

Groups with finitely many conjugacy classes and their automorphisms

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Open Problems

Let G be a gp. and $x, y \in G$. Notation:

$$x \stackrel{G}{\sim} y \iff \exists a \in G \text{ s.t. } y = axa^{-1}$$

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$$\pi(G) = \{m \in \mathbb{N} \mid \exists g \in G \text{ s.t. } \text{order}(g) = m\}.$$

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Thm. (Higman-Neumann-Neumann). *Any countable gp. C can be embedded into a countable group G s.t. $\pi(G) = \pi(C)$ and $\forall x, y \in G$ if $\text{order}(x) = \text{order}(y)$ then $x \stackrel{G}{\sim} y$.*

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For a given $n \in \mathbb{N}$, a gp. G is said to satisfy $(n\text{CC})$ if it has exactly n conjugacy classes of elements.

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Applying the above theorem to the case $C = \mathbb{Z}_{2^n-2}$ one gets

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Applying the above theorem to the case $C = \mathbb{Z}_{2^{n-2}}$ one gets

Cor. *For every $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $n \geq 2$, there exists an infinite countable $(n\text{CC})$ -group G .*

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Thm. (Ivanov). *For every prime $p \gg 1$ there exists an infinite 2-generated gp. G of exponent p satisfying $(p\text{CC})$.*

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Cor. (Osin). For every $n \in \mathbb{N}, n \geq 2$, there exists an infinite 2-generated $(n\text{CC})$ -group G .

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Cor. (Osin). For every $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $n \geq 2$, there exists an infinite 2-generated $(n\text{CC})$ -group G .

Remark. If $n \geq 3$ then the examples produced by the above cor. **always** contain torsion.

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Question 1. For $n \geq 3$, can one construct a f.g. **torsion-free** gp. with $(n\text{CC})$?

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Question 1. For $n \geq 3$, can one construct a f.g. **torsion-free** gp. with $(n\text{CC})$?

Immediate "Yes" when $n = 2^k$: if $H \models (2\text{CC})$ then $G = H^k = H \times \cdots \times H \models (n\text{CC})$.

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Question 2. Can any countable torsion-free group C , with $x, y \in C \setminus \{1\}$ and $x \not\sim_C y$, be embedded into a t.-f. gp. G with (3CC) s.t. $x \not\sim_G y$?

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Question 2. Can any countable torsion-free group C , with $x, y \in C \setminus \{1\}$ and $x \not\sim y$, be embedded into a t.-f. gp. G with (3CC) s.t. $x \not\sim y$?

The answer to Q.2 is **"No"**: set

$$C = \langle a, b \mid bab^{-1} = a^{-1} \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z} \rtimes \mathbb{Z}.$$

Then $b \not\sim b^{-1}$ but if $C \hookrightarrow G$ and $G \models (3\text{CC})$ then $b \sim b^{-1}$.

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Def. Suppose $x, y \in G$, then x is **commensurable** with y ($x \overset{G}{\approx} y$)
if $\exists k, l \neq 0$ s.t. $x^k \overset{G}{\approx} y^l$.

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Thm. (M.) Let C be a countable torsion-free group, $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $n \geq 2$, and $x_1, \dots, x_{n-1} \in C \setminus \{1\}$ satisfy $x_i \overset{C}{\not\approx} x_j$ if $i \neq j$. Then C can be embedded into a t.-f. gp. G s.t.

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(i) G is 2-generated;

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- (i) G is 2-generated;
- (ii) G has $(n\text{CC})$;

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(i) G is 2-generated;

(ii) G has $(n\text{CC})$;

(iii) $x_i \overset{G}{\not\approx} x_j$ if $i \neq j$, thus $G = [1] \sqcup [x_1] \sqcup \dots \sqcup [x_{n-1}]$;

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(iv) G is 2-boundedly simple, i.e., $\forall x, y \in G \setminus \{1\} \quad \exists a, b \in G$:
 $y = axa^{-1}bxb^{-1}$.

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Setting $C = F(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1})$ we achieve

Cor. For every $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $n \geq 2$, there exists a torsion-free 2-generated $(n\text{CC})$ -group G .

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 $y = axa^{-1}bxb^{-1}$.

Taking $C = H * F(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1})$ where H is an arbitrary t.-f. gp. one can show:

Cor. For every $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $n \geq 2$, there exists 2^{\aleph_0} of non-isomorphic torsion-free 2-generated 2-boundedly simple $(n\text{CC})$ -groups.

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(iv) G is 2-boundedly simple, i.e., $\forall x, y \in G \setminus \{1\} \quad \exists a, b \in G$:
 $y = axa^{-1}bxb^{-1}$.

Idea of the proof. First take a sequence of HNN-extensions to embed C into a countable t.-f. gp. \tilde{G} that satisfies (ii)-(iv). Then apply small canc. theory over rel. hyp. gps. to embed \tilde{G} into G enjoying (i)-(iv).

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Thm. (M.) *Let H be a t.-f. countable gp. and let $\{1\} \neq M \triangleleft H$. Then H can be embedded into a t.-f. gp. Q , possessing $N \triangleleft Q$, s.t.*

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1. $Q = H \cdot N$ and $H \cap N = M$ (hence $Q/N \cong H/M$);

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1. $Q = H \cdot N$ and $H \cap N = M$ (hence $Q/N \cong H/M$);
2. $\forall x, y \in Q \setminus \{1\}, \quad x \stackrel{Q}{\sim} y \iff \varphi(x) \stackrel{Q/N}{\sim} \varphi(y),$
where $\varphi : Q \rightarrow Q/N$ is the natural hom-m;

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3. N has (2CC) ; if H/M has $(n - 1)$ c.c. then Q has $(n\text{CC})$;

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where $\varphi : Q \rightarrow Q/N$ is the natural hom-m;
3. N has $(2CC)$; if H/M has $(n-1)$ c.c. then Q has (nCC) ;
4. $rank(N) = 2$ and $rank(Q) \leq rank(H/M) + 2$.

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where $\varphi : Q \rightarrow Q/N$ is the natural hom-m;
3. N has (2CC); if H/M has $(n - 1)$ c.c. then Q has $(n\text{CC})$;
4. $\text{rank}(N) = 2$ and $\text{rank}(Q) \leq \text{rank}(H/M) + 2$.

Cor. *The Klein bottle group $H = \langle a, b \mid bab^{-1} = a^{-1} \rangle$ can be embedded into a f.g. t.-f. (4CC)-gp. Q s.t. $b \mathrel{\mathcal{Q}} b^{-1}$.*

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1. $Q = H \cdot N$ and $H \cap N = M$ (hence $Q/N \cong H/M$);
2. $\forall x, y \in Q \setminus \{1\}, \quad x \stackrel{Q}{\sim} y \iff \varphi(x) \stackrel{Q/N}{\sim} \varphi(y),$
where $\varphi : Q \rightarrow Q/N$ is the natural hom-m;
3. N has (2CC); if H/M has $(n-1)$ c.c. then Q has (nCC) ;
4. $rank(N) = 2$ and $rank(Q) \leq rank(H/M) + 2$.

Cor. *The Klein bottle group $H = \langle a, b \mid bab^{-1} = a^{-1} \rangle$ can be embedded into a f.g. t.-f. (4CC)-gp. Q s.t. $b \stackrel{Q}{\sim} b^{-1}$.*

(Choose $M = \langle a, b^3 \rangle \triangleleft H, H/M \cong \mathbb{Z}_3$.)

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Thm. (M.) Let C be an arbitrary countable gp. Then for every non-elem. t.-f. word hyp. gp. G there exists a t.-f. gp. N s.t.

- N is a quotient of G ;
- N has (2CC);
- $\text{Out}(N) \cong C$.

Cor. \forall countable gp. C there is a f.g. gp. N s.t. N has (2CC) and Kazhdan's property (T), and $\text{Out}(N) \cong C$.

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Question. Can the gp. $\mathbb{Z} = \langle a \rangle$ be embedded into a (3CC) -gp.
 G so that $a \overset{G}{\sim} a^{-1}$?

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Equivalent Question (B. Neumann). Does there exist a t.-f. (3CC) -gp. G in which no non-trivial element is conjugated to its inverse ?

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Question. For $n \geq 2$, does there exist an infinite finitely presented $(n\text{CC})$ -group ?