The SD-world:

a bridge between algebra, topology, and set theory



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Fourth Mile High Conference, Denver, July-August 2017



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• 1. Overview of the SD-world, with a special emphasis on the word probleme of SD.



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- 2. The connection with set theory and the Laver tables.

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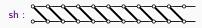
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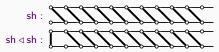
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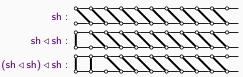
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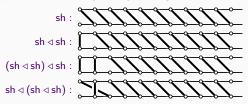
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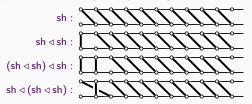
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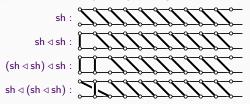


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[P.D. Algebraic properties of the shift mapping, Proc. Amer. Math. Soc. 106 (1989) 617-623]

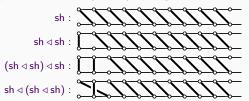
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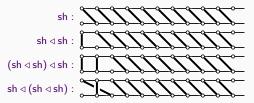
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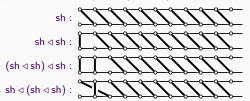
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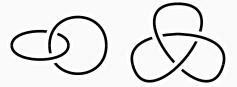
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▶ find isotopy invariants.

Connection with topology (2)

• Two diagrams represent isotopic figures iff one can go from the former to the latter using finitely many Reidemeister moves:

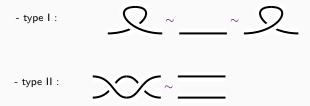
- type I:

- type I : ~ _ ~





- type II:

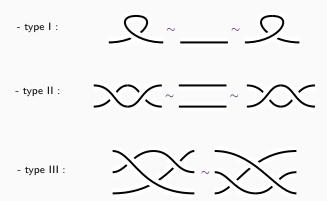








- type III :



• Fix a set (of colors) S equipped with two operations $\triangleleft, \overline{\triangleleft}$,

Fix a set (of colors) S equipped with two operations ⊲, ¬,
 and color the strands in diagrams obeying the rules:



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• Action of Reidemeister moves on colors:

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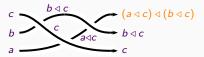
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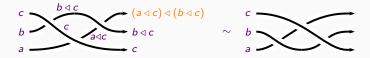
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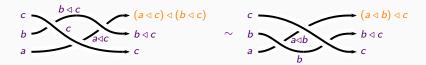
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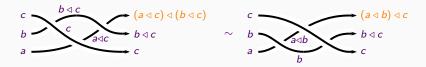
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 Fix a set (of colors) S equipped with two operations ⊲, ¬, and color the strands in diagrams obeying the rules:

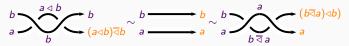


• Action of Reidemeister moves on colors:



▶ Hence:

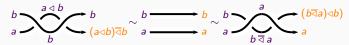
 (S, \triangleleft) -colorings are invariant under Reidemeister move III iff (S, \triangleleft) is a shelf.



$$b \xrightarrow{a \triangleleft b} b \xrightarrow{(a \triangleleft b) \triangleleft b} b \xrightarrow{a} a \xrightarrow{a} b \xrightarrow{a} b \xrightarrow{a} a \xrightarrow{b} a \xrightarrow{a} a$$

► Hence:

 (S, \triangleleft) -colorings are invariant under Reidemeister moves II+III iff (S, \triangleleft) is a rack.

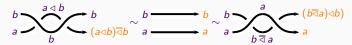


► Hence:

 (S, \triangleleft) -colorings are invariant under Reidemeister moves II+III iff (S, \triangleleft) is a rack.

• Idem for Reidemeister move I:





► Hence:

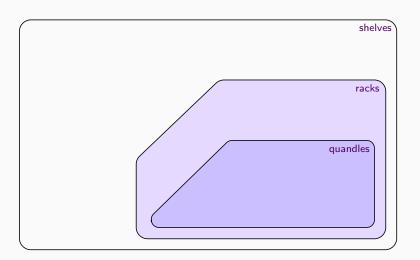
 (S, \triangleleft) -colorings are invariant under Reidemeister moves II+III iff (S, \triangleleft) is a rack.

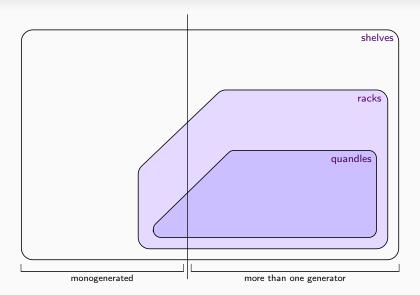
• Idem for Reidemeister move I:

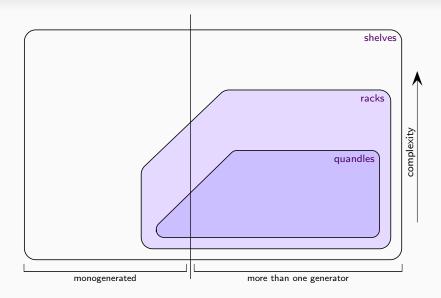
$$a \triangleleft a$$
 $a \triangleleft a$
 $a \triangleleft a$
 $a \triangleleft a$
 $a \triangleleft a$
 $a \triangleleft a$

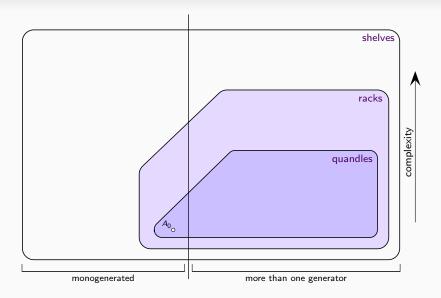
▶ Hence:

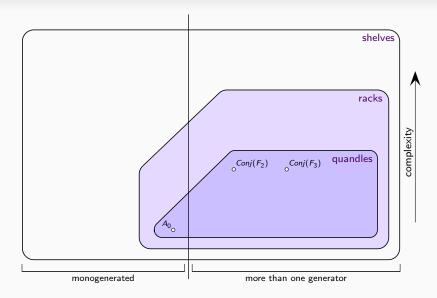
 (S, \triangleleft) -colorings are invariant under Reidemeister moves I+II+III iff (S, \triangleleft) is a quandle.

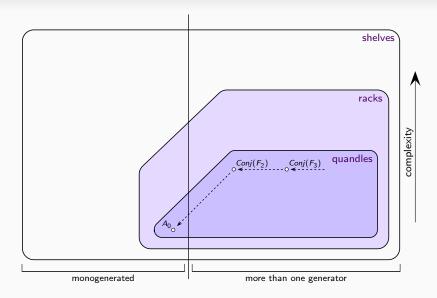


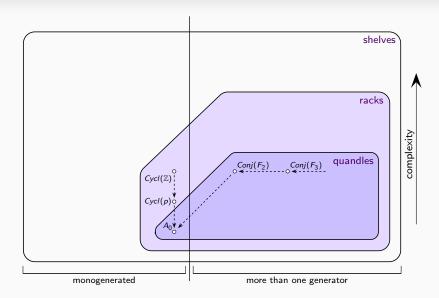


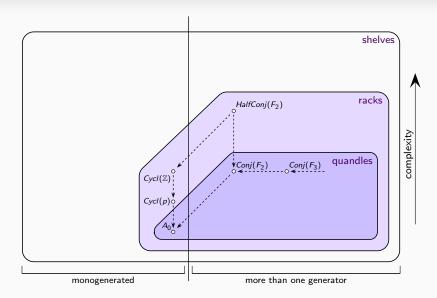


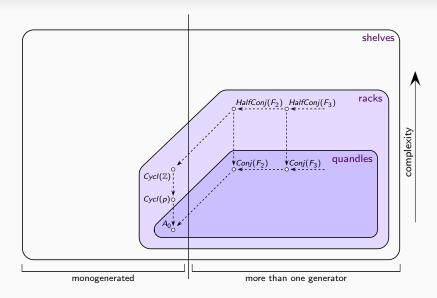


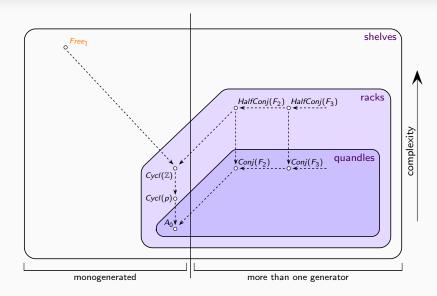


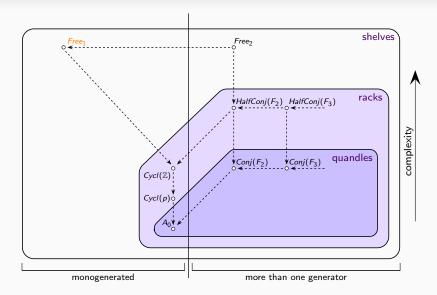


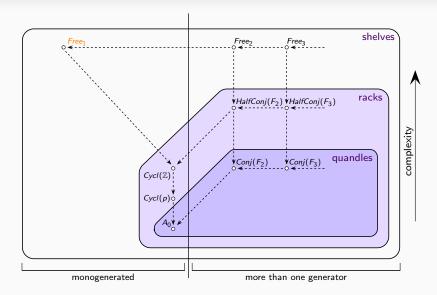


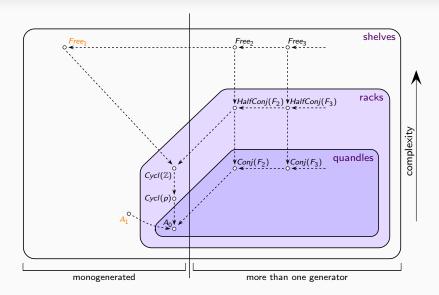


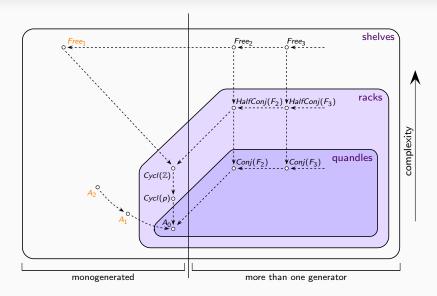


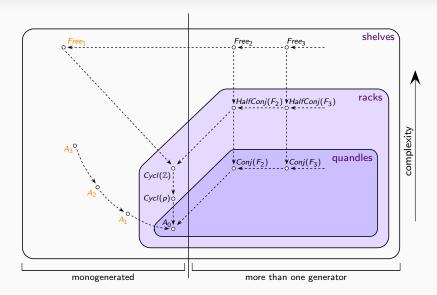


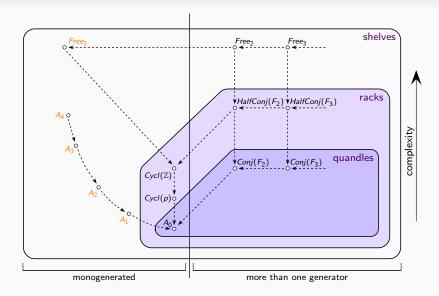


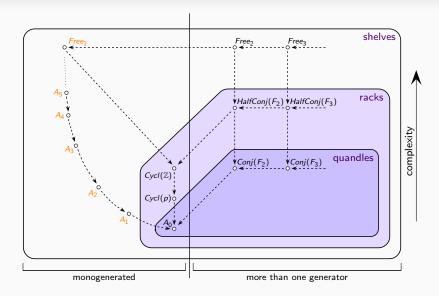


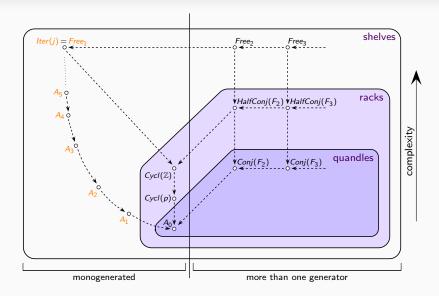


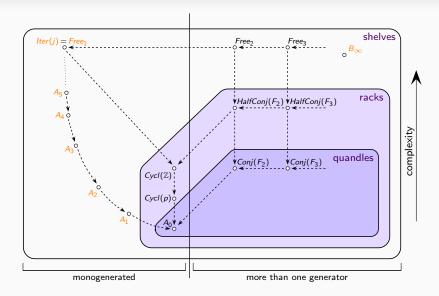


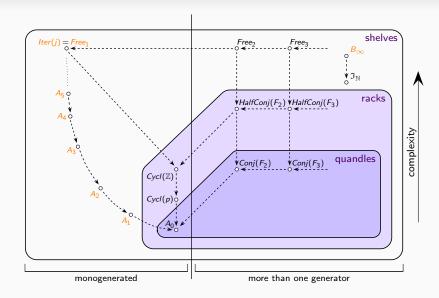


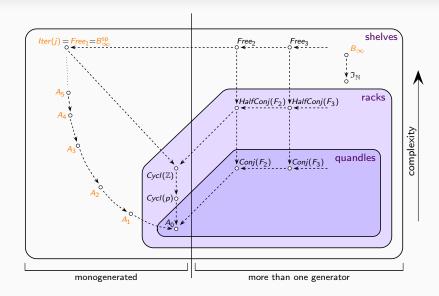


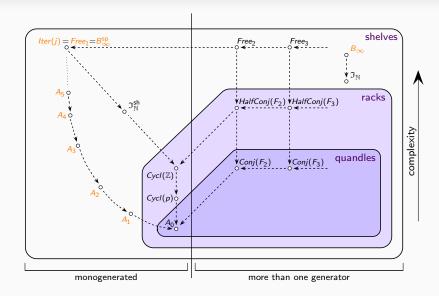












Plan:

- Minicourse I. The SD-world
 - 1. A general introduction
 - Classical and exotic examples
 - Connection with topology: quandles, racks, and shelves
 - A chart of the SD-world
 - 2. The word problem of SD: a semantic solution
 - Braid groups
 - The braid shelf
 - A freeness criterion
 - 3. The word problem of SD: a syntactic solution
 - The free monogenerated shelf
 - The comparison property
 - The Thompson's monoid of SD
- Minicourse II. Connection with set theory
 - 1. The set-theoretic shelf
 - Large cardinals and elementary embeddings
 - The iteration shelf
 - 2. Periods in Laver tables
 - Quotients of the iteration shelf
 - The dictionary
 - Results about periods

$$\left\langle \sigma_{1},...,\sigma_{n-1}\right|$$

$$\Big\langle \sigma_1,...,\sigma_{n-1} \Big| \quad \sigma_i \sigma_j = \sigma_j \sigma_i \quad \text{ for } |i-j| \geqslant 2 \ \Big\rangle.$$

$$\bigg\langle \sigma_1,...,\sigma_{n-1} \bigg| \begin{array}{ll} \sigma_i \sigma_j = \sigma_j \sigma_i & \text{for } |i-j| \geqslant 2 \\ \sigma_i \sigma_j \sigma_i = \sigma_j \sigma_i \sigma_j & \text{for } |i-j| = 1 \end{array} \bigg\rangle.$$

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 \simeq { braid diagrams } / isotopy:

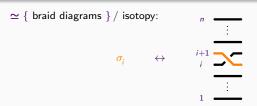
• <u>Definition</u> (Artin 1925/1948): The braid group B_n is the group with presentation

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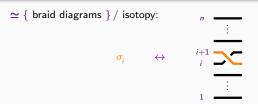
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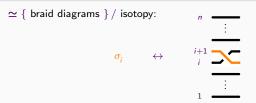


• Example:

$$\sigma_1$$
 = σ_2 σ_3

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$$\frac{1}{\sigma_1} \frac{\sigma_3}{\sigma_3} = \frac{1}{\sigma_3} \frac{\sigma_1}{\sigma_1} = \frac{1}{\sigma_2} \frac{\sigma_1}{\sigma_2} \frac{\sigma_2}{\sigma_3} \frac{\sigma_1}{\sigma_2}$$

- Adding a strand on the right provides $i_{n,n+1}: B_n \subset_{\longrightarrow} B_{n+1}$
 - ▶ Direct limit B_∞

- - ▶ Direct limit $B_{\infty} = \left\langle \sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots \right|$



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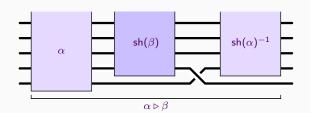
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 - ▶ Shift endomorphism of B_{∞} : sh: $\sigma_i \mapsto \sigma_{i+1}$.

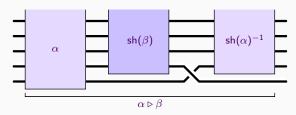
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- $\begin{array}{c} \bullet \ \underline{\mathsf{Proposition}} \colon \mathsf{For} \ \alpha,\beta \ \mathsf{in} \ B_{\infty} \ \mathsf{,} \ \mathsf{define} \\ & \alpha \, \triangleright \, \beta := \alpha \cdot \mathsf{sh}(\beta) \cdot \sigma_1 \cdot \mathsf{sh}(\alpha)^{-1}. \\ & \mathsf{Then} \ (B_{\infty},\triangleright) \ \mathsf{is} \ \mathsf{a} \ \mathsf{left} \ \mathsf{shelf}. \end{array}$

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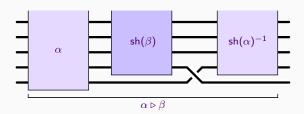


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• Examples: $1 \triangleright 1 = \sigma_1$,

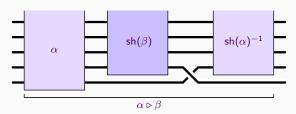
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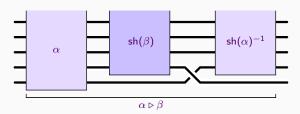
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 $\bullet \ \underline{\mathsf{Examples}} \colon \ 1 \, \triangleright \, 1 = \sigma_1, \quad \ 1 \, \triangleright \, \sigma_1 = \sigma_2 \sigma_1, \quad \ \, \sigma_1 \, \triangleright \, 1 = \sigma_1^2 \sigma_2^{-1}, \quad \ \, \sigma_1 \, \triangleright \, \sigma_1 = \sigma_2 \sigma_1, \, \mathsf{etc.}$

▶ Proof:

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$$(\alpha \triangleright \beta) \triangleright (\alpha \triangleright \gamma)$$

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• Remark: Works similarly with

$$x \triangleright y := x \cdot \phi(y) \cdot e \cdot \phi(x)^{-1}$$

whenever G is a group G, e belongs to G, and ϕ is an endomorphism ϕ satisfying $e \phi(e) e = \phi(e) e \phi(e)$ and $\forall x (e \phi^2(x) = \phi^2(x) e)$.

A semantic solution of the word problem

• <u>Proposition</u> (D., 1989, Laver, 1989) If (S, \triangleright) is a monogenerated left shelf, a sufficient condition for (S, \triangleright) to be free is that the relation \sqsubset on S has no cycle. $\downarrow r$ \downarrow

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▶ Equivalently: $x = (\cdots ((x \triangleright z_1) \triangleright z_2) \triangleright \cdots) \triangleright z_n$ is impossible.

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- Corollary: (solution of the wp of SD) Given two terms T, T':

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Plan:

- Minicourse I. The SD-world
 - 1. A general introduction
 - Classical and exotic examples
 - Connection with topology: quandles, racks, and shelves
 - A chart of the SD-world
 - 2. The word problem of SD: a semantic solution
 - Braid groups
 - The braid shelf
 - A freeness criterion
 - 3. The word problem of SD: a syntactic solution
 - The free monogenerated shelf
 - The comparison property
 - The Thompson's monoid of SD
- Minicourse II. Connection with set theory
 - 1. The set-theoretic shelf
 - Large cardinals and elementary embeddings
 - The iteration shelf
 - 2. Periods in Laver tables
 - Quotients of the iteration shelf
 - The dictionary
 - Results about periods

ullet Describe the free (left) shelf based on a set X

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▶ Proof: trivial.

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Then $T_1 =_{SD} T_2$ holds iff

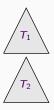
Then $T_1 =_{SD} T_2$ holds iff one has $T_1 \rightarrow_{SD} T$ and $T_2 \rightarrow_{SD} T$ for some T.

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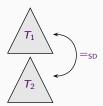
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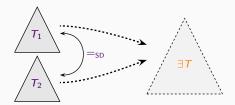


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 $\textit{holds for } n > \mathsf{ht}(T), \textit{ where } \frac{\mathsf{ht}(x)}{\mathsf{t}} := 0 \textit{ and } \frac{\mathsf{ht}(T_1 \triangleright T_2)}{\mathsf{t}} := \mathsf{max}(\mathsf{ht}(T_1), \mathsf{ht}(T_2)) + 1.$

• <u>Lemma</u> (absorption): Define $x^{[1]} := x$ and $x^{[n]} := x \triangleright x^{[n-1]}$ for $n \ge 2$. For T in T_x , $x^{[n+1]} = s_D$, $T \triangleright x^{[n]}$

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 $=_{SD} (T_1 \triangleright T_2) \triangleright x^{[n]}$
 $= T \triangleright x^{[n]}$

by induction hypothesis for T_1 by induction hypothesis for T_2 by applying SD



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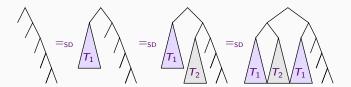
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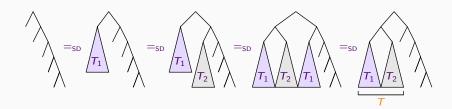
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 $=_{SD} I_1 \triangleright (I_2 \triangleright x^{\lfloor n-1 \rfloor})$ $=_{SD} (T_1 \triangleright T_2) \triangleright (T_1 \triangleright x^{\lfloor n-1 \rfloor})$ $=_{SD} (T_1 \triangleright T_2) \triangleright x^{\lfloor n \rfloor}$ $= T \triangleright x^{\lfloor n \rfloor}$

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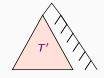




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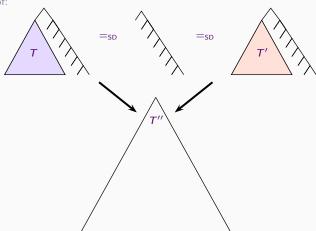




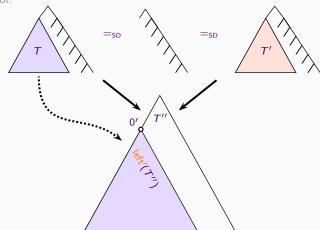
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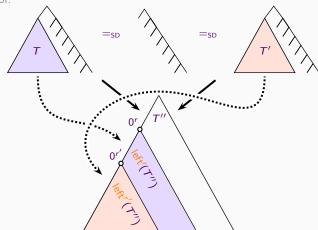
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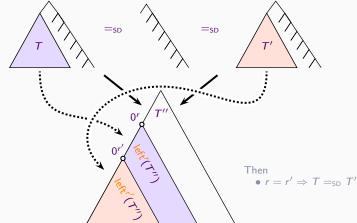


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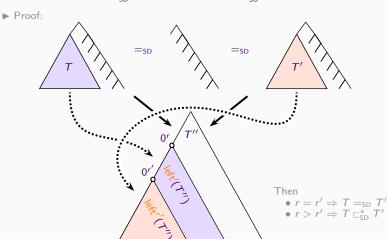


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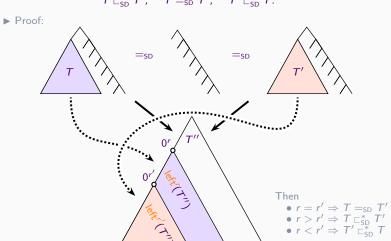




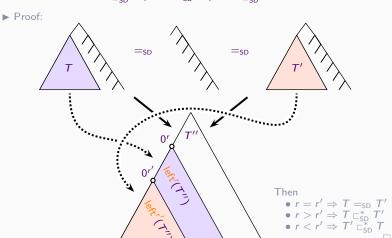
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A syntactic solution to the word problem

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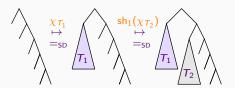
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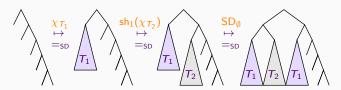
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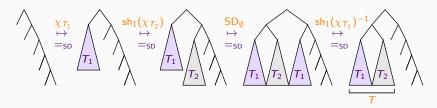
The Thompson's monoid of SD (cont'd)

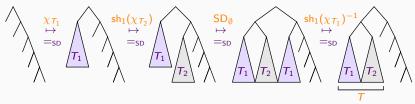




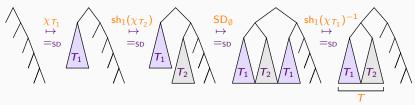




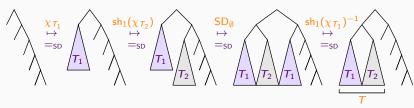




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.../...

• See more in [P.D., Braids and selfdistributivity, PM192, Birkhaüser (1999)]



Plan:

- Minicourse I. The SD-world
 - 1. A general introduction
 - Classical and exotic examples
 - Connection with topology: quandles, racks, and shelves
 - A chart of the SD-world
 - 2. The word problem of SD: a semantic solution
 - Braid groups
 - The braid shelf
 - A freeness criterion
 - 3. The word problem of SD: a syntactic solution
 - The free monogenerated shelf
 - The comparison property
 - The Thompson's monoid of SD
- Minicourse II. Connection with set theory
 - 1. The set-theoretic shelf
 - Large cardinals and elementary embeddings
 - The iteration shelf
 - 2. Periods in Laver tables
 - Quotients of the iteration shelf
 - The dictionary
 - Results about periods

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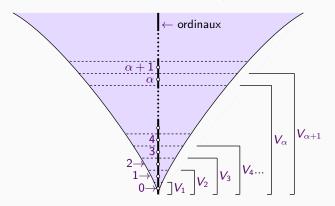
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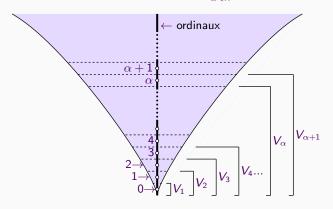
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 - ► A super-infinite set must be so large that it contains <u>un</u>definable elements (since all definable elements must be fixed).

• Fact: There is a canonical filtration of sets by the sets V_{α} , α an ordinal,

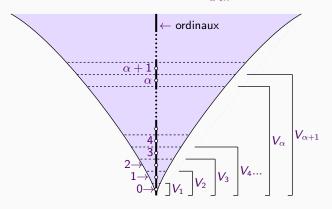
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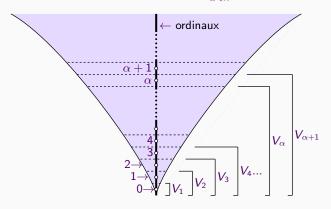




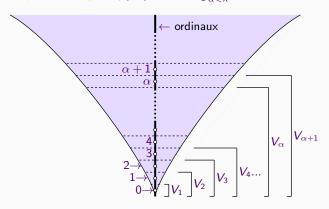
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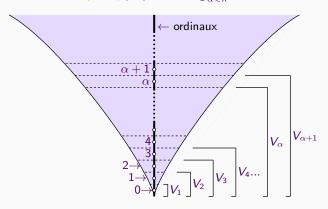
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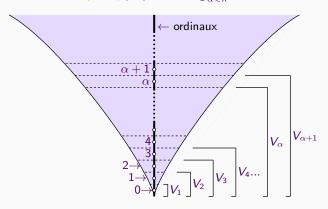
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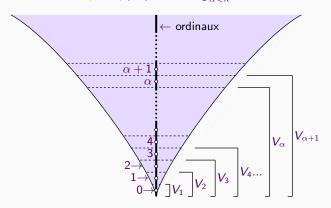
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 - ▶ Proof: Every element of V_{λ} belongs to some V_{α} with $\alpha < \lambda$;



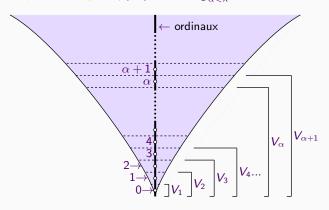
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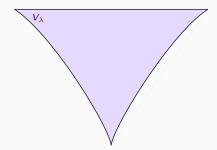
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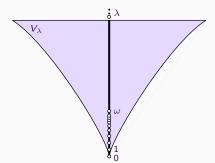
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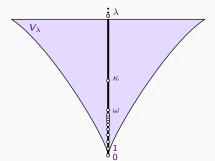
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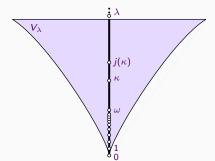
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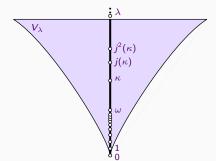
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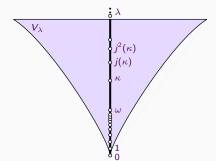
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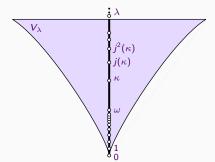
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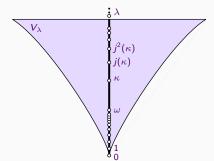
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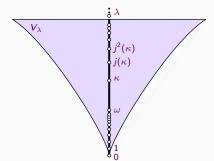
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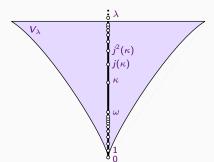
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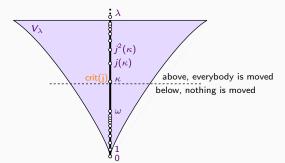
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 - 1. A general introduction
 - Classical and exotic examples
 - Connection with topology: quandles, racks, and shelves
 - A chart of the SD-world
 - 2. The word problem of SD: a semantic solution
 - Braid groups
 - The braid shelf
 - A freeness criterion
 - 3. The word problem of SD: a syntactic solution
 - The free monogenerated shelf
 - The comparison property
 - The Thompson's monoid of SD
- Minicourse II. Connection with set theory
 - 1. The set-theoretic shelf
 - Large cardinals and elementary embeddings
 - The iteration shelf
 - 2. Periods in Laver tables
 - Quotients of the iteration shelf
 - The dictionary
 - Results about periods

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- <u>Proposition</u> (Laver, 1994): Assume that λ is a Laver cardinal. Let j belong to E_{λ} . For i,i' in Iter(j) and $\gamma < \lambda$, declare $i \equiv_{\gamma} i'$ ("i and i' agree up to γ ") if $\forall x \in V_{\gamma} (i(x) \cap V_{\gamma} = i'(x) \cap V_{\gamma})$.

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▶ Proof: (Difficult...) Starts from $j \equiv_{crit(i)} i[j]$ and similar. Uses in particular crit($j_{[m]}$) = crit_n(j) with n maximal s.t. 2^n divides m.

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Quotients of Iter(j) (cont'd)

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 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \bullet \mbox{ Recall: The Laver table A_n is the unique left-shelf on $\{1,...,2^n\}$ \\ & \mbox{ satisfying $p=1_{[p]}$ for $p\leqslant 2^n$ and $2^n\rhd 1=1$.} \\ \mbox{ (or, equivalently, on $\{0,...,2^n-1\}$) satisfying $p=1_{[p]}$ mod 2^n for $p\leqslant 2^n$ and $0\rhd 1=1$)} \\ \label{eq:constraints}$

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• Corollary: The quotient-structure $|\text{ter}(j)| \equiv_{\text{crit}_n(j)}$ is (isomorphic to) the table A_n .

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- \blacktriangleright A (set-theoretic) realization of A_n as a quotient of the iteration shelf lter(j).

• <u>Lemma</u>: For every j in E_{λ} , every term t(x), and every n, $t(1)^{A_n} = 2^n \quad \text{is equivalent to} \quad \operatorname{crit}(t(j)^{\operatorname{lter}(j)}) \geqslant \operatorname{crit}_n(j); \tag{*}$

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▶ Proof: For (*): $crit(t(j)) \ge crit_n(j)$ means $t(j) \equiv_{crit_n(j)} id$,

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For (**):
$$crit(t(j)) = crit_n(j)$$
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For (**): $crit(t(j)) = crit_n(j)$ is the conjunction of $crit(t(j)) \ge crit_n(j)$ and $crit(t(j)) \ge crit_{n+1}(j)$, hence of $t(1)^{A_n} = 2^n$ and $t(1)^{A_{n+1}} \ne 2^{n+1}$:

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• <u>Proposition</u> ("dictionary"): For $m \le n$ and $p \le 2^n$, the period of p jumps from 2^m to 2^{m+1} between A_n and A_{n+1}

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For (**): $\operatorname{crit}(\mathsf{t}(\mathsf{j})) = \operatorname{crit}_\mathsf{n}(\mathsf{j})$ is the conjunction of $\operatorname{crit}(\mathsf{t}(\mathsf{j})) \geqslant \operatorname{crit}_\mathsf{n}(\mathsf{j})$ and $\operatorname{crit}(\mathsf{t}(\mathsf{j})) \geqslant \operatorname{crit}_\mathsf{n+1}(\mathsf{j})$, hence of $t(1)^{A_n} = 2^n$ and $t(1)^{A_{n+1}} \neq 2^{n+1}$: the only possibility is $t(1)^{A_{n+1}} = 2^n$.

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$$(p \triangleright 2^m)^{A_{n+1}} = 2^n.$$
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First, (***) implies $\pi_{n+1}(p) > 2^{m'}$.

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▶ Proof: For (*): $\operatorname{crit}(\mathsf{t}(\mathsf{j})) \geqslant \operatorname{crit}_\mathsf{n}(\mathsf{j})$ means $t(\mathsf{j}) \equiv_{\operatorname{crit}_\mathsf{n}(\mathsf{j})} \operatorname{id}$, i.e., the class of $t(\mathsf{j})$ in A_n , which is $t(1)^{A_n}$, is that of id, which is 2^n .

For (**): $\operatorname{crit}(\mathsf{t}(\mathsf{j})) = \operatorname{crit}_\mathsf{n}(\mathsf{j})$ is the conjunction of $\operatorname{crit}(\mathsf{t}(\mathsf{j})) \geqslant \operatorname{crit}_\mathsf{n}(\mathsf{j})$ and $\operatorname{crit}(\mathsf{t}(\mathsf{j})) \not\geqslant \operatorname{crit}_\mathsf{n+1}(\mathsf{j})$, hence of $t(1)^{A_n} = 2^n$ and $t(1)^{A_{n+1}} \neq 2^{n+1}$: the only possibility is $t(1)^{A_{n+1}} = 2^n$.

- <u>Proposition</u> ("dictionary"): For $m \le n$ and $p \le 2^n$, the period of p jumps from 2^m to 2^{m+1} between A_n and A_{n+1} iff $j_{[p]}$ maps $crit_m(j)$ to $crit_n(j)$.
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- Open questions: Find alternative proofs using no Laver cardinal.

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Richard Laver (1942-2012)