

Orbital profile and orbit algebra of oligomorphic permutation groups

Conjectures of Cameron and Macpherson

Justine Falque
joint work with Nicolas M. Thiéry

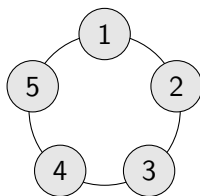
Laboratoire de Recherche en Informatique
Université Paris-Sud (Orsay)

NBSAN, June 14th of 2018

Age and profile : example on a finite group (1)

Action of the cyclic group $G = C_5$ on the five pearl necklace

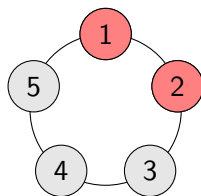
→ induced action on *subsets* of pearls



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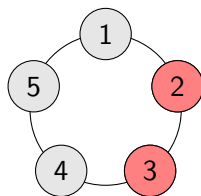
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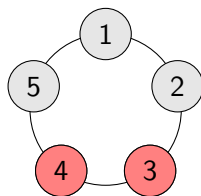
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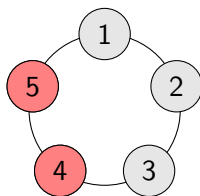
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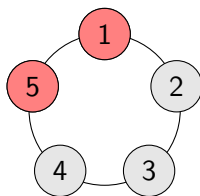
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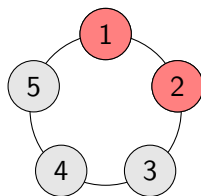


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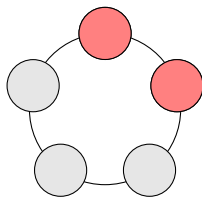


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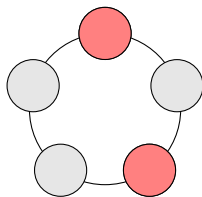


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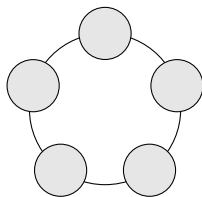
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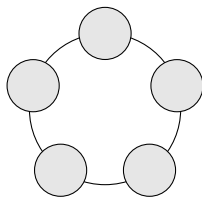
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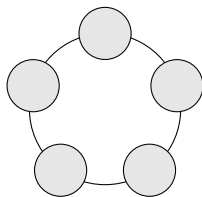
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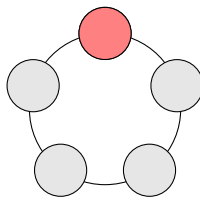
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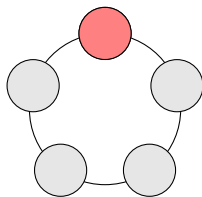
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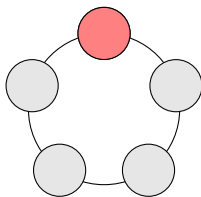
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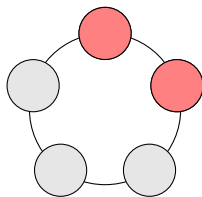
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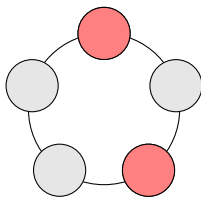
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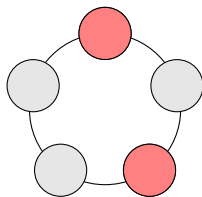
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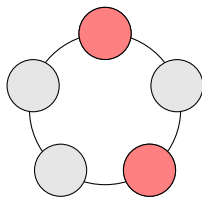
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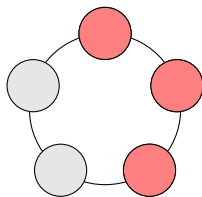
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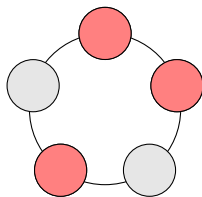
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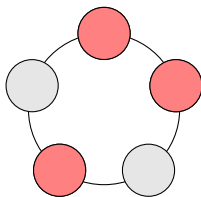
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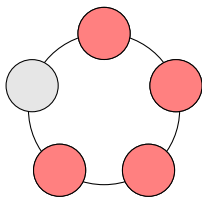
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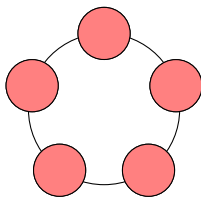
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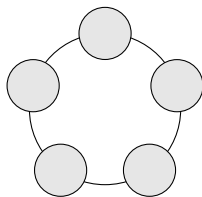
$$\varphi_G(2) = 2$$

$$\varphi_G(3) = 2$$

$$\varphi_G(4) = 1$$

$$\varphi_G(5) = 1$$

$$\varphi_G(n) = 0 \text{ si } n > 5$$



Age and profile : example on a finite group (2)

Generating polynomial of the profile :

$$\mathcal{H}_G(z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \varphi_G(n) z^n = 1 + z + 2z^2 + 2z^3 + z^4 + z^5$$

Can be calculated using Pólya's theory

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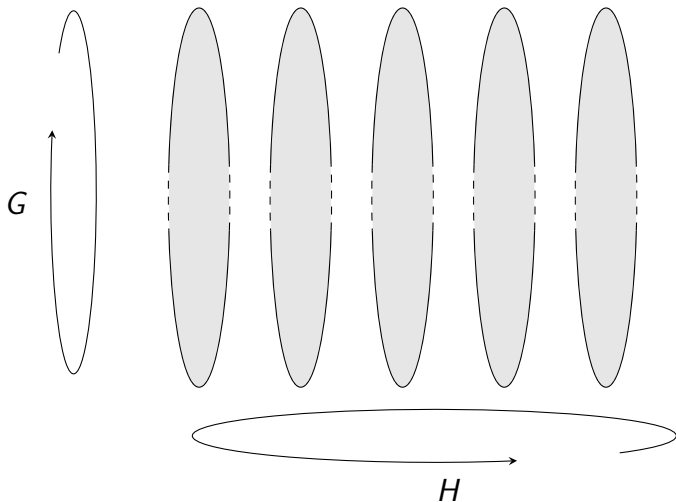
→ **Oligomorphic permutation groups:**

$$\varphi_G(n) < \infty \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$$

Wreath product of two permutation groups

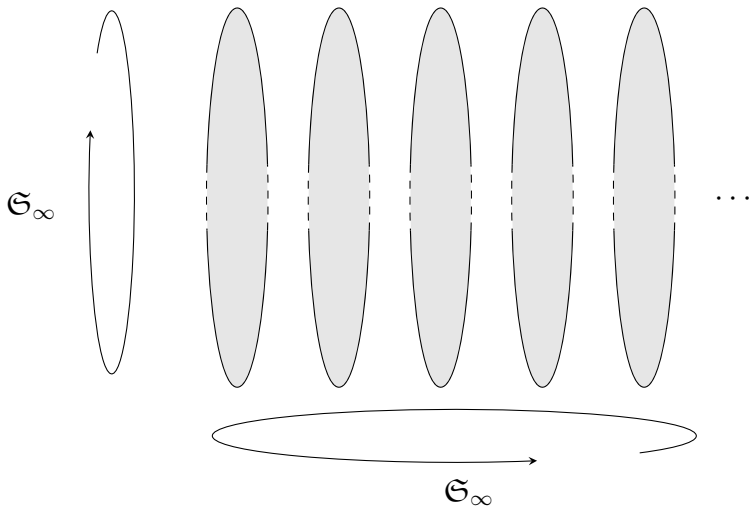
$$G \leq \mathfrak{S}_M, H \leq \mathfrak{S}_N$$

$G \wr H$ has a natural action on $E = \sqcup_{i=1}^N E_i$, with $\text{card} E_i = M$.



Example : $G = \mathfrak{S}_\infty \wr \mathfrak{S}_\infty$

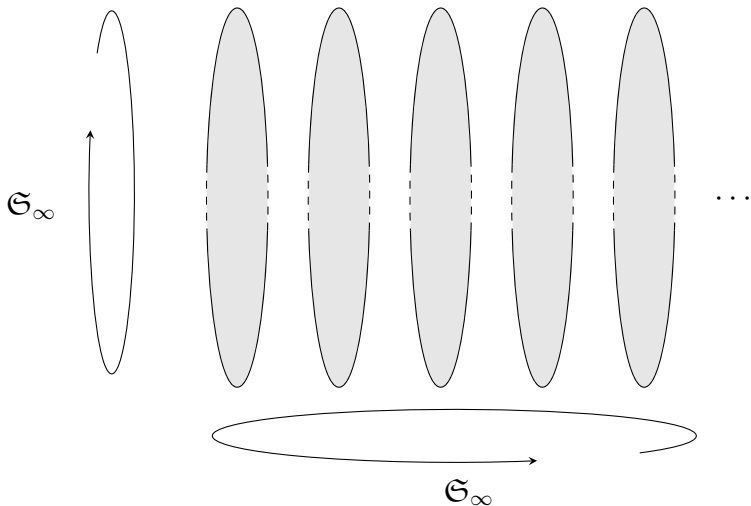
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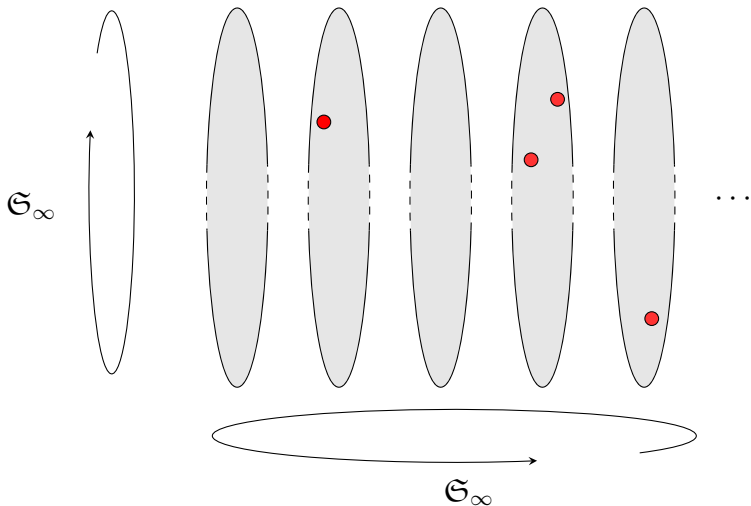
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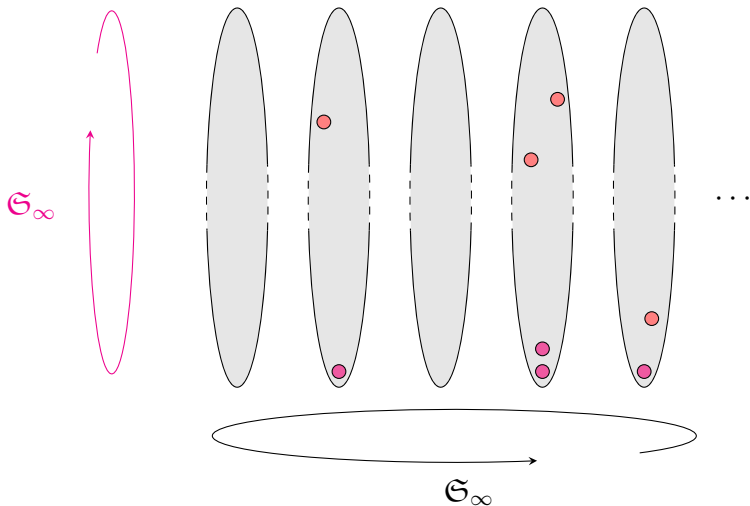
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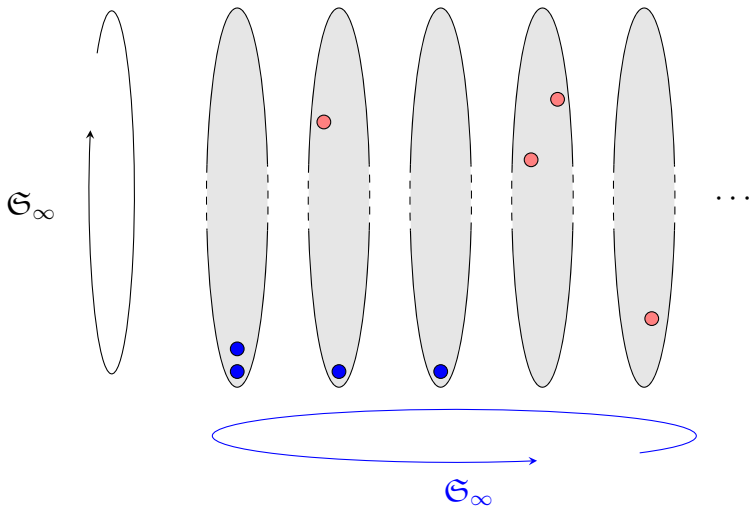
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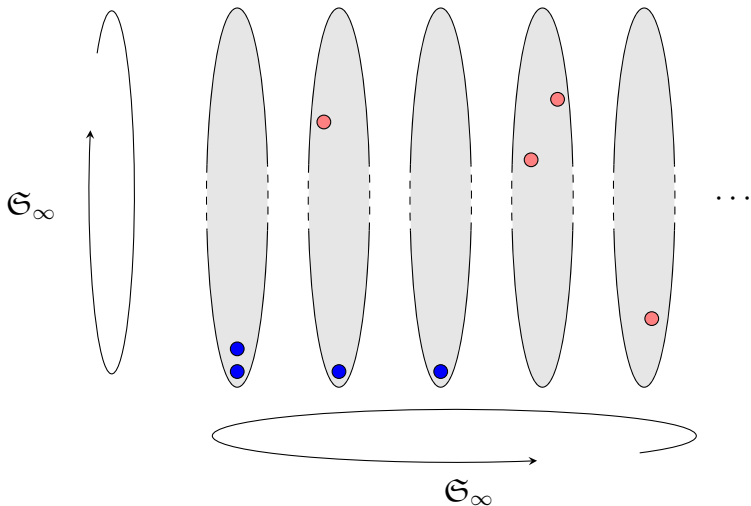
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Example : $G = \mathfrak{S}_\infty \wr \mathfrak{S}_\infty$

$$\varphi_G(n) = \mathcal{P}(n)$$

An orbit of degree $n \longleftrightarrow$ a partition of n



Examples

- $G = \mathfrak{S}_\infty \wr \mathfrak{S}_\infty$ (action on a denumerable set of copies of \mathbb{N})
 $\varphi_G(n) = \mathcal{P}(n)$, number of partitions of n

$$\mathcal{H}_G = \frac{1}{\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} (1 - z^i)}$$

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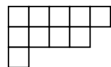
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- $G = \mathfrak{S}_\infty \wr \mathfrak{S}_m$
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Conjecture of Cameron

Conjecture (Cameron, 70s)

If a profile is bounded by a polynomial it is **quasi-polynomial**:

$$\varphi_G(n) = a_s(n)n^s + \cdots + a_1(n)n + a_0(n),$$

where the a_i 's are periodic functions.

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Note

$$\mathcal{H}_G = \frac{P(z)}{(1-z^{d_1})\cdots(1-z^{d_k})} \implies \varphi_G \text{ quasi-polynomial of degree at most } k - 1$$

Graded algebras

Definition: Graded algebra

$A = \bigoplus_n A_n$ such that $A_i A_j \subseteq A_{i+j}$.

Example

$A = \mathbb{K}[x_1, \dots, x_m]$ is a graded algebra.

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Proposition

A is finitely generated \implies Hilbert $(A) = \frac{P(z)}{(1-z^{d_1}) \dots (1-z^{d_k})}$

Example

Hilbert $(\mathbb{Q}[x, y, t^3]) = \frac{1}{(1-z)^2(1-z^3)}$

A strategy to prove Cameron's conjecture?

- G : an oligomorphic permutation group with polynomial profile
- Find a graded algebra $A(G) = \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} A_n$ such that

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- G : an oligomorphic permutation group with polynomial profile
- Find a graded algebra $A(G) = \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} A_n$ such that

$$\mathcal{H}_G = \text{Hilbert}(A(G))$$

- Try to show that $A(G)$ is finitely generated
- Deduce:

$$\mathcal{H}_G = \frac{P(z)}{(1 - z^{d_1}) \cdots (1 - z^{d_k})}$$

and thus the quasi-polynomiality of $\varphi_G(n)$

Cameron, 1980: the orbit algebra $\mathbb{Q}\mathcal{A}(G)$

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Product?

- Defined on subsets:

$$ef = \begin{cases} e \cup f & \text{if } e \cap f = \emptyset \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- $o = \{e_1, e_2, \dots\} \longleftrightarrow e_1 + e_2 + \dots$

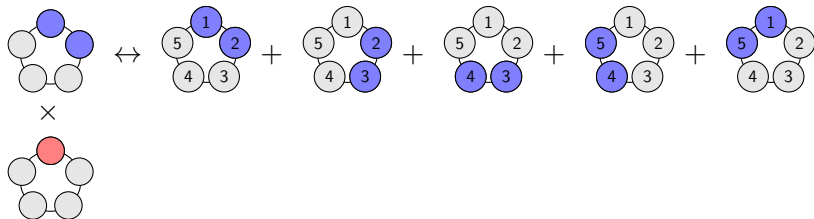
Example of a product in a finite case : back to \mathcal{C}_5

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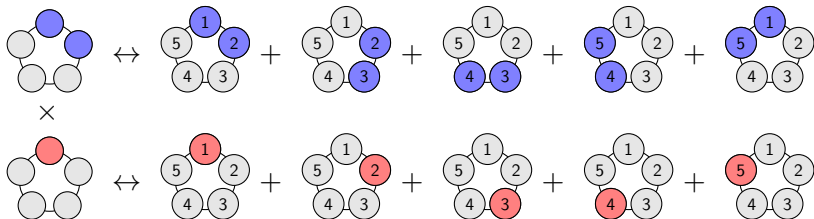


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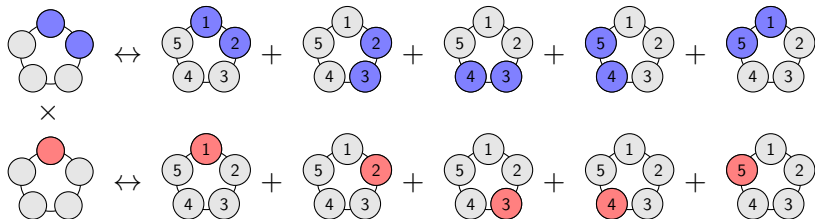


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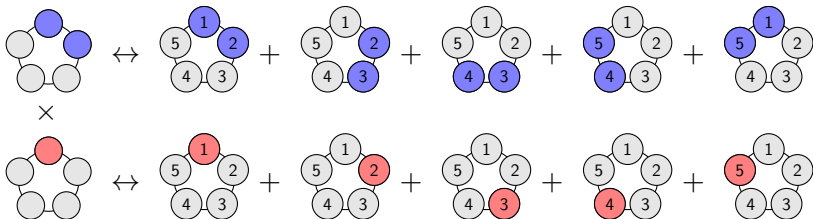
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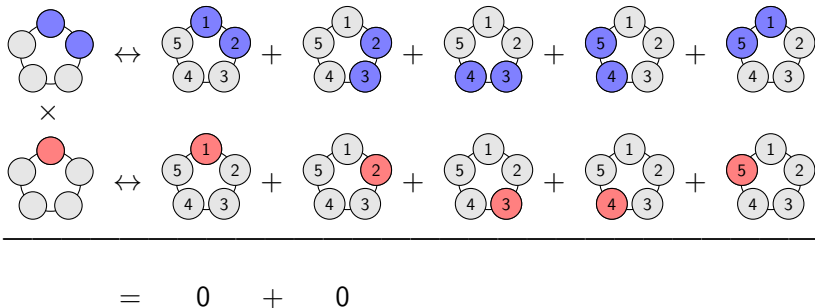


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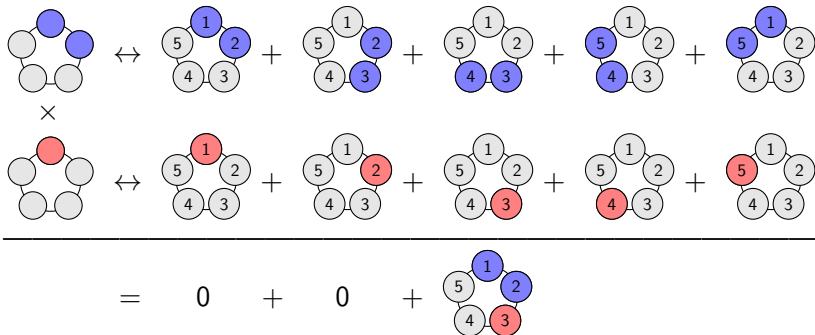


= 0

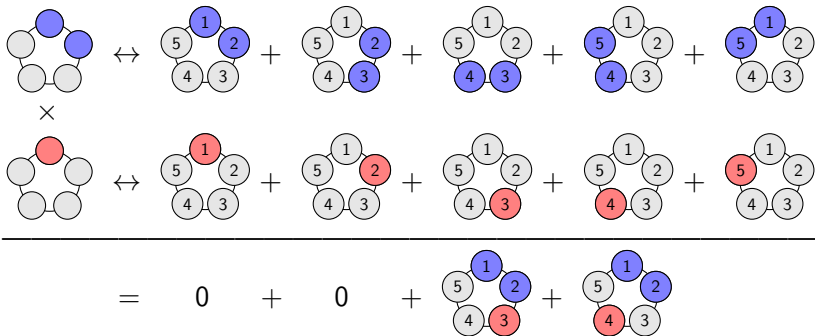
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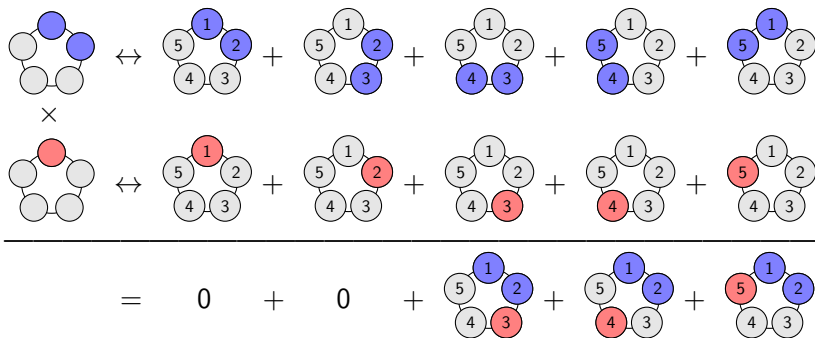


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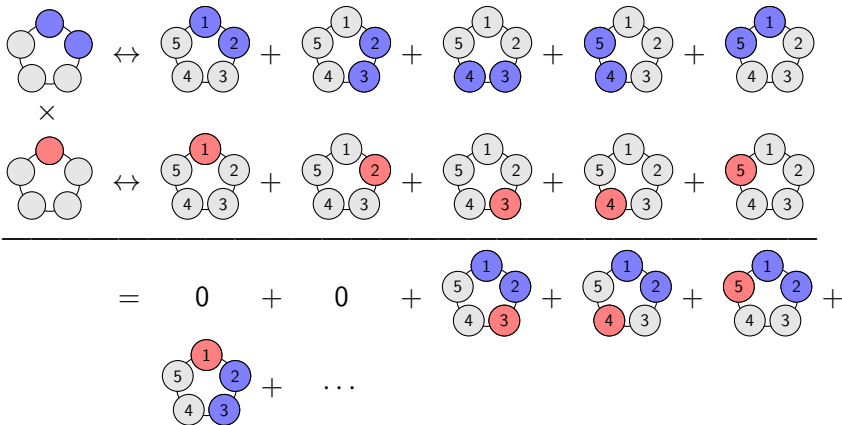


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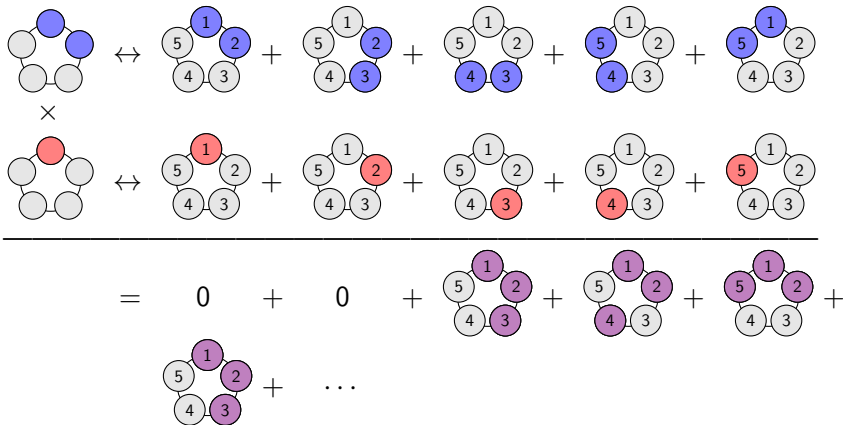


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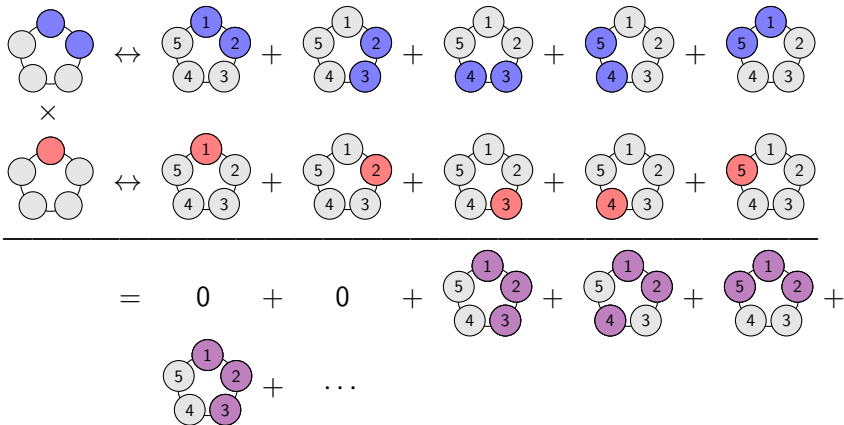
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$$\begin{array}{c}
 \begin{array}{c}
 \text{Diagram 1} \\
 \times \\
 \text{Diagram 2}
 \end{array}
 \Leftrightarrow
 \begin{array}{c}
 \text{Diagram 2.1} + \text{Diagram 2.2} + \text{Diagram 2.3} + \text{Diagram 2.4} + \text{Diagram 2.5} \\
 \\
 \text{Diagram 2.6} + \text{Diagram 2.7} + \text{Diagram 2.8} + \text{Diagram 2.9} + \text{Diagram 2.10}
 \end{array}
 \\
 \hline
 = 0 + 0 + \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 2.3} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 2.4} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 2.5} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 2.6} \end{array} + \dots \\
 \hline
 = 2 \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 2.3} \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

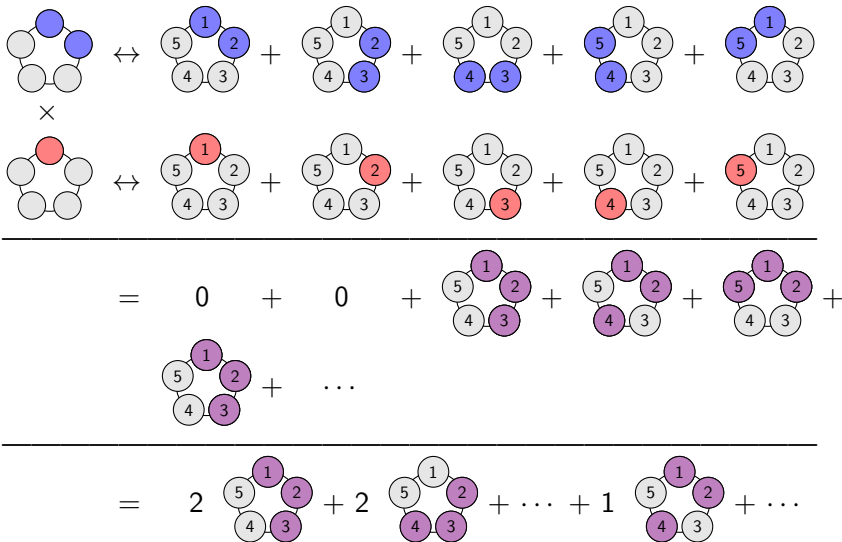
The diagrams are 5-cycles with nodes labeled 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. The first diagram has nodes 1 and 2 highlighted in blue. The second diagram has node 1 highlighted in red. The subsequent diagrams show various combinations of nodes highlighted in blue, red, or purple, representing the decomposition of the product of the two cycles.

Example of a product in a finite case : back to \mathcal{C}_5

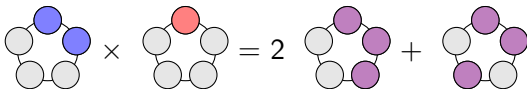
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 \hline
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 \hline
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 \end{array}$$

The diagrams are 5-cycles with nodes labeled 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. The first diagram has nodes 1 and 2 colored blue. The second diagram has nodes 1 and 2 colored red. The first row shows the decomposition of the product of these two diagrams into five terms. The second row shows that the first two terms are zero, and the remaining three terms are colored purple. The final row shows that the sum of the three purple terms is equivalent to twice the sum of two specific purple terms.

Example of a product in a finite case : back to \mathcal{C}_5



In the end:



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$$\begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \circ \\ \circ \\ \circ \end{array} \times \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \circ \\ \circ \\ \circ \\ \circ \end{array} = 2 \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \circ \\ \circ \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \circ \\ \bullet \\ \circ \end{array}$$

Non trivial fact

Product well defined (and graded) on the space of orbits.

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→ **The orbit algebra of a permutation group**

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If $G = \mathfrak{S}_\infty$, $\varphi_G(n) = 1$ for all n , and $\mathbb{Q}\mathcal{A}(G) = \mathbb{K}[x]$.

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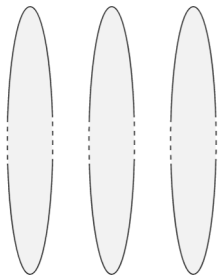
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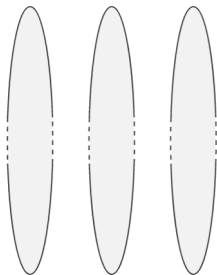
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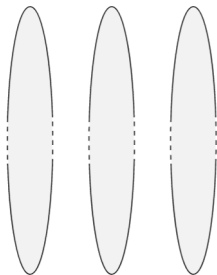
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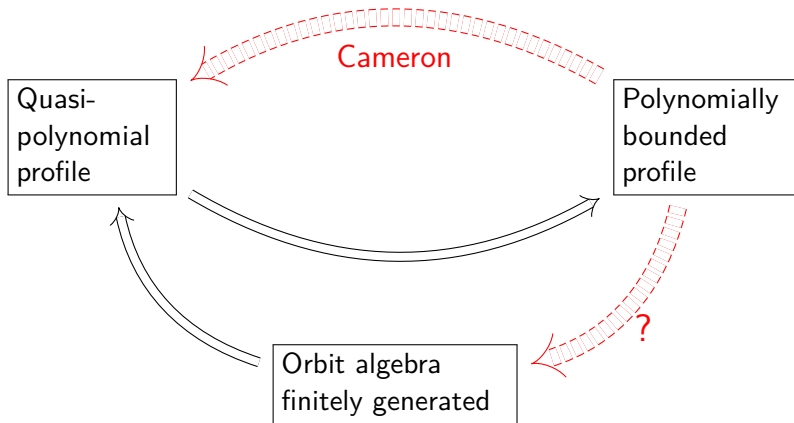
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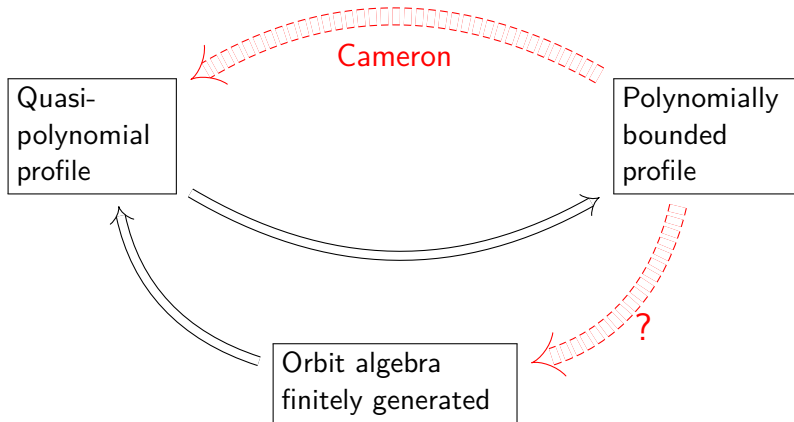
$$\rightarrow \mathbb{Q}\mathcal{A}(\mathfrak{S}_\infty \wr \mathfrak{S}_3) = \mathbb{K}[x_1, x_2, x_3]^{\mathfrak{S}_3}$$

More generally, for H subgroup of \mathfrak{S}_m ,
 $\mathbb{Q}\mathcal{A}(\mathfrak{S}_\infty \wr H) = \mathbb{K}[x_1, \dots, x_m]^H$, the
algebra of invariants of H

Overview and conjecture of Macpherson



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Conjecture (Macpherson, 1985)

Profile of G polynomial $\iff \mathcal{QA}(G)$ finitely generated

Finite index subgroups

Theorem

Let H be a finite index subgroup of G .

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Application : reduction of Macpherson's conjecture

Without loss of generality, we may assume for instance that G has no finite orbit.

But there will be more...

Block systems

Definition : Block system

Partition of E such that each part is globally mapped onto another one (or itself) by every element of G

(see previous examples)

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→ The groups we are interested in have a constantly equal to 1 profile or have a block system.

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Theorem (Classification, Cameron)

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Well known, nice groups (called *highly homogeneous*).
In particular, their orbit algebra is finitely generated.

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Question : which block system should we consider for a given G ?

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Intuitively : higher lower bound = better description of the group

→ we want the finite blocks to be big, and the infinite ones to be many (thus small).

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General case : Canonical block system $B(G)$

Finite blocks as big as possible, and some infinite, smallest ones

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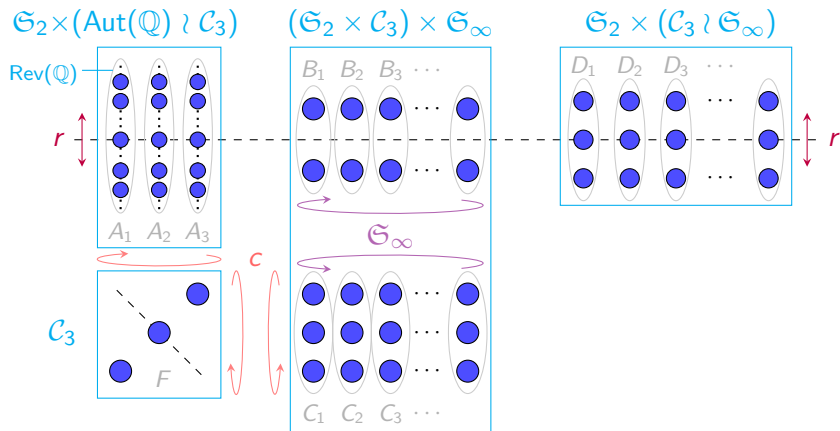
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- $B(G) \rightarrow$ action on the blocks is primitive
- Actually, G acts on the blocks as \mathfrak{S}_∞

A typical group with profile bounded by a polynomial



Synchronization

Case of 2 stable parts (ex : 2 infinite orbits)

$$E_1 \sqcup E_2, \quad G|_{E_1} = G_1, \quad G|_{E_2} = G_2$$

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Example

If $G_1 = G_2 = \mathfrak{S}_\infty$, the actions are either independent or totally synchronized. One may assume safely, for our purposes, the same about the other four groups.

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Works on orbits of blocks \rightarrow no infinite synchronization in $B(G)$

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Last obstacle : remaining finite synchronizations

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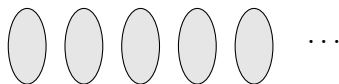
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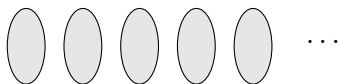
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- General case ?

The "hard case" : transitive block system of finite blocks



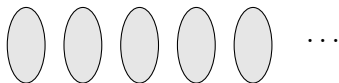
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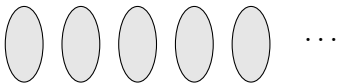
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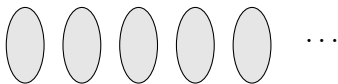
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Proposition 2

The tower of G must be of shape : $H_0 H H H \dots$

Thus, G has the same orbit algebra as $\frac{H_0}{H} \times H \wr \mathfrak{S}_\infty$,
which is of finite index over $H \wr \mathfrak{S}_\infty$.

The "hard case" : transitive block system of finite blocks

Sketch of proof.

1. Finite case of four blocks only :

G has tower $H_0 H_1 H_2 H_3 \Rightarrow H_1 = H_2$

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- Solves the issue of possible finite synchronizations between different orbits of blocks

Recap : proof of the conjecture of Macpherson

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Theorem (Thiéry & F., 2017)

The orbit algebra of an oligomorphic permutation group with profile bounded by a polynomial is finitely generated.

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Theorem (Thiéry & F., 2017)

The orbit algebra of an oligomorphic permutation group with profile bounded by a polynomial is finitely generated.

In other words, *the conjectures of Macpherson and Cameron hold !*

Stronger result : Cohen-Macaulay algebra

- Finite generation of the orbit algebra $\Rightarrow \mathcal{H}_G = \frac{P(z)}{(1-z^{d_1})\cdots(1-z^{d_k})}$

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- Case of Cohen-Macaulay algebras (free finite module over a free finitely generated algebra) : $\exists P(z)$ with positive coefficients
- Once again, it is possible to adapt a proof of invariant theory to obtain that the orbit algebra is indeed a Cohen-Macaulay algebra

Thank you for your attention !

Context

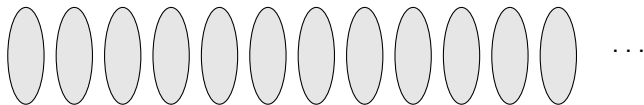
- G permutation group of a countably infinite set E
- Profile φ_G : counts the orbits of finite subsets of E
- **Hypothesis** : $\varphi_G(n)$ bounded by a polynomial
- Conjecture (Cameron) : quasi-polynomiality of φ_G
- Conjecture (Macpherson) : finite generation of the orbit algebra

Results

- Both conjectures hold !
- The orbit algebra is a Cohen-Macaulay algebra
- Classification of the P -oligomorphic permutation groups...

Direct product in the case of finite blocks

"Speak, friend..."

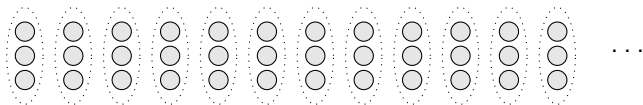


Direct product in the case of finite blocks

"Speak, friend..."

Example 3

$C_3 \times \mathfrak{S}_\infty$ acting on blocks of size 3

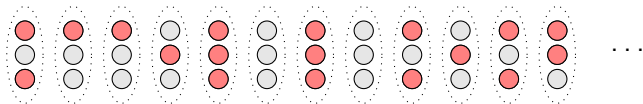


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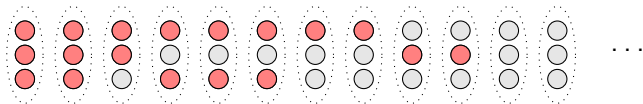


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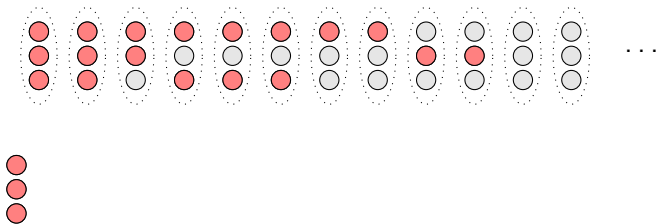


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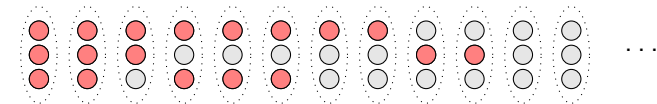


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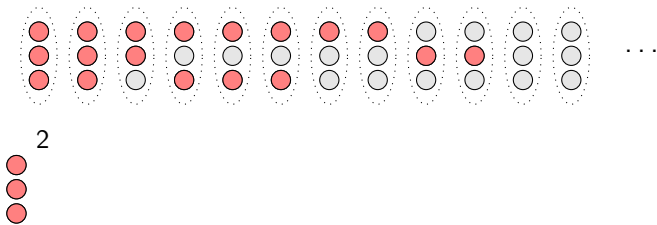


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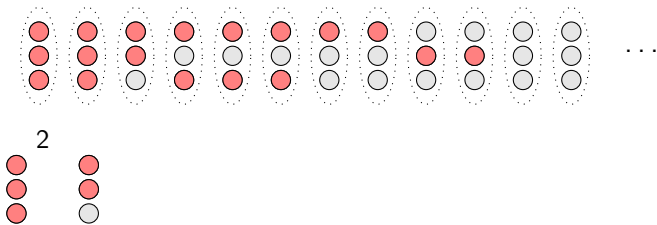


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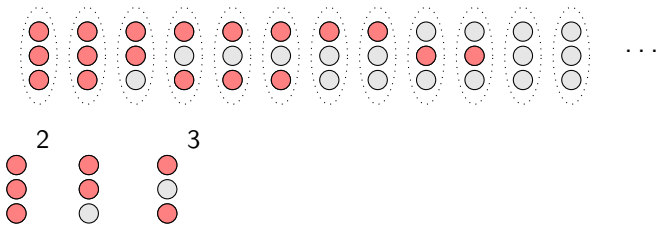


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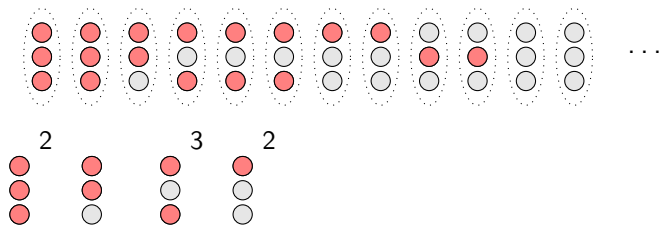
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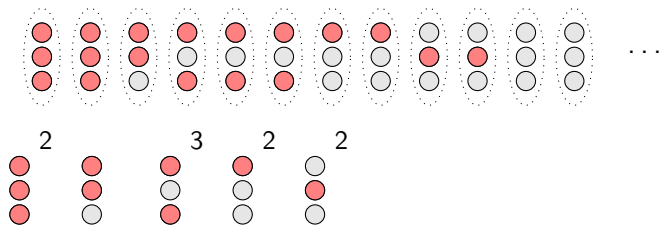
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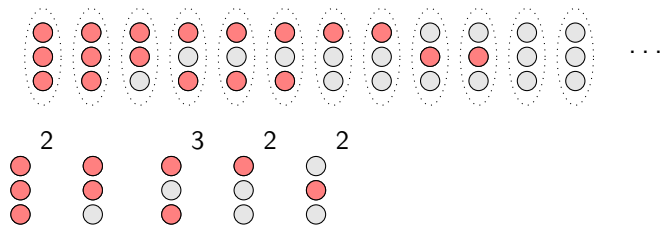
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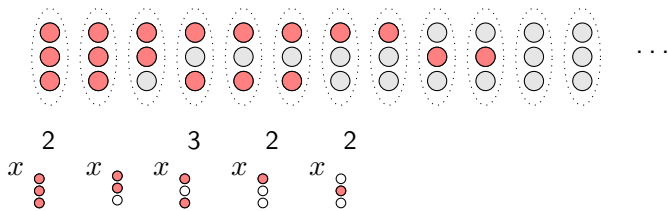
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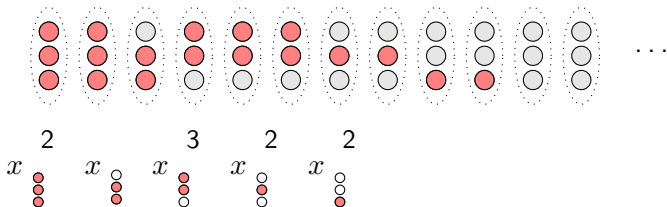
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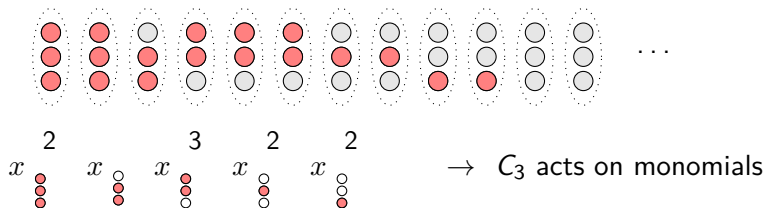
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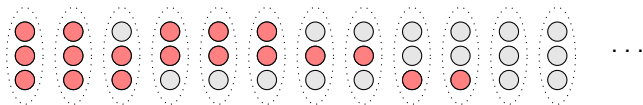
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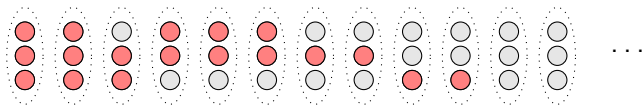
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 $C_3 \times \mathfrak{S}_\infty$ acting on blocks of size 3 $G' = C_3$ acting on (non empty) subsets $\mathbb{K}[x]^{G'}$ \longleftrightarrow Orbit algebra of $C_3 \times \mathfrak{S}_\infty$?

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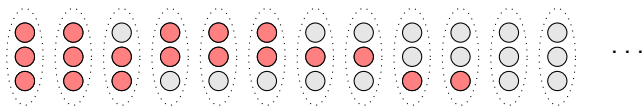
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●
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○ x
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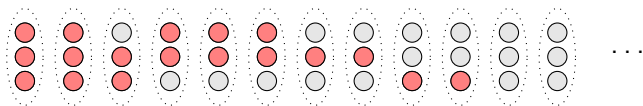
$$x \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \circ \end{array} + x \begin{array}{c} \circ \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \end{array}$$

$$x \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \circ \\ \circ \end{array} + x \begin{array}{c} \circ \\ \circ \\ \bullet \end{array}$$

Direct product in the case of finite blocks

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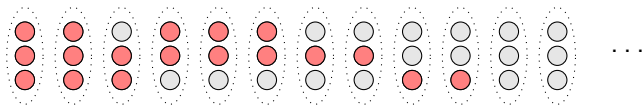
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$$\begin{array}{c}
 x \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \circ \end{array} + x \begin{array}{c} \circ \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \end{array} + x \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \circ \\ \bullet \end{array} \\
 x \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \circ \\ \circ \end{array} + x \begin{array}{c} \circ \\ \circ \\ \bullet \end{array} + x \begin{array}{c} \circ \\ \bullet \\ \circ \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

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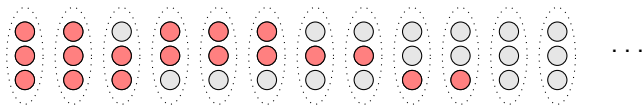
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Direct product in the case of finite blocks

"Speak, friend..."

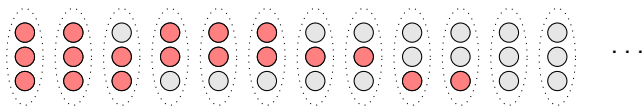
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Direct product in the case of finite blocks

"Speak, friend..."

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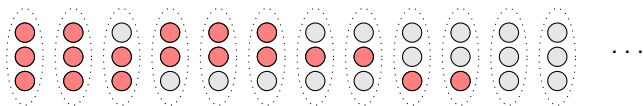
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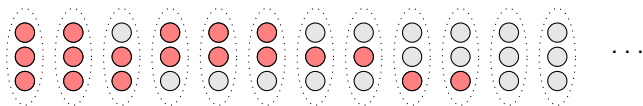
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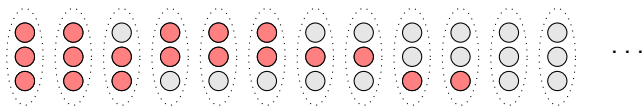
$$O\left(\begin{array}{c} x \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \circ \end{array}\right) \cdot O\left(\begin{array}{c} x \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \circ \end{array}\right) = O\left(\begin{array}{c} x \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \circ \end{array} \begin{array}{c} x \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \circ \end{array}\right) + O\left(\begin{array}{c} x \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \circ \end{array} \begin{array}{c} x \\ \bullet \\ \circ \\ \bullet \end{array}\right) + O\left(\begin{array}{c} x \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \circ \end{array} \begin{array}{c} x \\ \bullet \\ \circ \\ \bullet \end{array}\right)$$

$$O\left(\begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \circ \end{array}\right) \cdot O\left(\begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \circ \end{array}\right)$$

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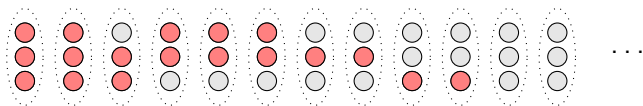
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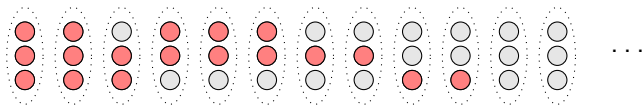
$$O\left(\begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \circ \end{array}\right) \cdot O\left(\begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \circ \end{array}\right) = O\left(\begin{array}{cc} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \\ \circ & \circ \end{array}\right) + O\left(\begin{array}{cc} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \circ \\ \circ & \circ \end{array}\right) + O\left(\begin{array}{cc} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \circ \\ \circ & \bullet \end{array}\right)$$

$$O\left(\begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \circ \end{array}\right) \cdot O\left(\begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \circ \\ \circ \end{array}\right) = O\left(\begin{array}{cc} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \circ \\ \circ & \circ \end{array}\right) + O\left(\begin{array}{cc} \bullet & \circ \\ \bullet & \circ \\ \circ & \circ \end{array}\right)$$

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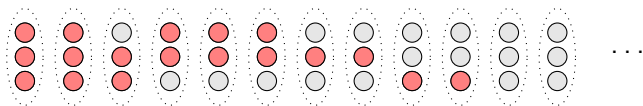
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$$O\left(\begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \end{array}\right) \cdot O\left(\begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \end{array}\right) = O\left(\begin{array}{cc} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{array}\right) + O\left(\begin{array}{cc} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{array}\right) + O\left(\begin{array}{cc} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{array}\right)$$

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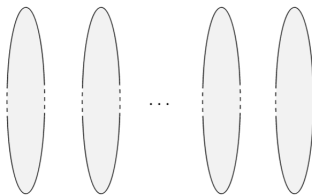
$$O\left(\begin{array}{c} x \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \end{array}\right) \cdot O\left(\begin{array}{c} x \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \end{array}\right) = O\left(\begin{array}{cc} x & x \\ \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{array}\right) + O\left(\begin{array}{cc} x & x \\ \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{array}\right) + O\left(\begin{array}{cc} x & x \\ \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{array}\right)$$

$$O\left(\begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \end{array}\right) \cdot O\left(\begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \end{array}\right) = O\left(\begin{array}{cc} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{array}\right) + O\left(\begin{array}{cc} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{array}\right) + O\left(\begin{array}{cc} \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \\ \bullet & \bullet \end{array}\right) + 3 O\left(\begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \end{array}\right)$$

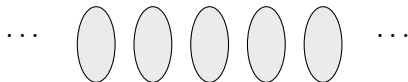
Examples of orbit algebras (2)

More generally, for H subgroup of \mathfrak{S}_m :

- $G = \mathfrak{S}_\infty \wr H$:
 $\mathbb{Q}\mathcal{A}(G) = \mathbb{K}[x_1, \dots, x_m]^H$, the algebra of invariants of H
 $\mathbb{Q}\mathcal{A}(G)$ is finitely generated by Hilbert's theorem.



- $G = H \wr \mathfrak{S}_\infty$:
 $\mathbb{Q}\mathcal{A}(G) =$ the free algebra generated by the age of H



The "hard" case : case of four blocks

Lemma to prove

G has tower $H_0 H_1 H_2 H_3 \Rightarrow H_1 = H_2$

Lemma

In the general case :

$\text{Fix}_G(B_1, \dots, B_n)$ acts on the remaining blocks as \mathfrak{S}_∞
(due to the absence of normal subgroup of finite index of \mathfrak{S}_∞).

Proof.

An element $s \in G$ stabilizing the blocks \leftrightarrow a quadruple

$g \in H_1 \rightarrow \exists (1, g, h, k), \quad h, k \in H_1.$

Let σ be an element of G that permutes the first two blocks and fixes the other two.

Conjugation of x by σ in $G \rightarrow y = (g', 1, h, k)$

Then: $x^{-1}y = (g', g^{-1}, 1, 1)$

By arguing that the tower does not depend on the ordering of the blocks, g^{-1} and therefore g are in H_2 .