

The size of conjugacy classes of automorphism groups

Zoltán Vidnyánszky

Alfréd Rényi Institute of Mathematics

Descriptive Set Theory in Paris
2015

joint work with
Udayan Darji, Márton Elekes, Kende Kalina, Viktor Kiss

Fraïssé limits

Let $\mathcal{F} = \langle A, (R_{i,n_i}^{\mathcal{F}})_{i \in I}, (f_{j,n_j}^{\mathcal{F}})_{j \in J} \rangle$ be a Fraïssé limit of a class \mathcal{K} .

Fraïssé limits

Let $\mathcal{F} = \langle A, (R_{i,n_i}^{\mathcal{F}})_{i \in I}, (f_{j,n_j}^{\mathcal{F}})_{j \in J} \rangle$ be a Fraïssé limit of a class \mathcal{K} .

Simple examples

- $\mathcal{K} = \{\text{finite sets}\} \leftrightarrow$ countably infinite set
- $\mathcal{K} = \{\text{finite linear orders}\} \leftrightarrow \langle \mathbb{Q}, < \rangle$
- $\mathcal{K} = \{\text{finite graphs}\} \leftrightarrow \mathcal{R}$

Fraïssé limits

Let $\mathcal{F} = \langle A, (R_{i,n_i}^{\mathcal{F}})_{i \in I}, (f_{j,n_j}^{\mathcal{F}})_{j \in J} \rangle$ be a Fraïssé limit of a class \mathcal{K} .

Simple examples

- $\mathcal{K} = \{\text{finite sets}\} \leftrightarrow$ countably infinite set
- $\mathcal{K} = \{\text{finite linear orders}\} \leftrightarrow \langle \mathbb{Q}, < \rangle$
- $\mathcal{K} = \{\text{finite graphs}\} \leftrightarrow \mathcal{R}$

We are interested in groups of type $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{F})$.

Automorphism groups

S_∞ is a Polish group with the pointwise convergence topology.

Automorphism groups

S_∞ is a Polish group with the pointwise convergence topology.

Theorem. Let G be a Polish group. TFAE:

- $G \cong \text{Aut}(\mathcal{F})$ for a Fraïssé limit \mathcal{F}
- $G < S_\infty$ and G is closed
- $e \in G$ has a neighbourhood basis of open subgroups

Generic elements

Definition. If $f, g \in \text{Aut}(\mathcal{F})$ we say that f and g are *conjugate*, if there exists an $h \in \text{Aut}(\mathcal{F})$ such that $h^{-1}fh = g$.

Note: if $f, g \in \text{Aut}(\mathcal{F})$ then

$$\langle \mathcal{F}, g \rangle \cong \langle \mathcal{F}, f \rangle \iff (\exists h \in \text{Aut}(\mathcal{F}))(fh = hg).$$

Generic elements

Definition. If $f, g \in \text{Aut}(\mathcal{F})$ we say that f and g are *conjugate*, if there exists an $h \in \text{Aut}(\mathcal{F})$ such that $h^{-1}fh = g$.

Note: if $f, g \in \text{Aut}(\mathcal{F})$ then

$$\langle \mathcal{F}, g \rangle \cong \langle \mathcal{F}, f \rangle \iff (\exists h \in \text{Aut}(\mathcal{F}))(fh = hg).$$

Definition. An automorphism is called *generic* if its conjugacy class is co-meagre.

Conjugacy classes

Examples of generic elements

Conjugacy classes

Examples of generic elements

- Except for a meagre set every element of S_∞ has no infinite orbits and has infinitely many orbits for every finite orbit length,

Conjugacy classes

Examples of generic elements

- Except for a meagre set every element of S_∞ has no infinite orbits and has infinitely many orbits for every finite orbit length, in particular, there is a generic element in S_∞

Conjugacy classes

Examples of generic elements

- Except for a meagre set every element of S_∞ has no infinite orbits and has infinitely many orbits for every finite orbit length, in particular, there is a generic element in S_∞
- (Kuske, Truss) There is a generic element in $Aut(\mathbb{Q})$ and $Aut(\mathcal{R})$.

Conjugacy classes

Examples of generic elements

- Except for a meagre set every element of S_∞ has no infinite orbits and has infinitely many orbits for every finite orbit length, in particular, there is a generic element in S_∞
- (Kuske, Truss) There is a generic element in $Aut(\mathbb{Q})$ and $Aut(\mathcal{R})$.

Kechris, Rosendal: Characterisation of the existence of generic elements for a limit of a Fraïssé class \mathcal{K} , in terms of properties of the class \mathcal{K}_p , that is,

$$\{\langle \mathcal{A}, \Psi \rangle \mid \mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{K}, \Psi : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{C} \text{ isomorphism and } \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C} < \mathcal{A}\}.$$

Measure

Definition. Let (G, \cdot) be a Polish topological group and μ is a Borel measure on G . We say that λ is a *left Haar measure* on G if

- for every $g \in G$ and Borel set $B \subset G$

$$\lambda(B) = \lambda(gB),$$

- for every B Borel and V open set

$$\lambda(B) = \inf\{\lambda(U) : B \subset U, U \text{ open}\}$$

$$\lambda(V) = \sup\{\lambda(K) : K \subset V, K \text{ compact}\},$$

- for every K compact set $\lambda(K) < \infty$ and $\lambda(G) > 0$.

Measure

Definition. Let (G, \cdot) be a Polish topological group and μ is a Borel measure on G . We say that λ is a *left Haar measure* on G if

- for every $g \in G$ and Borel set $B \subset G$

$$\lambda(B) = \lambda(gB),$$

- for every B Borel and V open set

$$\lambda(B) = \inf\{\lambda(U) : B \subset U, U \text{ open}\}$$

$$\lambda(V) = \sup\{\lambda(K) : K \subset V, K \text{ compact}\},$$

- for every K compact set $\lambda(K) < \infty$ and $\lambda(G) > 0$.

Theorem. (Haar, Weil) Let (G, \cdot) be a Polish topological group. There exists a left Haar measure on G if and only if G is locally compact.

Measure

Definition. (Christensen) Let (G, \cdot) be a Polish group and $B \subset G$ Borel. We say that B is *Haar null* if there exists Borel probability measure μ on G such that for every $g, h \in G$ we have $\mu(gBh) = 0$.

Measure

Definition. (Christensen) Let (G, \cdot) be a Polish group and $B \subset G$ Borel. We say that B is *Haar null* if there exists Borel probability measure μ on G such that for every $g, h \in G$ we have $\mu(gBh) = 0$. An arbitrary set S is called Haar null if $S \subset B$ for some Borel Haar null set B .

Measure

Definition. (Christensen) Let (G, \cdot) be a Polish group and $B \subset G$ Borel. We say that B is *Haar null* if there exists Borel probability measure μ on G such that for every $g, h \in G$ we have $\mu(gBh) = 0$. An arbitrary set S is called Haar null if $S \subset B$ for some Borel Haar null set B .

- (Christensen) Haar null sets form a σ -ideal.

Measure

Definition. (Christensen) Let (G, \cdot) be a Polish group and $B \subset G$ Borel. We say that B is *Haar null* if there exists Borel probability measure μ on G such that for every $g, h \in G$ we have $\mu(gBh) = 0$. An arbitrary set S is called Haar null if $S \subset B$ for some Borel Haar null set B .

- (Christensen) Haar null sets form a σ -ideal.
- (Christensen) Haar null sets coincide with measure zero sets w. r. t. left (and right) Haar measures in locally compact groups.

Measure

Definition. (Christensen) Let (G, \cdot) be a Polish group and $B \subset G$ Borel. We say that B is *Haar null* if there exists Borel probability measure μ on G such that for every $g, h \in G$ we have $\mu(gBh) = 0$. An arbitrary set S is called Haar null if $S \subset B$ for some Borel Haar null set B .

- (Christensen) Haar null sets form a σ -ideal.
- (Christensen) Haar null sets coincide with measure zero sets w. r. t. left (and right) Haar measures in locally compact groups.
- (Solecki) In non-locally compact groups the ideal of Haar null sets is not ccc.

Measure

Definition. (Christensen) Let (G, \cdot) be a Polish group and $B \subset G$ Borel. We say that B is *Haar null* if there exists Borel probability measure μ on G such that for every $g, h \in G$ we have $\mu(gBh) = 0$. An arbitrary set S is called Haar null if $S \subset B$ for some Borel Haar null set B .

- (Christensen) Haar null sets form a σ -ideal.
- (Christensen) Haar null sets coincide with measure zero sets w. r. t. left (and right) Haar measures in locally compact groups.
- (Solecki) In non-locally compact groups the ideal of Haar null sets is not ccc.
- If for every compact set K there exist g, h with $gKh \subset B$ then B is not Haar null.

Measure in S_∞

Theorem. (Dougherty, Mycielski) Almost all elements of S_∞ have infinitely many infinite orbits and only finitely many finite orbits.

Measure in S_∞

Theorem. (Dougherty, Mycielski) Almost all elements of S_∞ have infinitely many infinite orbits and only finitely many finite orbits.

Therefore, almost all permutations included in the union of countably many conjugacy classes.

Measure in S_∞

Theorem. (Dougherty, Mycielski) Almost all elements of S_∞ have infinitely many infinite orbits and only finitely many finite orbits.

Therefore, almost all permutations included in the union of countably many conjugacy classes.

Theorem. (Dougherty, Mycielski) All of these classes are Haar positive.

Measure and Fraïssé limits

Definition. Let $\mathcal{F} = \langle A, \dots \rangle$ be a structure, $a \in A$ and $X \subset A$. a is *algebraic over X* if $|\{f(a) : f \in \text{Aut}(\mathcal{F}), f|_X = \text{id}|_X\}| < \infty$.

Definition. The structure \mathcal{F} has *no algebraicity* if for every $a \in A$ and finite $X \subset A \setminus \{a\}$ we have that a is not algebraic over X .

Measure and Fraïssé limits

Definition. Let $\mathcal{F} = \langle A, \dots \rangle$ be a structure, $a \in A$ and $X \subset A$. a is algebraic over X if $|\{f(a) : f \in \text{Aut}(\mathcal{F}), f|_X = \text{id}|_X\}| < \infty$.

Definition. The structure \mathcal{F} has no algebraicity if for every $a \in A$ and finite $X \subset A \setminus \{a\}$ we have that a is not algebraic over X .

Theorem. Suppose that \mathcal{F} is a Fraïssé limit with no algebraicity. Then almost all elements of $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{F})$ have finitely many orbits and infinitely many infinite ones.

Remark. For relational Fraïssé limits no algebraicity is equivalent to the *strong amalgamation property* of the corresponding Fraïssé class.

Measure and $Aut(\mathbb{Q})$

$f \in Aut(\mathbb{Q})$ extends to a $\bar{f} \in Homeo^+(\mathbb{R})$.

Definition. A *+ orbital* (*- orbital*) of f is a maximal interval $I \subset \mathbb{R}$ such that for every $x \in I$ we have $\bar{f}(x) > x$ ($\bar{f}(x) < x$).
Let $Fix(\bar{f}) = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : \bar{f}(x) = x\}$.

Measure and $Aut(\mathbb{Q})$

$f \in Aut(\mathbb{Q})$ extends to a $\bar{f} \in Homeo^+(\mathbb{R})$.

Definition. A *+ orbital* (*- orbital*) of f is a maximal interval $I \subset \mathbb{R}$ such that for every $x \in I$ we have $\bar{f}(x) > x$ ($\bar{f}(x) < x$).
Let $Fix(\bar{f}) = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : \bar{f}(x) = x\}$.

Proposition. $f, g \in Aut(\mathbb{Q})$ are conjugate if and only if there exists an order and rationality preserving isomorphism between $Fix(\bar{f})$ and $Fix(\bar{g})$ so that the corresponding orbitals have the same sign.

Measure and $Aut(\mathbb{Q})$

Theorem. For almost every element of $Aut(\mathbb{Q})$

- between every two + orbitals (− orbitals) there is a − orbital (+ orbital) or a rational fixed point

Measure and $Aut(\mathbb{Q})$

Theorem. For almost every element of $Aut(\mathbb{Q})$

- between every two + orbitals (– orbitals) there is a – orbital (+ orbital) or a rational fixed point
- there are only finitely many rational fixed points.

Measure and $Aut(\mathbb{Q})$

Theorem. For almost every element of $Aut(\mathbb{Q})$

- between every two + orbitals (– orbitals) there is a – orbital (+ orbital) or a rational fixed point
- there are only finitely many rational fixed points.

Theorem. This characterises the positive conjugacy classes.

Measure and $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{Q})$

Theorem. For almost every element of $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{Q})$

- between every two + orbitals (– orbitals) there is a – orbital (+ orbital) or a rational fixed point
- there are only finitely many rational fixed points.

Theorem. This characterises the positive conjugacy classes. In particular, there are c many Haar positive conjugacy classes, and their union is almost everything.

Measure and $Aut(\mathbb{Q})$

Theorem. For almost every element of $Aut(\mathbb{Q})$

- between every two $+$ orbitals ($-$ orbitals) there is a $-$ orbital ($+$ orbital) or a rational fixed point
- there are only finitely many rational fixed points.

Theorem. This characterises the positive conjugacy classes. In particular, there are \mathfrak{c} many Haar positive conjugacy classes, and their union is almost everything.

Theorem. There are \aleph_0 many Haar positive conjugacy classes in $Homeo^+([0, 1])$ and their union is almost everything.

Measure and graphs

Theorem. There are c many Haar positive conjugacy classes in $Aut(\mathcal{R})$ and in $Aut(\text{random } K_n \text{ free graph})$, $Aut(\text{random tournament})$.

Measure and graphs

Theorem. There are c many Haar positive conjugacy classes in $Aut(\mathcal{R})$ and in $Aut(\text{random } K_n \text{ free graph})$, $Aut(\text{random tournament})$.

Theorem. There are \aleph_0 many Haar positive conjugacy classes and their union is co-Haar null in

- $Aut(\text{e. r. with } \aleph_0 \text{ many } \aleph_0 \text{ sized classes})$,
- $Aut(\text{e. r. with } n \text{ many } \aleph_0 \text{ sized classes})$,
- $Aut(\text{e. r. with } \aleph_0 \text{ many } n \text{ sized classes})$.

Questions

1. How many Haar positive conjugacy classes are there?
2. Is the union of the Haar null conjugacy classes is Haar null?

Examples

	\cup of Haar null classes is Haar null		
	C	$LC \setminus C$	NLC
0			
n			
\aleph_0			
c			
	\cup of Haar null classes is not Haar null		
	C	$LC \setminus C$	NLC
0			
n			
\aleph_0			
c			

Examples

	\cup of Haar null classes is Haar null		
	C	LC \ C	NLC
0	—	—	—
n	\mathbb{Z}_n	HNN	???
\aleph_0	???	\mathbb{Z}	S_∞
\mathfrak{c}	—	—	$Aut(\mathbb{Q}); Aut(\mathbb{R})?$
	\cup of Haar null classes is not Haar null		
	C	LC \ C	NLC
0	2^ω	$\mathbb{Z} \times 2^\omega$	\mathbb{Z}^ω
n	$\mathbb{Z}_n \times (\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_3^\omega)$	HNN $\times (\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_3^\omega)$	$\mathbb{Z}_n \times (\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Q}_d^\omega)$
\aleph_0	???	$\mathbb{Z} \times (\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_3^\omega)$	$S_\infty \times (\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_3^\omega)$
\mathfrak{c}	—	—	$Aut(\mathbb{Q}) \times (\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_3^\omega)$

Open problems

Question. Does there exist a compact subgroup of S_∞ (\iff profinite) with infinitely many positive conjugacy classes?

Open problems

Question. Does there exist a compact subgroup of S_∞ (\iff profinite) with infinitely many positive conjugacy classes?

Question. Are there natural examples of automorphism groups with given cardinality of Haar positive conjugacy classes?

Open problems

Question. Does there exist a compact subgroup of S_∞ (\iff profinite) with infinitely many positive conjugacy classes?

Question. Are there natural examples of automorphism groups with given cardinality of Haar positive conjugacy classes?

Question. Does there exist a Polish group such that it consistently has κ many Haar positive conjugacy classes with $\aleph_0 < \kappa < \mathfrak{c}$?

Open problems

Question. Does there exist a compact subgroup of S_∞ (\iff profinite) with infinitely many positive conjugacy classes?

Question. Are there natural examples of automorphism groups with given cardinality of Haar positive conjugacy classes?

Question. Does there exist a Polish group such that it consistently has κ many Haar positive conjugacy classes with $\aleph_0 < \kappa < \mathfrak{c}$?

Problem. Formulate necessary and sufficient model theoretic conditions which characterise the measure theoretic behaviour of the conjugacy classes!

Thank you for your attention!