

Issai Schur, Helmut Wielandt and schurian Schur-rings

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Conference in Algebraic Graph Theory
Symmetry vs Regularity
The first 50 years since Weisfeiler-Leman stabilization
July 1 - July 7, 2018
Pilsen

Outline

Some history: Burnside - Schur - Wielandt

Some more history and the characterization of (non)-Schurian S-rings

William Burnside (2.7.1852 - 21.8.1927)



Theorem

A transitive permutation group of prime degree is doubly transitive or solvable.

On the properties of groups of odd order. Proc. London Math. Soc. XXXIII (1900)

Theorem

A permutation group of prime power degree $n = p^m$ containing a cycle of order n is either doubly transitive or imprimitive.

Theory of Groups of Finite Order. (1911)
Proof uses character theory.

W. Burnside conjectured that an analogous result holds for every permutation group of degree n that contains a regular Abelian subgroup of order n . FALSE! (counterexample exists) but TRUE if the regular subgroup is cyclic. (I. Schur)

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Issai Schur (10.1.1875 - 10.1.1941)

on the tombstone:
Yeshiyahu Schur
Professor of Mathematics

4 Shevet 5635 (10.1.1875)

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In memoriam Issai Schur

Mikhail Klin – Andy Woldar



(Tel Aviv 1996)

Theorem

The following theorem of *I. Schur* generalizes the result of *W. Burnside* (case $n = p^m$) and partially answers his conjecture:

Theorem

Let \mathfrak{G} be a permutation group of degree n where n is not a prime. If \mathfrak{G} contains a cycle P of order n then \mathfrak{G} is either doubly transitive or imprimitive.

I. Schur, Zur Theorie der einfach transitiven Permutationsgruppen. (1933)

"The proof of this theorem, which sounds so simple, turns out to be rather difficult. Burnside proves the theorem for the case of prime powers using character theory which requires working with roots of unity. I prove this theorem avoiding irrationalities of any kind. Suggested by Burnside's conjecture in the first place the general case of any regular permutation group \mathfrak{H} embedded in a group \mathfrak{G} of the same degree will be studied. This implies a decomposition of elements of \mathfrak{H} into certain sub-complexes which I denote by primary complexes of \mathfrak{H} . The fact that these complexes have the "ring property" plays a major role (§2)." (p. 598)

Such complexes with "ring property" were later called Schur-rings and, for short, S-rings by H. Wielandt (1949, 1969)

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Transitivity modules

Let a permutation group (G, M) (i.e., $G \leq \text{Sym}(M)$) contain a regular subgroup H . Then one can assume $M = H$, i.e., $G \leq \text{Sym}(H)$.

Let $\{T_0, \dots, T_{r-1}\} := 1\text{-Orb}(G_e)$ be the 1-orbits of the *stabilizer* G_e , ($e \in H$ unit element).

Let $\mathbb{Z}(H)$ denote the *group ring* $\langle \mathbb{Z}(H); +, * \rangle$ consisting of formal sums $\sum_{h \in H} \alpha_h h$, $\alpha_h \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Definition The submodule of $\mathbb{Z}(H)$ generated by the 1-orbits of the stabilizer G_e ($\underline{T} := \sum_{t \in T} t \in \mathbb{Z}(H)$, $T \subseteq H$)

$$S(G, H) := \langle \underline{T}_0, \dots, \underline{T}_{r-1} \rangle_{\mathbb{Z}}$$

is called the *transitivity module* of (G, H) .

Theorem (I. Schur 1933): $S(G, H)$ is an S-ring.

Contrary to the intuition of I. Schur not every S-ring is the transitivity module of a group (G, H)

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Helmut Wielandt (19.12.1910 - 14.2.2001)



“The proof given by Mr Schur is rather difficult ... Schur's methods are nevertheless sufficient to supply a shorter proof of the more general theorem”:

Theorem (H. Wielandt 1935): If a permutation group G of degree n , where n is not a prime number, contains a regular abelian subgroup H , at least one of whose Sylow subgroups is cyclic, then G is either doubly transitive or imprimitive.



Helmut Wielandt around 1960

From Helmut Wielandt's acceptance of membership of the Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften (1961):

“But it is unmistakable that questions about finite structures are again coming to the force also in other areas of mathematics ... I am convinced that the 'finite' direction will be reunited with the mainstream in the course of the next few decades.”

(q.ed., e.g. by this conference here)

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Some more history and the characterization of (non)-Schurian
S-rings

Lev Arkad'evič Kalužnin (31.1.1914 - 6.12.1990)

Миша Кли́н - *Лев Аркадьевич Калужнин* - Reinhard Pöschel



Kiev 1978

Schurian S-rings and Schur-groups

Lev Arkad'evič Kalužnin (influence of I. Schur and his lectures, 1933–36 in Berlin)

→ *M. Klin, R. Pöschel* (starting 1971/72)

Problems of H. Wielandt (on S-rings, e.g., how to characterize schurian S-rings among all S-rings) →

R. Pöschel, Untersuchungen von S-Ringen, insbesondere im Gruppenring von p -Gruppen. (Math. Nachr. 60(1974), 1–27)

(*Investigations of S-rings, in particular in the group ring of p -groups*)

“unfortunate” notions: *schurscher S-Ring* (*schurian S-ring*) for S-rings being the transitivity module of a group.

schurartige Gruppe (*schurian group, Schur-group*) for a group H such that each S-ring over H is schurian.

Theorem. *A finite p -group ($p \geq 5$ prime) is schurian if and only if it is cyclic.*

Corollary. *Each group with a non-cyclic p -Sylow-subgroup ($p \geq 5$ prime) is not schurian.*

Further, an explicit description of S-rings over \mathbb{Z}_p^m can be given.

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A Galois connection

The automorphism property (concerning permutations and binary relations (graphs)) induces a Galois connection:

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Example of a non-schurian S-ring

Wielandt's counterexample $H := \mathbb{Z}_5 \times \mathbb{Z}_5$

$$T_0 = \{(0, 0)\}$$

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Fact: $\mathcal{S} := \langle \underline{T}_0, \underline{T}_1, \underline{T}_2, \underline{T}_3, \underline{T}_4 \rangle_{\mathbb{Z}}$ is an S-ring (easy to check).

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 T_2 &= \{(0, y) \mid y \in \mathbb{Z}_5\} \setminus T_0 & \Phi_2 &= \{((x, y_1), (x, y_2)) \mid x, y_1, y_2 \in \mathbb{Z}_5\} \setminus \Delta \\
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 T_4 &= H \setminus \bigcup_{i=0}^3 T_i
 \end{aligned}$$

Fact: $\mathcal{S} := \langle \underline{T}_0, \underline{T}_1, \underline{T}_2, \underline{T}_3, \underline{T}_4 \rangle_{\mathbb{Z}}$ is an S-ring (easy to check).

But: \mathcal{S} is not schurian!

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$$T = \{h \in H \mid (h, 0) \in \Phi\} \longleftrightarrow \Phi = \{(h, h') \in H^2 \mid h' - h \in T\}$$

Example of a non-schurian S-ring

Wielandt's counterexample $H := \mathbb{Z}_5 \times \mathbb{Z}_5$

$$\begin{aligned}
 T_0 &= \{(0, 0)\} & \Phi_0 &= \Delta = \{((x, y), (x, y)) \mid x, y \in \mathbb{Z}_5\} \\
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 T_3 &= \{(x, x) \mid x \in \mathbb{Z}_5\} \setminus T_0 & \Phi_3 &= \{((x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2)) \mid x_2 - x_1 = y_2 - y_1\} \setminus \Delta \\
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 T_3 = \{(x, x) \mid x \in \mathbb{Z}_5\} \setminus T_0 & \Phi_3 = \{((x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2)) \mid x_2 - x_1 = y_2 - y_1\} \setminus \Delta \\
 T_4 = H \setminus \bigcup_{i=0}^3 T_i & \Phi_4 = H \times H \setminus \bigcup_{i=0}^3 \Phi_i
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\mathcal{S} is a non-schurian S-ring

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$$((x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2)) \in \Phi : \iff \exists c_1, c_2, d_1, d_1$$

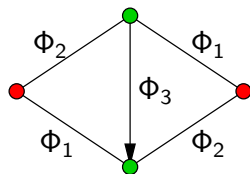
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Thus, e.g., $(1, 4) \in T_4 \cap T$, but $T_4 \not\subseteq T$ since $(1, 2) \in T_4 \setminus T$,
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\mathcal{S} is a non-schurian S-ring

first order formula

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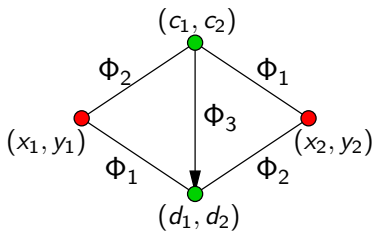
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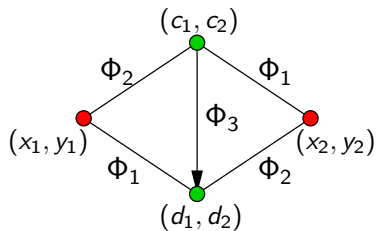
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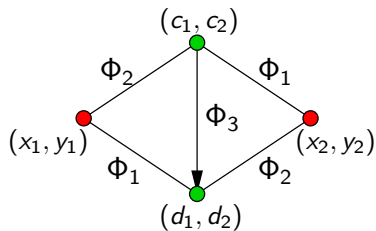
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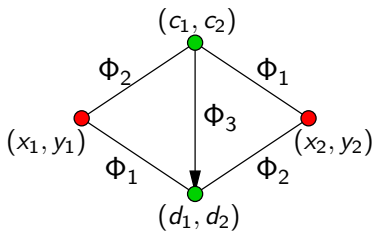
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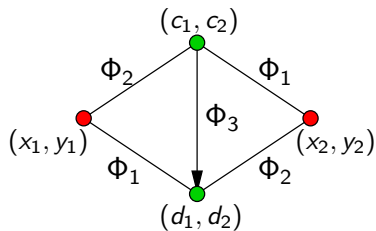
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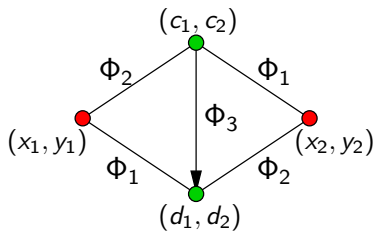
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just a photo: We like S-rings



(Dresden 2012)



Happy Birthday to you Misha!

