

**Ehrhart theory + cyclic sieving =  
true love forever?**

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Ehrhart theory is about counting lattice points in dilations of polytopes.

Cyclic sieving is about counting fixed points of iterates of a map.

Can we combine them?

Given  $S$  finite and  $\tau : S \rightarrow S$  invertible, with  $\tau^n = \text{Id}_S$ , and given  $p(t) \in \mathbb{Z}[t]$ , say that  $(S, \tau, n, p)$  exhibits cyclic sieving iff for all  $k \geq 0$ , the number of fixed points of  $\tau^k$  equals  $|p(\exp(2\pi ik)/n)|$ . (This is slightly different from the standard definition.)

Primordial algebraic example:  $S = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : z^n = 1\} = \{\zeta^k : 0 \leq k < n\}$  with  $\zeta$  a primitive  $n$ th root of unity,  $\tau : z \mapsto \zeta z$ ,  $p(t) = 1 + t + \dots + t^{n-1}$ . (This is the basis of the discrete Fourier transform.)

There are many examples of cyclic sieving for which  $S$  is a set of combinatorial objects and  $p(t) = \sum_{s \in S} t^{r(s)}$  where  $r : S \mapsto \mathbb{N}$  is a combinatorially natural mapping having nothing obvious to do with  $\tau$ . In particular, in many cases  $r(s)$  is the rank of  $s$  under some natural poset structure on  $S$ . Example: Let  $S$  be the chain with  $m$  elements,  $\tau$  be the involutory anti-automorphism  $S \mapsto S$  (so that  $n = 2$ ), and  $p(t) = 1 + t + \dots + t^{m-1}$ . Then  $(S, \tau, 2, p)$  exhibits cyclic sieving.

Challenge: Construct a theory of cyclic sieving when  $S$  is the set of lattice points in a polytope with integer vertices and  $\tau$  is some linear map of the ambient space carrying  $S$  to itself. The theory should be compatible with dilation of the polytope.

Example: Let  $\Pi$  be the polygon in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  with vertices  $(0,0)$ ,  $(1,0)$ , and  $(0,1)$ ; let  $S$  be the  $m$ th dilation of  $\Pi$ , let  $n = 2$ , and take the involution  $\tau : (x, y) \mapsto (y, x)$  sending  $S$  to itself. If for all  $s = (x, y)$  in  $S$  we define  $r(s) = x + y$  and we take  $p(t) = \sum_{s \in S} t^{r(s)} = 1 + 2t + 3t^2 + \dots + (m+1)t^m$ , we find that  $|p(-1)^k|$  equals the number of  $s \in S$  with  $\tau^k s = s$ .