The Daily Group Theorist

Half-Time Special 1st August 1997

Half Full or Half Empty

Afternoon tea today marks the mid-point of the conference – 5 1/4 days of lectures completed, 5 1/4 to go.

Balloon deflated

The change of weather has forced the postponement of the balloon flight. When it does happen, the take-off will be in the sports field adjacent to the Medical Centre in the South-West corner of Bath University. The mystery social event was the viewing of the take-off.

Talks today

9:00 Praeger 4

10:00 Coffee

10:40 Beals: Towards polynomial time algorithms for matrix groups.

11:40 Babai 4

12:40

Lunch

Parallel Session H:

Stream 1. 14:00 McDermott; 14:30 Tushev; 15:00 Smith

Stream 2. 14:00 S. Thomas; 14:30 Sharp; 15:00 Hassani

Stream 3. 14:00 Stohr; 14:30 Pazderski; 15:00 Ezquerro

Stream 4. 14:00 Minty; 14.30 Moori

Stream 1 chaired by M. Curzio has the following talks:

J. J. McDermott: The subgroup structure of Crystallographic Groups.

Tushev: On modules over group rings of soluble groups.

Smith: Markov processes on finite groups.

Stream 2 chaired by F. Menegazzo has the following talks:

S. Thomas: The Automorphism Tower Problem.

Sharp: The algorithmic recognition of a permutation group as an action on pairs.

Hassani: Permutation groups with bounded movement: attaining the bounds for odd primes.

Stream 3 chaired by C. Scoppola has the following talks:

R. Stohr: Group actions on free Lie algebras.

Pazderski: On Hall's abundance of p-groups.

Ezquerro: On Hall π-subgroups of finite π-soluble groups.

Stream 4 chaired by C. Campbell has the following talks:

Minty: Skew linear groups; quotients of centralizers $G/C_G(A)$.

J. Moori: (p,q,r)-Generations and nX-Complementary Generations of the Sporadic Simple Groups HS and McL.

Tea

Parallel Session J:

Stream 1. 16:00 Khukhro; 16:30 Remeslennikov

Stream 2. 16:00 Van der Waall; 16:30 Zimmerman

Stream 3. 16:00 Fernandez-Alcober; 16:30 Sangroniz

Stream 4. 16:00 Derakshan (60)

Stream 1 chaired by M. Curzio has the following talks:

Khukhro: Some applications of the Baker-Hausdorff formula in the theory of finite p-groups.

Remeslennikov: Algebraic geometry over groups close to free groups.

Stream 2 chaired by F. Menegazzo has the following talks:

Van der Waall: On Dedekind zeta functions monomial characters conjugacy classes; use by GAP.

Zimmerman: Some recent results on the symmetric genus of finite groups.

Stream 3 chaired by C. Scoppola has the following talks:

Fernandez-Alcober: p-Groups of abundance zero.

Sangroniz: Conjugacy classes and characters in some quotients of the Nottingham group.

Stream 4 chaired by C. Campbell has the following talk:

Derakshan I: Model theory of groups : nilpotency, solubility and chain conditions. (60 minutes)

17:00 Shalev 5

Computational and Geometric Aspects of Modern Algebra

23rd – 31st July 1998, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh.

Scientific Committee: J Davenport, R I Grigorchuk, G Havas, D F Holt, W D Neumann.

Local Organisers: M D Atkinson, S A Linton, E F Robertson (St Andrews) N D Gilbert, J Howie (Heriot-Watt)

The workshop will consist of two concentration periods: **Word problems in algebra**, 23rd-25th July 1998 **Geometric group theory**, 27th-31st July 1998.

Participants are encouraged to attend both concentration periods!

INVITED SPEAKERS

N Brady (Cornell), T Brady (Dublin City Univ.), D B A Epstein (Warwick), K Madlener (Kaiserslauten), U H M Martin (St Andrews), L Mosher (Rutgers), W Nickel (St Andrews), A Yu Ol'shanskii (Moscow State Univ.), S E Rees (Newcastle), M Sageev (Rutgers), M V Sapir (Lincoln Nebraska), Z Sela (Hebrew University), V Suchshanskii (Kiev).

The workshop is partially supported by the UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. Support may be available for participants from UK institutions.

For further information, please contact: Nick Gilbert `N.D.Gilbert@hw.ac.uk` +44 (0)131-451 3718 (CGAMA 98, Dept of Mathematics, Heriot-Watt University, Riccarton, EDINBURGH EH14 4AS Scotland) or Steve Linton `sal@dcs.st-and.ac.uk` +44 (0)1334 463269 (CGAMA 98, Division of Computer Science, University of St Andrews, North Haugh, ST ANDREWS, Fife KY16 9SS Scotland.)

Groups – Korea '98

This meeting will be held during 10-16 August 1998 in Pusan, Korea. The organizers are A. C. Kim, D. L. Johnson and S. J. Pride. See the circular appearing in relevant AMS, LMS and IMU publications.

New Problems for the "Kourovka Notebook"

To place a problem in the next edition of the "Kourovka Notebook" submit it in written form to one of the editors at the conference, or send it to:

V. D. Mazurov, Inst. of Mathematics, Novosibirsk–90, 630 090 Russia, or

E. I. Khukhro, School of Mathematics UWCC Senghennydd Road, Cardiff CF2 4YH UK.

or by email: `mazurov@math.nsc.ru` or `khukhro@cardiff.ac.uk`

Any comments or solutions of the old problems are welcome too.

IMO Problem 6: Correction

The "$f(2n)$" in the last line of problem 6 is wrong. We suspect it should be $f(2^n)$.

EDITOR OF THE DAY: SL/GCS

Walk on Sunday

Graham Sharp is organising a walk on Sunday. The plan is a round walk of approx. 10 miles (16km) to Brown's Folly, starting and finishing at the University. We will leave at 11.00am from the concourse outside the SCR, and have lunch at a pub on the way back. Please sign the list in the office to give us an idea of numbers. Bring comfortable shoes and waterproofs if wet.

Birthday Announcements

There are no birthday announcements today, by request. Apparently Lewis Pirnie particularly requested that we not announce his birthday. So we won't! Meanwhile Aaron Wilson told us of his relief at not having a birthday during the meeting. Happy 22 300/365 th birthday, Aaron!

Clerihew Competition

The Clerihew competition closes today at noon and submissions are flooding in to the conference office. Keep them coming! A couple of topical limericks also got trapped in the rush:

> A Sassenach simply cannot
> Be a gentleman – if you're a Scot
> Here the converse holds true
> And, whatever you do,
> A gent and a Scot you are not!
>
> Six coaches, 'somorphic or not,
> Set out from the F Parking Lot.
> Up hills and down dales
> To the chief town of Wales –
> But Tintern's as far as they got!

Poor efforts but my own – by 'Also Ran'

Lecture Notes

A limited collection of Martin Bridson's lecture notes "Non-positive Curvature in Group Theory" are available in the conference office, price £2.

More Philosophy

Following the contention about the use of the term "gentleman" at the conference dinner (see limerick above), the editors have conducted extensive research with the Linux fortune cookie program and can reveal that:

> The best definition of a gentleman is a man who can play the accordion – but doesn't.

Or should that be the bagpipes?

Wanted

Whoever complained to Geoff about the hot weather!

Congratulations and Commiserations

Congratulations to Roger Bryant who was released on licence at midnight last night after completing his term as head of department. Commiserations to Ed Robertson and Rob Curtis, whose sentences began at the same time.

Problem

Dave Johnson presented the following problem in his lecture. We reprint it for the benefit of those who were attending the other streams:

> Given a finite family of distinct finite sets, closed under union, prove that there is an element that belongs to at least half of them.

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[The family containing only the empty set is a counterexample, and so is the empty family of sets, but excluding these cases messes up the statement too much – ed].

Shopping Shuttle

TODAY 18:15 – 20:00 as usual.

Cricket

Arrangements for a cricket tutorial will be posted in lectures this afternoon, and in the conference office. Our intrepid reporters have uncovered rumours that some of the members of the "England" cricket team may have been abroad, or even (horrors) be foreign.

Arrangements for Plenary Lectures

The conference organizers would [probably, if we asked them, which we haven't – SL] like to thank the member of the audience who fell asleep in a lecture yesterday for refraining from snoring. We encourage others in the same position to do likewise.

Outstanding Financial Arrangements

Those few conferees who have a negative financial relationship with Groups 1997 are strongly urged (for their own safety, and that of their families and pets) to settle up today.

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