

# Power conjugacy in Higman-Thompson gps

O. Story

Joint with Andrew Duncan & Nathan Barker

1. Defining Thompson's gps

arXiv: 1503.01032

2. Alternative def: univ. alg

thompsonsv.readthedocs.org

4. Conjugacy problem

~~Dem?~~

3. Orbit structure

B. Story Nathan: PhD @ NCL working on Thompson's gps

Andrew: my supervisor & Nathan's internal examiner.

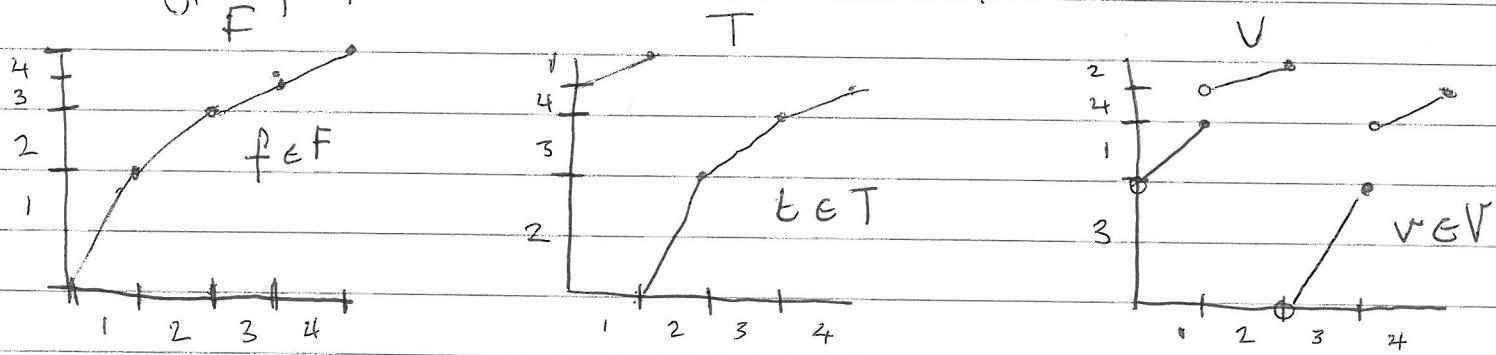
me → implement Nathan's pconj alg on computer

→ 3 months; gap in Higman's soln.

1. Thompson's gps

$F < T < V$

All gps of  $f^{ns} [0,1] \rightarrow [0,1]$  under composition.



"dyadic partition": repeatedly ~~partition~~ bisect interval (same # of chops)

- |  |   |                                 |
|--|---|---------------------------------|
| • cts bijections $[0,1] \rightarrow [0,1]$     | $\Rightarrow$ cts bijection $S^1 \rightarrow S^1$ | right-cts $S^1 \rightarrow S^1$ |
| • increasing                                   |   | (discts @ breakpoints)          |
| • linear (affine) everywhere,                  |   |                                 |
| except @ <del>fitly</del> many breakpoints     |   |                                 |
| • bkpts of $a/2^n$ $a, n \in \mathbb{N}$       |   |                                 |
| • linear sections: gradied $\mathbb{Z}^m$ meth |   |                                 |

F fixed order

T torus

V whatever you want

torsion-free

torsion

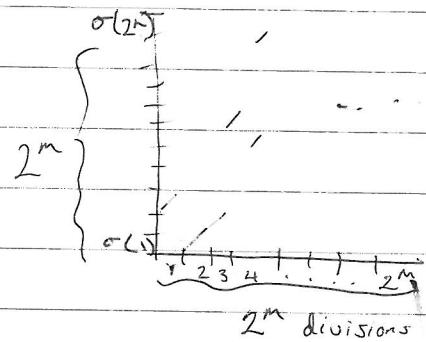
## So what?

- Infinite
- Finitely Pres<sup>d</sup>
- $T, V$  simple ( $1^{st}$  ex known)  
[Simple: if  $N \trianglelefteq G$  then  $N = 1$  or  $N = G$ .]  
"no interesting quotients"

- $V$  contains a copy of every finite group

$$G \hookrightarrow S_n \hookrightarrow S_{2^m} \xrightarrow{\sigma} \text{perm}$$

cayley



- Interesting (constru)-exx
- Resistant to attack.
- Connected to all sorts of stuff

More intro: James Belk's thesis (2007); Cannon, Floyd, Parry (1996)

## 2. Typical Alt def: univ. algebra

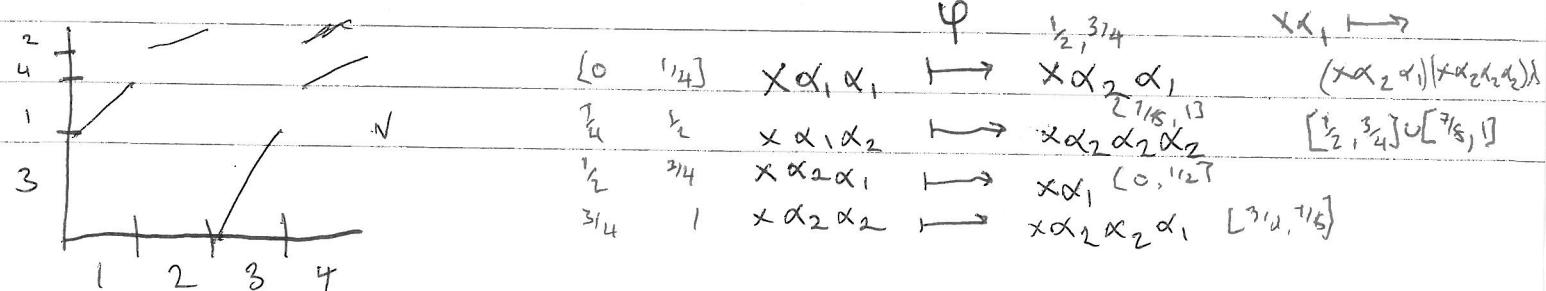
- Typical way to compute w/ elements is via a 'tree pair'
- Higgins [74] advocated an algebraic approach.

$\mathcal{U}$ : a set ctng on normd elmt " $\alpha$ " "generator"  $\longleftrightarrow [G, 1]$   
closed under

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{unary op's } \alpha_1, \alpha_2 & \leftrightarrow \text{left/right subinterval} \\ \text{binary op } \lambda & \leftrightarrow \text{"ordered union"} \end{array}$$

subject to laws  $\alpha_1 \alpha_2 \lambda \alpha_i = \alpha_i \quad i=1, 2$  ( $\mathcal{U}$  is the "freest such")  
 $(\alpha \alpha_1)(\alpha \alpha_2) \lambda = \alpha$  ("thing" gen'd by  $\alpha$ )

Specify elmt<sup>s</sup> of  $\mathbb{A}(F, T) V$  as in terms of this alg



Thm  $V \cong \text{Aut}(T)$

$$v \leftrightarrow \varphi$$

$\varphi$  called an auto<sup>n</sup> b/c

- extends to a bijection  $\varphi': T \xrightarrow{\sim} T$

- homo<sup>n</sup>:  $\varphi(u)_{K_1} = \varphi(u\alpha_1)$

$$\varphi(u_1)\varphi(u_2)x = \varphi(u_1u_2x)$$

Why bother?

- rewriting strings & solving eq<sup>ns</sup> instead of traversing trees
- much easier to concretely describe "orbit structure"

3. Conjugacy: Higman.

defn inf

Def  $u \in T$ ,  $\varphi \in V$

$\varphi$ -orbit of  $u = \text{seq}^*$

$$\dots \varphi^{-1}(u), u, \varphi(u), \varphi^2(u), \dots$$

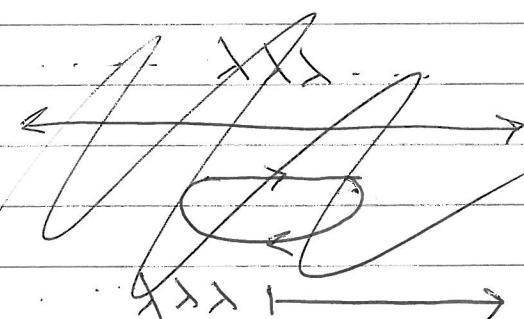
Ex  $\varphi = f$  from before

$$\dots \rightarrow [\frac{1}{2}, 1] \rightarrow [\frac{3}{4}, 1] \rightarrow [\frac{7}{8}, 1] \rightarrow \dots \left[ \frac{1}{2^n}, 1 \right]$$

$\underbrace{\dots}_{\text{want to avoid } \lambda} \quad \overbrace{x\alpha_2 \quad x\alpha_2 \alpha_2 \quad x\alpha_2 \alpha_2 \alpha_2 \dots}^{\alpha_2} \quad \overbrace{\underbrace{x\alpha_2 \dots \alpha_2}_n}^{\alpha_2^n}$

$u_0$  - something not involving  $\lambda$

6 types of orbits: roughly speaking



$\dots \lambda \lambda \lambda \dots$

$u_0, u_1, u_2, \dots$

$\dots u_1, \dots u_n, u_0, \dots$

$\dots \lambda u_1, \dots u_n \lambda \dots$

$\dots \lambda \lambda u_1, u_2, \dots u_n$

or  $\dots u_n, \dots u_1, \lambda \lambda \dots$

①

②

③

④

⑤

⑥

$\dots u_n, \dots u_1, \lambda \lambda u_1, \dots u_n \dots$

⑥

"pond"

Higman ~~said~~ showed that we don't have to worry about

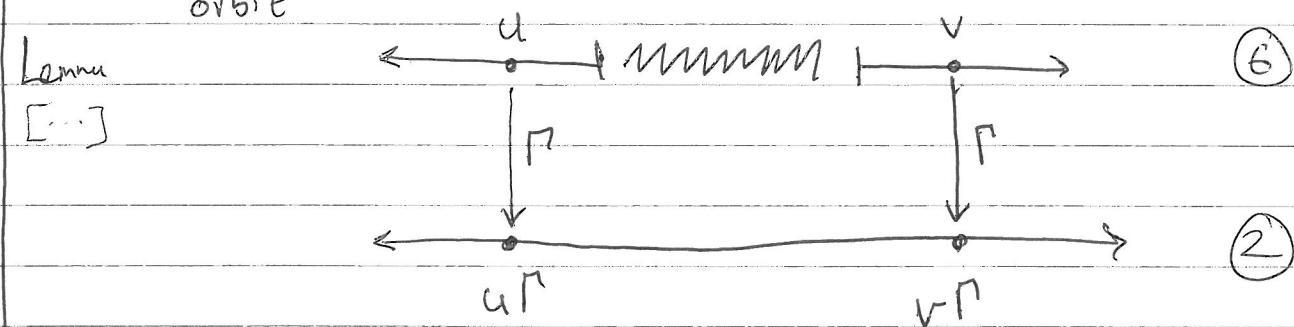
$$\begin{array}{c} \text{~~~~~} \\ \text{m} \xrightarrow{\quad} \text{m} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \textcircled{1} \\ \textcircled{4} \end{array}$$

He said we don't have to worry about  $\textcircled{6}$  (panel) but that's not true.

Higman's alg for conjugacy needs to be able to tell if two given elms  $u, v \in U$  belong to the same  $\varphi$ -orbit  
 $\exists k \in \mathbb{Z}$  st  $u = \varphi^k(v)$ ?

He did not explain how to do this for panel-orbits

PATCH Panel orbit is always a finite distance above a type  $\textcircled{2}$  orbit



We test  $\exists k \in \mathbb{Z}$  st  $u\Gamma = \varphi^k(v\Gamma)$ ?

if  $\nexists k$ :  $u, v$  ~~not~~ do not share an  $\varphi$ -orbit

if  $\exists k$ : compute  $\varphi^k(v)$  and see if it equals  $u$ .  
if not, no other  $k$  will work.

4 Higman's conj. alg. Each orbit is described by an eq<sup>n</sup>.

Ex pdc:  $u = \varphi^k(u)$  } preserved by conjugation.  
rsi:  $u\alpha_2 = \varphi(u)$

If  $\Psi = \rho^{-1}\varphi\rho^{-1}$  i.e. ~~if~~ then  $\rho(u)\alpha_2 = \rho(\varphi(u))$   
 $\Psi\rho = \rho\Psi$

$$\bar{u} = \rho(u)$$

$$\bar{u}\alpha_2 = \Psi(\bar{u})$$

The Hgns. A conjugate  $\rho$  st  $\Psi = \rho \Psi \rho^{-1}$  exists iff  
 $\exists$  a bijection b/w  $\Psi$ -orbits &  $\Psi$ -orbits preserving  
defn's eq  
• type of orbit & associated data  $[(\alpha_1, \alpha_2)]$   
• ~~relations~~ b/w  $\Psi$ -orbits

Moreover, we need consider only a fte # of mps b/w  
orbits to see if such a bijection exists.

From here, brute force.— try every such bijection to see if  
any of them work.