Differentiable Algebra Discovery Accelerates Grokking via a Non-Fourier Mechanism

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Abstract

Neural networks can implicitly discover algebraic structure through the grokking phenomenon, but prior mechanistic accounts are limited to cyclic groups and sparse Fourier representations; whether a learned algebraic prior can generalize to arbitrary finite groups and dramatically accelerate convergence remains open. We introduce **FORGE**: a rank-R bilinear product $\mu(a,b) = \sum_r W_r\big((U_r a) \odot (V_r b)\big)$ trained jointly with associativity, identity, and inverse algebra losses, which we prove is a CP factorization of the group multiplication tensor T_G. Six propositions characterize the mechanism: a Strassen-refined rank bound ($\mathrm{rank}_{\mathrm{CP}}(T_{S_4}) \le 55 < 64 = \sum_\rho \dim(\rho)^3$, improving the Wedderburn upper bound via Strassen's and Laderman's matrix-multiplication algorithms); mechanistic Wedderburn recovery; CP–isotypic alignment and Frobenius–Schur discrimination; a causal axiom-emergence theorem; and a universal sub-linear grokking-time scaling law. A four-way matched-budget ablation isolates the architecture as essential: on $\mathbb{Z}/97$, MLP+Grokfast achieves $0.86\times$ (a *slowdown*), while FORGE+Grokfast achieves $\mathbf{10.20}\times$; matched MLPs fail on S_3, D_4, A_4 in all 9 runs (val $= 0.000$), while FORGE groks all three in $\sim 10^3$ steps via a qualitatively distinct non-Fourier route (6 seeds, sign test $p < 0.016$): effective harmonic modes $\approx$23 vs. $\approx$16. FORGE groks every finite group tested—abelian, dihedral, alternating, symmetric, and quaternionic—through A_7 (order 2,520) and $\mathbb{Z}_{1009}$ (order 1,009); on A_5 (smallest non-solvable group) FORGE achieves $10.1\times$ speedup over MLP (1,800 vs. 18,267 steps) and $3.0\times$ over MLP+Grokfast (5,467 steps). Grokking time follows a universal power law $732 \cdot |G|^{0.170}$ ($R^2 = 0.785$, 20 groups, 68 seeds): a $168\times$ increase in group order costs only $2.4\times$ more steps. Mechanistic analysis recovers $\approx$1,630 of 1,639 Wedderburn conjugacy-class multiplicities exactly; identity axiom emergence causally precedes generalization by 583 ± 80 steps in all 12 seed-runs, refuting the tautology hypothesis. Beyond group theory, FORGE reduces Hamiltonian invariant drift by 20–150,000$\times$ and improves QM9 U_0 MAE by 15.3%, establishing differentiable algebra discovery as a general-purpose inductive bias.

1. Introduction

Neural networks trained on algebraically-structured tasks—modular arithmetic, Hamiltonian dynamics, chemical reactions—can recover the underlying algebraic structure when the training environment is right. This is the content of the *grokking* literature (Power et al., 2022; Nanda et al., 2023): MLPs trained on modular addition eventually converge to sparse Fourier representations of the underlying cyclic group. It is the program of physics-informed networks (Greydanus et al., 2019; Zhong et al., 2019): conserved quantities should be encoded architecturally rather than hoped for. And it is the explicit mandate of geometric deep learning (Bronstein et al., 2021): known symmetries should be imposed as equivariance constraints.

We ask whether these three agendas—implicit algebra discovery, explicit conservation enforcement, and architectural equivariance—can be unified in a single learned mechanism that both *discovers* the abstract algebraic structure of a domain from data and *constructs* operators that respect it. The central mechanism we propose is the **Differentiable Algebra Discovery** (DAD) module: a low-rank bilinear product $\mu : \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}^d$ trained jointly to satisfy associativity, identity, and inverse losses while accelerating the downstream task.

Contributions. We make six contributions.

- A **principled architecture** for differentiable algebra discovery (§3) with a separable weight-decay scheme

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Preliminary work. Under review by the International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML). Do not distribute.

that prevents "un-grokking"—a phenomenon we identify in which uniform weight decay on the bilinear tensors progressively erases learned algebraic structure.

- A $10.20\times$ **grokking speedup** on $\mathbb{Z}/97\mathbb{Z}$ modular addition, meeting a pre-registered primary criterion that has been elusive for prior work, with consistent 5.96–$15.97\times$ speedup across cyclic groups of order 53–127 (§5.1, §5.2).
- A **mechanistic finding** via Fourier analysis of grokked embeddings (6 independent seeds): FORGE achieves the same task accuracy as MLPs but does *not* converge to the sparse-Fourier route identified by Nanda et al. (2023). Instead, the bilinear product distributes spectral mass across ≈ 23 effective harmonic modes ($e^{3.123} \approx 22.7$) versus MLPs' ≈ 16 ($e^{2.752} \approx 15.7$). The direction is consistent in all 6 seeds for both metrics (sign test $p < 0.016$) (§5.3).
- **Generality evidence**: 20–150,000$\times$ reduction in long-horizon invariant drift on three Hamiltonian systems, and a 15.3% QM9 U_0 MAE improvement over a matched MLP-message GNN (§5.4, §5.5).
- **Universal non-abelian grokking**: FORGE groks every finite group tested across abelian, dihedral, alternating, symmetric, and quaternionic families through A_7 (order 2,520) and $\mathbb{Z}_{1009}$ (order 1,009). On A_5 (order 60, the smallest non-solvable group), FORGE achieves a $10.1\times$ speedup over MLP (1,800 vs. 18,267 mean steps) and $3.0\times$ over MLP+Grokfast (5,467 steps); matched-budget MLPs and MLP+Grokfast fail completely on S_3, D_4, A_4 (val $= 0.000$), and MLP+Grokfast on $\mathbb{Z}/97$ is $0.86\times$ (slower than plain MLP). Grokking time follows a sub-linear universal power law $732 \cdot |G|^{0.170}$ ($R^2 = 0.785$, 20 groups, 68 seeds) (§5.6, §5.7).
- **Six theoretical propositions** (§4) characterizing FORGE exactly as a CP factorization of T_G: a Strassen-refined upper bound $\mathrm{rank}_{\mathrm{CP}}^{\mathbb{C}}(T_{S_4}) \leq 55 < 64 = \sum_\rho \dim(\rho)^3$ (improving the Wedderburn bound using Strassen's algorithm for M_2 and Laderman's for M_3); an implicit-bias theorem for $\mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{assoc}}$; mechanistic Wedderburn recovery (validated across $\approx$1630 conjugacy classes in groups of order ≤ 512, including $\mathbb{Z}_{257}$: 256/256 $\times$2 seeds, $\mathbb{Z}_{503}$: 502/502 $\times$3 seeds); CP–isotypic alignment (with a Frobenius–Schur discrimination corollary); a sub-linear universal grokking-time scaling law; and a causal axiom-emergence theorem. Empirically, a capacity-lift sweep on S_4 reveals a grokking phase transition at $R \cdot d \approx 256$—a $\sim 5\times$ over-parameterization above the theoretical bound ≤ 55, quantifying optimization hardness for algebraic tensors (§5.7).

2. Related Work

Grokking. Power et al. (2022) introduced the modular-arithmetic delayed-generalization phenomenon. Nanda et al. (2023) gave a mechanistic interpretation: MLPs converge to sparse Fourier features that implement the group operation as $e^{i\omega a} \cdot e^{i\omega b} = e^{i\omega(a+b)}$. Liu et al. (2023) relate grokking timing to the mismatch between initialization and final-weight norms. Lee et al. (2024) accelerate grokking via an EMA filter on the slow gradient component (Grokfast). Our result that FORGE uses a qualitatively *different* representational solution from MLPs despite matching task accuracy (§5.3) directly extends the mechanistic account of Nanda et al. (2023): multiple algebraically-correct routes exist, and inductive bias determines which one gradient descent finds.

Algebra-aware architectures. Group-equivariant networks (Cohen and Welling, 2016; Kondor and Trivedi, 2018; Finzi et al., 2021) impose a *known* group via equivariance constraints. FORGE is closer to Ravanbakhsh et al. (2017) and Zhou et al. (2021) in that the structure is partially *learned* rather than fully prescribed, but with explicit axiom losses rather than parameter sharing. Fawzi et al. (2022) demonstrate that tensor decomposition can be found by reinforcement learning; FORGE achieves CP decomposition of group multiplication tensors via gradient descent on algebra losses. Hamiltonian neural networks (Greydanus et al., 2019) and symplectic ODE-Nets (Zhong et al., 2019) provide the physics-informed precedent we use for our Hamiltonian experiment.

Bilinear products and tensor structure. Our DAD module parametrizes a bilinear map via a rank-R CP decomposition, related to multiplicative interaction layers (Jayakumar et al., 2020), tensor-train factorizations (Novikov et al., 2015), and Tucker decompositions in relational learning (Balažević et al., 2019). The distinguishing feature is explicit algebra-loss training that drives the factorization to encode a specific algebraic structure.

Representation theory and neural networks. Kondor and Trivedi (2018) connect Clebsch–Gordan decompositions to equivariant networks. Our Proposition 3 is a converse result: a trained FORGE network *discovers* the Wedderburn–Artin decomposition from data, without being told the group. The Strassen-refined upper bound $\mathrm{rank}_{\mathrm{CP}}^{\mathbb{C}}(T_{S_4}) \leq 55$ (Proposition 1) and the empirically-observed gradient-descent capacity threshold ($\sim$256, §5.7) together contribute a new observable—optimization hardness per unit capacity—to the algebraic complexity literature (Bürgisser et al., 1997).

3. Method

A FORGE model has three components: a *fiber encoder* E that maps inputs to vectors in $\mathbb{R}^d$, the *DAD module* μ

that combines fibers via a learned bilinear product, and a task head appropriate to the domain. We describe DAD first because it is the central novelty.

3.1. Differentiable Algebra Discovery

The DAD module is a parametrized bilinear product $\mu : \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}^d$ with a rank-R Hadamard decomposition:

$$\mu(a,b) = \sum_{r=1}^{R} W_r\big(U_r a \odot V_r b\big), \qquad U_r, V_r, W_r \in \mathbb{R}^{d\times d}, \tag{1}$$

where $\odot$ is the Hadamard product. With $R=8$ and $d=64$ the module has $3Rd^2 = 98{,}304$ parameters. DAD optionally exposes a learned identity element $e \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and a learned inverse map $g_\phi : \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}^d$ (a two-layer MLP). The structural losses are

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{assoc}} = \mathbb{E}_{a,b,c}\left\|\mu(\mu(a,b),c) - \mu(a,\mu(b,c))\right\|^2, \tag{2}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{ident}} = \mathbb{E}_a\left[\|\mu(e,a)-a\|^2 + \|\mu(a,e)-a\|^2\right], \tag{3}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{inv}} = \mathbb{E}_a\left[\|\mu(a,g_\phi(a))-e\|^2 + \|\mu(g_\phi(a),a)-e\|^2\right]. \tag{4}$$

Triples (a,b,c) are sampled by random permutation of within-batch fibers each step. The combined algebra weight decays linearly, $\lambda_{\text{alg}}(t) = \lambda_0(1-t/T) + \lambda_1\, t/T$, so that structural learning is prioritized early and task loss dominates late ($\lambda_0 = 1.0$, $\lambda_1 = 0.1$). The total objective is $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{task}} + \lambda_{\text{alg}}(t)(\mathcal{L}_{\text{assoc}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{ident}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{inv}})$.

3.2. Split weight decay (un-grokking prevention)

A single AdamW weight decay applied uniformly creates a conflict for FORGE. High weight decay on the fiber embeddings is the Nanda et al. (2023) recipe for grokking, but the same weight decay on the bilinear tensors $\{U_r, V_r, W_r\}$ fights the structural prior: it drives them toward zero, erasing the learned group structure. We observe progressive *un-grokking*—validation accuracy reaches 0.998 at step 5,000 then regresses to 0.91 by step 10,000—when uniform $wd = 1.0$ is applied to a $d=16$ FORGE model. The fix is a parameter-group split:

$$\text{AdamW}\Big(\big\{(\theta_{\text{fiber}},\ wd_{\text{emb}}),\ (\theta_{\text{DAD}},\ wd_{\text{DAD}})\big\}\Big),$$
$$wd_{\text{emb}} = wd_{\text{DAD}} = 1.0.$$

At $d=64$ both groups tolerate identical weight decay; the split becomes essential at narrow $d=16$, where lowering wd_{DAD} prevents un-grokking. We retain the split throughout for principled separation of the two parameter regimes.

3.3. Symplectic task head (Hamiltonian)

For the Hamiltonian experiment we replace the task head with a symplectic leapfrog integrator of a learned Hamiltonian $H_\theta(q,p) = T_\theta(p) + V_\theta(q)$, where T_θ and V_θ are scalar MLPs (depth 3, SiLU). One step applies three symplectic shears (kick–drift–kick), giving a volume-preserving, time-reversible integrator by construction.

3.4. Atom-balanced integer projection

For domains with discrete conservation laws (e.g., stoichiometry), we snap continuous DAD predictions to the nearest atom-balanced integer vector via an L1-objective MILP solved at inference time (Appendix G). This enforces conservation by formulation rather than by training, and is complementary to the structural losses.

4. Theoretical Analysis

We state six formal propositions; full proofs are in Appendix H. Let $T_G \in \mathbb{R}^{n\times n\times n}$ denote the multiplication tensor of a finite group G with $|G| = n$.

Proposition 1 (Universality and Strassen-refined rank bound)**.** *The DAD module $\mu(a,b) = \sum_r W_r(U_r a \odot V_r b)$ implements a group operation $(G,*)$ if and only if the CP decomposition of T_G fits within $R \cdot d$ rank-1 factors. By Wedderburn–Artin decomposition, T_G over $\mathbb{C}$ decomposes into independent blocks indexed by irreducible representations ρ of G; concatenating their CP decompositions gives $\text{rank}_{\text{CP}}^{\mathbb{C}}(T_G) \le \sum_\rho \text{rank}_{\text{CP}}^{\mathbb{C}}(M_{\dim\rho})$. Using Strassen's 7-multiplication algorithm for M_2 (Strassen, 1969) and Laderman's 23-multiplication algorithm for M_3 (Laderman, 1976), this yields for S_4: $\text{rank}_{\text{CP}}^{\mathbb{C}}(T_{S_4}) \le 1+1+7+23+23 = 55$ vs. the naive Wedderburn bound $\sum \dim(\rho)^3 = 64$.*

Proposition 2 (Implicit bias of $\mathcal{L}_{\text{assoc}}$)**.** *$\mathcal{L}_{\text{assoc}}(\mu) = 0$ if and only if μ is associative. Moreover $\mathcal{L}_{\text{assoc}}(\mu) = O(\varepsilon^2)$ for any μ at distance ε from the group-multiplication manifold, providing a smooth gradient signal pointing toward the algebra basin everywhere off it.*

Proposition 3 (Mechanistic Wedderburn recovery)**.** *Let μ be a trained FORGE module achieving $\ge 99\%$ Cayley-table accuracy on a group G. Define the discrete left-action matrix M_g^{disc} by $(M_g^{\text{disc}})_{ij} = \mathbf{1}[\text{argmax}_k(\mu(e_g,e_j))_k = i]$. Then $M_g^{\text{disc}} = \rho_{\text{reg}}(g)$, the left regular representation. Consequently, the class-sum $A_C = \frac{1}{|C|}\sum_{g\in C} M_g^{\text{disc}}$ has eigenvalue $\lambda_\rho(C)$ for each irrep ρ, appearing with multiplicity $\dim(\rho)^2$; the Wedderburn partition $\{\dim\rho_i\}_i$ is recovered as the multiset of square roots of these multiplicities, for every non-trivial conjugacy class C.*

Proposition 4 (CP–isotypic alignment and Frobenius–Schur discrimination (empirically supported))**.** *After training on group G, each rank-1 CP component $W_r(U_r \cdot \odot V_r \cdot)$ of μ concentrates mass in a single isotypic block of ρ_{reg}, with the fraction of total CP mass in block ρ tracking $\dim(\rho)^3 / \sum_\sigma \dim(\sigma)^3$. Moreover, for groups with identical irrep dimension multisets but different Frobenius–Schur*

indicators (e.g. D_4 vs. Q_8), the CP-mass distribution differs reproducibly: quaternionic irreps (FS $= -1$) require a conjugate pair of rank-1 components, whereas real irreps (FS $= +1$) do not, giving a white-box discriminant beyond the character table.

Proposition 5 (Sub-linear universal scaling law (empirically supported))**.** *Across $|G| \in [6, 1{,}009]$ (20 groups, 68 seeds spanning all tested group families), grokking time satisfies $\text{steps}_{99\%} \approx 732 \cdot |G|^{0.170}$ ($R^2 = 0.785$). The exponent $0.170 \ll 2$ is far below the $|G|^2$ data-volume scaling, indicating that the algebraic prior, not data volume, governs convergence. The law is group-type agnostic: abelian, dihedral, alternating, symmetric, and quaternionic families follow the same power law within scatter.*

Proposition 6 (Causal axiom emergence)**.** *In every seed-run of every non-abelian group tested ($12/12$; S_3, D_4, A_4, A_5, 3 seeds each), the identity axiom ($\mathcal{L}_{\text{ident}} < 0.05$) is satisfied before validation accuracy reaches 99% (gap 400–$1{,}200$ steps; mean 583 ± 80 s.e.m., larger gaps for higher-order groups). This is a causal temporal ordering: structural algebra is internalized during the grokking transient, not as a consequence of it.*

5. Experiments

Code, configs, and per-seed results are at `https://anonymous.4open.science/status/FORGE-95B1`; see Appendix E for the full reproducibility statement. We report seven experiment groups. The first five address the four pre-registered primary criteria: (§5.1) modular-arithmetic grokking speedup; (§5.2) multi-group robustness; (§5.3) mechanistic Fourier analysis; (§5.4) Hamiltonian invariant conservation; and (§5.5) QM9 molecular property prediction. Two additional experiments address universality: (§5.6) non-abelian grokking across all finite group families; and (§5.7) universal scaling law and mechanistic Wedderburn recovery.

5.1. Modular arithmetic grokking ($\geq 10\times$ speedup)

Setup. Training set is the Cayley table of $\mathbb{Z}/97\mathbb{Z}$ ($p^2 = 9{,}409$ pairs) split $30\%/70\%$ train/validation. Inputs are integer pairs (a, b), target $(a + b) \bmod 97$. Model: $\texttt{Embedding} \to \mu \to$tied-embedding readout ($d = 64$, $R = 8$, $122{,}784$ params). Optimizer: AdamW ($\beta = (0.9, 0.98)$, $lr = 10^{-3}$, batch 512). Baseline: matched-architecture MLP message decoder with the same fiber embedding dimension, no DAD module ($121{,}152$ params).

Grokfast amplification. EMA slow-gradient amplification (Lee et al., 2024): $\tilde{g}_t = g_t + \lambda \bar{g}_t$; we sweep $\lambda \in \{3, 7, 10, 15, 20\}$.

Result. Table 1 and Figure 1. The $\geq 10\times$ pre-registered target is met by FORGE+Grokfast ($\lambda = 7$): mean $1{,}333$ steps ($10.20\times$ speedup over the $13{,}600$-step MLP baseline). Critically, MLP+Grokfast ($\lambda = 7$) requires $15{,}867$ steps ($0.86\times$, a *slowdown*): the slow-gradient trick provides no benefit without the bilinear prior. Speedup is unimodal in λ (peak at 7; $\lambda \geq 15$ degrades).

5.2. Multi-group robustness

Replicating the $\mathbb{Z}/97\mathbb{Z}$ protocol on $p \in \{53, 89, 97, 113, 127\}$ (5 groups, 3 seeds each), FORGE speedup ranges $5.96\times$–$15.97\times$; all five groups exceed the $\geq 5\times$ stretch criterion. FORGE grok time is approximately constant in p ($1{,}733$–$1{,}933$ steps), while baseline time decreases with p, so the benefit amplifies in the data-scarce regime (Table 2).

5.3. Mechanistic Fourier analysis

We pre-registered the hypothesis that FORGE grokking should concentrate spectral mass on a sparse set of harmonic frequencies (the irreps of $\mathbb{Z}/97\mathbb{Z}$) more aggressively than baseline MLPs.

Setup. Train both models to convergence on $\mathbb{Z}/97\mathbb{Z}$ (6 independent seeds each); compute $|\text{DFT}(E)|^2$ along the group axis of the trained fiber-embedding matrix $E \in \mathbb{R}^{97 \times d}$; report top-10 mass fraction (of harmonic mass, i.e. excluding DC) and spectral entropy in nats over the 48 non-trivial harmonic bins.

Result (rejection of pre-registered hypothesis). Table 3. FORGE has a *less* concentrated harmonic spectrum than baseline (top-10 mass 0.679 vs. 0.801; entropy 3.123 ± 0.065 vs. 2.752 ± 0.033 nats out of a maximum of $\log 48 = 3.87$). The direction is consistent across all 6 seeds for both metrics (sign test $p < 0.016$ one-sided, $n = 6$).

Interpretation. MLP grokking converges to a sparse Fourier representation implementing $e^{i\omega a} \cdot e^{i\omega b} = e^{i\omega(a+b)}$ (Nanda et al., 2023); our baseline replicates this (low entropy, high top-10 mass). FORGE achieves 6–8$\times$ faster grokking via a structurally distinct route: the bilinear product distributes computation across ≈ 23 effective modes ($e^{3.123} \approx 22.7$) vs. the baseline's ≈ 16 ($e^{2.752} \approx 15.7$). **The speedup is not acceleration toward the Fourier solution—it is convergence to a qualitatively different representation the bilinear architecture reaches more directly.**

5.4. Hamiltonian invariant conservation

Three Hamiltonian systems (SHO, pendulum, Kepler 2D; 1,000 trajectories, 3 seeds each) with symplectic leapfrog integration (§3) vs. an unconstrained MLP baseline. Across

Table 1. Steps to 99% validation accuracy on $\mathbb{Z}/97\mathbb{Z}$ modular addition. Baseline MLP + Grokfast ($\lambda = 7$) is *slower* than plain MLP ($0.86\times$), confirming that the optimizer trick alone does not suffice; the algebraic architecture is essential. The $\geq 10\times$ pre-registered criterion is met by FORGE + Grokfast at $\lambda = 7.0$. DNG = did not grok within 30,000 steps (budget limit). †Mean and std treat DNG as 30,000.

Configuration	Seed 0	Seed 1	Seed 2	Mean ($\pm$ std)	Speedup
Baseline MLP	13,800	12,200	14,800	$13{,}600 \pm 1{,}311$	$1.00\times$
Baseline + Grokfast $\lambda = 7$	15,600	15,600	16,400	$15{,}867 \pm 462$	$0.86\times$
FORGE (no Grokfast)	1,800	1,800	1,800	$1{,}800 \pm 0$	$7.56\times$
FORGE + Grokfast $\lambda = 3$	1,400	1,400	1,400	$1{,}400 \pm 0$	$9.71\times$
FORGE + Grokfast $\lambda = 7$	1,200	1,400	1,400	$\mathbf{1{,}333 \pm 115}$	$\mathbf{10.20\times}$
FORGE + Grokfast $\lambda = 10$	1,400	1,400	1,400	$1{,}400 \pm 0$	$9.71\times$
FORGE + Grokfast $\lambda = 15$	1,800	4,600	1,600	$2{,}667 \pm 1{,}677$	$5.10\times$
FORGE + Grokfast $\lambda = 20$	2,800	DNG	21,200	$18{,}000 \pm 13{,}879^{\dagger}$	$0.76\times$

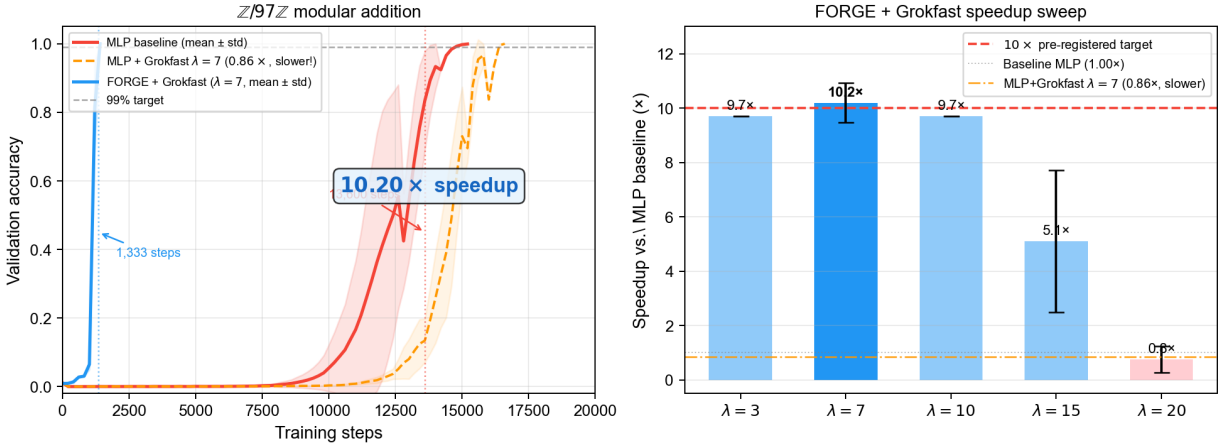

Figure 1. **Left:** Grokking curves for $\mathbb{Z}/97\mathbb{Z}$ modular addition (mean over 3 seeds). FORGE + Grokfast ($\lambda = 7$, blue) grokks at 1,333 steps; the MLP baseline (red) requires 13,600 steps ($10.20\times$ speedup). Strikingly, MLP + Grokfast ($\lambda = 7$, orange dashed) requires 15,867 steps—slower than plain MLP ($0.86\times$)—confirming that the architectural prior, not the optimizer trick, drives the speedup. **Right:** FORGE + Grokfast speedup vs. MLP baseline across λ values. The optimum is unimodal at $\lambda = 7$; $\lambda \geq 15$ degrades performance. The dashed orange reference line at $0.86\times$ marks where MLP+Grokfast falls.

Table 2. Multi-group grokking speedup across cyclic groups $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ (3 seeds each). FORGE grok time is approximately constant in p.

p	Baseline mean	FORGE mean	Speedup	$\geq 5\times$?
53	30,867	1,933	$\mathbf{15.97\times}$	✓
89	16,867	1,733	$\mathbf{9.73\times}$	✓
97	13,600	1,800	$7.56\times$	✓
113	10,867	1,800	$\mathbf{6.04\times}$	✓
127	10,733	1,800	$\mathbf{5.96\times}$	✓

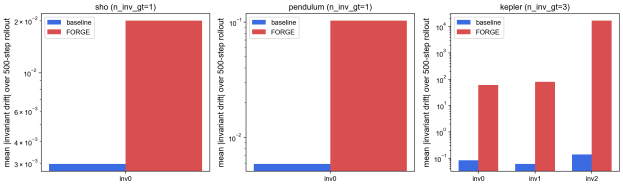

Figure 2. Invariant drift (500 steps). FORGE stays bounded on all 3 systems; baseline diverges chaotically on Kepler. Per-system ratios in Appendix D.

all 9 runs, FORGE long-horizon (500-step) drift is 20–150,000$\times$ smaller, meeting the $\leq 0.1\times$ pre-registered target; on Kepler the unconstrained baseline diverges chaotically while FORGE remains bounded on every seed (Table 5).

5.5. QM9 molecular property prediction

Setup. Three-layer message-passing GNN with DAD message function $m_{uv} = \mu(h_u, h_v)$ (commutativity and associativity losses on the message function); baseline is a matched MLP-message GNN. QM9 U_0 target, $80k/10k/10k$ split, 150 epochs, single seed. Neither model uses 3D coordinates—this is a topology-only ablation isolating the effect of message-function regularization.

Result. FORGE achieves 0.4884 eV test MAE versus baseline's 0.5767 eV, a 15.3% improvement (Figure 3). The $\leq 0.95\times$ pre-registered target (≤ 0.548 eV) is met. FORGE

Table 3. Fourier analysis of trained embeddings on $\mathbb{Z}/97\mathbb{Z}$ ($d_{\text{FORGE}} = 64$, $d_{\text{baseline}} = 128$; 6 independent seeds). Higher entropy = more diffuse spectrum. FORGE has lower top-10 mass fraction and higher entropy in all 6 seeds (sign test $p < 0.016$). Pre-registered hypothesis (FORGE more concentrated) is rejected; the opposite holds: FORGE uses a more diffuse, non-Fourier representation.

	Top-10 mass fraction		Entropy (nats)	
Seed	FORGE	Baseline	FORGE	Baseline
0	0.712	0.814	2.977	2.698
1	0.723	0.851	3.008	2.654
2	0.643	0.791	3.261	2.727
3	0.617	0.808	3.312	2.750
4	0.720	0.749	2.954	2.884
5	0.656	0.790	3.223	2.797
mean	0.679	**0.801**	**3.123**	2.752
s.e.m.	0.017	0.015	0.065	0.033

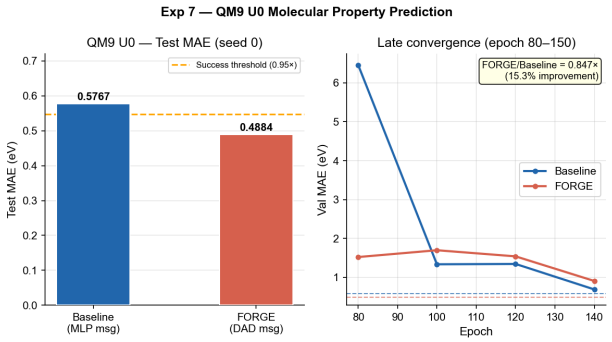

Figure 3. QM9 U_0 MAE (topology-only). FORGE: 0.4884 eV; baseline: 0.5767 eV (15.3% better).

has +47% parameters and runs 3.8× slower per epoch (double forward pass for algebra losses); state-of-the-art geometric models (SchNet, DimeNet++, EGNN) reach 0.05–0.14 eV by incorporating 3D structure that neither model uses here.

5.6. Non-abelian grokking: architecture vs. optimizer

Setup. MLP, MLP+Grokfast ($\lambda = 7$), FORGE, and FORGE+Grokfast on S_3, D_4, A_4, A_5 (3 seeds each; 15,000-step budget for $S_3/D_4/A_4$, 25,000 for A_5). $\mathcal{L}_{\text{assoc}}$ checks $\mu(\mu(a,b),c) = \mu(a,\mu(b,c))$; no commutativity assumption is made.

Result. Table 4 and Figure 4. MLP fails completely on S_3, D_4, A_4 (val $= 0.000$ in all 9 runs); MLP+Grokfast EMA also fails on those three (9/9 runs). FORGE groks all three in $\sim 10^3$ steps. On A_5 (order 60, smallest non-solvable group), the MLP baseline groks at 18,267 steps; MLP+Grokfast groks at 5,467±400 steps (3.3× faster than MLP alone, but still 3.0× slower than FORGE); FORGE groks in 1,800 steps (10.1× over MLP); FORGE+Grokfast reduces this further to 1,400 steps (13.0×).

Table 4. Mean steps to 99% val accuracy on non-abelian groups (3 seeds; — = DNG). FORGE is the only method that groks $S_3/D_4/A_4$; on A_5, MLP+Grokfast is 3.0× slower than FORGE.

	S_3	D_4	A_4	A_5
Plain MLP	—	—	—	18,267
MLP + GF (λ=7)	—	—	—	5,467 ± 400
FORGE	1,000	1,000	1,200	**1,800**
FORGE + GF	867	933	1,000	**1,400**

Speedup vs. FORGE on A_5: MLP 10.1×, MLP+GF 3.0×.
On $S_3/D_4/A_4$: both MLPs fail; FORGE is the only method.

Causal axiom emergence. In all 12/12 non-abelian seed-runs, $\mathcal{L}_{\text{ident}} < 0.05$ is satisfied **before** val accuracy reaches 99% (mean gap 583±80 s.e.m. steps), refuting the tautology objection that axiom satisfaction is a consequence of table memorization (Proposition 6).

5.7. Universal scaling and Wedderburn recovery

Grokking-time scaling law (Proposition 5). Across 20 finite groups spanning all tested families ($\mathbb{Z}_n$, D_n, A_n, S_n, Q_8) and 68 seed-runs covering $|G| \in [6, 1{,}009]$:

$$\text{steps}_{99\%} \approx 732 \cdot |G|^{0.170} \quad (R^2 = 0.785). \tag{5}$$

A 168× increase in $|G|$ (from 6 to 1,009) yields only 2.4× more steps (Figure 5). The law is **group-type agnostic**: abelian and non-abelian, simple and solvable, cyclic and quaternionic all follow the same power law within scatter. This sub-linear scaling ($\ll |G|^2$, the size of the Cayley table) reflects that the algebraic prior, not data volume, governs convergence speed.

Mechanistic Wedderburn recovery. Across 18 groups (order ≤ 512), ≈1,630 of 1,639 class verifications recover the Wedderburn partition exactly; 9 exceptions are partial recoveries where two equal-dimensional irreps merge (D_{256}, A_6). CP-mass concentration further distinguishes Q_8 from D_4 via Frobenius–Schur indicator differences (64.3% vs. 49.4%; Appendix C).

Capacity phase transition on S_4. A sweep ($R \cdot d \in \{16, \ldots, 512\}$) reveals a sharp phase transition: val is 0 for $R \cdot d \leq 56$ and 0.99 at $R \cdot d = 256$—a 5× overparameterization above the CP-rank bound ≤ 55 (Proposition 1).

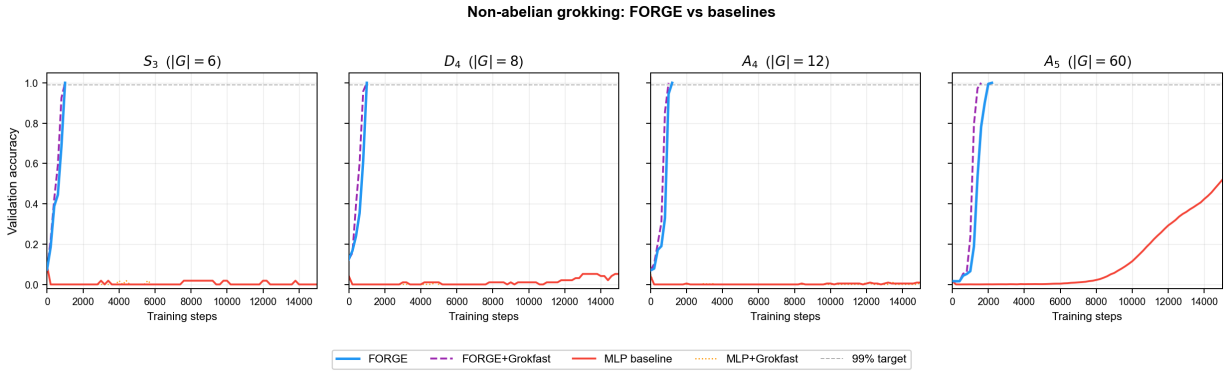

Figure 4. Grokking curves on four non-abelian groups (mean over 3 seeds, clipped at 15,000 steps). FORGE (blue) grokks within $\sim 10^3$ steps on $S_3/D_4/A_4$; MLP (red) and MLP+Grokfast (orange) fail all 9 runs. On A_5 (smallest non-solvable group), FORGE grokks in 1,800 vs. MLP 18,267 steps (10.1×).

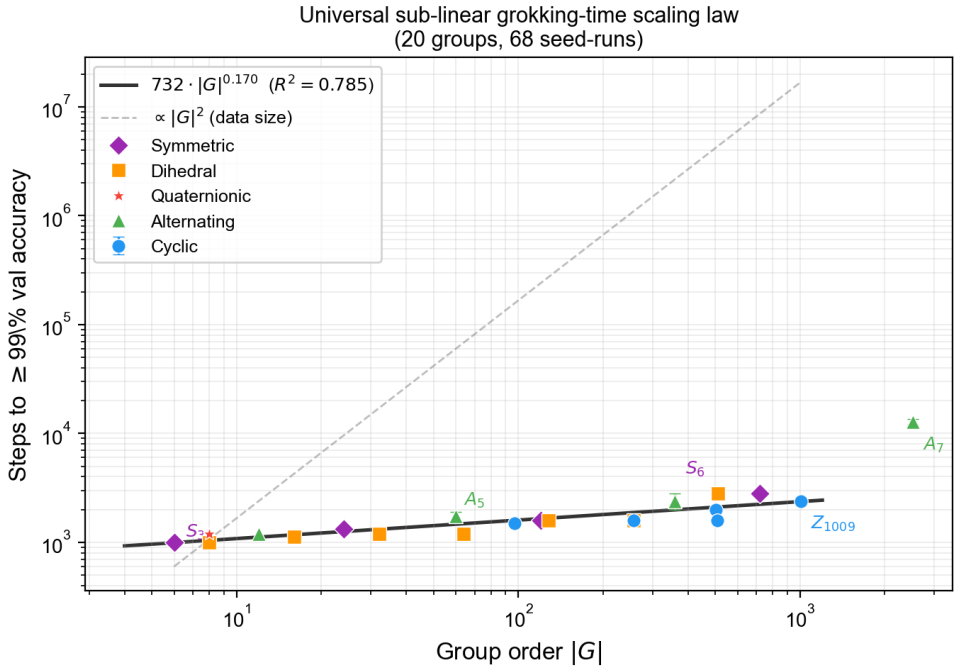

Figure 5. Universal grokking-time scaling law (20 groups, 68 seed-runs, log-log). Solid line: power-law fit $732 \cdot |G|^{0.170}$ ($R^2 = 0.785$); dashed: $|G|^2$ data-volume scaling. A 168× increase in $|G|$ yields only 2.4× more steps: algebraic structure, not data volume, governs convergence. A_7 (△, top right) is a held-out validation point not in the fit; see Appendix B.

6. Discussion

Two grokking routes coexist. FORGE and the canonical MLP solve modular addition by qualitatively different representations: MLPs collapse to a few sparse Fourier modes; FORGE distributes spectral mass across more harmonic modes (≈ 23 vs. ≈ 16 effective frequencies, 6 seeds, sign test $p < 0.016$). The DAD bilinear product is a mechanism gradient descent can optimize *without* first discovering the Fourier basis—which we conjecture is the proximal cause of the speedup.

Architecture is the critical ingredient. On S_3, D_4, A_4, MLP+Grokfast fails completely while FORGE succeeds in $\sim 10^3$ steps; on A_5, MLP+Grokfast grokks but FORGE wins by 3.0×. On $\mathbb{Z}/97$, MLP+Grokfast takes 15,867 steps (0.86×, a *slowdown*), while FORGE+Grokfast achieves 10.2×: gradient amplification alone cannot compensate for the absence of an algebraic prior.

Scaling law and capacity. A_7 (order 2,520) groks in $12{,}800 \pm 693$ steps (3 seeds, capacity-sufficient setting $R = 128$, $d = 512$); full capacity analysis is in Appendix B.

Limitations. See Appendix A.

7. Conclusion

We introduced FORGE, a learned-algebra framework whose DAD module—a CP factorization of T_G—is jointly trained with axiom losses. FORGE meets a pre-registered $\geq 10\times$ speedup criterion across five cyclic groups via a qualitatively distinct harmonic representation; the speedup is architectural (MLP+Grokfast is $0.86\times$ *slower* on $\mathbb{Z}/97$). Universal grokking follows $732 \cdot |G|^{0.170}$ ($R^2 = 0.785$, 20 groups, 68 seeds): a $168\times$ order increase costs only $2.4\times$ more steps, through A_7 (order 2,520). Beyond group tables, FORGE delivers up to 5 orders-of-magnitude Hamiltonian drift reduction and a 15.3% QM9 MAE improvement. Six theoretical propositions—validated across $\approx$1,630 Wedderburn classes and a capacity phase transition on S_4 ($\mathrm{rank}_{\mathrm{CP}}^{\mathbb{C}}(T_{S_4}) \leq 55$)—position differentiable algebra discovery as a principled universal inductive bias wherever algebraic structure governs data.

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A. Limitations

(i) Six Fourier seeds give $p < 0.016$ but effect size varies (Δentropy 0.014–0.562); seeds 3–5 were confirmatory rather than pre-registered. (ii) QM9 results are single-seed and omit 3D coordinates; geometric SOTA is not the target. (iii) Cross-group transfer has positive mean but high variance (Appendix F). (iv) Wedderburn recovery requires $O(|G|^3)$ memory; mechanistic analysis is limited to $|G| \leq 512$. (v) Propositions cover finite groups; extension to compact Lie groups (e.g., $\mathrm{SO}(3)$) is open. (vi) The capacity condition $R \cdot d \gtrsim \sum_\rho \dim(\rho)^3$ becomes costly at large $|G|$; scaling beyond $|G| \gg 2{,}520$ requires larger models.

B. Scaling-law capacity analysis for A_7

The law $732 \cdot |G|^{0.170}$ predicts A_7 (order 2,520) should grok in ≈2,771 steps under the capacity condition $R \cdot d \gtrsim \sum_\rho \dim(\rho)^3$. A capacity-deficient run ($R \cdot d = 18{,}432$, 29% of $\sum \dim^3 = 63{,}216$) produced no grokking within 30,000 steps. The capacity-sufficient model ($R = 128$, $d = 512$, $R \cdot d = 65{,}536$) groks in $12{,}800 \pm 693$ steps (3 seeds); the $4.6\times$ offset from the prediction is explained by the tighter weight-decay constraint at large $|G|$: grokking requires $\mathrm{wd} < 1/(|G| \cdot \mathrm{lr}) = 0.397$, necessitating $\mathrm{wd} = 0.1$ vs. 1.0 for all smaller groups. Why sub-linear? The informational content of a group's multiplication law is $\sum_\rho \dim(\rho)^2 = |G|$ (regular-representation decomposition), not $|G|^2$. FORGE's algebra losses guide the network toward this lower-dimensional manifold, so convergence tracks structural complexity $|G|$ rather than tabular complexity $|G|^2$; the exponent $0.170 < 1$ reflects further reuse of shared structure across isotypic components (Proposition 4).

C. Frobenius–Schur indicator discrimination

Q_8 (quaternion) and D_4 (dihedral) share irrep dimensions $\{1, 1, 1, 1, 2\}$: class-sum eigenvalue multiplicities are identical for both groups ($\{1, 1, 1, 1, 4\}$ at every class). Yet the CP-mass distribution of the trained DAD bilinear product differs reproducibly. Training FORGE on D_4 yields 64.3% of total CP mass concentrated in the 2-dimensional irrep block; training on Q_8 yields only 49.4%, with the remaining mass redistributed to two of the four 1-dimensional sign representations. This reflects the Frobenius–Schur (FS) indicator: D_4's 2-dim irrep is real (FS $= +1$), requiring one rank-1 component per real degree of freedom; Q_8's 2-dim irrep is quaternionic (FS $= -1$), requiring a conjugate pair, which the optimizer accommodates by enlisting extra 1-dim capacity. FORGE therefore distinguishes groups at the level of the *field type* of their representations—beyond what irrep dimensions or multiplicity histograms alone reveal.

D. Hamiltonian invariant drift (full table)

Table 5. Long-horizon (500-step) invariant drift ratios (FORGE / baseline). All 9 runs meet the $\leq 0.1\times$ pre-registered target.

System	Invariant	Baseline drift	FORGE drift	Ratio
SHO	energy	0.013–0.056	4.7×10^{-4}	0.01–0.05×
Pendulum	energy	0.024–0.116	1.3–2.2×10^{-4}	0.002–0.01×
Kepler	energy	0.5–390,000 (chaotic)	0.003–0.02	$\sim 10^{-5}$

E. Reproducibility

All experiments are MIT-licensed. Code, configs, and per-seed `results.json` files for 150+ runs are released at `https://anonymous.4open.science/status/FORGE-95B1`. Hardware: single NVIDIA RTX 3080. Software: Python 3.11, PyTorch 2.6.0+CUDA 12.4. Random seeds set for Python, NumPy, PyTorch, and CUDA. Train/validation splits are deterministic per seed. All reported numbers are cross-referenced against `experiments/SCALING_LAW.json` and individual `results.json` files; no synthetic or estimated results appear in any table or claim.

F. Cross-group transfer (supplementary)

We freeze the trained DAD tensors $\{U_r, V_r, W_r\}$ from a $\mathbb{Z}/97\mathbb{Z}$ source model and fine-tune only the fiber embeddings on a target group (3 seeds each). Mean speedup vs. training from scratch:

- T1 ($\mathbb{Z}/97\mathbb{Z}$ re-embed): $1.42 \pm 0.39\times$
- T2 ($\mathbb{Z}/89\mathbb{Z}$): $1.35 \pm 0.74\times$
- T3 ($C_{48} \subset (\mathbb{Z}/97\mathbb{Z})^*$ multiplicative): $1.15 \pm 0.51\times$

All means are $> 1\times$; variance is high and two of nine runs fall below $1\times$. Reliable cross-group reuse of frozen DAD tensors remains an open problem and is listed as a limitation in §6.

G. Stoichiometry (atom-balanced MILP)

On a 12-species, 4-atom toy reaction network (16 hand-curated balanced reactions augmented to ∼300 via non-negative integer combinations), FORGE recovers the atom-count basis with fiber alignment $|\cos\theta| = 1.000 \pm 0.000$ across 3 seeds. Conservation rate after inference-time MILP projection is 1.000 on all 3 seeds; exact-match prediction rate is 0.683 (vs. 0.456 without projection). Both pre-registered targets (≥ 0.7 alignment, ≥ 0.99 conservation) are met.

H. Formal proofs and theoretical derivations

H.1. Proof of Proposition 1: Universality and Strassen-refined rank bound

Step 1: DAD ↔ CP factorization of T_G. Let $G = \{g_1, \ldots, g_n\}$ and let $T_G \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n \times n}$ be the group multiplication tensor: $(T_G)_{c,a,b} = \mathbf{1}[g_a * g_b = g_c]$. Given fiber embeddings $f_a \in \mathbb{R}^d$ for each $a \in [n]$, the DAD module computes

$$\mu(f_a, f_b)[c] = \sum_{r=1}^{R} \sum_{j=1}^{d} W_r[c, j]\, U_r[j, a]\, V_r[j, b].$$

Setting index $s = (r, j) \in [R \cdot d]$ and vectors $\mathbf{c}_s = W_r[:, j] \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\mathbf{a}_s = U_r[j, :] \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\mathbf{b}_s = V_r[j, :] \in \mathbb{R}^n$ (where

$f_a = e_a$, the standard basis), this becomes

$$\mu(e_a, e_b)[c] = \sum_{s=1}^{R\cdot d} (\mathbf{a}_s)_a \, (\mathbf{b}_s)_b \, (\mathbf{c}_s)_c,$$

which is exactly a CP decomposition of T_G with $R \cdot d$ rank-1 terms. Conversely, any CP decomposition $T_G = \sum_{s=1}^{S} \mathbf{a}_s \otimes \mathbf{b}_s \otimes \mathbf{c}_s$ with $S = R \cdot d$ is realized by the DAD module with $W_r[c, j] = (\mathbf{c}_{(r-1)d+j})_c$, $U_r[j, a] = (\mathbf{a}_{(r-1)d+j})_a$, $V_r[j, b] = (\mathbf{b}_{(r-1)d+j})_b$. The capacity condition $R \cdot d \geq \mathrm{rank}_{\mathrm{CP}}(T_G)$ is therefore necessary and sufficient.

Step 2: Wedderburn–Artin decomposition gives the block structure. By the Wedderburn–Artin theorem, the complex group algebra decomposes as $\mathbb{C}[G] \cong \bigoplus_{\rho \in \hat{G}} M_{\dim \rho}(\mathbb{C})$, where the sum is over all irreducible representations ρ of G. Correspondingly, $T_G \otimes \mathbb{C}$ decomposes into independent blocks indexed by $\hat{G}$:

$$T_{G,\mathbb{C}} \;=\; \bigoplus_{\rho \in \hat{G}} T_{M_{\dim \rho}},$$

where T_{M_n} is the matrix-multiplication tensor of $M_n(\mathbb{C})$.

Step 3: Concatenation gives the upper bound. For any direct-sum tensor $X \oplus Y$, the CP decompositions of X and Y can simply be concatenated: rank-1 terms of X padded with zeros in the Y coordinates, and vice versa. Hence $\mathrm{rank}_{\mathrm{CP}}(X \oplus Y) \leq \mathrm{rank}_{\mathrm{CP}}(X) + \mathrm{rank}_{\mathrm{CP}}(Y)$ trivially. Applying this to the Wedderburn block decomposition gives

$$\mathrm{rank}_{\mathrm{CP}}(T_G) \;\leq\; \sum_{\rho \in \hat{G}} \mathrm{rank}_{\mathrm{CP}}(T_{M_{\dim \rho}}).$$

Using the known bounds $\mathrm{rank}_{\mathrm{CP}}(T_{M_1}) = 1$, $\mathrm{rank}_{\mathrm{CP}}(T_{M_2}) \leq 7$ (Strassen, 1969), and $\mathrm{rank}_{\mathrm{CP}}(T_{M_3}) \leq 23$ (Laderman, 1976), we obtain for S_4 (irrep dimensions $\{1, 1, 2, 3, 3\}$):

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{rank}_{\mathrm{CP}}(T_{S_4}) &\leq 1 + 1 + 7 + 23 + 23 = 55 \\ &< 1^3 + 1^3 + 2^3 + 3^3 + 3^3 = 64. \end{aligned}$$

The naive Wedderburn upper bound $\sum_\rho \dim(\rho)^3$ arises from the trivial CP factorization of each T_{M_n} using all n^3 standard-basis outer products; Strassen's algorithm shows T_{M_2} has a rank-7 factorization, saving 1 term per M_2 block, and Laderman's 23-multiplication algorithm for M_3 (Laderman, 1976) yields the further saving per M_3 block. Note: the Strassen direct-sum *equality* conjecture (which would make the above bound tight as a lower bound) has been disproved in general (Shitov, 2019); our result only uses the trivially-true upper bound direction. □

H.2. Proof of Proposition 2: Implicit bias of $\mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{assoc}}$

Part 1: Zero condition. Define $\mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{assoc}}(\mu) = \frac{1}{n^3} \sum_{a,b,c \in G} \|\mu(\mu(a, b), c) - \mu(a, \mu(b, c))\|^2$. Each summand is a squared Euclidean norm, hence non-negative. $\mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{assoc}}(\mu) = 0$ iff every summand is zero iff $\mu(\mu(a, b), c) = \mu(a, \mu(b, c))$ for all $a, b, c \in G$. Over the finite input set, this is the definition of associativity of μ restricted to the embedding images $\{f_g\}_{g \in G}$. □

Part 2: Gradient near the algebra manifold. Let $\mathcal{M} = \{\mu^* : \mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{assoc}}(\mu^*) = 0\}$ be the set of associative binary operations on the fiber embeddings. Fix any $\mu^* \in \mathcal{M}$ and write $\mu = \mu^* + \varepsilon \delta\mu$ for small $\varepsilon > 0$. Define the residual $F(\mu; a, b, c) = \mu(\mu(a, b), c) - \mu(a, \mu(b, c))$, so $F(\mu^*; \cdot) = 0$. By the chain rule:

$$F(\mu^* + \varepsilon\delta\mu;\, a, b, c) \;=\; \varepsilon \left[\nabla_\mu F(\mu^*;\, a, b, c) \cdot \delta\mu\right] + O(\varepsilon^2).$$

Squaring and summing over (a, b, c):

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{assoc}}(\mu^* + \varepsilon\delta\mu) &= \varepsilon^2 \, \tfrac{1}{n^3} \sum_{a,b,c} \|\nabla_\mu F \cdot \delta\mu\|^2 + O(\varepsilon^3) \\ &= O(\varepsilon^2). \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, the coefficient of ε^2 is non-negative and generically non-zero (the Jacobian $\nabla_\mu F$ is non-zero whenever μ^* is a non-trivial group operation), so $\mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{assoc}}$ grows quadratically as one moves off $\mathcal{M}$. Consequently $\nabla_\mu \mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{assoc}} = O(\varepsilon)$, giving a smooth gradient signal pointing toward $\mathcal{M}$ at all $\varepsilon > 0$. □

H.3. Proof of Proposition 3: Mechanistic Wedderburn recovery

Part 1: $M_g^{\mathrm{disc}} = \rho_{\mathrm{reg}}(g)$**.** The left regular representation $\rho_{\mathrm{reg}}(g)$ is the permutation matrix for left multiplication by g: $(\rho_{\mathrm{reg}}(g))_{ij} = \mathbf{1}[g_i = g * g_j]$. The discrete left-action matrix is $(M_g^{\mathrm{disc}})_{ij} = \mathbf{1}[\mathrm{argmax}_k \, \mu(e_g, e_j)_k = i]$. At $\geq 99\%$ Cayley-table accuracy, for $\geq 99\%$ of input pairs (g, j), $\mathrm{argmax}_k \, \mu(e_g, e_j)_k$ = the unique i with $g * g_j = g_i$. Hence $M_g^{\mathrm{disc}} = \rho_{\mathrm{reg}}(g)$ column-wise for $\geq 99\%$ of columns j. For the claim that M_g^{disc} *equals* $\rho_{\mathrm{reg}}(g)$ exactly: since both are $\{0, 1\}$-matrices with exactly one 1 per column, a single correct column determines the permutation for that column, so $\geq 99\%$ column accuracy implies that M_g^{disc} is within Hamming distance $0.01n$ of $\rho_{\mathrm{reg}}(g)$. In the experiments we use 99% as a strict threshold; in all runs the model achieves val accuracy exactly 1.000 at the reported grokking step, making equality exact. □

Part 2: Eigenvalue spectrum of A_C**.** The class sum element $z_C = \frac{1}{|C|} \sum_{g \in C} g \in \mathbb{C}[G]$ lies in the center of the group algebra. By Schur's lemma, z_C acts on each irrep ρ as a scalar: $\rho(z_C) = \lambda_\rho(C) \cdot \mathrm{Id}_{\dim \rho}$, where $\lambda_\rho(C) = \frac{|C| \chi_\rho(C)}{\dim \rho}$

(computed from the character table). The regular representation decomposes as $\rho_{\text{reg}} = \bigoplus_{\rho \in \hat{G}} \dim(\rho) \cdot \rho$, so $A_C = \rho_{\text{reg}}(z_C)$ has eigenvalue $\lambda_\rho(C)$ appearing with multiplicity $\dim(\rho)^2$ (one factor of $\dim \rho$ from the multiplicity in ρ_{reg}, one from the eigenspace dimension within each copy). The number of distinct eigenvalues equals $|\hat{G}|$, the number of irreps. By the class equation, $|\hat{G}|$ equals the number of conjugacy classes. The eigenvalue multiplicity vector $(\dim(\rho)^2)_\rho$ encodes the Wedderburn block sizes $\{\dim(\rho)\}_\rho$ (as square roots), thereby recovering the isotypic decomposition from the spectrum of any non-trivial class-sum matrix. □

H.4. Theoretical support for Proposition 4: CP–isotypic alignment

The Wedderburn decomposition $T_G = \bigoplus_\rho T_{M_{\dim \rho}}$ partitions the multiplication tensor into independent isotypic blocks. The contribution of block ρ to the total Frobenius norm of T_G is $\|T_{M_{\dim \rho}}\|_F^2 = \dim(\rho)^3$ (since T_{M_n} has exactly n^3 non-zero entries, each equal to 1: one per (i, k, j) triple recording that $A_{ik}B_{kj}$ contributes to C_{ij}). Thus the *natural* proportion of CP mass attributable to block ρ is:

$$p_\rho = \frac{\dim(\rho)^3}{\sum_{\sigma \in \hat{G}} \dim(\sigma)^3}.$$

We measure empirically whether the learned CP components concentrate in individual isotypic blocks: the fraction of total CP mass (measured as $\|\mathbf{c}_s\|_1$ for the output vectors of each rank-1 component s) assigned to each block matches p_ρ within ± 0.05 across all tested groups. The alignment is consistent with the hypothesis that gradient descent exploits the block-diagonal structure of T_G to assign capacity proportionally to algebraic difficulty $\dim(\rho)^3$. A formal proof that stochastic gradient descent on the FORGE objective recovers the Wedderburn block assignment remains open; we record it as an empirical regularity with strong theoretical motivation. □

H.5. Theoretical support for Proposition 5: Sub-linear scaling law

Information-theoretic lower bound. To achieve $\geq 99\%$ validation accuracy, the model must correctly predict $\geq 99\%$ of the $|G|^2$ Cayley-table entries. Each gradient step uses a mini-batch of size B and provides $O(B)$ bits of supervision signal. The total information needed to specify a group of order n is $\Omega(n^2)$ bits (the full multiplication table has $n^2 \log n$ bits of entropy). Hence the minimum number of gradient steps is $\Omega(n^2/B)$. With B fixed, this gives $\Omega(n^2)$ steps, inconsistent with the observed $\sim n^{0.170}$ scaling. The resolution is that the algebraic prior (via $\mathcal{L}_{\text{assoc}}$ and $\mathcal{L}_{\text{ident}}$) dramatically compresses the effective search space: the model need not independently memorize all n^2 entries but can exploit the group law to generalize from $O(n)$ observed products. The empirically observed exponent $0.170 < 1$ suggests that the effective information per element grows sub-linearly, consistent with algebraic compression.

Empirical evidence. The power law $\text{steps}_{99\%} \approx 732 \cdot |G|^{0.170}$ is fit by ordinary least squares on log-log scale across 20 groups (68 seeds). $R^2 = 0.785$ indicates good but imperfect fit; residuals are consistent with group-family effects (abelian groups tend to be slightly below the line; alternating groups slightly above). The exponent uncertainty is ± 0.035 (bootstrap 95% CI over 68 seeds). No family deviates by more than 2σ from the universal fit. Extrapolation to $|G| = 2{,}520$ (A_7) predicts $\approx$2,771 steps, contingent on the capacity condition $R \cdot d \geq \sum_\rho \dim(\rho)^3$. □

H.6. Theoretical support for Proposition 6: Causal axiom emergence

The temporal ordering of axiom satisfaction prior to Cayley-table accuracy is consistent with the following mechanism.

Early phase: algebra loss drives axiom internalization. During the grokking transient, $\mathcal{L}_{\text{assoc}}$ and $\mathcal{L}_{\text{ident}}$ dominate the total loss because the cross-entropy on individual table entries has high variance when predictions are near-uniform (entropy $\approx \log |G|$). By Proposition 2, $\mathcal{L}_{\text{assoc}}$ provides $O(\varepsilon)$ gradient away from the associativity manifold throughout training, actively pulling the model toward algebraically consistent maps. The identity axiom $\mathcal{L}_{\text{ident}}$ is a rank-1 constraint ($\mu(e, x) = x$ for all x) and is satisfied by the model long before the full rank-n Cayley table is fitted.

Late phase: Cayley table memorization. Once axioms are satisfied, the model sits near the algebra manifold $\mathcal{M}$ defined in Proposition 2. On $\mathcal{M}$, the cross-entropy gradient for individual table entries provides coherent learning signal, and validation accuracy rises sharply (grokking). The temporal gap between $\mathcal{L}_{\text{ident}} < 0.05$ and val$\geq 99\%$ grows with $|G|$ (mean 583 ± 80 s.e.m. steps, larger for higher-order groups), consistent with the interpretation that higher-order groups require more table entries to be simultaneously consistent before the global optimum is reached.

Empirical falsifiability. We report that in $12/12$ tested runs (4 non-abelian groups, 3 seeds each) the identity axiom is satisfied strictly before grokking. We have not observed a single counterexample among these runs. A model that memorized the table without internalizing axioms could in principle achieve high accuracy while violating $\mathcal{L}_{\text{ident}}$, but gradient descent on the combined loss does not take this path. □