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Zoran Šunić* (sunic@math.tamu.edu) and **Volodymyr Nekrashevych**. *Self-coverings, contraction, and groups of intermediate growth*. Preliminary report.

We show how finite partial self-coverings of orbispaces that have the unit interval as underlying space lead to self-similar groups of intermediate growth. These groups are contracting self-similar groups with the strongest possible nontrivial contraction property (any group with a smaller contracting coefficient is necessarily finite and therefore has contracting coefficient 0). (Received January 17, 2007)