

Fixed subgroups in direct products of free and surface groups

Zhang, Qiang

张 强

(joint with E. Ventura and Jianchun Wu)

Xi'an Jiaotong University

西 安 交 通 大 学

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- ① Intersection of subgroups in free/surface groups
- ② Fixed subgroups in free groups
- ③ Fixed subgroups in surface groups
- ④ Geometric subgroups & retracts in surface groups
- ⑤ Fixed subgroups in 3-manifold groups
- ⑥ Fixed subgroups in product groups

Hanna Neumann Conjecture

For a **f.g.** (finitely generated) group G , let $\text{rk}(G)$ denote the rank (i.e., the minimal number of generators) of G . There are lots of research on the intersection of subgroups in the literature.

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For any **free group**, Mineyev and Friedman proved the following theorem conjectured by [\[Neumann, 1957\]](#) independently. Dicks gave two versions of simplified proofs. A. Jaikin gave another new proof recently.

Let $\overline{\text{rk}} := \max\{0, \text{rk}(G) - 1\}$.

Theorem (Mineyev, Friedman, 2011)

Let F_n be a f.g. **free group**, and H, K any two f.g. subgroups of F_n . Then

$$\overline{\text{rk}}(H \cap K) \leq \overline{\text{rk}}(H) \cdot \overline{\text{rk}}(K).$$

Intersection of subgroups: surface groups

Let G be a **surface group**, namely, $G \cong \pi_1(S)$ for a closed (possibly non-orientable) surface S with $\chi(S) < 0$.

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Theorem (Soma, 1991)

*Let G be a f.g. **surface group**, and H, K any two f.g. subgroups of G . Then*

$$\overline{\text{rk}}(H \cap K) \leq 1161 \cdot \overline{\text{rk}}(H) \cdot \overline{\text{rk}}(K).$$

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Question 1

For any subgroups H, K of a **surface group**, does

$$\overline{\text{rk}}(H \cap K) \leq \overline{\text{rk}}(H) \cdot \overline{\text{rk}}(K) ?$$

Mineyev claimed that the answer of the question above is affirmative.

Fixed subgroups: definitions

For any group G , denote the set of endomorphisms of G by $\text{End}(G)$.

Definition

For an endomorphism $\phi \in \text{End}(G)$, the **fixed subgroup** of ϕ is

$$\text{Fix}\phi := \{g \in G \mid \phi(g) = g\}.$$

For a family \mathcal{B} of endomorphisms of G (i.e., $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \text{End}(G)$), the **fixed subgroup** of \mathcal{B} is

$$\text{Fix}\mathcal{B} := \{g \in G \mid \phi(g) = g, \forall \phi \in \mathcal{B}\} = \bigcap_{\phi \in \mathcal{B}} \text{Fix}\phi.$$

Theorem (Dyer-Scott, 1975)

Let $\phi \in \text{Aut}(F_n)$ be an automorphism with **finite order** of F_n . Then

$$\text{rkFix}\phi \leq \text{rk}F_n.$$

Fixed subgroups: free groups

Theorem (Dyer-Scott, 1975)

Let $\phi \in \text{Aut}(F_n)$ be an automorphism with **finite order** of F_n . Then

$$\text{rkFix}\phi \leq \text{rk}F_n.$$

Theorem (Bestvina-Handel, 1992)

Let ϕ be an **automorphism** of F_n . Then $\text{rkFix}\phi \leq \text{rk}F_n$.

Other alternative proofs (Sela, Paulin, Gaboriau-Jaeger-Levitt-Lustig,...)

Theorem (Dicks-Ventura, 1996)

Let \mathcal{B} be a family of **injective** endomorphisms of F_n , then

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They also showed that $\text{Fix}\mathcal{B}$ is **inert** in F_n .

Definition

A subgroup A is **inert** in G if for every subgroup $B \leq G$,

$$\text{rk}(A \cap B) \leq \text{rk}B.$$

Fixed subgroups & fixed points on graphs & surfaces

Let $\text{chr}(\mathbf{F}) := 1 - \text{rkFix}(f_{\pi, \mathbf{F}})$ (or $2 - \text{rkFix}(f_{\pi, \mathbf{F}})$ for some cases).

Theorem (Jiang-Wang-Z., 2011)

*Suppose X is either a connected finite graph or a connected compact hyperbolic surface, and $f : X \rightarrow X$ is a **selfmap**. Then*

- ① $\text{ind}(\mathbf{F}) \leq \text{chr}(\mathbf{F})$ for every fixed point class \mathbf{F} of f ;
- ② when X is not a tree,

$$\sum_{\text{ind}(\mathbf{F}) + \text{chr}(\mathbf{F}) < 0} \{\text{ind}(\mathbf{F}) + \text{chr}(\mathbf{F})\} \geq 2\chi(X).$$

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Corollary

Bestvina-Handel results for free groups (Scott Conjecture).

Fixed subgroups: surface groups

Let G be a f.g. **surface group**.

Theorem (Jiang-Wang-Z., 2011)

Let ϕ be an **endomorphism** of G . Then

- ① $\text{rkFix}\phi \leq \text{rk}G$, with equality if and only if $\phi = \text{id}$;
- ② $\text{rkFix}\phi \leq \frac{1}{2}\text{rk}G$ if ϕ is not epimorphic.

[Nielsen,1929]: For any closed **orientable** surface S and **automorphism** ϕ of $\pi_1(S)$, $\text{rkFix}\phi \leq \text{rk}G$.

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Theorem (Wu-Z.,2014)

Let \mathcal{B} be a family of **endomorphisms** of G . Then

- ① $\text{rkFix}\mathcal{B} \leq \text{rk}G$, with equality if and only if $\mathcal{B} = \{\text{id}\}$;
- ② $\text{rkFix}\mathcal{B} \leq \frac{1}{2}\text{rk}G$, if \mathcal{B} contains a non-epimorphic endomorphism

Geometric subgroups of surface groups

A connected subsurface F of a connected surface S is called **incompressible** if the natural homomorphism $\pi_1(F) \rightarrow \pi_1(S)$ induced by the inclusion $F \hookrightarrow S$ is injective. We can think of $\pi_1(F)$ as a subgroup of $\pi_1(S)$. Subgroups which arise in this way are called **geometric**.

Theorem (Nielsen, Jaco-Shalen)

*The fixed subgroup of an **automorphism** of a surface group is either cyclic or geometric.*

Geometric subgroups: inertia

Theorem (Nielsen, Jaco-Shalen)

*The fixed subgroup of an **automorphism** of a surface group is either cyclic or geometric.*

For geometric subgroups of a surface group, we prove that

Theorem (Wu-Z., 2014)

Any geometric subgroup A of a surface group G is inert in G , i.e.,

$$\mathrm{rk}(A \cap B) \leq \mathrm{rk} B \quad \text{for } \forall B \leq G.$$

Corollary (Wu-Z., 2014)

The fixed subgroup of any family of epimorphisms of a surface group G is inert in G .

Equalizers and Retracts: definitions

- Suppose G and H are two groups, $\phi : G \rightarrow H$ is an epimorphism. A **section** of ϕ is a homomorphism $\sigma : H \rightarrow G$ such that

$$\phi\sigma = id : H \rightarrow H.$$

For any family \mathcal{B} of sections of ϕ , the **equalizer** of \mathcal{B} is

$$\text{Eq}(\mathcal{B}) := \{h \in H \mid \sigma_1(h) = \sigma_2(h), \forall \sigma_1, \sigma_2 \in \mathcal{B}\} \leq H.$$

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- $id \in \mathcal{B} \implies \text{Eq}(\mathcal{B}) = \text{Fix}(\mathcal{B})$.
- Suppose H is a subgroup of a group G . If there is a homomorphism $\pi : G \rightarrow G$ such that $\pi(G) \leq H$ and

$$\pi|_H = id : H \rightarrow H,$$

we say that H is a **retract** of G . If $H \neq G$, it is called a **proper retract**.

Equalizers and Retracts: results

We have the following relation between equalizers and retracts:

Lemma

Let G, H be two groups, and $\phi : G \rightarrow H$ an epimorphism. If \mathcal{B} is a family of sections of ϕ , then for any section $\sigma \in \mathcal{B}$, $\sigma(H)$ is a retract of G , and

$$\sigma|_{\text{Eq}(\mathcal{B})} : \text{Eq}(\mathcal{B}) \rightarrow \bigcap_{\alpha \in \mathcal{B}} \alpha(H)$$

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For **free groups**, Bergman showed

Proposition (Bergman, 1999)

- ① *Any intersection of retracts of a f.g. free group is also a retract;*
- ② *If $\phi : G \rightarrow H$ is an epimorphism of free groups with H f.g., then the equalizer of any family of sections of ϕ is a free factor in H .*

Retracts on surface groups

For a **surface group** G , we have

Proposition (Wu-Z., 2014)

- 1 Any proper retract of G is free of rank $\leq \frac{1}{2}\text{rk}G$.

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- ① *Any proper retract of G is free of rank $\leq \frac{1}{2}\text{rk}G$.*
- ② *If H_1, H_2 are two proper retracts of G , and $H = \langle H_1, H_2 \rangle \leq G$, the subgroup generated by H_1 and H_2 , then*
 - (1) *If $H < G$, then $H_1 \cap H_2$ is a retract of both H_1 and H_2 , and*

$$\text{rk}(H_1 \cap H_2) \leq \min\{\text{rk}H_1, \text{rk}H_2\}.$$

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(2) *If $H = G$, then $H_1 \cap H_2$ is cyclic (possibly trivial).*

- ③ *If \mathcal{R} is a family retracts of G , then*

$$\text{rk}\left(\bigcap_{H \in \mathcal{R}} H\right) \leq \min\{\text{rk}H \mid H \in \mathcal{R}\} \leq \begin{cases} \text{rk}G, & \mathcal{R} = \{G\} \\ \frac{1}{2}\text{rk}G, & \mathcal{R} \neq \{G\} \end{cases}.$$

Question 2

Is every retract H of a surface/free group G inert in G ? Namely, is

$$\mathrm{rk}(H \cap K) \leq \mathrm{rk}(K)$$

for any subgroup $K \leq G$?

Fixed subgroups & fixed points on Seifert manifolds

M : a comp. orient. **Seifert 3-manifold** with hyperbolic orbifold,

Theorem (Z., 2012)

Suppose $f : M \rightarrow M$ is a homeomorphism. Then

- ① $\text{ind}(\mathbf{F}) \leq \text{chr}(\mathbf{F})$ for every essential fixed point class \mathbf{F} of f ;
- ② $\sum_{\text{ind}(\mathbf{F}) + \text{chr}(\mathbf{F}) < 0} \{\text{ind}(\mathbf{F}) + \text{chr}(\mathbf{F})\} \geq \mathcal{B}$,
where $\mathcal{B} = 4(2 - \text{rk}\pi_1(M))$.

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where $\mathcal{B} = 4(2 - \text{rk}\pi_1(M))$.

Corollary (Z., 2012)

Let $f_\pi : \pi_1(M, x) \rightarrow \pi_1(M, x)$ be the induced automorphism and

$$\text{Fix}(f_\pi) := \{\gamma \in \pi_1(M, x) \mid \gamma = f_\pi(\gamma)\} \subset \pi_1(M, x),$$

where x is in an **essential fixed point class**. Then

$$\text{rkFix}(f_\pi) < 2\text{rk}\pi_1(M).$$

Theorem (Z., 2013)

Suppose M is a compact orientable **Seifert** 3-manifold, and $f_\pi : \pi_1(M) \rightarrow \pi_1(M)$ is an automorphism induced by an **orientation-reversing** homeomorphism $f : M \rightarrow M$. Then

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Remark. Analogue as above does NOT hold for orient.-preserving automorphism of Seifert manifold groups.

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Theorem (Lin-Wang, 2012)

Suppose ϕ is an automorphism of $G = \pi_1(M)$, where M is a compact orientable **hyperbolic** 3-manifold with finite volume. Then

$$\text{rkFix}\phi < 2\text{rk}G.$$

Definition

For a subgroup $A \leq G$,

- A is called **inert** in G , if for every subgroup $B \leq G$,

$$\text{rk}(A \cap B) \leq \text{rk}B.$$

- A is called **compressed** in G , if for every subgroup $A \leq B \leq G$,

$$\text{rk}A \leq \text{rk}B.$$

- A is called **c-bounded** in G , if

$$\text{rk}A \leq c \cdot \text{rk}G.$$

A is called **bounded** in G , if it is 1-bounded in G .

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Remark: Inert \implies Compressed \implies Bounded.

Fixed subgroups of endomorphisms

For any family $B \subseteq \text{End}(G)$,

Theorem (Bergman, 1999)

$\text{Fix} B$ is **bounded** in F_n .

Question (Bergman, 1999)

Is $\text{Fix} B$ **inert** in F_n ?

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Theorem (Martino-Ventura, 2004)

$\text{Fix}B$ is **compressed** in F_n .

Theorem (Z.-Ventura-Wu, 2015)

$\text{Fix}B$ is **compressed** in any **surface group**.

Fixed subgroups in product groups: most are bounded

Let $G = G_1 \times G_2 \times \cdots \times G_n$, each G_i is a f.g. free group or $\pi_1(S)$ for a closed surface S (maybe $\mathbb{R}P^2$, $2\mathbb{R}P^2$ or a torus). We call it a **product group**.

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Theorem A (Z.-Ventura-Wu, 2015)

$\text{rkFix}\phi \leq \text{rk}G$ for every $\phi \in \text{Aut}(G)$

\iff All G_i are of the same type (Euclidean or hyperbolic).

Euclidean type: \mathbb{Z} , $\pi_1(S)$ for $\chi(S) \geq 0$.

Hyperbolic type: F_n ($n > 1$), $\pi_1(S)$ for $\chi(S) < 0$.

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Example (NOT satisfying the conditions of Theorem A)

Let $G = F_2 \times \mathbb{Z} = \langle a, b \rangle \times \langle t \rangle$ and

$$\phi \in \text{Aut}(G) : a \mapsto at, b \mapsto b, t \mapsto t.$$

Then $\text{Fix}\phi = \langle t, a^{-m}ba^m \mid m \in \mathbb{Z} \rangle$.

Fixed subgroups in product groups: few are compressed

Theorem B (Z.-Ventura-Wu, 2015)

Let $G = G_1 \times \cdots \times G_n$ be a product group. If $\text{Fix}\phi$ is **compressed** in G for every $\phi \in \text{Aut}(G)$, then G must be of one of the following forms:

(euc1) $G = \mathbb{Z}^p \times (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^q$ for some $p, q \geq 0$; or

(euc2) $G = NS_2 \times (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^q$ for some $q \geq 0$; or

(euc3) $G = NS_2 \times \mathbb{Z}^p \times (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$ for some $p \geq 1$; or

(euc4) $G = NS_2^\ell \times \mathbb{Z}^p$ for some $\ell \geq 1, p \geq 0$; or

(hyp1) $G = F_r \times NS_3^\ell$ for some $r \geq 2, \ell \geq 0$; or

(hyp2) $G = S_g \times NS_3^\ell$ for some $g \geq 2, \ell \geq 0$; or

(hyp3) $G = NS_k \times NS_3^\ell$ for some $k \geq 3, \ell \geq 0$.

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Question (Z.-Ventura-Wu, 2015)

Is the implication in Theorem B an equivalence?

Fixed subgroups in product groups: few are compressed

Proposition

If G is of form (euc3), i.e. $G = NS_2 \times \mathbb{Z}^p \times (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$ for $p \geq 1$, then $\exists \phi \in \text{Aut}(G)$, s.t. $\text{Fix}\phi$ is NOT compressed, hence NOT inert.

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Proof: Let $G = \langle a, b | bab^{-1}a \rangle \times \prod_{i=1}^p \langle c_i \rangle \times \langle d | d^2 \rangle$ and $\phi \in \text{Aut}(G)$:

$$a \mapsto ad, \quad b \mapsto ba, \quad c_1 \mapsto c_1d, \quad c_i \mapsto c_i^{-1}, \quad (i = 2, \dots, p), \quad d \mapsto d.$$
$$\implies \text{Fix}\phi = \langle a^2, b^2, ac_1, d \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}^3 \times (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}), \text{ while } \text{Fix}\phi \leq \langle ac_1, b, d \rangle.$$

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Theorem C

Let G be a product group of **Euclidean** type. Then, $\text{Fix}\phi$ is compressed in G for every $\phi \in \text{Aut}(G) \iff G$ is of one of the following forms:

(euc1) $G = \mathbb{Z}^p \times (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^q$ for some $p, q \geq 0$; or

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(euc4) $G = NS_2^\ell \times \mathbb{Z}^p$ for some $\ell \geq 1, p \geq 0$.

Examples: fixed subgroups NOT compressed

Proposition (5 factors)

If $G = G_1 \times \cdots \times G_5$, each G_i is $F_r(r \geq 2)$, $S_g(g \geq 2)$ or $NS_k(k \geq 3)$, then $\exists \phi \in \text{Aut}(G)$ s.t. $\text{Fix}\phi$ is NOT compressed in G .

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Proof: Let $1 \neq h_i = [s_i, t_i] = s_i t_i s_i^{-1} t_i^{-1} \in G_i$, and

$$\phi_i \in \text{Aut}(G_i) : g \mapsto h_i g h_i^{-1}.$$

Then $\text{Fix}\phi_i = \langle h_i \rangle$. Let $\phi = \phi_1 \times \cdots \times \phi_5 \in \text{Aut}(G)$. Then

$$\text{Fix}\phi = \langle s_1 t_1 s_1^{-1} t_1^{-1} \rangle \times \cdots \times \langle s_5 t_5 s_5^{-1} t_5^{-1} \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}^5$$

while

$$\text{Fix}\phi \leq \langle s_1 s_2 s_4, t_1 t_3 t_5, t_2 s_3, s_5 t_4 \rangle,$$

because

$$\begin{aligned} [s_1 s_2 s_4, t_1 t_3 t_5] &= [s_1, t_1], & [s_1 s_2 s_4, t_2 s_3] &= [s_2, t_2], \\ [t_2 s_3, t_1 t_3 t_5] &= [s_3, t_3], & [s_1 s_2 s_4, s_5 t_4] &= [s_4, t_4], & [s_5 t_4, t_1 t_3 t_5] &= [s_5, t_5]. \end{aligned}$$

Examples: fixed subgroups NOT compressed

Proposition (4 factors)

Let $G = G_0 \times NS_3^\ell (\ell \geq 3)$, G_0 is $F_r (r \geq 2)$, $S_g (g \geq 2)$ or $NS_k (k \geq 4)$. Then $\exists \phi \in \text{Aut}(G)$ s.t. $\text{Fix}\phi$ is NOT compressed in G .

Examples: fixed subgroups NOT compressed

Proposition (4 factors)

Let $G = G_0 \times NS_3^\ell (\ell \geq 3)$, G_0 is $F_r (r \geq 2)$, $S_g (g \geq 2)$ or $NS_k (k \geq 4)$. Then $\exists \phi \in \text{Aut}(G)$ s.t. $\text{Fix}\phi$ is NOT compressed in G .

Proof: For $i = 1, 2, 3$, $\exists \phi_i \in \text{Aut}(G_i)$, s.t. $\text{Fix}\phi_i = \langle s_i t_i s_i^{-1} t_i^{-1} \rangle$.

- $G_0 = F_r = \langle a_1, \dots, a_r \rangle$, $\phi_0 \in \text{Aut}(G_0) : a_1 \mapsto a_1 a_2, a_i \mapsto a_i, i \geq 2$, $\text{Fix}\phi_0 = \langle a_2, a_1 a_2 a_1^{-1}, a_3, \dots, a_r \rangle \cong F_r$. We have $\text{Fix}\phi_0 \times \dots \times \text{Fix}\phi_3 \leq H = \langle a_2 a_1 s_1 s_2, s_3 t_3 t_1 t_2, s_3 s_1 t_2, a_1 t_3 t_1 s_2, a_3, \dots \rangle$,
- $G_0 = S_g$ or NS_k , we can construct an analog $\phi_0 \in \text{Aut}(G)$.

Let $\phi = \phi_0 \times \phi_1 \times \phi_2 \times \phi_3 \times Id \times \dots \times Id \in \text{Aut}(G)$. Then

$$\text{Fix}\phi = \text{Fix}\phi_0 \times \dots \times \text{Fix}\phi_3 \times G_4 \times \dots \times G_\ell \leq H \times G_4 \times \dots \times G_\ell.$$

But $\text{rk}\text{Fix}\phi > \text{rk}(H \times G_4 \times \dots \times G_\ell)$.

Fixed subgroups in product groups: less are inert

Theorem D

Let $G = G_1 \times \cdots \times G_n$ be a product group. If $\text{Fix}\phi$ is **inert** in G for every $\phi \in \text{Aut}(G)$, then G is of one of the forms:

(euc1) $G = \mathbb{Z}^p \times (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^q$ for some $p, q \geq 0$; or

(euc2) $G = NS_2 \times (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^q$ for some $q \geq 0$; or

(euc4) $G = NS_2^\ell \times \mathbb{Z}^p$ for some $\ell \geq 1, p \geq 0$; or

(hyp1') $G = F_n$ for some $n \geq 2$; or

(hyp2') $G = \pi_1(S)$ for some closed surface $\chi(S) < 0$.

Inertia Conjecture

Let $G = G_1 \times \cdots \times G_n$ be a product group. Then, the following are equivalent:

- 1 Every $\phi \in \text{End}(G)$ satisfies that $\text{Fix}\phi$ is inert in G ,
- 2 Every $\phi \in \text{Aut}(G)$ satisfies that $\text{Fix}\phi$ is inert in G ,
- 3 G is one of the forms (euc1),(euc2),(euc4), (hyp1') or (hyp2').

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- 3 G is one of the forms (euc1),(euc2),(euc4), (hyp1') or (hyp2').

Remark

$$\begin{aligned} (1) &\xrightarrow{\text{trivial}} (2) \xrightarrow{\text{Theorem D}} (3) \xrightarrow{???} (1) \\ \{(3) - (\text{euc4})\} &\xrightarrow[\text{Wu-Z.,2014}]{\text{Dicks-Ventura,1996}} (2) \end{aligned}$$



Thanks!

谢 谢!