The Daily Group Theorist

8th August 1997 **No. 12**

Talks Today

We believe some titles are incorrect. Apologies

Chairman C. Campbell

09:00 Vera Lopez: On p-groups of maximal class

10:00 Coffee

Chairman E. F. Robertson

10:40 Palfy: On the character degree graph of solvable groups

11:40 Seress: Black box classical groups

12:40 Lunch

Parallel Sessions:

Stream 1: Garcia Sanchez, Arregi, Gomez Fernandez

Stream 2: Koublanova, Lizasoain, Malnic

Stream 3: Marusic, Amberg, Ryba

Stream 4: Ries, Plotkin

15:30 Tea

Stream 1 *Chairman R. Esteban Romero*

Garcia Sanchez: The exact bounds for the degree of commutativity of a p-group of maximal class I.

Arregi Lizarraga: The exact bounds for the degree of commutativity of a p-group of maximal class II.

Gomez Fernandez: On p-pronormal subgroups of finite p-soluble groups.

Stream 2: *Chairman A. Cutting*

Koublanova: Pseudoidentities and pseudovarieties of representations of groups.

Lizasoain: Projective group actions.

Malnic: On the structure of lifted groups.

Stream 3: *Chairman R. Wainwright*

Marusic: Transitive permutation groups with non-self-paired suborbits of length 2 and their graphs.

Amberg: Radical rings and products of groups.

Ryba: Finite simple subgroups of $E_8(C)$.

Stream 4: *Chairman H. Ayik*

Ries: On the calculation of element orders in a certain extension group.

Plotkin: Geometrical equivalence of groups.

16:00 End of Academic Conference

The SCR bar will be open until midnight.

CAMPUS ROOM KEYS

When leaving, post your key through the letter box of Residential Services if they are not open. If they are open, just hand in your key.

Web use

If you put your talk on the Web, please send the URL to `groups97@dcs.st-and.ac.uk` and will store the links centrally on a permanent Groups St Andrews web site which will be found from a link in the group-pub-forum web site

http://www.bath.ac.uk/~masgcs/gpf.html

If you do not have web access, send a file of your talk to the email address and your talk will be displayed.

Saturday: Campus – Stations shuttle

On Saturday morning the conference minibus service will run buses from the Campus Residences to the Bus/Rail Stations in Bath. There will be buses at 8am, 9am, 10am, 11am and 12 noon. If there is sufficient demand, extra buses will run on the 'half-hour' too, depending on demand, the discretion of the driver, and traffic conditions.

You can reserve a place on an 'on the hour' bus by writing your name(s) on the board in the conference office in the appropriate place. We diminish the minibus passenger limit from 15 to 12 for these purposes because of the luggage that will have to be loaded.

Numbering of this organ

Steve Linton suggested that we start numbering this publication, in the hope that future Group Theory conferences will publish their own issues, make them available on the web, and follow the numbering system. A link to relevant sites will be installed from the Group Pub Forum web site.

`http://www.bath.ac.uk/~masgcs/gpf.html`

Literary Award

This being the literary section of a journal for group theory, I thought I devote my $8\frac{1}{2}$ (a rather cineastic than literary number) square inch to collect some connections between both areas. I'd be grateful for further references:

I'm aware of just one book, which portraits a group theorist ("Vineland" by Thomas Pynchon).

The article "La relation X prends Y pour Z" by Raymond Queneau contains a theorem, which applies (semi)group theory to literary analysis.

Various books (for example "Foucault's pendulum" by Umberto Eco) explore permutations. A splendid example is "La clôture" by Georges Perec, from which I would like to quote the title poem in two representations:

```
str:="CLOTURESA*IN";
perms:=[(),(1,5,2,3,12)(4,8,9,10,11,7),
(1,8,5,7,11,9,4,2,10,12,3,6),
(1,11,5,2,3,6,9,10)(4,8)(7,12),
(1,8)(2,3,9)(4,12,6,11)(5,10),
(1,7,12,10,11,6,3,5,2,8),
(1,9,7,5,12,4,2,6,8)(3,11),
(1,12,11,10,9,4)(2,8,6,3,7),
(1,11,8,10,4,7)(2,5,3,6,12,9),
(1,11)(2,6,5,4)(3,9,12,10,8),
(1,12,11,10)(2,9)(3,7,6,5,8),
(1,8,12,4,7)(2,3,9,5)(6,10,11)];
List(perms,i->Permuted(str,i));
```

Clôture.
Sa fin.
Nul écrit.
Sa mort n'a souci.
L'expulsion trace sa ligne,
court sur toi, clandestine.

L'arc-bouter au sol pincé,
au flot inscrit sur le bon cadastre

où linceul naît corps.

Alexander Hulpke

Escaping by car?

Bath traffic can be horrible. In particular, the obvious route out of town to the M4 motorway gets jammed on Friday afternoons. We suggest the following two tricks.

Drive past the University Sports buildings (the objects which look like aircraft hangers – or something out of *Thunderbirds*), and turn immediately to the left down a small lane. You pass the *American Museum*. At the bottom of the hill you make a choice.

Option 1. Go towards London avoiding the M4 motorway. Turn right on the A36 and keep on this road. Look out for a big white chalk horse in a hillside in the distance to your left, and a great deal of evidence of pre-Roman settlement and fortifications in the form of hillsides shaped by human activity. Take the A303 left to Andover. This road will take you past Stonehenge (it will be on your left). In the area of Stonehenge you will see many mounds in which are buried ancient tribal kings. Keep on the A303 until you reach the M3 and take that to London. If travelling to Heathrow, this will add about 20/30 minutes to your journey time compared with the M4. However, you may win this back by avoiding Bath traffic.

Option 2. You want to go to the M4. Turn left at the bottom of the hill. After a mile or two, take a right turn into Bathampton. Turn right into the village street, and cross the bridge over the canal. Pass the excellent pub *The George*. Proceed across the meadows and the disguised *Bath by-pass* until you come to the hard part. You have to pay **20 pence** to cross a toll bridge. Now turn left towards Bath, and then turn right at the roundabout to escape Bath's gravitational field.

Farewell, and see you soon

Most of us will meet again and again at conferences yet to come. You have all been very welcome in Bath, and we hope that the timely demise of Prof Samson Patu has enhanced the event. The editorial standards of this newspaper are those established by Patu. There can be no lesser tribute than this.

We wish you a safe journey home.

Aaron, Geoff, John, Olga, Nada, the helpers and drivers.

EDITOR OF THE DAY: GCS