

# Contents

<b>Preface</b> . . . . .	xi
<b>Part A: Ordering the Braids</b>	
<b>I. Braids vs. Self-Distributive Systems</b> . . . . .	1
I.1 Braid Groups . . . . .	4
I.2 Braid Colourings . . . . .	13
I.3 A Self-Distributive Operation on Braids . . . . .	26
I.4 Extended Braids . . . . .	35
I.5 Notes . . . . .	44
<b>II. Word Reversing</b> . . . . .	47
II.1 Complemented Presentations . . . . .	48
II.2 Coherent Complements . . . . .	58
II.3 Garside Elements . . . . .	68
II.4 The Case of Braids . . . . .	78
II.5 Double Reversing . . . . .	87
II.6 Notes . . . . .	94
<b>III. The Braid Order</b> . . . . .	97
III.1 More about Braid Colourings . . . . .	98
III.2 The Linear Ordering of Braids . . . . .	106
III.3 Handle Reduction . . . . .	115
III.4 Alternative Definitions . . . . .	127
III.5 Notes . . . . .	137

<b>IV. The Order on Positive Braids</b> . . . . .	141
IV.1 The Case of Three Strands . . . . .	142
IV.2 The General Case . . . . .	150
IV.3 Applications . . . . .	165
IV.4 Notes . . . . .	170
IV.Appendix: Rank Tables . . . . .	172

## Part B: Free LD-systems

<b>V. Orders on Free LD-systems</b> . . . . .	175
V.1 Free Systems . . . . .	178
V.2 The Absorption Property . . . . .	186
V.3 The Confluence Property . . . . .	193
V.4 The Comparison Property . . . . .	200
V.5 Canonical Orders . . . . .	209
V.6 Applications . . . . .	216
V.7 Notes . . . . .	231
<b>VI. Normal Forms</b> . . . . .	235
VI.1 Terms as Trees . . . . .	236
VI.2 The Cuts of a Term . . . . .	242
VI.3 The $\partial$ -Normal Form . . . . .	250
VI.4 The Right Normal Form . . . . .	256
VI.5 Applications . . . . .	271
VI.6 Notes . . . . .	276
VI.Appendix: The First Codes . . . . .	280
<b>VII. The Geometry Monoid</b> . . . . .	285
VII.1 Left Self-Distributivity Operators . . . . .	286
VII.2 Relations in the Geometry Monoid . . . . .	301
VII.3 Syntactic Proofs . . . . .	310
VII.4 Cuts and Collapsing . . . . .	322
VII.5 Notes . . . . .	329

<b>VIII. The Group of Left Self-Distributivity</b> . . . . .	331
VIII.1 The Group $G_{LD}$ and the Monoid $M_{LD}$ . . . . .	332
VIII.2 The Blueprint of a Term . . . . .	343
VIII.3 Order Properties in $G_{LD}$ . . . . .	356
VIII.4 Parabolic Subgroups . . . . .	367
VIII.5 Simple Elements in $M_{LD}$ . . . . .	371
VIII.6 Notes . . . . .	383
<b>IX. Progressive Expansions</b> . . . . .	385
IX.1 The Polish Algorithm . . . . .	386
IX.2 The Content of a Term . . . . .	395
IX.3 Perfect Terms . . . . .	401
IX.4 Convergence Results . . . . .	415
IX.5 Effective Decompositions . . . . .	421
IX.6 The Embedding Conjecture . . . . .	428
IX.7 Notes . . . . .	436
IX.Appendix: Other Algebraic Identities . . . . .	439
<b>Part C: Other LD-Systems</b>	
<b>X. More LD-Systems</b> . . . . .	443
X.1 The Laver Tables . . . . .	446
X.2 Finite Monogenic LD-systems . . . . .	457
X.3 Multi-LD-Systems . . . . .	467
X.4 Idempotent LD-systems . . . . .	472
X.5 Two-Sided Self-Distributivity . . . . .	476
X.6 Notes . . . . .	480
X.Appendix: The First Laver Tables . . . . .	485
<b>XI. LD-Monoids</b> . . . . .	489
XI.1 LD-Monoids . . . . .	490
XI.2 Completion of an LD-System . . . . .	498
XI.3 Free LD-Monoids . . . . .	511
XI.4 Orders on Free LD-Monoids . . . . .	517
XI.5 Extended Braids . . . . .	527
XI.6 Notes . . . . .	534

**XII. Elementary Embeddings** . . . . . 537

  XII.1 Large Cardinals . . . . . 538

  XII.2 Elementary Embeddings . . . . . 546

  XII.3 Operations on Elementary Embeddings . . . . . 553

  XII.4 Finite Quotients . . . . . 559

  XII.5 Notes . . . . . 568

**XIII. More about the Laver Tables** . . . . . 571

  XIII.1 A Dictionary . . . . . 572

  XIII.2 Computation of Rows . . . . . 577

  XIII.3 Fast Growing Functions . . . . . 583

  XIII.4 Lower Bounds . . . . . 591

  XIII.5 Notes . . . . . 598

**Bibliography** . . . . . 603

**List of Symbols** . . . . . 615

**Index** . . . . . 619

Part C: Other LD-Systems

**XI. LD-Monoids** . . . . . 621

  XI.1 LD-Monoids . . . . . 621

  XI.2 Completion of an LD-System . . . . . 628

  XI.3 Free LD-Monoids . . . . . 631

  XI.4 Orders on Free LD-Monoids . . . . . 637

  XI.5 External Bounds . . . . . 637

  XI.6 Notes . . . . . 638

**X. More LD-Systems** . . . . . 641

  X.1 The Laver Tables . . . . . 641

  X.2 Finite Abelian LD-Systems . . . . . 647

  X.3 Multi-LD-Systems . . . . . 657

  X.4 Idempotent LD-Systems . . . . . 667

  X.5 Two-Sided Self-Distributivity . . . . . 678

  X.6 Notes . . . . . 688

**IX. Appendix: The First Laver Tables** . . . . . 692

  IX.1 The First Code . . . . . 692

  IX.2 The Second Code . . . . . 692

  IX.3 The Third Code . . . . . 692

  IX.4 The Fourth Code . . . . . 692

  IX.5 The Fifth Code . . . . . 692

  IX.6 The Sixth Code . . . . . 692

  IX.7 The Seventh Code . . . . . 692

  IX.8 The Eighth Code . . . . . 692

  IX.9 The Ninth Code . . . . . 692

  IX.10 The Tenth Code . . . . . 692

  IX.11 The Eleventh Code . . . . . 692

  IX.12 The Twelfth Code . . . . . 692

  IX.13 The Thirteenth Code . . . . . 692

  IX.14 The Fourteenth Code . . . . . 692

  IX.15 The Fifteenth Code . . . . . 692

  IX.16 The Sixteenth Code . . . . . 692

  IX.17 The Seventeenth Code . . . . . 692

  IX.18 The Eighteenth Code . . . . . 692

  IX.19 The Nineteenth Code . . . . . 692

  IX.20 The Twentieth Code . . . . . 692