

# Stallings graphs for quasi-convex subgroups of automatic groups

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*Joint work*

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- ▶ Efficient solutions because of automata-theoretic flavor
- ▶ We would like something similar for finitely generated subgroups of other groups

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- ▶ In all three cases: rely on a folding process – and we do not
- ▶ [Markus-Epstein] and [Silva, Soler-Escriva, Ventura] rely on a well-chosen set of representatives

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- ▶ and  $H$  to be *quasi-convex*.
- ▶ Note that in [Markus-Epstein] or [Silva, Soler-Escriva, Ventura], we are dealing with locally quasi-convex groups: where all finitely generated subgroups are quasi-convex

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- ▶  $L$  is a regular set of representatives, not necessarily the set  $L_{\text{geod}}$  of geodesics (hyperbolic groups are geodesically automatic, that is, with  $L = L_{\text{geod}}$ )

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# General outline of our results

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- ▶ So we can decide membership and finite index (with extra assumption), compute finite intersections for quasi-convex subgroups of a hyperbolic group
- ▶ These are not new results, but our construction provides a unified tool – which surely can be used for other decision problems

# Definition of a Stallings graph!

- ▶ Schreier( $G, H$ ), the Schreier graph of  $H$ : vertex set =  $\{Hg \mid g \in G\}$ ;  $a$ -labeled edge  $Hg \rightarrow Hg\mu(a)$  ( $a \in A, g \in G$ )

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- ▶ It is with this definition in mind that we proceed with the construction

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- ▶ So, for  $i$  large enough,  $(\Gamma_i, 1)$  is Stallings-like for  $H$
- ▶ But... when are we done? How do we know when to stop the completion process?

# Constructing a Stallings-like graph for $H$ wrt $L$

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- ▶ Now we have constructed a Stallings-like graph  $(\Gamma, 1)$

## Finally: construct the Stallings graph of $H$ wrt $L$

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- ▶ Since  $(\Gamma_L, H)$  is the least rooted subgraph of the Schreier graph which is Stallings-like: we verify for each vertex whether removing it still yields a Stallings-like graph

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- ▶ [Otherwise we could decide whether a given tuple of elements generates a quasi-convex subgroup; and this problem is undecidable]

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- ▶ If this number  $i$  is part of the input, then the computation of  $\Gamma_L(H)$  is exponential in  $i$  and  $n$

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# Applications

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- ▶ This is decidable
- ▶ In that case,  $\Gamma_L(H)$  is a subgraph of the (finite) Schreier graph, with all the vertices

Thank you for your attention!