

# Certain right-angled Artin groups in mapping class groups

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## Contents

- Embeddings of RAAGs into MCGs (Main Theorem)
- Embeddings between finite index subgroups of MCGs (applications)

# Right-angled Artin groups

$\Gamma$ : a finite (simplicial) graph

$V(\Gamma) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$ : the vertex set of  $\Gamma$

$E(\Gamma)$ : the edge set of  $\Gamma$

## Definition

The **right-angled Artin group** (RAAG)  $G(\Gamma)$  on  $\Gamma$  is the group given by the following presentation:

$$G(\Gamma) = \langle v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n \mid [v_i, v_j] = 1 \text{ if } \{v_i, v_j\} \in E(\Gamma) \rangle.$$

$G(\Gamma_1) \cong G(\Gamma_2)$  if and only if  $\Gamma_1 \cong \Gamma_2$ .

e.g.

$$G(\bullet \quad \bullet \quad \bullet) \cong \mathbb{Z}^3$$

$$G(\bullet \text{---} \bullet) \cong \mathbb{Z} \times F_2$$

$$G(\bullet \text{---} \bullet \text{---} \bullet) \cong \mathbb{Z} * \mathbb{Z}^2$$

$$G(\begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \bullet \end{array}) \cong F_3$$

# The mapping class groups of surfaces

$\Sigma := \Sigma_{g,p}$ : the orientable surface of genus  $g$  with  $p$  punctures

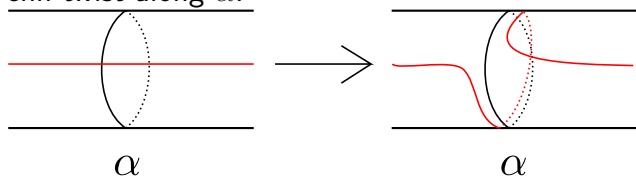
The **mapping class group** of  $\Sigma$  is defined as follows.

$$\text{Mod}(\Sigma) := \text{Homeo}_+(\Sigma)/\text{isotopy}$$

Ori. pres. homeomorphisms can interchange punctures.

$\alpha$ : an essential closed curves on  $\Sigma$

The Dehn twist along  $\alpha$ :



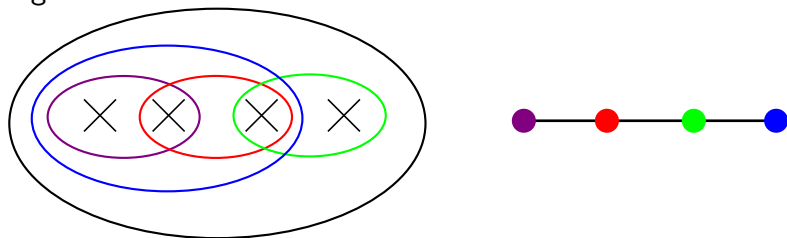
# The co-curve graphs of surfaces

$\Sigma := \Sigma_{g,p}$ : the orientable surface of genus  $g$  with  $p$  punctures

The **co-curve graph**  $\bar{\mathcal{C}}(\Sigma)$  is a graph such that

- $V(\bar{\mathcal{C}}(\Sigma)) = \{\text{isotopy classes of escc on } \Sigma\}$
- escc  $\alpha, \beta$  span an edge iff  $i(\alpha, \beta) > 0$ .

e.g.



Note: the co-curve graph is the complement graph of  $\mathcal{C}(\Sigma)$  which is the 1-skeleton of the curve complex.

## Fact (Subgroup generated by two Dehn twists)

Let  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  be non-isotopic escc on  $\Sigma_{g,p}$ .

- (1) If  $i(\alpha, \beta) = 0$ , then the Dehn twists  $T_\alpha$  and  $T_\beta$  generate  $\mathbb{Z}^2 \cong G(\bullet \quad \bullet)$  in  $\text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g,p})$ .
- (2) If  $i(\alpha, \beta) = 1$ , then  $T_\alpha$  and  $T_\beta$  generate  $\text{SL}(2, \mathbb{Z})$  or  $B_3$  (the braid group on 3 strands).
- (3) If  $i(\alpha, \beta) \geq 2$ , then  $T_\alpha$  and  $T_\beta$  generate  $F_2 \cong G(\bullet \text{---} \bullet)$  (Ishida, 1996).

Mostly the subgroup generated by two Dehn twists is a right-angled Artin group.

## Theorem (Koberda, 2012)

$\Gamma$ : a finite graph,  $\chi(\Sigma_{g,p}) < 0$ .

If  $\Gamma \leq \bar{\mathcal{C}}(\Sigma_{g,p})$ , then sufficiently high powers of “the Dehn twists corresponding to  $V(\Gamma)$ ” generate  $G(\Gamma)$  in  $\text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g,p})$ .

## Theorem (Koberda, 2012)

$\Lambda$ : a finite graph,  $\chi(\Sigma_{g,p}) < 0$ .

If  $\Lambda \leq \bar{\mathcal{C}}(\Sigma_{g,p})$ , then  $G(\Lambda) \hookrightarrow \text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g,p})$ .

Here, an injective map  $\iota: V(\Lambda) \rightarrow V(\Gamma)$  is called a **full embedding** if  $\{u, v\} \in E(\Lambda) \Leftrightarrow \{\iota(u), \iota(v)\} \in E(\Gamma)$  for all  $u, v \in V(\Lambda)$ .

A fully embedded image  $\iota(\Lambda)$  is called a **full subgraph**.

We denote by  $\Lambda \leq \Gamma$  if  $\Lambda$  is a full subgraph of  $\Gamma$ .

e.g.



● ● is a subgraph but not full...

## Motivation

### Problem (Kim–Koberda, 2014)

Decide whether  $G(\Gamma)$  is embedded into  $\text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g,p})$ .

### Theorem (Birman–Lubotzky–McCarthy, 1983)

$\mathbb{Z}^n \hookrightarrow \text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g,p})$  if and only if  $n \leq 3g - 3 + p$ .

### Theorem (McCarthy, 1985)

$F_2 \hookrightarrow \text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g,p})$  if and only if  $(g, p) \neq (0, \leq 3)$ .

### Theorem (Koberda, Bering IV–Conant–Gaster, K, 2017)

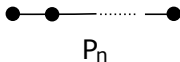
$F_2 \times F_2 \times \cdots \times F_2 \hookrightarrow \text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g,p})$  if and only if the number of the direct factors  $F_2$  is at most  $g - 1 + \lfloor \frac{g+p}{2} \rfloor$ .

Here,  $F_2 \times F_2 \times \cdots \times F_2 \cong G(\bullet \text{---} \bullet \sqcup \bullet \text{---} \bullet \sqcup \cdots \sqcup \bullet \text{---} \bullet)$ .



## Main Theorem

$P_m$ : the **path graph** on  $m$  vertices



## Main Theorem (K.–Kuno)

$G(P_m) \hookrightarrow \text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g,p})$  if and only if  $m$  satisfies the following inequality.

$$m \leq \begin{cases} 0 & ((g, p) = (0, 0), (0, 1), (0, 2), (0, 3)) \\ 2 & ((g, p) = (0, 4), (1, 0), (1, 1)) \\ p - 1 & (g = 0, p \geq 5) \\ p + 2 & (g = 1, p \geq 2) \\ 2g + p + 1 & (g \geq 2) \end{cases}$$

## Application

Let  $g$  be a positive integer  $\geq 2$ .

### Theorem (Birman–Hilden 1973 and Farb–Margalit 2011)

If  $p \leq 2g + 2$ , then  $\text{Mod}(\Sigma_g)$  contains a finite index subgroup of  $\text{Mod}(\Sigma_{0,p})$ .

Main Theorem implies the following.

### Corollary A (K.–Kuno)

Suppose that  $\text{Mod}(\Sigma_g)$  contains a finite index subgroup of  $\text{Mod}(\Sigma_{0,p})$ .

Then,  $p \leq 2g + 2$ .

Note: **residual finiteness** of the mapping class groups guarantees that a large supply of finite index subgroups of the mapping class groups.

$\bigcap H (H \leq \text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g,p}): \text{finite index}) = 1$ .

## Theorem (Birman–Hilden 1973 and Perron–Vannier 1999)

If  $n \leq 2g$ , then  $\text{Mod}(\Sigma_g)$  contains the braid group  $B_n$  on  $n$  strands.

## Theorem (K.)

Suppose that  $\text{Mod}(\Sigma_g)$  contains a finite index subgroup of  $B_n$ .  
Then  $n \leq 2g$ .

This generalizes the following theorem.

## Theorem (Castel, 2016)

Suppose that  $\text{Mod}(\Sigma_g)$  contains  $B_n$ .  
Then  $n \leq 2g$ .

## Summary

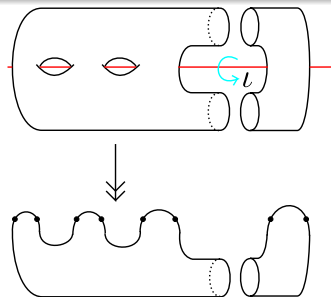
The following hold.

- (1)  $\text{Mod}(\Sigma_g)$  contains a finite index subgroup of  $\text{Mod}(\Sigma_{0,p})$  if and only if  $p \leq 2g + 2$ .
- (2)  $\text{Mod}(\Sigma_g)$  contains a finite index subgroup of  $B_n$  if and only if  $n \leq 2g$ .

## Quick Review: Birman–Hilden double branched cover (1/3)

### Theorem

$$B_{2g} \hookrightarrow \text{Mod}(\Sigma_g).$$

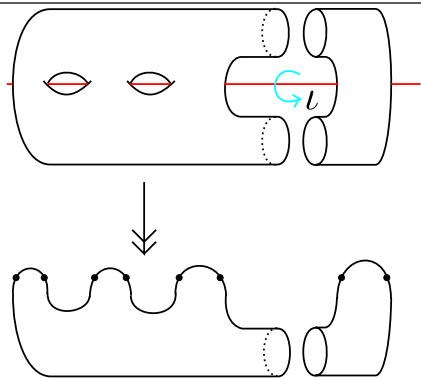


$$B_{2g} := \text{Mod}(\Sigma_{2g}^1) \cong \text{SMod}(\Sigma_{g-1}^2) \hookrightarrow \text{Mod}(\Sigma_g). \quad \text{SMod: fib. pres.}$$
$$PB_{2g} \cong \text{PMod}(\Sigma_{0,2g+1}) \times \mathbb{Z} \quad (\text{Clay–Leininger–Margalit}).$$

### Corollary

$$\text{PMod}(\Sigma_{0,p}) \hookrightarrow \text{Mod}(\Sigma_g) \quad \text{for } \forall p \leq 2g + 1.$$

## Quick Review: Birman–Hilden double branched cover (2/3)



### Theorem

$$\mathrm{SMod}(\Sigma_g)/\langle \iota \rangle \cong \mathrm{Mod}(\Sigma_{0,2g+2}).$$

Pick a finite index subgroup  $H$  of  $\mathrm{SMod}(\Sigma_g)$  avoiding  $\iota$ .  
Then  $H$  is embedded in  $\mathrm{Mod}(\Sigma_{0,2g+2})$  as a finite index subgroup.  
Natural inclusion  $H \subset \mathrm{Mod}(\Sigma_g)$  is a desired embedding.

## Quick Review: Birman–Hilden double branched cover (3/3)

Hence, the conditions arise from topological context.

### Summary

The following hold.

- (1)  $\text{Mod}(\Sigma_g)$  contains a finite index subgroup of  $\text{Mod}(\Sigma_{0,p})$  if  $p \leq 2g + 2$ .
- (2)  $\text{Mod}(\Sigma_g)$  contains the braid group  $B_n$  on  $n$  strands if  $n \leq 2g$ .

# Proof of Main Theorem and Corollary A

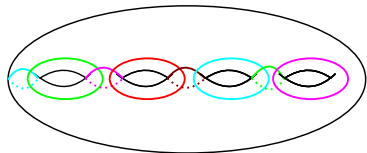
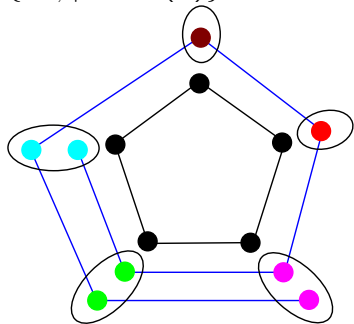


## Theorem (Kim–Koberda)

Suppose that  $G(\Lambda) \hookrightarrow \text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g,p})$  with  $\chi(\Sigma_{g,p}) < 0$ .

Then there is an embedding  $\psi: G(\Lambda) \hookrightarrow \text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g,p})$  such that  $\forall v \in V(\Lambda), \exists$  Dehn twists  $T_{v,1}, \dots, T_{v,m_v}$ ;  $\psi(v) = T_{v,1}^{e_{v,1}} \cdots T_{v,m_v}^{e_{v,m_v}}$ , where  $T_{v,i}$  and  $T_{v,j}$  are commutative.

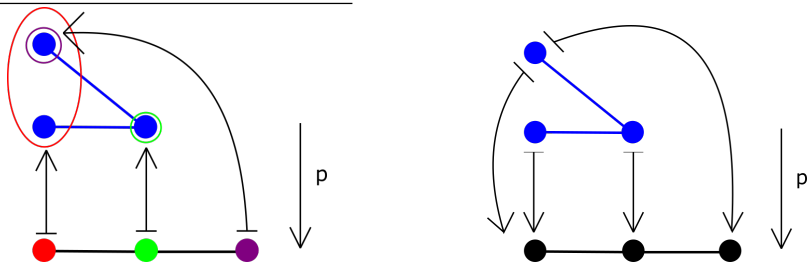
Note:  $\{T_{v,i} \mid v \in V(\Lambda)\}$  induces a full subgraph  $\Gamma \leq \bar{\mathcal{C}}(\Sigma_{g,p})$ .



$$G(C_5) \rightarrow \text{Mod}(\Sigma_4)$$

$$\bullet \mapsto \prod \text{Dehn twists}$$

## Multi-valued projection of graphs



### Definition

Let  $\Lambda$  and  $\Gamma$  be graphs.

A **multi-valued projection**  $p: \Gamma \rightrightarrows \Lambda$  is a correspondence from  $V(\Gamma)$  to  $V(\Lambda)$  satisfying the following.

- (0) The vertex-images  $p(v)$  are non-empty sets of vertices.
- (1) If  $v_1, v_2 \in V(\Gamma)$  are adjacent, then any pair of vertices  $u_1$  and  $u_2$ , where  $u_1 \in p(v_1)$  and  $u_2 \in p(v_2)$ , are adjacent.
- (2) The correspondence  $p$  is surjective.

## KK embedding induces an MV projection

### Theorem (Kim–Koberda, recall)

Suppose that  $G(\Lambda) \hookrightarrow \text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g,p})$ .

Then there is an embedding  $\psi: G(\Lambda) \hookrightarrow \text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g,p})$  such that  $\exists \Gamma \leq \bar{C}(\Sigma_{g,p})$ ;  $\psi(v)$  is a product of non-adjacent vertices of  $\Gamma$ .

### Observation

The above embedding  $\psi$  induces an MV projection  $p: \Gamma \rightrightarrows \Lambda$  by setting  $T_{v,i} \xrightarrow{p} v$ .

### Proof.

Pick  $u_1 \in p(T_{v_1,i})$  and  $u_2 \in p(T_{v_2,j})$  with  $\{T_{v_1,i}, T_{v_2,j}\} \in E(\Gamma)$ .

Since the vertices  $T_{v_1,i}$  and  $T_{v_2,j}$  are non-commutative and since  $\psi$  is injective, the vertices  $u_1, u_2$  must be non-commutative (adjacent).

Hence,  $p$  satisfies the axiom (1).

Moreover,  $p$  is surjective (2), because  $\psi(v)$  is non-trivial. □

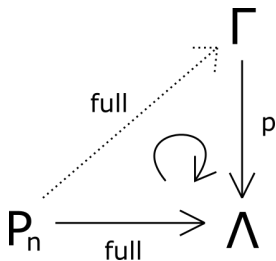
## Lemma (K.)

Let  $p: \Gamma \rightrightarrows \Lambda$  be an MV projection associated to a KK embedding  $G(\Lambda) \hookrightarrow \text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g,p})$ .

For any full embedding  $\iota: P_n \rightarrow \Lambda$ , there is a full embedding  $\tilde{\iota}: P_n \rightarrow \Gamma$  such that  $p \circ \tilde{\iota} = \iota$ .

In particular,  $G(P_n) \hookrightarrow \text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g,p})$  implies  $P_n \leq \bar{C}(\Sigma_{g,p})$ .

Recall:  $\Gamma \leq \bar{C}(\Sigma_{g,p})$ .



## Path-lifting Lemma (2/5)

### Lemma (K.)

Let  $p: \Gamma \rightrightarrows \Lambda$  be an MV projection associated to a KK embedding  $\psi: G(\Lambda) \hookrightarrow \text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g,p})$ .

For any full embedding  $\iota: P_n \rightarrow \Lambda$ , there is a full embedding  $\tilde{\iota}: P_n \rightarrow \Gamma$  such that  $p \circ \tilde{\iota} = \iota$ .

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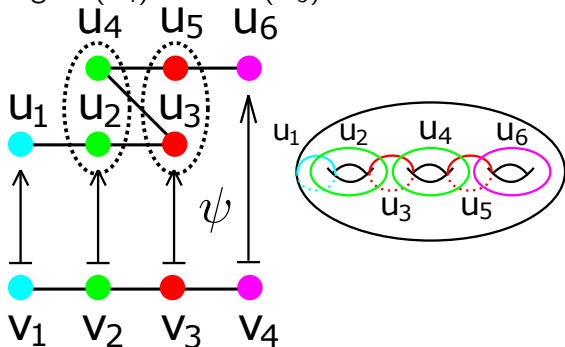
- $n = 1$  case: obvious.
- $n = 2$  case: a full embedding  $P_2 \rightarrow \Lambda$   
“=” a pair of non-commutative vertices

It must have a lift (if not,  $\text{Ker}\psi$  contains the commutator of the vertices).

- $n = 3$  case: essentially due to Kim–Koberda

## Path-lifting Lemma (3/5)

$n = 4$  case: e.g.  $G(P_4) \rightarrow \text{Mod}(\Sigma_3)$



$\psi(v_1) = u_1$ ,  $\psi(v_2) = u_2u_4$ ,  $\psi(v_3) = u_3u_5$ ,  $\psi(v_4) = u_6$  ( $u_i := T_{u_i}$ ).

Claim.  $\text{Ker}\psi \neq 1$ .

$[v_1^{v_2v_3}, v_4] = (v_3^{-1}v_2^{-1}v_1v_2v_3)v_4(v_3^{-1}v_2^{-1}v_1^{-1}v_2v_3)v_4^{-1} \neq 1$ .

This is a shortest word representing  $[v_1^{v_2v_3}, v_4]$ .

We now prove that  $[\psi(v_1)^{\psi(v_2)\psi(v_3)}, \psi(v_4)] = 1$ .

We first obtain a good representative of  $\psi(v_1)^{\psi(v_2)}$ .

## Path-lifting Lemma (4/5)

$$\psi(v_1) = u_1, \psi(v_2) = u_2 u_4, \psi(v_3) = u_3 u_5, \psi(v_4) = u_6.$$

Representative of  $\psi(v_1)^{\psi(v_2)}$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\psi(v_1)^{\psi(v_2)} &= (u_4^{-1} u_2^{-1}) u_1 (u_2 u_4) \\ &= u_2^{-1} u_1 u_2\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}(\psi(v_1)^{\psi(v_2)})^{\psi(v_3)} &= (u_5^{-1} u_3^{-1}) u_2^{-1} u_1 u_2 (u_3 u_5) \\ &= u_3^{-1} u_2^{-1} u_1 u_2 u_3\end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $(\psi(v_1)^{\psi(v_2)})^{\psi(v_3)}$  is commutative with  $\psi(v_4) = u_6$ .  
i.e.  $[(\psi(v_1)^{\psi(v_2)})^{\psi(v_3)}, \psi(v_4)] = 1$ .

The projection is not induced by an embedding!

## Path-lifting Lemma (5/5)

General case: given a full embedding  $\iota: P_n \hookrightarrow \Lambda$ , consider the commutator  $[\psi(\iota(v_1))\psi(\iota(v_2))\cdots\psi(\iota(v_{n-1})), \psi(\iota(v_n))]$ .

Then we can prove that the following;

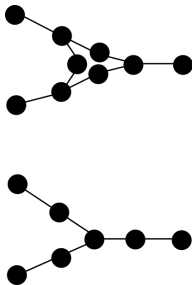
if there is no lift of  $\iota$ , then  $\psi(\iota(v_1))\psi(\iota(v_2))\cdots\psi(\iota(v_{n-1}))$  has a representative consisting of vertices in  $\Gamma$  commutative with  $\psi(\iota(v_n))$ .

This implies that  $\iota$  has a lift for any projection associated to an embedding  $\psi$ .



## Theorem (Lee–Lee, 2017)

There is a pair of deg 3 tree  $T$  and a graph  $\Gamma \leq \bar{\mathcal{C}}(\Sigma_{g,p})$  such that  $G(T) \hookrightarrow \text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g,p})$  and  $T$  has no lift w.r.t. the projection.



## Theorem (Kim–Koberda, 2015)

If  $3g - 3 + p \geq 4$ , then there is a finite graph  $\Lambda$  such that  $G(\Lambda) \hookrightarrow \text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g,p})$  but  $\Lambda \not\leq \bar{\mathcal{C}}(\Sigma_{g,p})$ .

## Proof of Main Theorem (1/6)

### Main Theorem (recall)

$G(P_m) \leq \text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g,p})$  if and only if  $m$  satisfies the following inequality.

$$m \leq \begin{cases} 0 & ((g, p) = (0, 0), (0, 1), (0, 2), (0, 3)) \\ 2 & ((g, p) = (0, 4), (1, 0), (1, 1)) \\ p - 1 & (g = 0, p \geq 5) \\ p + 2 & (g = 1, p \geq 2) \\ 2g + p + 1 & (g \geq 2) \end{cases}$$

## Proof of Main Theorem (2/6)

### Lemma

Suppose that  $\chi(\Sigma_{g,p}) < 0$ .

If  $G(P_m) \hookrightarrow \text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g,p})$ , then  $P_m \leq \bar{C}(\Sigma_{g,p})$ .

### Problem

Decide whether  $G(P_m)$  is embedded into  $\text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g,p})$ .

By Koberda's embedding theorem and the above lemma, the above problem is reduced into the following problem when  $\chi < 0$ :

### Problem

Decide whether  $P_m \leq \bar{C}(\Sigma_{g,p})$ .

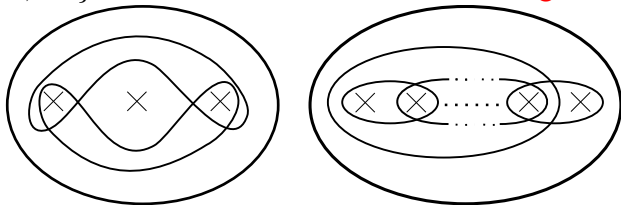
### Problem (recall)

Decide whether  $P_m \leq \bar{C}(\Sigma_{g,p})$ .

A sequence  $\{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_m\}$  of closed curves on  $\Sigma_{g,p}$  is called a **linear chain** if this sequence satisfies the following.

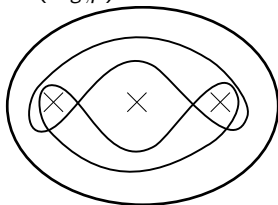
- Any two distinct curves  $\alpha_i$  and  $\alpha_j$  are non-isotopic.
- Any two consecutive curves  $\alpha_i$  and  $\alpha_{i+1}$  intersect non-trivially and minimally.
- Any two non-consecutive curves are disjoint.

If  $\{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_m\}$  is a linear chain, we call  $m$  its **length**.

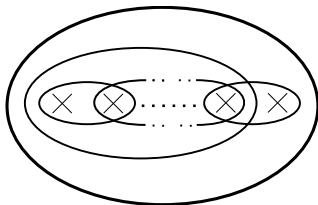


## Proof of main Theorem (4/6)

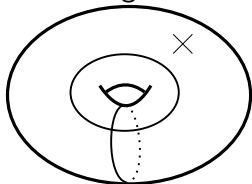
Note that if  $|\chi(\Sigma_{g,p})| < 0$  and  $\Sigma_{g,p}$  is not homeomorphic to neither  $\Sigma_{0,4}$  nor  $\Sigma_{1,1}$ , then there is a linear chain of length  $m$  on  $\Sigma_{g,p}$  if and only if  $P_m \leq \bar{C}(\Sigma_{g,p})$ .



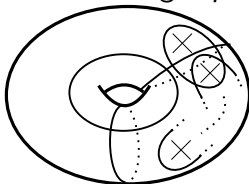
length 2



length  $p - 1$

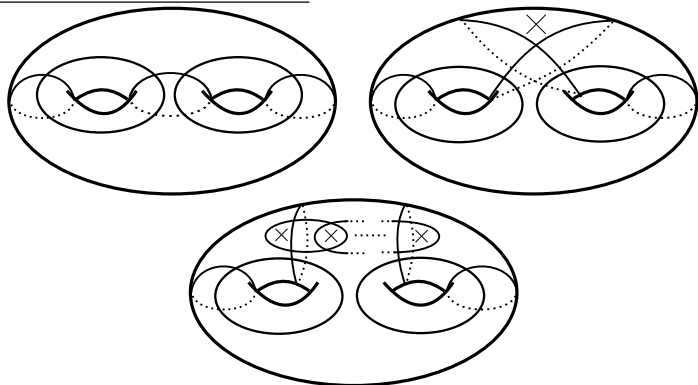


length 2



length  $p + 2$

## Proof of main Theorem (5/6)



$$\text{length } 2g + p + 1$$
$$\rightarrow P_{2g+p+1} \leq \bar{C}(S_{g,p})$$

## Proof of Main Theorem (6/6)

### Main Theorem\*

$P_m \leq \bar{C}(\Sigma_{g,p})$  if and only if  $m$  satisfies the following inequality.

$$m \leq \begin{cases} 0 & ((g, p) = (0, 0), (0, 1), (0, 2), (0, 3)) \\ 2 & ((g, p) = (0, 4), (1, 0), (1, 1)) \\ p - 1 & (g = 0, p \geq 5) \\ p + 2 & (g = 1, p \geq 2) \\ 2g + p + 1 & (g \geq 2) \end{cases}$$

Proof) Double induction on the ordered pair  $(g, p)$ .

$(g, p) = (0, 5)$  case:

Suppose that  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m$  is a linear chain on  $\Sigma_{0,5}$ .

Then the last curve  $\alpha_m$  is separating and  $\Sigma_{0,5} \cong \Sigma_{0,3} \cup_{\alpha_m} \Sigma_{0,4}$ .

Either  $\Sigma_{0,3}$  or  $\Sigma_{0,4}$  contains a linear chain of length  $m - 2$ .

Hence, we have  $m - 2 \leq 2$  i.e.  $m \leq 4$ .

Thus we have Main Thm.

## Main Theorem (recall)

$G(P_m) \hookrightarrow \text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g,p})$  if and only if

$$m \leq \begin{cases} 0 & ((g, p) = (0, 0), (0, 1), (0, 2), (0, 3)) \\ 2 & ((g, p) = (0, 4), (1, 0), (1, 1)) \\ p - 1 & (g = 0, p \geq 5) \\ p + 2 & (g = 1, p \geq 2) \\ 2g + p + 1 & (g \geq 2) \end{cases}$$



## Proof of Corollary

### Lemma

Let  $H$  be a group and  $K$  a finite index subgroup of  $H$ .

If a RAAG  $G$  is embedded in  $H$ , then  $G$  is also embedded in  $K$ .

### Proof.

Suppose that  $G$  is embedded in  $H$ .

For all  $n > 0$ , the RAAG  $G$  has property that the “ $n$ -th power homomorphism”  $v \mapsto v^n$  is injective.

Since  $K$  is of finite index,  $n$ -th power homomorphism is an embedding of  $G$  into  $K$ . □

## Corollary

Let  $g$  be an integer  $\geq 2$ .

Suppose that  $\text{Mod}(\Sigma_g)$  contains a finite index subgroup  $H$  of  $\text{Mod}(\Sigma_{0,p})$ .

Then,  $p \leq 2g + 2$ .

## Proof.

Main Theorem implies  $G(P_{p-1}) \hookrightarrow \text{Mod}(\Sigma_{0,p})$ .

By previous lemma, we have  $G(P_{p-1}) \hookrightarrow H$ .

By Main Theorem, the maximum  $m$  such that  $G(P_m) \hookrightarrow \text{Mod}(\Sigma_g)$  is  $2g + 1$ .

Thus we have  $p - 1 \leq 2g + 1$ . □

If we use the rank of free abelian subgroup, then we have a non-sharp inequality,  $p \leq 3g$ .

We also obtain the following result as a corollary of Main Theorem.

## Corollary

Let  $g$  and  $g'$  be integers  $\geq 2$ . Suppose that  $\text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g,p})$  is virtually embedded into  $\text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g',p'})$ . Then the following inequalities hold:

- (1)  $3g + p \leq 3g' + p'$ ,
- (2)  $2g + p \leq 2g' + p'$ .

It is easy to observe that, if  $(3g + p, 2g + p) = (3g' + p', 2g' + p')$ , then  $(g, p) = (g', p')$ . Namely, we have;

## Corollary

Let  $g$  and  $g'$  be integers  $\geq 2$ .

If  $\text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g,p}) \xrightarrow[\text{virtual}]{\hookrightarrow} \text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g',p'})$  and  $\text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g',p'}) \xrightarrow[\text{virtual}]{\hookrightarrow} \text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g,p})$ , then  $(g, p) = (g', p')$ .

## Braid groups into closed surface MCGs

### Theorem (K.)

Suppose that  $\text{Mod}(\Sigma_g)$  contains a finite index subgroup of the braid group  $B_n$  on  $n$  strands. Then  $n \leq 2g$ .

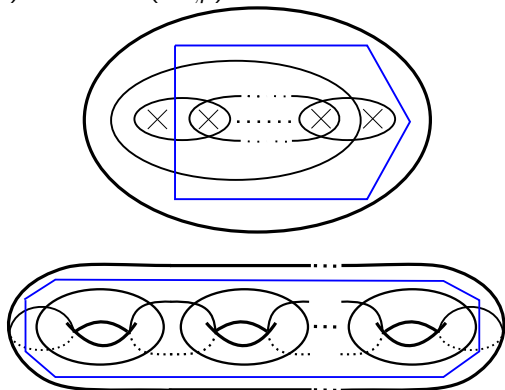
Idea) If we try to use free abelian subgroups and  $G(P_n)$  in order to deduce the conclusion;

Free abelian:  $n \leq 3g - 2$

$G(P_n)$ :  $n \leq 2g + 1$

Hence, we use the right-angled Artin groups of the form  $G(C_n) \times \mathbb{Z}$ .

Claim.  $G(C_p) \leq \text{PMod}(\Sigma_{0,p})$ .



Hence,  $G(C_{n+1}) \times \mathbb{Z} \hookrightarrow B_n$ .

On the other hand,  $C_{2g+2} \leq \bar{C}(\Sigma_g)$ .

## Braid groups into closed surface MCGs

Claim.  $C_{2g+2} \sqcup \{\text{pt}\} \not\cong \bar{\mathcal{C}}(\Sigma_g)$ .

Claim.  $G(C_{2g+2}) \times \mathbb{Z} \not\cong \text{Mod}(\Sigma_g)$ .

Thus,  $B_n \xrightarrow[\text{virtual}]{} \text{Mod}(\Sigma_g)$  implies  $n + 1 \leq 2g + 1$ .

# Future work

Today we discussed embeddability between finite index subgroups of specific MCGs.

## Corollary

$\text{Mod}(\Sigma_{0,p}) \xrightarrow[\text{virtual}]{} \text{Mod}(\Sigma_g)$  if and only if  $p \leq 2g + 2$ .

## Theorem (Ivanov–McCarthy, 1999)

Suppose that  $g \geq 2$  and  $(g', p') \neq (2, 0)$ .

If  $|(3g' + p') - (3g + p)| \leq 1$ , then every embedding  $\text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g,p})$  into  $\text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g',p'})$  is an isomorphism induced by a homeomorphism.

## Theorem (Bell–Margalit, 2004)

Let  $p$  be an integer  $\geq 5$ .

Then  $\text{Mod}(\Sigma_{0,p})$  is not embedded in  $\text{Mod}(\Sigma_{0,p+1})$ .

## Theorem (Aramayona–Souto, 2012)

Suppose that  $g \geq 6$  and  $g' \leq 2g - 1$ ;

if  $g' = 2g - 1$ , we further assume that  $p' = 0$ .

Then every embedding  $\text{PMod}(\Sigma_{g,p}) \rightarrow \text{PMod}(\Sigma_{g',p'})$  is an isomorphism.

## Question

What about the other cases?



## Problem (Kim–Koberda, 2014)

Decide whether  $G(\Lambda)$  is embedded into  $\text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g,p})$ .

## Theorem (Aougab–Biringer–Gaster, 2017)

There is an algorithm that determines, given a graph  $\Lambda$  and a pair  $(g, p)$ , whether  $\Lambda \leq \bar{\mathcal{C}}(\Sigma_{g,p})$ .

Method: give a bound for self-intersection number of the curve systems representing  $\Lambda$ , and check through the bounded complexity triangulations of  $\Sigma_{g,p}$  for curve systems embedded in their 1-skeleta.

## Question

Algorithm that determines given a graph  $\Lambda$  has the following property;  
 $G(\Lambda) \hookrightarrow \text{Mod}(\Sigma_{g,p})$  iff  $\Lambda \leq \bar{\mathcal{C}}(\Sigma_{g,p})$ ?

Thank you for your attention.