

# The Cycle Structure of Quandles

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## Problem and References

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## Definitions

A **rack** is a pair  $(X, \triangleright)$ , where  $X$  is a non-empty set and  $\triangleright : X \times X \rightarrow X$  is a binary operation, such that for all  $x, y, z \in X$ :

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A **quandle** is a rack  $(X, \triangleright)$  which further satisfies

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A rack  $X$  is called **indecomposable or connected** if  $\text{Inn}(X)$  acts transitively on  $X$ .



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- Let  $A$  be an abelian group,  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(A)$  and  $1 = \text{id}_A$ . Then we have a quandle structure on  $A$ , defined by:

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- Let  $G$  be a group,  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(G)$ , and  $H$  be a subgroup of the fixed points of  $\alpha$  in  $G$ . Then for any  $g, f \in G$ , the quandle structure on  $G/H$  is defined by:

$$gH \triangleright fH = g\alpha(g^{-1}f)H.$$

This quandle is known as **coset quandle**  $(G, H, \alpha)$ .

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- Hayashi called the pattern of any  $\varphi_x$  as the profile of a finite connected rack  $X$  for short.

## Notation

We write the profile of a finite connected rack  $X$  as:

$$\text{Profile}(X) = 1^{m_0} \ell_1^{m_1} \ell_2^{m_2} \dots \ell_k^{m_k},$$

where  $1 < \ell_1 < \ell_2 < \dots < \ell_k$ , and  $m_0, m_1, \dots, m_k$  are the multiplicities of  $1, \ell_1, \ell_2, \dots, \ell_k$ , respectively.

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## Hayashi's Conjecture

Let  $X$  be a finite connected quandle with

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Then  $\ell_i | \ell_k$  (i.e.,  $\ell_i$  divides  $\ell_k$ ) for any integer  $i$  with  $1 \leq i \leq k - 1$ .

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## Example

$$\text{Profile}(\text{SmallQuandle}(42, 7)) = 1^2 \cdot 2^2 \cdot 3^4 \cdot 6^4.$$

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Hence,  $Profile(\mathbb{D}_n) = 1^{m_0} 2^{m_1}$ .

- L. Vendramin calculated all connected quandles of size  $n \leq 47$ . These small quandles are included in a GAP package called **Rig** (Racks in gap) as: **SmallQuandle(n, q(n))**, where  $q(n) :=$  quandle number of size  $n$ .

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- Hayashi's conjecture is true for connected quandles of size  $p, p^2$  and  $p^3$ .

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- Hayashi's conjecture is trivially true for dihedral quandle  $\mathbb{D}_n$ , since for  $i, j \in \mathbb{D}_n$ ,  $\varphi_i(j) = 2j - i \pmod{n}$ , and

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- The results of A. Bors, S. Guest and P. Spiga can be used for case-by-case analysis of some other known families of connected quandles.

## Subracks of a Connected Rack

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### Proof.

Since  $Y$  is a subrack of  $X$ , we conclude that  $Y \triangleright Y^c = Y^c$ . Let

$$Z = \{y_1 \triangleright (y_2 \triangleright \dots \triangleright (y_{n-1} \triangleright y_n)) \mid n \geq 1, y_1, \dots, y_n \in Y^c\}.$$

Then  $y \triangleright z \in Z$  for all  $y \in Y^c, z \in Z$  by definition, and  $y \triangleright z \in Z$  for all  $y \in Y$  by the self-distributivity of  $\triangleright$  and the  $Y$ -invariance of  $Y^c$ . Hence  $Z$  is a non-empty  $X$ -invariant subset of  $X$ , and therefore equal to  $X$  since  $X$  is connected.

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### Lemma 2

Let  $X$  be a connected rack such that  $X = Y \cup Z$ , for two subracks  $Y$  and  $Z$  of  $X$ . Then  $X = Y$  or  $X = Z$ .

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### Corollary 1

Let  $X$  be a connected rack and  $x \in X$ . Let  $p, q \in \mathbb{N}_{\geq 2}$ , and  $Y = \{y \in X \mid \varphi_x^p(y) = y\}$ ,  $Z = \{z \in X \mid \varphi_x^q(z) = z\}$ . Assume that  $X = Y \cup Z$ . Then  $X = Y$  or  $X = Z$ .

## Obstruction on the Profile of a Connected Rack

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### Proposition 1.

There is no finite connected rack  $X$  (respectively, quandle) of profile  $1^{m_0} l_1^{m_1} l_2^{m_2} \dots l_k^{m_k}$  such that  $lcm(l_1, l_2, \dots, l_i)$  and  $lcm(l_{i+1}, l_{i+2}, \dots, l_k)$  do not divide each other.

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### Proof.

Suppose that there exists a finite connected rack  $X$  with given profile. Let  $p = lcm(\ell_1, \ell_2, \dots, \ell_i)$ , and  $q = lcm(\ell_{i+1}, \ell_{i+2}, \dots, \ell_k)$ . Then,

$$Y = \{y \in X \mid \varphi_X^p(y) = y\}, Z = \{z \in X \mid \varphi_X^q(z) = z\}.$$

By the self-distributivity of  $\triangleright$ , the sets  $Y$  and  $Z$  are subracks of  $X$ . Then  $X = Y \cup Z$  by definition of  $p$  and  $q$  and,  $X \neq Y$  and  $X \neq Z$ , a contradiction to Corollary 1.

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  - The case when  $\ell_k \mid \text{lcm}(\ell_{k+1}, \ell_{k+2}) \pmod{3}$  for  $k \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ , can not be excluded by Proposition 1. One such profile is:  $1^{m_0} \ell_1 \ell_2 \ell_3$  with  $(\ell_1, \ell_2, \ell_3) = (pq, pr, qr)$  for pairwise distinct primes  $p, q, r$ . For example:  
 $1^{m_0} 6.10.15 = 1^{m_0} (2.3)(2.5)(3.5)$  with  $(p, q, r) = (2, 3, 5)$ .

## Obstruction on the Profile of a Connected Rack



## Obstruction on the Profile of a Connected Rack

### Proposition 2

There is no finite connected crossed set with profile  $1^{m_0}l_1l_2l_3$ , where  $(l_1, l_2, l_3) = (pq, pr, qr)$  for pairwise distinct primes  $p, q, r$ .

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### Sketch of Proof

Suppose that there exists a finite connected crossed set  $X$  with given profile. Let  $x \in X$ ,  $t \geq 1$ ,

$$X_t = \{y \in X \mid \varphi_x^t(y) = y\},$$

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and  $X'_t = X_t \setminus X_1$  for all  $t > 1$ . Then  $X$  is the disjoint union of non-empty sets  $X_1, X'_{pq}, X'_{pr}, X'_{qr}$ . Now we have the following steps.

## Step 1

$X_t$  is a non-empty subrack of  $X$ . In particular,

$$y \triangleright (X \setminus X_t) = X \setminus X_t \text{ for all } y \in X_t.$$

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For all  $y \in X'_{pq}$ , there exists  $z \in X'_{pr}$ , such that  $y \triangleright z \neq z$ .



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### Step 2

For all  $y \in X'_{pq}$ , there exists  $z \in X'_{pr}$ , such that  $y \triangleright z \neq z$ .

### Step 3

Let  $y \in X'_{pq}$  and  $z \in X \setminus X_{pq}$  with  $y \triangleright z \neq z$ . Let  $t$  be the smallest positive integer with  $\varphi_y^t(z) = z$ , then  $t = pr$  or  $t = qr$ .

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### Step 4

Let  $y \in X'_{pq}$ . Then there exist  $z \in X'_{pr}$ ,  $f \in X'_{qr}$  such that  $z \triangleright f = y$  or  $f \triangleright z = y$ .

## Step 5

Assume that  $X'_{pr}$  and  $X'_{qr}$  are subracks of  $X$ . Then  $X'_{pq}$  is not a subrack of  $X$ .

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### Step 6

Let  $y \in X'_{pq}$ . Then there exist  $z \in X'_{pr}$  and  $f \in X'_{qr}$  with  $y \triangleright z \in X'_{qr}$ ,  $y \triangleright f \in X'_{pr}$ .

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### Step 7

Let  $y \in X'_{pq}$ . Then  $y \triangleright x \in X'_{pq}$ .

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Let  $y \in X'_{pq}$ . Then there exist  $z \in X'_{pr}$  and  $f \in X'_{qr}$  with  $y \triangleright z \in X'_{qr}$ ,  $y \triangleright f \in X'_{pr}$ .

### Step 7

Let  $y \in X'_{pq}$ . Then  $y \triangleright x \in X'_{pq}$ .

### Step 8

Let  $y \in X'_{pq}$ . Let  $\varphi_y = \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \sigma_3$  be the decomposition of  $\varphi_y$  into the product of a  $pq$ -,  $pr$ -, and  $qr$ -cycle. Then  $\text{supp}(\sigma_1) \subseteq X_{pq}$  and  $\text{supp}(\sigma_2), \text{supp}(\sigma_3) \subseteq X'_{pr} \cup X'_{qr}$ .

## Sketch of Proof Continue

Let  $y \in X'_{pq}$  and  $z \in X'_{pr}$ , then  $z \triangleright x \neq x$  and  $\varphi_z^{pr}(x) = x$ , by Step 7. Therefore  $\varphi_{y \triangleright z}^{pr}(y \triangleright x) = y \triangleright x$ . Moreover,  $y \triangleright x \in X'_{pq}$ , by Step 7. Step 1 implies that  $y \triangleright z \in X'_{pr} \cup X'_{qr}$ . If  $y \triangleright z \in X'_{pr}$ , then the entries of  $pr$ -cycle of  $\varphi_{y \triangleright z}$  belong to  $X_{pr}$ , by Step 8, in contradiction to  $y \triangleright x \in X'_{pq}$ . Thus  $y \triangleright z \in X'_{qr}$ , which implies that  $y \triangleright X'_{pr} \subseteq X'_{qr}$  and  $y \triangleright X'_{qr} \subseteq X'_{pr}$  by symmetry. This is impossible since  $|X'_{pr}| = pr \neq qr = |X'_{qr}|$ .

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Let  $y \in X'_{pq}$  and  $z \in X'_{pr}$ , then  $z \triangleright x \neq x$  and  $\varphi_z^{pr}(x) = x$ , by Step 7. Therefore  $\varphi_{y \triangleright z}^{pr}(y \triangleright x) = y \triangleright x$ . Moreover,  $y \triangleright x \in X'_{pq}$ , by Step 7. Step 1 implies that  $y \triangleright z \in X'_{pr} \cup X'_{qr}$ . If  $y \triangleright z \in X'_{pr}$ , then the entries of  $pr$ -cycle of  $\varphi_{y \triangleright z}$  belong to  $X_{pr}$ , by Step 8, in contradiction to  $y \triangleright x \in X'_{pq}$ . Thus  $y \triangleright z \in X'_{qr}$ , which implies that  $y \triangleright X'_{pr} \subseteq X'_{qr}$  and  $y \triangleright X'_{qr} \subseteq X'_{pr}$  by symmetry. This is impossible since  $|X'_{pr}| = pr \neq qr = |X'_{qr}|$ .

## Remarks



## Sketch of Proof Continue

Let  $y \in X'_{pq}$  and  $z \in X'_{pr}$ , then  $z \triangleright x \neq x$  and  $\varphi_z^{pr}(x) = x$ , by Step 7. Therefore  $\varphi_{y \triangleright z}^{pr}(y \triangleright x) = y \triangleright x$ . Moreover,  $y \triangleright x \in X'_{pq}$ , by Step 7. Step 1 implies that  $y \triangleright z \in X'_{pr} \cup X'_{qr}$ . If  $y \triangleright z \in X'_{pr}$ , then the entries of  $pr$ -cycle of  $\varphi_{y \triangleright z}$  belong to  $X_{pr}$ , by Step 8, in contradiction to  $y \triangleright x \in X'_{pq}$ . Thus  $y \triangleright z \in X'_{qr}$ , which implies that  $y \triangleright X'_{pr} \subseteq X'_{qr}$  and  $y \triangleright X'_{qr} \subseteq X'_{pr}$  by symmetry. This is impossible since  $|X'_{pr}| = pr \neq qr = |X'_{qr}|$ .

## Remarks

- By Proposition 2, there is no connected crossed set with profile  $1^{m_0}6.10.15$ .

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Let  $y \in X'_{pq}$  and  $z \in X'_{pr}$ , then  $z \triangleright x \neq x$  and  $\varphi_z^{pr}(x) = x$ , by Step 7. Therefore  $\varphi_{y \triangleright z}^{pr}(y \triangleright x) = y \triangleright x$ . Moreover,  $y \triangleright x \in X'_{pq}$ , by Step 7. Step 1 implies that  $y \triangleright z \in X'_{pr} \cup X'_{qr}$ . If  $y \triangleright z \in X'_{pr}$ , then the entries of  $pr$ -cycle of  $\varphi_{y \triangleright z}$  belong to  $X_{pr}$ , by Step 8, in contradiction to  $y \triangleright x \in X'_{pq}$ . Thus  $y \triangleright z \in X'_{qr}$ , which implies that  $y \triangleright X'_{pr} \subseteq X'_{qr}$  and  $y \triangleright X'_{qr} \subseteq X'_{pr}$  by symmetry. This is impossible since  $|X'_{pr}| = pr \neq qr = |X'_{qr}|$ .

## Remarks

- By Proposition 2, there is no connected crossed set with profile  $1^{m_0}6.10.15$ .
- By Propositions 1, 2, and Corollary 1, Hayashi's conjecture is true for any connected crossed set  $X$  with  $\varphi_x \in \text{Aut}(X)$  such that  $\text{supp}(\varphi_x) \leq 31$ .

## Sketch of Proof Continue

Let  $y \in X'_{pq}$  and  $z \in X'_{pr}$ , then  $z \triangleright x \neq x$  and  $\varphi_z^{pr}(x) = x$ , by Step 7. Therefore  $\varphi_{y \triangleright z}^{pr}(y \triangleright x) = y \triangleright x$ . Moreover,  $y \triangleright x \in X'_{pq}$ , by Step 7. Step 1 implies that  $y \triangleright z \in X'_{pr} \cup X'_{qr}$ . If  $y \triangleright z \in X'_{pr}$ , then the entries of  $pr$ -cycle of  $\varphi_{y \triangleright z}$  belong to  $X_{pr}$ , by Step 8, in contradiction to  $y \triangleright x \in X'_{pq}$ . Thus  $y \triangleright z \in X'_{qr}$ , which implies that  $y \triangleright X'_{pr} \subseteq X'_{qr}$  and  $y \triangleright X'_{qr} \subseteq X'_{pr}$  by symmetry. This is impossible since  $|X'_{pr}| = pr \neq qr = |X'_{qr}|$ .

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- Proposition 2 is a particular case of the following theorem.

## Obstruction on the Profile of a Connected Rack

### Theorem

Let  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_r$  be pairwise distinct primes for positive integer  $r$ .  
Let

$$l_1 = \prod_{i=1}^r p_i^{a_i}, \quad l_2 = \prod_{i=1}^r p_i^{b_i} \quad \text{and} \quad l_3 = \prod_{i=1}^r p_i^{c_i},$$

for non-negative integers  $a_i, b_i$  and  $c_i$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq r$ . Let  $1 < l_1 < l_2 < l_3$ ,  $l_1 \nmid l_3$ ,  $l_2 \nmid l_3$  and  $l_k \mid \text{lcm}(l_{k+1}, l_{k+2}) \pmod{3}$  for  $k \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ . Then there is no finite connected crossed set  $X$  with profile  $1^{m_0} l_1 l_2 l_3$ .

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Questions, comments, suggestions???