

Arrangement groups and right-angled Artin groups

Michael Falk
Northern Arizona University

joint work with

Daniel Cohen
and Richard Randell

Baton Rouge
March 29, 2008

0 Notation

\mathcal{L} : line arrangement in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$

$M := \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2 - \cup \mathcal{L}$

"the complement of \mathcal{L} "

$G := \pi_1(M)$

\mathcal{N} = a set of points of
multiplicity ≥ 3

For $x \in \mathcal{N}$,

$M_x = \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2 - \cup \{\ell \in \mathcal{L} \mid x \in \ell\}$

Note $M_x \supseteq M$.

$G_x := \pi_1(M_x) \cong F_{r(x)}$ (a free group)

$r(x) = \text{mult}(x) - 1$

$G_x = \langle a_x, x \in \ell \mid \prod_{x \in \ell} a_x = 1 \rangle$

(2)

§1. A "natural" homomorphism

Let $\varphi: G \rightarrow \prod_{x \in \mathcal{N}} G_x$

$$\varphi = \prod(i_x)_*, \quad i_x: M \hookrightarrow M_x$$

The target group has generators

$$\{a_{\ell, x} \mid x \in \mathcal{N}, \ell \in \mathcal{A}\}$$

with relations $\prod_{x \in \ell} a_{\ell, x} = 1$ for $\ell \in \mathcal{L}$

For $a_\ell \in G$ a generator of G ($\ell \in \mathcal{L}$)

$$\varphi(a_\ell) = \prod_{\substack{x \in \mathcal{N} \\ x \in \ell}} a_{\ell, x}$$

Notes: ① The target is a right-angled Artin group, associated with

the graph $\Gamma = \bigcup_{x \in \mathcal{N}} K_{r(x)}$ (a complete multi-partite)

② φ is induced by $M \rightarrow \prod_{x \in \mathcal{N}} M_x$
and $\prod_{x \in \mathcal{N}} M_x$ is an arrangement complement

(3)

Notes, continued

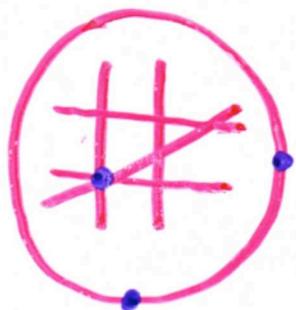
(3) $\text{im}(\varphi)$ is torsionfree, linear, residually nilpotent, and combinatorial (determined by the underlying matroid of \mathcal{L}), and has cohomological dimension at most $|\eta|$.

(A. Suciu)

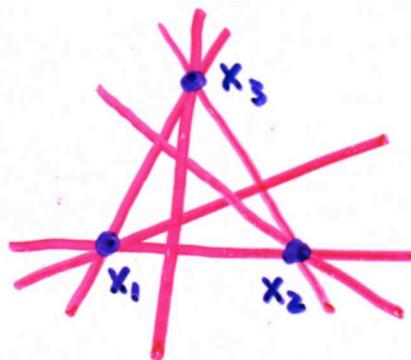
Question ^ Can φ be injective?

[M. Falk, MSRI 8/06 : "Never!"]

Ex/ ("rank-three wheel." Arvola, Terao)



a.k.a.



$$\varphi: G \longrightarrow G_{x_1} \times G_{x_2} \times G_{x_3} \cong F_2 \times F_2 \times F_2$$

Arvola : $H_3(G)$ is not finitely generated.

$$\text{Matei-Suciu : } G \cong \ker(F_2 \times F_2 \times F_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z})$$

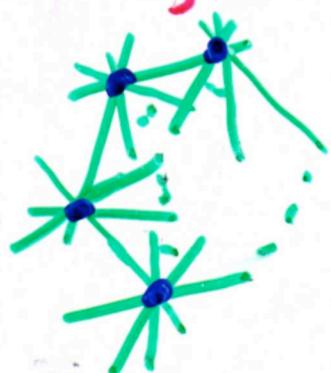
$$v_i \mapsto 1$$

= Stallings' example

Ex/ (continued)

Corollary φ is injective.
proof: later

Ex/ (Artal, Cogolludo, Matei)



- $G = \ker (F_{r_1} \times \dots \times F_{r_k} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z})$
- these are the only arrangement groups that are Bestvina-Brady groups

$$\varphi : G \longrightarrow G_{x_1} \times \dots \times G_x$$

|||

$$F_{r_1} \times \dots \times F_{r_k}$$

Corollary φ is injective.

(5)

§ 3 Decomposable arrangements

$$G = G_1 \supseteq G_2 \supseteq \cdots \supseteq G_n \supseteq \cdots$$

The lower central series of G :

$$G_{n+1} = [G, G_n] \quad n \geq 1.$$

$$G_\infty = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} G_n \text{ "nilpotent residue"}$$

(G is residually nilpotent iff $G_\infty = 1$.)

$$\text{Lie}(G) = \bigoplus_{n \geq 1} (G_n/G_{n+1}) \otimes \mathbb{Q}$$

(a graded Lie algebra under $[,]$)

$\text{Lie}(G) \cong h(\mathcal{L})$ the holonomy Lie algebra of \mathcal{L} .

(dual to the Sullivan 1-minimal model of M)

Def: \mathcal{L} is decomposable if

$$\bar{\varphi}_n : \text{Lie}_n(G) \longrightarrow \bigoplus_{x \in \mathcal{N}} \text{Lie}_{n-x}(G_x)$$

is an isomorphism for all $n \geq 2$.

- $\bar{\varphi}_2$ is always an isomorphism

- $\bar{\varphi}_n$ is always surjective for $n \geq 2$.

\mathcal{N} = set of
all points
of mult.
 ≥ 3

Thm (Papadima - Suciu)

\mathcal{L} is decomposable iff $\bar{\varphi}_3$ is an isomorphism

(equivalently, $\dim \mathcal{L}_3(\mathcal{I}) = \sum_{x \in \eta} \dim \mathcal{L}_3(\mathcal{L}_x)$)

"Thm" If \mathcal{L} is decomposable, and η is the set of all points of multiplicity ≥ 3 , then $\ker \varphi = G_\infty$.

proof: If $x \in \ker \varphi$ and $x \notin G_n$ (with n minimal) then x represents a nontrivial element of $\ker \bar{\varphi}_n$. If $x \in G_\infty$ then $\varphi(x) = 1$ since the target is residually nilpotent. \square

Cor φ is injective for Artal-Cogolludo-Matei examples.

pf: G is residually nilpotent.

(7)

Cor If \mathcal{L} is decomposable, then
 G/G_{∞} is torsionfree, linear, and
has cohomological dimension \leq the
number of points of multiplicity ≥ 3 .

Cor If \mathcal{L} is decomposable, and
 $G \not\cong \text{im}(\varphi)$, then G is not
residually nilpotent

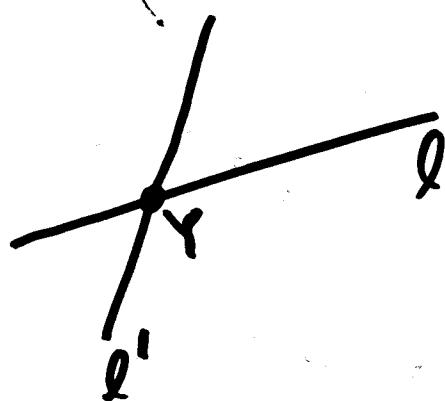
§4 The image of φ

Thm 1 $\text{im}(\varphi)$ is a normal subgroup
of $\prod_{x \in \mathcal{Y}} G_x$.

proof: Recall $\varphi(a_\ell) = \prod_{x \in \mathcal{Y}} a_{\ell, x}$.

Then

$$\varphi(a_\ell)^{a_{\ell', Y}} = \begin{cases} \varphi(a_\ell) & \text{if } Y \notin \mathcal{L} \\ \varphi(a_\ell)^{\varphi(a_{\ell', Y})} & \text{if } Y \in \mathcal{L} \end{cases}$$



(9)

Thm 2 $\prod_{x \in \eta} G_x / \text{im}(\phi)$ is abelian.

proof • $[a_{\ell, x}, a_{\ell', y}] = 1$ if $x \neq y$.

$$\begin{aligned} \bullet [a_{\ell, x}, a_{\ell', x}] &= [\prod_{\substack{y \in \ell \\ y \neq x}} a_{\ell, y}^{-1}, a_{\ell', x}] \\ &= 1 \pmod{\text{im}(\phi)}. \end{aligned}$$

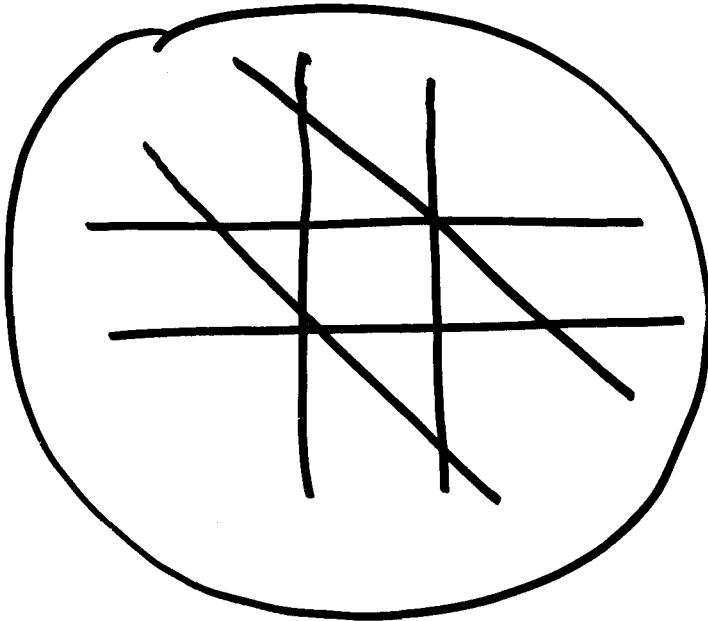
Thm 3 $\prod_{x \in \eta} G_x / \text{im}(\phi)$ is free abelian
of rank $\sum_{x \in \eta} r(x) - |\mathcal{L}|$.

Remark The Artal-Cogolludo-Matei examples are the only arrangements for which

$$\sum_{x \in \eta} r(x) - |\mathcal{L}| = 1.$$

Summary $\text{im}(\phi)$ is the kernel of a surjection from a RAAG to a free abelian group.

Conjecture \exists decomposable arrangement
whose group is not residually nilpotent.



§5 | Making φ injective.

Observation : \mathcal{L} admits k generating functions iff \mathcal{L} is a $\binom{k}{2}$ -multinet.

Replace \mathcal{N} by the set of multinet subarrangements of \mathcal{L} .

- expect φ to become injective ($\text{mod } G_\infty$)
- study groups of multinet subarrangements :
 - torsionfree ?
 - linear ?

Question \mathcal{L} not decomposable \Rightarrow
 \mathcal{L} supports non-local resonance component?