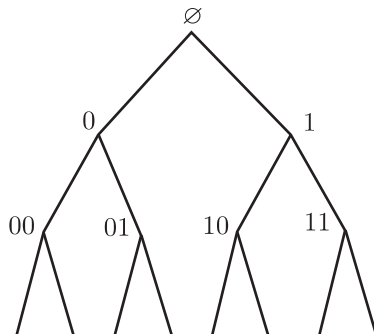


# A Cantor set in the space of 3-generated groups

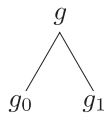
Volodymyr Nekrashevych

May 6, 2006,  
Vanderbilt

# Binary tree



# Notation



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$$\begin{array}{ccc} & g & \\ & / \quad \backslash & \\ g_0 & & g_1 \end{array}$$
$$g = (g_0, g_1)$$

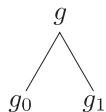
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$$\begin{array}{c} g \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ g_0 \quad g_1 \\ g = (g_0, g_1) \end{array}$$

$$g(0v) = 0g_0(v)$$

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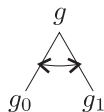
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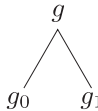
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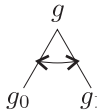
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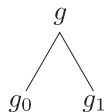
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$$g = \sigma(g_0, g_1)$$

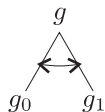
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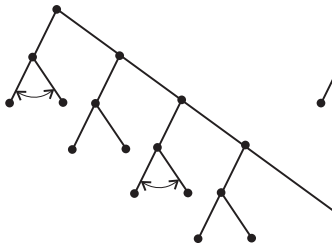
$\mathcal{D}_{11\dots} = G_{0101\dots}$  (a Grigorchuk group).

$\alpha_{11\dots}, \beta_{11\dots}, \gamma_{11\dots}$ 

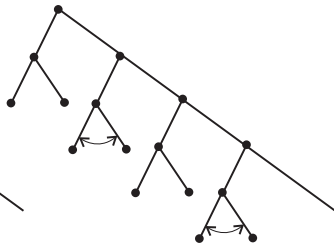
$$\alpha_{11\dots} = \sigma$$



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## Proposition

*Suppose that  $h_0, h_1, h_2$  are conjugate to  $\alpha_w, \beta_w, \gamma_w$  in  $\text{Aut}(X^*)$ . Then there exists a unique  $w' \in \{0, 1\}^\infty$  such that  $h_0, h_1, h_2$  are simultaneously conjugate to  $\alpha_{w'}, \beta_{w'}, \gamma_{w'}$ .*

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## Corollary

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## Theorem

*Groups  $\mathcal{D}_{w_1}$  and  $\mathcal{D}_{w_2}$  are isomorphic if and only if they are conjugate in  $\text{Aut}(X^*)$ .*

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$\mathcal{R}_{11\dots} = \text{IMG}(z^2 + (-0.1226\dots + 0.7449\dots i))$  and

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# The Space of Finitely Generated Groups

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The set  $\mathfrak{G}_n$  of quotients of  $F_n$ , i.e., the set of *marked*  $n$ -generated groups

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It is induced from the direct product topology on  $2^{F_n}$ , if we identify a group with the kernel of the canonical epimorphism.

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Y. Stadler and L. Guyot studied the set of limit points of  $B(m, n)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

## Theorem

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Let  $\Omega \subset \{0, 1\}^\infty$  be the set of sequences which have infinitely many zeros.

Then the map  $\Omega \rightarrow \mathfrak{G}_3$

$$w \mapsto (\mathcal{D}_w, \alpha_w, \beta_w, \gamma_w)$$

is a homeomorphic embedding.



## Theorem

Two groups  $\mathcal{D}_{w_1}$  and  $\mathcal{D}_{w_2}$  are isomorphic if and only if the sequences  $w_1$  and  $w_2$  are cofinal, i.e., if they are of the form  $w_1 = v_1u$  and  $w_2 = v_2u$  for  $|v_1| = |v_2|$ .

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## Corollary

For any  $w_1, w_2 \in \{0,1\}^\infty$  and any finite set of relations and inequalities between the generators of  $\mathcal{R}_{w_1}$  there are generators of  $\mathcal{R}_{w_2}$  such that the same relations and inequalities hold.

## Theorem

Let

$$R_i = \left\{ \left[ \beta^{\alpha^{2n+i}}, \gamma \right], \left[ \beta^{\alpha^{2n+1}}, \beta \right], \left[ \gamma^{\alpha^{2n+1}}, \gamma \right] : n \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}$$

for  $i = 0, 1$ , and

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_0(\alpha) &= \alpha\beta\alpha^{-1}, & \varphi_1(\alpha) &= \beta, \\ \varphi_0(\beta) &= \gamma, & \varphi_1(\beta) &= \gamma, \\ \varphi_0(\gamma) &= \alpha^2, & \varphi_1(\gamma) &= \alpha^2. \end{aligned}$$

Then for every  $w = x_1x_2 \dots \in \{0, 1\}^\infty$ 

$$\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \varphi_{x_1} \circ \varphi_{x_2} \circ \dots \circ \varphi_{x_{n-1}}(R_{x_n})$$

is a set of defining relations of  $\mathcal{R}_w$ .

# Universal Groups of the Families

Let  $\mathcal{D}$  be the subgroup of  $\prod_{w \in \{0,1,2\}^\infty} \mathcal{D}_w$  generated by the “diagonal” elements

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This group can be defined as

$$\langle \alpha, \beta, \gamma \mid \emptyset \rangle / \bigcap_{w \in \{0,1\}^\infty} N_w,$$

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where  $N_w$  is the kernel of the epimorphism  $\alpha \mapsto \alpha_w, \beta \mapsto \beta_w, \gamma \mapsto \gamma_w$ .  
Let us call  $\mathcal{D}$  the *universal group* of the family  $\{\mathcal{D}_w\}$ .

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Let  $T_{y_1 y_2 \dots}$  be the subtree consisting of the words

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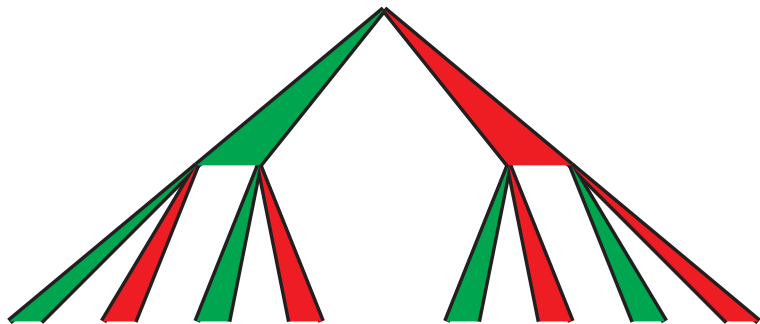
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Restriction of  $\mathcal{D}$  onto  $T_w$  is  $\mathcal{D}_w$ .



# A bigger group

Let  $\tilde{D}$  be the group generated by

$$\alpha = (12)(34),$$

$$\beta = (\alpha, \gamma, \alpha, \gamma),$$

$$\gamma = (\beta, 1, 1, \beta),$$

$$a = (13)(24),$$

$$b = (a\alpha, a\alpha, c, c),$$

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Note that the group  $\tilde{D}$  permutes the subtrees  $T_w$ .

## Proposition

*The following relations hold.*

$$\begin{array}{lll} \alpha^a = \alpha, & \alpha^b = \alpha, & \alpha^c = \alpha, \\ \beta^a = \beta, & \beta^b = \beta, & \beta^c = \beta^\gamma, \\ \gamma^a = \gamma^\alpha, & \gamma^b = \gamma^\beta, & \gamma^c = \gamma. \end{array}$$

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Consequently, if  $w_1$  and  $w_2$  belong to one  $H$ -orbit, then  $\mathcal{D}_{w_1}$  and  $\mathcal{D}_{w_2}$  are isomorphic.

# An overgroup of $\mathcal{R}$

Let  $\tilde{\mathcal{R}} \triangleright \mathcal{R}$  be generated by

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha &= \sigma(1, \gamma, 1, \gamma), & a &= \pi(c, c, 1, 1), & l_0 &= (l_2 c \gamma^{-1}, l_2 c, l_2 \gamma^{-1}, l_2) \\ \beta &= (\alpha, 1, 1, \alpha), & b &= (1, 1, a, a), & l_1 &= (l_0, l_0, l_0, l_0) \\ \gamma &= (1, \beta, 1, \beta), & c &= (1, \beta, b \beta^{-1}, b), & l_2 &= (l_1, l_1, l_1, l_1), \end{aligned}$$

where  $\sigma = (12)(34) : (0, y) \leftrightarrow (1, y)$  and  $\pi = (13)(24) : (x, 0) \leftrightarrow (x, 1)$ .

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The group  $\tilde{\mathcal{R}}$  acts on the second coordinates as

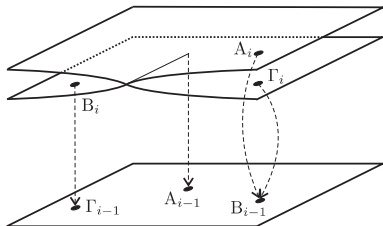
$$\begin{aligned} a &= \sigma(c, 1), \quad b = (1, a), \quad c = (1, b), \\ r_0 &= (r_2 c, r_2), \quad r_1 = (r_0, r_0), \quad r_2 = (r_1, r_1). \end{aligned}$$

## $\mathcal{D}_w$ as Iterated Monodromy Groups

Let  $C_i$  be planes and let  $A_i, B_i, \Gamma_i \in C_i$ . Let  $f_i : C_i \rightarrow C_{i-1}$  by 2-fold branched coverings such that

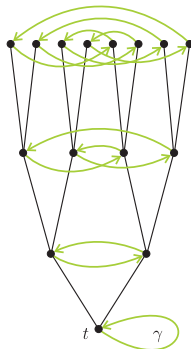
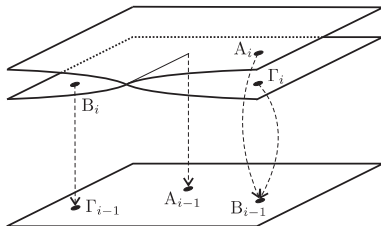
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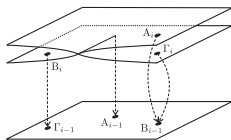
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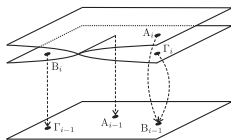
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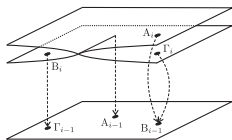
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We get  $f_i = (az + 1)^2$  and  $ap_i + 1 = -1$ , hence  $f_i(z) = \left(1 - \frac{2z}{p_i}\right)^2$ ,

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$$\text{IMG}(F) / \mathcal{D} \cong \text{IMG} \left( \left(1 - \frac{2}{p}\right)^2 \right).$$

The family  $\mathcal{R}_w$  can be defined in the similar way, but starting from the map

$$\begin{pmatrix} z \\ p \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 1 - \frac{z^2}{p^2} \\ 1 - \frac{1}{p^2} \end{pmatrix}$$