

# Managing data in the LMFDB

Jen Paulhus

now at Mount Holyoke College

# LMFDB, Computation and Number Theory (LuCaNT) 2025

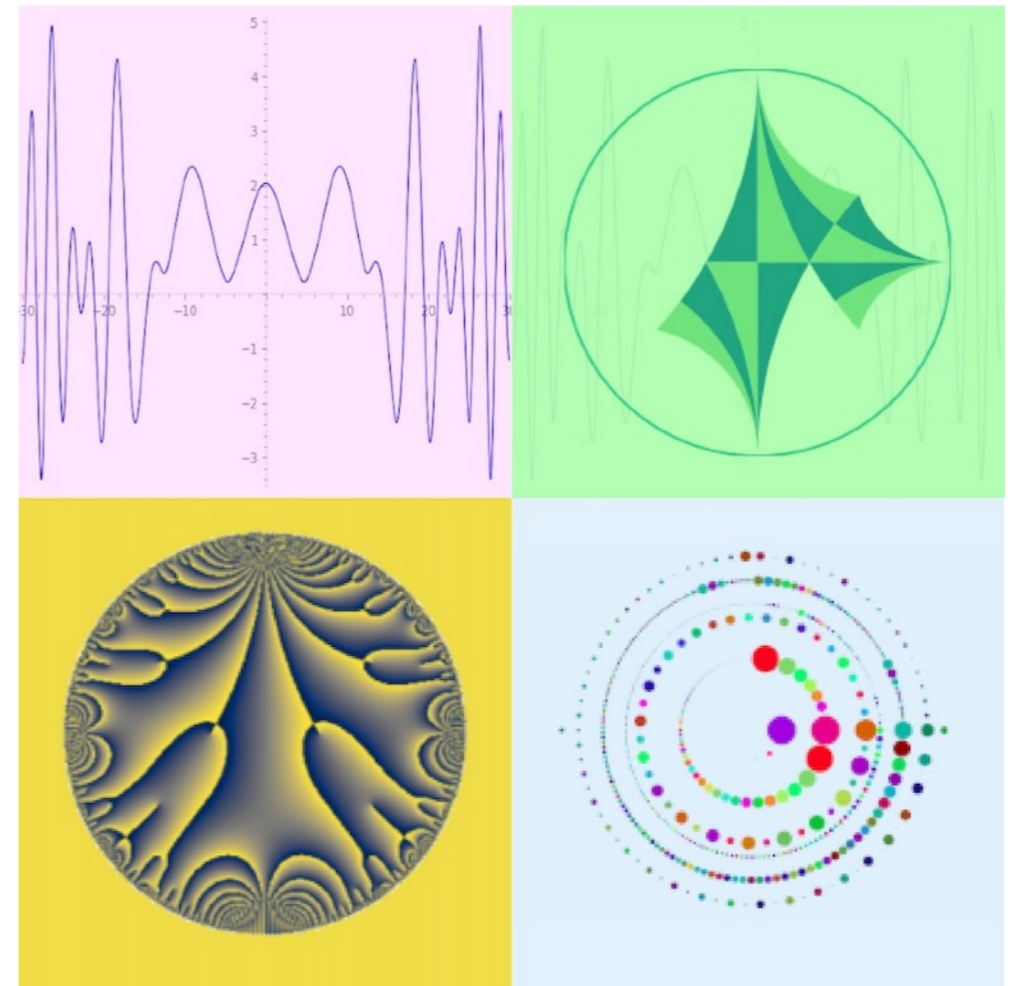
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7-11 July 2025

ICERM (Providence, RI)

<https://lucant.org>

- LMFDB, *mathematical databases*, computation, number theory, and related topics
- A peer-reviewed proceedings volume will be published for accepted papers, including “short communications”: submission deadline in January 2025.



Organizers: John Jones, Jen Paulhus,  
Drew Sutherland, and John Voight



### Introduction

Overview Random  
Universe Knowledge

### L-functions

Rational All

### Modular forms

Classical Maass  
Hilbert Bianchi

### Varieties

Elliptic curves over  $\mathbb{Q}$   
Elliptic curves over  $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$   
Genus 2 curves over  $\mathbb{Q}$   
Higher genus families  
Abelian varieties over  $\mathbb{F}_q$

### Fields

Number fields  
 $p$ -adic fields

### Representations

Dirichlet characters  
Artin representations

### Groups

Galois groups  
Sato-Tate groups

### Database

### A database

First complex critical zero	Underlying object	$N$	$\chi$	arithmetic	self dual
17.02494	odd Maass	1	-	○	●
11.78454	odd Maass	2	-	○	●
11.43497	even Maass	3	-	○	●
9.22237	holomorphic	1	-	●	●
7.21458	K3 surface, Hecke character, holomorphic	7	$(-1)^n$	●	●
6.71431	holomorphic	5	$(-1)^n$	●	○
6.54108	holomorphic	3	$(-1)^n$	●	○
6.50220	even Maass	10	-	○	●
6.48044	Cubic 3-fold, holomorphic	6	-	●	●
6.34261	elliptic curve, holomorphic	11	-	●	●
5.53553	odd Maass	1	-	○	●
4.06350	holomorphic	5	$(-1)^n$	●	○

The LMFDB is a database of mathematical objects arising in number theory and arithmetic geometry that illustrates some of the mathematical connections predicted by the Langlands program.

Click a heading on the left to browse, or go to a random page.



### Announcements

The first [LuCaNT](#) conference took place July 10-14, 2023 at [ICERM](#). Thanks to everyone who attended! Conference proceedings will be published soon.

Check out the recently updated [abstract groups](#) database [beta].

Check out the new [modular curves](#) database [beta].

### Learn more

Information is available regarding the source, reliability, and completeness of the database.

[Knowls](#) provide explanations when you need them.

[Overview](#) [LMFDB](#)  
[universe](#) [Knowledge](#) [Data](#)



### Citations and acknowledgments

- [How to cite the LMFDB](#)
- [Source code repository](#)
- [Editorial board](#)
- [Acknowledgments](#)

# Plan of Attack

Use a newer database of abstract groups in the LMFDB to talk about a few things we learned, decisions we made, and challenges we faced in creating and managing such a project.

# What is the LMFDB?

- Initial goal to *connect* objects in Langland Program.
- Supporting cast of characters came along. Still about *connecting* objects.

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- Journal structure: managing and associate editors.

# What is the LMFDB?

- Initial goal to *connect* objects in Langland Program.
- Supporting cast of characters came along. Still about *connecting* objects.
- Massive collaboration (over 100 contributors).
- Journal structure: managing and associate editors.
- Code is on GitHub. Anyone can contribute!
- Webpages hosted on Google Cloud.

# Usage Statistics

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Users</b>	32,301	48,664	47,667	48,396
<b>Pageviews</b>	438,095	514,350	522,373	580,161
<b>Session length</b>	4:48	4:06	4:32	4:25

In 2023 we had users in 175 countries and all 50 US states.

In the first half of 2024 there were over 340,000 pageviews, versus 220,000 in the same period in 2023.



# www.lmfdb.org/Groups/Abstract/



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## Abstract groups

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[Knowledge](#)

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### Browse

By [order](#): 1-64   65-127   128   129-255   256   257-383   384   385-511   513-1000   1001-1500   1501-2000   2001-

By [nilpotency class](#): 1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9 (and not nilpotent)

By [property](#): abelian   nonabelian   solvable   nonsolvable   simple   perfect   rational

[Some interesting groups](#) or [a random group](#)

Search for [subgroups](#) or [complex characters](#)

### Search

[Advanced search options](#)

<a href="#">Order</a>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<i>e.g. 4, or a range like 3..5</i>	<a href="#">Exponent</a>	<input type="text" value="2, 3, 7"/>	<i>e.g. 2, or list of integers like 2, 3, 7</i>
<a href="#">Automorphism group</a>	<input type="text" value="4.2"/>	<i>e.g. 4.2</i>	<a href="#">Nilpotency class</a>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<i>e.g. 4, or a range like 3..5</i>
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Display:

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[Label or name](#)

*e.g. 8.3, GL(2,3), 8T34, C3:C4, C2^\*A5, C16.D4, or 12.4.2.b1.a1*

### Learn more



[Source and acknowledgements](#)  
[Completeness of the data](#)  
[Reliability of the data](#)  
[Abstract group labeling](#)

# Why Another Groups Database?

- Abstract groups appear throughout the LMFDB: automorphism groups of curves, Sato-Tate groups, Galois groups, subgroups of  $GL(2, \mathbb{Z}/N)$  corresponding to modular curves.
- We wanted to add pages for each of these groups with core information, and then connect those pages with the number theoretic objects' pages.
- Much of our initial work was motivated by [groupnames.org](http://groupnames.org).

## **Group pages co-conspirators:**

Lewis Combes, John Jones, David Roberts, David Roe, Manami Roy, Sam Schiavone, Drew Sutherland


## **Acknowledgements:**

All the computational group theorists who have contributed in any way to the many algorithms in Magma and GAP.

John Cannon and others at Magma who responded quickly to bugs.

Tim Dokchitser generously shared code and database expertise with us.

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By [property](#): abelian non-abelian solvable non-solvable simple exact nilpotent

Some interesting groups or a random group

Search for subgroups or [complex characters](#)

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- Reliability of the data
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Label or name

*e.g. 8.3, GL(2,3), 8T34, C3:C4, A5, C16.D4, or 12.4.2.b1.a1*

Random group

Enter Magma/GAP label,  
or name like "A24".



## Abstract group $A_{24}$

### Group information

Description:	$A_{24}$
Order:	$310 \cdot \cdot \cdot 000 = 2^{21} \cdot 3^{10} \cdot 5^4 \cdot 7^3 \cdot 11^2 \cdot 13 \cdot 17 \cdot 19 \cdot 23$
Exponent:	$5354228880 = 2^4 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 11 \cdot 13 \cdot 17 \cdot 19 \cdot 23$
Automorphism group:	Group of order $620 \cdot \cdot \cdot 000 = 2^{22} \cdot 3^{10} \cdot 5^4 \cdot 7^3 \cdot 11^2 \cdot 13 \cdot 17 \cdot 19 \cdot 23$ (generators)
Outer automorphisms:	$C_2$ , of order 2
Composition factors:	$A_{24}$
Derived length:	0

This group is [nonabelian](#) and [simple](#) (hence [nonsolvable](#), [perfect](#), [quasisimple](#), and [almost simple](#)).

### Group statistics

Order	1	2	3	4	5
Elements	1	8792390355903	13428028220072048	2542924546378413120	1725747644222610624
Conjugacy classes	1	6	8	18	4
Divisions	1	6	8	18	4
Autjugacy classes	1	6	8	18	4

### Minimal Presentations

Permutation degree:	24
Transitive degree:	24
Rank:	not computed
Inequivalent generating tuples:	not computed



### Properties



Label	310224200866619719680000.a
Order	$2^{21} \cdot 3^{10} \cdot 5^4 \cdot 7^3 \cdot 11^2 \cdot 13 \cdot 17 \cdot 19 \cdot 23$
Exponent	$2^4 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 11 \cdot 13 \cdot 17 \cdot 19 \cdot 23$



Simple	yes
$\#G^{\text{ab}}$	1
$\#Z(G)$	1
$\#\text{Aut}(G)$	$2^{22} \cdot 3^{10} \cdot 5^4 \cdot 7^3 \cdot 11^2 \cdot 13 \cdot 17 \cdot 19 \cdot 23$
$\#\text{Out}(G)$	2
Perm deg.	24
Trans deg.	24
Rank	not computed

### Related objects

- Subgroups
- Extensions
- Supergroups
- As a transitive group

### Downloads

- Group to Gap
- Group to Magma

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Some interesting groups or a random group

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## Search Options



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Advanced search options

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# Features

- In a browser
- Easily searchable
- GitHub code makes it easy to keep track of issues and feature requests
- 544,831 groups from multiple sources (see “Completeness of the data”)
- Over 275 million subgroups, almost 40 million irreducible complex characters

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[Completeness of the data](#)  
[Reliability of the data](#)  
[Abstract group labeling](#)

## Subgroup and complex character searches.



# Unique Searches

We can search for all groups which satisfy the following short exact sequence:

$$1 \rightarrow D_6 \rightarrow G \rightarrow D_{10} \rightarrow 1$$

These types of searches are possible because of several different database tables: groups, subgroups, conjugacy classes, both rational and complex characters

Click on “Underlying data” to see the different tables.

# Backend Basics

Postgres is our database management system.

The code to create the group database is on GitHub:  
<https://github.com/roed314/FiniteGroups>

We used hundreds of years of virtual CPU time on Google Compute Engine machines of type n2d-standard-2.

# Making Choices

- Chose to store groups connected to LMFDB first (so not all groups of order 512, but much larger groups that connect to one of the other databases in LMFDB).
- Sometimes only stored subgroups up to automorphisms instead of up to conjugation ( $C_2^{11}$  has 11 subgroups up to automorphism but over 229 million up to conjugation).

# Runtime Issues

The computational time is CPU centuries. What happens if there are bugs?

Runtimes are unpredictable and not based on, say, the order of the group.

- How many conjugacy classes.
- How many subgroups.
- Is it trivial to determine that a group does or does not satisfy certain booleans?

# (partial) Solutions

- Parallelize as much as we can.
- Structure code to recover from one computation taking too long or having a bug.
- Store partial data to reload into future versions if our current version times out.

# (partial) Solutions

- Parallelize as much as we can.
- Structure code to recover from one computation taking too long or having a bug.
- Store partial data to reload into future versions if our current version times out.
- Verification (internal and external) in progress.

# Adding New Groups

## Hash for Isomorphisms

- If order is identifiable by Magma or GAP, use their functions to identify group.
- If the group is abelian, use abelian invariants.
- Else create 64 bit integer that combines list of pairs (*order, size*) for conjugacy classes of maximal subgroups of the group.

On 408,641,062 groups of order 1536, there were 408,597,690 distinct values. Maximum cluster was 72 groups.

# Groups of Lie Type

$SL(2,16)$

## Constructions

Show commands: [Gap](#) / [Magma](#)

Groups of [Lie type](#):  $SL(2, 16)$ ,  $SO(3, 16)$ ,  $SU(2, 16)$ ,  $\Omega(3, 16)$ ,  $\Omega^-(4, 4)$ ,  $PGL(2, 16)$



# Multiple Presentations

## SmallGroup(48,10)

### Constructions

Show commands: [Gap](#) / [Magma](#)

[Presentation:](#)  $\langle a, b \mid b^{12} = 1, a^4 = b^6, b^a = b^{11} \rangle$

[Permutation group:](#) Degree 11  $\langle (1, 2, 3, 6, 4, 5, 7, 8)(10, 11), (2, 5)(6, 8), (1, 3, 4, 7)(2, 6, 5, 8), (1, 4)(2, 5)(3, 7)(6, 8), (9, 10, 11) \rangle$

[Matrix group:](#)  $\left\langle \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle \subseteq \text{GL}_6(\mathbb{Z})$

$\left\langle \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 12 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 8 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 7 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle \subseteq \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{F}_{13})$

[Transitive group:](#) [24T20](#)

[more information](#)

[Direct product:](#) not isomorphic to a non-trivial direct product

[Semidirect product:](#)  $(C_3 : C_8) \rtimes C_2$  (2)

[more information](#)

[Trans. wreath product:](#) not isomorphic to a non-trivial transitive wreath product

[Non-split product:](#)  $C_4 \cdot D_6$

$C_{12} \cdot C_4$

$C_3 \cdot \text{OD}_{16}$

$C_{12} \cdot C_2^2$

[all 11](#)

# Code Snippets

## Constructions

Show commands: [Gap](#) / [Magma](#)

### Presentation:

$$\langle a, b \mid b^{12} = 1, a^4 = b^6, b^a = b^{11} \rangle$$

```
magma: G := PCGroup([5, -2, -2, -2, -2, -3, 10, 126, 662, 42, 803, 58, 804]); a,b := Explode([G.1, G.3]); AssignNames(~G, ["a", "a2", "b", "b2"]);
```

### Permutation group:

$$\text{Degree 11 } \langle (1, 2, 3, 6, 4, 5, 7, 8)(10, 11), (2, 5)(6, 8), (1, 3, 4, 7)(2, 6, 5, 8), (1, 4)(2, 5)(3, 7)(6, 8), (9, 10, 11) \rangle$$

```
magma: G := PermutationGroup< 11 | (1,2,3,6,4,5,7,8)(10,11), (2,5)(6,8), (1,3,4,7)(2,6,5,8), (1,4)(2,5)(3,7)(6,8), (9,10,11) >;
```

### Matrix group:

$$\left\langle \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle \subseteq \text{GL}_6(\mathbb{Z})$$

```
magma: G := MatrixGroup< 6, Integers() | [[-1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0], [-1, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0], [0, -1, 1, 0, 0, 0], [0, 0, -1, 0, 0, 0], [0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0], [0, 0, 0, 0, 1, -1]], [[0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0], [0, -1, 0, 0, 0, 0], [-1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0], [1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0], [0, 0, 0, 0, -1, 1], [0, 0, 0, 0, -1, 0]] >;
```

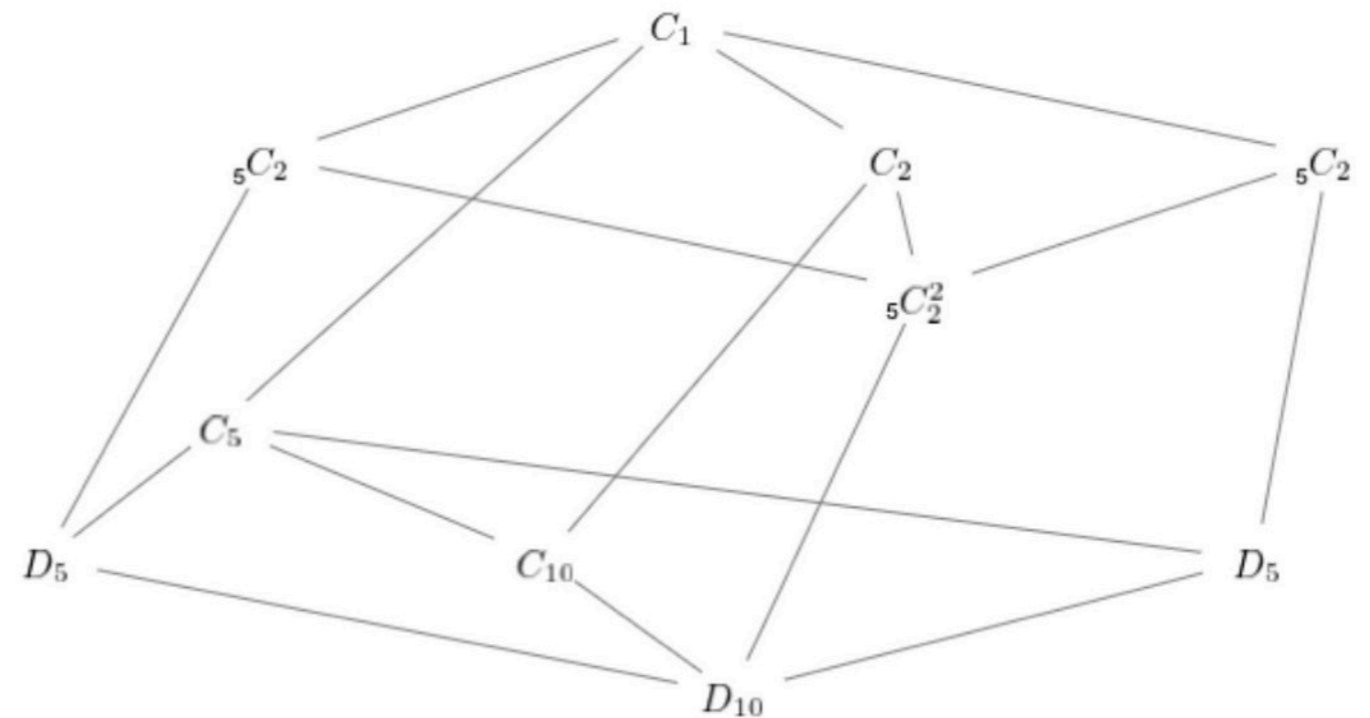
$$\left\langle \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 12 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 8 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 7 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle \subseteq \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{F}_{13})$$

```
magma: G := MatrixGroup< 2, GF(13) | [[1, 0, 0, 12], [0, 8, 1, 0], [2, 0, 0, 7]] >;
```

# Galois Correspondence in Action

Number field 20.0.9928207061616528930635776.1 and group  $D_{10}$

Diagram of subgroups up to conjugation for group 20.4



## Intermediate fields

$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-79})$ ,  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-1})$ ,  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{79})$ ,  $\mathbb{Q}(i, \sqrt{79})$ , 5.1.6241.1 x5,

10.0.3077056399.1, 10.0.39884882944.4 x5, 10.2.3150905752576.3 x5

*The End*