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Word maps with small image in simple groups

Matthew Levy

(Submitted on 6 Jun 2012)

We construct non-power words which have small image in SL(2; 22n) for each n. In particular, the corresponding word maps are non-surjective. We also use this to construct word maps whose values are precisely the identity and a single equivalence class of elements of order 17. In the second part we construct words which have image consisting of the identity and a single equivalence class of elements in Alt(n) for all n for any equivalence class with support size at most 10.

Subjects: **Group Theory (math.GR)**

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