

## Reminder: Group Theory

Let's get some help with computers. What are the groups of order  $|G| = 400$ ? Here is the computer program.<sup>1</sup>

```
G := AllSmallGroups(400);;
List(G, g -> StructureDescription(g));
[ "C25 : C16", "C400", "C25 : C16", "C25 : Q16", "C8 x D50",
  "C25 : (C8 : C2)", "C25 : QD16", "D400", "C2 x (C25 : C8)",
  "C25 : (C8 : C2)", "C4 x (C25 : C4)", "C25 : (C4 : C4)",
  "C25 : (C4 : C4)", "C25 : ((C4 x C2) : C2)", "C25 : QD16", "C25 : D16",
  "C25 : Q16", "C25 : QD16", "C25 : ((C4 x C2) : C2)", "C100 x C4",
  "C25 x ((C4 x C2) : C2)", "C25 x (C4 : C4)", "C200 x C2",
  "C25 x (C8 : C2)", "C25 x D16", "C25 x QD16", "C25 x Q16",
  "C25 : (C8 x C2)", "C25 : (C8 : C2)", "C4 x (C25 : C4)",
  "C25 : (C4 : C4)", "C2 x (C25 : C8)", "C25 : (C8 : C2)",
  "C25 : ((C4 x C2) : C2)", "C2 x (C25 : Q8)", "C2 x C4 x D50",
  "C2 x D200", "C25 : ((C4 x C2) : C2)", "D8 x D50",
  "C25 : ((C4 x C2) : C2)", "Q8 x D50", "C25 : ((C4 x C2) : C2)",
  ...
]
```

Notice there is both  $C_{25} \times QD_{16}$  and  $C_{25} \rtimes QD_{16}$ .

In more common notation we can write with the symbols  $\times$  (direct product) and  $\rtimes$  (indirect product):

- $G = (C_5 \rtimes Q_8) \times D_{10}$
- $G = (C_5 \rtimes C_5) \rtimes (C_4 \times C_4)$
- $G = C_2 \times ((C_5 \times C_5) \rtimes C_8)$
- $G = D_8 \times ((C_5 \times C_5) \rtimes C_2)$

Once we have these explicit descriptions of groups, we look at the representation theory of finite groups. Example, the Peter-Weyl theorem:

<sup>1</sup><https://math.stackexchange.com/questions/4108993/the-221-groups-of-order-g-400>  
<https://www.gap-system.org/>

**Approximate Groups** Does "commutativity" matter? We've been studying the equation  $ab = ba$ . It certainly works for numbers  $2 \times 3 = 3 \times 2$  and we can describe when it fails:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \neq \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

so we have lots of examples of non-commutativity.

**Lemma** Let  $G$  be an arbitrary group. Let  $A \subset G$  be a subset with  $|A^2| \leq K|A|$ . Then  $|A^{-1}A| \leq K^2|A|$  and  $|AA^{-1}| \leq K^2|A|$ .

In my experience the proofs not very exciting. Counting the possibilities on both sides and making sure both sides are equal. Here's the counter-example the book has provided: Let  $H$  be a finite group and  $G = H * \langle x \rangle$ , the free-product of  $H$  and the infinite cyclic group one generator (basically  $\mathbb{Z}$ ). Set  $A = H \cup \{x\}$ . Then

$$|A^2| \leq 3|A| \tag{*}$$

but  $HxH \subseteq A^3$  and yet  $|HxH| = |H|^2 \asymp |A|^2$ .

This is their instance of **small tripling**. We could imagine  $A \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$  then:

$$A = A + A + A \text{ or } |3A| \leq 3|A|$$

so once we throw away the exact relation  $A + A = A$  (such as the arithmetic progression or a **subgroup** or **coset** of  $\mathbb{Z}$ ) we get to consider small-doubling or small-tripling moves.

**Ex**  $(A \cup \{1\} \cup A^{-1})^2$  is an  $O(K^9)$ -approximate group.

## References

[1]