beautiful result 2 (Arnold):  $A =$  braid arrangement

$$\Rightarrow \text{Poin}(M_A, t) = (1+t)(1+2t) \cdots (1+(n-1)t).$$

beautiful result 3 (Orlik-Solomon): for any  $A$ ,

$$\text{Poin}(M_A, t) = \pi(A, t).$$

## Lecture 4 : Inverse monoids

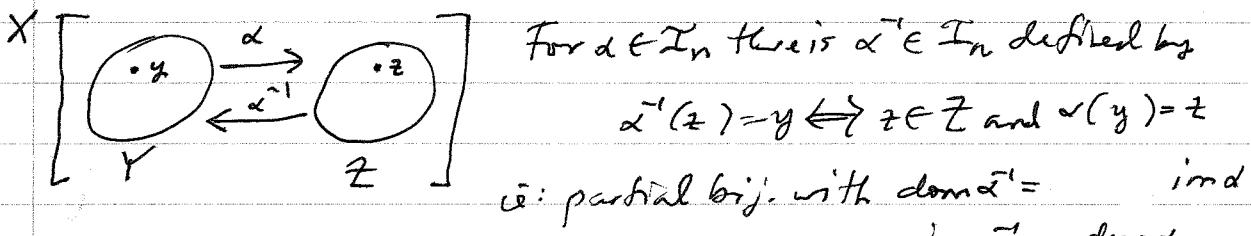
- $X = \{1, \dots, n\}$ . Recall symmetric inverse monoid  $\text{In}$  has elements partial bijections  $Y \xrightarrow{\alpha} Z$  ( $Y, Z \subseteq X$ ) under composition of partial maps.

Write  $\text{dom} \alpha = Y$ ,  $\text{im} \alpha = Z$ .

$\text{In monoid}$  :  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{composition of partial maps is associative} \\ \text{id}: X \rightarrow X \text{ with } \text{id} \cdot \alpha = \alpha = \alpha \cdot \text{id} \text{ for all } \alpha \end{array} \right.$

- $Y \subseteq X$ ,  $\text{id}_Y: Y \rightarrow Y$  partial identity; if  $\alpha \in \text{In}$  and  $Y = \text{dom} \alpha$

then  $\text{id}_Y \cdot \alpha = \alpha$  (but,  $\text{id}_Y \cdot \beta \neq \beta$  in general).



have  $\alpha \alpha^{-1} = \text{id}_Y$ ,  $\tilde{\alpha} \alpha = \text{id}_Z$  (note  $\alpha \alpha^{-1} \neq \tilde{\alpha} \alpha$ )

$$\Rightarrow \alpha \tilde{\alpha} \alpha = \alpha \text{ and } \tilde{\alpha} \alpha \tilde{\alpha} = \tilde{\alpha}$$

$\text{In inverse monoid}$  :  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{a monoid M s.t. for all } a \in M \text{ there is a} \\ \text{unique } \tilde{a} \in M \text{ with } a \tilde{a} a = a \text{ and} \\ \tilde{a} a \tilde{a} = \tilde{a}. \end{array} \right.$

**Caution:** in an inverse monoid we have  $(\tilde{a})' = a$  and  $(ab)' =$

$\tilde{b} \tilde{a}'$ ; we do not have  $a \tilde{a}' = \tilde{a}' a$  or  $ab = ac \Rightarrow b = c$  (as we do in a group).

- In  $\text{In}$  we have the bijections  $\alpha: X \rightarrow X$ ,  $\tilde{\alpha}: G_n \rightarrow G_n$  is a subgp. of  $\text{In}$

consisting of precisely those  $\alpha \in I_n$  with  $\alpha \bar{\alpha}' = id = \bar{\alpha}' \alpha$ .

For  $M$  inverse monoid, the units  $G = G(M)$  are those  $\alpha \in M$  with

$$\alpha \bar{\alpha}' = id = \bar{\alpha}' \alpha.$$

- $Y \subseteq X \Rightarrow id_Y \cdot id_Y (= id_Y^2) = id_Y$ . For  $M$  (inverse) monoid

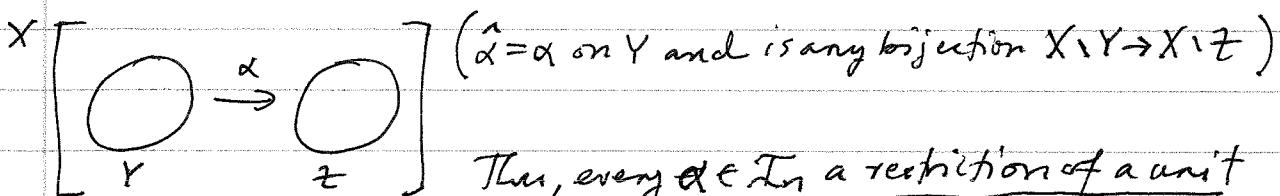
the idempotents  $E = E(M)$  are those  $e \in M$  s.t.  $e^2 = e$ .

(in  $I_n$  this includes the empty map  $\emptyset: \phi \rightarrow \phi$ )

The units act on the idempotents: in  $I_n$ , if  $\alpha \in G_n$  then  $\bar{\alpha} \cdot id_Y \cdot \alpha = id_{Y\bar{\alpha}}$ ,

and in general, for  $g \in G$ ,  $e \in E$  have  $\bar{g} \circ g \in E$ .

- $\alpha \in I_n$  with  $Y = \text{dom } \alpha \Rightarrow$  there is  $\hat{\alpha} \in G_n$  with  $\hat{\alpha}|_Y = \alpha$ .



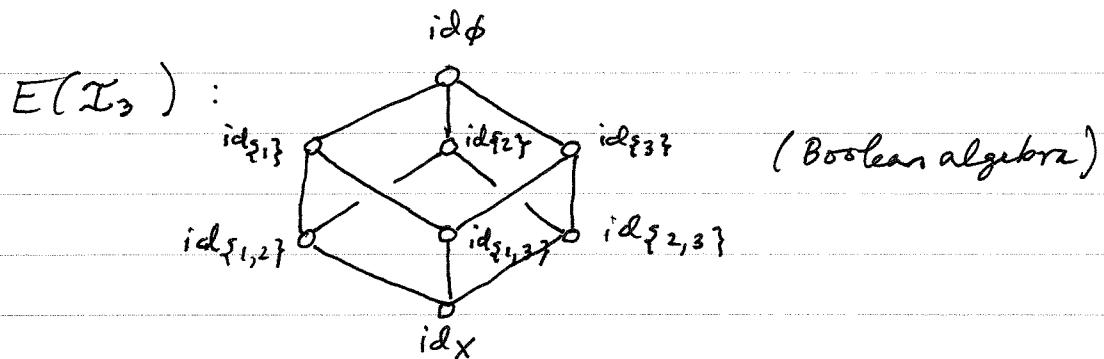
(warning:  $\hat{\alpha}$  not unique).

Put another way:  $\alpha = id_Y \cdot \hat{\alpha} \in E(I_n) G(I_n)$ .

In general, a monoid is factorizable  $\overset{\text{def.}}{\iff} M = EG$ .

- Partially order  $E(I_n)$  by  $id_Y \leq id_Z \iff Y \supseteq Z \iff id_Y \circ id_Z = id_Z$

(for general  $M$ , partially order  $E(M)$  by  $e \leq f \iff ef = f$ )



general principle: much of the structure of  $M$  determined by the group  $G(n)$ , the poset  $E(n)$  and the action of  $G$  on  $E$ .

- All of the above holds for:  $k$  field,  $V$  vector space over  $k$

$ML(V) = \text{vector space isoms. } Y \rightarrow Z \quad (Y, Z \text{ subspaces of } V)$

under composition of partial maps.

## Lecture 5 : Reflection monoids

- recall (lecture 4) :  $V$  vector space,  $Y, Z \subset V$  subspaces, then an

isomorphism  $Y \rightarrow Z$  a partial (linear) isomorphism;  $M_L(V)$

(linear) monoid of partial isoms. under composition of partial maps.

- notation :  $g \in GL(V)$  ( $\bar{g} : V \xrightarrow{\cong} V$  full isom.) and  $Y \subset V$  subspace,

write  $g_Y$  for partial isom.  $Y \xrightarrow{\text{def}} Yg$ . In particular,  $SGL(V)$  a

reflection  $\mapsto s_Y$  a partial reflection. Recall  $g_Y, h_Z \in M_L(V)$

$$g_Y h_Z = (gh)_{Y \cap Zg^{-1}}.$$

- $WCGL(V)$  a group. A set  $\mathcal{S}$  of subspaces of  $V$  is a system in  $V$

for  $W \xleftarrow{\text{def}} (1). V \in \mathcal{S}, (2). \mathcal{S}W = \mathcal{S} (\bar{g}: X \in \mathcal{S}, g \in W \Rightarrow Xg \in \mathcal{S})$

(3).  $X, Y \in \mathcal{S} \Rightarrow X \cap Y \in \mathcal{S}$ .

- Eg :  $V$  Euclidean, orthonormal basis  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ , recall root

system  $A_{n-1} = \{x_i - x_j \mid i \neq j\}$  and reflection group  $W(A_{n-1})$

$\cong G_n \subset GL(V)$  under permutation action ( $x_i \xrightarrow{\pi} x_{i\pi}$ ).  
 (with  $g(\pi) \mapsto \pi$  under this isom.)

Let  $I = \{1, \dots, n\}$  and for  $J \subseteq I$ , let  $X(J) = \bigoplus_J \mathbb{R} x_j \subset V$  and

$$\mathcal{S}_I = \{X(J) \mid J \subseteq I\}, (X(\emptyset) = 0).$$

Then (1).  $V = X(\mathcal{I})$ , (2).  $X(\mathcal{J})g(\pi) = X(\mathcal{J}\pi)$  and (3).  $X(\mathcal{J}_1) \cap X(\mathcal{J}_2)$

$= X(\mathcal{J}_1 \cap \mathcal{J}_2)$ .  $\Rightarrow \mathcal{S}_2$  system in  $V$  for  $W(A_{n-1})$ .

- Eg: same  $W$  as above;  $\mathcal{A}$  = braid arrangement (lecture 3)

$= \{$  hyperplanes  $x_i - x_j = 0\} =$  reflecting hyperplanes of  $W(A_{n-1})$ . Let

$\mathcal{S}_2 = L(\mathcal{A})$  intersection lattice. Recall that there is an isomorphism

of posets  $\Pi(n) \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_2$ , written  $\lambda = \{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_p\} \mapsto X(\lambda) \in \mathcal{S}_2$ . It  
(partitions)

turns out that  $X(\lambda)g(\pi) = X(\lambda\pi)$  with  $\lambda\pi = \{\lambda_{1\pi}, \dots, \lambda_{p\pi}\}$

$\Rightarrow \mathcal{S}_2$  a system for  $W(A_{n-1})$ .

- Eg: in general, if  $W \subset GL(V)$  a reflection gp.,  $\mathcal{A}$  = reflecting hyperplanes

of  $W$  and  $\mathcal{S} = L(\mathcal{A})$ , then let  $X \in \mathcal{A}$ ,  $g \in W$  and  $s =$  reflection in  $X$

$\Rightarrow \tilde{g}^{-1}s\tilde{g} = s' =$  reflection in  $Xg \Rightarrow Xg \in \mathcal{A} \Rightarrow \mathcal{A}W = \mathcal{A} \Rightarrow \mathcal{S}W = \mathcal{S}$ .

Thus,  $\mathcal{S}$  a system in  $V$  for  $W$ .

- $W \subset GL(V)$ ,  $\mathcal{S}$  system in  $V$  for  $W$ . Let

$$M(W, \mathcal{S}) := \{gy \mid g \in W, y \in \mathcal{S}\} \subset MGL(V).$$

✓ Lect. 4

Theorem : TFAE: (1).  $MGL(V)$  factorizable inverse monoid

generated by partial reflections, (2). there is a reflection group

$W \subset GL(V)$  and a system  $S$  for  $W$  in  $V$  with  $M = M(W, S)$ .

A reflection monoid is an  $M$  satisfying (1) or (2).

• Eg:  $W = W(A_{n-1}) \cong G_n$  (Def. 1); writing  $M(A_{n-1}, S_1)$  for

$M(W, S_1)$ , we have  $M(A_{n-1}, S_1) \cong \mathbb{Z}_n$ .

• Theorem:  $WCGL(V)$  finite and system  $S$  finite. Then

$$|M(W, S)| = \sum_{X \in S} [W : W_X]$$

( $W_X :=$  isotropy grp. of  $X = \{g \in W \mid \forall g = v \text{ for all } v \in X\}$ ).

• Eg:  $W = W(A_{n-1}) \cong G_n$ ;  $S_2$  system above. If  $X = x(\Lambda)$  for

$\Lambda = \{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_p\}$  then  $W_X \cong G_{\lambda_1} \times \dots \times G_{\lambda_p}$  and

$$|M(A_{n-1}, S_2)| = \sum_{\Lambda} [G_n : G_{\lambda_1} \times \dots \times G_{\lambda_p}].$$

• In general: if  $W = W(\Phi)$  then a  $\Psi \subset \Phi$  satisfying the axioms

for a root system (see lecture 2) is a sub-root system. A reflection

subgroup is a  $W(\Psi)$  for  $\Psi$  a sub-root system. Then,

Theorem:  $W \subset GL(V)$  finite and  $S_2 = L(\Lambda)$  the intersection lattice of the reflecting hyperplanes. Then  $M(W, S_2)$  has order the sum of the indices of the reflection subgroups.