

# Brunnian Braids on Surfaces

Joint with V. G. Bardakov, R. Mikhailov and V. V. Vershinin

**Jie Wu**

Department of Mathematics  
National University of Singapore

May, 2009

# Brunnian Braids on Surfaces

Motivation

Configurations and braids

Brunnian Braids

Generating Set for Brunnian Braids

Braid Equations

# Combinatorial Descriptions of Homotopy Groups

- **Try possible** new approach for homotopy groups.
- **Combinatorial Description of Homotopy Groups** [W-, 2001]:
- Let  $G(n)$  be the group with generators  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  and defining relations:
  1.  $x_1 \cdots x_n = 1$ .
  2. the all possible iterated commutators

$$[x_{i_1}^{\epsilon_1}, \dots, x_{i_t}^{\epsilon_t}] = 1$$

with  $\{i_1, \dots, i_t\} = \{1, \dots, n\}$ .

Then  $\pi_n(S^2)$  is the center of the group  $G(n)$ .

- There is a generalization of the above result for  $\pi_*(S^k)$  for general  $k$  by **Hao Zhao and Xiangjun Wang**.

# Homotopy Groups and Braid Groups

- **[W, 2002]:** The braid group  $B_n$  acts on  $G(n)$ . For  $n \geq 4$ ,  $\pi_n(S^2)$  is the **fixed set** of the **pure braid group** action on  $G(n)$ .
- **[Berrick-Cohen-Wong-W-, 2006]:**

The  $n$ -th homotopy group of the sphere is given by the quotient of the  $(n + 1)$ -strand **Brunnian braid group** over the **sphere** modulo the  $(n + 1)$ -strand Brunnian braid group over the **disk** for  $n \geq 4$ .

# Motivations

- **Hope** to get combinatorial descriptions of  $\pi_*(S^k)$  for general  $k$ .
- **Observation**[Gray-Hilton-Milnor Decomposition:]  
 $\Omega(X \vee Y) \simeq \Omega X \times \Omega Y \times \Omega\Sigma(\Omega X \wedge \Omega Y)$ .
- Let  $X = T$  be a torus and let  $Y = S^2$ . Then  
 $\Omega(T \vee S^2) \simeq \Omega T \times \Omega S^2 \times \Omega\Sigma(\Omega T \wedge \Omega S^2)$ .
- If  $X$  is a surface with  $X \neq D^2$ , then  $\pi_*(X \vee S^2)$  contains of  $\pi_*(S^k)$  as its summands for all  $k \geq 2$ .
  
- In this project, we **only look** at Brunnian braids on general surfaces. It is still **not clear** how to obtain a good braided description of  $\pi_*(S^k)$  for general  $k$  yet.

## Remarks Brunnian Braids

- A classical question proposed by Makanin in 1980 is to determine a set of generators for Brunnian braids over the disk. (Brunnian braids were called *smooth braids* by Makanin.)
- This question was answered by D. L. Johnson, *Towards a characterization of smooth braids*, Math. Proc. Cambridge Philos. Soc. **92** (1982), 425–427.
- A different approach to this question can be found in W-, *Combinatorial descriptions of the homotopy groups of certain spaces*, Math. Proc. Camb. Philos. Soc. **130** (2001), 489–513.
- In Birman's book [Question 23, p. 219], she asked to determine the free basis for Brunnian braids over the sphere. Birman's question remains open.

# Configuration Spaces

Let  $M$  be a space and let  $M^n$  be the  $n$ -fold Cartesian product of  $M$ . The  **$n$ -th ordered configuration space**  $F(M, n)$  is defined by

$$F(M, n) = \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in M^n \mid x_i \neq x_j \text{ for } i \neq j\}$$

with subspace topology of  $M^n$ . The symmetric group  $\Sigma_n$  acts on  $F(M, n)$  by permuting coordinates. The orbit space

$$B(M, n) = F(M, n)/\Sigma_n$$

is called the  **$n$ -th unordered configuration space**.

- The *braid group*  $B_n(M)$  is defined to be the fundamental group  $\pi_1(F(M, n)/\Sigma_n)$ .
- The *pure braid group*  $P_n(M)$  is defined to be the fundamental group  $\pi_1(F(M, n))$ .

## Presentation of $B_n(S_{g,p})$

Let  $M = S_{g,p}$  be the oriented surface of genus  $g$  with  $p \geq 0$  boundary components. [P. Bellingeri, *On presentation of surface braid groups* J. Algebra **274** (2004), 543–563.] The group  $B_n(M)$  admits a presentation with generators:

$$\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_{n-1}, x_1, \dots, x_{2g}, z_1, \dots, z_{p-1},$$

and defining relations

1. Braid relations for  $\sigma_j$  as above.

2. Mixed relations given as follows:

$$(R1) \quad x_r \sigma_i = \sigma_i x_r, \quad i \neq 1, \quad 1 \leq r \leq 2g;$$

$$(R2) \quad (\sigma_1^{-1} x_r \sigma_1^{-1}) x_r = x_r (\sigma_1^{-1} x_r \sigma_1^{-1}), \quad 1 \leq r \leq 2g;$$

$$(R3) \quad (\sigma_1^{-1} x_s \sigma_1) x_r = x_r (\sigma_1^{-1} x_s \sigma_1), \quad 1 \leq s < r \leq 2g, \quad (s, r) \neq (2m-1, 2m);$$

$$(R4) \quad (\sigma_1^{-1} x_{2m-1} \sigma_1^{-1}) x_{2m} = x_{2m} (\sigma_1^{-1} x_{2m-1} \sigma_1), \quad 1 \leq m \leq g;$$

$$(R5) \quad z_j \sigma_i = \sigma_i z_j, \quad i \neq 1, \quad 1 \leq j \leq p-1;$$

$$(R6) \quad (\sigma_1^{-1} z_j \sigma_1) x_r = x_r (\sigma_1^{-1} z_j \sigma_1), \quad 1 \leq r \leq 2g, \quad 1 \leq j < p-1;$$

$$(R7) \quad (\sigma_1^{-1} z_j \sigma_1) z_l = z_l (\sigma_1^{-1} z_j \sigma_1), \quad 1 \leq j < l \leq p-1;$$

$$(R8) \quad (\sigma_1^{-1} z_j \sigma_1^{-1}) z_j = z_j (\sigma_1^{-1} z_j \sigma_1), \quad 1 \leq j \leq p-1.$$

## $B_n(N_{g,p})$ by P. Bellingeri, J. Algebra 2004

Let  $M = N_{g,p}$  be a non-oriented surface of genus  $g \geq 1$  with  $p > 0$  boundary components. The group  $B_n(M)$  admits a presentation with generators:

$$\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_{n-1}, a_1, \dots, a_g, z_1, \dots, z_{p-1},$$

and defining relations

1. Braid relations for  $\sigma_i$  as above.

2. Mixed relations given as follows:

$$(R1) \quad a_r \sigma_i = \sigma_i a_r, \quad i \neq 1, \quad 1 \leq r \leq g;$$

$$(R2) \quad (\sigma_1^{-1} a_r \sigma_1^{-1}) a_r = a_r (\sigma_1^{-1} a_r \sigma_1), \quad 1 \leq r \leq g;$$

$$(R3) \quad (\sigma_1^{-1} a_s \sigma_1) a_r = a_r (\sigma_1^{-1} a_s \sigma_1), \quad 1 \leq s < r \leq g;$$

$$(R4) \quad z_j \sigma_i = \sigma_i z_j, \quad i \neq 1, \quad 1 \leq j \leq p-1;$$

$$(R5) \quad (\sigma_1^{-1} z_i \sigma_1) a_r = a_r (\sigma_1^{-1} z_i \sigma_1), \quad 1 \leq r \leq g, \quad 1 \leq i \leq p-1, \quad n > 1;$$

$$(R6) \quad (\sigma_1^{-1} z_j \sigma_1) z_l = z_l (\sigma_1^{-1} z_j \sigma_1), \quad 1 \leq j < l \leq p-1;$$

$$(R7) \quad (\sigma_1^{-1} z_j \sigma_1^{-1}) z_j = z_j (\sigma_1^{-1} z_j \sigma_1^{-1}), \quad 1 \leq j \leq p-1.$$

## Removing Strands and Brunnian Braids

A *simple (half-open) curve* in a space  $M$  means a continuous injection  $\theta: \mathbb{R}^+ = [0, \infty] \rightarrow M$ . The basepoints of  $F(M, n)$  are given by the ordered points on the curve  $\theta$ .

**Proposition.** Let  $M$  be a space with a simple curve. Then the operations

$$d_i: B_n(M) \rightarrow B_{n-1}(M), \text{ removing } i \text{ th strand, } 1 \leq i \leq n,$$

satisfy the following identities:

- 1)  $d_i d_j = d_j d_{i+1}$  for  $i \geq j$ ;
- 2)  $d_i(\beta\beta') = d_i(\beta)d_{i,\beta}(\beta')$ . □

**Definition.** Let  $M$  be a space with a simple curve. A braid  $\beta \in B_n(M)$  is called *Brunnian* if  $d_i(\beta) = 1$  for each  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . The set of  $n$ -strand Brunnian braids is denoted by  $\text{Brun}_n(M)$ . For convention, any 1-strand braid is regarded as a Brunnian braid.

# Basic Properties of Brunnian Braids

**Proposition.** Let  $M$  be a space with a simple curve. Then

1. The subgroup  $\text{Brun}_n(M) \cap P_n(M)$  is normal in  $B_n(M)$  for each  $n \geq 1$ .
2.  $\text{Brun}_n(M) \leq P_n(M)$  for  $n \geq 3$
3.  $\text{Brun}_n(M)$  is a normal subgroup of  $B_n(M)$  for  $n \geq 3$ .
4. Let  $M$  be a path-connected 2-manifold. Then  $\text{Brun}_2(M)$  is a normal subgroup of  $B_2(M)$  if and only if  $\pi_1(M) = \{1\}$ .

# Main Computational Tool

**Fadell-Neuwirth Theorem.** [*Configuration spaces*, Math. Scand. **10** (1962), 111–118.]

Let  $M$  be a path-connected manifold. The coordinate projection

$$d_i: F(M, n) \rightarrow F(M, n-1) \quad (x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto (x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n)$$

is a fibre bundle with fibre  $M \setminus Q_{n-1}$ , where  $Q_{n-1}$  is a set of  $(n - 1)$  distinct points in  $M$ .

## Notations

Let  $D^2$  be a small disk in  $M \setminus \partial M$ . The basepoints  $\{p_1, p_2, \dots\}$  for the braids on  $M$  are chosen inside  $D^2 \setminus \partial D^2$ . The embedding  $j: D^2 \hookrightarrow M$  induces a map

$$j^n: F(D^2, n)/\Sigma_n \hookrightarrow F(M, n)/\Sigma_n$$

and so a group homomorphism

$$j_*^n: B_n(D^2) = \pi_1(F(D^2, n)/\Sigma_n) \longrightarrow B_n(M) = \pi_1(F(M, n)/\Sigma_n)$$

with a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 B_n(D^2) & \xrightarrow{j_*^n} & B_n(M) \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 B_n(D^2)/P_n(D^2) = \Sigma_n & = & \Sigma_n = B_n(M)/P_n(M).
 \end{array}$$

For any braid  $\beta \in B_n(D^2)$ , we write  $\beta[M]$  (or simply  $\beta$  if there are no confusions) for the braid  $j_*^n(\beta)$  on  $M$ .

## 2-strand Brunnian Braids

Let  $M$  be any path-connected 2-manifold. Then the 2-strand Brunnian braids are determined as follows

- 1)  $\text{Brun}_2(M) \cap P_2(M)$  is the normal closure of the element  $A_{1,2}$  in  $B_2(M)$ .
- 2)  $\text{Brun}_2(M) = \langle \text{Brun}_2(M) \cap P_2(M), \sigma_1 \rangle$  is the subgroup of  $B_2(M)$  generated by  $\text{Brun}_2(M) \cap P_2(M)$  and  $\sigma_1$ .

### Example.

- $P_2(\mathbb{R}P^2) = Q_8$ .
- $\text{Brun}_2(\mathbb{R}P^2) \cong \mathbb{Z}/4$  generated by  $\sigma_1$ .
- $\text{Brun}_2(\mathbb{R}P^2) \cap P_2(\mathbb{R}P^2) = \mathbb{Z}/2$  generated by  $A_{1,2}$ .

## 3-strand Brunnian Braids

Let  $M$  be a path-connected 2-manifold. Then the 3-strand Brunnian braids on  $M$  are determined as follows:

- 1)  $\text{Brun}_3(S^2) = P_3(S^2) = \mathbb{Z}/2$ .
- 2) For  $M \neq S^2$  or  $\mathbb{RP}^2$ ,

$$\text{Brun}_3(M) = [\langle\langle A_{1,3} \rangle\rangle^P, \langle\langle A_{2,3} \rangle\rangle^P]$$

the commutator subgroup of the normal closures in  $P_3(M)$  generated by  $A_{1,3}$  and  $A_{2,3}$ , respectively.

- 3)  $\text{Brun}_3(\mathbb{RP}^2)$  is a free group of rank 9.

## Generators for $\text{Brun}_3(\mathbb{R}P^2)$

As a subgroup of  $B_3(\mathbb{R}P^2)$ ,  $\text{Brun}_3(\mathbb{R}P^2)$  has a free basis given by

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A_{1,3}^2, & \omega^4, & [A_{1,3}, \omega], \\ [A_{1,3}, \omega^2], & [A_{1,3}, \omega^3], & [A_{1,3}, \omega^4], \\ [[A_{1,3}, \omega], A_{1,3}], & [[A_{1,3}, \omega^2], A_{1,3}], & [[A_{1,3}, \omega^3], A_{1,3}], \end{array}$$

where  $\omega$  is a braid in  $B_3(\mathbb{R}P^2)$  with  $\omega^2 = A_{1,3}A_{2,3}$ . From the monomorphism

$$\pi_1(\mathbb{R}P^2 \setminus \{p_1, p_2\}) \hookrightarrow P_3(\mathbb{R}P^2) = \pi_1(F(\mathbb{R}P^2, 3)) \hookrightarrow B_3(\mathbb{R}P^2),$$

$\omega$  is represented by the half-circle around the punctured points  $p_1$  and  $p_2$ .

# Key Steps for determining $\text{Brun}_3(M)$ with $M \neq S^2, \mathbb{R}P^2$

- From the fibration  $M \setminus \{p_1, p_2\} \rightarrow F(M, 3) \xrightarrow{d_3} F(M, 2)$  with  $\pi_2(F(M, 2)) = 0$ , we have  $\text{Ker}(d_3: P_3(M) \rightarrow P_2(M)) = \pi_1(M \setminus \{p_1, p_2\}) = G$ .
- $\text{Brun}_3(M) = \langle\langle A_{1,3} \rangle\rangle^G \cap \langle\langle A_{2,3} \rangle\rangle^G$ .
- By Brown-Loday Theorem,

$$\frac{\langle\langle A_{1,3} \rangle\rangle^G \cap \langle\langle A_{2,3} \rangle\rangle^G}{[\langle\langle A_{1,3} \rangle\rangle^G, \langle\langle A_{2,3} \rangle\rangle^G]} \cong \pi_2(M) = 0.$$

- $\implies \text{Brun}_3(M) = [\langle\langle A_{1,3} \rangle\rangle^G, \langle\langle A_{2,3} \rangle\rangle^G]$ . Then check that  $\text{Brun}_3(M) = [\langle\langle A_{1,3} \rangle\rangle^P, \langle\langle A_{2,3} \rangle\rangle^P]$ .

# Symmetric Iterated Commutator Subgroups

Given a group  $G$ , and a set of its normal subgroups  $R_1, \dots, R_n$ , ( $n \geq 2$ ) denote

$$[R_1, \dots, R_n]_S := \prod_{\sigma \in \Sigma_n} [[R_{\sigma(1)}, R_{\sigma(2)}], \dots, R_{\sigma(n)}],$$

where  $\Sigma_n$  is the  $n$ th symmetric group.

- If  $n = 2$ ,  $[R_1, R_2]_S = [R_1, R_2] \cdot [R_2, R_1] = [R_1, R_2]$  because  $[x, y] = [y, x]^{-1}$ .
- If  $n > 2$ ,  $[R_1, \dots, R_n]_S$  seems bigger than  $[[R_1, R_2], \dots, R_n]$ .

## $n$ -strand Brunnian Braids

Let  $M$  be a path-connected 2-manifold and let  $n \geq 4$ . Let

$$R_n(M) = [\langle\langle A_{1,n}[M] \rangle\rangle^P, \langle\langle A_{2,n}[M] \rangle\rangle^P, \dots, \langle\langle A_{n-1,n}[M] \rangle\rangle^P]_S$$

be the symmetric commutator subgroup.

1. If  $M \neq S^2$  or  $\mathbb{R}P^2$ , then

$$\text{Brun}_n(M) = R_n(M).$$

2. If  $M = S^2$  and  $n \geq 5$ , then there is a short exact sequence

$$R_n(S^2) \hookrightarrow \text{Brun}_n(S^2) \twoheadrightarrow \pi_{n-1}(S^2).$$

3. If  $M = \mathbb{R}P^2$ , then there is a short exact sequence

$$R_n(\mathbb{R}P^2) \hookrightarrow \text{Brun}_n(\mathbb{R}P^2) \twoheadrightarrow \pi_{n-1}(S^2).$$

## Ideas of the Proof

- From  $G = \pi_1(M \setminus \{p_1, \dots, p_{n-1}\}) \rightarrow P_n(M) \xrightarrow{d_n} P_{n-1}$ ,

$$\text{Brun}_n(M) = \bigcap_{i=1}^{n-1} \langle\langle A_{i,n} \rangle\rangle^G.$$

- By using a generalization of Brown-Loday Theorem or simplicial group model,

$$\frac{\bigcap_{i=1}^{n-1} \langle\langle A_{i,n} \rangle\rangle^G}{[[\langle\langle A_{1,n} \rangle\rangle^G, \dots, \langle\langle A_{n-1,n} \rangle\rangle^G]]} = \pi_n(M),$$

where  $[[\langle\langle A_{1,n} \rangle\rangle^G, \dots, \langle\langle A_{n-1,n} \rangle\rangle^G]]$  is generated by all possible iterated commutators  $[x_1, \dots, x_t]$  with  $t \geq n-1$  such that the elements from **each**  $\langle\langle A_{i,n} \rangle\rangle^G$  occurs at least once in the bracket.

- By using Witt-Hall identity, the brackets  $[x_1, \dots, x_t]$  can be written as in the form of left normal commutator  $[[x_1, x_2], \dots, x_n]$ .

# The Groups $B_n(M)/\text{Brun}_n(M)$ and $P_n(M)/\text{Brun}_n(M)$

**Theorem.** Let  $M$  be a path-connected compact 2-manifold. Then the factor groups  $P_n(M)/\text{Brun}_n(M)$  and  $B_n(M)/\text{Brun}_n(M)$  are finitely presented for each  $n \geq 3$ .

- We can determine a set of normal generators for  $R_n(M) = [\langle\langle A_{1,n}[M] \rangle\rangle^P, \langle\langle A_{2,n}[M] \rangle\rangle^P, \dots, \langle\langle A_{n-1,n}[M] \rangle\rangle^P]_S$  in  $P_n(M)$ .
- Let  $\bar{A}_{i,j} = A_{i,j}$  if  $i < j$  and  $\bar{A}_{i,j} = A_{j,i}$  if  $i > j$ .
- $R_n(M)$  is the normal closure of the elements

$$[[A_{\sigma(1),j_1}, A_{\sigma(2),j_2}], \dots, A_{\sigma(n-1),j_{n-1}}]$$

for  $\sigma \in S_{n-1}$ ,  $1 \leq j_i \leq n$  with  $j_i \neq \sigma(i)$  and  $1 \leq i \leq n-1$  in  $P_n(M)$ .

## Sketch of Proof

- $R_n(M) = \prod_{\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_{n-1}} [ \langle \langle \mathbf{A}_{\sigma(1),n} \rangle \rangle^P, \langle \langle \mathbf{A}_{\sigma(2),n} \rangle \rangle^P, \dots, \langle \langle \mathbf{A}_{\sigma(n-1),n} \rangle \rangle^P ]$ .
- $R_n(M) = \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} [ \bigcap_{j \neq i} \text{Ker}(d_j), \langle \langle \mathbf{A}_{i,n} \rangle \rangle^P ]$ .
- The subgroup  $\langle \langle \mathbf{A}_{i,n} \rangle \rangle^P = \text{Ker}(d_i)$  is generated by  $\bar{A}_{i,j}$  for  $1 \leq j \neq i \leq n$ .
- If  $T_i$  is a set of normal generators for  $\bigcap_{j \neq i} \text{Ker}(d_j)$ , then  $[ \bigcap_{j \neq i} \text{Ker}(d_j), \langle \langle \mathbf{A}_{i,n} \rangle \rangle^P ]$  has a set of normal generators  $[x, \bar{A}_{i,j}]$  for  $x \in T_i$  and  $1 \leq j \neq i \leq n$ .
- Prove by induction.

# Cohen Group

Let  $M$  be any path-connected 2-manifold. Define

$$\mathfrak{H}_n^B(M) = \{\beta \in B_n(M) \mid d_1\beta = d_2\beta = \cdots = d_n\beta\}$$

Namely  $\mathfrak{H}_n^B(M)$  consists of  $n$ -strand pure braids such that it stays the same braid after removing any one of its strands.

- A typical element in  $\mathfrak{H}_n^B(M)$  is the half-twist braid

$$\Delta_n = (\sigma_1\sigma_2 \cdots \sigma_{n-1})(\sigma_1\sigma_2 \cdots \sigma_{n-2}) \cdots (\sigma_1\sigma_2)\sigma_1.$$

## Properties of $\mathfrak{H}_n^B(M)$

- **Proposition.** Let  $M$  be any path-connected 2-manifold. Then  $\mathfrak{H}_n^B(M)$  is subgroup of  $B_n(M)$ . Moreover  $d_i(\mathfrak{H}_n^B(M)) \subseteq \mathfrak{H}_{n-1}^B(M)$  and the function

$$d_1: \mathfrak{H}_n^B(M) \rightarrow \mathfrak{H}_{n-1}^B(M)$$

is a group homomorphism.

- **Proposition.** Let  $M$  be any path-connected 2-manifold. Let  $n \geq 2$ . Then  $\mathfrak{H}_n^B(M) \cap P_n(M)$  is a subgroup of  $\mathfrak{H}_n^B(M)$  of index 2.
- Let  $\mathfrak{H}_n(M) = \mathfrak{H}_n^B(M) \cap P_n(M)$ . Then  $d_1(\mathfrak{H}_n(M)) \leq \mathfrak{H}_{n-1}(M)$ . This gives a tower of groups

$$\cdots \xrightarrow{d_1} \mathfrak{H}_n(M) \xrightarrow{d_1} \mathfrak{H}_{n-1}(M) \xrightarrow{d_1} \cdots$$

Let  $\mathfrak{H}(M) = \lim_n \mathfrak{H}_n(M)$  be the inverse limit of the tower of groups.

## Solution to the Braid Equations

- **Proposition.** Let  $M$  be any path-connected 2-manifold such that  $M \neq S^2$  or  $\mathbb{R}P^2$ . Then

$$d_1: \mathfrak{S}_n(M) \rightarrow \mathfrak{S}_{n-1}(M)$$

is an epimorphism for each  $n \geq 2$ .

- **Corollary.** Let  $M$  be any path-connected 2-manifold such that  $M \neq S^2$  or  $\mathbb{R}P^2$  and let  $\alpha \in B_n(M)$ . Then the equation

$$d_1\beta = \dots = d_{n+1}\beta = \alpha$$

for  $(n+1)$ -strand braids  $\beta$  has a solution if and only if  $\alpha$  satisfies the condition that

$$d_1\alpha = \dots = d_n\alpha.$$

# The James-Hopf Invariants

Let  $M$  be a path-connected 2-manifold with nonempty boundary. For  $n \geq k$ , the *James-Hopf operation* is a function

$$H_{k,n}: \text{Brun}_k(M) \longrightarrow \mathfrak{H}_n(M)$$

defined by setting  $H_{k,k}(\beta) = \beta$  with

$$H_{k,n}(\beta) = \prod_{1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_{n-k} \leq n} d^{i_{n-k}} d^{i_{n-k-1}} \dots d^{i_1}(\beta)$$

with lexicographic order from right for  $\beta \in \text{Brun}_k(M)$ , where  $d^j: B_m \rightarrow B_{m+1}$  is the group homomorphism by adding the trivial strand on position  $j$  for  $1 \leq j \leq m+1$ .

# Distributivity Law and Semi-direct product Decompositions

Let  $M$  be a path-connected 2-manifold with nonempty boundary.

- **Proposition.**[Distributivity Law] Let  $\alpha \in \mathfrak{S}_n(M)$  with  $1 \leq n \leq \infty$ . Then there exists a unique element  $\delta_k(\alpha) \in \text{Brun}_k(M)$  for  $1 \leq k \leq n$  such that the equation

$$\alpha = \prod_{k=1}^n H_{k,n}(\delta_k(\alpha))$$

holds.

- **Proposition.** The group  $P_n(M)$  is the (iterated) semi-direct product of the subgroups

$$d^{i_k} d^{i_{k-1}} \cdots d^{i_1}(\text{Brun}_{n-k}(M)),$$

$1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \cdots < i_k \leq n$ ,  $0 \leq k \leq n-1$ , with lexicographic from right.

# Thank You!