

Contents

Preface	ix
Introduction	1
A meeting of two classical subjects	1
A convergence of approaches	3
Organization of the text	5
Guidelines to the reader	7
Acknowledgements	8
Chapter I. Braid Groups	9
1. The Artin presentation	9
2. Isotopy classes of braid diagrams	10
3. Mapping class groups	12
4. Positive braids	14
Chapter II. A Linear Ordering of Braids	19
1. The σ -ordering of B_n	19
2. Local properties of the σ -ordering	26
3. Global properties of the σ -ordering	29
4. The σ -ordering of positive braids	35
Chapter III. Applications of the Braid Ordering	43
1. Consequences of orderability	44
2. Applications of more specific properties	46
3. Application of well-orderability	50
Chapter IV. Self-distributivity	55
1. Colouring positive braids	56
2. Colouring arbitrary braids	66
3. The group of left self-distributivity	76
4. Normal forms in free LD-systems	81
5. Appendix: Iterations of elementary embeddings in set theory	84
Chapter V. Handle Reduction	87
1. Description of handle reduction	87
2. Convergence of handle reduction	92
3. Special cases and variants	102
Chapter VI. Connection with the Garside Structure	107
1. The degree of a positive braid	108
2. Proving Property C using a counting argument	113

3. The increasing enumeration of $\text{Div}(\Delta_n^d)$	117
Chapter VII. Alternating Decompositions	129
1. The Φ_n -splitting of a braid in B_n^+	130
2. The Φ -normal form	135
3. Burckel's approach	143
4. Applications	148
Chapter VIII. Dual Braid Monoids	153
1. Dual braid monoids	154
2. The ϕ -normal form on B_n^{**}	159
3. Connection between orders	163
Chapter IX. Automorphisms of a Free Group	173
1. Artin representation of σ -positive braids	173
2. From an automorphism back to a braid	178
3. Pulling back orderings of free groups	182
Chapter X. Curve Diagrams	185
1. A braid ordering using curve diagrams	185
2. Proof of Properties A , C , and S	189
Chapter XI. Relaxation Algorithms	195
1. Bressaud's regular language of relaxation braids	196
2. The transmission-relaxation normal form of braids	204
Chapter XII. Triangulations	221
1. The coordinates of a braid	222
2. Triangulations and laminations	225
3. The Mosher normal form	236
Chapter XIII. Hyperbolic Geometry	247
1. Uncountably many orderings of the braid group	248
2. The classification of orderings induced by the action on \mathbb{R}	256
3. The subword property for all Nielsen–Thurston type orderings	263
Chapter XIV. The Space of all Braid Orderings	265
1. The spaces of orderings on a group	265
2. The space of left-orderings of the braid groups	268
Chapter XV. Bi-ordering the Pure Braid Groups	273
1. Lower central series	273
2. Artin coordinates and Magnus expansion	274
3. The Magnus ordering of PB_n	279
4. The ordering of positive pure braids	283
5. Incompatibility of the orderings	286
Chapter XVI. Open Questions and Extensions	291
1. General questions	291
2. More specific questions	293
3. Generalizations and extensions	301

CONTENTS

vii

Key Definitions	309
Bibliography	311
Index of Notation	319
Index	321