
THOMAS KOBERDA, University of Virginia

Square roots of Thompson's group F

I will discuss square roots of Thompson's group F , which are certain two-generator subgroups of the homeomorphism group of the interval, the squares of which generate a copy of Thompson's group F . We prove that these groups may contain nonabelian free groups, they can fail to be smoothable, and can fail to be finitely presented. This represents joint work with Y. Lodha.