# Computing braid orbits 

A. James and S. Shpectorov<br>School of Mathematics, University of Birmingham<br>ICMS Sigma Workshop, 15th October 2010

Origin

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Every composition factor of $G$ is either the alternating group $A_{k}$ for some $k \geq 5$, or it belongs to a finite list of exceptions.

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Magaard also wanted to determine the complete list of exceptional simple groups at least for $g=0$, but if possible also for other small $g$.

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The braid orbits, as defined above, classify the loci for the given group $G$, but only those where the orbit genus $g_{0}$, that is, the genus of the orbit curve $Y / G$, is zero (and so $Y=\mathbb{P}^{1}$ ).

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We determined (2002) all Hurwitz loci for large groups $G$ with $g \leq 10$. Tony Shaska joined us in this project and he additionally wrote the exact equations of curves in each locus for $g=3$.
This computation was based on the previous work of Breuer, who determined all groups $G$ that can act on compact Riemann surfaces with $2 \leq g<50$ and also determined all corresponding types $\left(C_{1}, \ldots, C_{r}\right)$.

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which again (1) must generate $G$, and (2) instead of the product 1 condition, must satisfy:

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The arrows indicate half-twists (braid twists) and red dotted lines indicate Dehn twists around the suitable loops.

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- $T_{f_{i}}\left(\alpha_{1}\right)=\alpha_{1} \gamma_{n}^{-1} \cdots \gamma_{i+1}^{-1} \alpha_{1}^{-1} \beta_{1}^{-1} \alpha_{1}$.
- $T_{f_{i}}\left(\gamma_{j}\right)=\left(\gamma_{i+1} \cdots \gamma_{n} \alpha_{1}^{-1} \beta_{1}^{-1} \alpha_{1}\right) \gamma_{j}\left(\gamma_{i+1} \cdots \gamma_{n} \alpha_{1}^{-1} \beta_{1}^{-1} \alpha_{1}\right)^{-1}$.


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- $T_{f_{i}}\left(\alpha_{1}\right)=\alpha_{1} \gamma_{n}^{-1} \cdots \gamma_{i+1}^{-1} \alpha_{1}^{-1} \beta_{1}^{-1} \alpha_{1}$.
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This action on the standard generators of $\pi_{1}(\hat{Y}, \infty)$ directly translates to an action of $M o d_{g, r+1}$ on the standard tuples in $G$, giving us the mapping class orbits that classify the arbitrary Hurwitz loci, just like the braid orbits classify the Hurwitz loci with orbit genus zero.

## Reduction to subgroup

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However, for $g=3$ and 4, they were compared with the published "hand-made" results. In fact, we corrected a few errors there. Another interesting feature is that we found many instances of equal loci for different groups.

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## Larger orbits

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