

# Classifying bidihedral skew braces part 2: the classification

Alan Koch

Agnes Scott College

May 27, 2026

The family  $\mathcal{A}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{B}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{C}_k$

The full  
classification

Bidihedral braces  
and Hopf-Galois  
structures

What's next

Joint work with Paul J. Truman

## Some notation is required

Alan Koch

We will be exploring many operations on the same underlying set.

Let  $G$  be a group with binary operation  $\diamond$ .

Write

▶  $G^\diamond = (G, \diamond)$

▶  $Z^\diamond = Z(G, \diamond)$

▶  $g^{\diamond n} = \underbrace{g \diamond g \diamond \cdots \diamond g}_{n \text{ times}}$

▶ For  $S \subseteq G$ ,  $\langle S \rangle_\diamond$  subgroup of  $G^\diamond$  generated by  $S$ .

▶  $e \in G$  the identity

If the operation is  $g \bullet h$  (or  $gh$ ) we write  $g^n$  for  $g^{\bullet n}$  and write  $G^\bullet, Z^\bullet, \langle S \rangle_\bullet$ .

Notation for inverses will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

The family  $\mathcal{A}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{B}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{C}_k$

The full classification

Bidihedral braces and Hopf-Galois structures

What's next

A **(skew left) brace** (hereafter, **brace**) is a triple  $(G, \bullet, \circ)$  where

- ▶  $G^\bullet$  is a group ( $\bullet$  is the **additive** operation)
- ▶  $G^\circ$  is a group ( $\circ$  is the **multiplicative** operation)
- ▶ the following **brace relation** holds for all  $g, h, \ell \in G$ :

$$g \circ (h\ell) = (g \circ h)g^{-1}(g \circ \ell), \quad gg^{-1} = e.$$

Easy example: let  $\circ = \bullet$ .  $(G, \bullet, \bullet)$  is the **trivial brace**.

**Fact.** In a brace, both  $G^\bullet$  and  $G^\circ$  have the same identity element.

If both  $(G, \bullet, \circ)$  and  $(G, \circ, \bullet)$  are braces, then we have a **biskew brace**.

The family  $\mathcal{A}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{B}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{C}_k$

The full classification

Bidihedral braces and Hopf-Galois structures

What's next

## Objective

Obtain a complete set of (isomorphism classes of) braces  $(G, \bullet, \circ)$  with

$$G^\bullet \cong G^\circ \cong D_n,$$

$D_n$  the dihedral group of order  $2n$ ,  $n \geq 3$ .

Such braces are called *bidihedral*.

Strategy. Fix  $G^\bullet$  and construct all possible  $G^\circ$ .

Throughout, we assume

$$G^\bullet = \langle r, s : r^n = s^2 = rsrs = e \rangle = \{r^i, r^i s : 0 \leq i \leq n-1\},$$

and we let

$$K = K_n = \{k \in \mathbb{Z}_n : k^2 = 1\}, \quad \kappa = \kappa_n = |K|.$$

The classification will consist of three families of braces.

# Outline

The family  $\mathcal{A}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{B}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{C}_k$

The full classification

Bidihedral braces and Hopf-Galois structures

What's next

Alan Koch

The family  $\mathcal{A}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{B}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{C}_k$

The full  
classification

Bidihedral braces  
and Hopf-Galois  
structures

What's next

$$G^\bullet = \langle r, s : r^n = s^2 = rsrs = e \rangle$$

Fix  $k \in K$ .

Define

$$r^i s^u \circ r^j s^v = (r^{k^v i} s^u) (r^{k^u j} s^v) = r^{k^v i + (-k)^u j} s^{u+v},$$

i.e.,

$$r^i \circ r^j = (r^i)(r^j) = r^{i+j}$$

$$r^i \circ r^j s = (r^{ki})(r^j s) = r^{ki+j} s$$

$$r^i s \circ r^j = (r^i s)(r^{kj}) = r^{i-kj} s$$

$$r^i s \circ r^j s = (r^{ki} s)(r^{kj} s) = r^{k(i-j)} s.$$

$$r^i s^u \circ r^j s^v = r^{k^v i + (-k)^u j} s^{u+v}$$

$G^\circ$  is a group:

- ▶  $g \circ e = e \circ g = g$  (where  $e \in G^\bullet$  is the identity)
- ▶  $r^i \circ r^{-i} = e = r^i s \circ r^i s$  (inverses)
- ▶  $G^\circ$  is associative (straightforward)
- ▶  $G^\circ = \langle r, s : r^{\circ n} = s \circ s = r \circ s \circ r \circ s = e \rangle$

so  $G^\circ \cong D_n$ .

Not hard to show  $(G, \bullet, \circ)$  satisfies the brace relation.

So,  $\mathcal{A}_k := (G, \bullet, \circ)$  is a brace.

$$r^i s^u \circ r^j s^v = r^{k^v i + (-k)^u j} s^{u+v}$$

[The family  \$\mathcal{A}\_k\$](#) [The family  \$\mathcal{B}\_k\$](#) [The family  \$\mathcal{C}\_k\$](#) [The full classification](#)[Bidihedral braces and Hopf-Galois structures](#)[What's next](#)

Although

$$G^\bullet = \langle r, s : r^n = s^2 = rsrs = e \rangle$$

$$G^\circ = \langle r, s : r^{\circ n} = s \circ s = r \circ s \circ r \circ s = e \rangle,$$

if  $k \neq 1$  then  $\mathcal{A}_k$  is not the trivial brace.

For example,

$$r \circ s = r^k s, \quad r^k \circ s = rs,$$

so the map  $r \mapsto r, s \mapsto s$  is not an isomorphism

$$\mathcal{A}_k \rightarrow (G, \bullet, \circ).$$

$$r^i s^u \circ r^j s^v = r^{k^y i + (-k)^y j} s^{u+v}, \quad K = \{k \in \mathbb{Z}_n : k^2 = 1\}$$

We get a family of braces, depending on  $k \in K$ .

Recall  $\gamma_g[h] = g^{-1}(g \circ h)$ , and note

$$\gamma_r[r] = r^{-1}(r \circ r) = r$$

$$\gamma_r[s] = r^{-1}(r \circ s) = r^{-1} r^k s = r^{k-1} s$$

$$\gamma_s[r] = s(s \circ r) = s r^{-k} s = r^k$$

$$\gamma_s[s] = s(s \circ s) = s.$$

These are the braces predicted by Paul in part 1 ( $d = n$ ).

## From Part I

Recall  $d = n$  (possibly  $d = n/2$  if  $8 \mid n$ ).

$$\gamma_r[r] = r^{1+d}$$

$$\gamma_r[s] = r^{(1+d)k-1} s$$

$$\gamma_s[r] = r^k$$

$$\gamma_s[s] = s.$$

The family  $\mathcal{A}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{B}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{C}_k$

The full classification

Bidihedral braces and Hopf-Galois structures

What's next

**Question.** When is  $\mathcal{A}_{k'} \cong \mathcal{A}_k$ ?

General strategy:

- ▶ Pick  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(G^\bullet)$ .
- ▶ Define an operation  $\circ'$  on  $G$  by

$$g \circ' h = \alpha^{-1}(\alpha(g) \circ \alpha(h)).$$

- ▶ Then  $(G, \bullet, \circ')$  is a brace, isomorphic to  $\mathcal{A}_k$ .
- ▶ Turns out  $(G, \bullet, \circ') = \mathcal{A}_{k'}$  for some  $k' \in K$ .

**Fact.** Every automorphism of  $G^\bullet$  preserves  $\circ$ .

Thus,  $\mathcal{A}_{k'} \cong \mathcal{A}_k$  if and only if  $k' = k$ .

Every choice of  $k \in K$  gives a different bidihedral brace.

The family  $\mathcal{A}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{B}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{C}_k$

The full  
classification

Bidihedral braces  
and Hopf-Galois  
structures

What's next

$$r^i s^u \circ r^j s^v = r^{k^v i + (-k)^u j} s^{u+v}, \mathcal{A}_k = (G, \bullet, \circ)$$

Some properties:

- ▶ If  $k = 1$  we get the trivial brace  $(G, \bullet, \bullet)$ .
- ▶ If  $\widehat{\mathcal{A}}_k$  is the opposite brace to  $\mathcal{A}_k$ , then  $\widehat{\widehat{\mathcal{A}}_k} = \mathcal{A}_{-k}$ .
- ▶ Each  $\mathcal{A}_k$  is biskew, and  $(G, \circ, \bullet) \cong \mathcal{A}_k$ .
- ▶  $H := \langle r \rangle_\bullet = \langle r \rangle_\circ$  is an ideal of  $\mathcal{A}_k$  which is a trivial subbrace of  $\mathcal{A}_k$ .
- ▶ If  $2 \nmid n$  this is a complete list of bidihedral braces.
- ▶ Each  $\mathcal{A}_k$  is also skew right, that is,

$$(xy) \circ a = (x \circ a) a^{-1} (y \circ a), \quad x, y, a \in G.$$

The family  $\mathcal{A}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{B}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{C}_k$

The full classification

Bidihedral braces and Hopf-Galois structures

What's next

# Outline

The family  $\mathcal{A}_k$

**The family  $\mathcal{B}_k$**

The family  $\mathcal{C}_k$

The full classification

Bidihedral braces and Hopf-Galois structures

What's next

Alan Koch

The family  $\mathcal{A}_k$

**The family  $\mathcal{B}_k$**

The family  $\mathcal{C}_k$

The full  
classification

Bidihedral braces  
and Hopf-Galois  
structures

What's next

## Abelian maps: a review

Alan Koch

One simple way to construct braces is using abelian maps.

Let  $\Gamma := \Gamma^\bullet$  be any group, and let  $\psi \in \text{End}(\Gamma)$  with  $\psi(\Gamma) \leq \Gamma$  abelian.

Then  $\psi$  is said to be an *abelian map*, and we denote the set of all abelian maps on  $\Gamma$  by  $\text{Ab}(\Gamma)$ .

For  $\psi \in \text{Ab}(\Gamma)$  we define:

$$x * y = x\psi(x)^{-1}y\psi(x), \quad x, y \in \Gamma.$$

Then  $(\Gamma, \bullet, *)$  is a (biskew) brace (K, 2021).

This theory has been extended several ways through the works of Caranti-Stefanello, Stefanello-Trappeniers (early 2020's).

**Fact.** If  $\Gamma$  is finite and  $\psi$  has no nontrivial fixed points (*fixed-point-free*), then  $\Gamma^* \cong \Gamma^\bullet$ .

One isomorphism  $\Gamma^* \rightarrow \Gamma^\bullet$  is  $x \mapsto x\psi(x^{-1})$ .

The family  $\mathcal{A}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{B}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{C}_k$

The full classification

Bidihedral braces and Hopf-Galois structures

What's next

Fixed-point-free abelian maps on dihedral groups have been classified by (Childs, 2013) and (K-Stordy-Truman, 2020).

If  $n$  is odd, then the only such map is the trivial map, resulting in the trivial brace.

If  $n$  is even we also have a family of maps  $\psi = \psi_c$ ,  $0 \leq c < n$  given by

$$\psi(r) = r^c s, \quad \psi(s) = (r^c s)^c.$$

If  $0 \leq c, c' \leq n$  give groups  $G^*$ ,  $G^{*'}$  respectively then  $g *' h = g * h$  for all  $g, h \in G$  iff  $4 \mid n$  and  $c' = c + n/2$ .

We assume for the rest of this section that  $n$  is even.

[The family  \$\mathcal{A}\_k\$](#) [The family  \$\mathcal{B}\_k\$](#) [The family  \$\mathcal{C}\_k\$](#) [The full classification](#)[Bidihedral braces and Hopf-Galois structures](#)[What's next](#)

- ▶ Fix  $k \in K$ , giving  $\mathcal{A}_k = (G, \bullet, \circ)$ .
- ▶ The abelian maps on  $G^\circ$  are determined by their values on  $r$  and  $s$ , namely

$$\psi_c(r) = r^c s, \quad \psi_c(s) = (r^c s)^c.$$

- ▶ Note that  $r^c s \circ r^c s = e$ .
- ▶ Let  $\psi = \psi_c \in \text{Ab}(G^\circ)$ , and define

$$g * h = g \circ \psi(g) \circ h \circ \psi(g).$$

- ▶ Turns out  $g * h = g \circ (\psi(g)h\psi(g))$ .
- ▶ Abelian map theory gives that  $(G, \circ, *)$  is a brace.

**Question.** Is  $(G, \bullet, *)$  a brace?

The family  $\mathcal{A}_k$ The family  $\mathcal{B}_k$ The family  $\mathcal{C}_k$ The full  
classificationBidiheral braces  
and Hopf-Galois  
structures

What's next

$g * h = g \circ (\psi(g)h\psi(g))$ . Is  $(G, \bullet, *)$  brace?

**Yes.** Let  $a = \psi(g)$ . Notice  $a^2 = a^{\circ 2} = a^{*2} = e$ .

$$\begin{aligned}g * (h\ell) &= g \circ (a(h\ell)a) \\ &= (g \circ a)g^{-1}(g \circ h)g^{-1}(g \circ \ell)g^{-1}(g \circ a)\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}(g * h)g^{-1}(g * \ell) &= (g \circ (aha))g^{-1}(g \circ (al a)) \\ &= (g \circ a)g^{-1}(g \circ h)g^{-1}(g \circ a) \\ &\quad g^{-1}(g \circ a)g^{-1}(g \circ \ell)g^{-1}(g \circ a)\end{aligned}$$

So the brace relation holds if and only if

$$(g \circ a)g^{-1}(g \circ a)g^{-1} = e$$

**Fact.** In a skew left brace,  $x^{-1}(x \circ y)x^{-1} = (x \circ y^{-1})^{-1}$ .

(True since  $x = x \circ (yy^{-1}) = (x \circ y)x^{-1}(x \circ y^{-1})$ .)

So we need  $(g \circ a)(g \circ a)^{-1} = e$  which is true.

$g * h = g \circ (\psi(g)h\psi(g))$ ,  $\psi$  nontrivial.

Alan Koch

For now, the brace  $(G, \bullet, *)$  will be denoted  $\mathcal{B}_{k,c}$ .

The family  $\mathcal{A}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{B}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{C}_k$

Recall  $r^i s^u \circ r^j s^v = (r^{k^v i} s^u) (r^{k^u j} s^v) = r^{k^v i + (-k)^u j} s^{u+v}$ .

The full classification

Bidihedral braces and Hopf-Galois structures

Since

$$r \circ r = r^2, \quad r * r = r \circ (r^c s) r (r^c s) = r \circ r^{-1} = e$$

What's next

we see that this is a “new” brace.

Also, since  $(G, \bullet, \circ)$  and  $(G, \bullet, *)$  have the same additive group  $G^\bullet$  and  $\text{Aut}(G, \bullet, \circ) = \text{Aut}(G^\bullet)$  it follows that

$\mathcal{B}_{k,c} \not\cong \mathcal{A}_{k'}$  for every  $k, k' \in K$ ,  $0 \leq c < n$ .

## Isomorphism problems

**Question.** When is  $\mathcal{B}_{k',c'} \cong \mathcal{B}_{k,c}$ ?

Let  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(G^\bullet)$  be given by  $\alpha(r) = r$ ,  $\alpha(s) = rs$ .

Let  $\mathcal{B}_{k,c} = (G, \bullet, *)$  and define

$$g *' h = \alpha(\alpha^{-1}(g) * \alpha^{-1}(h)).$$

Notice, for example, that

$$r * s = r \circ (r^c s \bullet s \bullet r^c s) = r \circ r^{2c} s = r^{k+2c} s$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} r *' s &= \alpha(r * r^{-1} s) \\ &= \alpha(r \circ (r^c s \bullet r^{-1} s \bullet r^c s)) \\ &= \alpha(r \circ r^{2c+1} s) \\ &= \alpha(r^{k+2c+1} s) \\ &= r^{k+2(c+1)} s. \end{aligned}$$

More generally, turns out  $\mathcal{B}_{k,c+1} \cong \mathcal{B}_{k,c}$  for all  $c$ .

So the brace obtained (up to isomorphism) is independent of the choice of  $c$ .

Let  $\psi(r) = s$ ,  $\psi(s) = e$  ( $c = 0$ ), and let  $\mathcal{B}_k = \mathcal{B}_{k,0}$ .

The operation is

$$r^i s^u * r^j s^v = r^i s^u \circ r^{(-1)^j} s^v = r^{k^v i + (-1)^{i+u} k^u j} s^{u+v}.$$

Let  $\beta_u(r) = r^u$ ,  $\beta_u(s) = s$ , where  $\gcd(u, n) = 1$ . Then  $\beta_u \in \text{Aut}(G^\bullet)$ . If

$$g *' h = \beta_u(\beta_u^{-1}(g) * \beta_u^{-1}(h)).$$

Then  $(G, \bullet, *') = \mathcal{B}_{k,cu} \cong \mathcal{B}_{k,c}$ .

As  $\text{Aut}(G^\bullet) = \langle \alpha, \beta_u : \gcd(u, n) = 1 \rangle$  we get  $\mathcal{B}_{k'} \cong \mathcal{B}_k$  if and only if  $k' = k$ .

So all the  $\mathcal{B}_k$  are distinct.

The family  $\mathcal{A}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{B}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{C}_k$

The full classification

Bidihedral braces and Hopf-Galois structures

What's next

$$g * h = g \circ (\psi(g)h\psi(g)), \quad \psi(r) = s, \quad \psi(s) = e$$

When we look at the  $\gamma$ -functions we get, for example,

$$\gamma_{r^k s}[r^k s] = r^{k-2} s$$

$$\gamma_{r^k s}[r] = r^{-k}$$

$$\gamma_r[r^k s] = r^{-k-1} s$$

$$\gamma_r[r] = r^{-1}$$

which agrees with part 1:

## From Part 1

For  $G^\circ = \langle a, b \rangle$ :

$$\gamma_a(a) = b^{-2} a$$

$$\gamma_a(b) = b^{k'}$$

$$\gamma_b(a) = b^{k'-1} a$$

$$\gamma_b(b) = b^{-1}$$

Let  $a = r^k s$ ,  $b = r$ ,  $k' = -k$ .

$$g * h = g \circ (\psi(g)h\psi(g))$$

More properties of  $\mathcal{B}_k$ :

- ▶ If  $\gamma_{\mathcal{A}_k}$  and  $\gamma_{\mathcal{B}_k}$  are the  $\gamma$ -functions on these braces, then

$$\gamma_{\mathcal{B}_k, g}[h] = \gamma_{\mathcal{A}_k, g}[\psi(g)h\psi(g)].$$

- ▶ For  $k \neq 1$ ,  $\mathcal{B}_k$  does not arise from a  $\psi \in \text{Ab}(G^\bullet)$  using the usual abelian map construction.
- ▶  $\mathcal{B}_k$  is biskew iff  $k = 1$ .
- ▶  $\widehat{\mathcal{B}}_k = \mathcal{B}_{-k}$ .
- ▶ If  $8 \nmid n$  (with  $n$  even) then we have a complete collection of bidihedral braces.
- ▶ The subgroup  $H = (\langle r \rangle_{\bullet}, *) = \langle r^2, r \rangle_*$  is dihedral.

The family  $\mathcal{A}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{B}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{C}_k$

The full classification

Bidihedral braces and Hopf-Galois structures

What's next

# Outline

The family  $\mathcal{A}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{B}_k$

**The family  $\mathcal{C}_k$**

The full classification

Bidihedral braces and Hopf-Galois structures

What's next

Alan Koch

The family  $\mathcal{A}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{B}_k$

**The family  $\mathcal{C}_k$**

The full  
classification

Bidihedral braces  
and Hopf-Galois  
structures

What's next

In this section we assume  $8 \mid n$ .

Fix  $k \in K$ . Note that  $k$  is odd.

Let  $d = n/2$ , and let  $z = r^d$ .

Then  $Z^\bullet = \langle z \rangle$ .

Notice

$$z \circ r^j s^v = r^d \circ r^j s^v = r^{k^v d + j} s^v = z^{k^v} r^j s^v = z r^j s^v$$

and

$$r^j s^v \circ z = r^{j + (-k)^v d} s^v = r^{j+d} s^v = z r^j s^v,$$

so  $Z^\circ = \langle z \rangle$  and  $z \circ g = zg$  for all  $g \in G$ . ( $Z^\circ = \text{Ann}(\mathcal{A}_k)$ .)

Define

$$r^i s^u \blacksquare r^j s^v = (r^i s^u \circ r^j s^v) z^{i(j+v)}.$$

$$r^i s^u \blacksquare r^j s^v = (r^i s^u \circ r^j s^v) z^{i(j+v)}, \quad z = r^d$$

Notice  $z \in Z^\blacksquare$  and  $z \blacksquare g = z \circ g = zg$  for all  $g \in G$ .

If  $f = r^i s^u$ ,  $g = r^j s^v$ ,  $h = r^\ell s^w$ :

$$\begin{aligned} f \blacksquare (g \blacksquare h) &= f \blacksquare ((g \circ h) z^{j(\ell+w)}) \\ &= (f \circ (g \circ h)) z^{i(j+\ell+v+w)} z^{j(\ell+w)} \\ &= (f \circ g \circ h) z^{ij+i\ell+iv+iw+j\ell+jw} \\ (f \blacksquare g) \blacksquare h &= (f \circ g) z^{i(j+v)} \blacksquare h \\ &= ((f \circ g) \circ h) z^{(i+j)(\ell+w)} z^{i(j+v)} \\ &= (f \circ g \circ h) z^{ij+i\ell+iv+iw+j\ell+jw} \end{aligned}$$

and  $G^\blacksquare$  is associative.

$g \blacksquare e = e \blacksquare g$  for all  $g \in G$ .

$r^i \blacksquare (rz)^{-i} = e$ ,  $r^i s \blacksquare r^i s = e$ .

$G^\blacksquare$  is a group.

...and a brace...

Alan Koch

The family  $\mathcal{A}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{B}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{C}_k$

The full  
classification

Bidihedral braces  
and Hopf-Galois  
structures

What's next

If  $f = r^i s^u$ ,  $g = r^j s^v$ ,  $h = r^\ell s^w$ :

$$\begin{aligned}(f \blacksquare g) f^{-1} (f \blacksquare g) &= \left( (f \circ g) z^{i(j+v)} \right) f^{-1} \left( (f \circ h) z^{i(\ell+w)} \right) \\ &= \left( (f \circ g) f^{-1} (f \circ h) \right) z^{i(j+v)} z^{i(\ell+w)} \\ &= (f \circ (gh)) z^{i(j+\ell+v+w)} \\ &= f \blacksquare (gh).\end{aligned}$$

Denote the inverse to  $g$  in  $G^\blacksquare$  by  $\tilde{g}$ .

Given all of the following:

▶  $r^{\blacksquare m} = r^m z^{m(m-1)/2}$

▶  $\tilde{r} = r^{-1} z$

▶  $s \blacksquare s = (s \circ s) z^0 = e$

▶  $s \blacksquare r = (s \circ r) z^0 = r^{-k} s$

▶  $\tilde{r} \blacksquare s = r^{-1} z \blacksquare s = (r^{-1} \circ s) z \bullet z^{-1} = r^{-k} s = s \blacksquare r$

we get

$$G^\blacksquare = \langle r, s : r^{\blacksquare n} = s^{\blacksquare 2} = r \blacksquare s \blacksquare r \blacksquare s = e \rangle_{\blacksquare} \cong D_n$$

and  $(G, \bullet, \blacksquare)$  is bidihedral.

$$r^i s^u \blacksquare r^j s^v = (r^i s^u \circ r^j s^v) z^{i(j+v)}, \quad z = r^d$$

Denote this brace by  $\mathcal{C}_k$ .

This is a new brace family:

$$\mathcal{A}_k : r \circ r = r^2$$

$$\mathcal{B}_k : r * r = e$$

$$\mathcal{C}_k : r \blacksquare r = r^2 z = r^{2+d}.$$

Furthermore  $\mathcal{C}_k$  is not isomorphic to any of the braces constructed so far.

$$r^i s^u \cdot r^j s^v = (r^i s^u \circ r^j s^v) z^{i(j+v)}, \quad z = r^d$$

Here, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_r[r] &= rz & \gamma_r[s] &= r^{k-1} sz \\ \gamma_s[r] &= r^k & \gamma_s[s] &= s \end{aligned}$$

This  $\gamma$ -function was predicted in part 1:

## From Part I, and from §1

Since  $8 \mid n$  we may take  $d = n/2$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_r[r] &= r^{1+d} = rz & \gamma_r[s] &= r^{(1+d)k-1} s = r^{k-1} sz \\ \gamma_s[r] &= r^k & \gamma_s[s] &= s \end{aligned}$$

## Uniqueness of representation?

Alan Koch

**Question.** Suppose  $\mathcal{C}_{k'} \cong \mathcal{C}_k$ . Must  $k' = k$ ?

Note  $r \blacksquare s = r^k s z = r^{k+d} s$ .

Let  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(\mathbf{G}^\bullet)$ ,  $\alpha(r) = r$ ,  $\alpha(s) = rs$ , and as before let

$$g \blacksquare' h = \alpha(\alpha^{-1}(g) \blacksquare \alpha^{-1}(h)).$$

Then, e.g.,

$$r \blacksquare' s = \alpha(r \blacksquare r^{-1} s) = \alpha(r \circ r^{-1} s) = \alpha(r^{k-1} s) = r^k s.$$

Since  $r \blacksquare' s = r^{k'} s z$  it follows that  $k' = k + d$ .

In fact,  $\mathcal{C}_{k'} \cong \mathcal{C}_{k+d}$  via  $\alpha$ .

$$(k')^2 = (k + d)^2 = k^2 + 2kd + d^2 = 1 \text{ since } d = n/2.$$

On the other hand,  $\beta(r) = r^u$ ,  $\beta(s) = s$  is an automorphism of  $\mathcal{C}_k$ .

The family  $\mathcal{A}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{B}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{C}_k$

The full classification

Bidihedral braces and Hopf-Galois structures

What's next

Repeat the  $\mathcal{B}_k$  process?

Alan Koch

**Question.** Let  $\psi \in \text{Ab}(G^\bullet)$ , and let

$$g \star h = g \blacksquare \widetilde{\psi(g)} \blacksquare h \blacksquare \psi(g).$$

Is  $(G, \bullet, \star)$  a brace?

Yes, but.

For  $\psi_c \in \text{Ab}(G^\bullet)$  we can denote this brace by  $\mathcal{D}_{k,c}$ .

Then

$$\mathcal{D}_{k,c} = \mathcal{B}_{(-1)^c k, c+d/2},$$

so they're not new.

The family  $\mathcal{A}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{B}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{C}_k$

The full  
classification

Bidihedral braces  
and Hopf-Galois  
structures

What's next

$$r^i s^u \blacksquare r^j s^v = (r^i s^u \circ r^j s^v) z^{i(j+v)}$$

Properties. (Recall  $\kappa_n = |K_n|$ .)

- ▶ The ideal  $H = (\langle r \rangle_{\bullet, \blacksquare}) = \langle r \rangle_{\blacksquare}$  is cyclic.
- ▶ The ideal  $H \subseteq (G, \bullet, \blacksquare)$  is a nontrivial subbrace of  $\mathcal{C}_k$ .
- ▶  $\widehat{\mathcal{C}}_k = \mathcal{C}_{-k}$ .
- ▶ If  $8 \mid n$  then we have all bidihedral braces.

# Outline

The family  $\mathcal{A}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{B}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{C}_k$

**The full classification**

Bidihedral braces and Hopf-Galois structures

What's next

Alan Koch

The family  $\mathcal{A}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{B}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{C}_k$

**The full  
classification**

Bidihedral braces  
and Hopf-Galois  
structures

What's next

$$\kappa_n = |\mathcal{K}_n|, \quad \mathcal{K}_n = \{k \in \mathbb{Z}_n : k^2 = 1\}$$

## Theorem

The number  $\beth_n$  of bidihedral braces of order  $2n$  is

$$\beth_n = \begin{cases} \kappa_n & n \equiv 1, 3, 5, 7 \pmod{8} \\ 2\kappa_n & n \equiv 2, 4, 6 \pmod{8} \\ \frac{5}{2}\kappa_n & n \equiv 0 \pmod{8} \end{cases}.$$

## Proof.

- ▶  $n$  odd. Choice of  $k \in K$  gives  $\mathcal{A}_k$ .
- ▶  $n \equiv 2, 4, 6 \pmod{8}$ . Choice of  $k \in K$  gives  $\mathcal{A}_k$  and  $\mathcal{B}_k$ .
- ▶  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{8}$ . Choice of  $k \in K$  gives  $\mathcal{A}_k$ ;  $\mathcal{B}_k$ ; and  $\mathcal{C}_k \cong \mathcal{C}_{k+d}$ .



The family  $\mathcal{A}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{B}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{C}_k$

The full classification

Bidihedral braces and Hopf-Galois structures

What's next

# Outline

The family  $\mathcal{A}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{B}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{C}_k$

The full classification

**Bidihedral braces and Hopf-Galois structures**

What's next

Alan Koch

The family  $\mathcal{A}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{B}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{C}_k$

The full  
classification

**Bidihedral braces  
and Hopf-Galois  
structures**

What's next

Reset notation.

Let  $L/K$  be a Galois extension, Galois group  $G^\circ$ .

Then each brace  $(G, \bullet, \circ)$  corresponds to a Hopf-Galois structure on  $L/K$ .

Isomorphic, non-identical braces can give different Hopf-Galois structures.

The number of such structures,  $R(D_n, [D_n])$ , is enumerated in (Kohl, 2020).

The family  $\mathcal{A}_K$

The family  $\mathcal{B}_K$

The family  $\mathcal{C}_K$

The full  
classification

Bidihedral braces  
and Hopf-Galois  
structures

What's next

The number of such structures,  $R(D_n, [D_n])$ , is enumerated in (Kohl, 2020).

$$R(D_n, [D_n]) = \begin{cases} \kappa_n & n \equiv 1, 3, 5, 7 \pmod{8} \\ (1+n)\kappa_n & n \equiv 2, 6 \pmod{8} \\ (1 + \frac{n}{2})\kappa_n & n \equiv 4 \pmod{8} \\ (2 + \frac{n}{2})\kappa_n & n \equiv 0 \pmod{8} \end{cases} .$$

- ▶  $n \equiv 1, 3, 5, 7 \pmod{8}$ . From  $\mathcal{A}_k$ .
- ▶  $n \equiv 2, 6 \pmod{8}$ . From  $\mathcal{A}_k$  and  $\mathcal{B}_{k,c}$ ,  $0 \leq c < n$ .
- ▶  $n \equiv 4 \pmod{8}$ . From  $\mathcal{A}_k$  and  $\mathcal{B}_{k,c}$ ,  $0 \leq c < n/2$ .
- ▶  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{8}$ . From  $\mathcal{A}_k$ ;  $\mathcal{B}_{k,c}$ ,  $0 \leq c < n/2$ ;  $\mathcal{C}_k$ .

The family  $\mathcal{A}_k$ The family  $\mathcal{B}_k$ The family  $\mathcal{C}_k$ 

The full classification

Bidihedral braces and Hopf-Galois structures

What's next

# Outline

The family  $\mathcal{A}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{B}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{C}_k$

The full classification

Bidihedral braces and Hopf-Galois structures

**What's next**

Alan Koch

The family  $\mathcal{A}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{B}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{C}_k$

The full  
classification

Bidihedral braces  
and Hopf-Galois  
structures

**What's next**

Suppose  $(G, \bullet, \circ)$  is a brace, and  $\psi \in \text{Ab}(G^\circ)$ .

Let

$$g * h = g \circ \overline{\psi(g)} \circ h \circ \psi(g).$$

1. When is  $g * h = g \circ (\overline{\psi(g)} h \psi(g))$ ?
2. When is  $(G, \bullet, *)$  a brace?
3. When is  $(G, \bullet, *)$  biskew?

The family  $\mathcal{A}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{B}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{C}_k$

The full  
classification

Bidihedral braces  
and Hopf-Galois  
structures

What's next

The family  $\mathcal{A}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{B}_k$

The family  $\mathcal{C}_k$

The full  
classification

Bidihedral braces  
and Hopf-Galois  
structures

What's next

Thank you.