

# Group isomorphism is nearly-linear time for most orders

IEEE Foundations On Computer Science FOCS 2021

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Colorado State University, USA

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# Motivation

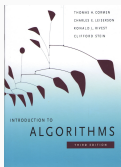
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## Outward Facing Motive: honest data types

Where in this...

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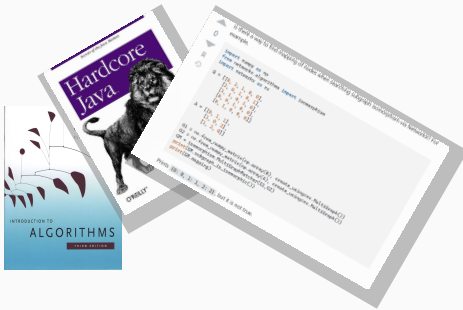
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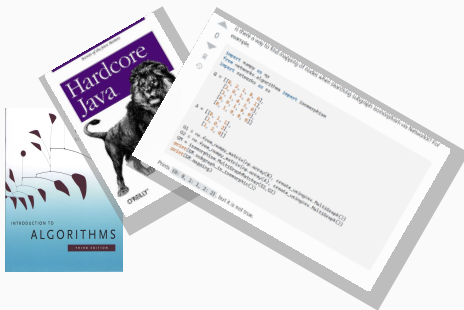
## Outward Facing Motive: honest data types

Where in this...



# Outward Facing Motive: honest data types

Where in this...



...do we send people to get help making this...

```
boolean equals(Object that) {  
    // <this> can transform into <that>?  
}
```

# Why groups(oids)?

## ■ Transitive $\rightarrow$ Partial Multiplication

$$\begin{aligned} trans_{xyz} &: (x \equiv y) \wedge (y \equiv z) \Rightarrow (x \equiv z) \\ * &: Eq \times Eq \dashrightarrow Eq \end{aligned}$$

## ■ Reflexive $\rightarrow$ Identity

$$\begin{aligned} refl_x &: x \Rightarrow (x \equiv x) \\ trans_{xxy} &: (x \equiv x) \wedge (x \equiv y) \Rightarrow (x \equiv y) \\ \hline Identity &: refl * evidence = evidence \end{aligned}$$

## ■ Symmetric $\rightarrow$ Inverse

$$\begin{aligned} sym_{xy} &: (x \equiv y) \Rightarrow (y \equiv x) \\ trans_{xyx} &: (x \equiv y) \wedge (y \equiv x) \Rightarrow (x \equiv x) \\ \hline Inverses &: evidence * (evidence)^{-1} = refl \end{aligned}$$



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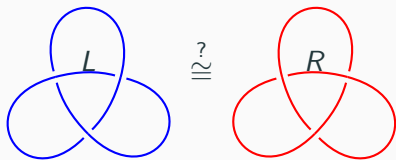
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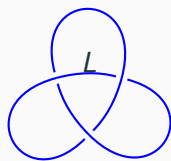
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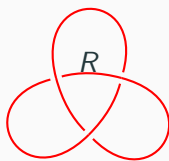
## Anatomy of hard equality



# Anatomy of hard equality



$\stackrel{?}{\cong}$



Relax category until  
automorphisms com-  
putable.

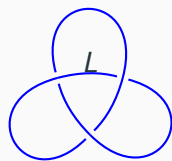


$$\pi_1(L) = \langle x, y \mid x^2 = y^3 \rangle$$

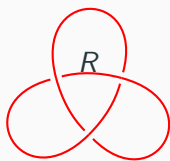


$$\pi_1(R) = \langle x, y \mid x^2 = y^{-3} \rangle$$

# Anatomy of hard equality



$\stackrel{?}{\cong}$



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$$\pi_1(L) = \langle x, y \mid x^2 = y^3 \rangle \stackrel{?}{\cong} \pi_1(R) = \langle x, y \mid x^2 = y^{-3} \rangle$$

$$\text{Aut}_\chi \pi_1(L) \not\cong_\chi \text{Aut}_\chi \pi_1(R)$$

Recursively refine com-  
paring automorphisms  
with incrementally  
stricter properties. E.g.  
respect crossing number  
 $\chi$ ?

# Inward facing Motive: equalivance surveys complexity

## FPGroupIso

Adjan, Rabin '50's

Undecideable

## PlaneGroupIso

Dietrich et.al. STACS'21

$\Sigma_3^P$

## BlackBoxGroupIso

Babai-Szemerédi FOCS'84

## MatroidIso

$\Sigma_2^P$

## PermGroupIso

Luks DIMACS

$\Sigma_1^P = NP$

## CayleyGroupIso

Tarjan

## GraphIso

Babai

$DTIME(2^{\log^c n})$

## TableGroupIsoAbel

Kivitha (nearly-linear in RAM model)

$DTIME(n^2 \log^c n)$

## TableGroupIsoMostOrders, IsGroup

This Talk

$DTIME(n \log^c n)$

## Problem: Transport

**Given:** A set  $\Omega$ , allowed permutations  $X$ ,  $\omega, \omega' \in \Omega$

**Return:** decide if a string  $g$  over  $X$  maps  $\omega$  to  $\omega'$ , written  $\omega^g = \omega'$ , and give all such  $g$ .<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Give words  $W$  over  $X$  so that  $\omega^h = \omega'$  implies  $h = wg$  for a string  $w$  over  $W$ .

# String Isomorphism

“Eighth” == “HeigHt”

## String Isomorphism

- **Given** strings  $s, t : I \rightarrow \Sigma$  allowed permutations  $G = \langle g_k \rangle \leq \text{Sym}_I$ ,  $H = \langle h_k \rangle \leq \text{Sym}_\Sigma$
- **Return** strings  $g = g_{a_1} \cdots g_{a_u}$  and  $h = h_{b_1} \cdots h_{b_v}$  where  $h(s_i) = t_{g(i)}$ ; or prove impossible.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} I & \xrightarrow{s} & \Sigma \\ \downarrow g & & \downarrow h \\ I & \xrightarrow{t} & \Sigma \end{array}$$

**Theorem.** (Babai 2016+) If  $\Sigma$  fixed, STRINGISO is in Quasipolynomial  $n^{O((\log n)^c)}$ -time.

$(\text{GRAPHISO} \leq_P \text{STRINGISO})$



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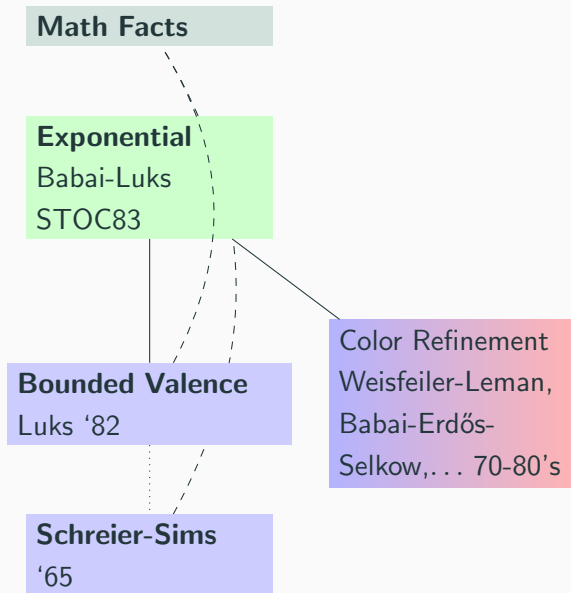
# Snapshot of solving a hard isomorphism problem

**Math Facts**

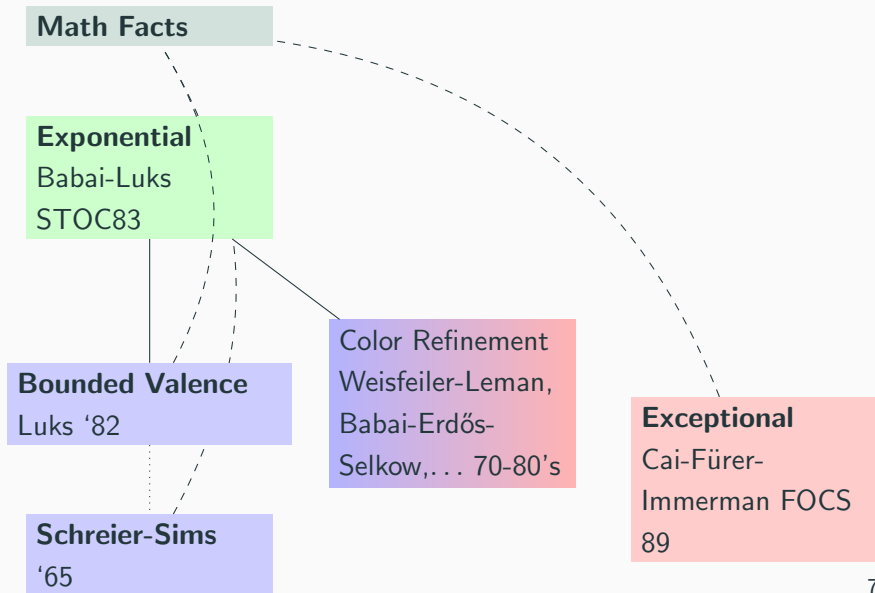
**Schreier-Sims**

'65

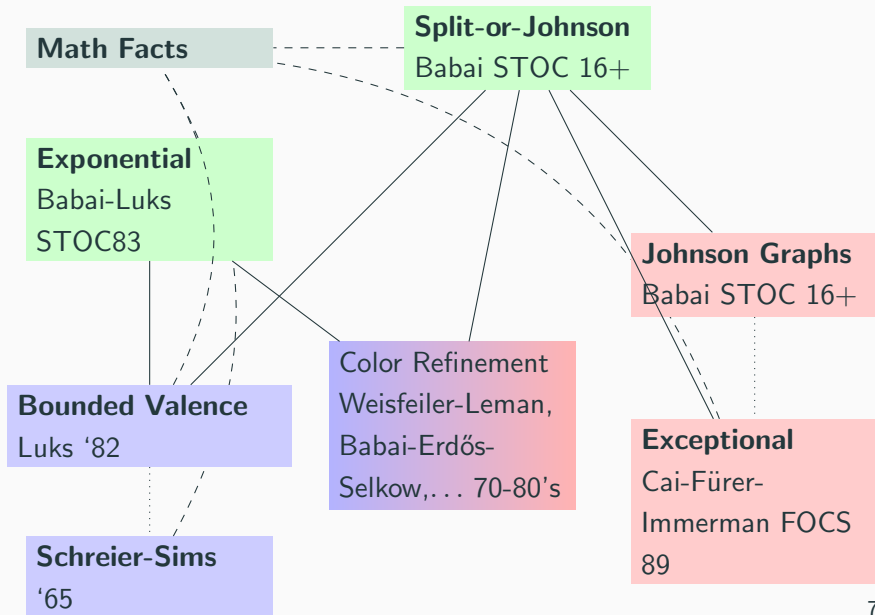
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# Isomorphism of Tables

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# Code Equivalence

$$\begin{bmatrix} L & i \\ v & e \end{bmatrix} \equiv \begin{bmatrix} E & v \\ i & l \end{bmatrix}$$

## Code Equivalence<sup>2</sup>

- **Given**  $s, t : I \times J \rightarrow \Sigma$ , (generators

for) permutations  $R \leq \text{Sym}_I$ ,

$C \leq \text{Sym}_J$ , &  $V \leq \text{Sym}_\Sigma$

- **Return**  $\sigma \in R, \tau \in C, \mu \in V$ ,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} I \times J & \xrightarrow{s} & \Sigma \\ \downarrow \sigma & \downarrow \tau & \downarrow \mu \\ I \times J & \xrightarrow{t} & \Sigma \end{array}$$

$$\mu(s_{ij}) = t_{\sigma(i)\tau(j)}$$

Babai-Codenotti-Grochow-Qiao  $2^{O(n)}$ -time bound for constant alphabet  $\Sigma$  (SODA '11)

Builds on Luks  $2^{O(n)}$ -hypergraph isomorphism, FOCS '99.

<sup>2</sup>Non-linear twisted, with variable alphabet.



# Algebra Isomorphism

1	2	3	4	5
2	3	4	5	1
3	4	5	1	2
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 == 

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## Algebra Isomorphism

- **Given**  $s, t : I \times I \rightarrow I$ , (generators for) permutations  $G \leq \text{Sym}_I$ ,
- **Return**  $\sigma \in G$ ,

$$\sigma(s_{ij}) = t_{\sigma(i)\sigma(j)}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} I \times I & \xrightarrow{s} & I \\ \downarrow \sigma & \downarrow \sigma & \downarrow \sigma \\ I \times I & \xrightarrow{t} & I \end{array}$$

# Group Isomorphism Strategy

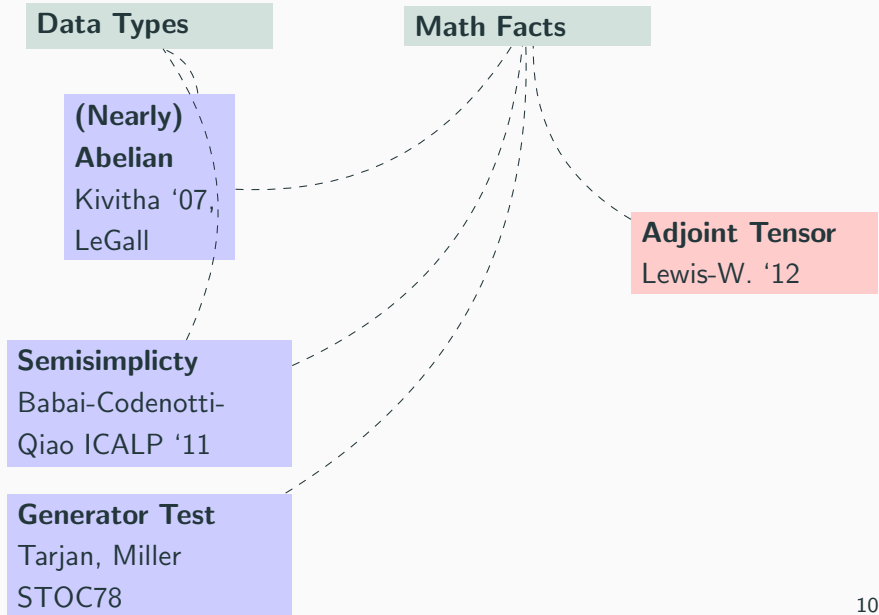
Math Facts

**Generator Test**

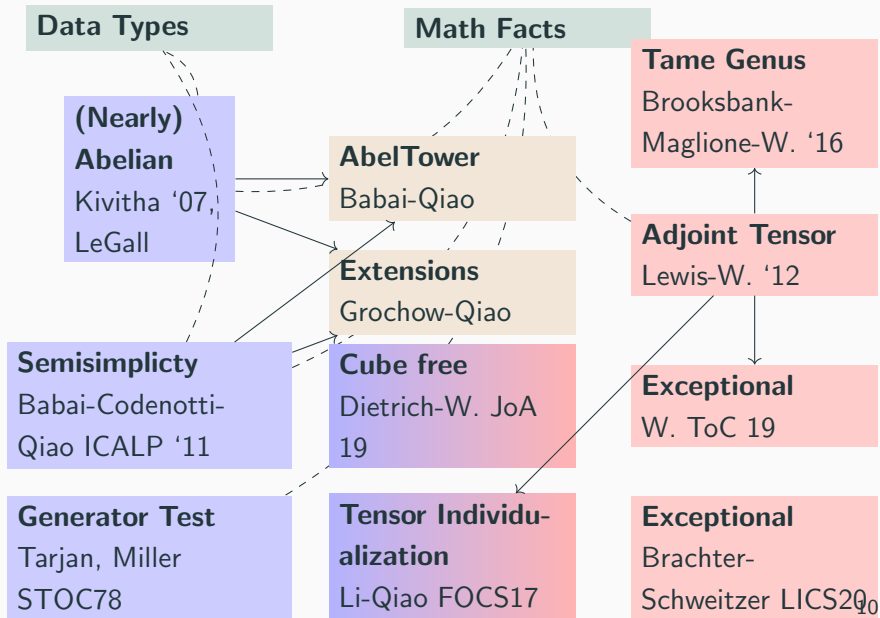
Tarjan, Miller

STOC78

# Group Isomorphism Strategy



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## Group Isomorphism of most orders

---

# Divide and conquer

Isomorphism of  $G = A \times B$ , i.e.

$$(a, b)(\tilde{a}, \tilde{b}) = (a\tilde{a}, b\tilde{b})$$

reduces to isomorphism of  $A$  and  $B$  in parallel.<sup>3</sup>

Isomorphism of  $G = A \ltimes_{\theta} B$ , i.e.

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<sup>3</sup>Technical detail: decompose maximally and adjust non-unique decompositions by Krull-Schmidt; see W. 2008.

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## Division Graph: Erdős-Pálffy

Factor  $n$  into a *graph*  $\Gamma(n)$ .

Edge  $(p_i^{e_i}, p_j^{e_j})$  where  $p_i | p_j^k - 1$  for some  $k \leq e_j$ , & symmetrically.

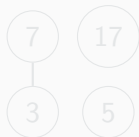
**Erdős-Pálffy, 1999**

A group  $G$  of order  $n$  factors as

$$N_1 \times \cdots \times N_\ell,$$

$|N_i| = n_i$ , order of connected components of  $\Gamma(n)$ .

**Example**  $n = 1785$



$$|G| = n \Rightarrow N_{3 \cdot 7} \times N_5 \times N_{17}$$



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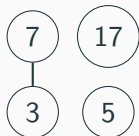
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## Extending implications

Factor  $n$  into a *direct hypergraph*  $\mathcal{H}(n)$ . (i) *Oriented* Erdős-Pálffy hyper-edges, (ii) exceptions for finite nonabelian simple groups.

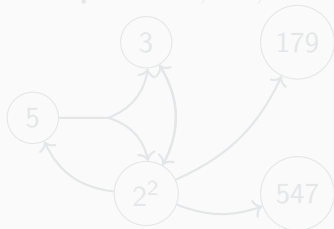
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Example  $n = 5, 810, 340$



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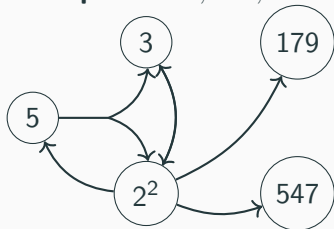
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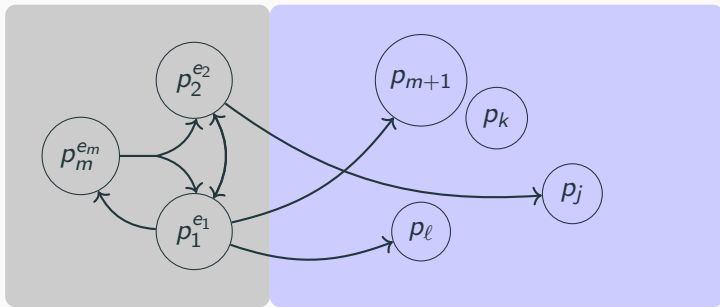
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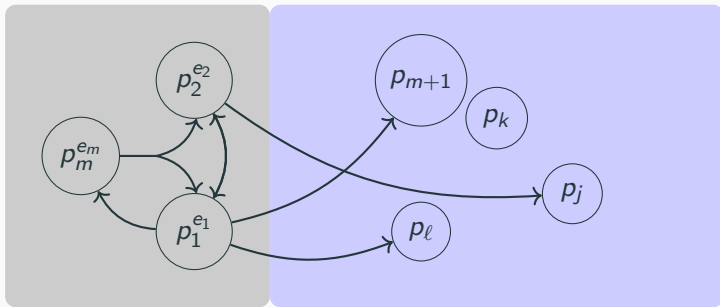
# Most Orders



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Hard Group Theory

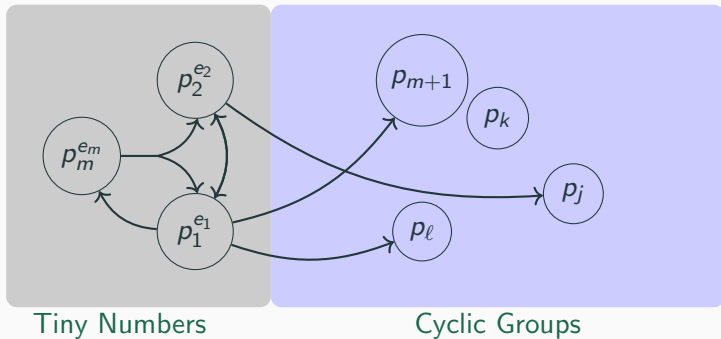
Hard Number Theory



# Most Orders

Hard Group Theory

Hard Number Theory



$$G = H \rtimes (\mathbb{Z}_{p_{m+1}} \times \cdots \times \mathbb{Z}_{p_\ell})$$

**Is it a Group Table?**

---

A great many computational algebra are analyzed as **promise problems** not **decision problems**.

Identity testing is needed to remove the promise; unsolvable in general (word problem), but on tables at least brute-force.

**Theorem Rajagopalan-Schulman, 2000**

Given  $*$  :  $[n] \times [n] \rightarrow [n]$ , test associativity (and other identities) in nearly-linear time  $\tilde{O}(n^2)$  in RAM model (constant time ops and memory access). Also can test if a group.



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At larger scales Turing Machine (TM) model better match to computations that are communication bounded (typical in practice).

RAM  $\rightarrow$  TM at most a quadratic blow-up.

## Corollary

Nearly Quadratic-time  $\tilde{O}(n^4)$  on multi-tape Turing Machine (TM).

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Given  $*$  :  $[n] \times [n] \rightarrow [n]$ , test if a group in time nearly-linear time  $\tilde{O}(n^2)$  on deterministic multi-tape TM.

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3	3	5	1	2	4
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$$\rho(2) = \frac{\begin{array}{ccccc} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 2 & 1 & 4 & 5 & 3 \end{array}}{\begin{array}{ccccc} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 2 & 1 & 4 & 5 & 3 \end{array}} = (1, 2)(3, 5, 4)$$

•	1	2	3	4	5
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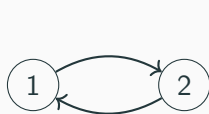
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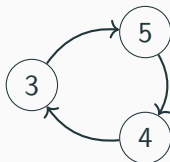
$$G_1 = \langle (354) \rangle$$

•	1	2	3	4	5
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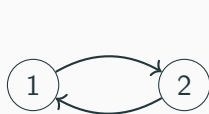


$$G_{13} = \{1\}$$

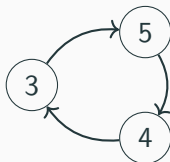
# IsGroup

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$$G_1 = \langle (354) \rangle$$



$$G_{13} = \{1\}$$

$$|G| = [G : G_1][G_1 : G_{13}] \\ = 2 \cdot 3 = 6.$$

Should be 5,  
not a group.

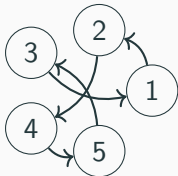


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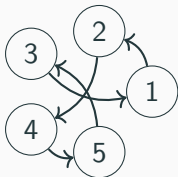
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1	1	2	3	4	5
2	2	4	1	5	3
3	3	5	4	2	1
4	4	1	5	3	2
5	5	3	2	1	4



$$|G| = [G : G_1] = 5$$

$$\rho(2) = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ \hline 2 & 4 & 1 & 5 & 3 \\ \hline \end{array} = (1, 2, 4, 5, 3)$$

*	1	2	3	4	5
1	1	2	3	4	5
2	2	4	1	5	3
3	3	5	4	2	1
4	4	1	5	3	2
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$$|G| = [G : G_1] = 5$$

$$\rho(2) = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ \hline 2 & 4 & 1 & 5 & 3 \\ \hline \end{array} = (1, 2, 4, 5, 3)$$

*	1	2	3	4	5
$\rho(2)^0$	1	2	3	4	5
$\rho(2)^1$	2	4	1	5	3
$\rho(2)^2$	4	5	2	3	1

$$\rho(2)^2 = 45231 \neq T_4 = 41532$$

Not a group.

## Summary

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# Summary

## **IsGroup nearly linear time**

From  $\tilde{O}(n^4)$  to  $\tilde{O}(n^2)$ : Promise-to-decision by transferring group to permutation model.

## **GroupIso most orders nearly linear time**

From  $n^{O(\log n)}$  to  $\tilde{O}(n^2)$ : Split group into

hard group  $\times$  hard numbers = tiny numbers  $\times$  cyclic groups.

Then standard divide-and-conquer.

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