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Large free subgroups of automorphisms group of ultrahomogeneous spaces

(with Szymon Głąb)

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large free groups in groups of automorphism

groups of automorphisms

Let A be a countable structure (in fact, we should write $\mathcal{A} = (A, \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{R}, \mathcal{C})$). By $\text{Aut}(A)$ we denote the group of automorphisms of A .

general problem

Detect those countable structures A , whose groups of automorphisms $\text{Aut}(A)$ contains a large free group.

Macpherson (1986)

If A is ω -categorical, then $\text{Aut}(A)$ contains a dense free subgroup of ω generators.

Automorphism group of a random graph contains a dense free subgroup of 2 generators.

Melles and Shelah (1994)

If A is a saturated model of a complete theory T with $|A| = \lambda > |T|$, then $\text{Aut}(A)$ has a dense free subgroup of cardinality 2^λ .

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We say that a countable structure A is *ultrahomogeneous*, if each isomorphism between finitely generated substructures of A can be extended to an automorphism of A .

examples

ω , $(\mathbb{Q}, \leq), \dots$

"our" version of the problem

Detect those countable ultrahomogeneous structures A such that there exists a family $\mathcal{H} \subset \text{Aut}(A)$ of \aleph_1 -many free generators. Such groups $\text{Aut}(A)$ will be called *\aleph_1 -large*.

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free generators

words

Let y_1, y_2, \dots be a set of letters, $m, k \geq 1$, $r_1, \dots, r_k \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ be such that $r_i \neq r_{i+1}$ for $i \in \{1, \dots, k-1\}$, and $n_1, \dots, n_k \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$. Then

$$w(y_1, \dots, y_m) = y_{r_1}^{n_1} y_{r_2}^{n_2} \dots y_{r_k}^{n_k}$$

is called a *word of length* n , where $n = |n_1| + \dots + |n_k|$.

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A family $\mathcal{H} \subset \text{Aut}(A)$ is a family of free generators if for every word $w(y_1, \dots, y_m)$ and every distinct $f_1, \dots, f_m \in \mathcal{H}$, the function

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positive example

Let $A = \omega$. Then $\text{Aut}(A) = S^\infty$ - the group of all bijections of ω .
 S^∞ is \mathfrak{c} -large.

negative example

Let $A = (\omega, \{R_n : n \in \omega\})$, where R_n are unary relations such that

$$x \in R_n \text{ iff } x \in \{2n, 2n + 1\}.$$

Then for every $f \in \text{Aut}(A)$, $f \circ f = \text{id}$, so $\text{Aut}(A)$ does not contain any nonempty family of free generators.

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the Rasiowa-Sikorski Lemma

filters, dense sets

Let (P, \leq) be a partially ordered set (poset).

We say that a set $G \subset P$ is a *filter*, if:

- for every $p, q \in P$, if $p \leq q$ and $p \in G$, then $q \in G$;
- for every $p_1, p_2 \in G$, there is $q \in G$ such that $q \leq p_i$ for $i = 1, 2$.

We say that a set $D \subset P$ is *dense*, if:

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Let (P, \leq) be a poset with ccc (in particular, countable) and $\{D_n : n \in \omega\}$ be a family of dense subsets of P .

Then there is a filter $G \subset P$ (called a *generic filter*) such that for every $n \in \omega$, $G \cap D_n \neq \emptyset$.

our idea

We will construct a countable poset (\mathbb{P}, \leq) , and a family of dense sets $\{D_n : n \in \omega\}$ such that the generic filter G will generate the family of \mathfrak{c} many free generators.

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By \mathbb{P} we denote the set of pairs (n, p) , such that

- $n \in \omega$;
- $p : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \text{Part}(A)$;
- for every $s \in \{0, 1\}^n$, $|\text{dom}(p(s))| = n$.

The set \mathbb{P} is ordered in the following way: $(n, p) \leq (k, q)$ iff

- $n \geq k$;
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(\mathbb{P}, \leq) is countable.

partial automorphisms generated by a filter

Let G be a filter on (\mathbb{P}, \leq) and $\alpha \in \{0, 1\}^\omega$. Then

$$g(\alpha) = \bigcup \{p(\alpha|_n) : (p, n) \in G\}$$

is a partial automorphism. Hence $\{g(\alpha) : \alpha \in \{0, 1\}^\omega\} \subset \text{Part}(A)$.

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definitions of sets

sets D_k

For every $k \in A$, let

$$D_k = \{(p, n) \in \mathbb{P} : \forall_{s \in \{0,1\}^n} k \in \text{dom}(p(s)) \cap \text{rng}(p(s))\}$$

sets $D_w^{s_1, \dots, s_m}$

For every word $w(y_1, \dots, y_m)$, every $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and every pairwise distinct $s_1, \dots, s_m \in \{0, 1\}^k$, define

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sets D_k and $D_w^{s_1, \dots, s_m}$ are "good"

Assume that G is a filter on \mathbb{P} such that $G \cap D_k \neq \emptyset$ and $G \cap D_w^{s_1, \dots, s_m} \neq \emptyset$ for all k, w, s_1, \dots, s_m .

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Let $k \in A$. Let $(p, n) \in G \cap D_k$. Then for any $\alpha \in \{0, 1\}^\omega$,

$$k \in \text{dom}(p(\alpha|_n)) \cap \text{rng}(p(\alpha|_n)) \subset \text{dom}(g(\alpha)) \cap \text{rng}(g(\alpha)).$$

Let $w(y_1, \dots, y_m)$ be a word and $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m \in \{0, 1\}^\omega$ be distinct. Then there is $k \in \omega$ such that $\alpha_1|_k, \dots, \alpha_m|_k$ are distinct.

Let $(n, p) \in G \cap D_w^{\alpha_1|_k, \dots, \alpha_m|_k}$. Then there is $x_0 \in A$ such that

$$w(p(\alpha_1|_n), \dots, p(\alpha_m|_n))(x_0) \neq x_0.$$

In particular,

$$w(g(\alpha_1), \dots, g(\alpha_m))(x_0) = w(p(\alpha_1|_n), \dots, p(\alpha_m|_n))(x_0) \neq x_0.$$

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sets D_k and $D_w^{s_1, \dots, s_m}$ are "good"

Assume that G is a filter on \mathbb{P} such that $G \cap D_k \neq \emptyset$ and $G \cap D_w^{s_1, \dots, s_m} \neq \emptyset$ for all k, w, s_1, \dots, s_m .

Then $\{g(\alpha) : \alpha \in \{0, 1\}^\omega\}$ is a family of c many free generators.

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Let $k \in A$. Let $(p, n) \in G \cap D_k$. Then for any $\alpha \in \{0, 1\}^\omega$,

$$k \in \text{dom}(p(\alpha|_n)) \cap \text{rng}(p(\alpha|_n)) \subset \text{dom}(g(\alpha)) \cap \text{rng}(g(\alpha)).$$

Let $w(y_1, \dots, y_m)$ be a word and $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m \in \{0, 1\}^\omega$ be distinct. Then there is $k \in \omega$ such that $\alpha_1|_k, \dots, \alpha_m|_k$ are distinct.

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what should be assumed about A ?

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What should be assumed about A , sets D_k and $D_w^{s_1, \dots, s_m}$ are dense in \mathbb{P} ?

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Assume that A is such that each finitely generated substructure is finite. Then for every $k \in \mathbb{N}$, the set D_k is dense in \mathbb{P} .

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sets $D_W^{s_1, \dots, s_m}$ – (x_0, \dots, x_n) -functions

(x_0, \dots, x_n) -function

Let x_0, \dots, x_n be distinct elements. We say that a function g is an (x_0, \dots, x_n) -function, if there are integers

$0 \leq a_1 < b_1 < a_2 < b_2 < \dots < a_k < b_k \leq n$ such that for every $r = 1, \dots, k$,

$$g(x_i) = x_{i+1} \text{ for every } i = a_r, \dots, b_r - 1$$

or

$$g(x_i) = x_{i-1} \text{ for every } i = a_{r+1}, \dots, b_r$$

and $\text{dom}(g)$ contains exactly those x_i 's which appear in the above condition.

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For every nonempty word $w(y_1, \dots, y_m)$ of the length n , and distinct x_0, \dots, x_n , there exist (x_0, \dots, x_n) -functions g_1, \dots, g_m such that $w(g_1, \dots, g_m)(x_0) = x_n$.

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(*) For any finitely generated substructures $B_1, B_2 \subset A$ and any $m \in \mathbb{N}$, there exist pairwise distinct $x_0, \dots, x_n \in A \setminus (B_1 \cup B_2)$ such that for any embedding $f : B_1 \rightarrow B_2$, and for any (x_0, \dots, x_n) -function g , there exists an embedding $f_g : \text{gen}(B_1 \cup \text{dom}(g)) \rightarrow A$ such that $f, g \subset f_g$.

denseness of $D_W^{s_1, \dots, s_m}$

Assume that A satisfies (*) and each finitely generated substructure of A is finite. Then each set $D_W^{s_1, \dots, s_m}$ is dense in \mathbb{P} .

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Assume that A satisfies (*) and each finitely generated substructure of A is finite. Then $\text{Aut}(A)$ is c-large.

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corollaries

ω

The structure ω satisfies $(*)$ and every finitely generated substructure is finite.

S^∞ group

The group S^∞ of all bijections of ω is \aleph_1 -large.

(\mathbb{Q}, \leq)

the structure (\mathbb{Q}, \leq) satisfies $(*)$ and every finitely generated substructure is finite.

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rational Urysohn space

A *rational Urysohn space* is a countable metric space U with rational distances, such that every finite metric space with rational distances has an isometric copy in U .

A rational metric space satisfies (*) and finite substructures are finite.

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The group of all isometries of a rational Urysohn space U is \aleph_1 -large.

random graph

A *random graph* \mathbb{G} is a countable graph such that for every finite $X, Y \subset \mathbb{G}$, there is a vertex with edges going to each vertex from X , and no edge going to a vertex of Y .

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more complicated problem

problem

Let $\mathcal{F} \subset \text{Aut}(A)$ be a family of free generators. Does there exist a family \mathcal{H} of cardinality \aleph_1 such that $\mathcal{F} \cup \mathcal{H}$ is a family of free generators?

theorem, Głab, S. (2013)

Let $\mathcal{F} \subset S^\infty$ be a countable family of free generators. Then there is a family $\mathcal{H} \subset S^\infty$ of cardinality \aleph_1 such that $\mathcal{F} \cup \mathcal{H}$ is a family of free generators.

idea of a proof

(here $A = \omega$)

For every word $w(y_1, \dots, y_{m+1})$, every $s_1, \dots, s_m \in \{0, 1\}^k$ and every $f_1, \dots, f_l \in \mathcal{F}$, the set

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Assume $MA(\aleph_c)$. Then for every family $\mathcal{F} \subset S^\infty$ of less than \aleph_c many free generators, there exists a family $\mathcal{H} \subset S^\infty$ of cardinality \aleph_c such that $\mathcal{H} \cup \mathcal{F}$ is a family of free generators.

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Thank you for your attention

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