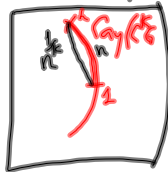


JL.  $G$  nilpotent, class  $k$   
 $C^k G$  last non-trivial subgp.  
 in lower central series.  $\text{Cay}(G)$

$\forall h \in C^k G,$   
 $|h|_{C^k G} \asymp |h|_G$



Proof  $\Rightarrow$

$\Leftarrow$  Remark Let  $X$  finite generating  
 $G$ . We can extend it to  $\hat{X}$  finite gen.,  
 monom s.t.  $\forall x, y \in \hat{X}, [x, y] \in \hat{X}$ .  
 Note  $\hat{X}$  contains all the  $i$ -fold left  
 commutators in  $X$ ,  $\forall i$ :

$$\left[ \dots \left[ [x_1, x_2], x_3 \right], \dots, x_i \right]$$

lcs-generating set = a set  $S$  n.t.

$S_i = S \cap C^i G$  generates  $C^i G$ . Let  $S'_i = S \setminus S_{i+1}$ .

$w$  word in  $S$ :

- length  $|w|$
- $i$ -length  $|w|_i =$  nb. of letters in  $S'_i$  that occur in  $w$ .
- lcs-length =  $(|w|_1, |w|_2, \dots, |w|_k)$ .

$g \in G$  has lcs-length at most  $(n_1, \dots, n_k)$  when  $g$  represented by  $w$  with  $|w|_i \leq n_i$ .

$|g|_S^{\text{lcs}} \ll (n_1, \dots, n_k) = \exists \lambda$  constant  
 s.t. lcs-length is at most  $(\lambda n_1, \dots, \lambda n_k)$ .

Prove by induction on  $i$ :  
 $\exists$  an lcs-generating set  $S^i$  and  
 a constant  $\lambda_i$  n.t.  $\forall g \in C^i G$   
 $|g|_{S^i}^{\text{lcs}} \leq (\underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_i, \lambda_i |g|_{X_1}, \dots, \lambda_i |g|_{X_k})$

$$i=0 \quad X \rightarrow \hat{X}$$

$$S^{(0)} = \hat{X}. \text{ Denote } S^{(0)} \text{ by } S.$$

$$G/C^2G \cong \mathbb{Z}^m \times \mathbb{Z}_{n_1} \times \dots \times \mathbb{Z}_{n_2}$$

$$\mathbb{Z}_r = \mathbb{Z}/r\mathbb{Z}$$

Take  $t_1, \dots, t_m$  projecting on gen. of  $\mathbb{Z}^m$

Take  $z_1, \dots, z_2$  proj. onto gen. of  $\mathbb{Z}_{n_i}$ .

$$z_i C^2G \text{ generates } \mathbb{Z}_{n_i} \Rightarrow z_i^{n_i} \in C^2G$$

$$\hat{Z} = \mathbb{Z}_2 \cup \{t_1, \dots, t_m, z_1, \dots, z_2\}, \quad Y = \hat{Z}$$

Hypothesis  $g$  written as  $w$  in  $S$  s.t.

$$\text{the lcs-length} \leq (r, r^2, \dots, r^k),$$

$$\text{Here } r = |g|_X$$

We replaced  $S_1$  by  $\{t_1, \dots, t_m, z_1, \dots, z_2\}$   
+ added commutators.

$$1\text{-length} \leq \lambda \cdot \text{old } 1\text{-length}$$

$$i\text{-length} \leq \text{old } i\text{-length} + \lambda \cdot \text{old } 1\text{-length}$$

We still have, for the new word  $w'$  representing  $g$  that its lcs-length is

$$\leq (r, r^2, \dots, r^k).$$

Now we move all  $t_i^{\pm 1}, z_j^{\pm 1}$  in front of the word.

Assume  $t_1^{\pm 1}$  occurs  $l$  times,  $l \leq r$ .

By induction on  $j \leq l$  we construct word  $w_j$  s.t.  $w_0 = w'$ , and:

$$(1) w_j = t_1^{\alpha_j} u_j \text{ with } |\alpha_j| \leq j.$$

$$(2) \text{ in } u_j, t_1^{\pm 1} \text{ occur } l-j \text{ times.}$$

$$(3) \text{ if } w_j \text{ has lcs-length } \leq (n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k) \text{ then}$$

$$\text{lcs-length of } w_{j+1} \text{ is } \leq (n_1, n_2 + n_1, \dots, n_k + n_1)$$

$j \rightarrow j+1$ :

find first occurrence of  $t_j^{\pm 1}$  in  $u_j$ , move it to the left by:

$$x t_j = t_j x [x^{-1}, t_j^{-1}]$$

In the end:  $w_i = t_j^x u_i$

$$|w_i|_i \leq |w'|_i + \ell |w'|_{i-2} + \ell^2 |w'|_{i-2} + \dots + \ell^{i-1} |w'|_1 \lesssim R^i$$

We continue, move  $t_2, \dots, t_m, z_1, \dots, z_p$  to the left, in that order.

We obtain  $w''$  of  $\ell$ -length

$$\leq (R, R^2, \dots, R^k) \text{ and}$$

$$w'' = t_1^{\alpha_1} \dots t_m^{\alpha_m} z_1^{\beta_1} \dots z_p^{\beta_p} \text{ representing } g \in C^k G.$$

Project on  $G/\ell^2 G \cong \sum^m \mathbb{Z}_{R_i} \times \sum^p \mathbb{Z}_{R_j}$   
 $g$  becomes  $0 \Rightarrow \alpha_i = 0, \beta_j$  multiple  $R_j$

$$\beta_j = R_j \delta_j$$

$$w'' = (z_1^{R_1})^{\delta_1} \dots (z_p^{R_p})^{\delta_p} u$$

Add to  $Y$  the generators  $\theta_j = z_j^{R_j}$   
 $\rightarrow Y_2$ . Take  $S^{(1)} = Y_1 \in C^k G$ .

For  $i \Rightarrow i+1$ , similar argument.

For  $i=k$ ,  $\exists$   $\ell$ -gen.  $S^{(k)}$  and  $\lambda_k$  s.t.

$$\forall g \in C^k G,$$

$$|g|_{S^{(k)}} \leq (0, \dots, 0, \lambda_k R^k)$$

$T = S^{(k)} \cap C^k G$  generates  $C^k G$

$$|g|_T \leq \lambda_k \cdot R^k. \quad \square$$

Corollary  $G$  nilpotent f.g.,  
 $H \leq G$ ,  $\forall h \in H$

$$|h|_G \leq |h|_H \leq |h|_G^m, m \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Proof Induction on nilp. class.

$$C^i G, i < k, C^i G \geq C^k G.$$

The minimal  $m$  is rational, obtained:

$\forall h \in H, \nu_G(h) = \text{maximal } i \text{ s.t.}$   
 $C^i G \text{ contains } h$

$$\nu_H(h) = \text{maximal } j \text{ s.t.}$$

$$h \in C^j H$$

$$\sup_{h \in H} \frac{\nu_G(h)}{\nu_H(h)} = m.$$

### Basic Theorem

Growth function of a sp.  $G$  + word m.:

$$y_G(n) = \# B(1, n).$$

Let  $G$  be nilpotent of class  $k$ ,  
 $C^i G / C_{k-i} G \cong \mathbb{Z}^{m_i} \times \text{finite}.$

$$d = \sum_{i=1}^k m_i$$

Then  $y_G(n) \sim n^d.$

Proof by induction on class  $k$ .

$k=1 \Rightarrow G$  abelian

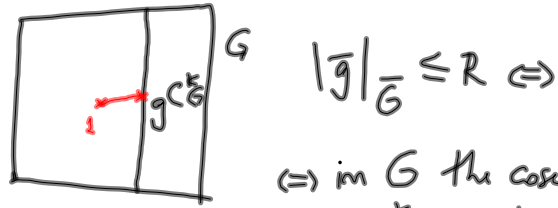
Assume true for  $k-1$ , consider  $G$   
 $k$ -step nilpotent.

Take  $\bar{G} = G / C^k G$   $(k-1)$ -step nilp.

Case 1  $C^k G$  finite  $\Rightarrow G$  quasi-isom.

to  $\bar{G}$ , apply the inductive hyp.

Case 2  $C^k G \cong \mathbb{Z}^{m_k} \times \text{finite}, m_k \geq 1.$



$$|g|_{\bar{G}} \leq R \Leftrightarrow$$

$\Leftrightarrow$  in  $G$  the coset  $g C^k G$  intersects  $B(1, R).$



Lower bound  $d_1 = d - k m_k.$   
 $\mathcal{Y}_{\bar{G}}(n) \sim n^{d_1}$ , by hyp.

In particular there exist at least  $N_1 = \lambda \cdot n^{d_1}$  elements in  $G$ , of length  $\leq n$ , not congruent modulo  $C^k G$ .

$C^k G \cap B_G(1, n)$  is approximately same as  $C^k G \cap B_{C^k G}(1, n^k).$

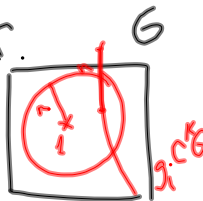
$$C^k G \cong \mathbb{Z}^{m_k} \times \text{finite}$$

$\tilde{B} = C^k G \cap B_{C^k G}(1, n^k)$  contains  $n^{k m_k}.$

We had  $g_1, g_2, \dots, g_{N_1}$  in  $B(1, n)$ , non-congruent mod  $C^k G.$

$\forall i, g_i \tilde{B}$  is  $B_G(1, 2n)$

We obtain in  $B(1, 2n)$



$N_1 \cdot n^{k m_k}$  distinct elements.

$$\mathcal{Y}_G(2n) \geq \lambda \cdot n^{d_1} \cdot n^{k m_k} = \lambda n^d.$$

Upper bound  $\exists$  at most  $N = \mu n^{d_1}$  cosets  $g C^k G$  intersecting  $B_G(1, n).$

$$\forall g \in B_G(1, n), g \in g_i C^k G,$$

where  $g_1, g_2, \dots, g_N$  is a maximal set in  $B(1, n)$  of elem.

$C^k G$ -non-conjugent.

$$\Rightarrow g_i^{-1} g \in C^k G, |g_i^{-1} g| \leq |g_i^{-1}| + |g| \leq 2n$$

$$\Rightarrow g_i^{-1} g \in C^k G \cap B_G(1, 2n) \simeq C^k G \cap B_{C^k G}(1, (2n)^k)$$

Thus in  $B_G(1, n)$  we have at most:

$$N \cdot (2n)^{km_k} \leq \mu_n^d (2n)^{km_k} \leq n^d \quad \square$$

Nilpotent  $\subseteq$  Polycyclic  $\subseteq$  Solvable

### Wolf Theorem

Every polycyclic group is  
 (1) either virtually nilpotent  
 (2) or of exponential growth.

Proof  $\forall$  polycyclic group is virtually poly- $\infty$ .

Polycyclic =  $G$  having a descending subnormal finite series:

$$G = N_0 \triangleright N_1 \triangleright N_2 \triangleright \dots \triangleright N_k \triangleright N_{k+1} = \{1\}$$

$\forall i, N_{i+1} \triangleleft N_i$  and  $N_i/N_{i+1}$  cyclic.

if  $\forall i, N_i/N_{i+1} \simeq \mathbb{Z} \Rightarrow$  poly- $\infty$ .

$$1 \rightarrow N_{i+1} \rightarrow N_i \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow 1 = N_i = N_{i+1} \rtimes \mathbb{Z}$$

$$N_k = \mathbb{Z} \quad N_{k-1} = \mathbb{Z} \rtimes \mathbb{Z}$$

Proof by ind. on length  $k$  of series.

$k=1 \Rightarrow G$  cyclic.

Assume true for  $k$ , consider  $G$ :

$$G = N_0 \triangleright N_1 \triangleright \dots \triangleright N_{k+1} \triangleright N_{k+2} = \{1\}.$$

Take  $N_1 \Rightarrow N_1$  virt. nilpotent on expo. growth.

$$N_1 \text{ expon. growth } \Rightarrow \underbrace{g}_{N_1}(n) \asymp a^n \Rightarrow \underbrace{g}_G(n) \geq a^n.$$

$$\forall h \in N_1, |h|_G \leq |h|_{N_1} \leq n$$

Remark Every f.g. has growth  $\leq a^n$ .

Assume  $N_1$  virtually nilpotent:

$\exists K \leq N_1$  subgp. of finite index,  
 $K$  nilpotent.

$$G = N_1 \rtimes \mathbb{Z}$$

Two standard results  $H$  f.g. group.

(1)  $\forall n$ ,  $H$  has finitely many subgroups of index  $n$ .

(2)  $\forall K \leq H$ ,  $K$  f.i.,  $\exists C$  characteristic  
 $C \leq K$ ,  $C$  f.i.  $G$ .

Take  $C \leq K \leq N_1$ ,  $C$  characteristic

Take  $C \rtimes \mathbb{Z}$ , has finite index

$$\text{in } G = N_1 \rtimes \mathbb{Z}.$$

To finish proof we need:

$\exists \Gamma = C \rtimes \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $C$  nilpotent then:

- (1) either  $G$  virt nilp.
- (2) expo growth.