

# Homological stability for the ribbon Higman–Thompson groups

Xiaolei Wu

J.w. Rachel Skipper

Shanghai Center for Mathematical Sciences

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# History of Thompson groups

- [1965] The groups  $F$ ,  $T$ , and  $V$  were first -defined by Richard Thompson.  $T$  and  $V$  are the first known examples of finitely presented infinite simple groups.
- [1974] Higman introduced what we call nowdays the Higman–Thompson groups.
- [70s] Fred–Heller, independently Dydak, rediscovered  $F$  as the universal group encoding a free homotopy idempotent.

# History of braided Thompson groups

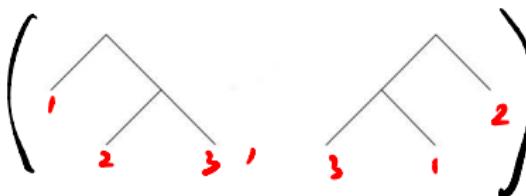
- [2006] Brin and Dehornoy independently defined braided  $V$ .
- [2017] Thumann introduced ribbon Thompson groups.
- [ $\approx 2020$ ] Braided and ribbon version of Higman–Thompson groups was first studied by Aroca–Cumplido and Skipper–W.

# History of braided Thompson groups

- [2004] Funar–Kapoudjian introduced the asymptotic mapping class group on an infinite type surface.  
 $\text{Map}(\Sigma \times \mathbb{R})$
- [2006] Brin and Dehornoy independently defined braided  $V$ .
- [2017] Thumann introduced the ribbon Thompson groups.
- [ $\approx 2020$ ] Braided and ribbon version of Higman–Thompson groups was first studied by Aroca–Cumplido and Skipper–W.

Define Thompson's group  $V$  using paired tree diagram

- An element in  $V$  is a paired tree diagram  $[T_1, \sigma, T_2]$  where  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  are two finite rooted binary trees with the same number of leaves, and  $\sigma$  is a bijection from the leaves of  $T_1$  to  $T_2$ .



$\wedge$

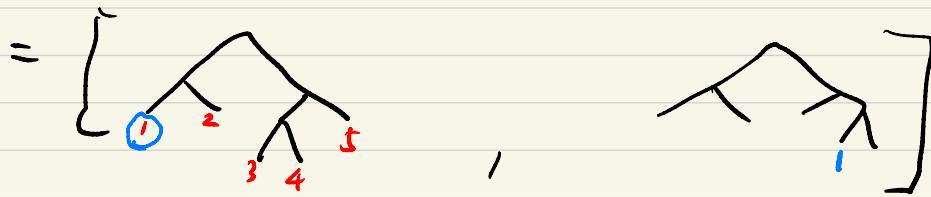
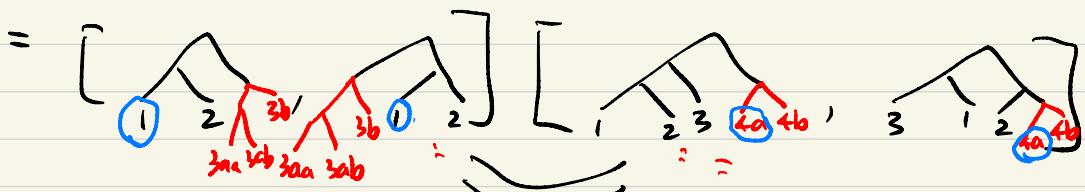
- Equivalence relation:

- Multiplication:

$$[T_1, \sigma, T_2] [T_2, \sigma', T_3] = [T_1, \sigma\sigma', T_3]^{3a} [T_2, \sigma', T_3]^{3b}$$

$$[T_1, \sigma, T_2] [T_3, \sigma', T_4]$$





$F$  and  $T$  as subgroups of  $V$

$$V = \{ [T_1, \sigma, T_2] \mid \sigma \text{ bijection} \}$$

$$T = \{ \dots \mid \sigma \text{ cyclic permutation} \}$$

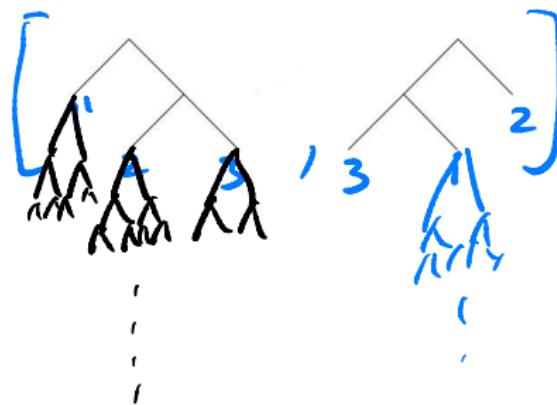
$$F = \{ \dots \mid \sigma \text{ "id"} \}$$



$$[T_1, \sigma, T_2]^{-1} = [T_2, \sigma^{-1}, T_1]$$

$$\text{id} = [\cdot, \cdot]$$

# Thompson's group $V$ as a subgroup of homeomorphisms of the Cantor set



end:

$e$

$e$

## Higman–Thompson groups

$$V_1 = \left\{ (\bar{T}_1, \sigma, \bar{T}_2) \mid \sigma \text{ bijection} \right\}$$

$$V_r = \left\{ [\bigcup_{i=1}^r T_{1i}, \sigma, \bigcup_{i=1}^r T_{2i}] \mid \sigma \text{ bijection} \right\}$$

$$\left[ \begin{smallmatrix} & & \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \\ & & \end{smallmatrix}, \begin{smallmatrix} & \\ 4 & 5 \\ & \end{smallmatrix}, \quad \begin{smallmatrix} & & \\ 5 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ & & & & \end{smallmatrix} \right] \in V_2.$$

# Why $V$ ?

$$\{\mathcal{CT}, \sigma, \bar{\tau}\} / \sigma$$

- $V$  contains all finite groups.

- [Brown 1987]  $V$  is of type  $F_\infty$ .

$G$  is of type  $F_\infty$  if it acts freely on a contractible CW-complex  $X$ , s.t.  $X/G$  has finite in each dim.

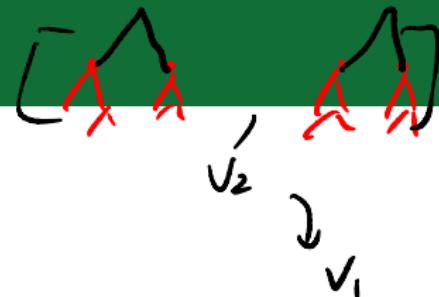
- $V$  is dense in  $\text{Homeo}(\mathcal{C})$ .

$f_1(V, 2) = \{0\}$  for any  $i$ .

- [Szymik–Wahl 2019]  $V$  is acyclic.

How to show  $V$  is acyclic

$$Z \subseteq \frac{Z}{2}$$



Step 1: Homological Stability

$$V_1 \leq V_2 \leq V_3 \leq \dots \leq V_n$$

$$[T_1, \sigma, T_2] \rightarrow [T_1, \sigma \neq, \bar{\sigma}, T_2 \cup \#]$$

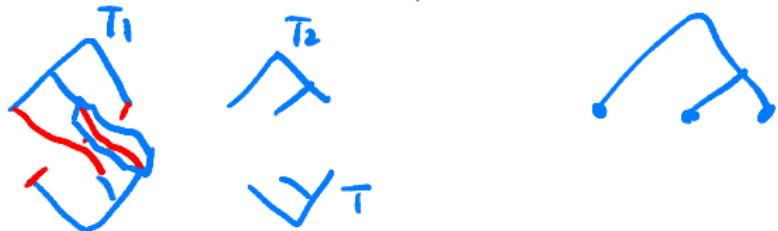
Thm: for any  $i$  and  $n$ , ( $n \gg i$ )

$$(\# : H_i(V_n) \rightarrow H_i(U_{n+i}))$$

Step 2: Stable homology.  $\#$  is isom.

## Braided $V$ [Brin 2006, Dehornoy 2006]

- An element in  $bV$  is a braided paired tree diagram  $[T_1, b, T_2]$  where  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  are two finite rooted trees with the same number of leaves,  $b$  is a braid.



- Equivalence relation:
- multiplication:

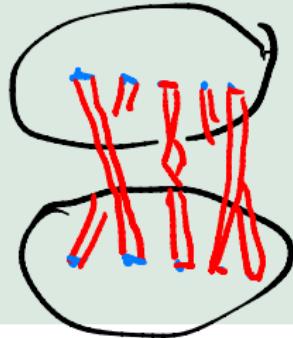


We define braided Higman–Thompson groups  $bV_r$  similarly.

# Ribbon braid groups

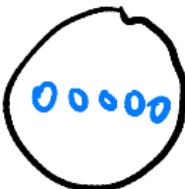
## Definition

An element in the ribbon braid group  $RB_n$  is



## Fact

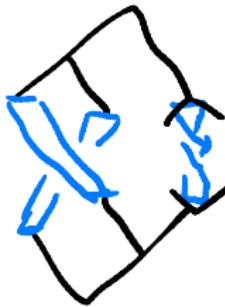
- $B_n$  can be identified with the mapping class group of a disk with  $n$  punctures.
- $PRB_n$  can be identified with the mapping class group of a  $n$ -holed disk.



# Ribbon Higman–Thompson groups

- An element in  $RV_r$  is a braided paired tree diagram  $[F_1, \tau, F_2]$  where  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  are two finite rooted forests with the same number of leaves,  $\tau$  is a ribbon braid.

- Equivalence relation:



# Question

## Question

*Is  $bV$  also acyclic? How about  $RV$ ?*

## Remark

*It is known that  $H_1(bV) = 0$ .*

How one might prove  $bV$  is acyclic?

$$\textcircled{1} \quad bV_1 \leq bV_2 \leq bV_3 \leq \dots$$

\textcircled{2}

# Our theorem

## Theorem (Skipper–W)

*The inclusion maps*

$$\iota_* : H_i(RV_r, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H_i(RV_{r+1}, \mathbb{Z})$$

*induce isomorphisms on homology in all dimensions  $i \geq 0$ , for all  $r \geq 1$ .*

$$G_1 \leq G_2 \leq G_n \leq \dots$$

||      ||

$$\mathrm{Aut}(X) \leq \mathrm{Aut}(X^{\oplus 2}) \leq \dots \leq \mathrm{Aut}(X^{\oplus n})$$

# A quick review on Homogeneous category

## Definition

*A monoidal category  $(\mathcal{C}, \oplus, 0)$  is called homogeneous*

- $0$  is initial in  $\mathcal{C}$ ;
- $\text{Hom}(A, B)$  is a transitive  $\text{Aut}(B)$ -set under postcomposition;
- The map  $\text{Aut}(A) \rightarrow \text{Aut}(A \oplus B)$  taking  $f$  to  $f \oplus \text{id}_B$  is injective with image

$$\text{Fix}(B) := \{\phi \in \text{Aut}(A \oplus B) \mid \phi \circ (\iota_A \oplus \text{id}_B) = \iota_A \oplus \text{id}_B\}$$

where  $\iota_A: 0 \rightarrow A$  is the unique map.

# The space $S_n(X)$

$$\text{Aut}(X) \hookrightarrow \text{Aut}(X^2) \hookrightarrow \dots \hookrightarrow \text{Aut}(X^n)$$
$$G_1 \leq G_2 \leq \dots \leq G_n$$

Let  $X$  be an object of the homogeneous category  $(\mathcal{C}, \oplus, 0)$ , then  $S_n(X)$  denote the simplicial complex

- Vertices: morphisms  $f: X \rightarrow X^{\oplus n}$ ;
- $p$ -simplices:  $(p+1)$ -sets  $\{f_0, \dots, f_p\}$  such that there exists a morphism  $f: X^{\oplus p+1} \rightarrow X^{\oplus n}$  with  $f \circ i_j = f_j$  for some order on the set, where

$$i_j = \iota_{X^{\oplus j}} \oplus \text{id}_X \oplus \iota_{X^{\oplus p-j}}: X = 0 \oplus X \oplus 0 \longrightarrow X^{\oplus p+1}.$$

# How to prove homological stability?

## Theorem (Randal-Williams–Wahl)

Let  $(\mathcal{C}, \oplus, 0)$  be a homogeneous category such that the space  $S_n(X)$  is  $\frac{n-2}{k}$  for some  $k \geq 2$ , then

$$H_i(\mathrm{Aut}(X^{\oplus n})) \longrightarrow H_i(\mathrm{Aut}(X^{\oplus n+1}))$$

induced by the natural inclusion map is an isomorphism if  $n \geq ki + 1$ .

# An example: braid groups I

**Key fact:**  $B_n$  can be identified with the mapping class group of a disk with  $n$  punctures.

$$B_1 \leq B_2 \leq B_3 \leq \dots \leq B_n$$

The homogeneous category consists of

- Objects:



$\text{D}$



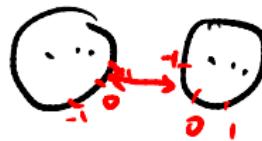
$X$

$\dots$



$X^n$

- monoid operation:



- morphisms:

$$\text{Hom}(X^n, X^m) = \text{isotopy class of based} = \begin{cases} \emptyset & n > m \\ \text{Homeo} & n = m \\ \text{Emb} & n < m \end{cases}$$

## An example: braid groups II

The complex  $S_n(X)$ :

- vertices:

$$\text{Hom}(X, X^n)$$



- $p$ -simplices:

$p+1$  vertices with disjoint

**Arc Complex:** Vertices: isotopy classes of arcs starting at base pt and a move pt.

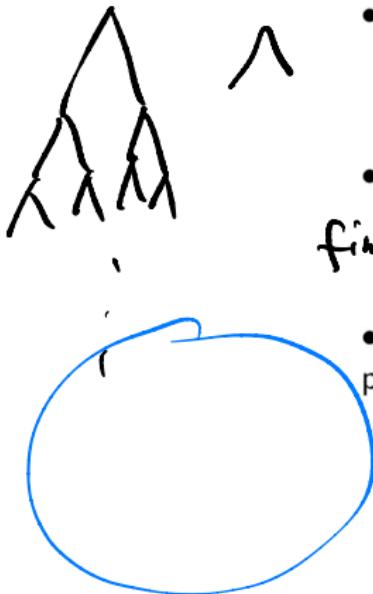
boundary loops outside the base pt.

# Key difficulty

Build a geometric model for the Ribbon Higman–Thompson groups.

# Asymptotic mapping class group I: rigid structure

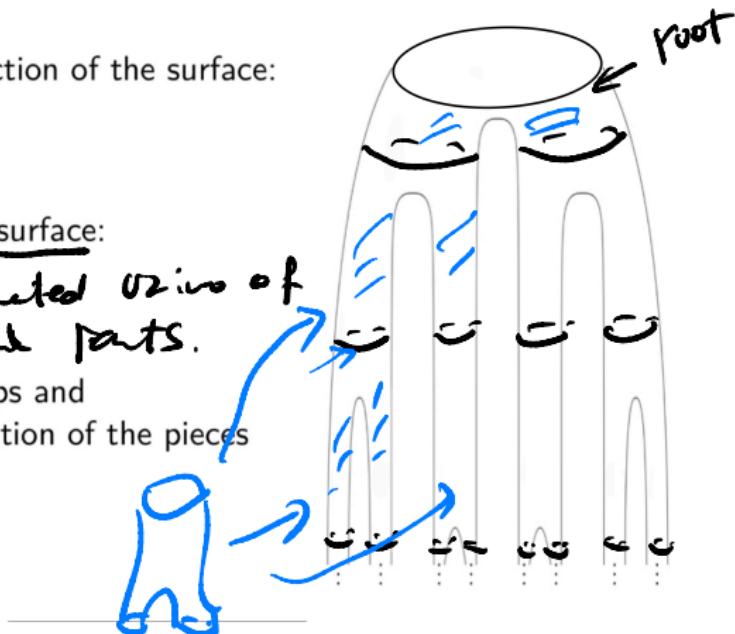
Map(DI-e)



- Reconstruction of the surface:

• Suited subsurface:  
first connected union of  
large ak parts.

- Suited loops and parameterization of the pieces



# Asymptotic mapping class group II: paired surface diagram

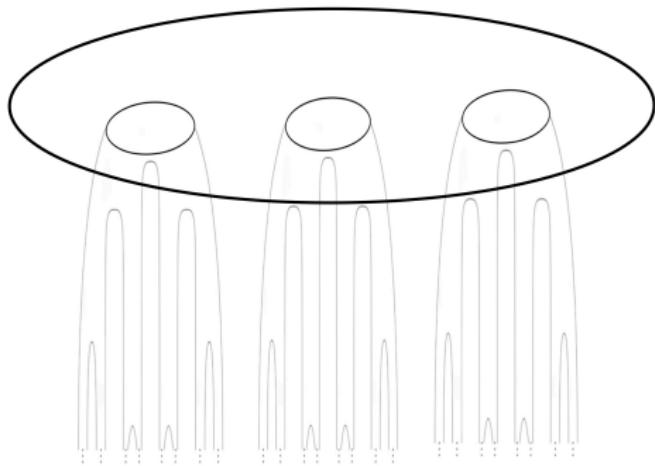
An element in  $\mathcal{BV} = \mathcal{BV}_1$  is a paired surface diagram

$$[\underline{\Sigma}_1, \phi, \underline{\Sigma}_2]$$

such that

- $\Sigma_1$  and  $\Sigma_2$  are suited subsurface with the same number of suited loops.
- $\phi$  is a homeomorphism from  $\Sigma_1$  to  $\Sigma_2$  which coincides with the parametrization of the suited loops.
- Equivalence relation:  $\sim_{\text{isotopy}}$
- Composition:  $\sim_{\text{adding pants}}$ .

$\mathcal{B}_r$  for any  $r$



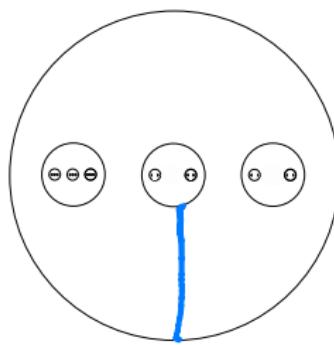
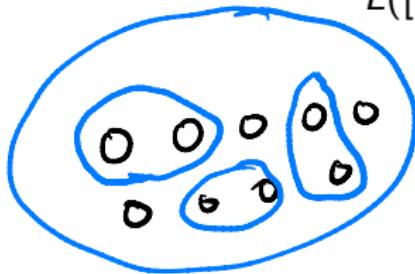
# Isomorphism results

## Theorem (Skipper-W)

*The groups  $\mathcal{BV}_r$  and  $\mathcal{RV}_r$  are isomorphic in a canonical way.*

## Key gadget: Lollipop

- Let  $A = [0, 2]/1 \sim 2$ .
- $L : (A, 0) \rightarrow (D \setminus \mathcal{C}, 0)$  is a lollipop if
  - $L$  is an embedding.
  - $L|_{[1,2]}$  is isotopic to a suited loop in  $D \setminus \mathcal{C}$ ,
  - $L|_{[0,1]}$  is an arc connecting the base point 0 to  $L([1, 2])$ .



# The Lollipop complex

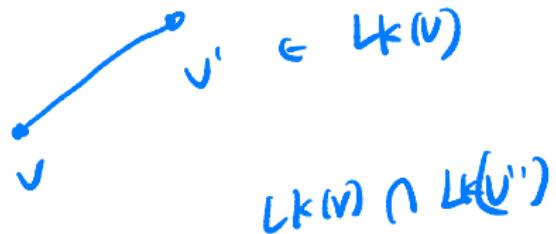
- vertices: isotopy classes of lollipops;
- $L_0, L_1, \dots, L_p$ , form a  $p$ -simplex if they are pairwise disjoint outside the base point 0 and there exists at least one suited loop which does not lie inside the disks bounded by the  $L_i$ s.

# The Lollipop complex is contractible

Theorem (Skipper-W 2021)

*The Lollipop complex is contractible.*

•  $v''$



# Connectivity of the lollipop complex

