

On the total degree of a finite group

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Setup

G finite group

$\text{Irr}(G)$ complex irreducible characters of G

1_G trivial character

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context: call $H < G$ **rich** in G if $[1_H^G, \chi] \geq 1$ for all $\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)$

special case $1_H^G = \tau_G$: H is “just rich” in G

Examples

$$T(G) = \sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)} \chi(1) \leq \sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)} \chi(1)^2 = |G| \leq \left(\sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr}(G)} \chi(1) \right)^2 = T(G)^2$$

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- $G = S_3 = D_6$:

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- $G = A_5 \cong \text{PSL}(2, 4) \cong \text{PSL}(2, 5) : \quad T(G) = 16$

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Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} T(G) - T(H) &= ((\tau_G)_H - \tau_H)(1) \\ &= \sum_{\psi \in \text{Irr}(H)} ([\psi, (\tau_G)_H] - 1) \psi(1) \\ &> 0 \end{aligned}$$

(Note: $[1_H, (\tau_G)_H] = [1_H^G, \tau_G] \geq 2$)

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- (i) G is simple, $|G| < n^2$,
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 $G \in \{A_5, \text{PSL}(2, 7), A_6, \text{PSL}(2, 8), \text{PSL}(2, 11), \text{PSL}(2, 13)\}$

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- (ii) G has a minimal normal subgroup N that is solvable,
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- (iii) G has a minimal normal subgroup $N \cong S^k = S \times S \times \cdots \times S$
for S nonabelian simple with $T(N) = T(S)^k < n$,
 S as above: $k = 1$,
if not case (ii) then $G \leq \text{Aut}(S)$

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- As long as **work list** is nonempty:
 - take the first group F from it, delete F from **work list**,
 - compute the possible extensions G of F by irreducible modules N with $|N| < n$,
 - add those G with $T(G) \leq n$ to **result list** that do not yet occur there,
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- After finitely many steps:
work list becomes empty, and **result list** is complete.

$T(G)$	$\#G$	$ G_{\max} $	G_{\max}
2	1	2	2
3	1	3	3
4	3	6	S_3
5	1	5	5
6	5	12	A_4
7	1	7	7
8	7	20	5:4
9	3	21	7:3
10	7	24	S_4
11	1	11	11
12	16	42	7:6
13	1	13	13
14	7	72	$3^2:Q_8$
15	5	55	11:5
16	23	72	$3^2:8$
17	1	17	17
18	19	78	13:6
19	1	19	19
20	35	110	11:10
21	2	57	19:3
22	13	72	$(S_3 \times S_3):2,$ $(3 \times A_4):2,$ $(2^2:9):2$
23	1	23	23
24	55	156	13:12

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25	2	25	$5^2,$ 25
26	8	144	$3^2:QD_{16}$
27	7	171	19:9
28	61	168	$PSL(3,2)$
29	1	29	29
30	34	240	$2^4:15$
31	1	31	31
32	126	300	$5^2:(3:4)$
33	7	253	23:11
34	10	120	5: S_4
35	3	203	29:7
36	123	600	$5^2:SL(2,3)$
37	1	37	37
38	13	216	$3^3:Q_8$
39	3	351	$3^3:13$
40	159	600	$5^2:(3:8)$
41	1	41	41
42	32	448	$(2^3.2^3):7$
43	1	43	43
44	114	506	23:22
45	18	465	31:15
46	19	360	A_6
47	1	47	47
48	400	600	$5^2:24$

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- **Better:** (use Clifford's Theorem)
 $\exp(G/G') \mid T(G)$
If $p^3 \mid [G : G']$ then $p^2 \mid T(G)$
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- Large groups G with given $T(G)$ are often Frobenius groups.

Frobenius groups

If $N \trianglelefteq G$ then $T(G) \geq T(G/N) + T(N) - 1$

Equality if $G = N:C$ is a **Frobenius group** with kernel N and complement C .

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Proposition:

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p	$p \cdot (p^2 - p + 1)$	G
2	$2 \cdot 3$	S_3
3	$3 \cdot 7$	$7:3$
5	$5 \cdot 21$	
7	$7 \cdot 43$	$43:7$
11	$11 \cdot 111$	
13	$13 \cdot 157$	$157:13$

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48	400	600	$5^2:24$
49	3	301	$43:7$
50	25	432	$((3^2:Q_8):3):2$
51	7	243	$(9:9):3,$ $(9:9):3,$ $(9 \times 3).3^2$
52	257	702	$3^3:26$
54	72	666	$37:18$
55	1	55	55
56	799	812	$29:28$
57	1	57	57
58	25	784	$7^2:Q_{16}$
60	309	1176	$7^2:SL(2, 3)$
62	12	992	$2^5:31$
63	13	903	$43:21$
64	943	784	$7^2:16$

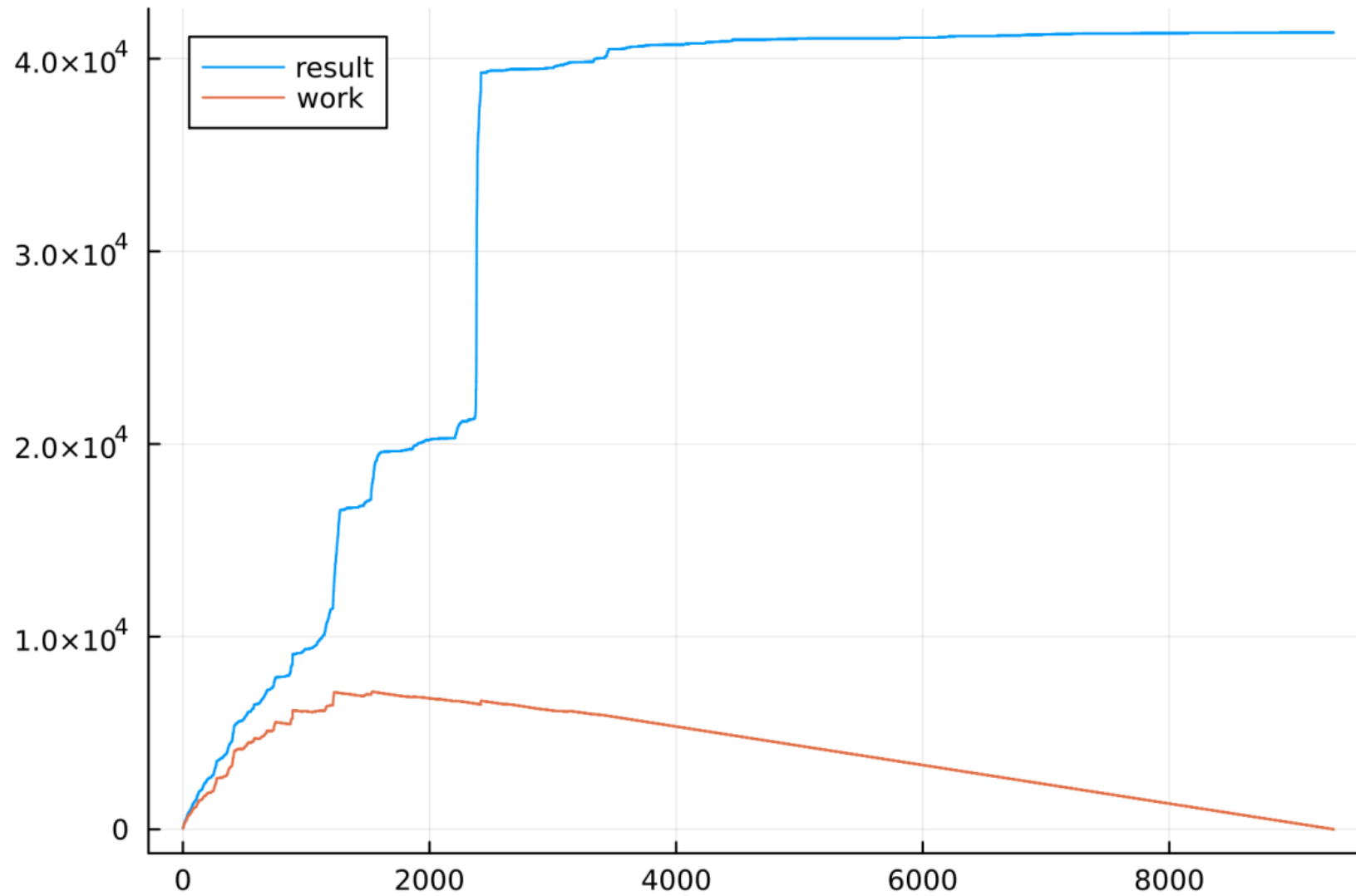
$T(G)$	$\#G$	$ G_{\max} $	G_{\max}	$T(G)$	$\#G$	$ G_{\max} $	G_{\max}
65	3	689	53:13	86	15	960	$2^4:A_5$
66	62	2352	$7^2:(SL(2,3).2)$	87	13	1711	59:29
68	256	500	$(5^2:5):4$	88	11384	1474	67:22
69	7	1081	47:23	90	161	4032	$2^6:(7:9)$
70	43	610	61:10	91	4	1027	79:13
72	1288	1332	37:36	92	746	2162	47:46
74	11	216	$(3^2:3):D_8,$ $(3^2:3):D_8,$ $(3^2:3):Q_8$	93	5	1053	$(3^3:13):3$
75	10	915	61:15	94	35	648	$(2^2:((9 \times 3):3)):2,$ $(2^2:(3^3:3)):2,$ $(2^2:(3^3:3)):2,$
76	551	1200	$5^2:(24:2)$				$(2^2:((9 \times 3):3)):2,$ $(2^2:((9 \times 3):3)):2,$ $(2^2:(3^2.3^2)):2$
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78	56	2352	$7^2:(3 \times Q_{16})$	95	1	95	$3^4:(5:8)$
80	2507	1640	41:40	96	18652	3240	$2^3:PSL(3,2),$ $2^3.PSL(3,2)$
81	16	657	73:9	98	32	1344	67:33
82	22	720	$3^2:((5 \times Q_8):2),$ PGL(2,9)	99	35	2211	$3^4:20$
84	947	1806	43:42	100	660	1620	
85	2	405	$3^4:5$				

Numbers of 2-groups of small total degree

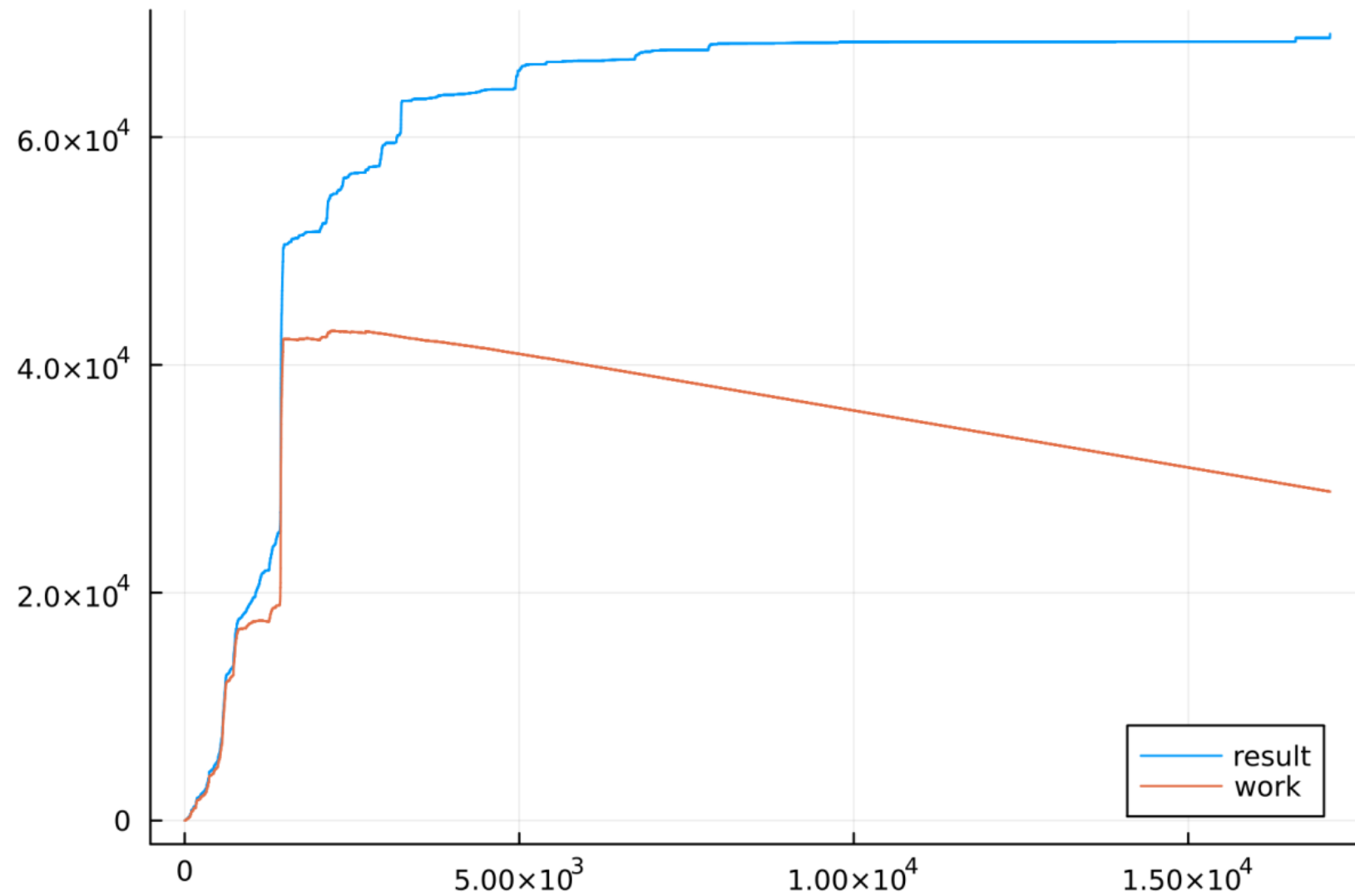
T	2^1	2^2	2^3	2^4	2^5	2^6	2^7
2	1						
4		2					
6			2				
8			3				
10				3			
12				6			
14							
16				5	5		
18					3		
20					21		
22							
24					15	6	
26							
28						29	
30							
32					7	72	4
34						3	
36						48	5
38							
40						67	30
42							
44							27
46							
48						31	224
50							

T	2^6	2^7	2^8	2^9
52		196		
54				
56		655	16	
58				
60		102	10	
62				
64	11	565	208	
66		3		
68		32	54	
70				
72		231	554	
74				
76			350	
78				
80		179	1828	36
82				
84			576	8
86				
88			10893	61
90				
92			498	38
94				
96		60	17501	366
98				
100			266	70

Classify $T(G) \leq 100$



Try to classify $T(P) \leq 120$ for 2-groups P



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- Compute $T(G)$
(cheap if G is supersolvable)
- Ideally, exclude candidates N for F **a priori**

A lower bound for $T(G)$

Let p be a prime, $e \in \{0, 1\}$, $|G| = p^{2m+e}$.

Conjecture (Heffernan/MacHale 2008): $T(G) \geq p^{m+1} + p^{m+e} - p$.

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This follows by induction from

Lemma:

Let Z be a minimal normal subgroup of G .

Then $T(G) \geq T(G/Z) + (p-1)p^m$.

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(The bound is sharp only for small $|G|$.)

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Thank you for your attention!