



# A new family of dynamical extensions of left cycle sets

Marco Castelli

## Advances in Group Theory and Application

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- Basic definitions and results;
- Some links between left cycle sets and Group Theory;
- A new dynamical extension of left cycle sets.



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# Set-theoretic solutions of the Yang-Baxter equation

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## Definition

A *set-theoretic solution of the Yang-Baxter equation* on a set  $X$  is a pair  $(X, r)$ , where the map  $r : X \times X \rightarrow X \times X$  is such that

$$r_1 r_2 r_1 = r_2 r_1 r_2,$$

where  $r_1 := r \times id_X$  and  $r_2 := id_X \times r$ .

## Problem (Drinfeld, 1992)

Finding all the set-theoretic solutions of the Yang-Baxter equation.



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## Definition

A set-theoretic solution of the Yang-Baxter equation  
 $r : X \times X \rightarrow X \times X, (x, y) \rightarrow (\lambda_x(y), \rho_y(x))$  is called:

- 1) *involutive* if  $r^2 = id_{X \times X}$ ;
- 2) *non-degenerate* if  $\lambda_x, \rho_x \in \text{Sym}(X)$  for every  $x \in X$ ;
- 3) *square-free* if  $r(x, x) = (x, x)$  for every  $x \in X$ .

**Convention:** From now on, by a solution I mean a non-degenerate involutive set-theoretic solution.



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# Non-degenerate left cycle sets

The solutions of the Yang-Baxter equation are in bijective correspondence with **non-degenerate left cycle sets**, where

Definition (Rump, 2004)

A pair  $(X, \cdot)$  is said a *non-degenerate left cycle set* if  $X$  is a non-empty set, and  $\cdot$  a binary operation on  $X$  such that

- 1)  $(x \cdot y) \cdot (x \cdot z) = (y \cdot x) \cdot (y \cdot z)$  for all  $x, y, z \in X$ ;
- 2) the left multiplication  $\sigma_x : X \rightarrow X, y \mapsto x \cdot y$  is bijective for every  $x \in X$ ;
- 3)  $\eta : X \rightarrow X, x \mapsto x \cdot x$  is bijective.

Furthermore, we will call  $(X, \cdot)$  *square-free* if  $\eta = id_X$ .



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## Example

If  $X$  is the set  $\{1, 2, 3\}$  and  $\cdot$  the binary operation on  $X$  given by  $\sigma_1 = \sigma_2 := id_X$  and  $\sigma_3 := (12)$ , then the pair  $(X, \cdot)$  is a non-degenerate left cycle set. Its multiplication table is

$\cdot$	1	2	3
1	1	2	3
2	1	2	3
3	2	1	3



# Left cycle sets and Yang-Baxter equation

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## Theorem (Rump, 2004)

*If  $(X, r)$  is a solution, where  $r(x, y) := (\lambda_x(y), \rho_y(x))$  then the pair  $(X, \cdot)$ , where  $\cdot$  is given by  $x \cdot y := \lambda_x^{-1}(y)$  for every  $x, y \in X$ , is a left cycle set called the **associated left cycle set**.*

*Vice versa if  $(X, \cdot)$  is a non-degenerate left cycle set and  $\sigma_x$  its left multiplication then, the pair  $(X, r)$ , where  $r(x, y) := (\sigma_x^{-1}(y), \sigma_x^{-1}(y) \cdot x)$  for every  $x, y \in X$ , is a solution and we call it the **associated solution**.*



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# The retraction of a left cycle sets

## Definition (Etingov, Schedler, Soloviev, 1999)

Let  $X$  be a non-degenerate left cycle set and  $\sim$  the relation on  $X$  given by

$$x \sim y :\Leftrightarrow \sigma_x = \sigma_y.$$

Then  $\sim$  is a congruence called the **retract relation**. of  $X$  and  $X/\sim$  is a non-degenerate left cycle set.

## Definition

A left cycle set  $(X, \cdot)$  is said **irretractable** if  $X = X/\sim$ , otherwise  $X$  is called **retractable**.



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# An example of retractable left cycle set

## Example

Let  $X$  be a non-empty set and  $\alpha \in \text{Sym}(X)$ . Let  $\cdot$  be the binary operation on  $X$  given by

$$x \cdot y := \alpha(y)$$

for all  $x, y \in X$ .

Then  $(X, \cdot)$  is a retractable left cycle set: indeed,  $\sigma_x = \alpha$  for every  $x \in X$ .



# An example of irretractable left cycle set

## Example

Let  $X := \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  and  $\cdot$  be the operation on  $X$  given by

$$i \cdot j := \sigma_i(j)$$

for all  $i, j \in X$ , where  $\sigma_i \in \text{Sym}(X)$  for all  $i \in X$  and they are given by:

$$\sigma_1 := (34) \quad \sigma_2 := (1423) \quad \sigma_3 := (1324) \quad \sigma_4 := (12)$$

Then  $(X, \cdot)$  is an irretractable left cycle set.





# A conjecture about left cycle sets

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In 2004 Gateva-Ivanova posed the following conjecture:

## Conjecture (Gateva-Ivanova, 2004)

Every square-free left cycle set  $X$  such that  $2 \leq |X| < \infty$  is retractable.

where

### Definition

A left cycle set  $(X, \cdot)$  is said *square-free* if  $q(x) = x$  for all  $x \in X$ .



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# The structure group of a left cycle set

## Definition

Let  $(X, \cdot)$  be a non-degenerate left cycle set. Put  $t_{x,y} := \sigma_x^{-1}(y)$  and  $z_{x,y} := \sigma_x^{-1}(y) \cdot x$  for every  $x, y \in X$ . Then the group

$$G(X) := \langle X \mid xy = t_{x,y}z_{x,y} \text{ for every } x, y \in X \rangle$$

is called the **structure group** of the left cycle set  $(X, \cdot)$ .



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## Theorem

*Let  $X$  be a non-degenerate left cycle set. Then the structure group  $G(X)$  is*

- **Solvable** (*Etingov, Schedler, Soloviev*);
- **Bieberbach** (*Gateva-Ivanova, Van den Bergh*);
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## Problem

Finding all the non-degenerate left cycle sets.

## Application

Construction of non-trivial examples of groups having interesting properties.



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# Irretractable left cycle sets and poly- $\mathbb{Z}$ groups

## Theorem (Bachiller, Cedó, Vendramin, 2017)

*Let  $X$  be an irretractable non-degenerate left cycle set. Then the structure group  $G(X)$  is not a poly- $\mathbb{Z}$  group.*

where

## Definition

A group  $G$  is called a poly- $\mathbb{Z}$  group if  $G$  has a subnormal series

$$\langle 1 \rangle \triangleleft G_0 \triangleleft G_1 \triangleleft \cdots \triangleleft G_n = G$$

such that  $G_{i+1}/G_i \cong \mathbb{Z}$  for every  $i \in \{0, \dots, n-1\}$ .



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The poly- $\mathbb{Z}$  groups verify an important conjecture due to Kaplansky:

## Conjecture (Kaplansky)

Let  $K$  be a field and  $G$  a torsion-free group. Then the group ring  $K[G]$  does not contain any non-trivial units.

New irretractable left cycle sets allow us to construct new non-trivial examples of torsion-free groups that are not poly- $\mathbb{Z}$  groups. In particular, one can use these groups for testing Kaplansky's conjecture.



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# A new construction of left cycle sets

## Definition

Let  $X$  be a left cycle set,  $S$  a non-empty set and  $\alpha : X \times X \times S \rightarrow \text{Sym}(S)$ ,  $(i, j, s) \mapsto \alpha_{i,j}(s, -)$ . Then  $\alpha$  is said **dynamical cocycle** of  $X$  if and only if

$$\alpha_{i-j,i-k}(\alpha_{i,j}(r, s), \alpha_{i,k}(r, t)) = \alpha_{j-i,j-k}(\alpha_{j,i}(s, r), \alpha_{j,k}(s, t)).$$

for every  $i, j, k \in X$ ,  $s, t \in S$ .

## Proposition (Vendramin, 2015)

If  $\alpha$  is a dynamical cocycle then  $S \times_{\alpha} X := (S \times X, \cdot)$  is a left cycle set, where

$$(s, i) \cdot (t, j) := (\alpha_{ij}(s, t), i \cdot j),$$

and we will call  $S \times_{\alpha} X$  **dynamical extension** of  $X$  by  $\alpha$ .



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# A counterexample to the Gateva-Ivanova's conjecture

In 2015 Vendramin found a counterexample to the Gateva-Ivanova Strong Conjecture.

## Example (Vendramin, 2015)

Let  $X := \{a, b\}$  be the left cycle set given by  $x \cdot y = y$  for every  $x, y \in X$  and let  $S := \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  be a set. Let  $\alpha : X \times X \times S \rightarrow \text{Sym}(S)$  given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha(a, a, 1) &= \alpha(a, a, 2) = \alpha(b, b, 1) = \alpha(b, b, 2) := (34); \\ \alpha(a, a, 3) &= \alpha(a, a, 4) = \alpha(b, b, 3) = \alpha(b, b, 4) := (12); \\ \alpha(a, b, 1) &= \alpha(a, b, 3) = \alpha(b, a, 1) = \alpha(b, a, 3) := \text{id}_S; \\ \alpha(a, b, 2) &= \alpha(a, b, 4) = \alpha(b, a, 2) = \alpha(b, a, 4) := (13)(24). \end{aligned}$$

Then  $X \times_{\alpha} S$  is a square-free irretractable left cycle set of cardinality 8.

This is the square-free irretractable left cycle set of minimal cardinality.





# A counterexample to the Gateva-Ivanova's conjecture

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Let  $X := \{a, b\}$  be the left cycle set given by  $x \cdot y = y$  for every  $x, y \in X$  and let  $S := \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  be a set. Let  $\alpha : X \times X \times S \rightarrow \text{Sym}(S)$  given by:

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Then  $X \times_{\alpha} S$  is a square-free irretractable left cycle set of cardinality 8.

This is the square-free irretractable left cycle set of minimal cardinality.



# A counterexample to the Gateva-Ivanova's conjecture

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# A counterexample to the Gateva-Ivanova's conjecture

A new family of dynamical extensions of left cycle sets

Marco Castelli

Basic definitions and results

Some links between left cycle sets and Group Theory

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In 2016 Bachiller, Cedó, Jespers and Okniński found a new dynamical extension of left cycle sets which allows to construct new (irretractable) left cycle sets.



# An example of dynamical extension

## Theorem (Bachiller, Cedó, Jespers and Okniński, 2016)

Let  $A, B$  be non-trivial **abelian groups**,  $S := A \times B$  and let  $I$  be the left cycle set given by  $i \cdot j := j$  for every  $i, j \in I$  a set with  $|I| > 1$ . Let  $\varphi_1 : A \rightarrow B$  be a function such that  $\varphi_1(-a) = \varphi_1(a)$  for all  $a \in A$  and let  $\varphi_2 : B \rightarrow A$  be a **homomorphism**. Let  $\alpha : I \times I \times S \rightarrow \text{Sym}(S)$  given by

$$\alpha(i, j, (a, b))(c, d) := \begin{cases} (c, d - \varphi_1(a - c)), & \text{if } i = j \\ (c - \varphi_2(b), d), & \text{if } i \neq j \end{cases}$$

for all  $i, j \in I$ ,  $a, c \in A$  and  $b, d \in B$ . Then  $X(A, B, I) := S \times_{\alpha} I$  is a left cycle set and it is irretractable whenever  $\varphi_1^{-1}(\{0\}) = \{0\}$  and  $\varphi_2$  is injective.



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# A new dynamical extension of left cycle sets

A new family of  
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Some links  
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A larger family of irretractable left cycle set is obtained by M. C., Francesco Catino and Giuseppina Pinto.

Let  $I$  be a left non-degenerate cycle set, let  $A, B$  be non-empty sets,  $\gamma : B \rightarrow \text{Sym}(A)$ ,  $\beta : A \times A \times I \rightarrow \text{Sym}(B)$ ,  $S := A \times B$  and  $\alpha : I \times I \times S \rightarrow \text{Sym}(S)$  given by

$$\alpha(i, j, (a, b))(c, d) := \begin{cases} (c, \beta_{(a, c, i)}(d)), & \text{if } i = j \\ (\gamma_b(c), d), & \text{if } i \neq j \end{cases}$$

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# A new dynamical extension of left cycle sets

## Theorem (M. C., F. Catino, G. Pinto, 2017)

If  $\gamma : B \longrightarrow \text{Sym}(A)$  and  $\beta : A \times A \times I \longrightarrow \text{Sym}(B)$  are such that

- 1)  $\gamma_b \gamma_d = \gamma_d \gamma_b$ ,
- 2)  $\beta_{(a,c,i)} = \beta_{(\gamma_b(a), \gamma_b(c), j \cdot i)}$ ,
- 3)  $\gamma_{\beta_{(a,c,i)}(d)} \gamma_b = \gamma_{\beta_{(c,a,i)}(b)} \gamma_d$ ,
- 4)  $\beta_{(a,c,i \cdot i)} \beta_{(a',c,i)} = \beta_{(a',c,i \cdot i)} \beta_{(a,c,i)}$

hold for all  $a, a', c \in A$ ,  $b, d \in B$  and  $i, j \in I$ ,  $i \neq j$ , then  $\alpha$  is a dynamical cocycle and so  $X(A, B, I, \beta, \gamma) := S \times_{\alpha} I$  is a non-degenerate left cycle set.



# A new dynamical extension of left cycle sets

## Theorem (M. C., F. Catino, G. Pinto, 2017)

$X(A, B, I, \beta, \gamma)$  is irretractable if and only if  $\gamma$  is injective and they hold:

- 1) For every  $i \in I$ ,  $a, c \in A$ ,  $a \neq c$  there exists  $e \in A$  such that  $\beta_{(a,e,i)} \neq \beta_{(c,e,i)}$
- 2) If  $id_A \in \gamma(B)$ , for all  $a, c \in A$ ,  $i, j \in I$  such that  $i \neq j$  and  $\sigma_i = \sigma_j$  exists  $e \in A$  such that  $\beta_{(a,e,i)} \neq id_B$  or  $\beta_{(c,e,j)} \neq id_B$ .



## Observation

Let  $I$  be the left cycle set given by  $x \cdot y = y$  for all  $x, y \in I$ ,  
 $\varphi_1 : A \rightarrow B$  a function such that  $\varphi_1(-a) = \varphi_1(a)$  for every  $a \in A$   
and let  $\varphi_2 : B \rightarrow A$  be an homomorphism. Put

$$\beta_{(a,c,i)} := t_{-\varphi_1(a-c)} \quad \text{and} \quad \gamma_b := t_{-\varphi_2(b)}$$

for all  $a, c \in A$ ,  $b \in B$  and  $i \in I$ , where  $t_v$  is the translation by  $v$ .  
Then  $X(A, B, I, \beta, \gamma)$  is the non-degenerate left cycle set  $X(A, B, I)$   
obtained by Bachiller, Cedó, Jespers and Okniński.



# A family of irretractable left cycle sets

Example (M.C., F. Catino, G. Pinto, 2017)

Let  $k > 1$ ,  $I := \{1, 2\}$  the left cycle set given by  $x \cdot y = y$  for every  $x, y \in I$ ,  $A = B := \mathbb{Z}/2k\mathbb{Z}$  and  $\delta := (1 \dots 2k)$ . Put

$$\beta_{(a,a,i)} := id_A \quad \beta_{(a,b,1)} := \delta$$

$$\beta_{(a,b,2)} := \delta^2 \quad \gamma_a := t_{-a-1}$$

for all  $i \in I$  and  $a \in A$ ,  $b \in B$ ,  $a \neq b$  where  $t_a : A \rightarrow A$ ,  $t_a(x) := x + a$  for all  $a \in A$ .

Then  $X(A, B, I, \beta, \gamma)$  is an irretractable square-free left cycle set different from those obtained by Bachiller, Cedó, Jespers and Okniński.



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**Thanks!**