

# Belyi Workshop Frankfurt 2006

## Main results of the diploma

Alternating factor groups of Fuchsian triangle groups

**Patrick Reichert**

mail@patrick-reichert.de

**<http://www.patrick-reichert.de>**

**Tutors of the diploma:**

Prof. J. Wolfart, Frankfurt/M.

Prof. G. Stroth, Halle/S.

## Topics of this presentation

1. Existence of alternating factor groups
2. Search algorithms
3. Conjugacy of normal subgroups in  $PSL(2, \mathbb{R})$

# 1. Existence of alternating factor groups

Miller (1901) proved that the classical modular group  $PSL(2, \mathbb{Z})$  has among its homomorphic images every alternating group, with the exception of  $A_3, A_6, A_7, A_8$ .

Conder (1980) proved that for  $n \geq 168$  the alternating group  $A_n$  is a Hurwitz group.

In 1981 he proved that

- (a) For every  $k \geq 7$  all but finitely many alternating groups can be presented as factor groups of  $\Delta(2, 3, k)$ .
- (b) All but finitely many alternating groups can be generated by two elements  $u, v$  with  $u^2 = v^k = 1$ .

## More existence theorems

Result of Mustaq/Rota (1992): For nearly all natural numbers  $n$ ,  $A_n$  is a homomorphic image of  $\Delta(2, k, l)$  with even  $k \geq 6$  and  $l \geq 5k - 3$ .

Everitt proved in 1994: For all  $r \geq 6$ , nearly all alternating groups  $A_n$  are factor groups of  $\Delta(2, 4, r)$ .

In 1997 he showed:

- (a) For  $r \geq 40$  there is a number  $N$  so that the group  $G = \Delta(3, 5, r)$  has among its homomorphic images the group  $A_n$  or  $S_n$  for all  $n > N$ .
- (b) For every prime  $q \geq 7$  and every  $r \geq 4q$ , the group  $\Delta(3, q, r)$  has the same property.

## Final theorem of Everitt

In 2000 Brent Everitt proved the 30 years old conjecture of Higman:

**Any Fuchsian group has among its homomorphic images all but finitely many alternating groups.**

The proof is constructive and uses coset diagrams. For every Fuchsian group  $G$  there is a constant  $N$ , so that  $G$  surjects the alternating groups  $A_n$  for  $n \geq N$ .  $N$  depends only on the signature of the group and can be easily calculated.

## Is the theorem of Everitt effective ?

Result of Everitt's proof for some sample groups:

Triangle group	Representation of index $n$	Lower bound $N$
$\Delta(2, 3, 7)$		$N = 168$
$\Delta(2, 5, 6)$	$n = 105a + 176b + 15$	$N = 18215$
$\Delta(2, 5, 7)$	$n = 105a + 286b + 15$	$N = 29655$
$\Delta(2, 5, 9)$	$n = 175a + 48b + 20$	$N = 8198$
$\Delta(2, 5, 11)$	$n = 66a + 175b + 15$	$N = 11325$
$\Delta(2, 5, 13)$	$n = 130a + 189b + 26$	$N = 24278$

**Result:** In general,  $N$  is very large.

## 2. Search Algorithms

**Task:** Find all epimorphisms for a given triangle group to a given alternating group.

All computations were made using GAP.

Discussion of two methods:

- Built-in algorithm: GQuotients
- Use of low index subgroups algorithm for finitely presented groups

# GQuotients

## Task:

Determine all epimorphisms up to conjugation of

$$\Delta(p, q, r) = \langle x, y \mid x^p = y^q = (xy)^r = 1 \rangle$$

into a given alternating group  $A_n$ .

## Commands in GAP:

```
F := FreeGroup( "x", "y" );
```

```
G := F / [F.1^p, F.2^q, (F.1*F.2)^r];
```

```
GQuotients(G, AlternatingGroup(n));
```



## How does GQuotients work ?

GQuotients is looking for tuples  $(g_x, g_y)$  from image group  $A_n$  with the following properties:

- $g_x$  and  $g_y$  must be images of the FP-generators  $x$  and  $y$ ,  
e.g.  $g_x^p = g_y^q = 1$ .
- $g_x$  and  $g_y$  must be homomorphic images, e.g. all relations must hold:  $(g_x g_y)^r = 1$ .
- $g_x$  and  $g_y$  must generate  $A_n$ .

The method only returns tuples  $(g_x, g_y)$  that are unique up to  $A_n$ -conjugation.

## Low index algorithm for FP groups

Suppose there is epimorphism  $\varphi : \Delta \twoheadrightarrow A_n$ .  $\Delta$  operates on right cosets as  $A_n$ . The stabilizer of one point is a subgroup of  $\Delta$  of index  $n$ . The reverse of this statement is also true and can be used to construct the following algorithm:

- Find all subgroups of  $\Delta$  of index  $n$ .
- Test whether the image of the operation of  $\Delta$  on right cosets is the alternating group.
- Faster test: Size of image must be  $|A_n| = \frac{n!}{2}$ .

## Low index subgroups algorithm in GAP

```
F := FreeGroup( "x", "y" );  
G := F / [F.1^p, F.2^q, (F.1*F.2)^r];  
Size_A_n := Factorial(n) / 2;  
Subgroups := LowIndexSubgroupsFpGroup(G, n);  
All_Images := List(Subgroups,  
    sub -> Image(FactorCosetAction(G, sub)));  
Interesting_Images := Filtered(All_Images,  
    im -> Size(im) = Size_A_n);  
Images_Generators := List(Interesting_Images,  
    im -> GeneratorsOfGroup(im));
```

# How does low index algorithm work ?

With Alexander Hulpke's findings, the algorithm can be described in the following way.

- LowIndex runs over all tuples  $(g_x, g_y)$  of permutations out of  $S_n$  and tests whether the following conditions hold:
  - $g_x^p = g_y^q = (g_x g_y)^r = 1$
  - $\langle g_x, g_y \rangle$  operates transitively on  $m \leq n$  points.
- Result: Subgroups of index  $n$  and the operation on the right cosets.
- Last step: Size determination of the images.

# Comparison of the two methods

Differences between the algorithms:

- The generation of the tuples is different. (The LowIndex algorithm calculates the permutations pointwise, e.g. first image 1 for all permutations, then image 2 and so on.)
- Conjugacy test is faster in LowIndex (because  $S_n$ ).

We should use GQuotients if

- the image group is smaller than  $A_n$  or  $S_n$ , or if
- there are many quotients of small index.

LowIndex should be preferred if

- we only want to determine the existence of epimorphisms.

# Genus formula

For a given triangle group  $\Delta(p, q, r)$  we look at the existence of epimorphisms into alternating groups  $A_n$ . If  $p, q, r$  are primes, the *Genus formula* can be used to find some values of  $n$  for which no epimorphism into  $A_n$  exists.

## Theorem (Genus formula):

If the triangle group  $\Delta(p, q, r)$  with primes  $p, q, r$  has got a subgroup with index  $n$ , then we have

$$(p - 1) \left[ \frac{n}{p} \right] + (q - 1) \left[ \frac{n}{q} \right] + (r - 1) \left[ \frac{n}{r} \right] \geq 2n - 2,$$

while  $[t]$  is the integer part of the rational number  $t$  (Gaussian symbol).

## Genus formula as transitivity criterion

If the triangle group  $G = \Delta(p, q, r)$  with primes  $p, q, r$  features an epimorphism  $\varphi: G \twoheadrightarrow A_n$  ( $n \geq 3$ ), then we have

$$(p - 1) \left[ \frac{n}{p} \right] + (q - 1) \left[ \frac{n}{q} \right] + (r - 1) \left[ \frac{n}{r} \right] \geq 2n - 2.$$

This is due to the fact that every epimorphism into  $A_n$  corresponds to a subgroup of index  $n$ .

The equation above is always true for  $n > 3 \max\{p, q, r\}$ . In these cases the formula cannot be used to show that there exists no epimorphism into  $A_n$ .

## Results of the Genus formula

Group	Index $n$ with no epimorphisms into $A_n$
$\Delta(3, 5, 7)$	$\{13\}$
$\Delta(5, 7, 11)$	$\{19\}$
$\Delta(7, 11, 13)$	$\{19, 20\}$
$\Delta(11, 13, 17)$	$\{21, 32\}$
$\Delta(13, 17, 19)$	$\{25, 31, 32, 33\}$
$\Delta(17, 19, 23)$	$\{30, 31, 32, 33\}$
$\Delta(19, 23, 29)$	$\{36, 37, 45, 56\}$
$\Delta(23, 29, 31)$	$\{42, 43, 44, 45, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57\}$



### 3. Conjugacy in $PSL(2, \mathbb{R})$

Topics of this section:

- If a Fuchsian triangle group  $\Delta$  contains two normal subgroups  $N_1$  and  $N_2$ , how can we determine, if those groups are conjugate to each other in  $PSL(2, \mathbb{R})$  ?
- If they are conjugate, how can we find a suitable subgroup  $H$  of  $PSL(2, \mathbb{R})$  containing an element  $h$  with  $N_1^h = N_2$  ?
- If  $H$  can be chosen as a finite-index supergroup of  $\Delta$ , then the conjugating element  $h$  can be easily calculated using integrated systems for computational group theory like GAP.

## Conjugacy in $PSL(2, \mathbb{R})$

Girondo/Wolfart (2005):

If the  $PSL(2, \mathbb{R})$ -conjugate surface groups  $K$  and  $K'$  are both normal subgroups of the triangle group  $\Delta$ , then  $K' = \alpha K \alpha^{-1}$  for some  $\alpha \in N(\Delta)$  or  $N(\tilde{\Delta})$  where  $\tilde{\Delta}$  denotes the normalizer  $N(K)$  of  $K$  in  $PSL(2, \mathbb{R})$ .

Using this result, it is possible to prove:

Let  $\Delta$  be a triangle group that is contained in only one maximal triangle group  $\overline{\Delta}$ . If  $\Delta$  contains two normal subgroups  $N_1$  and  $N_2$  that are conjugate surface groups in  $PSL(2, \mathbb{R})$ , then there exists an element  $h \in \overline{\Delta}$  with  $N_1^h = N_2$ .

# Proof of conjugacy theorem (I)

The proof uses mainly the following statements:

- Previous theorem of Girondo/Wolfart
- The normalizer of a non-cyclic Fuchsian group in  $PSL(2, \mathbb{R})$  is again a Fuchsian group.
- Let  $G$  be a discrete group of conformal isometries of the hyperbolic plane. If  $G$  contains a triangle group as subgroup, then  $G$  itself is a triangle group. (Singerman)

## Proof of conjugacy theorem (II)

Short version: Surface groups  $N_1, N_2 \triangleleft \Delta$ , conjugate in  $PSL(2, \mathbb{R})$   
 $\Rightarrow N_1^h = N_2$  for an element  $h \in \overline{\Delta}$ .

Proof: Theorem of Girondo/Wolfart states existence of an element  $h$  in  $N(\Delta)$  or  $N(N(N_1))$ .

Case 1 –  $h \in N(\Delta)$ : Since the normalizer is defined as

$$N(\Delta) = N_{PSL(2, \mathbb{R})}(\Delta) = \{\alpha \in PSL(2, \mathbb{R}) \mid \Delta^\alpha = \Delta\}$$

we obviously have  $\Delta \leq N(\Delta) \leq PSL(2, \mathbb{R})$ .

A Fuchsian super-group of a triangle group must be a triangle group:

$$\Delta \leq N(\Delta) \leq \overline{\Delta} < PSL(2, \mathbb{R}) \Rightarrow h \in \overline{\Delta}.$$

## Proof of conjugacy theorem (III)

Case 2 –  $h \in N(N(N_1))$ :

We have

$$N_1 \trianglelefteq \Delta \Rightarrow \Delta \leq N(N_1) \leq N(N(N_1)) \leq PSL(2, \mathbb{R}).$$

Since  $\Delta$  is a triangle group,  $N(N_1)$  is also a triangle group and also  $N(N(N_1))$  is. Therefore we can conclude:

$$\Delta \leq N(N_1) \leq N(N(N_1)) \leq \overline{\Delta} < PSL(2, \mathbb{R}) \Rightarrow h \in \overline{\Delta}.$$

Result: In every case, the conjugating element is contained in the maximal triangle group  $\overline{\Delta}$ .

## Numerical example

- Looking for epimorphisms from  $\Delta(3, 5, 5)$  into alternating groups  $A_n$
  - Determine whether the kernels are conjugate in  $PSL(2, \mathbb{R})$
  - Since  $\Delta(3, 5, 5)$  is only contained in the maximal group  $\Delta(2, 5, 6)$ , the conjugating element must only be searched in  $\Delta(2, 5, 6)$ .
- $\Rightarrow$  Embedding of  $\Delta(3, 5, 5)$  into  $\Delta(2, 5, 6)$  and performing conjugacy tests in  $\Delta(2, 5, 6)$

## Calculation results

$n$	$ Epi(\Delta(3, 5, 5) \mapsto A_n) $	Conjugate kernels in $\Delta(2, 5, 6)$
5, 6, 7	2, 2, 3	0, 0, 0
10	22	6 (3 pairs)
11	67	38 (19 pairs)
12	54	40 (20 pairs)
13	24	18 (9 pairs)
15	733	484 (242 pairs)
16	3411	2954 (1477 pairs)
17	3194	2872 (1436 pairs)
18	1564	1374 (687 pairs)
19	377	348 (174 pairs)

## Why do only kernel pairs appear?

**Lemma:** There cannot be a triple  $(N_1, N_2, N_3)$  of pairwise  $\Delta(2, 5, 6)$ -conjugate kernels that are not conjugate in  $\Delta(3, 5, 5)$ .

**Proof:** Let  $\Delta = \Delta(3, 5, 5)$ . Thus  $\bar{\Delta} = \Delta(2, 5, 6)$ .

Then  $|\Delta(2, 5, 6) : \Delta(3, 5, 5)| = 2$  and we have  $\bar{\Delta}/\Delta = \{\Delta, x\Delta\}$ .

If  $N_1 \sim N_2$  then there is an element  $\bar{\alpha} \in \bar{\Delta}$  with  $N_1 = N_2^{\bar{\alpha}}$ . This  $\bar{\alpha}$  cannot be an element of  $\Delta$ , because in this case  $N_1$  and  $N_2$  would be conjugate in  $\Delta$ . So we have  $\bar{\alpha} = x\alpha$  for an element  $\alpha \in \Delta$ .

If further  $N_2 \sim N_3$  there must be an element  $\bar{\beta} \in \bar{\Delta}$  with  $N_2^{\bar{\beta}} = N_3$ . The same argumentation yields  $\bar{\beta} = x\beta$  for an element  $\beta \in \Delta$ .

Together we have  $N_3 = N_2^{\bar{\beta}} = N_1^{\bar{\alpha}^{-1}\bar{\beta}} = N_1^{\alpha^{-1}x^{-1}x\beta} = N_1^{\alpha^{-1}\beta}$  and therefore  $N_1$  and  $N_3$  would be conjugate in  $\Delta$ .



# Exceptional cases

There are 7 triangle groups, that are contained in more than one maximal triangle group (Singerman 1972):

- $\Delta(2, 7, 7) \underset{(9)}{<} \Delta(2, 3, 7), \Delta(2, 7, 7) \underset{(2)}{\triangleleft} \Delta(2, 4, 7);$
- $\Delta(3, 3, 7) \underset{(8)}{<} \Delta(2, 3, 7), \Delta(3, 3, 7) \underset{(2)}{\triangleleft} \Delta(2, 3, 14);$
- $\Delta(3, 3, 9) \underset{(4)}{<} \Delta(2, 3, 9), \Delta(3, 3, 9) \underset{(2)}{\triangleleft} \Delta(2, 3, 18);$
- $\Delta(3, 8, 8) \underset{(10)}{<} \Delta(2, 3, 8), \Delta(3, 8, 8) \underset{(2)}{\triangleleft} \Delta(2, 6, 8);$
- $\Delta(4, 4, 5) \underset{(6)}{<} \Delta(2, 4, 5), \Delta(4, 4, 5) \underset{(2)}{\triangleleft} \Delta(2, 4, 10);$
- $\Delta(7, 7, 7) \underset{(3)}{\triangleleft} \Delta(3, 3, 7) \Rightarrow \text{contained in } \Delta(2, 3, 7), \Delta(2, 3, 14);$
- $\Delta(9, 9, 9) \underset{(3)}{\triangleleft} \Delta(3, 3, 9) \Rightarrow \text{contained in } \Delta(2, 3, 9), \Delta(2, 3, 18).$

All groups on this slide are arithmetic (Takeuchi 1977).

# Groups contained in two maximal triangle groups

Can the theorem of Girondo/Wolfart also be reformulated for the seven remaining triangle groups, that are contained in two maximal triangle groups ?

For each group  $\Delta$  of the seven groups we must answer the following questions:

- What is the normalizer  $N(\Delta)$  ? It will be contained in only **one** maximal group.
- What is  $N(N(K))$  if  $K$  is a normal subgroup of  $\Delta$  ? Is this normalizer always contained in the same maximal group for each  $K$  ?

# Normalizers of the exceptional groups

For five of them the determination is very simple:

$$\Delta(2, 7, 7) \underset{(2)}{\triangleleft} \Delta(2, 4, 7) \Rightarrow N(\Delta(2, 7, 7)) = \Delta(2, 4, 7);$$

$$\Delta(3, 3, 7) \underset{(2)}{\triangleleft} \Delta(2, 3, 14) \Rightarrow N(\Delta(3, 3, 7)) = \Delta(2, 3, 14);$$

$$\Delta(3, 3, 9) \underset{(2)}{\triangleleft} \Delta(2, 3, 18) \Rightarrow N(\Delta(3, 3, 9)) = \Delta(2, 3, 18);$$

$$\Delta(3, 8, 8) \underset{(2)}{\triangleleft} \Delta(2, 6, 8) \Rightarrow N(\Delta(3, 8, 8)) = \Delta(2, 6, 8);$$

$$\Delta(4, 4, 5) \underset{(2)}{\triangleleft} \Delta(2, 4, 10) \Rightarrow N(\Delta(4, 4, 5)) = \Delta(2, 4, 10);$$

$$\Delta(7, 7, 7) ?$$

$$\Delta(9, 9, 9) ?$$

## Closer look to $\Delta(7, 7, 7)$

The inclusion list of Singerman (1972) states:

$$\Delta(7, 7, 7) \begin{array}{l} \triangleleft \\ (3) \end{array} \Delta(3, 3, 7) \begin{array}{l} < \\ (8) \end{array} \Delta(2, 3, 7) \\ \begin{array}{l} \triangleleft \\ (2) \end{array} \Delta(2, 3, 14)$$

To calculate the normalizer of  $\Delta(7, 7, 7)$ , this group must be embedded into  $\Delta(2, 3, 7)$  and  $\Delta(2, 3, 14)$ .

This can be done using the results of Girondo (2003), who provides subgroup generators for every inclusion between triangle groups.

## Embedding of $\Delta(7, 7, 7)$ into $\Delta(2, 3, 14)$

The triangle group

$$\Delta(2, 3, 14) = \langle G, H, I \mid G^2 = H^3 = I^{14} = GHI = 1 \rangle$$

has got the subgroups

$$\langle D, E, F \rangle = \langle GHG, H, H^2GH^2G \rangle \text{ and}$$

$$\langle A, B, C \rangle = \langle H^2GH^2G, GHGH^2GHG, GH^2GH^2 \rangle$$

of index 2 and 6 which are isomorphic to

$$\Delta(3, 3, 7) = \langle D, E, F \mid D^3 = E^3 = F^7 = DEF = 1 \rangle \text{ and}$$

$$\Delta(7, 7, 7) = \langle A, B, C \mid A^7 = B^7 = C^7 = ABC = 1 \rangle.$$

## $\Delta(7, 7, 7)$ is normal subgroup of $\Delta(2, 3, 14)$

Using GAP we get:

```
> F := FreeGroup( "x", "y" );  
> g2314 := F / [F.1^2, F.2^3, (F.1 * F.2)^14];  
> G := g2314.1; H := g2314.2;  
> g777 := Subgroup(g2314, [H^2*G*H^2*G,  
  G*H*G*H^2*G*H*G, G*H^2*G*H^2]);  
> Index(g2314, g777);  
6  
> IsNormal(g2314, g777);  
true
```

So we have  $\Delta(7, 7, 7) \triangleleft \Delta(2, 3, 14)$ .

## Embedding of $\Delta(7, 7, 7)$ into $\Delta(2, 3, 7)$

The triangle group

$$\Delta(2, 3, 7) = \langle G, H, I \mid G^2 = H^3 = I^7 = GHI = 1 \rangle$$

has got the subgroups

$$\Delta(3, 3, 7) = \langle D, E, F \mid D^3 = E^3 = F^7 = DEF = 1 \rangle \text{ with index 8,}$$

$$\Delta(7, 7, 7) = \langle A, B, C \mid A^7 = B^7 = C^7 = ABC = 1 \rangle \text{ with index 24}$$

whereby the generators are

$$D = HGHGHGH^2GH^2, E = HGH^2GHGHGH^2, F = H^2G$$

and

$$A = H^2G, B = DH^2GD^2, C = EH^2GE^2.$$

**Is  $\Delta(7, 7, 7)$  also normal in  $\Delta(2, 3, 7)$  ?**

Using GAP we get:

- $\Delta(3, 3, 7) \not\triangleleft \Delta(2, 3, 7)$  and
- $\Delta(7, 7, 7) \not\triangleleft \Delta(2, 3, 7)$ .

Since  $\Delta(7, 7, 7) \triangleleft \Delta(2, 3, 14)$  and  $\Delta(2, 3, 14)$  is maximal, we have  $N(\Delta(7, 7, 7)) = \Delta(2, 3, 14)$ .



# Normalizers of the exceptional groups (II)

This is the complete list:

$$\Delta(2, 7, 7) \underset{(2)}{\triangleleft} \Delta(2, 4, 7) \Rightarrow N(\Delta(2, 7, 7)) = \Delta(2, 4, 7);$$

$$\Delta(3, 3, 7) \underset{(2)}{\triangleleft} \Delta(2, 3, 14) \Rightarrow N(\Delta(3, 3, 7)) = \Delta(2, 3, 14);$$

$$\Delta(3, 3, 9) \underset{(2)}{\triangleleft} \Delta(2, 3, 18) \Rightarrow N(\Delta(3, 3, 9)) = \Delta(2, 3, 18);$$

$$\Delta(3, 8, 8) \underset{(2)}{\triangleleft} \Delta(2, 6, 8) \Rightarrow N(\Delta(3, 8, 8)) = \Delta(2, 6, 8);$$

$$\Delta(4, 4, 5) \underset{(2)}{\triangleleft} \Delta(2, 4, 10) \Rightarrow N(\Delta(4, 4, 5)) = \Delta(2, 4, 10);$$

$$\Delta(7, 7, 7) \underset{(6)}{\triangleleft} \Delta(2, 3, 14) \Rightarrow N(\Delta(7, 7, 7)) = \Delta(2, 3, 14);$$

$$\Delta(9, 9, 9) \underset{(6)}{\triangleleft} \Delta(2, 3, 18) \Rightarrow N(\Delta(9, 9, 9)) = \Delta(2, 3, 18).$$

# Normalizers of subgroups

Small subgroup diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & < \Delta(2, 3, 7) \\ \Delta(7, 7, 7) & \triangleleft_{(3)} \Delta(3, 3, 7) & \begin{array}{l} (8) \\ \triangleleft_{(2)} \Delta(2, 3, 14) \end{array} \end{array}$$

We already know:  $N(\Delta(7, 7, 7)) = N(\Delta(3, 3, 7)) = \Delta(2, 3, 14)$ .

Question: Is there a normal subgroup  $K$  of  $\Delta(3, 3, 7)$  with  $N(N(K)) = \Delta(2, 3, 7)$  ?

Equivalent question: Is there a normal subgroup of  $\Delta(3, 3, 7)$  that is also normal in  $\Delta(2, 3, 7)$  ?

# Exploring with GAP

- Define triangle group  $G = \Delta(3, 3, 7)$ .
- Use 'LowIndex' to find all subgroups of  $\Delta(3, 3, 7)$  with index 7.
- Label the subgroups with  $U_1, \dots, U_6$ . Define with  $\varphi_i: S_7 \mapsto S_7$  the operation of  $G$  on the right cosets  $G/U_i$ .

i	1	2	3	4	5	6
Image( $\varphi_i$ )	$A_7$	7:3	L(3,2)	$A_7$	7:3	L(3,2)
Image( $\varphi_i$ )	2520	21	168	2520	21	168
Kernel( $\varphi_i$ ) $\triangleleft \Delta(3, 3, 7)$	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Kernel( $\varphi_i$ ) $\triangleleft \Delta(2, 3, 7)$	no	yes	no	no	no	no

Surprising fact: The kernel of  $\varphi_2$  is normal in  $\Delta(2, 3, 7)$ .

# Summary of GAP results

There is a group  $K$  with the following properties.

$$(a) \quad K \underset{(7)}{\triangleleft} \Delta(7, 7, 7) \underset{(3)}{\triangleleft} \Delta(3, 3, 7) \underset{(8)}{<} \Delta(2, 3, 7)$$

$$(b) \quad K \underset{(21)}{\triangleleft} \Delta(3, 3, 7), K \underset{(168)}{\triangleleft} \Delta(2, 3, 7)$$

(c) Therefore we have  $N_{PSL(2, \mathbb{R})}(K) = \Delta(2, 3, 7)$ , although  $N_{PSL(2, \mathbb{R})}(\Delta(3, 3, 7)) = \Delta(2, 3, 14)$ .

(d)  $K$  is the kernel of the homomorphism  $\varphi_2: \Delta(3, 3, 7) \mapsto S_7$ ,  
 $D \mapsto (2\ 4\ 6)(3\ 5\ 7)$ ,  $E \mapsto (1\ 2\ 5)(3\ 6\ 7)$ ,  $F \mapsto (1\ 3\ 5\ 6\ 7\ 4\ 2)$ .

(e) Restricted to the subgroup  $\Delta(7, 7, 7)$ , the mapping is defined as follows:  $A \mapsto (1\ 3\ 5\ 6\ 7\ 4\ 2)$ ,  $B \mapsto (1\ 7\ 3\ 4\ 5\ 2\ 6)$ ,  
 $C \mapsto (1\ 5\ 7\ 2\ 3\ 6\ 4)$ , therefore the image of  $\Delta(7, 7, 7)$  is cyclic.

## Conjugacy theorem for exceptional cases

The example has shown, that the theorem of Girondo/Wolfart must be formulated as follows for the seven exceptional groups:

Let  $\Delta$  be a triangle group that is contained in two different maximal triangle groups  $\overline{\Delta}_1$  and  $\overline{\Delta}_2$ . If  $\Delta$  contains two normal subgroups  $N_1$  and  $N_2$  that are conjugate surface groups in  $PSL(2, \mathbb{R})$ , then there exists an element  $h \in \overline{\Delta}_1 \cup \overline{\Delta}_2$  with  $N_1^h = N_2$ .

## Numerical example

- Looking for epimorphisms from  $\Delta(3, 3, 7)$  into  $A_n$
- Determine whether the kernels are conjugate in  $PSL(2, \mathbb{R})$
- Since  $\Delta(3, 3, 7)$  is contained in the maximal groups  $\Delta(2, 3, 7)$  and  $\Delta(2, 3, 14)$ , the following algorithm has to be used twice:
  - Define maximal triangle group  $\Delta(2, 3, 7)$  (resp.  $\Delta(2, 3, 14)$ )
  - Define  $\Delta(3, 3, 7)$  as subgroup
  - Determine the epimorphisms from  $\Delta(3, 3, 7)$  into  $A_n$
  - Perform conjugacy tests on the kernels directly in  $\Delta(2, 3, 7)$  (resp.  $\Delta(2, 3, 14)$ )

# Calculation results

$n$	$ \Delta(3, 3, 7) \mapsto A_n $	Conj. in $\Delta(2, 3, 14)$	Conj. in $\Delta(2, 3, 7)$
7	2	2 (1 pair)	0
9	5	4 (2 pairs)	0
10	1	0	0
14	128	96 (48 pairs)	?
15	267	220 (110 pairs)	?
16	339	?	?
17	110	80 (40 pairs)	?
18	40	20 (10 pairs)	?
19	12	0	0
21	8224	?	?

## Summary of the presentation

1. Existence of alternating factor groups:  
**Many exists !**
2. Search algorithms:  
**Algorithm 'LowIndexSubgroups' is faster than 'GQuotients'.**
3. Conjugacy of normal subgroups in  $PSL(2, \mathbb{R})$ :  
**Conjugating element always can be found in a maximal triangle group.**



# References

## Articles

- [CCR93] C.M. Campbell, M.D.E. Conder, E.F. Robertson, *Defining-relations for Hurwitz groups*, Glasgow Math. J. **36** (1994), pp. 363–370
- [CIW94] P.B. Cohen, C. Itzykson, J. Wolfart, *Fuchsian triangle groups and Grothendieck Dessins*, Communications in Mathematical Physics **163** (1994), pp. 605–627
- [CM88] M.D.E. Conder, J. McKay, *A necessary condition for transitivity of a finite permutation group*, Bull. London Math. Soc. **20** (1988), no. 3, pp. 235–238
- [Con80] M.D.E. Conder, *Generators for alternating and symmetric groups*, Journal London Mathematical Society **22** (1980), no. 2, pp. 75–86

- [Con81] M.D.E. Conder, *More on generators for alternating and symmetric groups*, Quarterly Journal of Mathematics (Oxford) Ser. 2, **32** (1981), pp. 137–163
- [Con88] M.D.E. Conder, *On the group  $G^{6,6,6}$* , Quarterly Journal of Mathematics (Oxford) Ser. 2, **39** (1988), pp. 175–183
- [Con90] M.D.E. Conder. *Hurwitz groups: a brief survey*, Bulletin (New Series) of the American Mathematical Society **23** (1990), no. 2, pp. 359–370
- [Con01] M.D.E. Conder, *Group actions on graphs, maps and surfaces with maximum symmetry*, Summary, Oxford (2001), [http://www.math.auckland.ac.nz/~conder/preprints/GroupActions.](http://www.math.auckland.ac.nz/~conder/preprints/GroupActions)
- [Cox39] H.S.M. Coxeter, *The abstract groups  $G^{m,n,p}$* , Trans. Amer. Math. Soc. **45** (1939), pp. 73–150
- [Eve94] B. Everitt, *Permutation representations of the  $(2, 4, r)$  triangle groups*, Bull. Austral. Math. Soc. **49** (1994), no. 3, pp. 499–511

- [Eve97] B. Everitt, *Alternating Quotients of the  $(3, q, r)$  Triangle Groups*, *Comm. Algebra* **25** (1997), pp. 1817–1832
- [Eve00] B. Everitt, *Alternating Quotients of Fuchsian Groups*, *J. Algebra* **223** (2000), pp. 457–476
- [GGD99] E. Gironde, G. Gonzáles-Diez, *On extremal discs inside compact hyperbolic surfaces*, *C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris* **329** (1999), Serie I, pp. 57–60
- [GW05] E. Gironde, J. Wolfart, *Conjugators of Fuchsian groups and quasiplatonic surfaces*, *Quart. J. Math.* **56** (2005), pp. 525–540
- [Gre63] L. Greenberg, *Maximal Fuchsian Groups*, *Bull. Amer. Math. Soc.* **69** (1963), pp. 569–573
- [Jon98] G.A. Jones, *Characters and surfaces: a survey*, in: R. Curtis, R. Wildon (ed.), *The Atlas of Finite Groups: Ten Years on*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1998, pp. 90–118

- [Mac01] C. Maclachlan, *Introduction to arithmetic Fuchsian groups*, in: E. Bujalance, A.F. Costa, E. Martinez, *Topics on Riemann Surfaces and Fuchsian Groups*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2001, pp. 29–41
- [Mac69] A.M. Macbeath, *Generators of the linear fractional groups*, Number Theory, Proceedings of Symposia in Pure Mathematics **12** (1969), American Mathematical Society, Providence, R. I., pp. 14–32
- [Mil01] G.A. Miller, *On the groups generated by two operators*, Bull. Amer. Math. Soc. **7** (1901), pp. 424–426
- [MR92] Q. Mushtaq, G.-C. Rota, *Alternating groups as quotients of two generator groups*, Advances in Mathematics **96** (1992), no. 1, pp. 113–121
- [MS93] Q. Mushtaq, H. Servatius, *Permutation representations of the symmetry groups of regular hyperbolic tessellations*, Journal of the London Mathematics Society **48** (1993), no. 2, pp. 77–86

- [Rei96] P. Reichert, *Beweis eines Satzes über algebraische Zahlen*, result of project work in school, April 1996, <http://www.patrick-reichert.de/publikationen/facharb/facharb.dvi>
- [Sin72] D. Singerman, *Finitely maximal Fuchsian groups*, J. London Math. Soc. **6** (1972), no. 2, pp. 29–38
- [SIS03] D. Singerman, R. I. Syddall. *The Riemann surface of a uniform dessin*, Beiträge zur Algebra und Geometrie, Contributions to Algebra and Geometry **44** (2003), no. 2, pp. 413–430
- [Sto77] W.W. Stothers, *Subgroups of the  $(2, 3, 7)$  triangle group*, Manuscripta math. **20** (1977), pp. 323–334
- [SW00] M. Streit, J. Wolfart, *Characters and Galois invariants of regular dessins*, Revista Matemática Complutense **13** (2000), no. 1, pp. 49–81
- [SW01] M. Streit, J. Wolfart, *Cyclic Projective Planes and Wada Dessins*, Documenta Math. **6** (2001), pp. 39–68

- [Tak75] K. Takeuchi, *A characterization of arithmetic Fuchsian groups*, J. Math. Soc. Japan **27** (1975), no. 4, pp. 600–612
- [Tak77a] K. Takeuchi, *Arithmetic triangle groups*, J. Math. Soc. Japan **29** (1977), no. 1, pp. 91–106
- [Tak77b] K. Takeuchi, *Commensurability classes of arithmetic triangle groups*, J. Fac. Sci. Univ. Tokyo **24** (1977), no. 1, pp. 201–212
- [Wol97] J. Wolfart, *The 'Obvious' Part of Belyi's Theorem and Riemann Surfaces with Many Automorphisms*, in: L. Schneps, P. Lochak (ed.), *Geometric Galois Actions 1*, LMS Lecture Notes Series 242, Cambridge U.P. (1997), pp. 97–112
- [Wol00] J. Wolfart, *Triangle groups and Jacobians of CM type*, Frankfurt a.M. (2000), <http://www.math.uni-frankfurt.de/~steuding/wolfart/jac.dvi>

- [Wol01] J. Wolfart, *Kinderzeichnungen und Uniformisierungstheorie*, Preprint, Frankfurt a.M. (2001), <http://www.math.uni-frankfurt.de/~steuding/wolfart/kizei.dvi>
- [WS98] J. Wolfart, M. Streit, *Galois actions on some series of Riemann surfaces with many automorphisms*, Preprint, Frankfurt a.M. (1998), <http://www.math.uni-frankfurt.de/~streit/gal.dvi>

## Books

- [Art98] M. Artin, *Algebra*, Birkhäuser Verlag, Basel 1998
- [BCM01] E. Bujalance, A.F. Costa, E. Martinez, *Topics on Riemann surfaces and Fuchsian groups*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2001
- [Bea83] A.F. Beardon, *The Geometry of Discrete Groups*, Springer Verlag, New York 1983

- [CM80] H.S.M. Coxeter, W.O.J. Moser, *Generators and Relations for Discrete Groups*, Springer Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg 1980
- [Far01] D.R. Farenick, *Algebras of Linear Transformations*, Springer Verlag, New York 2001
- [Ive92] B. Iversen, *Hyperbolic Geometry*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1992
- [Jae94] K. Jänich, *Topologie*, Springer Verlag, Berlin 1994
- [Joh01] D.L. Johnson, *Symmetries*, Springer Verlag, London 2001
- [Kat92] S. Katok, *Fuchsian groups*, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago 1992
- [KS98] H. Kurzweil, B. Stellmacher, *Theorie der endlichen Gruppen*, Springer Verlag, Berlin 1998
- [Leu96] A. Leutbecher, *Zahlentheorie*, Springer Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg 1996



- [Mag74] W. Magnus, *Noneuclidean tessellations and their groups*, Academic Press, New York and London 1974
- [Mar91] G.A. Margulis, *Discrete subgroups of semisimple Lie groups*, Springer Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg 1991
- [Zim84] R.J. Zimmer, *Ergodic theory and semisimple groups*, Birkhäuser Verlag, Basel, Boston, Stuttgart 1984

### Other references

- [GAP] The GAP Group, *GAP — Groups, Algorithms, and Programming*, Version 4.3, 2002, Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Computational Algebra, University of St Andrews, North Haugh, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9SS, Scotland; Lehrstuhl D für Mathematik, Rheinisch Westfälische Technische Hochschule, Aachen, Germany (<http://www.gap-system.org>)