

# On Polycyclic Group-Based Cryptography

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joint work (in progress)  
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# Background

In cryptography, one of the most studied problems is how to share a secret key over an insecure channel.



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# Anshel-Anshel-Goldfeld

Circumstances: Alice and Bob want to agree on a common key.

Platform: let  $G$  be a nonabelian group

- PUBLIC KEYS

Alice chooses  $a_1, \dots, a_l$  in  $G$  and makes them PUBLIC.

Bob chooses  $b_1, \dots, b_k$  in  $G$  and makes them PUBLIC.

- PRIVATE KEYS

Alice chooses  $A \in \langle a_1, \dots, a_l \rangle$ .

Bob chooses  $B \in \langle b_1, \dots, b_k \rangle$ .

- EXCHANGED INFORMATION

Alice computes  $b'_1 = b_1^A, \dots, b'_k = b_k^A$ , and sends them to Bob.

Bob computes  $a'_1 = a_1^B, \dots, a'_l = a_l^B$ , and sends them to Alice.

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## The shared key

- The shared key is  $K = [A, B] = A^{-1}B^{-1}AB$ .
- Alice determine  $K$  via:
  - Write  $A = w(a_1, \dots, a_l)$  as a word in  $a_1, \dots, a_l$ .
  - Compute

$$\begin{aligned}
 A^{-1}w(a'_1, \dots, a'_l) &= A^{-1}w(a_1^B, \dots, a_l^B) \\
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Since the conversation is not protected, an eavesdropper could obtain  $b'_1, \dots, b'_k$ , and  $a'_1, \dots, a'_l$  as well.

Using the public data and the stolen information, one way to **break the algorithm** is the following:

$$\text{find } C \in \langle a_1, \dots, a_l \rangle \text{ such that } \begin{cases} b_1^C = b'_1 \\ \dots \\ b_k^C = b'_k. \end{cases}$$

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## Breaking AAG

- Note that  $C = xA$  for some  $x \in C_G(B)$ :

$b_j^C = b_j' = b_j^A$  implies  $b_j^{CA^{-1}} = b_j$ , that is  $CA^{-1} \in C_G(b_j)$  for every  $j = 1, \dots, k$ .

Therefore,  $CA^{-1} \in C_G(b_1, \dots, b_m) \subset C_G(B)$ .

- Write  $C = v(a_1, \dots, a_l)$  as word in the generators  $a_i$ , and compute

$$\begin{aligned} C^{-1}v(a_1', \dots, a_l') &= C^{-1}v(a_1^B, \dots, a_l^B) = C^{-1}v(a_1, \dots, a_l)^B \\ &= C^{-1}C^B = (xA)^{-1}B^{-1}(xA)B = A^{-1}x^{-1}B^{-1}xAB \\ &= A^{-1}B^{-1}AB = [A, B] \end{aligned}$$

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In order to break AAG, one needs to solve:

### Word Problem

Let  $G$  be a finitely presented group. If you are given an element  $g$  in  $G$ , decide whether  $g = 1$ .

### Multiple Conjugacy Search Problem

Let  $x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_n$  be elements of  $G$  and suppose that there exists  $C \in G$  such that

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in which each  $G_{i+1}$  is a normal subgroup of  $G_i$ , and the quotient group  $G_i/G_{i+1}$  is cyclic.

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Let  $G = G_1 \geq G_2 \geq \dots \geq G_{n+1} = 1$  be a polycyclic series for  $G$ .

As  $G_i/G_{i+1}$  is cyclic, for every index  $i$  there exists  $x_i \in G_i$  such that

$$\langle x_i G_{i+1} \rangle = G_i/G_{i+1}. \quad (1)$$

$X = [x_1, \dots, x_n]$  is said to be a **polycyclic sequence** for  $G$  if (1) holds for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ .

The **sequence of relative orders** for  $X$  is the sequence

$$R(X) = (r_1, \dots, r_n)$$

defined by  $r_i = |G_i : G_{i+1}| \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$ .

Moreover, we define  $I(X)$  as the set of  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  such that  $r_i$  is finite.

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Let  $G = G_1 \geq G_2 \geq \dots \geq G_{n+1} = 1$  be a polycyclic series for  $G$ .

As  $G_i/G_{i+1}$  is cyclic, for every index  $i$  there exists  $x_i \in G_i$  such that

$$\langle x_i G_{i+1} \rangle = G_i/G_{i+1}. \quad (1)$$

$X = [x_1, \dots, x_n]$  is said to be a **polycyclic sequence** for  $G$  if (1) holds for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ .

The **sequence of relative orders** for  $X$  is the sequence

$$R(X) = (r_1, \dots, r_n)$$

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# Polycyclic Presentation

A presentation  $\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \mid R \rangle$  is called a **polycyclic presentation** if there exist a sequence  $S = (s_1, \dots, s_n)$  with  $s_i \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$  and integers  $a_{i,k}, b_{i,j,k}, c_{i,j,k}$  such that  $R$  consists of the following relations:

$$x_i^{s_i} = R_{i,i} := x_{i+1}^{a_{i,i+1}} \cdots x_n^{a_{i,n}} \quad \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq n, \text{ if } s_i \text{ is finite;}$$

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## Word Problem

Suppose that  $G$  is given by a pc-presentation.

Let  $G_i = \langle x_i, \dots, x_n \rangle$  for  $1 \leq i \leq n + 1$ .

### Consistency

A pc-presentation is **consistence** if  $s_i = |G_i : G_{i+1}|$  for every  $i \in I(X)$ .

### Normal Form in a Consistence PC-Presentation

For each  $g \in G$  there exists a unique vector  $(e_1, \dots, e_n) \in \mathbb{Z}^n$  with  $0 \leq e_i < s_i$  if  $i \in I(X)$  such that

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# Collection

Suppose an element  $g$  is given as a word in  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ .

The **collection algorithm** determines the normal form of  $g$  by an iterated rewriting of the word using the relations of the polycyclic presentation.

## Efficiency

The collection algorithm is generally **effective** in practical applications.

- For **finite** groups, collection was shown to be **polynomial** by Leedham-Green and Soicher.
- For **infinite** groups, Gebhardt showed that the complexity depends on the exponents occurring during the collection process, so it has **no bound**.

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# Conjugacy Search Problem

Multiple conjugacy search problem can be reduced to finitely many iterations of single conjugacy search problem and centralizers computation.

## Conjugacy Search Problem (CSP)

If  $g$  and  $h$  are conjugate elements of  $G$ , find  $u \in G$  such that

$$g^u = h.$$



# How to solve CSP

Let  $G$  be given by a consistent pc-presentation. Let  $g, h \in G$  and  $U \leq G$ :

## Problems

- Decide if  $g$  and  $h$  are conjugate in  $U$ .
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# "Privileged"

## Nilpotent

- **Word Problem:** can be solved evaluating polynomials, as shown by Leedham-Green and Soicher.
- **Conjugacy Search Problem:** can be solved using induction on a refinement of the lower central series, as shown by Sims.

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- **Word Problem:** can be solved evaluating polynomials, as shown by Du Sautoy.
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# Virtually Nilpotent Polycyclic Groups

## Growth Rate

Let  $G$  be a finitely generated group. The **growth rate** of  $G$  is the asymptotic behaviour of its **growth function**  $\gamma : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined as

$$\gamma(n) = |\{w \in G : l(w) \leq n\}|,$$

where  $l(w)$  is the length of  $w$  as a word in the generators of  $G$ .

## Remark

Wolf and Milnor proved that polycyclic groups have polynomial growth rate if and only if they are virtually nilpotent.

Being the secret key a word in the group, the faster the growth rate the larger the key space.

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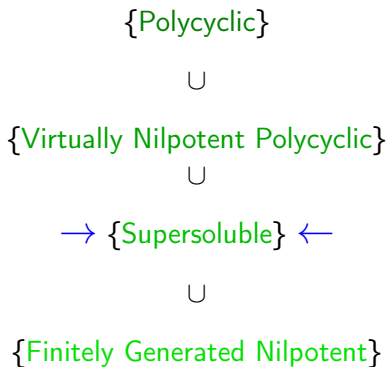
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## Classes of Groups



## What about Supersoluble?

A group  $G$  is said to be **supersoluble** if it has a chain of subgroups

$$G = G_1 \geq G_2 \geq \dots \geq G_{n+1} = 1$$

in which each  $G_i$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$ , and the quotient group  $G_i/G_{i+1}$  is cyclic.

## A Special Subgroup in Supersolubles

For any  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , we can consider

$$C_G(G_i/G_{i+1}) = \{g \in G \mid [g, x] \in G_{i+1} \text{ for every } x \in G_i\}.$$

The intersection of all these centralizers

$$H = \bigcap_{i=1}^n C_G(G_i/G_{i+1})$$

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# Achievements

Recently, we focused our attention on the algorithmical properties of supersoluble groups, and we achieved a **solution for MCSP** in supersoluble groups.

Let  $G$  be a supersoluble group, and let  $T = \{t_1, \dots, t_r\}$  be a transversal to  $H$  in  $G$ .

### Proposition

*Let  $x$  and  $y$  be elements of  $G$ . Then  $x$  and  $y$  are conjugate in  $G$  if and only if  $x$  and  $y^{t_i}$  are conjugate in  $H$  for some  $i \in \{1, \dots, r\}$ .*

### Proof.

If  $x$  and  $y^{t_i}$  are conjugate in  $H$  for some  $i$ , then of course  $x$  and  $y$  are conjugate in  $G$ .

Viceversa, suppose that  $x$  and  $y$  are conjugate in  $G = \bigcup_{i=1}^r t_i H$ . Therefore, there exist  $u \in H$  and  $i \in \{1, \dots, r\}$  such that  $x = y^{t_i u} = (y^{t_i})^u$ . □

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$$G \geq H = H_1 \geq \dots \geq H_n \geq H_{n+1} = 1$$

where  $H_i = H \cap G_i$ . So for any  $i$

- $H_i \triangleleft G$ ,
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## CSP in Supersoluble

- 1 Compute each centralizer  $C_G(G_i/G_{i+1})$  as kernel of some homomorphisms between polycyclic groups.
- 2 Consider  $H = \bigcap_{i=1}^n C_G(G_i/G_{i+1})$ .
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It becomes easy if we manage to compute  $C_G(v)$ , since  $C_U(v) = U \cap C_G(v)$ .

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In order to solve the **Multiple Conjugacy Search Problem**, we should be able to compute  $C_U(v)$  for any  $v \in G$  and any  $U \leq G$ .

It becomes easy if we manage to compute  $C_G(v)$ , since  $C_U(v) = U \cap C_G(v)$ .

We found an algorithm which works as follows.

Let  $T = \{t_1, \dots, t_r\}$  be a transversal to  $H$  in  $G$ . Then,  $\{t_{i_1} h_{i_1}, \dots, t_{i_m} h_{i_m}\}$  is a transversal to  $C_H(v)$  in  $C_G(v)$ , where

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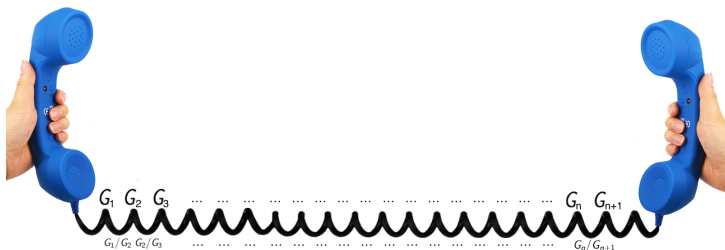
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# Aims

We are now interested in studying the MCSP in **virtually nilpotent** groups hoping to extend the supersoluble case.



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Thank you for the attention!

