

# Groups with f.p. properties

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## Serre's exercise.

$(W, S)$  a Coxeter gp. When does it have a fp free action on a tree?

Relations:  $s^2 = 1$ ,  $(st)^{m_{st}} = 1$ . If one  $m_{st}$  is  $\infty$ , then  $W$  splits

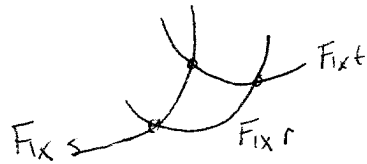
$$W = W_{S-\{t\}} *_{W_{S-\{s,t\}}} W_{S-\{s\}}$$

What happens when all  $m_{s,t}$  finite?

Then any action on  $T$  has a fixed point.

- $W_{\{s\}}$  has nonempty  $\text{Fix}\{s\}$  ( $v \mapsto s.v \mapsto v$  so midpt of geodesic is fixed)
- $\text{Fix}\{s\} \cap \text{Fix}\{t\} = \text{Fix}\{W_{st}\}$
- Helly implies that  $\bigcap_{s \in S} \text{Fix}(s) \neq \emptyset$ .
- Every 3 gens share a fp.

Suppose not:  $W_{\{s,t\}}$  had empty fp set.



$\text{Fix}$  are convex sets; pairwise intersection.

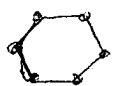
$H^1(\bigcup \text{Fix}_{s,t}) \neq 0$ , contradiction.

Generalize this? Action of Coxeter gps on other spaces? Need convexity - how about CAT(0)?

Farb, Barnhill, (Bridson):

$(W, S)$  st  $W(s_{i_1}, \dots, s_{i_k})$  finite group. (~~1-1~~)  
 then any isometric action on CAT(0) space of dim. ~~k~~  $k-1$  has a fp.

Pf similar to tree. intersection of convex sets give nontrivial homology in dim  $k$ , bad.

Ex  $\tilde{A}_n$    $n+1$  gen  $\tilde{A}_n \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ .

Any isometric action on  $X^{n-1}$  CAT(0) space has a fp.

(In T.S., P.K-I.L): If  $Q$  is a common quotient of all  $\tilde{A}_n$ , then  $Q$  has a fp for any isometric action on any fin dim CAT(0) space.

Common quotients trivial.  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  ~~are there?~~ No others?

[A.M. Osin] [Olshanskii]: Given  $\{G_n\}$  nonelementary hyp;  $H$ , any ~~countable~~ countable gp, Then  $\exists Q$ ,  $G_n \twoheadrightarrow Q \twoheadrightarrow H \forall n$

$Q$  simple, Kazhdan  $(Q \text{ periodic})$

~~are there?~~

Every  $G_n \twoheadrightarrow Q_n \twoheadrightarrow H$ ,  $Q_n$  are rel  $H$  hyp.

There is a seq on  $G_n$  non elem., hyp, st  $G_n$  is gen by  $n+1$  elts, every  $n$ -elt subset spans a finite gp.

(Helly argument) thus  $G_n$  has a  $f_p$  on any CAT(0) space of dim  $< n$ .

Smith Theory  $X$   $p$ -acyclic, fin dim,  $G$  finite  $p$ -gp.  
 $\tilde{H}^*(X, \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}) = 0$ .

$\otimes$  then  $X^G \neq \emptyset$ .  $X^G$  is  $p$ -acyclic.

(has more to it, but this is all we need)

(\*) Suppose  $\{G_n\}$  is non elementary hyp gen by  $(n+1)$ -elts, and every  $k$ -elt set  $k < n+1$  spans a finite  $p$ -gp. Then

$G_n$  acting on  $X^{n-1}$ ,  $p$ -acyclic,  $\dim X < n$  has a  $f_p$ .

hence any common quotient  $Q$  of  $G_n$ 's has a  $f_p$  for any action on a fin dim'l vs space  $p$ -acyclic

Ex  $Q \subset G \subset Q$  by translations ~~non~~ effective.

Remark If  $Q$  (from \*) acts simplicially on a locally finite complex, then the action is trivial.

PF  $Q$  has a  $f_p$ . Simplicial  $\Rightarrow$  stabilizes combinatorial balls  $B(r, x)$ , hence is an identity.   
  $\left. \begin{matrix} \text{fin dim,} \\ p\text{-acyclic,} \\ \text{contractible} \end{matrix} \right\}$

• If  $Q$  acts  $C^\omega$  on a contractible  $f$ . dim mfd, then the action is trivial (PF as above - use ~~topology~~ formal power series)

TJ 4)

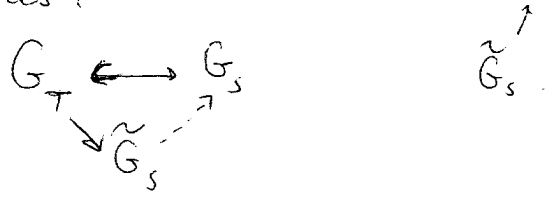
There are  $\{G_n\}$  non-el, hyp, gen by  $(n+1)$  elts, every kelt set kcont spans finite p-gp,  $G_n$  acting on  $X^{n-1}$ .

Developable simplices of gps

$S$  a set.  $T \mapsto G_T$   $G_T$  gen by  $T$ .  
 $T \subset T' \implies G_T \hookrightarrow G_{T'}$  to simplify these inclusions, gens  $\mapsto$  gens.

"inductively constructing bigger gps"

Given  $G_T$ , many choices for  $G_S$ . But there is universal "biggest" one.



Ex Coxeter gps.

radial spaces indexed by elts of  $S$ .

The space associated with  $\{G_T\}$ :  $\Delta_S^{op} \times G_S / \sim$

$$(p, g) \sim (q, h) \iff p=q, \bar{g}^{-1}h \in G(p).$$

Retractable simplex of gps

$$r_T(t) = \begin{cases} t & \text{if } t \in T \\ \{e\} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

$r_T$  extends to a homomorphism  $r_T: G_S \rightarrow G_T$ .

\* Loc Retractable  $\implies$  developable.  $\implies \tilde{G}_S$  retractable.

~~Do it~~ Given  $G_T$ ,  $\exists$  many  $G_S$ , but  $\exists$  ~~max~~ unique upto isom. terminal one,  $\bar{G}_S$ .

"Do it correctly  $\implies \bar{G}_S$  is direct prod."



If  $G_T$  are finite, so is  $\bar{G}_S$ .  
 If  $G_T$  are p-gps, so is  $\bar{G}_S$ .