

AMALGAMATED PRODUCTS AND PROPERLY 3-REALIZABLE GROUPS

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ABSTRACT. In this paper, we show that the class of all properly 3-realizable groups is closed under amalgamated free products (and HNN-extensions) over finite groups. We recall that G is said to be properly 3-realizable if there exists a compact 2-polyhedron K with $\pi_1(K) \cong G$ and whose universal cover \tilde{K} has the proper homotopy type of a 3-manifold (with boundary).

1. INTRODUCTION

We are concerned about the behavior of the property of being properly 3-realizable (for finitely presented groups) with respect to the basic constructions in Combinatorial Group Theory; namely, amalgamated free products and HNN-extensions. Recall that a finitely presented group G is said to be properly 3-realizable if there exists a compact 2-polyhedron K with $\pi_1(K) \cong G$ and whose universal cover \tilde{K} has the proper homotopy type of a 3-manifold. It is worth mentioning that the property of being properly 3-realizable has implications in the theory of cohomology of groups, in the sense that if G is properly 3-realizable then for some (equivalently any) compact 2-polyhedron K with $\pi_1(K) \cong G$ we have $H_c^2(\tilde{K}; \mathbb{Z})$ free abelian (by manifold duality arguments), and hence so is $H^2(G; \mathbb{Z}G)$ (see [9]). It is a long standing conjecture that $H^2(G; \mathbb{Z}G)$ be free abelian for every finitely presented group G . In [1] it was shown that the property of being properly 3-realizable is preserved under amalgamated free products (HNN-extensions) over finite cyclic groups. See also [3, 4, 7] to learn more about properly 3-realizable groups and related topics. In this paper, we continue in the line of [1]. Our main result is :

Theorem 1.1. *The class of all properly 3-realizable groups is closed under amalgamated free products (and HNN-extensions) over finite groups.*

This generalizes to show that the fundamental group of a finite graph of groups with properly 3-realizable vertex groups and finite edge groups is properly 3-realizable, since such a group can be expressed as a combination of amalgamated free products and HNN-extensions of the vertex groups over the edge groups.

Recall that, given a finitely presented group G and a compact 2-polyhedron K with $\pi_1(K) \cong G$ and \tilde{K} as universal cover, the number of ends of G is the number of ends of \tilde{K} which equals 0, 1, 2 or ∞ [6] (see also [8, 13]). The 0-ended groups are the finite groups and the 2-ended groups are those having an infinite cyclic subgroup of finite index, and they are all known to be properly 3-realizable (see [1]). Note that Stallings' Structure Theorem [12] characterizes those groups G with more than one end as those which split as an amalgamated free product (or an HNN-extension)

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over a finite group (see also [13, 8]). In addition, Dunwoody [5] showed that this process of further splitting G must terminate after finitely many steps.

Corollary 1.2. *In order to show whether or not all finitely presented groups are properly 3-realizable it suffices to look among those groups which are 1-ended.*

2. MAIN RESULT

The purpose of this section is to prove Theorem 1.1. We will make use of the following result :

Proposition 2.1 ([1], Prop. 3.1). *Let M be a manifold of the same proper homotopy type of a locally compact polyhedron K with $\dim(K) < \dim(M)$. Then, any Freudenthal end $\epsilon \in \mathcal{F}(M)$ can be represented by a sequence of points in ∂M .*

Proof of Theorem 1.1. Let G_0, G_1 be properly 3-realizable groups and F be a finite group with presentation $\langle a_1, \dots, a_N; r_1, \dots, r_M \rangle$. Consider monomorphisms $\varphi_i : F \rightarrow G_i$ ($i = 0, 1$), and denote by $G_0 *_F G_1 = \langle G_0, G_1; \varphi_0(a_i) = \varphi_1(a_i), 1 \leq i \leq N \rangle$ the corresponding amalgamated free product. Let X_0, X_1 be compact 2-polyhedra with $\pi_1(X_i) \cong G_i$ and such that their universal covers have the proper homotopy type of 3-manifolds M_0, M_1 respectively. Let $L = \bigvee_{i=1}^N S^1$ and $f_i : L \rightarrow X_i$ ($i = 0, 1$) be cellular maps such that $\text{Im } f_{i*} \subseteq \pi_1(X_i)$ corresponds to the subgroup $\text{Im } \varphi_i \subseteq G_i$. We take the standard 2-dimensional CW-complex Y' associated to the above presentation of F , i.e., Y' has one 1-cell e_i for each generator a_i ($1 \leq i \leq N$), all of them sharing the only vertex in Y' , and one 2-cell d_j for each relation r_j ($1 \leq j \leq M$) attached via a map $S^1 \rightarrow \bigvee_{i=1}^N e_i$ which ‘‘spells’’ the relation r_j . Consider the adjunction spaces $Y = (\bigvee_{i=1}^N e_i) \times I \cup_{(\bigvee_{i=1}^N e_i) \times \{\frac{1}{2}\}} Y'$ (homotopy equivalent to Y') and $Z = Y \cup_{f_0 \times \{0\} \cup f_1 \times \{1\}} (X_0 \sqcup X_1)$. By van Kampen’s Theorem, Z is a compact 2-polyhedron with $\pi_1(Z) \cong G_0 *_F G_1$. Let \tilde{Z} be the universal cover of Z with covering map $p : \tilde{Z} \rightarrow Z$. Then, $p^{-1}(X_i)$ consists of a disjoint union of copies of the universal cover \tilde{X}_i of X_i , since the inclusion $X_i \hookrightarrow Z$ induces a monomorphism $G_i \hookrightarrow G_0 *_F G_1$ between the fundamental groups, $i = 0, 1$ (see [10]). On the other hand, let Γ be a connected component of $p^{-1}(\bigvee_{i=1}^N e_i) \subset p^{-1}(Y')$ and \tilde{Y}' be the connected component of $p^{-1}(Y')$ containing Γ . Observe that \tilde{Y}' is a copy of the universal cover of Y' (which is compact), as the inclusion $Y' \hookrightarrow Z$ induces a monomorphism $F \hookrightarrow G_0 *_F G_1$. Then, it is easy to see that $p^{-1}(Y)$ consists of a disjoint union of copies of the compact CW-complex $K = (\Gamma \times I) \cup_{\Gamma \times \{\frac{1}{2}\}} \tilde{Y}'$. Thus, \tilde{Z} comes together with the following data (see [13]) :

(a) The disjoint unions $\bigsqcup_{p \in \mathbb{N}} \tilde{X}_{0,p}$ and $\bigsqcup_{r \in \mathbb{N}} \tilde{X}_{1,r}$ of copies of \tilde{X}_0 and \tilde{X}_1 respectively;

(b) a disjoint union $\bigsqcup_{p,q \in \mathbb{N}} K_{p,q}$ of copies of K ; and

(c) a bijective function $\varphi : \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$, $(p, q) \mapsto (r, s)$ (given by the group action of $G_0 *_F G_1$ on \tilde{Z}), so that for each $p, q \in \mathbb{N}$, $\Gamma \times \{0\} \subset K_{p,q}$ is being glued to $\tilde{X}_{0,p}$ via a lift $\tilde{f}_{p,q}^0 : \Gamma \times \{0\} \rightarrow \tilde{X}_{0,p}$ of the map f_0 , and $\Gamma \times \{1\} \subset K_{p,q}$ is being glued to $\tilde{X}_{1,r}$ via a lift $\tilde{f}_{r,s}^1 : \Gamma \times \{1\} \rightarrow \tilde{X}_{1,r}$ of the map f_1 .

Next, for each copy of \tilde{X}_i , $i = 0, 1$, in \tilde{Z} (written as $\tilde{X}_{0,p}$ or $\tilde{X}_{1,r}$), we take one of the maps $\tilde{f}_{\lambda,\mu}^i : \Gamma \times \{i\} \rightarrow \tilde{X}_i$ and observe that this map is nullhomotopic so

we can replace it (up to homotopy) with a constant map $g_{\lambda,\mu}^i : \Gamma \times \{i\} \longrightarrow \tilde{X}_i$ with $Im\ g_{\lambda,\mu}^i \subset Im\ \tilde{f}_{\lambda,\mu}^i$, and we do this equivariantly using the group action of G_i on \tilde{X}_i . Since this action is properly discontinuous, the collection of all these homotopies gives rise to a proper homotopy equivalence between \tilde{Z} and a new 2-dimensional CW-complex W obtained from a collection of copies of K and a collection of copies of \tilde{X}_0 and \tilde{X}_1 by gluing each copy of $\Gamma \times \{i\}$ to the corresponding copy of \tilde{X}_i via the bijection φ and the new maps $g_{\lambda,\mu}^i$, $i = 0, 1$.

We will now manipulate the CW-complex K as follows. First, let K' be the CW-complex obtained from K by shrinking to a point $v \times \{i\}$ each copy $T \times \{i\}$ ($i \in I$) of a maximal tree $T \subset \tilde{Y}' \subset K$. Next, we take K'' to be the CW-complex obtained from K' by identifying the subcomplexes $\Gamma \times \{i\}/T \times \{i\}$, $i = 0, 1$, to a (different) point which we will denote by $[v \times \{0\}]$ and $[v \times \{1\}]$. Note that K'' has a copy of \tilde{Y}'/T as a subcomplex. Since \tilde{Y}'/T is compact and simply connected, it follows from ([14], Prop. 3.3) that \tilde{Y}'/T is homotopy equivalent to a finite bouquet of 2-spheres $\bigvee_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} S^2$ (which we may regard as a connected 2-dimensional CW-complex with no 1-cells). Moreover, we may assume that this homotopy equivalence is given by a cellular map $\tilde{Y}'/T \longrightarrow \bigvee_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} S^2$ so that the 1-skeleton Γ/T of \tilde{Y}'/T is mapped to the wedge point. Finally, taking into account this homotopy equivalence, it is not difficult to see that K'' is homotopy equivalent to the CW-complex \hat{K} obtained from the disjoint union of a finite bouquet $\bigvee_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{B}} S^2$ (where $Card(\mathcal{B}) = 2\ rank(\pi_1(\Gamma))$) and the unit interval I by identifying $\frac{1}{2} \in I$ with the wedge point, so that $I \subset \hat{K}$ would correspond to the subcomplex $v \times I \subset K'$ and $0, 1 \in I$ would correspond to $[v \times \{0\}], [v \times \{1\}] \in K''$. Notice that \hat{K} thickens to a 3-manifold $P \searrow \hat{K}$ containing 3-dimensional 1-handles H and H' (with a free end face each of them) corresponding to the edges $[0, \frac{1}{2}], [\frac{1}{2}, 1] \subset I \subset \hat{K}$ respectively.

According to the above, one can see that the CW-complex W (proper homotopy equivalent to \tilde{Z}) is in turn proper homotopy equivalent to the quotient space obtained from the following data :

(a) A disjoint union $\bigsqcup_{p \in \mathbb{N}} \tilde{X}_{0,p}$ of copies of \tilde{X}_0 together with a locally finite sequence

of points $\{x_q^p\}_{q \in \mathbb{N}} \subset \tilde{X}_{0,p}$, for each $p \in \mathbb{N}$, corresponding to the images of the constant maps $g_{p,q}^0 : \Gamma \times \{0\} \longrightarrow \tilde{X}_{0,p}$ considered above in the construction of W ;

(b) a disjoint union $\bigsqcup_{r \in \mathbb{N}} \tilde{X}_{1,r}$ of copies of \tilde{X}_1 together with a locally finite sequence of

points $\{y_s^r\}_{s \in \mathbb{N}} \subset \tilde{X}_{1,r}$, for each $r \in \mathbb{N}$, corresponding to the images of the constant maps $g_{r,s}^1 : \Gamma \times \{1\} \longrightarrow \tilde{X}_{1,r}$ from the construction of W ;

(c) a disjoint union $\bigsqcup_{p,q \in \mathbb{N}} \hat{K}_{p,q}$ of copies of \hat{K} ; and

(d) the bijective function $\varphi : \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \longrightarrow \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$, $(p, q) \mapsto (r, s)$, so that $0 \in I \subset \hat{K}_{p,q}$ is being identified with $x_q^p \in \tilde{X}_{0,p}$ and $1 \in I \subset \hat{K}_{p,q}$ is being identified with $y_s^r \in \tilde{X}_{1,r}$ ($(r, s) = \varphi(p, q)$), for each $p, q \in \mathbb{N}$.

We now follow an argument similar to the proof of ([1], Lemma 3.2). Fix proper homotopy equivalences $h : \tilde{X}_0 \longrightarrow M$ and $h' : \tilde{X}_1 \longrightarrow N$, where we now denote M_0 by M and M_1 by N . Given the above data, we set $A = \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ and consider

maps $i : A \longrightarrow \bigsqcup_{p \in \mathbb{N}} \tilde{X}_{0,p}$, $i' : A \longrightarrow \bigsqcup_{r \in \mathbb{N}} \tilde{X}_{1,r}$ given by $i(p, q) = x_q^p$ and $i'(p, q) = y_s^r$,

where $(r, s) = \varphi(p, q)$. It is easy to check that i and i' are proper cofibrations, as the corresponding sequences of points are locally finite. Next, we take exhaustive sequences $\{A_m^p\}_{m \in \mathbb{N}}$ and $\{B_n^r\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ of copies M_p and N_r of the 3-manifolds M and N respectively by compact submanifolds, and define proper cofibrations $j : A \longrightarrow \bigsqcup_{p \in \mathbb{N}} M_p$, $j' : A \longrightarrow \bigsqcup_{r \in \mathbb{N}} N_r$ as follows. Given $(p, q) \in A$ and the proper

homotopy equivalences $h_p = h : \tilde{X}_{0,p} \longrightarrow M_p$, $h'_r = h' : \tilde{X}_{1,r} \longrightarrow N_r$ (with $(r, s) = \varphi(p, q)$), we take $m(q), n(s) \in \mathbb{N}$ to be the least natural numbers such that $h_p \circ i(p, q) \notin A_{m(q)}^p \subset M_p$ and $h'_r \circ i'(p, q) \notin B_{n(s)}^r \subset N_r$. Then, using Proposition 2.1, we define $j(p, q)$ and $j'(p, q)$ to be points $j(p, q) = a_{p,q} \in \partial M_p - A_{m(q)}^p$ and $j'(p, q) = b_{r,s} \in \partial N_r - B_{n(s)}^r$ so that (i) j, j' are one-to-one maps (note that h, h' need not be one-to-one); and (ii) $a_{p,q}$ and $h_p \circ i(p, q)$ (resp. $b_{r,s}$ and $h'_r \circ i'(p, q)$) are in the same path component of $M_p - A_{m(q)}^p$ (resp. $N_r - B_{n(s)}^r$). Notice that j and j' are proper maps by construction. Consider now maps

$$G : \left(\bigsqcup_{p \in \mathbb{N}} \tilde{X}_{0,p} \right) \times \{0\} \cup (i(A) \times I) \longrightarrow \bigsqcup_{p \in \mathbb{N}} M_p$$

$$H : \left(\bigsqcup_{r \in \mathbb{N}} \tilde{X}_{1,r} \right) \times \{0\} \cup (i'(A) \times I) \longrightarrow \bigsqcup_{r \in \mathbb{N}} N_r$$

with $G|_{\tilde{X}_{0,p} \times \{0\}} = h_p = h$ and $H|_{\tilde{X}_{1,r} \times \{0\}} = h'_r = h'$ ($p, r \in \mathbb{N}$), and so that $\alpha_{p,q} = G|_{i(p,q) \times I}$ (resp. $\beta_{r,s} = H|_{i'(p,q) \times I}$) is a path in $M_p - A_{m(q)}^p$ from $h_p \circ i(p, q)$ to $a_{p,q}$ (resp. a path in $N_r - B_{n(s)}^r$ from $h'_r \circ i'(p, q)$ to $b_{r,s}$). Observe that G and H are proper maps, since h, h', j and j' are proper. By the Homotopy Extension Property, the maps G, H extend to proper maps

$$\hat{G} : \left(\bigsqcup_{p \in \mathbb{N}} \tilde{X}_{0,p} \right) \times I \longrightarrow \bigsqcup_{p \in \mathbb{N}} M_p, \quad \hat{H} : \left(\bigsqcup_{r \in \mathbb{N}} \tilde{X}_{1,r} \right) \times I \longrightarrow \bigsqcup_{r \in \mathbb{N}} N_r$$

which yield commutative diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & A & \\ i \swarrow & & \searrow j \\ \bigsqcup_{p \in \mathbb{N}} \tilde{X}_{0,p} & \xrightarrow{\hat{h}} & \bigsqcup_{p \in \mathbb{N}} M_p \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} & A & \\ i' \swarrow & & \searrow j' \\ \bigsqcup_{r \in \mathbb{N}} \tilde{X}_{1,r} & \xrightarrow{\hat{h}'} & \bigsqcup_{r \in \mathbb{N}} N_r \end{array}$$

where $\hat{h} = \hat{G}|_{(\bigsqcup_{p \in \mathbb{N}} \tilde{X}_{0,p}) \times \{1\}}$ and $\hat{h}' = \hat{H}|_{(\bigsqcup_{r \in \mathbb{N}} \tilde{X}_{1,r}) \times \{1\}}$ are proper homotopy equivalences. Moreover, \hat{h} and \hat{h}' are proper homotopy equivalences under A , by ([2], Prop. 4.16) (compare with [11], Chap. 6, § 5). Hence, they induce a proper homotopy equivalence between the quotient space described above (proper homotopy equivalent to W) and the following 3-manifold obtained as the quotient space given by the data :

(a) The disjoint unions $\bigsqcup_{p \in \mathbb{N}} M_p$ and $\bigsqcup_{r \in \mathbb{N}} N_r$ of copies of the 3-manifolds M and N respectively;

- (b) a disjoint union $\bigsqcup_{p,q \in \mathbb{N}} P_{p,q}$ of copies of the compact 3-manifold $P \setminus \widehat{K}$; and
- (c) the bijective function $\varphi : \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \longrightarrow \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}, (p, q) \mapsto (r, s)$, so that for each $p, q \in \mathbb{N}$, the free ends of the corresponding 3-dimensional 1-handles $H_{p,q}, H'_{p,q} \subset P_{p,q}$ considered above are being identified homeomorphically with small disks $D_{p,q} \subset \partial M_p$ and $D'_{r,s} \subset \partial N_r$ about the points $a_{p,q}$ and $b_{r,s}$ respectively.

In the case of an HNN-extension $G *_F = \langle G, t; t^{-1}\psi_0(a_i)t = \psi_1(a_i), 1 \leq i \leq N \rangle$ (with monomorphisms $\psi_i : F \longrightarrow G, i = 0, 1$), let X be a compact 2-polyhedron with $\pi_1(X) \cong G$ and whose universal cover has the proper homotopy type of a 3-manifold, and let $f_i : \bigvee_{i=1}^N S^1 \longrightarrow X$ ($i = 0, 1$) be cellular maps so that $Im f_{i*} \subseteq \pi_1(X)$ corresponds to the subgroup $Im \psi_i \subseteq G$. Let Y be the 2-dimensional CW-complex constructed as above and consider the adjunction space $Z = Y \cup_{f_0 \times \{0\} \cup f_1 \times \{1\}} X$, with $\pi_1(Z) \cong G *_F$. Then, the proof goes just as the one given above for the amalgamated free product. \square

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