

# THE HOMOLOGY OF $SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/m])$ FOR SMALL $m$

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ABSTRACT. We describe an algorithm for computing finitely many terms of a free  $\mathbb{Z}G$ -resolution of  $\mathbb{Z}$  for  $G$  a finite index subgroup of  $SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/m])$ . An implementation of the algorithm is used to determine the integral homology groups  $H_n(SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/m]), \mathbb{Z})$  for all integers  $m \leq 50, m \neq 30, 42$  and  $n \geq 0$ . For  $m = 30$  or  $m = 42$  the implementation is practical only for  $n = 1, 2$ .

## 1. INTRODUCTION

We describe an algorithm for computing finitely many terms of a free  $\mathbb{Z}G$ -resolution  $R_*^G$  of  $\mathbb{Z}$  for  $G$  a finite index subgroup of  $SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/m])$ . The algorithm is valid, in principle, for any positive integer  $m$  and the modules  $R_n^G$  are finitely generated in each degree  $n$ . An implementation of the algorithm is available in the HAP [4] package for the GAP [7] computational algebra system and has been used to compute  $H_n(SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/m]), \mathbb{Z})$  for all  $m \leq 50, m \neq 30, 42$  and all  $n \geq 0$ . When  $m = 30$  or  $m = 42$  the implementation is practical only for  $n = 1, 2$ . Table 1 summarizes these computations.

The homology of  $H_n(SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/m]), \mathbb{Z})$  is known for all primes  $m = p$  by work of Adem and Naffah [1] and these prime cases are thus omitted from Table 1. The table also omits cases where  $m$  is divisible by the square of a prime as these coincide with square free cases. It is known by work of Williams and Wisner [10] that the homology is a finite group with only 2-torsion and 3-torsion for  $n > k + 1$  when  $m = p_1 p_2 \dots p_k$  is a product of  $k$  primes. In fact, it is easy to see from our algorithm that the homology is periodic of period 2 in degrees  $> k + 1$ . Each completed row of the table thus describes the integral homology of a group for all degrees  $n$ .

$m =$	$n =$					
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_4 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_8 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_3)^2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_4 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_8 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_3)^2$	
10	$\mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_4 \oplus \mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_8 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_3)^4$	$\mathbb{Z}_4$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_8 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_3)^4$	
14	$\mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_3 \oplus \mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_4 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_8 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_3)^2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}^2$	$(\mathbb{Z}_2)^3 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_3)^2$	$\mathbb{Z}_4 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_8 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_3)^2$	
15	$\mathbb{Z}_4$	$\mathbb{Z}_4 \oplus \mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_4)^2 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_3)^2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}^2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_4)^2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_4)^2 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_3)^2$	
21	$\mathbb{Z}_4$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_3 \oplus \mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_4)^3 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_3 \oplus \mathbb{Z}^2$	$(\mathbb{Z}_2)^3 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_4)^3 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_3$	
22	$\mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_5 \oplus \mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_4 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_8 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_3)^4$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_4 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_8 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_3)^4$	
26	$\mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_4 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_3 \oplus \mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_8 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_3)^2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}^4$	$(\mathbb{Z}_2)^4 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_4 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_3)^2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_8 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_3)^2$	
30	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_4 \oplus \mathbb{Z}$	--	--	--	
33	$\mathbb{Z}_4$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_5 \oplus \mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_4)^3 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_3)^2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}^2$	$(\mathbb{Z}_2)^3$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_4)^3 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_3)^2$	
34	$\mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_{16} \oplus \mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_8 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_3)^4 \oplus \mathbb{Z}^2$	$(\mathbb{Z}_2)^2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_4$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_8 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_3)^4$	
35	$\mathbb{Z}_4 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_4 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_3 \oplus \mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_4)^2 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_3)^2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}^6$	$(\mathbb{Z}_2)^5 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_4)^2 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_3)^2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_4)^2 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_3)^2$	
38	$\mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_9 \oplus \mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_4 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_8 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_3)^2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}^4$	$(\mathbb{Z}_2)^5 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_3)^2$	$\mathbb{Z}_4 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_8 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_3)^2$	
39	$\mathbb{Z}_4$	$\mathbb{Z}_4 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_3 \oplus \mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_4)^2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_3 \oplus \mathbb{Z}^6$	$(\mathbb{Z}_2)^5 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_4)^2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_4)^2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_3$	
42	0	$(\mathbb{Z}_2)^2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_3 \oplus \mathbb{Z}$	--	--	--	
46	$\mathbb{Z}_3$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_{11}$	$\mathbb{Z}_4 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_8 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_3)^4 \oplus \mathbb{Z}^2$	$(\mathbb{Z}_2)^3$	$\mathbb{Z}_4 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_8 \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_3)^4$	

TABLE 1. Homology groups  $H_n(SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/m]), \mathbb{Z})$

The algorithm works inductively by expressing a square free integer  $m$  in the form  $m = pm'$  with  $p$  a prime, and using the decomposition  $SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/m]) \cong SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/m']) *_{\Gamma_0(p)} SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/m'])$

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as an amalgamated free product of two distinct copies of  $SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/m'])$  in  $SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/m])$  over the congruence subgroup  $\Gamma_0(p) \subset SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/m])$ . A special case of a homological perturbation technique given in [6] (which, in turn, is based on a result of Wall [9]) is used to construct a resolution for  $SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/m])$  from resolutions for  $SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/m'])$  and  $\Gamma_0(p)$ . Although our primary interest is for integral coefficients, our implementation of the algorithm [4] can be used for arbitrary finitely generated coefficient modules.

The paper is structured as follows. In Section 2 we explain how to compute a resolution for a group acting on a tree from resolutions for the vertex and edge stabilizers. Since any amalgamated sum acts on an associated tree, this provides the inductive step of our algorithm. In Section 3 we give details of the initial step of the algorithm which requires a resolution for  $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ ; in order to obtain as small a resolution as possible we use the action of  $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$  on the *cubic tree*: the infinite tree with every vertex of degree 3. In Section 4 we give details of how to implement the inductive step for  $SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/m])$ . In Section 5 we illustrate our implementation of the algorithm.

## 2. RESOLUTIONS FOR GROUPS ACTING ON TREES

Let  $G$  be a discrete group acting on a contractible CW-space  $X$  in such a way that the action permutes cells. Each cell  $e$  in  $X$  has stabilizer group  $G_e = \{g \in G : g.e = e\}$  whose elements need not stabilize  $e$  point-wise. Let  $[e]$  denote the equivalence class of cells in the orbit of  $e$  under the action of  $G$ , and let  $Orb(n)$  denote the set of equivalence classes of  $n$ -dimensional cells. The cellular chain complex  $C_*(X)$  of  $X$  is an exact sequence of  $\mathbb{Z}G$ -modules with  $H_0(C_*(X)) = \mathbb{Z}$  and with

$$C_n(X) = \bigoplus_{[e] \in Orb(n)} \mathbb{Z}G \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}G_e} \mathbb{Z}^e$$

where each  $\mathbb{Z}^e$  is a copy of the integers endowed with an ‘‘orientation’’ action of  $G_e$ .

Suppose that for each class  $[e]$  we are given a free  $\mathbb{Z}G_e$ -resolution  $R_*^{G_e}$  of  $\mathbb{Z}$ . Proposition 4 in [6] gives a construction that inputs the non-free  $\mathbb{Z}G$ -resolution  $C_*(X)$  together with the free  $\mathbb{Z}G_e$ -resolutions  $R_*^{G_e}$ , and outputs a free  $\mathbb{Z}G$ -resolution  $R_*^G$  of  $\mathbb{Z}$ . In subsequent sections we shall need this construction only for 1-dimensional spaces  $X$ . So from this point on we assume that  $X$  is a tree and recall the construction in this particularly easy case. The boundary homomorphism  $C_1(X) \rightarrow C_0(X)$  induces a  $\mathbb{Z}G$ -equivariant homomorphism of  $\mathbb{Z}G$ -chain complexes

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bigoplus_{[e] \in Orb(1)} (R_n^{G_e} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}G_e} \mathbb{Z}^e) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}G_e} \mathbb{Z}G & \xrightarrow{\delta_n} & \bigoplus_{[v] \in Orb(0)} R_n^{G_v} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}G_e} \mathbb{Z}G \\ \downarrow \partial_{n+1} & & \downarrow \partial_{n+1} \\ \bigoplus_{[e] \in Orb(1)} (R_{n-1}^{G_e} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}G_e} \mathbb{Z}^e) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}G_e} \mathbb{Z}G & \xrightarrow{\delta_{n-1}} & \bigoplus_{[v] \in Orb(0)} R_{n-1}^{G_v} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}G_e} \mathbb{Z}G \\ \downarrow \partial_n & & \downarrow \partial_n \\ \bigoplus_{[e] \in Orb(1)} (R_{n-2}^{G_e} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}G_e} \mathbb{Z}^e) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}G_e} \mathbb{Z}G & \xrightarrow{\delta_{n-2}} & \bigoplus_{[v] \in Orb(0)} R_{n-2}^{G_v} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}G_e} \mathbb{Z}G \\ \downarrow \partial_{n-1} & & \downarrow \partial_{n-1} \end{array}$$

which we view as a bicomplex. The required free  $\mathbb{Z}G$ -resolution  $R_*^G$  is the total complex of this bicomplex. That is  $R_n^G = A_{1,n-1} \oplus A_{0,n}$  where

$$A_{1,n-1} = \bigoplus_{[e] \in Orb(1)} (R_{n-1}^{G_e} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}G_e} \mathbb{Z}^e) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}G_e} \mathbb{Z}G, \quad A_{0,n} = \bigoplus_{[v] \in Orb(0)} R_n^{G_v} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}G_e} \mathbb{Z}G.$$

The boundary homomorphism is

$$d_n : A_{1,n-1} \oplus A_{0,n} \rightarrow A_{1,n-2} \oplus A_{0,n-1}, \quad x \oplus y \mapsto \partial_{n-1}(x) \oplus (-1)^n \delta_{n-1}(x) + \partial_n(y).$$

Recall that a *contracting homotopy* on the  $\mathbb{Z}G$ -resolution  $R_*^G$  is a family of  $\mathbb{Z}$ -linear homomorphisms  $h_n : R_n^G \rightarrow R_{n+1}^G$  satisfying

$$h_{n-1} \partial_n + \partial_n h_{n-1}$$

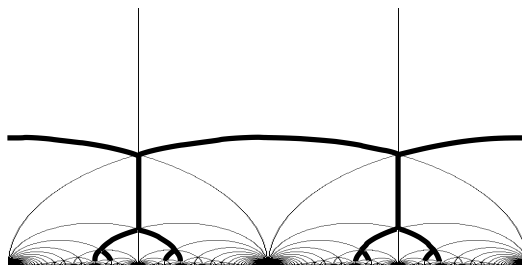


FIGURE 1. Portion of the cubic tree indicated in bold

for all  $n \geq 0$  with  $h_{-1} = 0, \partial_0 = 0$ . Such a contracting homotopy can be constructed from a contracting homotopy  $h': C_0(X) \rightarrow C_1(X)$  and contracting homotopies  $h''_n: R_n^{G_e} \rightarrow R_{n+1}^{G_e}$  on the  $\mathbb{Z}G_e$ -resolutions using the formula

$$h_n(x \oplus y) = h''_{n-1}(x) \oplus \{(-1)^n \partial_n \delta_n h''_{n-1}(x) + h''_n(y)\} ,$$

$$h_0(x) = h'(x) \oplus \{h''_0(x) - h''_0 \delta_0 h'(x)\} .$$

**2.1. A special case.** Suppose that there were just one orbit of edges represented by edge  $e$ , and that there were two orbits of vertices represented by  $v, v'$ . Suppose further that  $G_v \cong G_{v'}$  and  $G_e \subseteq G_v$ . Then there is an equivariant isomorphism  $R_*^{G_v} \cong R_*^{G_{v'}}$ . Furthermore, we can set  $R_*^{G_e} = R_*^{G_v}$  and simply restrict the action to  $G_e$ . If the resolution  $R_*^{G_v}$  happened to be periodic of period 2 in sufficiently high degrees (with contracting homotopy chosen to be periodic too) then the above construction yields a free  $\mathbb{Z}G$ -resolution  $R_*^G$  for  $G = G_v *_{G_e} G_{v'}$  which is periodic of period 2 in sufficiently high degrees. This observation is the basis for asserting that each complete row in Table 1 determines the homology of a group in all degrees.

We could use the special case of the construction, together with the standard resolution  $R_*^{C_m}$  for finite cyclic groups  $C_m$ , to produce a free  $\mathbb{Z}G$ -resolution  $R_*^G$  for  $G = SL_2(\mathbb{Z}) \cong C_4 *_{C_2} C_6$  in which  $R_0^G = \mathbb{Z}G \oplus \mathbb{Z}G$  and  $R_n^G = \mathbb{Z}G \oplus \mathbb{Z}G \oplus \mathbb{Z}G$ ,  $n \geq 1$ . However, for computational efficiency we prefer to use a slightly smaller resolution.

### 3. A SMALLER RESOLUTION FOR $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$

Consider the matrices

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Note that  $S^4 = (ST)^6 = 1$  and that the group  $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$  is generated by  $S$  and  $T$ . We let  $M$  denote the group with presentation  $\langle s, u \mid s^2 = u^3 = 1 \rangle$ . Following [2] we construct the cubic tree  $\Lambda$  by taking the left cosets of  $U = \langle u \rangle$  in  $M$  as vertices, and joining cosets  $xU$  and  $yU$  by an edge if, and only if,  $x^{-1}y \in UsU$ . Thus the vertex  $U$  is joined to  $sU, usU$  and  $u^2sU$ . The vertices of this tree are in one-to-one correspondence with all reduced words in  $s, u$  and  $u^2$  that, apart from the identity, end in  $s$ . We say that a sequence of vertices  $x_0U, x_1U, \dots, x_nU$  is a *rooted path* if  $x_0 = 1$  and there is an edge between  $x_iU$  and  $x_{i+1}U$  for  $0 \leq i \leq n-1$ . A rooted path is described by a reduced word in  $s, u$  and  $u^2$  ending in  $s$ .

The group  $M$  can be realized as the modular group of transformations  $z \mapsto (mz + n)/(pz + q)$ ,  $m, n, p, q$  integers with  $mq - np = 1$ , of the upper half complex plane  $\mathbb{H} = \{x + iy \in \mathbb{C} : y > 0\}$  which is generated by the two transformations  $a(z) = -1/z$  and  $u(z) = z + 1$ . The cubic tree can thus be embedded in  $\mathbb{H}$ . Figure 1 illustrates this embedding by showing a portion of the cubic tree in bold against the tessellation of  $\mathbb{H}$  by triangular fundamental domains for the modular group. The surjection  $SL_2(\mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow M, S \mapsto s, T \mapsto s^{-1}u$  and left multiplication in  $M$  yield an action of  $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$  on the cubic tree  $\Lambda$ . Under this action there is one orbit of vertices and one orbit of edges.

The stabilizer group of any vertex is conjugate to  $C_6 = \langle ST \rangle$ . The stabilizer group of any edge is conjugate to  $C_4 = \langle S \rangle$ . The cellular chain complex  $C_*(\Lambda)$  thus has the form

$$C_*(\Lambda) : \mathbb{Z}[SL_2(\mathbb{Z})] \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}C_4} \mathbb{Z}^e \xrightarrow{\delta} \mathbb{Z}[SL_2(\mathbb{Z})] \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}C_6} \mathbb{Z}$$

where  $C_6$  acts trivially on  $\mathbb{Z}$  and where  $\mathbb{Z}^e$  denotes the integers with non-trivial action of  $C_4$ . The boundary homomorphism  $\delta$  is induced by the equivariant homomorphism of free modules

$$\mathbb{Z}[SL_2(\mathbb{Z})] \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z}[SL_2(\mathbb{Z})], 1 \mapsto T - 1 .$$

The construction of Section 2 can be applied to the chain complex  $C_*(\Lambda)$  and standard minimal resolutions  $R_*^{C_4}$ ,  $R_*^{C_6}$  of the cyclic groups  $C_4$ ,  $C_6$  to obtain a free  $\mathbb{Z}[SL_2(\mathbb{Z})]$ -resolution  $R_*^{SL_2(\mathbb{Z})}$  of  $\mathbb{Z}$  involving one free generator in degree 0, and two free generators in each degree  $\geq 1$ .

The default algorithm in HAP [4] for producing resolutions of finite groups provides contracting homotopies on  $R_*^{C_4}$ ,  $R_*^{C_6}$ . To obtain a contracting homotopy on  $R_*^{SL_2(\mathbb{Z})}$  using the formulae in Section 2 we, additionally, need to provide a contracting homotopy on  $C_*(\Lambda)$ . This amounts to providing an algorithm for assigning to each vertex  $v$  the rooted path ending at  $v$ . We represent a vertex  $v$  by a matrix  $A \in SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$  under the action of which  $v$  is the image of the root vertex. Thus a contracting homotopy on  $C_*(\Lambda)$  boils down to an algorithm for expressing  $A$  as a reduced word in  $S$  and powers of  $ST$ .

Such an expression can be obtained using an algorithm, which we learned from [3], for expressing  $A$  as a word in  $S$  and  $T$ . It is an adaption of the Euclidean Algorithm and is best described by means of the following example taken from [3]. Suppose that we wish to express

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 17 & 29 \\ 7 & 12 \end{pmatrix}$$

in terms of  $S$  and  $T$ . Note that  $17 = 2 \cdot 7 + 3$  and so

$$T^{-2}A = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 5 \\ 7 & 12 \end{pmatrix}, \quad ST^{-2}A = \begin{pmatrix} -7 & -12 \\ 3 & 5 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Now note that  $-7 = (-3)3 + 2$  and so

$$T^3ST^{-2}A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 5 \end{pmatrix}, \quad ST^3ST^{-2}A = \begin{pmatrix} -3 & -5 \\ 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Since  $-3 = (-2)2 + 1$  we write

$$T^2ST^2ST^3ST^{-2}A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad ST^2ST^2ST^3ST^{-2}A = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Thus  $ST^2ST^2ST^3ST^{-2}A = -T = S^2T$  and  $A = T^2ST^{-3}ST^{-2}ST^{-2}ST$ . Using the identities  $S^4 = 1$  and  $T^{-1} = (ST)^5S$  we can now obtain an expression for  $A$  as a reduced word in  $S$  and powers of  $ST$ .

#### 4. A RESOLUTION FOR $SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/m])$

Let  $m'$  be a square free integer, let  $p$  be a prime which is coprime to  $m'$  and set  $m = pm'$ . Let  $\Gamma_0^{m'}(p) \subset SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/m'])$  be the subgroup defined by

$$\Gamma_0^{m'}(p) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} : c \equiv 0 \pmod{p} \right\}.$$

In addition to the natural inclusion we have the injection  $\Gamma_0^{m'}(p) \hookrightarrow SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/m'])$  given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} a & pb \\ p^{-1}c & d \end{pmatrix}.$$

Using these two embeddings one has an isomorphism [8]

$$SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/(m)]) \cong SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/m']) *_{\Gamma_0^{m'}(p)} SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/m']).$$

We can thus construct a free  $\mathbb{Z}SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/m])$ -resolution  $R_*^{SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/m])}$  from a free  $\mathbb{Z}SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/m'])$ -resolution  $R_*^{SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/m'])}$  using the special case 2.1 of the construction described in Section 2.

In principle one can apply this technique recursively to obtain a free  $\mathbb{Z}SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/m])$ -resolution for any  $m$ . For the recursion to work we need an algorithm for a contracting homotopy on the tree associated to the amalgamated sum. Such an algorithm boils down to one for expressing an arbitrary matrix  $A \in SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/m])$  as a product of generators of each of the two copies of  $SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/m'])$ . The required algorithm is a slight variant of the Euclidean type algorithm from [3] described above.

## 5. AN IMPLEMENTATION

The user interface to our implementation of the above algorithm is illustrated by the following GAP session which computes  $H_5(G, \mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z}_6 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_6$  for  $G = \Gamma_0^2(3) \subset SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/2])$ .

```
gap> R:=ResolutionSL2Z(2,6);
Resolution of length 6 in characteristic 0 for SL(2,Z[1/2]) .

gap> G:=CongruenceSubgroup(2,3);
CongruenceSubgroup of SL(2,Z[1/2]) level 3

gap> S:=ResolutionSubgroup(R,G);
Resolution of length 6 in characteristic 0 for CongruenceSubgroup
of SL(2,Z[1/2]) level 3 .

gap> C:=TensorWithIntegers(S);
Chain complex of length 6 in characteristic 0 .

gap> Homology(C,5);
[ 6, 6 ]
```

The two main bottlenecks in our algorithm seem to be: the  $\mathbb{Z}G$ -rank of  $R_n^G$  in higher degrees  $n$ ; the length of the boundary  $\partial(e^n)$  of certain generators of  $R_n^G$  in higher degrees.

To illustrate the first bottleneck, consider the group  $G = SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/(2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 11 \cdot 13)])$ . Our current implementation attempts to build a resolution  $R_*^G$  in which  $R_n^G$  has  $\mathbb{Z}G$ -rank 1075200 for all  $n \geq 7$ .

To illustrate the second bottleneck, consider the group  $G = SL_2(\mathbb{Z}[1/30])$ . Our implementation attempts to build a resolution  $R_*^G$  in which  $R_n^G$  has  $\mathbb{Z}G$ -rank 480 in degrees  $n \geq 4$ . However, one generator  $f$  of  $R_4^G$  has boundary  $\partial_4(f)$  involving 1359551  $\mathbb{Z}$ -free generators of  $R_3^G$ . The implementation only succeeds in computing the boundaries of 292  $\mathbb{Z}G$ -free generators of  $R_4^G$  before running out of memory on a Linux PC with 16 GB of random access memory.

Some attempts have been made at applying higher-dimensional Tietze type reductions to  $R_*^G$  to overcome these bottlenecks. So far the attempts have had limited success.

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