Conjugacy separability of non-positively curved groups

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Equivalently,
$$G$$
 is RF $\iff \bigcap_{N < \iota_G} N = \{1\}.$



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Recall: $Aut_{pi}(G) = \{\alpha \in Aut(G) \mid \alpha(g) \sim g, \forall g \in G\}$ – pointwise inner automorphisms of G.



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- limit groups/fully residually free gps. (Chagas-Zalesskii)
- Let $\mathcal X$ be the smallest class of gps. containing virt. free and virt. polyc. gps and closed under cyclic amalgamation. Then each $G \in \mathcal X$ is CS (Ribes-Segal-Zalesskii)



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- there is a f.g. group G with a CS sbgp. H ≤ G s.t. |G: H| = 2 and G is not CS (Goryaga)
- there is a f.p. CS group G with a sbgp. H ≤ G s.t. |G: H| = 2 and H is not CS (M.-Martino)



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- If $K \leq_f G$ then the prof. top. of K is induced by the prof. top. of G
- If G is RF then the prof. top. on G is induced by the canonical embedding of G in its profinite completion \widehat{G}



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If n=1, i.e., $w\in X^{\pm 1}$ and $w\neq x\implies w$ and x can be distinguished in the mod-3 abelianization of G: $M=G/[G,G]G^3$, $|M|<\infty$.

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If $n \ge 2$, construct a cycle labelled by w, where the oriented edges are labelled by x_i 's.

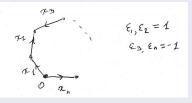
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Thus we get a homom. $\psi: G \to S_n$ s.t. $\psi(w)$ fixes O and $\psi(x)$ does not fix anything. Hence $\psi(w) \not\sim \psi(x)$ in $S_n \Longrightarrow x^G$ is closed in G.

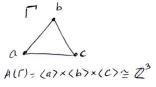


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The proof is quite long; one of the main ingredients is the decomposition of RAAGs as special HNN-extensions.



Special HNN-extensions

Definition

Let *B* be a gp. and $H \leq B$. The special HNN-extension of *B* w.r.t. *H* is

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If $A = A(\Gamma)$ is a RAAG and $t \in V\Gamma$ then A splits as a special HNN-extension of $B = \langle V\Gamma \setminus \{t\} \rangle$ w.r.t. $H = \langle \operatorname{link}(t) \rangle$.

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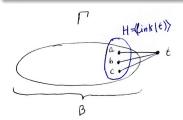
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$$A(\Gamma) = \langle B, t | | \{t, a\} = \{t, b\} = \{t, c\} = 1\}$$

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Remark (Functoriality)

Let A be the spec. HNN-ext. of B w.r.t. $H \leq B$. Then every homom. $\phi: B \to L$ extends to a homom. $\hat{\phi}: A \to M$, where M is the spec. HNN-ext. of L w.r.t. $\phi(H)$.



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Problem: to ensure that $\hat{\phi}(x) \not\sim \hat{\phi}(y)$ in M one needs more properties than simply CS of B. That's why we have to prove the stronger result, that A is HCS.



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VCS groups usually act on non-positively curved spaces (e.g., cube complexes).



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But CS may not pass to a finite index overgroup! So, there is still work to be done.

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