The Daily Group Theorist

Bumper Weekend Special 2nd & 3rd August 1997

Saturday Talks

Cancellation

K. Gupta will not be speaking at this conference.

Parallel Session K

Stream 1.

Stream 2. 09:00 Dra'pal; 09:30 Iranmanesh

Stream 3. 09:00 Szabo; 09:30 A Neumann

Stream 4. 09:00 Postgraduate Forum

Stream 2 chaired by R Thomas has the following talks:

A. Dra'pal: On distances of multiplication tables of groups

A. Iranmanesh: General types of conjugacy classes of $\mathrm{GL}_n(q)$

Stream 3 chaired by A. Hulpke has the following talks:

E. Szabo: On the class of absolutely soluble groups

A. Neumann: Nilpotent injectors in finite groups

Stream 4 is a discussion forum for postgraduates.

Coffee

Parallel Session L:

Stream 1. 10:40 Subbotin (60) 11:40 Plotkin 12:10 Ries

Stream 2. 10:40 Scevenels (30) 11:40 Leemans 12:10 Renfang Jiang

Stream 3. 10:40 Shahabi 11:10 Maier 11:40 Vincenzi 12:10 Pedraza Aguilera

Stream 4. 10:40 Postgraduate Forum

Stream 1 chaired by A. Kim has the following talks:

I. Subbotin: Just-non-X-groups and related modules (60 minutes)

E. Plotkin: Geometrical equivalence of groups

H. L. Ries: On the calculation of elements orders in a certain extension group

Stream 2 chaired by R. Thomas has the following talks:

D. Scevenels: Annihilator classes of non-commutative groups

D. Leemans: The residually weakly primitive geometries of the Suzuki simple group $Sz(8)$

Renfang Jiang: $\mathrm{Out}(F_n)$ action on a graph

Stream 3 chaired by A. Hulpke has the following talks:

M. A. Shahabi: Subgroups which are the union of two conjugacy classes

R. R. Maier: Theorems of Kegel-Wielandt type

G. Vincenzi: Some problems on pronormality

C. Pedraza Aguilera: Totally and Mutually permutable products

Stream 4 is a discussion forum for postgraduates.

Weekend Closures

- The library will be closed all day today, but will reopen on Sunday.
- The conference office will be closed today all weekend, but Geoff and Aaron will be running a registration desk on Sunday afternoon in the SCR and will be open for general conference business when time permits.
- The shopping shuttle will not be running at the weekend. For those making private arrangements, remember that Sainsbury's will shut earlier on Sunday. It will stay open until at least 16:00.

Talks resume at 09:00 on Monday.

Bizarre Bath

Felix Leinen highly recommends the "Bizarre Bath" tour, which starts every evening in from the pub "The Huntsman" (opposite North Parade Rd).

Week 2 Dinner

Bookings for the optional dinner on Wednesday, price £18, can be made on Monday until 14:00 in the conference office. The menu is available there for perusal and you should make your choices from it when you sign up.

Sport

For those unadventurous souls who feel it necessary to learn something of the game before, rather than during, play, there will be a cricket tutorial, meeting in the SCR at 14:00 on Sunday. The official conference cricket match will take place on Tuesday at 17:30. A football match is also mooted for next week, details to be arranged.

Chess Puzzle

This being the weekend edition it is, of course, essential to have a chess puzzle. This one, offered by Werner Nickel, requires a little group theory (and no knowledge of chess):

There are various well-known results (and at least one interesting game) involving tiling all or part of a chessboard with 1×2 dominoes. Obviously, one cannot tile all of a chessboard with 1×3 trominoes. The best one can hope for is to fit in 21 tiles, leaving one square uncovered. Is this possible? If so, can it be done leaving any nominated square uncovered?

Group Pub Forum

Yesterday the group theory mailing list

group-pub-forum@maths.bath.ac.uk

received its 300th subscriber. Email posted to this mailing list is forwarded to the subscribers who are distributed across 38 nations (at present). To join the mailing list, send your email and name to

group-landlord@maths.bath.ac.uk

There is also a web site which keeps a record of problems posed, answers given, conference arrangements, job opportunities and so on. The URL is

http://www.bath.ac.uk/~masgcs/gpf.html

L.S.Pontryagin 90th Anniversary

The conference dates are August 31 – September 6 1998, and it will be in Moscow and organized by the Steklov Mathematical Institute. The programme committee is chaired by D. V. Anosov. The web site is

http://www.mi.ras.ru/~pont/

or

http://cmc.cs.msu.su/pont/

You can register my sending email to pont@mi.ras.ru

Please register before April 2, 1998 and send abstracts before May 15 1998. Telephone +7 (095) 135-24-90 and fax +7 (095) 135-05-55.

Play

There will be a free performance of scenes from the novels of Jane Austen on Monday at 19:30 in the amphitheatre or in University Hall (where the plenary lectures are) if wet. Weather permitting, picnics are encouraged.

EDITOR OF THE DAY: SL/GCS

Balloon Benefactor on Road to Recovery

James Davenport (who, as chairman of the SCR, is responsible for the two free places on the balloon flight) is out of hospital following his minor operation, which is described as completely successful.

Clerihew Competition

Judging the winners was a very difficult exercise, made more so by the fact that Aner Shalev was giving a superb, if distracting lecture while the short-list was being whittled down. In the end the judge(s) decided to break all the rules of firm managerialism and award three Mars bars, one for each of the following contributions:

In the talks of Professor Praeger
We are asked if G contains Ω.
If yes, we can say quite a lot.
If no, we can not.

by Ringo B. Mangs

The Byronic looks
of Christopher Brookes
hide a love of the toric
that's phantasmagoric.

by Rambo

Olga and Geoff
Deprive us of breath:
Hyper-efficient–
Few details deficient.

by Also Ran

Norman Biggs and the others are invited to claim their king-size bars at any time.
ΠMN: 1. viii. 97

Strange Permutations

Your correspondent was unable to determine precisely which permutation group algorithm was being demonstrated on the SCR dance floor last night, to excellent musical accompaniment. The algorithm was clearly randomized, and probably Monte Carlo, as no certificates were in evidence. Whether it was polynomial time, or indeed terminating, was less obvious.

It seems natural to ask whether it generalizes to matrix groups, but perhaps it would be simpler to move directly to a black box. An alternative generalization to semigroups might be more natural – some of the movements certainly did not *look* reversible.

Thanks to Roger and Margaret for organizing the permutations, and to the musicians for the accompaniment. More of the same is planned for Tuesday, after the cricket.

Samson Patu – Selected Papers

Tributes to the late lamented Dr Patu continue to trickle in. We are pleased to present a bibliography of some of his papers that filled especially valuable gaps in the literature.

[**1**] Anti-Hughes groups that are pro-Dedekind, Journal of Algebra and Political Theory (1952)

[**2**] Chomsky – the eighth dwarf? Annals of Linguistics (1962)

[**3**] Theorems of Patu Type, International Journal of Algebra and Complication (1972)

[**4**] Non-abelian tensor products of quasi-normal subgroups of 4-Engel Kegel-Wielandt type groups – a counterexample, In: Proc. Groups St Andrews at Arbroath (eds C. M. Campbell Jr and E. F. Robertson Jr) (1982)

[**5**] A New Finite Simple Group, Annals of Possibility (1992)

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