

## Rowmotion on fences

Bruce Sagan

Michigan State University

[www.math.msu.edu/~sagan](http://www.math.msu.edu/~sagan)

joint with Sergi Elizalde, Matthew Plante, and Tom Roby

November 2, 2021

BIRS DAC Conference

Fences

Rowmotion on fences and tilings

Self-dual posets

Comments and future work

Let  $G$  be a finite group acting on a finite set  $S$ . Let  $\mathbb{N}$  be the nonnegative integers and  $\text{st} : S \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  be a statistic. If  $\mathcal{O} \subseteq S$  then we let

$$\text{st } \mathcal{O} = \sum_{x \in S} \text{st } x.$$

Call  $\text{st}$  *homomesic* if  $\text{st } \mathcal{O} / \# \mathcal{O}$  is constant over all orbits  $\mathcal{O}$  where the hash tag is cardinality. Call  $\text{st}$  *homometric* if for any two orbits  $\mathcal{O}_1$  and  $\mathcal{O}_2$  we have

$$\# \mathcal{O}_1 = \# \mathcal{O}_2 \implies \text{st } \mathcal{O}_1 = \text{st } \mathcal{O}_2.$$

Note that homomesy implies homometry, but not conversely.

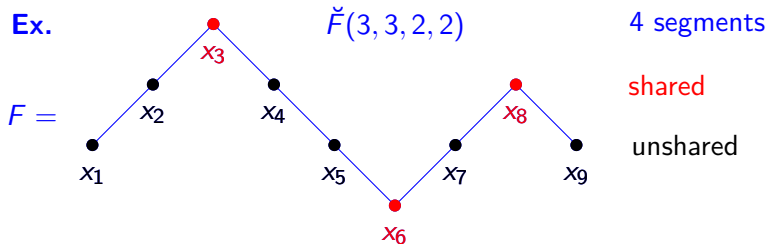
Let  $(P, \trianglelefteq)$  be a finite poset,  $\mathcal{A}(P)$  be the set of antichains of  $P$ , and  $\mathcal{I}(P)$  be the set of (lower order) ideals of  $P$ . Let  $\rho : \mathcal{A}(P) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(P)$  be rowmotion on antichains, so  $\rho(A)$  is the set of minimal elements of the complement of the ideal generated by  $A$ . Let  $\hat{\rho} : \mathcal{I}(P) \rightarrow \mathcal{I}(P)$  be rowmotion on ideals.

A *fence* is a poset with elements  $F = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$  and covers

$$x_1 \triangleleft x_2 \triangleleft \dots \triangleleft x_a \triangleright x_{a+1} \triangleright \dots \triangleright x_b \triangleleft x_{b+1} \triangleleft \dots$$

where  $a, b, \dots$  are positive integers.

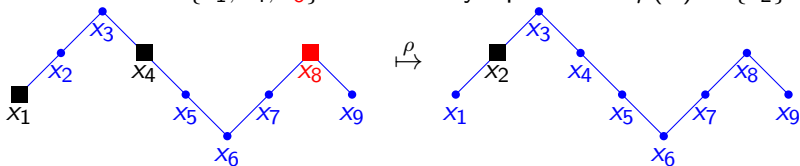
**Ex.**



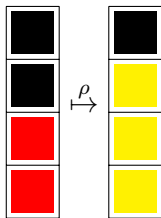
Fences have important connections with cluster algebras,  $q$ -analogues, unimodality, and Young diagrams. The maximal chains of  $F$  are called *segments*. Elements on two segments are called *shared*. All other elements are *unshared*. If  $F$  has  $s$  segments then we let  $F = \check{F}(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_s)$  where for all  $i$

$$\alpha_i = (\# \text{ of unshared elements on segment } i) + 1.$$

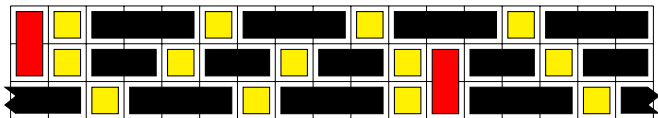
As an example of rowmotion on a fence  $F$ , consider the fence below and  $A = \{x_1, x_4, x_8\}$  indicated by squares. So  $\rho(A) = \{x_2\}$ .



Represent an antichain  $A \subset F$  using a column of 4 boxes, with the box in row  $i$  from the top corresponding to the  $i$ th segment  $S_i$  from the left. We color the box for  $S_i$  by black if  $S_i \cap A$  is an unshared element, red if  $S_i \cap A$  is a shared element, or yellow if  $S_i \cap A = \emptyset$ .



Pasting together such colored columns, we can model any orbit of  $\rho$  on a fence  $F = \check{F}(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_s)$  as a tiling of a cylinder  $C_s$  of boxes having  $s$  rows. One of the orbits in  $\check{F}(4, 3, 4)$  has the following tiling where the left and right ends of the rectangle are identified.



We can characterize these tilings as follows. If  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_s)$ , then an  $\alpha$ -tiling is a tiling of  $C_s$  using yellow  $1 \times 1$  tiles, red  $2 \times 1$  tiles, and black  $1 \times (\alpha_i - 1)$  tiles in row  $i$ , for  $1 \leq i \leq s$ , such that the following hold for all rows.

- (a) If  $\alpha_i \geq 2$  and the red tiles are ignored, then the black and yellow tiles alternate in row  $i$ .
- (b) There is a red tile in a column covering rows  $i$  and  $i + 1$  if and only if either the next column contains two yellow tiles in those two rows when  $i$  is odd, or the previous column contains two yellow tiles in those two rows when  $i$  is even.

$b_i :=$  the number of black tiles in row  $i$  of a tiling,

$r_i :=$  the number of red tiles whose top box is in row  $i$  of a tiling,

$\chi(\mathcal{O}) :=$  the number of antichain elements in orbit  $\mathcal{O}$ .

Lemma (EPRS)

*Given an orbit  $\mathcal{O}$  in fence  $\check{F}(\alpha)$  with corresponding  $\alpha$ -tiling*

$$\chi(\mathcal{O}) = \sum_{i=1}^s (b_i \alpha_i - b_i + r_i).$$

One can also compute  $\chi_x$ , the number of times a given element  $x$  appears in an orbit, and derive corresponding results for ideals.

Theorem (EPRS)

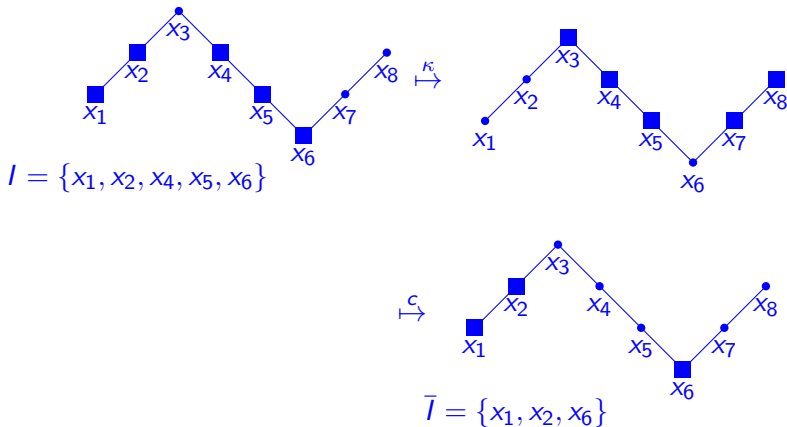
- 1. If  $x$  is unshared and  $y, z$  are the shared elements on the same segment  $S_i$  then  $\alpha_i \chi_x + \chi_y + \chi_z$  is 1-mesic.*
- 2. For  $\check{F}(a, b)$  all orbits  $\mathcal{O}$  have size  $\ell = \text{lcm}(a, b)$  except one  $\mathcal{O}'$  of size  $\ell + 1$ . For the orbits of size  $\ell$  we have  $\chi(\mathcal{O}) = \frac{2ab - a - b}{\gcd(a, b)} := m$ . For the other orbit  $\chi(\mathcal{O}') = m + 1$ .*

Let  $P^*$  be the dual of poset  $P$ . Suppose  $P$  is self dual so that  $P \cong P^*$ . Thus there exists an order-reversing bijection  $\kappa : P \rightarrow P$ . Define the *ideal complement* of  $I \in \mathcal{I}(P)$  as

$$\bar{I} = c \circ \kappa(I)$$

where  $c(S) = P - S$  for any  $S \subseteq P$ . Note that  $\#I + \#\bar{I} = \#P$ .

**Ex.**  $\kappa(x_i) = x_{9-i}$





Let

$\hat{\chi}(\mathcal{O})$  = the number of ideal elements in an orbit  $\mathcal{O}$  of  $\hat{\rho}$ .

### Theorem

*Let  $P$  be self-dual with  $n = \#P$ , and fix an order-reversing bijection  $\kappa : P \rightarrow P$ . Let  $I \in \mathcal{I}(P)$ .*

- 1. If  $I, \bar{I} \in \mathcal{O}$  for some orbit  $\mathcal{O}$ , then*

$$\frac{\hat{\chi}(\mathcal{O})}{\#\mathcal{O}} = \frac{n}{2}.$$

- 2. If  $I \in \mathcal{O}$  and  $\bar{I} \in \bar{\mathcal{O}}$  for some orbits  $\mathcal{O}$  and  $\bar{\mathcal{O}}$  with  $\mathcal{O} \neq \bar{\mathcal{O}}$ , then  $\#\mathcal{O} = \#\bar{\mathcal{O}}$  and*

$$\frac{\hat{\chi}(\mathcal{O} \uplus \bar{\mathcal{O}})}{\#(\mathcal{O} \uplus \bar{\mathcal{O}})} = \frac{n}{2}.$$

Consider the group generated by the action of  $\hat{\rho}$  and the map  $I \mapsto \bar{I}$ . The orbits of this action will be called *superorbits*.

### Theorem

*If  $P$  is self-dual with  $n = \#P$  then  $\hat{\chi}$  is  $(n/2)$ -mesic on superorbits.*

**Constant**  $\alpha$ . Let  $\alpha = (a^s) = (\underbrace{a, \dots, a}_s)$ .

**Conjecture**

Let  $F = \check{F}(a^s)$ .

1. *The statistic  $\chi$  is homometric.*
2. *If  $s$  is odd then the statistic  $\hat{\chi}$  is  $n/2$ -mesic where  $n = \#F$ .*

**Toggles.** Let  $S$  be a set and let  $\mathcal{T}$  be the toggle group associated with some family of subsets of  $S$ . The *base graph* of  $\mathcal{T}$ , denoted  $G_{\mathcal{T}}$ , has as vertices the toggles  $\tau_x$  for  $x \in S$ , and it has an edge  $\tau_x \tau_y$  if  $\tau_x$  and  $\tau_y$  do not commute.

**Theorem**

*Let  $G_{\mathcal{T}}$  be acyclic and  $w, w'$  be any two Coxeter elements of  $\mathcal{T}$  generating groups  $W, W'$ . Then any linear combination of indicator functions  $\chi_y$  for  $y \in S$  is  $c$ -mesic or homometric under the action of  $W$  if and only if it is  $c$ -mesic or homometric, respectively, under the action of  $W'$ .*

In particular, the base graph of the toggle group for the ideals of a fence have an acyclic base graph, so this theorem applies.

THANKS FOR  
LISTENING!