

Fenn in Trieste

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A Funny quandle: starting from a group, set

$$g \wedge h := hg^{-1}h. \text{ satisfies:}$$

Aside:

Racks only need
to satisfy
2 & 3

1. $a \wedge a = a$
2. Given $a, b \exists$ a unique c s.t.
 $c \wedge b = a$
3. $(a \wedge b) \wedge c = (a \wedge c) \wedge (b \wedge c)$

Question Can one classify all quandles that arise from groups?

Added July 19, 2015: Possibly this is answered in Wada's "group invariants for links".

The Alexander quandle. $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}[t, t^{-1}]$,

$$a \wedge b = ta + (1-t)b$$

$$a \wedge \bar{b} := t^{-1}a + (1-t^{-1})b$$

Verifying Axiom 3 for $a \wedge b := b a^{-1} b$:

$$(a \wedge b) \wedge c = c b^{-1} a b^{-1} c \quad \checkmark$$

$$(a \wedge c) \wedge (b \wedge c) = (c a^{-1} c) \wedge (c b^{-1} c) = c b^{-1} c c^{-1} a c^{-1} c b^{-1} c$$

Interesting comment - in a general quandle we may have $a \wedge b = a$ yet not $b \wedge a = b$. This will never happen in a quandle coming from a group as in a group the "a commutes with b" relation is symmetric.