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**Pramod N Achar\*** ([pramod@math.lsu.edu](mailto:pramod@math.lsu.edu)), 266 Lockett Hall, Department of Mathematics, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. *On special pieces, unipotent classes, and complex reflection groups.*

In the past decade, remarkable work by a number of people has shown that complex reflection groups behave in many ways like Weyl groups of algebraic groups, giving rise to such objects as generic degrees, families of characters, and even Green functions. In this talk, I will discuss connections between these developments and the geometry of special pieces (which are certain unions of unipotent classes) in algebraic groups. The work described here is partly joint with Daniel Sage, and partly joint with Anne-Marie Aubert. (Received February 20, 2006)