

Computing Normalisers in Permutation Groups

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Digression: Base

Definition (Base points)

$G \leq \text{Sym}(\Omega)$. A **base** of G is $B = [\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_k] \in \Omega^k$ such that $G_{\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_k} = 1$.

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$G = \langle (1, 2, 3), (4, 5) \rangle$. $G_1 = \{(), (4, 5)\}$. $G_{1,4} = \{()\}$. So $[1, 4]$ is a base of G .

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Lemma (Uniqueness of base image)

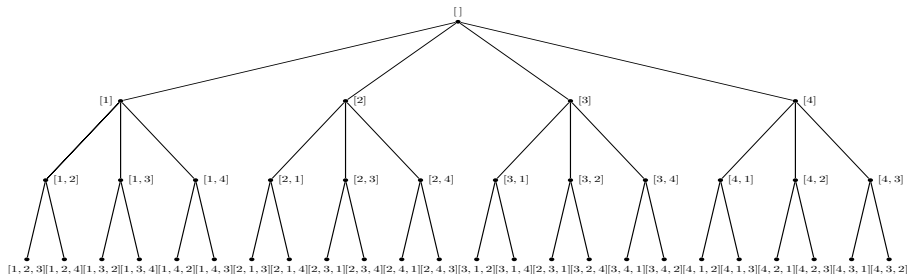
The base image B^g of g uniquely determines $g \in G$.

Finding Normalisers by Backtrack search

- $G, H \leq S_n$. No known polynomial time algorithm (in general) to compute $N_G(H)$: use backtrack search

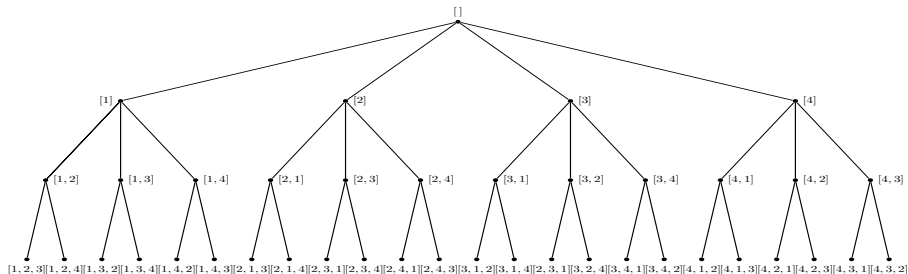
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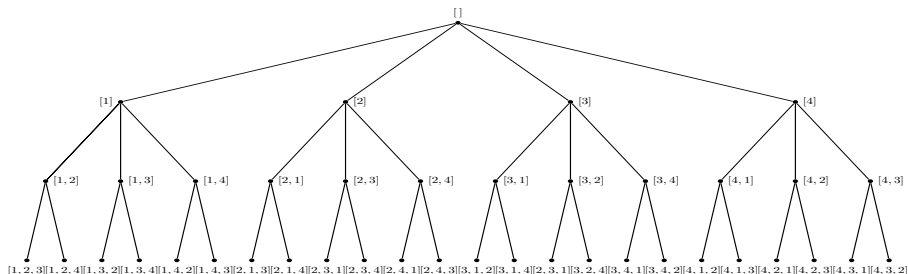
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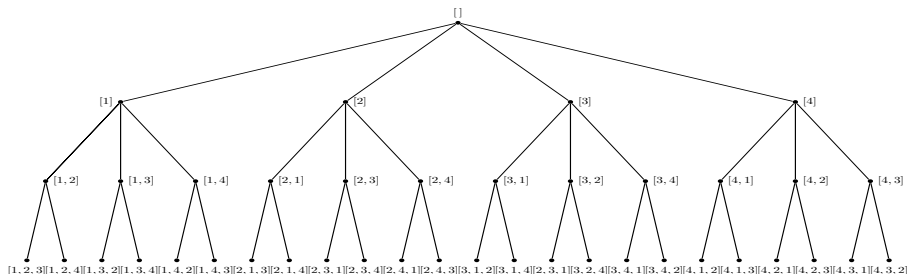
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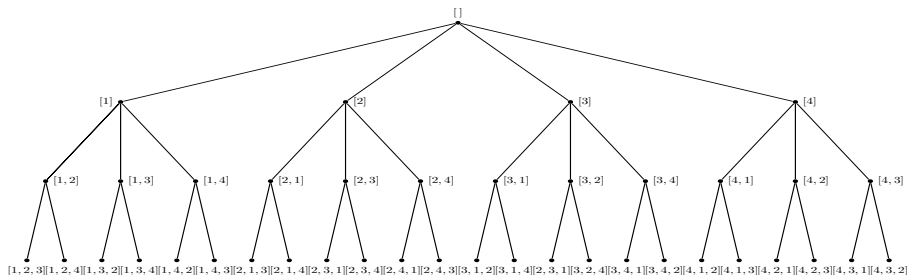
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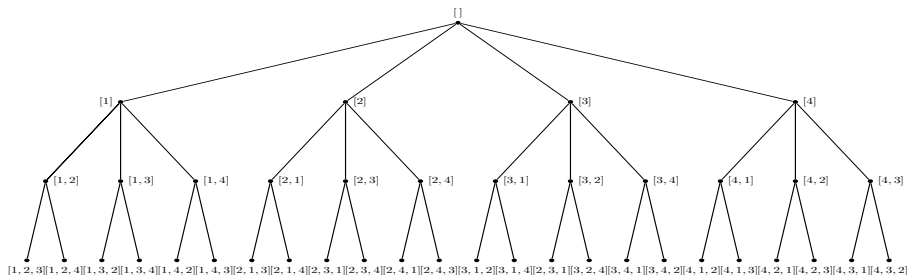
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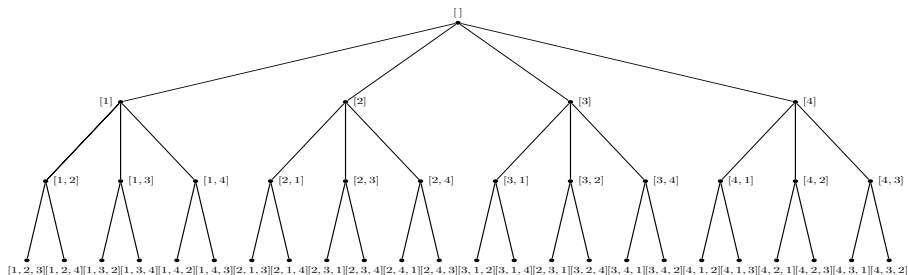
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- Motto: fail early to avoid traversing bigger subtree

¹Gregory Butler. “Computing normalizers in permutation groups”. In: *Journals of Algorithms* 4 (1983), pp. 163–175. DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/0196-6774\(83\)90043-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/0196-6774(83)90043-3).

²Heiko Theissen. “Eine Methode zur Normalisatorberechnung in Permutationsgruppen mit Anwendungen in der Konstruktion primitiver Gruppen”. PhD thesis. RWTH Aachen, 1997. PhD thesis.

Lemma

If $g \in N_G(H)$ and $[\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_i]^g = [\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_i]$ ($i \leq k$), then $g^{-1}H_{\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_i}g = H_{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_i}$.

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Both M and $\text{reduced}(M)$ represent H .

Normalisers in vector spaces

Lemma

Let M be a matrix over $GF(2)$ representing H and let $g \in S_n$. Let M' be the matrix representing H^g . Then $g \in N_{S_n}(H) \iff \text{row}(M) = \text{row}(M')$.

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$$M = \begin{array}{cccccc} & \color{red}{1,7} & \color{red}{2,8} & \color{red}{3,9} & \color{red}{4,10} & \color{red}{5,11} & \color{red}{6,12} \\ \left[\begin{array}{cccccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{array} \right] \end{array}$$

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- Centralisers are determined identical columns - assume none

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- If H -base images under g is known, then s^g is known \forall generator s of H .

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Example (Extending from base H)

Base of $H = [1, 2, 3]$.

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$$M = \begin{matrix} & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

Partial base image = $[3, 2, 1]$.

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- If pass, we can extend the partial base image to full base image, add the corresponding group element to N ; else: backtrack

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$$M = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

Partial base image = $[3, 2, 1]$.

$$M^\sigma = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 3 & 2 & 1 & 5 & 4 & 6 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

Columns of M^σ must be columns of M . Extend to base image $[3, 2, 1, 5, 4]$.

- If pass, we can extend the partial base image to full base image, add the corresponding group element to N ; else: backtrack
- So only check up to depth length of base of H - which is $n/4$

Lemma

If $\sigma \in N_K(H)$ s.t. $[\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_i]^\sigma = [\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_i]$ then
 $\text{row}(M(H_{\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_i})^\sigma) = \text{row}(M(H_{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_i}))$

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Example

$$M = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

Base of $H = [1, 2, 3]$.

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Base of $H = [1, 2, 3]$. Try partial base image $:= [1, 3]$.

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$$M(H_{1,2}) = [0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 1 \ 1]$$

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Matrix has three 1's.

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Matrix has three 1's.

Matrix has four 1's \implies Backtrack!

Lemma

$\sigma \in K$. If L is a set of linearly dependent columns of M and $\sigma \in N_K(H)$, then L^σ is also a set of linearly dependent columns of M^σ .

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$$c_1 + c_2 + c_4 = [0, 0, 0]$$

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This is not a column in M ,

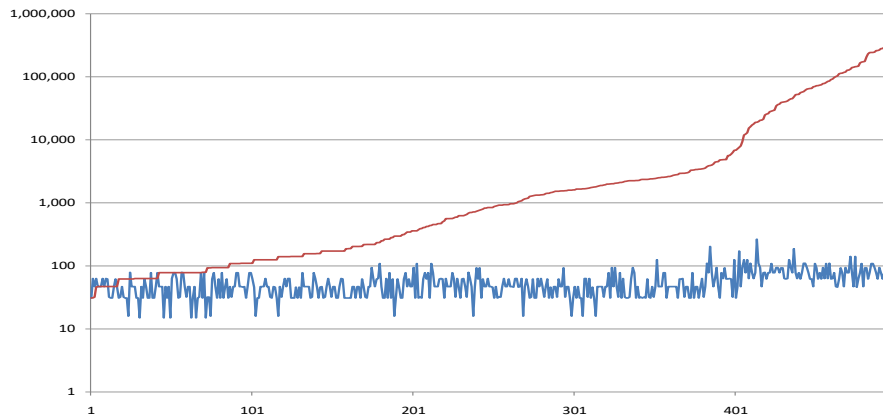
\implies Backtrack!

Test results

Tested on 500 random groups on 20 points in GAP

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Tested on 500 random groups on 20 points in GAP



- Red: Log(time taken by the original algorithm of GAP, in milliseconds);
- Blue: Log(time taken by new algorithm)