

---

**KYLE PETERSEN**, DePaul University

*How to write a permutation as a product of involutions*

It is well-known that any permutation can be written as a product of two involutions, often in a number of different ways. Curiously, the question of how many ways to do this appears to be closely related to the sum of absolute values of the characters in the symmetric group. This leads to speculation about a cancellation-free Murnaghan-Nakayama rule. This is joint work with Bridget Tenner.