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Title: Split metacyclic actions on surfaces

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Abstract:

Let  $\mathsf{Mod}(\mathsf{Sg})$  be the mapping class group of the closed orientable surface  $\mathsf{Sg}$  of genus  $\mathsf{g} \geq 2$ . In this paper, we derive necessary and sufficient conditions under which two torsion elements in  $\mathsf{Mod}(\mathsf{Sg})$  will have conjugates that generate a finite split non-abelian metacyclic subgroup of  $\mathsf{Mod}(\mathsf{Sg})$ . As applications of the main result, we give a complete characterization of the finite dihedral and the generalized quaternionic subgroups of  $\mathsf{Mod}(\mathsf{Sg})$  up to a certain equivalence that we will call weak conjugacy. Furthermore, we show that any finite-order mapping class whose corresponding orbifold is a sphere, has a conjugate that lifts under certain finite-sheeted regular cyclic covers of  $\mathsf{Sg}$ . Moreover, for  $\mathsf{g} \geq \mathsf{5}$ , we show the existence of an infinite dihedral subgroup of  $\mathsf{Mod}(\mathsf{Sg})$  that is generated by an involution and a root of a bounding pair map of degree 3. Finally, we provide a complete classification of the weak conjugacy classes of the non-abelian finite split metacyclic subgroups of  $\mathsf{Mod}(\mathsf{S3})$  and  $\mathsf{Mod}(\mathsf{S5})$ . We a

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