

# Random elements of large groups: Discrete case

Zoltán Vidnyánszky

Alfréd Rényi Institute of Mathematics

Toposym 2016

joint work with  
Udayan Darji, Márton Elekes, Kende Kalina, Viktor Kiss

The random graph,  $\mathcal{R} = \langle \mathbb{N}, E_{\mathcal{R}} \rangle$

Edges: for  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$  distinct let  $\mathbb{P}((n, m) \in E_{\mathcal{R}}) = \frac{1}{2}$ ,  
independently.

The random graph,  $\mathcal{R} = \langle \mathbb{N}, E_{\mathcal{R}} \rangle$

Edges: for  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$  distinct let  $\mathbb{P}((n, m) \in E_{\mathcal{R}}) = \frac{1}{2}$ ,  
independently.

Almost surely we obtain the same graph. Equivalently:  
for every disjoint, finite  $A, B \subset \mathbb{N}$  there exists  $v \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  
 $(\forall x \in A)((x, v) \in E_{\mathcal{R}})$  and  $(\forall y \in B)((y, v) \notin E_{\mathcal{R}})$ .

- If  $X, Y \subset \mathcal{R}$  are finite and  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is an isomorphism then  $f$  extends to an automorphism of  $\mathcal{R}$ .
- Every countable graph can be embedded into  $(\mathcal{R}, E_{\mathcal{R}})$ .

The random graph,  $\mathcal{R} = \langle \mathbb{N}, E_{\mathcal{R}} \rangle$

Edges: for  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$  distinct let  $\mathbb{P}((n, m) \in E_{\mathcal{R}}) = \frac{1}{2}$ ,  
independently.

Almost surely we obtain the same graph. Equivalently:  
for every disjoint, finite  $A, B \subset \mathbb{N}$  there exists  $v \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  
 $(\forall x \in A)((x, v) \in E_{\mathcal{R}})$  and  $(\forall y \in B)((y, v) \notin E_{\mathcal{R}})$ .

- If  $X, Y \subset \mathcal{R}$  are finite and  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is an isomorphism  
then  $f$  extends to an automorphism of  $\mathcal{R}$ .
- Every countable graph can be embedded into  $(\mathcal{R}, E_{\mathcal{R}})$ .

$\langle \mathbb{Q}, < \rangle$

If  $X, Y \subset \mathbb{Q}$  are finite and  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is order preserving then  $f$   
extends to an order preserving  $\mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$  map.

Every countable linearly ordered set can be order preservingly  
embedded to  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

# Automorphism groups and genericity

$S_\infty$  is a Polish group with the pointwise convergence topology.

# Automorphism groups and genericity

$S_\infty$  is a Polish group with the pointwise convergence topology. We are interested in the automorphism groups of countable structures  $\iff$  closed subgroups of  $S_\infty$ .

**Definition.** A property  $P$  of elements of  $Aut(\mathcal{A})$  is said to *hold generically* if the set  $\{f \in Aut(\mathcal{A}) : P(f)\}$  is co-meagre.

**Definition.** If  $f, g \in Aut(\mathcal{A})$  we say that  $f$  and  $g$  are *conjugate*, if there exists an  $h \in Aut(\mathcal{A})$  such that  $h^{-1}fh = g$ .

Note: if  $f, g \in Aut(\mathcal{A})$  then

$$\langle \mathcal{A}, f \rangle \cong \langle \mathcal{A}, g \rangle \iff (\exists h \in Aut(\mathcal{A}))(h^{-1}fh = g).$$

**Definition.** An automorphism is called *generic* if its conjugacy class is co-meagre.

# Conjugacy classes

- “There are no infinite cycles and there are infinitely many cycles for every finite cycle length” holds generically in  $S_\infty$  and  $Aut(\mathcal{R})$ ,

# Conjugacy classes

- “There are no infinite cycles and there are infinitely many cycles for every finite cycle length” holds generically in  $S_\infty$  and  $Aut(\mathcal{R})$ , in particular, there is a generic element in  $S_\infty$ .

# Conjugacy classes

- “There are no infinite cycles and there are infinitely many cycles for every finite cycle length” holds generically in  $S_\infty$  and  $Aut(\mathcal{R})$ , in particular, there is a generic element in  $S_\infty$ .
- (Kuske, Truss) There exist generic elements in  $Aut(\mathbb{Q})$  and  $Aut(\mathcal{R})$ .

# Conjugacy classes

- “There are no infinite cycles and there are infinitely many cycles for every finite cycle length” holds generically in  $S_\infty$  and  $Aut(\mathcal{R})$ , in particular, there is a generic element in  $S_\infty$ .
- (Kuske, Truss) There exist generic elements in  $Aut(\mathbb{Q})$  and  $Aut(\mathcal{R})$ .

Kechris, Rosendal: Characterisation of the existence of generic elements of closed subgroups of  $S_\infty$ .

# Measure

**Definition.** (Christensen) Let  $(G, \cdot)$  be a Polish group and  $B \subset G$  Borel. We say that  $B$  is *Haar null* if there exists a Borel probability measure  $\mu$  on  $G$  such that for every  $g, h \in G$  we have  $\mu(gBh) = 0$ . An arbitrary set  $S$  is called Haar null if  $S \subset B$  for some Borel Haar null set  $B$ .

**Definition.** A property  $P$  of elements of  $Aut(\mathcal{A})$  is said to *hold almost surely* if the set  $\{f \in Aut(\mathcal{A}) : P(f)\}$  is co-Haar null.

# Measure

**Definition.** (Christensen) Let  $(G, \cdot)$  be a Polish group and  $B \subset G$  Borel. We say that  $B$  is *Haar null* if there exists a Borel probability measure  $\mu$  on  $G$  such that for every  $g, h \in G$  we have  $\mu(gBh) = 0$ . An arbitrary set  $S$  is called Haar null if  $S \subset B$  for some Borel Haar null set  $B$ .

**Definition.** A property  $P$  of elements of  $Aut(\mathcal{A})$  is said to *hold almost surely* if the set  $\{f \in Aut(\mathcal{A}) : P(f)\}$  is co-Haar null.

**Definition.**  $A \subset G$  is called *compact catcher* if for every  $K \subset G$  compact there exist  $g, h \in G$  so that  $gKh \subset A$ .

# Measure

**Definition.** (Christensen) Let  $(G, \cdot)$  be a Polish group and  $B \subset G$  Borel. We say that  $B$  is *Haar null* if there exists a Borel probability measure  $\mu$  on  $G$  such that for every  $g, h \in G$  we have  $\mu(gBh) = 0$ . An arbitrary set  $S$  is called Haar null if  $S \subset B$  for some Borel Haar null set  $B$ .

**Definition.** A property  $P$  of elements of  $Aut(\mathcal{A})$  is said to *hold almost surely* if the set  $\{f \in Aut(\mathcal{A}) : P(f)\}$  is co-Haar null.

**Definition.**  $A \subset G$  is called *compact catcher* if for every  $K \subset G$  compact there exist  $g, h \in G$  so that  $gKh \subset A$ .  $A$  is *compact biter* if for every  $K \subset G$  compact there exist a  $U$  open and  $g, h \in G$  so that  $U \cap K \neq \emptyset$ , and  $g(U \cap K)h \subset A$ .

# Measure

**Definition.** (Christensen) Let  $(G, \cdot)$  be a Polish group and  $B \subset G$  Borel. We say that  $B$  is *Haar null* if there exists a Borel probability measure  $\mu$  on  $G$  such that for every  $g, h \in G$  we have  $\mu(gBh) = 0$ . An arbitrary set  $S$  is called Haar null if  $S \subset B$  for some Borel Haar null set  $B$ .

**Definition.** A property  $P$  of elements of  $Aut(\mathcal{A})$  is said to *hold almost surely* if the set  $\{f \in Aut(\mathcal{A}) : P(f)\}$  is co-Haar null.

**Definition.**  $A \subset G$  is called *compact catcher* if for every  $K \subset G$  compact there exist  $g, h \in G$  so that  $gKh \subset A$ .  $A$  is *compact biter* if for every  $K \subset G$  compact there exist a  $U$  open and  $g, h \in G$  so that  $U \cap K \neq \emptyset$ , and  $g(U \cap K)h \subset A$ .

**Corollary.** If  $A$  is compact biter then it is not Haar null.

## Measure in $S_\infty$

**Theorem.** (Dougherty, Mycielski) Almost all elements of  $S_\infty$  have infinitely many infinite cycles and only finitely many finite cycles.

## Measure in $S_\infty$

**Theorem.** (Dougherty, Mycielski) Almost all elements of  $S_\infty$  have infinitely many infinite cycles and only finitely many finite cycles.

Therefore, almost all permutations included in the union of countably many conjugacy classes.

## Measure in $S_\infty$

**Theorem.** (Dougherty, Mycielski) Almost all elements of  $S_\infty$  have infinitely many infinite cycles and only finitely many finite cycles.

Therefore, almost all permutations included in the union of countably many conjugacy classes.

**Theorem.** (Dougherty, Mycielski) All of these classes are Haar positive, in fact, compact biters.

# Measure and countable structures

**Definition.** Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a structure,  $a \in A$  and  $X \subset A$ . We say that  $\mathcal{A}$  has the nice algebraic closure property (NAC) if for every finite  $A \subset \mathcal{A}$  the  $\{b : |\{f(b) : f \in \text{Stab}_p(A)\}| < \infty\}$  is finite.

# Measure and countable structures

**Definition.** Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a structure,  $a \in A$  and  $X \subset A$ . We say that  $\mathcal{A}$  has the nice algebraic closure property (NAC) if for every finite  $A \subset \mathcal{A}$  the  $\{b : |\{f(b) : f \in \text{Stab}_p(A)\}| < \infty\}$  is finite.

**Theorem.** Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a countable structure.

$\mathcal{A}$  has NAC  $\Leftrightarrow$  almost every element of  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{A})$  has finitely many finite cycles,

# Measure and countable structures

**Definition.** Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a structure,  $a \in A$  and  $X \subset A$ . We say that  $\mathcal{A}$  has the nice algebraic closure property (NAC) if for every finite  $A \subset \mathcal{A}$  the  $\{b : |\{f(b) : f \in \text{Stab}_p(A)\}| < \infty\}$  is finite.

**Theorem.** Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a countable structure.

$\mathcal{A}$  has NAC  $\Leftrightarrow$  almost every element of  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{A})$  has finitely many finite cycles,

$\mathcal{A}$  has NAC  $\Rightarrow$  almost every element of  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{A})$  has infinitely many infinite cycles.

# Measure and countable structures

**Definition.** Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a structure,  $a \in A$  and  $X \subset A$ . We say that  $\mathcal{A}$  has the nice algebraic closure property (NAC) if for every finite  $A \subset \mathcal{A}$  the  $\{b : |\{f(b) : f \in \text{Stab}_p(A)\}| < \infty\}$  is finite.

**Theorem.** Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a countable structure.

$\mathcal{A}$  has NAC  $\Leftrightarrow$  almost every element of  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{A})$  has finitely many finite cycles,

$\mathcal{A}$  has NAC  $\Rightarrow$  almost every element of  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{A})$  has infinitely many infinite cycles.

$\mathcal{R}, \mathbb{Q}$  has NAC, but this is not enough to characterize the positive conjugacy classes of  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{R}), \text{Aut}(\mathbb{Q})$ .

## Measure and $Aut(\mathbb{Q})$

$f \in Aut(\mathbb{Q})$  extends to a  $\bar{f} \in Homeo^+(\mathbb{R})$ .

**Definition.** A *+ orbital* (*- orbital*) of  $f$  is a maximal interval  $I \subset \mathbb{R}$  such that for every  $x \in I$  we have  $\bar{f}(x) > x$  ( $\bar{f}(x) < x$ ).  
Let  $Fix(\bar{f}) = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : \bar{f}(x) = x\}$ .

## Measure and $Aut(\mathbb{Q})$

$f \in Aut(\mathbb{Q})$  extends to a  $\bar{f} \in Homeo^+(\mathbb{R})$ .

**Definition.** A *+ orbital* (*- orbital*) of  $f$  is a maximal interval  $I \subset \mathbb{R}$  such that for every  $x \in I$  we have  $\bar{f}(x) > x$  ( $\bar{f}(x) < x$ ).  
Let  $Fix(\bar{f}) = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : \bar{f}(x) = x\}$ .

**Proposition.**  $f, g \in Aut(\mathbb{Q})$  are conjugate if and only if there exists an order and rationality preserving isomorphism between  $Fix(\bar{f})$  and  $Fix(\bar{g})$  so that the corresponding orbitals have the same sign.

# Measure and $Aut(\mathbb{Q})$

**Theorem.** For almost every element of  $Aut(\mathbb{Q})$

- between every two + orbitals (− orbitals) there is a − orbital (+ orbital) or a rational fixed point

# Measure and $Aut(\mathbb{Q})$

**Theorem.** For almost every element of  $Aut(\mathbb{Q})$

- between every two + orbitals (– orbitals) there is a – orbital (+ orbital) or a rational fixed point
- there are only finitely many rational fixed points.

# Measure and $Aut(\mathbb{Q})$

**Theorem.** For almost every element of  $Aut(\mathbb{Q})$

- between every two  $+$  orbitals ( $-$  orbitals) there is a  $-$  orbital ( $+$  orbital) or a rational fixed point
- there are only finitely many rational fixed points.

**Theorem.** This characterises the positive conjugacy classes, in fact, every positive conjugacy class is compact biter.

# Measure and $Aut(\mathbb{Q})$

**Theorem.** For almost every element of  $Aut(\mathbb{Q})$

- between every two + orbitals (– orbitals) there is a – orbital (+ orbital) or a rational fixed point
- there are only finitely many rational fixed points.

**Theorem.** This characterises the positive conjugacy classes, in fact, every positive conjugacy class is compact biter.

In particular, there are  $\mathfrak{c}$  many Haar positive conjugacy classes, and their union is almost everything.

# Measure and $Aut(\mathbb{Q})$

**Theorem.** For almost every element of  $Aut(\mathbb{Q})$

- between every two + orbitals (– orbitals) there is a – orbital (+ orbital) or a rational fixed point
- there are only finitely many rational fixed points.

**Theorem.** This characterises the positive conjugacy classes, in fact, every positive conjugacy class is compact biter.

In particular, there are  $\mathfrak{c}$  many Haar positive conjugacy classes, and their union is almost everything.

# Measure and $Aut(\mathcal{R})$

**Definition.** Let  $v \in R$  and  $f \in Aut(\mathcal{R})$ . Define  $\beta_{f,v} : \mathbb{N}^+ \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  as

$$\beta_{f,v}(n) = 1 \iff (v, f^n(v)) \in E_{\mathcal{R}}.$$

# Measure and $Aut(\mathcal{R})$

**Definition.** Let  $v \in R$  and  $f \in Aut(\mathcal{R})$ . Define  $\beta_{f,v} : \mathbb{N}^+ \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  as

$$\beta_{f,v}(n) = 1 \iff (v, f^n(v)) \in E_{\mathcal{R}}.$$

**Proposition.** (Truss) Suppose that  $f, g \in Aut(\mathcal{R})$  have only one infinite cycle and no finite ones. Then  $f$  and  $g$  are conjugate if and only if  $\beta_{f,v} = \beta_{g,w}$  for some (  $\iff$  for every)  $v, w$ .

## Measure and $Aut(\mathcal{R})$

**Definition.** Let  $v \in R$  and  $f \in Aut(\mathcal{R})$ . Define  $\beta_{f,v} : \mathbb{N}^+ \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  as

$$\beta_{f,v}(n) = 1 \iff (v, f^n(v)) \in E_{\mathcal{R}}.$$

**Proposition.** (Truss) Suppose that  $f, g \in Aut(\mathcal{R})$  have only one infinite cycle and no finite ones. Then  $f$  and  $g$  are conjugate if and only if  $\beta_{f,v} = \beta_{g,w}$  for some (  $\iff$  for every)  $v, w$ .  
Truss' characterisation has an appropriate generalisation to every  $f, g \in Aut(\mathcal{R})$ .

## Measure and $Aut(\mathcal{R})$

**Definition.** Let  $v \in R$  and  $f \in Aut(\mathcal{R})$ . Define  $\beta_{f,v} : \mathbb{N}^+ \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  as

$$\beta_{f,v}(n) = 1 \iff (v, f^n(v)) \in E_{\mathcal{R}}.$$

**Proposition.** (Truss) Suppose that  $f, g \in Aut(\mathcal{R})$  have only one infinite cycle and no finite ones. Then  $f$  and  $g$  are conjugate if and only if  $\beta_{f,v} = \beta_{g,w}$  for some (  $\iff$  for every)  $v, w$ .  
Truss' characterisation has an appropriate generalisation to every  $f, g \in Aut(\mathcal{R})$ .

## Measure and $Aut(\mathcal{R})$

**Theorem.** Almost all elements of  $Aut(\mathcal{R})$  have the following properties:

- for every disjoint, finite  $A, B \subset \mathbb{N}$  there exists  $v \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $(\forall x \in A)((x, v) \in E_{\mathcal{R}})$  and  $(\forall y \in B)((y, v) \notin E_{\mathcal{R}})$

## Measure and $Aut(\mathcal{R})$

**Theorem.** Almost all elements of  $Aut(\mathcal{R})$  have the following properties:

- for every disjoint, finite  $A, B \subset \mathbb{N}$  there exists  $v \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $(\forall x \in A)((x, v) \in E_{\mathcal{R}})$  and  $(\forall y \in B)((y, v) \notin E_{\mathcal{R}})$  and  $v \notin$  the union of cycles generated by  $A \cup B$ ,

## Measure and $Aut(\mathcal{R})$

**Theorem.** Almost all elements of  $Aut(\mathcal{R})$  have the following properties:

- for every disjoint, finite  $A, B \subset \mathbb{N}$  there exists  $v \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $(\forall x \in A)((x, v) \in E_{\mathcal{R}})$  and  $(\forall y \in B)((y, v) \notin E_{\mathcal{R}})$  and  $v \notin$  the union of cycles generated by  $A \cup B$ ,
- there are only finitely many finite cycles.

## Measure and $Aut(\mathcal{R})$

**Theorem.** Almost all elements of  $Aut(\mathcal{R})$  have the following properties:

- for every disjoint, finite  $A, B \subset \mathbb{N}$  there exists  $v \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $(\forall x \in A)((x, v) \in E_{\mathcal{R}})$  and  $(\forall y \in B)((y, v) \notin E_{\mathcal{R}})$  and  $v \notin$  the union of cycles generated by  $A \cup B$ ,
- there are only finitely many finite cycles.

**Theorem.** This characterises the positive conjugacy classes, in fact, every positive conjugacy class is compact biter.

## Measure and $Aut(\mathcal{R})$

**Theorem.** Almost all elements of  $Aut(\mathcal{R})$  have the following properties:

- for every disjoint, finite  $A, B \subset \mathbb{N}$  there exists  $v \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $(\forall x \in A)((x, v) \in E_{\mathcal{R}})$  and  $(\forall y \in B)((y, v) \notin E_{\mathcal{R}})$  and  $v \notin$  the union of cycles generated by  $A \cup B$ ,
- there are only finitely many finite cycles.

**Theorem.** This characterises the positive conjugacy classes, in fact, every positive conjugacy class is compact biter.

Again, there are  $\mathfrak{c}$  many Haar positive conjugacy classes, and their union is almost everything.

## Measure and $Aut(\mathcal{R})$

**Theorem.** Almost all elements of  $Aut(\mathcal{R})$  have the following properties:

- for every disjoint, finite  $A, B \subset \mathbb{N}$  there exists  $v \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $(\forall x \in A)((x, v) \in E_{\mathcal{R}})$  and  $(\forall y \in B)((y, v) \notin E_{\mathcal{R}})$  and  $v \notin$  the union of cycles generated by  $A \cup B$ ,
- there are only finitely many finite cycles.

**Theorem.** This characterises the positive conjugacy classes, in fact, every positive conjugacy class is compact biter.

Again, there are  $\mathfrak{c}$  many Haar positive conjugacy classes, and their union is almost everything.

**Splitting lemma.** If  $F \subset Aut(\mathcal{R})$  is finite set there exists a vertex  $v$  so that for every  $f, g \in F$  distinct we have  $f(v) \neq g(v)$ .

## Measure and $Aut(\mathcal{R})$

**Theorem.** (Christensen) If  $A$  is a conjugacy invariant Haar positive universally measurable set then  $A^{-1}A$  contains a neighbourhood of the identity.

**Corollary.** (Truss) For every  $f, g \in Aut(\mathcal{R})$  non-identity elements,  $g$  is the product of four conjugates of  $f$ .

# Questions

1. How many Haar positive conjugacy classes are there?
2. Is the union of the Haar null conjugacy classes Haar null?

# Examples

	$\cup$ of Haar null classes is Haar null		
	$C$	$LC \setminus C$	$NLC$
$0$			
$n$			
$\aleph_0$			
$c$			
	$\cup$ of Haar null classes is not Haar null		
	$C$	$LC \setminus C$	$NLC$
$0$			
$n$			
$\aleph_0$			
$c$			

# Examples

$\cup$ of Haar null classes is Haar null			
	<b>C</b>	<b>LC \ C</b>	<b>NLC</b>
0	—	—	—
$n$	$\mathbb{Z}_n$	HNN	???
$\aleph_0$	???	$\mathbb{Z}$	$S_\infty$
$\mathfrak{c}$	—	—	$Aut(\mathbb{Q}); Aut(\mathbb{R})$
$\cup$ of Haar null classes is not Haar null			
	<b>C</b>	<b>LC \ C</b>	<b>NLC</b>
0	$2^\omega$	$\mathbb{Z} \times 2^\omega$	$\mathbb{Z}^\omega$
$n$	$\mathbb{Z}_n \times (\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_3^\omega)$	HNN $\times (\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_3^\omega)$	$\mathbb{Z}_n \times (\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Q}_d^\omega)$
$\aleph_0$	???	$\mathbb{Z} \times (\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_3^\omega)$	$S_\infty \times (\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_3^\omega)$
$\mathfrak{c}$	—	—	$Aut(\mathbb{Q}) \times (\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_3^\omega)$

# Open problems

**Question.** Are there natural examples of automorphism groups with given cardinality of Haar positive conjugacy classes?

## Open problems

**Question.** Are there natural examples of automorphism groups with given cardinality of Haar positive conjugacy classes?

**Question.** Does there exist a Polish group such that it consistently has  $\kappa$  many Haar positive conjugacy classes with  $\aleph_0 < \kappa < \mathfrak{c}$ ?

# Open problems

**Question.** Are there natural examples of automorphism groups with given cardinality of Haar positive conjugacy classes?

**Question.** Does there exist a Polish group such that it consistently has  $\kappa$  many Haar positive conjugacy classes with  $\aleph_0 < \kappa < \mathfrak{c}$ ?

**Problem.** Formulate necessary and sufficient model theoretic conditions which characterise the measure theoretic behaviour of the conjugacy classes!

Thank you for your attention!