

ALGEBRAIC THEORY OF SKEW-MORPHISMS

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(Cayley) Regular Action

Cayley: A finite group G is isomorphic to a subgroup of \mathbb{S}_G :

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$$G \cong G_L$$

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$$G_L \leq \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$$

$\text{Aut}(\Gamma)$ may be bigger than G_L :

$$\text{Aut}(\Gamma) = G_L \cdot \text{Stab}_{\text{Aut}(\Gamma)}(u)$$

Equivalent definition: Let G be a finite group and X be a subset of G that does not contain the identity 1_G and is closed under taking inverses:

The **Cayley graph** $\Gamma = C(G, X)$ is the graph with vertex set $V = G$ and edge set $\mathcal{E} = \{ \{g, gx\} \mid g \in G, x \in X \}$.

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$\text{Stab}_{\text{Aut}(\Gamma)}(1_G)$ preserves X .

- ▶ if G is abelian and X contains at least one non-involution, then $\varphi : x \rightarrow x^{-1}$ is a (non-trivial) group automorphism of G that preserves X (since X is closed under inverses):

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- ▶ Cayley graphs $C(G, X)$ for which $\text{Stab}_{\text{Aut}(\Gamma)}(1_G)$ is non-trivial and G_L is normal in $\text{Aut}(\Gamma)$ are called **normal Cayley graphs**

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Abelian groups of exponent greater than 2 do not admit GRR's.

Graphical Regular Representation

Theorem (Godsil, Watkins, ...)

Let G be a finite group that does not have a GRR, i.e., a finite group that does not admit a regular representation as the full automorphism group of a graph. Then G is an abelian group of exponent greater than 2 or G is a generalized dicyclic group $\langle a, x \mid a^{2^n} = 1, x^2 = a^n, x^{-1}ax = a^{-1} \rangle$ or G is isomorphic to one of the 13 groups : $\mathbb{Z}_2^2, \mathbb{Z}_2^3, \mathbb{Z}_2^4, \mathcal{D}_3, \mathcal{D}_4, \mathcal{D}_5, \mathcal{A}_4, \mathbb{Q} \times \mathbb{Z}_3, \mathbb{Q} \times \mathbb{Z}_4, \langle a, b, c \mid a^2 = b^2 = c^2 = 1, abc = bca = cab \rangle, \langle a, b \mid a^8 = b^2 = 1, b^{-1}ab = a^5 \rangle, \langle a, b, c \mid a^3 = b^3 = c^2 = 1, ab = ba, (ac)^2 = (bc)^2 = 1 \rangle, \langle a, b, c \mid a^3 = b^3 = c^3 = 1, ac = ca, bc = cb, b^{-1}ab = ac \rangle.$

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True for nilpotent groups.

Orientable Maps

- ▶ an **orientable map** \mathcal{M} is a 2-cell embedding of a graph in an orientable surface; an embedding in which every face is homeomorphic to the open disc



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- ▶ given a finite connected graph $\Gamma = (V, E)$, an orientable embedding of Γ is determined by choosing a *cyclic local permutation* ρ_v of arcs emanating from each vertex:

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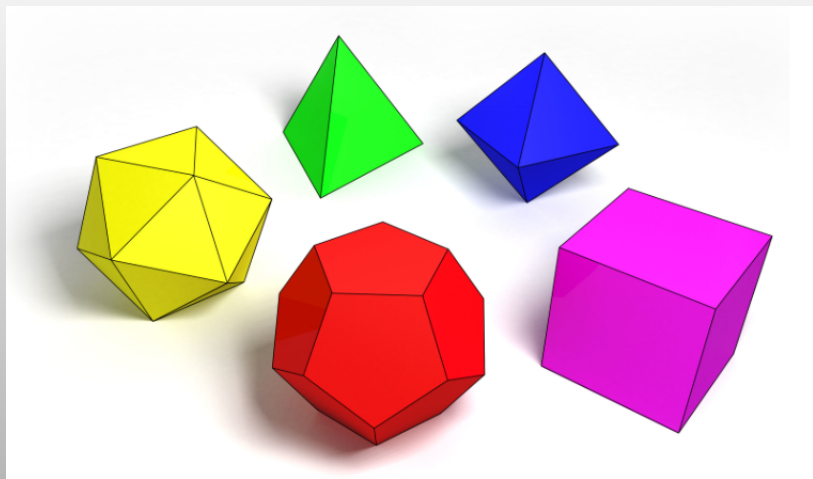
$$\rho \in \mathbb{S}_{D(\Gamma)} : \quad \rho = \cup \rho_v, \quad v \in V$$

- ▶ if $\Gamma = C(G, X)$ is a Cayley graph, ρ_g can be thought of as a cyclic permutation of X :

$$\rho_g((g, x)) = (g, \rho_g(x))$$



Classical Examples - The Five Platonic Solids



Four of the five platonic solids are embeddings of Cayley graphs

Regular Maps

Definition

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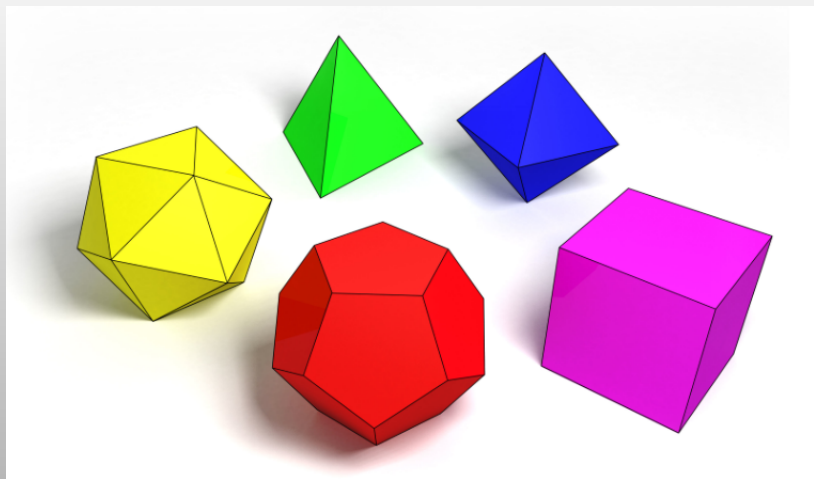
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A map \mathcal{M} is regular if and only if $|Aut\mathcal{M}| = |D(\mathcal{M})|$

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All five platonic solids are regular maps

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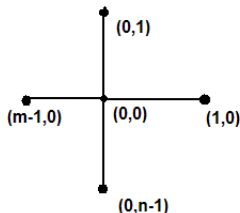
Equivalently, a Cayley map is a drawing of a Cayley graph on a surface such that the outgoing darts are ordered the same way around each vertex; the local successor of the dart (g, x) is the dart $(g, p(x))$.

Cayley Maps

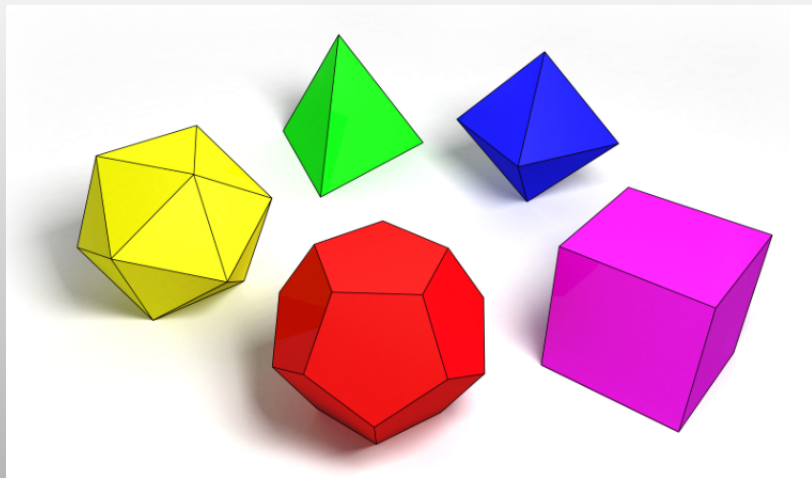
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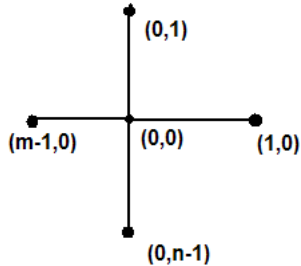
- ▶ $|\mathcal{D}(CM(G, X, p))| = |G| \cdot |X|$
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- ▶ $|\mathcal{D}(CM(G, X, p))| = |G| \cdot |X|$
- ▶ in order for a Cayley map to be regular, the stabilizer of any vertex in $\text{Aut}(CM(G, X, p))$ must be of size $|X|$
- ▶ since the stabilizers of orientable maps are cyclic, in order for a Cayley map to be regular, there must exist an automorphism Φ that maps $(1, x)$ to $(1, p(x))$

$$\Phi(1_G) = 1_G \text{ and } \Phi((1_G, x)) = (1_G, p(x))$$



Skew-Morphisms

Definition (RJ, Širáň)

A *skew-morphism* of a group G is a permutation φ of G preserving the identity and satisfying the property

$$\varphi(gh) = \varphi(g)\varphi^{\pi(g)}(h)$$

for all $g, h \in G$ and a function $\pi : G \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{|\varphi|}$, called the *power function* of G .

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- ▶ skew-morphisms were originally introduced for the study of regular Cayley maps
- ▶ they have since proved central in the theory of cyclic group extensions
- ▶ the focus of this talk is on the interplay between their original use in the topological graph theory and their group-theoretical properties

Theorem (RJ, Širáň)

Let $\mathcal{M} = CM(G, X, p)$ be any Cayley map. Then \mathcal{M} is regular iff there exists a skew-morphism φ of G satisfying the property $\varphi(x) = p(x)$ for all $x \in X$.

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Proof.

- ▶ If $\Phi(1_G) = 1_G$ and $\Phi((1_G, x)) = (1_G, p(x))$ is the map automorphism generating the stabilizer of 1_G , then the mapping $\varphi : G \rightarrow G$ induced by Φ on G is a skew-morphism satisfying the properties $\varphi(1_G) = 1_G$ and $\varphi(x) = p(x)$.

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- ▶ If $\Phi(1_G) = 1_G$ and $\Phi((1_G, x)) = (1_G, p(x))$ is the map automorphism generating the stabilizer of 1_G , then the mapping $\varphi : G \rightarrow G$ induced by Φ on G is a skew-morphism satisfying the properties $\varphi(1_G) = 1_G$ and $\varphi(x) = p(x)$.
- ▶ If $\varphi : G \rightarrow G$ satisfying the properties $\varphi(1_G) = 1_G$ and $\varphi(x) = p(x)$ is a skew-morphism of G , then Φ defined by $\Phi(g, x) = (\varphi(g), \varphi(g)^{-1}\varphi(gx))$ is the required map automorphism.

Constructions of regular Cayley maps

In order to construct **all** regular Cayley maps for a given group G :

- ▶ every regular Cayley map on G is of the form

$$CM(G, \{x, \varphi(x), \dots, \varphi^{n-1}(x)\}, (x, \varphi(x), \dots, \varphi^{n-1}(x))),$$

where φ is a skew-morphisms with a **generating orbit**
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- ▶ the order of φ , the order of Φ , and the order of the stabilizer of 1_G in the automorphism group of a regular Cayley map, are all equal
- ▶ the order of φ in this case equals the length of its generating orbit that is closed under inverses

Algebraic Properties of Skew-Morphisms

Lemma (RJ, Širáň)

Let φ be a skew-morphism of a group G and let π be the power function of φ . Then the following holds :

- 1. the set $\text{Ker}\varphi = \{g \in G \mid \pi(g) = 1\}$ is a subgroup of G ;*
- 2. $\pi(g) = \pi(h)$ if and only if g and h belong to the same right coset of the subgroup $\text{Ker}\varphi$ in G .*

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Lemma (Conder, RJ, Tucker)

If A is a finite abelian group and φ is a skew-morphism of A , then

- 1. φ preserves $\text{Ker}\pi$ setwise;*
- 2. the restriction of φ to $\text{Ker}\pi$ is a group automorphism.*

The interplay between the local permutation and the structure of the group

Definition

Let $\mathcal{M} = CM(G, X, p)$ be a Cayley map. The function $\chi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{|X|}$ defined by the rule that $\chi(x)$ is the smallest non-negative integer with the property $p^{\chi(x)}(x) = x^{-1}$, is called the **distribution of inverses of the map \mathcal{M}** .

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- If the cyclic permutation p of a Cayley map $\mathcal{M} = CM(G, X, p)$ satisfies the identity $p(x^{-1}) = (p(x))^{-1}$, for all $x \in X$, we say that the map is a **balanced Cayley map**.

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- ▶ If the cyclic permutation p of a Cayley map $\mathcal{M} = CM(G, X, p)$ satisfies the identity $p(x^{-1}) = (p^t(x))^{-1}$, for all $x \in X$, we say that the map is a **t -balanced Cayley map**.

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- ▶ if the power function of a skew-morphism assumes exactly i values in $\mathbb{Z}_{|\varphi|}$, then it is called **of skew-type i** ; $[G : \text{Ker}\varphi] = i$
- ▶ **skew-morphisms whose orbits are contained within the cosets** of the kernel (*c.o.p.f.*)

Known Classifications

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- ▶ t -balanced skew-morphisms on semi-dihedral groups that give rise to a regular Cayley map (Ju-Mok Oh)
- ▶ regular, non-balanced Cayley maps over a dihedral group D_{2n} , n odd (Kovács, Marušič, Muzychuk)

Known Classifications

- ▶ t -balanced skew-morphisms on semi-dihedral groups that give rise to a regular Cayley map (Ju-Mok Oh)
- ▶ regular, non-balanced Cayley maps over a dihedral group D_{2n} , n odd (Kovács, Marušič, Muzychuk)
- ▶ recent work of Jun-Yang Zhang suggests possibilities for classifying regular Cayley maps on cyclic groups with kernel of index 3

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Already observed in the 1930's (e.g., Oystein Ore, 1938).

Cyclic Extensions from Skew-Morphisms

Let H be a group, and φ be a skew-morphism of H with power function π ,

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Define a multiplication $*$ on $H \times \langle \varphi \rangle$ as follows:

$$(a, \varphi^i) * (b, \varphi^j) = (a\varphi^i(b), \varphi^{s(i,b)+j}),$$

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Theorem (Conder,RJ,Tucker; Kovács and Nedela)

*Let H be a group and φ be a skew-morphism of H of finite order m and power function π . Then $A = (H \times \langle \varphi \rangle, *)$ is a group, $H \times \langle \varphi \rangle$ is a complementary factorization of A , and the skew-morphism of H associated with this factorization is equal to φ .*

Theorem (Conder, RJ, Tucker)

If G is any finite group with a complementary subgroup factorisation $G = AY$ with Y cyclic, then for any generator y of Y , the order of the skew morphism φ of A is the index in Y of its core in G , or equivalently, the smallest index in Y of a normal subgroup of G .

Moreover, in this case the quotient $\overline{G} = G/\text{Core}_G(Y)$ is the skew product group associated with the skew morphism φ , with complementary subgroup factorisation $\overline{G} = \overline{A}\overline{Y}$ where $\overline{A} = AY/Y \cong A/(A \cap Y) \cong A$ and $\overline{Y} = Y/\text{Core}_G(Y)$.

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Theorem

Let K be a subgroup of the kernel of a skew-morphism φ of a group A that is preserved by φ and is normal in A . Then φ induces a 'factor' skew-morphism φ^ on A/K defined by*

$$\varphi^*(aK) = \varphi(a)K.$$

Cyclic Extensions from Skew-Morphisms

Theorem (Lucchini)

If P is a transitive permutation group of degree $n > 1$ with cyclic point-stabilizers, then $|P| \leq n(n - 1)$.

Theorem (Herzog and Kaplan)

Let A be a non-trivial finite group of order n with a cyclic subgroup $\langle x \rangle$ satisfying the property $|x| \geq \sqrt{n}$. Then $\langle x \rangle$ contains a non-trivial normal subgroup of A .

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Every skew morphism of a cyclic group of prime order is an automorphism.

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In particular if q is the largest prime divisor of $|A|$, then the order of the kernel of every skew morphism of A is divisible by q when q is odd, or by 4 when $q = 2$.

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Corollary (Conder, RJ, Tucker)

Every skew morphism of an elementary abelian 2-group is an automorphism.

Further Results

Theorem (Conder, RJ, Tucker)

Let φ be a skew morphism of C_n . Then the order m of φ divides $n\phi(n)$. Moreover, if $\gcd(m, n) = 1$ or $\gcd(\phi(n), n) = 1$, then φ is an automorphism of C_n .

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Theorem

Let A be any finite abelian group. Then every skew morphism of A is an automorphism of A if and only if A is cyclic of order n where $n = 4$ or $\gcd(n, \phi(n)) = 1$, or A is an elementary abelian 2-group.

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Classification and enumeration of the skew-morphisms of the cyclic groups C_{p^2} and C_{pq} and of $C_p \times C_p$.

Open Problem:

The set of all skew-morphisms of a finite group A is a subgroup of \mathbb{S}_A
if and only if
all the skew-morphisms of A are group automorphisms of A .

Definition

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Theorem (Bachratý, RJ)

Let $\mathcal{M} = CM(G, X, p)$ be a Cayley map. The stabilizer of 1_G in $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{M})$ is non-trivial if and only if there exists a skew-morphism of G that preserves X .

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Almost all Cayley maps are MRR's.

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Back to Maps

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