Groups acting on biregular trees with prescribed local action

Simon M. Smith

Charlotte Scott Research Centre for Algebra University of Lincoln

Trees, dynamics and locally compact groups

Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf

June 2018

Preliminaries

1

Definition: A (Hausdorff) group G is locally compact ("lc") if it has a locally compact topology s.t. the group operations are continuous.

Definition: A (Hausdorff) group G is locally compact ("lc") if it has a locally compact topology s.t. the group operations are continuous.

Definition: A (Hausdorff) group G is locally compact ("lc") if it has a locally compact topology s.t. the group operations are continuous.

Structure theory of Ic groups begins with the following observation:

• Let G be a lc group & C be the connected component of 1_G

Definition: A (Hausdorff) group G is locally compact ("lc") if it has a locally compact topology s.t. the group operations are continuous.

- Let G be a lc group & C be the connected component of 1_G
- Then $C \trianglelefteq G$ closed (and thus also lc)

Definition: A (Hausdorff) group G is locally compact ("lc") if it has a locally compact topology s.t. the group operations are continuous.

- Let G be a lc group & C be the connected component of 1_G
- Then $C \trianglelefteq G$ closed (and thus also lc)
- Since C is maximally connected, the quotient G/C is totally disconnected (but still lc).

Definition: A (Hausdorff) group G is locally compact ("lc") if it has a locally compact topology s.t. the group operations are continuous.

- Let G be a lc group & C be the connected component of 1_G
- Then $C \trianglelefteq G$ closed (and thus also lc)
- Since C is maximally connected, the quotient G/C is totally disconnected (but still lc).
- C is connected Ic, and G/C is tdlc

Definition: A (Hausdorff) group G is locally compact ("lc") if it has a locally compact topology s.t. the group operations are continuous.

- Let G be a lc group & C be the connected component of 1_G
- Then $C \trianglelefteq G$ closed (and thus also lc)
- Since C is maximally connected, the quotient G/C is totally disconnected (but still lc).
- C is connected lc, and G/C is tdlc
- By solution to Hilbert's 5th problem, every connected lc group is the inverse limit of Lie groups

Definition: A permutation group $G \leq \text{Sym}(\Omega)$ is subdegree-finite if orbits of point stabilisers are always finite.

Definition: A permutation group $G \leq \text{Sym}(\Omega)$ is subdegree-finite if orbits of point stabilisers are always finite.

Example: Aut (Γ) , where Γ is a locally-finite connected graph

Definition: A permutation group $G \leq \text{Sym}(\Omega)$ is subdegree-finite if orbits of point stabilisers are always finite.

Example: Aut (Γ) , where Γ is a locally-finite connected graph

Observation: $\mathrm{Sym}\left(\Omega\right)$ is a topological group under the permutation topology

(stabilisers of finite subsets of Ω form a neighbourhood basis of the identity)

Definition: A permutation group $G \leq \text{Sym}(\Omega)$ is subdegree-finite if orbits of point stabilisers are always finite.

Example: Aut (Γ) , where Γ is a locally-finite connected graph

Observation: $\mathrm{Sym}\left(\Omega\right)$ is a topological group under the permutation topology

(stabilisers of finite subsets of Ω form a neighbourhood basis of the identity)

Convention: Permutation groups in this talk will be topological groups under the permutation topology

Definition: A permutation group $G \leq \text{Sym}(\Omega)$ is subdegree-finite if orbits of point stabilisers are always finite.

Example: Aut (Γ) , where Γ is a locally-finite connected graph

Observation: $\mathrm{Sym}\left(\Omega\right)$ is a topological group under the permutation topology

(stabilisers of finite subsets of Ω form a neighbourhood basis of the identity)

Convention: Permutation groups in this talk will be topological groups under the permutation topology

Definition: A permutation group $G \leq \text{Sym}(\Omega)$ is subdegree-finite if orbits of point stabilisers are always finite.

Example: Aut (Γ) , where Γ is a locally-finite connected graph

Observation: $\mathrm{Sym}\left(\Omega\right)$ is a topological group under the permutation topology

(stabilisers of finite subsets of Ω form a neighbourhood basis of the identity)

Convention: Permutation groups in this talk will be topological groups under the permutation topology

Decompositions of permutation groups:

 If G ≤ Sym (Ω) admits a G-invariant equivalence relation on Ω then G decomposes:

Definition: A permutation group $G \leq \text{Sym}(\Omega)$ is subdegree-finite if orbits of point stabilisers are always finite.

Example: Aut (Γ) , where Γ is a locally-finite connected graph

Observation: $\mathrm{Sym}\left(\Omega\right)$ is a topological group under the permutation topology

(stabilisers of finite subsets of Ω form a neighbourhood basis of the identity)

Convention: Permutation groups in this talk will be topological groups under the permutation topology

- If G ≤ Sym (Ω) admits a G-invariant equivalence relation on Ω then G decomposes:
 - G permutes the classes

Definition: A permutation group $G \leq \text{Sym}(\Omega)$ is

subdegree-finite if orbits of point stabilisers are always finite.

Example: Aut (Γ) , where Γ is a locally-finite connected graph

Observation: $\mathrm{Sym}\left(\Omega\right)$ is a topological group under the permutation topology

(stabilisers of finite subsets of Ω form a neighbourhood basis of the identity)

Convention: Permutation groups in this talk will be topological groups under the permutation topology

- If G ≤ Sym (Ω) admits a G-invariant equivalence relation on Ω then G decomposes:
 - G permutes the classes
 - $G_{\{C\}}$ induces a permutation group on each class C

Definition: A permutation group $G \leq \text{Sym}(\Omega)$ is

subdegree-finite if orbits of point stabilisers are always finite.

Example: Aut (Γ) , where Γ is a locally-finite connected graph

Observation: $\mathrm{Sym}\left(\Omega\right)$ is a topological group under the permutation topology

(stabilisers of finite subsets of Ω form a neighbourhood basis of the identity)

Convention: Permutation groups in this talk will be topological groups under the permutation topology

- If G ≤ Sym (Ω) admits a G-invariant equivalence relation on Ω then G decomposes:
 - G permutes the classes
 - $G_{\{C\}}$ induces a permutation group on each class C
- A transitive group that admits no nontrivial decomposition like this is called primitive

Canonical permutation representations of tdlc groups:

Canonical permutation representations of tdlc groups:

• A tdlc group G has a compact open subgroup U by van Dantzig's Theorem

Canonical permutation representations of tdlc groups:

- A tdlc group G has a compact open subgroup U by van Dantzig's Theorem
- Let \hat{G} be the permutation group induced by $G \curvearrowright \Omega := G/U$

Canonical permutation representations of tdlc groups:

- A tdlc group G has a compact open subgroup U by van Dantzig's Theorem
- Let \hat{G} be the permutation group induced by $G \curvearrowright \Omega := G/U$

Fact: If G is tdlc then \hat{G} is:

Canonical permutation representations of tdlc groups:

- A tdlc group G has a compact open subgroup U by van Dantzig's Theorem
- Let \hat{G} be the permutation group induced by $G \curvearrowright \Omega := G/U$

Fact: If G is tdlc then \hat{G} is:

closed (easy to check)

Canonical permutation representations of tdlc groups:

- A tdlc group G has a compact open subgroup U by van Dantzig's Theorem
- Let \hat{G} be the permutation group induced by $G \curvearrowright \Omega := G/U$

Fact: If G is tdlc then \hat{G} is:

- closed (easy to check)
- subdegree-finite (by compactness of U)

Canonical permutation representations of tdlc groups:

- A tdlc group G has a compact open subgroup U by van Dantzig's Theorem
- Let \hat{G} be the permutation group induced by $G \curvearrowright \Omega := G/U$

Fact: If G is tdlc then \hat{G} is:

- closed (easy to check)
- subdegree-finite (by compactness of U)

Fact: If $G \leq \text{Sym}(\Omega)$ is closed and subdegree-finite then point stabilisers are:

Canonical permutation representations of tdlc groups:

- A tdlc group G has a compact open subgroup U by van Dantzig's Theorem
- Let \hat{G} be the permutation group induced by $G \curvearrowright \Omega := G/U$

Fact: If G is tdlc then \hat{G} is:

- closed (easy to check)
- subdegree-finite (by compactness of U)

Fact: If $G \leq \text{Sym}(\Omega)$ is closed and subdegree-finite then point stabilisers are:

• open (by definition)

Canonical permutation representations of tdlc groups:

- A tdlc group G has a compact open subgroup U by van Dantzig's Theorem
- Let \hat{G} be the permutation group induced by $G \curvearrowright \Omega := G/U$

Fact: If G is tdlc then \hat{G} is:

- closed (easy to check)
- subdegree-finite (by compactness of U)

Fact: If $G \leq \text{Sym}(\Omega)$ is closed and subdegree-finite then point stabilisers are:

- open (by definition)
- compact (by Tychanoff)

Canonical permutation representations of tdlc groups:

- A tdlc group G has a compact open subgroup U by van Dantzig's Theorem
- Let \hat{G} be the permutation group induced by $G \curvearrowright \Omega := G/U$

Fact: If G is tdlc then \hat{G} is:

- closed (easy to check)
- subdegree-finite (by compactness of U)

Fact: If $G \leq \text{Sym}(\Omega)$ is closed and subdegree-finite then point stabilisers are:

- open (by definition)
- compact (by Tychanoff)

and G is tdlc.

Definition: G is compactly generated if $G = \langle S \rangle$ for some compact set $S \subseteq G$

Definition: G is compactly generated if $G = \langle S \rangle$ for some compact set $S \subseteq G$

Example: If Γ is a vertex-transitive, locally-finite, connected graph, then $Aut(\Gamma)$ is compactly generated & tdlc

Definition: G is compactly generated if $G = \langle S \rangle$ for some compact set $S \subseteq G$

Example: If Γ is a vertex-transitive, locally-finite, connected graph, then $Aut(\Gamma)$ is compactly generated & tdlc

We now apply groups acting on trees to two types of "indecomposable" compactly generated tdlc groups:

Definition: G is compactly generated if $G = \langle S \rangle$ for some compact set $S \subseteq G$

Example: If Γ is a vertex-transitive, locally-finite, connected graph, then $Aut(\Gamma)$ is compactly generated & tdlc

We now apply groups acting on trees to two types of "indecomposable" compactly generated tdlc groups:

• S: non-discrete compactly generated, topologically simple tdlc groups
Compactly generated tdlc groups

Definition: G is compactly generated if $G = \langle S \rangle$ for some compact set $S \subseteq G$

Example: If Γ is a vertex-transitive, locally-finite, connected graph, then $Aut(\Gamma)$ is compactly generated & tdlc

We now apply groups acting on trees to two types of "indecomposable" compactly generated tdlc groups:

- S: non-discrete compactly generated, topologically simple tdlc groups
- \mathcal{P} : closed & subdegree-finite permutation groups that are primitive but not regular







B(v) =neighbours of v



B(v) =neighbours of v



B(v) =neighbours of v

Each edge is two arcs:





B(v) =neighbours of v

Each edge is two arcs:

 $a \& \overline{a}$ A(v) arcs from v



B(v) =neighbours of v

Each edge is two arcs:

 $a \& \overline{a}$ $A(v) \operatorname{arcs} \operatorname{from} v$

 $\overline{A}(v)$ arcs to v



B(v) =neighbours of v

Each edge is two arcs:

 $a \& \overline{a}$ A(v) arcs from v $\overline{A}(v) \text{ arcs to } v$ Suppose $F \leq \text{Sym}(3)$



B(v) =neighbours of v

Each edge is two arcs:

 $a \& \overline{a}$ A(v) arcs from v $\overline{A}(v) \text{ arcs to } v$ Suppose $F \leq \text{Sym}(3)$

 $G \leq \text{Aut } T \text{ is locally-}F:$ $G_w|_{B(w)} \cong F \quad \forall w \in VT$



B(v) =neighbours of v

Each edge is two arcs:

 $a \& \overline{a}$ A(v) arcs from v $\overline{A}(v) \text{ arcs to } v$ Suppose $F \leq \text{Sym}(3)$

 $G \leq \text{Aut } T \text{ is locally-}F:$ $G_w|_{B(w)} \cong F \quad \forall w \in VT$



B(v) = neighbours of v

Each edge is two arcs:

 $a \& \overline{a}$ A(v) arcs from v $\overline{A}(v) \text{ arcs to } v$ Suppose $F \leq \text{Sym}(3)$

 $G \leq \text{Aut } T \text{ is locally-}F:$ $G_w|_{B(w)} \cong F \quad \forall w \in VT$

Here T is a regular tree with

- finite valency
- valency $d \ge 3$
- $F \leq \operatorname{Sym}(d)$

Here T is a regular tree with

- finite valency
- valency $d \ge 3$
- $F \leq \operatorname{Sym}(d)$



Here T is a regular tree with

- finite valency
- valency $d \ge 3$
- $F \leq \operatorname{Sym}(d)$



Theorem (Burger & Mozes 2000)

Here T is a regular tree with

- finite valency
- valency $d \ge 3$
- $F \leq \operatorname{Sym}(d)$





Here T is a regular tree with

- finite valency
- valency $d \ge 3$
- $F \leq \operatorname{Sym}(d)$



There exists $\mathcal{U}(F) \leq \operatorname{Aut} T$ s.t.

• $\mathcal{U}(F)$ has a universal property:



Here T is a regular tree with

- finite valency
- valency $d \ge 3$
- $F \leq \operatorname{Sym}(d)$



- $\mathcal{U}(F)$ has a universal property:
 - $\mathcal{U}(F)$ is locally-F



Here T is a regular tree with

- finite valency
- valency $d \ge 3$
- $F \leq \operatorname{Sym}(d)$



Theorem (Burger & Mozes 2000)

- $\mathcal{U}(F)$ has a universal property:
 - $\mathcal{U}(F)$ is locally-F
 - *F* is transitive $\implies U(F)$ contains a (permutationally) isomorphic copy of every locally-*F* subgroup of Aut *T*

Here T is a regular tree with

- finite valency
- valency $d \ge 3$
- $F \leq \operatorname{Sym}(d)$



Theorem (Burger & Mozes 2000)

- $\mathcal{U}(F)$ has a universal property:
 - $\mathcal{U}(F)$ is locally-F
 - *F* is transitive $\implies U(F)$ contains a (permutationally) isomorphic copy of every locally-*F* subgroup of Aut *T*
- $\langle \mathcal{U}(F)_v : v \in VT \rangle$ is simple (poss. trivial)

Here T is a regular tree with

- finite valency
- valency $d \ge 3$
- $F \leq \operatorname{Sym}(d)$



Theorem (Burger & Mozes 2000)

- $\mathcal{U}(F)$ has a universal property:
 - $\mathcal{U}(F)$ is locally-F
 - *F* is transitive $\implies U(F)$ contains a (permutationally) isomorphic copy of every locally-*F* subgroup of Aut *T*
- $\langle \mathcal{U}(F)_v : v \in VT \rangle$ is simple (poss. trivial)
- $\mathcal{U}(F)$ is closed and transitive

A universal group for biregular trees



A universal group for biregular trees

Now T is a biregular tree

- vertices at even distance have same valency
- Example 1: the (5,3)-biregular tree

Example 2: the $(\aleph_0, 3)$ -biregular tree





Bipartition *T*:



Bipartition *T*:

vertices in V_X have valency |X|



Bipartition T:

- vertices in V_X have valency |X|
- vertices in V_Y have valency |Y|



Bipartition *T*:

- vertices in V_X have valency |X|
- vertices in V_Y have valency |Y|



Bipartition T:

- vertices in V_X have valency |X|
- vertices in V_Y have valency |Y|

Suppose

- $M \leq \operatorname{Sym}(X)$
- $N \leq \operatorname{Sym}(Y)$
- Either *M* or *N* is nontrivial



Bipartition T:

- vertices in V_X have valency |X|
- vertices in V_Y have valency |Y|



Suppose

- $M \leq \operatorname{Sym}(X)$
- $N \leq \operatorname{Sym}(Y)$
- Either *M* or *N* is nontrivial

then $G \leq \operatorname{Aut} T$ is locally-(M, N) if

•
$$G_v|_{B(v)} \cong M$$
 for all $v \in V_X$

Bipartition T:

- vertices in V_X have valency |X|
- vertices in V_Y have valency |Y|



Suppose

- $M \leq \operatorname{Sym}(X)$
- $N \leq \operatorname{Sym}(Y)$
- Either *M* or *N* is nontrivial

then $G \leq \operatorname{Aut} T$ is locally-(M, N) if

•
$$G_v|_{B(v)} \cong M$$
 for all $v \in V_X$

•
$$G_w|_{B(w)} \cong N$$
 for all $w \in V_Y$

Bipartition T:

- vertices in V_X have valency |X|
- vertices in V_Y have valency |Y|



Suppose

- $M \leq \operatorname{Sym}(X)$
- $N \leq \operatorname{Sym}(Y)$
- Either *M* or *N* is nontrivial

then $G \leq \operatorname{Aut} T$ is locally-(M, N) if

•
$$G_v|_{B(v)} \cong M$$
 for all $v \in V_X$

•
$$G_w|_{B(w)} \cong N$$
 for all $w \in V_Y$

• G preserves V_X & V_Y setwise

T is the (|X|, |Y|)-biregular tree $M \leq \text{Sym}(X)$ $N \leq \text{Sym}(Y)$ Either *M* or *N* is nontrivial



T is the (|X|, |Y|)-biregular tree $M \leq \text{Sym}(X)$ $N \leq \text{Sym}(Y)$ Either *M* or *N* is nontrivial



Theorem (S.) There exists $\mathcal{U}(M, N) \leq \operatorname{Aut} T$ such that

T is the (|X|, |Y|)-biregular tree $M \le \text{Sym}(X)$ $N \le \text{Sym}(Y)$ Either M or N is nontrivial



Theorem (S.) There exists $\mathcal{U}(M, N) \leq \text{Aut } T$ such that • $\mathcal{U}(M, N)$ has a universal property:
T is the (|X|, |Y|)-biregular tree $M \le \text{Sym}(X)$ $N \le \text{Sym}(Y)$ Either M or N is nontrivial



Theorem (S.) There exists $\mathcal{U}(M, N) \leq \text{Aut } T$ such that • $\mathcal{U}(M, N)$ has a universal property:

-
$$\mathcal{U}(M, N)$$
 is locally- (M, N)

Either M or N is nontrivial



Theorem (S.) There exists $\mathcal{U}(M, N) \leq \operatorname{Aut} T$ such that

• $\mathcal{U}(M, N)$ has a universal property:

$$- \mathcal{U}(M, N)$$
 is locally- (M, N)

- M, N transitive $\implies \mathcal{U}(M, N)$ contains a (permutationally) isomorphic copy of every locally-(M, N) subgroup of Aut T

Either M or N is nontrivial



Theorem (S.) There exists $\mathcal{U}(M, N) \leq \operatorname{Aut} T$ such that

• $\mathcal{U}(M, N)$ has a universal property:

$$- \mathcal{U}(M, N)$$
 is locally- (M, N)

- M, N transitive $\implies \mathcal{U}(M, N)$ contains a (permutationally) isomorphic copy of every locally-(M, N) subgroup of Aut T

• if M, N generated by point stabilisers, then

 $\mathcal{U}(M,N)$ is simple $\iff M$ or N is transitive

Either M or N is nontrivial



Theorem (S.) There exists $\mathcal{U}(M, N) \leq \operatorname{Aut} T$ such that

• $\mathcal{U}(M, N)$ has a universal property:

-
$$\mathcal{U}(M, N)$$
 is locally- (M, N)

- M, N transitive $\implies \mathcal{U}(M, N)$ contains a (permutationally) isomorphic copy of every locally-(M, N) subgroup of Aut T

• if M, N generated by point stabilisers, then

 $\mathcal{U}(M,N) \text{ is simple } \iff M \text{ or } N \text{ is transitive}$

• M, N closed and transitive $\implies U(M, N)$ is closed and transitive on each part V_X and V_Y

Either M or N is nontrivial



Theorem (S.) There exists $\mathcal{U}(M, N) \leq \operatorname{Aut} T$ such that

• $\mathcal{U}(M, N)$ has a universal property:

$$- \mathcal{U}(M, N)$$
 is locally- (M, N)

- M, N transitive $\implies \mathcal{U}(M, N)$ contains a (permutationally) isomorphic copy of every locally-(M, N) subgroup of Aut T

• if *M*, *N* generated by point stabilisers, then

 $\mathcal{U}(M,N) \text{ is simple } \iff M \text{ or } N \text{ is transitive}$

• M, N closed and transitive $\implies U(M, N)$ is closed and transitive on each part V_X and V_Y

•
$$\mathcal{U}(F, \mathrm{Sym}(2)) \cong U(F)$$

A legal colouring of T by X and Y



A legal colouring of T by X and Y





A legal colouring of T by X and Y







•
$$\mathcal{L}|_{A(v)}: A(v) \to X$$
 is a bijection, $\forall v \in V_X$



 $X = \{ \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} X = \{ \begin{array}{|c|c|} I & I & I \\ \hline I & I \\$

•
$$\mathcal{L}|_{A(v)}: A(v) \to X$$
 is a bijection, $\forall v \in V_X$



•
$$\mathcal{L}|_{A(v)} : A(v) \to X$$
 is a bijection, $\forall v \in V_X$

•
$$\mathcal{L}|_{\overline{A}(w)}$$
 is constant, $\forall w \in VT$



•
$$\mathcal{L}|_{A(v)} : A(v) \to X$$
 is a bijection, $\forall v \in V_X$

•
$$\mathcal{L}|_{\overline{A}(w)}$$
 is constant, $\forall w \in VT$



•
$$\mathcal{L}|_{A(v)}: A(v) \to X$$
 is a bijection, $\forall v \in V_X$

•
$$\mathcal{L}|_{\overline{A}(w)}$$
 is constant, $\forall w \in VT$

•
$$\mathcal{L}|_{A(w)}: A(w) \to Y$$
 is a bijection, $\forall w \in V_Y$



•
$$\mathcal{L}|_{A(v)} : A(v) \to X$$
 is a bijection, $\forall v \in V_X$

•
$$\mathcal{L}|_{\overline{A}(w)}$$
 is constant, $\forall w \in VT$

•
$$\mathcal{L}|_{A(w)}: A(w) \to Y$$
 is a bijection, $\forall w \in V_Y$



•
$$\mathcal{L}|_{A(v)}: A(v) \to X$$
 is a bijection, $\forall v \in V_X$

•
$$\mathcal{L}|_{\overline{A}(w)}$$
 is constant, $\forall w \in VT$

• $\mathcal{L}|_{A(w)}: A(w) \to Y$ is a bijection, $\forall w \in V_Y$







 $g \in \operatorname{Aut} T \text{ lies in } \mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{L}}(M, N) \text{ iff}$



- $g \in \operatorname{Aut} T$ lies in $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{L}}(M, N)$ iff
 - g fixes V_X and V_Y setwise



 $g \in \operatorname{Aut} T$ lies in $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{L}}(M, N)$ iff

- g fixes V_X and V_Y setwise $\mathcal{L}|_{A(gv)}g|_{A(v)}\mathcal{L}|_{A(v)}^{-1} \in M$ for all $v \in V_X$



 $q \in \operatorname{Aut} T$ lies in $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{L}}(M, N)$ iff

- g fixes V_X and V_Y setwise $\mathcal{L}|_{A(gv)}g|_{A(v)}\mathcal{L}|_{A(v)}^{-1} \in M$ for all $v \in V_X$
- $\mathcal{L}|_{A(qw)}g|_{A(w)}\mathcal{L}|_{A(w)}^{-1} \in N$ for all $w \in V_Y$



 $g \in \operatorname{Aut} T \text{ lies in } \mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{L}}(M, N) \text{ iff}$

• g fixes V_X and V_Y setwise • $\mathcal{L}|_{A(gv)}g|_{A(v)}\mathcal{L}|_{A(v)}^{-1} \in M$ for all $v \in V_X$ • $\mathcal{L}|_{A(gw)}g|_{A(w)}\mathcal{L}|_{A(w)}^{-1} \in N$ for all $w \in V_Y$

A different choice for \mathcal{L} gives a permutationally isomorphic group



Some properties of $\mathcal{U}(M, N)$









Fact: By definition, the following holds for all arcs *a* in *T*:



Fact: By definition, the following holds for all arcs *a* in *T*:

• $\forall h \in U_a$ there exists $h^* \in U_a$ that:



Fact: By definition, the following holds for all arcs *a* in *T*:

- $\forall h \in U_a$ there exists $h^* \in U_a$ that:
 - h^* fixes the half-tree $T_{\overline{a}}$ pointwise &



Fact: By definition, the following holds for all arcs a in T:

- $\forall h \in U_a$ there exists $h^* \in U_a$ that:
 - h^* fixes the half-tree $T_{\overline{a}}$ pointwise &
 - $-h^*$ and h have the same action on the half-tree T_a



Fact: By definition, the following holds for all arcs a in T:

- $\forall h \in U_a$ there exists $h^* \in U_a$ that:
 - h^* fixes the half-tree $T_{\overline{a}}$ pointwise &
 - $-h^*$ and h have the same action on the half-tree T_a

Hence U has Tits' Property (P)



Fact: By definition, the following holds for all arcs a in T:

- $\forall h \in U_a$ there exists $h^* \in U_a$ that:
 - h^* fixes the half-tree $T_{\overline{a}}$ pointwise &
 - $-h^*$ and h have the same action on the half-tree T_a

Hence U has Tits' Property (P)

If M or N are transitive then:


Fact: By definition, the following holds for all arcs a in T:

- $\forall h \in U_a$ there exists $h^* \in U_a$ that:
 - h^* fixes the half-tree $T_{\overline{a}}$ pointwise &
 - $-h^*$ and h have the same action on the half-tree T_a

Hence U has Tits' Property (P) If M or N are transitive then:

• U is equal to U^+ , where $U^+ := \langle U_{(v,w)} : \{v,w\} \in ET \rangle$



Fact: By definition, the following holds for all arcs a in T:

- $\forall h \in U_a$ there exists $h^* \in U_a$ that:
 - h^* fixes the half-tree $T_{\overline{a}}$ pointwise &
 - $-h^*$ and h have the same action on the half-tree T_a

Hence U has Tits' Property (P) If M or N are transitive then:

• U is equal to U^+ , where $U^+ := \langle U_{(v,w)} : \{v,w\} \in ET \rangle$

U fixes no end



Fact: By definition, the following holds for all arcs a in T:

- $\forall h \in U_a$ there exists $h^* \in U_a$ that:
 - h^* fixes the half-tree $T_{\overline{a}}$ pointwise &
 - $-h^*$ and h have the same action on the half-tree T_a

Hence U has Tits' Property (P)

If M or N are transitive then:

- U is equal to U^+ , where $U^+ := \langle U_{(v,w)} : \{v,w\} \in ET \rangle$
- U fixes no end
- No proper nonempty subtree is *U*-invariant



Fact: By definition, the following holds for all arcs a in T:

- $\forall h \in U_a$ there exists $h^* \in U_a$ that:
 - h^* fixes the half-tree $T_{\overline{a}}$ pointwise &
 - $-h^*$ and h have the same action on the half-tree T_a

Hence U has Tits' Property (P)

If M or N are transitive then:

- U is equal to U^+ , where $U^+ := \langle U_{(v,w)} : \{v,w\} \in ET \rangle$
- U fixes no end
- No proper nonempty subtree is *U*-invariant

Theorem (Tits, '70): U^+ is simple.



Fact: By definition, the following holds for all arcs a in T:

- $\forall h \in U_a$ there exists $h^* \in U_a$ that:
 - h^* fixes the half-tree $T_{\overline{a}}$ pointwise &
 - $-h^*$ and h have the same action on the half-tree T_a

Hence U has Tits' Property (P)

If M or N are transitive then:

- U is equal to U^+ , where $U^+ := \langle U_{(v,w)} : \{v,w\} \in ET \rangle$
- U fixes no end
- No proper nonempty subtree is *U*-invariant

Theorem (Tits, '70): U^+ is simple.



Theorem. U := U(M, N) is discrete if and only if M and N are semiregular.

Theorem. U := U(M, N) is discrete if and only if M and N are semiregular.

Proof:

Theorem. U := U(M, N) is discrete if and only if M and N are semiregular.

Proof: *U* discrete $\iff \exists$ finite $\Phi \subseteq VT$ s.t. $U_{(\Phi)}$ is trivial.

Theorem. U := U(M, N) is discrete if and only if M and N are semiregular.

Proof: *U* discrete $\iff \exists$ finite $\Phi \subseteq VT$ s.t. $U_{(\Phi)}$ is trivial.



Theorem. U := U(M, N) is discrete if and only if M and N are semiregular.

Proof: *U* discrete $\iff \exists$ finite $\Phi \subseteq VT$ s.t. $U_{(\Phi)}$ is trivial.

(⇒)



Theorem. U := U(M, N) is discrete if and only if M and N are semiregular.

Proof: *U* discrete $\iff \exists$ finite $\Phi \subseteq VT$ s.t. $U_{(\Phi)}$ is trivial.

 (\Rightarrow) Fix Φ & assume *M* or *N* not semiregular.



Theorem. U := U(M, N) is discrete if and only if M and N are semiregular.

Proof: *U* discrete $\iff \exists$ finite $\Phi \subseteq VT$ s.t. $U_{(\Phi)}$ is trivial.

(⇒) Fix Φ & assume M or N not semiregular. Then \exists arc $a \in AT$ s.t.



Theorem. U := U(M, N) is discrete if and only if M and N are semiregular.

Proof: *U* discrete $\iff \exists$ finite $\Phi \subseteq VT$ s.t. $U_{(\Phi)}$ is trivial.

(⇒) Fix Φ & assume M or N not semiregular. Then \exists arc $a \in AT$ s.t.

- $\Phi \subseteq T_{\bar{a}}$
- Pointwise stabiliser of T_ā in U is nontrivial



Theorem. U := U(M, N) is discrete if and only if M and N are semiregular.

Proof: *U* discrete $\iff \exists$ finite $\Phi \subseteq VT$ s.t. $U_{(\Phi)}$ is trivial.

(⇒) Fix Φ & assume M or N not semiregular. Then \exists arc $a \in AT$ s.t.

• $\Phi \subseteq T_{\bar{a}}$

(⇔)

 Pointwise stabiliser of T_ā in U is nontrivial



Theorem. U := U(M, N) is discrete if and only if M and N are semiregular.

Proof: *U* discrete $\iff \exists$ finite $\Phi \subseteq VT$ s.t. $U_{(\Phi)}$ is trivial.

(⇒) Fix Φ & assume M or N not semiregular. Then \exists arc $a \in AT$ s.t.

• $\Phi \subseteq T_{\bar{a}}$

(⇔)

 Pointwise stabiliser of T_ā in U is nontrivial



Theorem. U := U(M, N) is discrete if and only if M and N are semiregular.

Proof: *U* discrete $\iff \exists$ finite $\Phi \subseteq VT$ s.t. $U_{(\Phi)}$ is trivial.

(⇒) Fix Φ & assume M or N not semiregular. Then \exists arc $a \in AT$ s.t.

- $\Phi \subseteq T_{\bar{a}}$
- Pointwise stabiliser of T_ā in U is nontrivial

(\Leftarrow) M & N semiregular \Longrightarrow

$$U_a = \langle 1 \rangle \quad \forall a \in AT$$



Theorem. U := U(M, N) is discrete if and only if M and N are semiregular.

Proof: *U* discrete $\iff \exists$ finite $\Phi \subseteq VT$ s.t. $U_{(\Phi)}$ is trivial.

(⇒) Fix Φ & assume M or N not semiregular. Then \exists arc $a \in AT$ s.t.

- $\Phi \subseteq T_{\bar{a}}$
- Pointwise stabiliser of T_ā in U is nontrivial

(\Leftarrow) M & N semiregular \Longrightarrow

$$U_a = \langle 1 \rangle \quad \forall a \in AT$$



Suppose M, N are closed.

Suppose M, N are closed.

Theorem. $\mathcal{U}(M, N)$ is locally compact \iff all point stabilisers in M and in N are compact.

Suppose M, N are closed.

Theorem. $\mathcal{U}(M, N)$ is locally compact \iff all point stabilisers in M and in N are compact.

Theorem. Suppose M, N are transitive & $\mathcal{U}(M, N)$ is locally compact. Then: M and N are compactly generated $\implies \mathcal{U}(M, N)$ is compactly generated.

Suppose M, N are closed.

Theorem. $\mathcal{U}(M, N)$ is locally compact \iff all point stabilisers in M and in N are compact.

Theorem. Suppose M, N are transitive & $\mathcal{U}(M, N)$ is locally compact. Then: M and N are compactly generated $\implies \mathcal{U}(M, N)$ is compactly generated.

Corollary. If $M, N \in \mathcal{P}$, then $\mathcal{U}(M, N) \in S$.

Applications

Natural question: how large, up to isomorphism, is S?

Natural question: how large, up to isomorphism, is S?

Theorem (S.) Up to isomorphism, there are 2^{\aleph_0} groups in S. Moreover, there are 2^{\aleph_0} that all have the same compact open subgroup

Natural question: how large, up to isomorphism, is S?

Theorem (S.) Up to isomorphism, there are 2^{\aleph_0} groups in S. Moreover, there are 2^{\aleph_0} that all have the same compact open subgroup

Proof:

Natural question: how large, up to isomorphism, is S?

Theorem (S.) Up to isomorphism, there are 2^{\aleph_0} groups in S. Moreover, there are 2^{\aleph_0} that all have the same compact open subgroup

Proof:

• Idea: Plug suitable discrete groups M into $\mathcal{U}(M, \mathrm{Sym}(3))$.

Natural question: how large, up to isomorphism, is S?

Theorem (S.) Up to isomorphism, there are 2^{\aleph_0} groups in S. Moreover, there are 2^{\aleph_0} that all have the same compact open subgroup

Proof:

- Idea: Plug suitable discrete groups M into $\mathcal{U}(M, \mathrm{Sym}\,(3))$.
- If Q_1, Q_2 are nonisomorphic Tarski–Ol'Shanskiĭ Monsters of order p (as primitive permutation groups),

 $\mathcal{U}(Q_1, \mathrm{Sym}\,(3)) \ncong \mathcal{U}(Q_2, \mathrm{Sym}\,(3)).$

Natural question: how large, up to isomorphism, is S?

Theorem (S.) Up to isomorphism, there are 2^{\aleph_0} groups in S. Moreover, there are 2^{\aleph_0} that all have the same compact open subgroup

Proof:

- Idea: Plug suitable discrete groups M into $\mathcal{U}(M, \mathrm{Sym}\,(3))$.
- If Q₁, Q₂ are nonisomorphic Tarski–Ol'Shanskiĭ Monsters of order p (as primitive permutation groups),

 $\mathcal{U}(Q_1, \operatorname{Sym}(3)) \cong \mathcal{U}(Q_2, \operatorname{Sym}(3)).$

Each U(Q_i, Sym (3)) lies in S & there are 2^{ℵ0} choices for Q_i

Natural question: how large, up to isomorphism, is S?

Theorem (S.) Up to isomorphism, there are 2^{\aleph_0} groups in S. Moreover, there are 2^{\aleph_0} that all have the same compact open subgroup

Proof:

- Idea: Plug suitable discrete groups M into $\mathcal{U}(M, \mathrm{Sym}(3))$.
- If Q₁, Q₂ are nonisomorphic Tarski–Ol'Shanskiĭ Monsters of order p (as primitive permutation groups),

 $\mathcal{U}(Q_1, \operatorname{Sym}(3)) \cong \mathcal{U}(Q_2, \operatorname{Sym}(3)).$

Each U(Q_i, Sym (3)) lies in S & there are 2^{ℵ0} choices for Q_i

Application 2: Primitive perm. reps. of tdlc groups

Application 2: Primitive perm. reps. of tdlc groups

Definition: Let $M \boxtimes N$ be the permutation group induced by the action of $\mathcal{U}(M, N)$ on V_Y .

Application 2: Primitive perm. reps. of tdlc groups

Definition: Let $M \boxtimes N$ be the permutation group induced by the action of $\mathcal{U}(M, N)$ on V_Y .

Theorem (S.) If $\hat{G} \in \mathcal{P}$ is infinite, then:

$$\hat{G} \leq_{\text{prim}} (((K \operatorname{Wr} F_n) \boxtimes F_{n-1}) \operatorname{Wr} \cdots \boxtimes F_2) \operatorname{Wr} F_1$$

where:

- F_1, \ldots, F_n are finite & transitive
- $K \in \mathcal{P}$ is finite or one-ended & almost topologically simple

Open questions
• Isomorphism problem (S.):

- Isomorphism problem (S.):
 - Find conditions (other than FA) on M_i, N_i to guarantee that $\mathcal{U}(M_1, N_2) \ncong \mathcal{U}(M_2, N_2)$

- Isomorphism problem (S.):
 - Find conditions (other than FA) on M_i, N_i to guarantee that $\mathcal{U}(M_1, N_2) \ncong \mathcal{U}(M_2, N_2)$

• Local isomorphisms (Pierre-Emmanuel Caprace):

- Isomorphism problem (S.):
 - Find conditions (other than FA) on M_i, N_i to guarantee that $\mathcal{U}(M_1, N_2) \ncong \mathcal{U}(M_2, N_2)$

- Local isomorphisms (Pierre-Emmanuel Caprace):
 - Two topological groups are called *locally isomorphic* if they contain isomorphic open subgroups.

- Isomorphism problem (S.):
 - Find conditions (other than FA) on M_i, N_i to guarantee that $\mathcal{U}(M_1, N_2) \ncong \mathcal{U}(M_2, N_2)$

- Local isomorphisms (Pierre-Emmanuel Caprace):
 - Two topological groups are called *locally isomorphic* if they contain isomorphic open subgroups.
 - Is the number of local isomorphism classes of groups in S uncountable?

Thank you

Thank you

M. Burger and S. Mozes, *Groups acting on trees: from local to global structure*, Publications mathé de l'I.H.É.S. (2000)

S. Smith, *A product for permutation groups and topological groups* Duke Math. J. (2017)