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Subword Reversing and Ordered Groups

Patrick Dehornoy Laboratoire de Mathématiques Nicolas Oresme Université de Caen



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• Use subword reversing to constructing examples of ordered groups.

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(and a new proof of the orderability of the braid group  $B_3$ )

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- I. What is subword reversing?
- II. Subword reversing in a triangular context

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Appendix. The  $\mu$  function on positive braids





#### • A strategy for constructing Kampen diagrams

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• Example:

$$\begin{split} B_4^+ &= \langle \sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3 \mid \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \sigma_1 = \sigma_2 \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \\ \sigma_2 \sigma_3 \sigma_2 &= \sigma_3 \sigma_2 \sigma_3, \sigma_1 \sigma_3 = \sigma_3 \sigma_2 \rangle^+ \end{split}$$

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• How to build a van Kampen diagram for (u, v)—when it exists?

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• Definition.— Subword reversing = the "left strategy", i.e.,


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• In this way, a uniform pattern:

$$s \downarrow \xrightarrow{t} becomes \qquad s \downarrow \xrightarrow{c} \downarrow_R \downarrow_U \quad with sv = tu in R.$$

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Subword reversing: basic results

• Reversing may be stuck:  $s \downarrow$ 



• Reversing may be stuck:  $s \sqrt{\frac{t}{?}}$  if no relation s... = t...;• Result may not be unique:  $s \sqrt{\frac{t}{\bigcirc_R}} \sqrt{u_1}$ ,  $s \sqrt{\frac{t}{\bigcirc_R}} \sqrt{u_2}$ , if several relations s... = t...;





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• Reversing may be stuck:  $s \sqrt{\frac{t}{?}}$  if no relation s... = t...;• Result may not be unique:  $s \sqrt{\frac{t}{\gamma_R}} u_1$ ,  $s \sqrt{\frac{t}{\gamma_R}} u_2$ , if several relations s... = t...;• Reversing may never terminate (unless relations involve words of length  $\leq 2$ ): assume  $a^2b = ba$ :

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emma.— 
$$u \bigvee \bigcirc R \bigvee u'$$
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• What for a non-complete presentation? Make it complete : completion procedure...

## – Part II –

Subword reversing in a triangular context

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• Construct monoids in which the left-divibility relation is a linear ordering,

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• Lemma.— Assume that M is a monoid generated by S and  $\delta$  is a central element of M that is a right-multiple of every element of S. Then every element of M left-divides  $\delta^r$  for r large enough.

• Proof. Show using induction on r that  $h \in S^r$  implies  $h \preccurlyeq \delta^r$ . By assumption, true for r = 1. Assume  $h \in S^r$  with r > 1. Write h = fg,  $f \in S^p$ ,  $g \in S^q$  and p + q = r. By IH, there exists f', g' s.t.  $ff' = \delta^p$ ,  $gg' = \delta^q$ . Then

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• ...(under the same hypotheses) any two elements of *M* admit a common right-multiple.

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– Appendix –

The  $\boldsymbol{\mu}$  function on positive braids

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– Appendix –

## The $\boldsymbol{\mu}$ function on positive braids



– Appendix –

### The $\mu$ function on positive braids



... The orderability of braid groups is 20 years old this week.

• Artin's braid group *B<sub>n</sub>*:



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$$B_n$$
:  $\langle \sigma_1, ..., \sigma_{n-1} | \sigma_i \sigma_j = \sigma_j \sigma_i$  for  $|i-j| \ge 2$ .

• Artin's braid group 
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:  $\left\langle \sigma_1, ..., \sigma_{n-1} \right| \left\langle \sigma_i \sigma_j = \sigma_j \sigma_i & \text{for } |i-j| \ge 2 \\ \sigma_i \sigma_j \sigma_i \sigma_i = \sigma_j \sigma_i \sigma_j & \text{for } |i-j| = 1 \\ \end{array} \right\rangle$ .

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# The alternating normal form of braids

• Associate with every braid  $\beta$  in  $B_n^+$ a finite sequence  $(..., \beta_3, \beta_2, \beta_1)$  of braids in  $B_{n-1}^+$ : the *n*-splitting of  $\beta$ . • Associate with every braid  $\beta$  in  $B_n^+$ 

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# • Definition (Birman-Ko-Lee, 1997).—

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• Theorem (Fromentin, 2008): For 
$$\beta, \beta'$$
 in  $B_n^{+*}$ ,  
 $\beta <_D \beta'$  is equivalent to  $T_n^*(\beta) <^{\text{ShortLex}} T_n^*(\beta')$ .

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• Conjecture (D., Fromentin, Gebhardt, 2009).— For  $\beta$  in  $B_3^+$ ,  $\mu(\beta \Delta_3^2) = \sigma_1 \sigma_2^2 \sigma_1 \cdot \mu(\beta) \cdot \sigma_2^2.$ 

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www.math.unicaen.fr/~dehornoy