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Conjugacy growth of finitely generated groups

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We show that every non-decreasing function \$f\colon \mathbb N\to \mathbb N\s bounded from above by \$a^n\$ for some \$a\ge 1\$ can be realized (up to a natural equivalence) as the conjugacy growth function of a finitely generated group. We also construct a finitely generated group \$G\$ and a subgroup \$H\le G\$ of index 2 such that \$H\$ has only 2 conjugacy classes while the conjugacy growth of \$G\$ is exponential. In particular, conjugacy growth is not a quasi-isometry invariant.

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