HIGHER TOPOLOGICAL COMPLEXITY OF ARTIN TYPE GROUPS

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Abstract. We calculate the higher topological complexity TC_s for the complements of reflection arrangements, in other words for the pure Artin type groups of all finite complex reflection groups. In order to do that we introduce a simple combinatorial criterion of arrangements sufficed for the cohomological low bound for TC_s to coincide with the dimensional upper bound.

1. Introduction

Topological complexity of a topological space X (TC(X)) was defined by M. Farber in [6] as a specialization of the Schwarz genus [12]. Unlike the Schwarz genus in general, TC(X) is an invariant of the homotopy type of X. Later Yu. Rudyak in [11] extended Farber’s definition to higher topological complexity TC_s(X) for s = 2, 3, 4, ... such that TC(X) = TC_2(X). One of common features of these invariants is a lower bound determined by the ring structure of H^*(X).

This paper is concerned with the special class of topological spaces - the complements of a complex hyperplane arrangement. Previously TC_2 has been calculated for particular classes of arrangements such as Coxeter series in [7] and general position arrangements in [13, 4]. These examples prompted the Conjecture that for all arrangement complements TC_2 coincides with the cohomological low bound. The only known results for arrangement complements and arbitrary s (besides the basic examples of the circle and tori in [11, 2]) is the calculation for the Coxeter series of type A in the recent preprint [8].

In the present paper we give a simple combinatorial condition sufficed for the cohomological low bound to coincide with the dimensional upper bound. This allows us to compute TC_s for a wide class of arrangements (including all complex reflection arrangements, i.e., K[π, 1]'s for the pure Artin type groups). In all arrangements of this class the value of TC_s coincides with the cohomological low bound for this s.

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2. Definition of TC_s and main properties

Definition 2.1. Let X be a path-connected topological space and s an integer at least 2. Then TC_s(X) is the Schwarz genus of the fibration

$$\phi_s : X^{[0,1]} \rightarrow X^s,$$

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where

$$\phi_s(\gamma) = \left(\gamma(0), \gamma\left(\frac{1}{s-1}\right), \gamma\left(\frac{2}{s-1}\right), \ldots, \gamma\left(\frac{s-2}{s-1}\right), \gamma(1)\right).$$

In other words, it is the smallest number \( n \) such that \( X^s \) is partitioned into Euclidean neighborhood retracts \( W_i \) \((i = 0, 1, \ldots, n)\) and on each \( W_i \) there exists a section \( f_i : X^s \to X^{[0,1]} \) of \( \phi_s \) (i.e., \( \phi_s \circ f_i = 1_{W_i} \)). These data is called a motion planning (m.p.). We use the reduced (or normalized) version of TC such that \( TC_s(X) = 0 \) for a contractible \( X \) and each \( s \).

Note that \( \phi_s \) is a fibrational substitute with the fiber \((\Omega X)^{s-1}\) for the diagonal imbedding \( d_s : X \to X^s \).

The following properties can be found in [11, 2].

1. \( TC(X) \) is an invariant of the homotopy type of \( X \).
2. \( TC_s(X) \leq s \cdot \text{hdim}(X) \) where \( \text{hdim} \) is the homotopy dimension (the dimensional upper bound).
3. \( TC_s(X \times Y) \leq TC_s(X) + TC_s(Y) \) (the product formula).
4. The cohomological lower bound.

This is the only low bound and it requires some definitions.

**Definition 2.2.** Let \( d_s \) be the diagonal embedding \( X \to X^s \). Denote by \( \text{cl}(X,s) \) the cup length in \( \ker d_s^* \), i.e., the largest integer \( k \) for which there exist \( k \) elements \( u_i \in H^*(X^s) \) such that \( d_s^* u_i = 0 \) for every \( i \) and \( u_1 u_2 \cdots u_k \neq 0 \).

We have the following cohomological low bound:

$$TC_s(X) \geq \text{cl}(X,s).$$

This inequality holds for cohomology with arbitrary coefficients, even for local coefficients. In the rest of the paper we will use cohomology with coefficients in \( \mathbb{C} \) omitting coefficients from the notation.

**Example**

\( TC_s(S^1) = s - 1 \) for every \( s \).

Indeed choose an orientation and denote by \( u \) the generator of \( H^1(S^1) \). Then the elements

$$u^{(i)} = u \otimes 1 \otimes \cdots \otimes 1 - 1 \otimes \cdots \otimes 1 \otimes u \otimes 1 \otimes \cdots \otimes 1$$

where the second \( u \) is in the \( i \)-th position are in \( \ker d_s^* \) and \( \prod_{i=2}^{s} u^{(i)} \neq 0 \). By the cohomological lower bound \( TC_s(S^1) \geq s - 1 \).

For a m.p. one can use the covering of the torus \((S^1)^s \) by \( D_k = \{(x_1, \ldots, x_s)\} \)

\((k = 0, 1, \ldots, s - 1)\) such that \( x_j = x_{j+1} \) for precisely \( k \) indexes \( j \). A path \( \gamma_j(x) \) from \( x_j \) to \( x_{j+1} \) is constant if \( x_j = x_{j+1} \) and the rotation along the fixed orientation of \( S^1 \) otherwise.

3. **Complement of hyperplane arrangement**

In this paper we will deal mostly with the topological spaces that are hyperplane arrangement complements.

**Definition 3.1.** A (complex linear essential) hyperplane arrangement is a set \( A \) of \( n \) linear hyperplanes in \( \mathbb{C}^r \) such that \( \bigcap_{H \in A} H = \{0\} \). The arrangement complement is the topological space \( M = \mathbb{C}^r \setminus \bigcup_{H \in A} H \).
Among the arrangement complements there are, for instance, $K[\pi, 1]$ where $\pi$ is the pure Artin type group for an arbitrary finite complex reflection group. The most frequently used examples of that are the Braid arrangements.

**Example.** Consider $n = (\ell^2)$ hyperplanes given by the equations $x_i = x_j$ for all $1 \leq i < j \leq \ell$. This arrangement is called Braid arrangement because $M$ is $K[\pi, 1]$ where $\pi = \pi_1(M)$ is the pure Braid group on $\ell$ strings, that is the pure Artin group for $\Sigma_\ell$.

For an arbitrary arrangement the algebra $A = H^*(M)$ is well-known from work of Arnold, Brieskorn and Orlik-Solomon ([1, 3, 9]).

For each hyperplane $H \in A$ fix a linear form $\alpha_H$ with $\ker \alpha_H = H$. Then $A$ can be identified with the subalgebra of the algebra of all the holomorphic differential forms on $M$ generated by the logarithmic forms $\frac{dx_j}{\alpha_H} (H \in A)$. The classes $e_H$ of these forms form a canonical basis of $A^1$ whence for every $x \in A^1$ we have $x = \sum_{H \in A} x_H e_H$ for some $x_H \in \mathbb{C}$. Relations for the generators are explicitly described and can be found in [10]. These relations imply in particular that $H^p(M) = 0$ for $p > r$.

A stronger fact is that $M$ has the homotopy type of a finite simplicial complex of dimension $r$ (see [10]).

The relations imply also that $A$ is determined by the combinatorics of $A$, i.e., the collection of linearly independent subsets of $A$ (called simple matroid). In particular the (square-free) monomials corresponding to dependent sets of hyperplanes vanish in $A$. Hence the (square-free) monomials corresponding to independent sets (“independent monomials”) linearly generate $A$ but they are not linearly independent (over $\mathbb{C}$) in general. Theory of Gröbner basis gives so called no-broken-circuit ($\text{nbc}$) monomials that do form a basis of $A$.

To define this basis we need to fix a linear order on $A$ whence on $\{e_1, \ldots, e_n\}$ which gives the deg-lex order on the monomials. Then a circuit is a minimal dependent set of $e_i$ and a broken circuit is circuit with the smallest element (in the fixed order) omitted. Then an $\text{nbc}$-monomial is a monomial whose support does not contain any broken circuits. It is easy to see that the set of $\text{nbc}$-monomials form the basis of $A$ given by the Gröbner theory for the deglex monomial ordering.

Later in this paper we will use the following.

**Property (*) of $\text{nbc}$ basis.**

Suppose an order is fixed on $A$ and $\mu$ is a non-$\text{nbc}$ monomial for this order. Then its representation as a linear combination of $\text{nbc}$ monomials looks like

$$\mu = \sum_i \pm \mu_i$$

where for each $\text{nbc}$-monomial $\mu_i$ we have $\mu_i < \mu$ in the deglex order.

4. Properties of $TC_s(M)$

1. The general upper bound for $M$ can be made a little more tight. Namely

$$TC_s(M) \leq sr - 1.$$
Indeed for a non-empty arrangement $M = \tilde{M} \times \mathbb{C}^*$ where $\tilde{M}$ is the projectivization of $M$ that has the homotopy type of a CW-complex of dimension $r - 1$. Hence by the product formula

$$TC_s(M) \leq TC_s(M_0) + TC_s(S^1) \leq s(r - 1) + s - 1 = sr - 1.$$ 

2. To find a lower bound we need some preparation.

4.1. **Products over subsets.** Fix an integer $s \geq 2$ and for each generator $e_i \in H^1(M)$, and each $j$ ($1 < j \leq s$) put

$$e_r^{(j)} = e_i \otimes 1 \otimes \cdots \otimes 1 - 1 \otimes \cdots \otimes 1 \otimes e_i \otimes 1 \otimes \cdots \otimes 1$$

where $e_i$ in the second summand is in the $j$th position. Clearly each $e_r^{(j)} \in \ker d^*$. Then for every $I \subset \{e_r^{(j)}\}$ if the product of all elements from $I$ does not vanish then $|I|$ is a lower bound for $TC_s$.

4.2. **Products over pairs.** In the rest of the paper we will identify subsets of $\tilde{n}$ with the respective subsets of generators in $A^1$ and with subarrangements of $A$. The rank $\text{rk} S$ of a subset $S$ is the rank of the respective subarrangement which is the cardinality of its base (i.e., a maximal independent set). The rank of $\tilde{n}$ is $r$.

Let $Q = (B, C)$ be an ordered pair of disjoint subsets of $\tilde{n}$. The *product over $Q$* is defined by the formula

$$\pi_Q = \pi_B \cdot \pi'_C$$

where

$$\pi_B = \prod_{i \in B} \prod_{j=2}^s e_r^{(j)}_{i}, \quad \pi'_C = \prod_{i \in C} e_r^{(2)}_{i}.$$ 

We put $\bar{Q} = B \cup C$.

4.3. **Basic pairs and balanced sets.**

**Definition 4.1.** A pair $Q$ is basic if $|B| = r$ (i.e., $B$ is a base) and $B, C$ are nbc in $\bar{Q}$ for some linear order on it.

**Remark.**

We can extend a linear order on $\bar{Q}$ to a linear order on $A$ so that every element of $\bar{Q}$ is smaller than every element of $A \setminus \bar{Q}$. Then any monomial with support in $\bar{Q}$ is nbc in $\bar{Q}$ if and only if it is nbc in the whole $A$.

**Definition 4.2.** A subset $S \subset \tilde{n}$ of full rank is balanced if for any its (linearly) closed non-empty subsets $S'$ we have $|S'| < 2 \text{rk}(S')$.

**Theorem 4.1.** (i) If a pair $Q$ is basic then $\bar{Q}$ is balanced.

(ii) Every balanced set $S$ is $\bar{Q}$ for some basic pair $Q$, i.e., is the union of the elements of the pair.

**Proof.** (i) Suppose a pair $Q = (B, C)$ is basic and fixed an order such that $B$ and $C$ are nbc. Also assume there exists a closed non-empty subset $D \subset \bar{Q}$ with $|D| \geq 2 \text{rk}(D)$. Since the sets $B \cap D$ and $C \cap D$ are independent they both are bases of $D$. Now if $i$ is the least element of $D$ then to whichever of two bases it belongs, it depends on the other base which contradicts to $B$ and $C$ being nbc in $\bar{Q}$.
(ii) Suppose a set $S$ is balanced and choose a base $B$ of $S$ hence of $A$. Put $C = S \setminus B$. Since $S$ is balanced $s = |C| \leq r - 1$. Using that $S$ is balanced again we can find $r - s + 1$ elements in $B$ independent of $C$. Order them linearly from 1 to $r - s + 1$ and call the set they form by $B_1$. Again by the same property there exist two elements in $C$ independent of $B \setminus B_1$. Assign numbers $r - s + 2$ and $r - s + 3$ to these elements and call the set of them by $C_1$. Notice that $|C \setminus C_1| = s - 2$ and $|B \setminus B_1| = s - 1$. Now we just repeat the reasoning. There exist two elements in $B \setminus B_1$ independent on $C_1$ and we can assign numbers $r - s + 4$ and $r - s + 5$ to them. Continuing this process we obtain at some step a linear ordering on $S$ such that no element depends on the set of larger (in this ordering) elements. Thus $B$ and $C$ are \textbf{nbc} in $S$ for this order whence the pair is basic.

5. Calculation of a lower bound

\textbf{Theorem 5.1.} Let $A$ be a central arrangement. Then for every integer $s$, $s \geq 2$, and every basic pair $Q = (B, C)$ we have $\pi_Q \neq 0$. Hence $\text{TC}_s \geq (s - 1)r + |C|$. 

\textbf{Proof.} By construction, $\pi_Q$ is the sum of pure tensors with coefficients $\pm 1$ among which there is $\mu = e_C \otimes e_B \cdots \otimes e_B$ where for every subset $S \subset [n]$ we put $e_S = \prod_{i \in S} e_i$. Since $Q$ is basic all monomials in $\mu$ are \textbf{nbc} in some order on $A$ that we fix. Thus it suffices to proof that no other simple tensor from $\pi_Q$ contains $\mu$ in the decomposition of its monomials in the linear combinations of \textbf{nbc} monomials.

Suppose that $\nu = \nu_1 \otimes \nu_2 \otimes \cdots \otimes \nu_s$ is such a simple tensor. Since the monomials $\nu_j$ for $j > 2$ cannot have elements from $C$ and have degree $r$ then $\nu_i = e_B$ for $i > 2$. The first two monomials are $e_{C_1}$ ($i = 1, 2$) where $(C_1, C_2)$ is a partition of $B \cup C$ (with $|C_2| = r$).

Using Property (*) of the \textbf{nbc} basis we obtain the following. If $e_{C_1} \otimes e_{C_2}$ contains $e_C \otimes e_B$ in the decomposition and at least one of $e_{C_1}$ is not \textbf{nbc} then $e_{C_1} \geq e_C$ and $e_{C_2} \geq e_B$ with at least one of the inequalities is strict. This contradicts the fact that $(C_1, C_2)$ and $(C, B)$ are partitions of $C \cup B$. Thus $\nu = \mu$ whence $\mu$ cannot be cancelled. 

6. Large arrangements

\textbf{Definition 6.1.} We call an arrangement large if there exists a basic pair $(B, C)$ with $|C| = r - 1$.

Comparing this with the dimensional upper bound for $M$ we obtain for large arrangements that

$$\text{TC}_s(M) = sr - 1$$

for every $s$.

Large arrangements are easy to find due to the following sufficient condition.

\textbf{Definition 6.2.} A pair $(B, C)$ is well-balanced if $B$ is a base, $|C| = r - 1$, and no $b \in B$ depends on $C$. An arrangement is well-balanced if there is a well-balanced pair in it.

\textbf{Theorem 6.1.} Every well-balanced pair is balanced.

\textbf{Proof.} Indeed suppose $(B, C)$ is well-balanced but there is a non-empty $D \subset B \cup C$ with $|D| \geq 2 \text{rk } D$. Then $D \cap B$ and $D \cap C$ are independent whence both are bases of $D$. Hence every $b \in D \cap B$ depends of $D \cap C$ which contradicts the condition. 

□
Let \( L(\mathcal{A}) \) be the lattice of all intersections of hyperplanes from \( \mathcal{A} \) ordered opposite to inclusion. For \( X \in L(\mathcal{A}) \) we put \( \mathcal{A}_X = \{ H \in \mathcal{A} | H \geq X \} \).

**Definition 6.3.** \( L(\mathcal{A}) \) is well-balanced if there exists \( X \in L(\mathcal{A}) \), \( \text{codim} \ X = r - 1 \) such that for no \( Y \in L(\mathcal{A}) \setminus \{0\} \) we have \( \mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_X \cup \mathcal{A}_Y \).

This definition makes sense for an arbitrary finite geometric lattice.

**Theorem 6.2.** If \( L(\mathcal{A}) \) is well-balanced then there exists a well-balanced pair in \( \mathcal{A} \).

**Proof.** Let \( C \) be a base of \( \mathcal{A}_X \) from the definition. Then \( |C| = r - 1 \). Put \( \mathcal{A}' = \mathcal{A} \setminus \mathcal{A}_X \). By definition \( \text{rk} \mathcal{A}' = r \). Let \( B \) be a base of \( \mathcal{A}' \) whence also a base of \( \mathcal{A} \). Since \( B \) is disjoint with \( \mathcal{A}_X \) no \( b \in B \) depends on \( C \). \( \square \)

**Corollary 6.1.** Suppose for all \( X \in L(\mathcal{A}) \setminus \{0\} \) we have

\[
|\mathcal{A}(X)| < \frac{n}{2}.
\]

Then \( \mathcal{A} \) is large.

Clearly it suffices to check the inequality (1) for \( X \) of rank \( r - 1 \) only.

**Example**

The arrangements of the following classes of are clearly large.

1. Generic arrangements with \( |\mathcal{A}| \geq 2r - 1 \).
2. Every arrangement containing a large subarrangement of full rank.

7. **Groups generated by reflections**

**Definition 7.1.** Let \( V \) be a complex linear space of dimension \( r \). A (complex) reflection is a finite order invertible linear transformation \( \tau : V \to V \) whose fixed point set is a hyperplane (denoted \( H_\tau \)). A finite subgroup of \( GL(V) \) is a reflection group if it is generated by reflections.

For a reflection group \( W \) the set \( \mathcal{A}_W = \{ H_\tau \} \) is called the reflection arrangement of \( W \).

A reflection group \( W \) is irreducible if its tautological representation to \( GL(V) \) is irreducible. Then the rank of \( W \) is \( r \).

**Theorem 7.1.** (see [3, 1, 5, 9].) Let \( M_W = V \setminus \bigcup_{H \in \mathcal{A}_W} H \) for an arbitrary reflection group \( W \). Then \( M_W \) is a \( K[\pi, 1] \).

**Example**

For \( \ell > 1 \) every hyperplane \( H_{ij} \subset \mathbb{R}^\ell \) of the Braid arrangement is the collection of fixed points of a real reflection permuting \( x_i \) and \( x_j \). Thus the (complexified) Braid arrangement is the reflection arrangement for the permutation group \( W = \Sigma_\ell \). Here \( \pi_1(M_W) \) is the pure Braid group on \( \ell \) strings, that is the pure Artin group of type \( A_{\ell-1} \).

Similarly, for any (complexified) finite Coxeter group \( W \) the group \( \pi_1(M_W) \) is the pure Artin group of the respective type. Because of that \( \pi_1(M_W) \) for an arbitrary finite complex reflection group \( W \) is called the pure Artin type group for \( W \) (or the generalized pure Braid group associated to \( W \)).
8. Calculation of $\text{TC}_s(M_W)$

Here is the main theorem of the paper.

**Theorem 8.1.** For every irreducible reflection group $W$ of rank $r$ and every $s > 1$ the arrangement $A_W$ is well-balanced whence $\text{TC}_s(M_W) = sr - 1$.

**Proof.** Our proof consists of four parts.

1. If $W$ has rank equal to 2 then the result is immediate since $r = 2$.
2. Infinite series.

   For the infinite series well-balanced pairs can be exhibited explicitly. For that we give hyperplanes by their defining linear forms and $A$ the product of them.

   (a) **Full monomial types** $G(m, 1, r)$ (if $m = 1$ it is $A_r$; if $m = 2$ it is $B_r$): $Q = \prod_{i=1}^{r} x_i \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq r} (x_i^m - x_j^m)$. Put $B = \{x_1, \ldots, x_r\}$ and $C = \{x_1 - x_2, \ldots, x_1 - x_r\}$.

   (b) **Special monomial types** $G(m, m, r)$ $m \geq 2$: $Q = \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq r} (x_i^m - x_j^m)$ (if $m = 2$ it is $D_r$). Put $B = \{x_1 - \zeta x_2, \ldots, x_1 - \zeta x_r, x_2 - x_3\}$ and $C = \{x_1 - x_2, \ldots, x_1 - x_r\}$ where $\zeta$ is a primitive root of 1 of order $m$.

   In (a), the result is clear. In (b), $B$ is independent since it generates the basis $\{x_1, \ldots, x_r\}$ of $V^*$. Besides $C$ lies in the kernel of the index (the linear map $\text{ind}: V^* \to \mathbb{C}$, $\text{ind}(x_i) = 1$) while no $b \in B$ does.

3. The exceptional groups different from Coxeter types $E_m$.

   In this case, we check case-by-case that $L(A_W)$ is well-balanced using Tables C.1-C.23 from the book [10].

   We use Corollary 6.28 from this book stating that $A_X$ is the reflection arrangement for a reflection subgroup $W_X$ of $W$. The numbers $n_X = |A_X|$ can be found from Table B.1 as the sums of covariants for $W_X$.

   The table below is organized as follows. The first row consists of the Shephard-Todd classification numbers (23-34) of exceptional groups of ranks greater than 2 (no types $E_m$). The second row consists of the cardinalities $n$ of the respective arrangements. The third row consists of the maximal cardinalities of $A_X$. It suffices to check inequality (1): $|A_X| < \frac{n}{2}$.

   | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  | 32  | 33  | 34  |
   |-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
   | 15  | 21  | 12  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  | 32  | 33  | 34  |
   | 5   | 4   | 4   | 5   | 5   | 9   | 12  | 15  | 15  | 12  | 12  | 45  |

4. Types $E_m$.

   For the types $E_m$, the inequality (1) does not hold but it is easy to check that $L(A)$ is well-balanced by definition. The needed information is in the table below.

   | $E_6$ | $E_7$ | $E_8$ |
   |-------|-------|-------|
   | 36    | 63    | 120   |
   | (20,15) | (36,21) | (63,42) |

   The second row has the same meaning as in the previous table. The last row consists of pairs combining the maximal cardinality of $A_Y$ with $\text{rk} Y = r - 1$ and the cardinality of another $A_X$ also with $\text{rk} X = r - 1$. One needs to check that the sum in each pair is less than the entry of the second row. This shows that $L(A_W)$ is well-balanced and finishes the proof.
Remark. Generic arrangements with \( n < 2r - 1 \) are not-large. The general formula for generic arrangements is

\[
TC_s(M) = \min\{sr - 1, (s-1)n\}.
\]

For instance, if \( r = 3, \ n = 4, \ s = 2 \) then \( TC_2(M) = 4 < 2r - 1 \).

This result has been generalized and will be published in another paper.

Conjecture

For every complex hyperplane arrangement the topological complexity of its complement equals (for every \( s \)) the cohomological lower bound.

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