

Metrically Homogeneous  
Graphs:  
A complete  
Census?

Gregory  
Cherlin

History

Census takers

Evidence

infinite  
diameter

# Metrically Homogeneous Graphs: A complete Census?

Gregory Cherlin



Wednesday, July 27  
Finite/Pseudofinite

# Outline

Metrically Homogeneous  
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- History
- Census reports; conjecture
- Evidence
- Infinite Diameter

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# History: Klein to Urysohn

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*U est homogène en ce sens que, les ensembles finis et congruents A et B (situés dans U) étant quelconques, il existe une représentation isométrique de U sur lui-même transformant A en B. —(Urysohn 1927 CRAS)*

metric congruence  $\implies$  Klein congruence  
(Erlangen program: the automorphism group determines the language)

# History: Klein to Urysohn

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metric congruence  $\implies$  Klein congruence  
(Erlangen program: the automorphism group determines the language)

We require this for *labeled sets*.

# History: Henson to Moss

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Henson 1971: *A family of countable homogeneous graphs*

Woodrow 1979: *There are four countable ultrahomogeneous graphs without triangles*

Lachlan/Woodrow 1980: *Countable ultrahomogeneous undirected graphs*

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# History: Henson to Moss

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---

Larry Moss 1992: *Distanced graphs*

*... whether every distance homogeneous graph is distance finite. In the countable case, an answer to this question might be a step [towards a classification of the distance homogeneous graphs](#). [... cf. Cameron, Lachlan/Woodrow]*

MR1169148: *As the author notes, the problem of characterizing all the countable homogeneous graphs for the expanded language remains open.*

# History: Henson to Moss

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Larry Moss 1992: *Distanced graphs*

*... whether every distance homogeneous graph is distance finite. In the countable case, an answer to this question might be a step **towards a classification of the distance homogeneous graphs.** [... cf. **Cameron, Lachlan/Woodrow**]*

MR1169148: *As the author notes, the problem of characterizing all the countable homogeneous graphs for the expanded language remains open.*

**Cameron 1977: 6-Transitive graphs** (finite)

**Macpherson 1982: Infinite distance transitive graphs of finite valency** (locally finite)

**$T_{m,n}$** : tree-like, each vertex belongs to  $m$   $n$ -cliques.



# Interlude: Finite metrically homogeneous graphs

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Finite primitive homogeneous graphs:  $C_5$ ,  $K_3 \otimes K_3$   
 $C_n$ : metrically homogeneous of diameter  $\delta = \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$

# Interlude: Finite metrically homogeneous graphs

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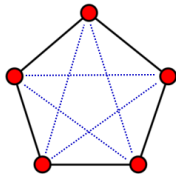
History

Census takers

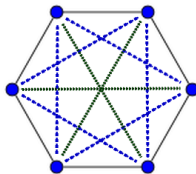
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$C_5$



$C_6$

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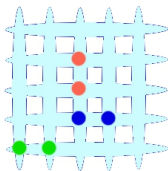
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 $K_n \otimes K_n$ : 4-ary!



$2 K_2$

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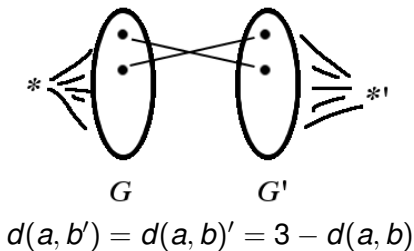
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Finite primitive homogeneous graphs:  $C_5$ ,  $K_3 \otimes K_3$   
 $C_n$ : metrically homogeneous of diameter  $\delta = \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$   
Other finite: antipodal double covers of  $C_5$ ,  $K_3 \otimes K_3$ ,  $I_n$  (diameter 3)



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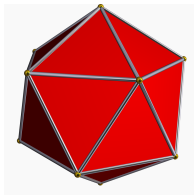
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(diameter 3)  
Double cover of  $C_5$ :



# Interlude: Finite metrically homogeneous graphs

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Finite primitive homogeneous graphs:  $C_5, K_3 \otimes K_3$

$C_n$ : metrically homogeneous of diameter  $\delta = \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$

Other finite: antipodal double covers of  $C_5, K_3 \otimes K_3, I_n$   
(diameter 3)

Double cover of  $C_5$ :

## CLASSIFICATION

- Diameter  $\leq 2$
- antipodal double cover of  $I_n, C_5, K_3 \otimes K_3$
- $C_n$

# (General) History: Nešetřil to KPT

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Nešetřil: 1989 *For graphs . . .*; 2005 *Ramsey classes and homogeneous structures* (Ramsey implies amalgamation)

KPT 2005 *Fraïssé limits, Ramsey theory, and topological dynamics . . .*

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# Cameron's Census

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Cameron 1998: *A census of infinite distance-transitive graphs*

*Not even the countable metrically homogeneous graphs have been determined.* 😞

# Cameron's Census

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Cameron 1998: *A census of infinite distance-transitive graphs*

*Not even the countable metrically homogeneous graphs have been determined.* 😞

## CENSUS

- Locally Finite: known
- Diameter  $\leq 2$ : known
- $\Gamma^\delta$ : Urysohn graph of diameter  $\delta$
- Bipartite Urysohn graph of diameter  $\delta$  (all triangles have even perimeter)
- Henson variation ( $K_n$ -free)

# Cameron's Census

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*This construction is similar, but not identical, to one due to Komjath et al. . . . , who constructed a countable universal graph omitting odd cycles up to some fixed length. No doubt, further such variations are possible.*

# Interlude: Komjáth, Mekler, Pach

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KMP 1988 *Some universal graphs*

## Theorem

- 1 *For any  $K$ , there is a universal countable graph among all graphs with no odd cycle of length less than  $2K + 1$ .*
- 2 *For any  $C$ , there is a universal countable graph among all graphs with no odd cycle of length greater than  $C$ .*

# My two censuses

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## FIRST CENSUS (2009)

- Exceptions: finite, diameter  $\leq 2$ , or tree-like
- Generic type: constraints specified by
  - diameter  $\delta$
  - KMP parameters  $K, C$  (for triangles)
  - generalized Henson constraints  $(1, \delta)$ -spaces, or antipodal Henson constraints ( $\delta \geq 4$ )

**Abstract form:** known exceptions +  $(\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_3 \cap \mathcal{A}_H)$

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## FIRST CENSUS (2009)

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**Abstract form:** known exceptions +  $(\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_3 \cap \mathcal{A}_H)$

## SECOND CENSUS (2010)—AND CONJECTURE

- Exceptions: finite, diameter  $\leq 2$ , or tree-like
- Generic type: constraints specified by
  - diameter  $\delta$
  - KMP parameters  $K_1, K_2, C_0, C_1$  (for triangles)
  - generalized Henson constraints  $(1, \delta)$ -spaces, or antipodal Henson constraints ( $\delta \geq 4$ )

**Abstract form:** the same

# Triangle constraints of type $K_1, K_2, C_0, C_1$

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$p$  = perimeter of  $\Delta$ ,  $|\Delta|$  = *diameter*,

FORBIDDEN TRIANGLES

	$K_1$	$K_2$	$C$
$p$ odd	$p \leq 2K_1$	$p \geq 2(K_2 +  \Delta )$	$p \geq C_1$
$p$ even			$p \geq C_0$



# Triangle constraints of type $K_1, K_2, C_0, C_1$

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$p$  = perimeter of  $\Delta$ ,  $|\Delta|$  = diameter,

FORBIDDEN TRIANGLES

	$K_1$	$K_2$	$C$
$p$ odd	$p \leq 2K_1$	$p \geq 2(K_2 +  \Delta )$	$p \geq C_1$
$p$ even			$p \geq C_0$

## Remark

*Uniformly definable in Presburger arithmetic.*

*Hence for any  $k$ ,  $k$ -amalgamation is given by a quantifier-free condition on the numerical parameters.*

# 3-constrained amalgamation class

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## Theorem

*A 3-constrained class of metric graphs associated with parameters  $(\delta, K_1, K_2, C_0, C_1)$  is an amalgamation class if and only if it has 5-amalgamation.*

# 3-constrained amalgamation class

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What are the numerical conditions? There are three possibilities.

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What are the numerical conditions? There are three possibilities.

I. Bipartite:  $K_1 = \infty$

$K_2 = 0, C_1 = 2\delta + 1$

# 3-constrained amalgamation class

## Theorem

*A 3-constrained class of metric graphs associated with parameters  $(\delta, K_1, K_2, C_0, C_1)$  is an amalgamation class if and only if it has 5-amalgamation.*

What are the numerical conditions? There are three possibilities.

II. Low:  $K_1 < \infty, C = \min(C_0, C_1) \leq 2\delta + K_1$

- $C = 2K_1 + 2K_2 + 1$ ;
- $K_1 + K_2 \geq \delta$ ;
- $K_1 + 2K_2 \leq 2\delta - 1$

(IIA)  $C' = C + 1$  or

(IIB)  $C' > C + 1, K_1 = K_2$ , and  $3K_2 = 2\delta - 1$

# 3-constrained amalgamation class

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## Theorem

*A 3-constrained class of metric graphs associated with parameters  $(\delta, K_1, K_2, C_0, C_1)$  is an amalgamation class if and only if it has 5-amalgamation.*

What are the numerical conditions? There are three possibilities.

III. High  $K_1 < \infty$ ,  $C = \min(C_0, C_1) > 2\delta + K_1$

- $K_1 + 2K_2 \geq 2\delta - 1$  and  $3K_2 \geq 2\delta$ ;
- If  $K_1 + 2K_2 = 2\delta - 1$  then  $C \geq 2\delta + K_1 + 2$ ;
- If  $C' > C + 1$  then  $C \geq 2\delta + K_2$ .

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# Unconditional Evidence

## Definition (Generic type)

A metrically homogeneous graph has **generic type** iff

- $\Gamma_1$  is primitive; and
- For two vertices at distance 2, their common neighbors contain an infinite independent set.

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# Unconditional Evidence

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## Definition (Generic type)

- $\Gamma_1$  is primitive; and
- For two vertices at distance 2, their common neighbors contain an infinite independent set.

## Theorem (Unconditional Evidence)

- 1 *Non-generic type are classified*
- 2 *All amalgamation classes defined by forbidden triangles and Henson constraints are of known type.*
- 3 *(with Amato and Macpherson) The conjecture is valid in diameter 3.*
- 4 *(Local analysis, generic type) If  $\Gamma_i$  has an edge then it is metrically homogeneous, connected, generic type usually.*

# Conditional evidence

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## Theorem (Conditional Evidence)

- 1 *if  $\Gamma$  is bipartite and the half-graph  $B\Gamma$  is of known type, then  $\Gamma$  is known.*
- 2 *If  $\Gamma$  has infinite diameter and all local subgraphs  $\Gamma_i$  which contain an edge are of known type, then  $\Gamma$  is of known type.*

# Conditional evidence

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## Theorem (Conditional Evidence)

- 1 *if  $\Gamma$  is bipartite and the half-graph  $B\Gamma$  is of known type, then  $\Gamma$  is known.*
- 2 *If  $\Gamma$  has infinite diameter and all local subgraphs  $\Gamma_i$  which contain an edge are of known type, then  $\Gamma$  is of known type.*

The bipartite case reduces to the case in which  $K_1 = 1$ . So it would be interesting to treat this case fully and kill two birds with one stone.

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# Infinite diameter: Reduction

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Now we discuss the proof of the infinite diameter reduction.

## Theorem (Infinite Diameter)

*If  $\Gamma$  has infinite diameter and all local subgraphs  $\Gamma_i$  which contain an edge are of known type, then  $\Gamma$  is of known type.*

# Infinite diameter: Reduction

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Now we discuss the proof of the infinite diameter reduction.

## Theorem (Infinite Diameter)

*If  $\Gamma$  has infinite diameter and all local subgraphs  $\Gamma_i$  which contain an edge are of known type, then  $\Gamma$  is of known type.*

**Target:**  $\Gamma_{K_1, \mathcal{S}}^\infty!$   
( $\mathcal{S} = \{K_n\}$  or empty)

# Infinite diameter: Reduction

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Now we discuss the proof of the infinite diameter reduction.

## Theorem (Infinite Diameter)

*If  $\Gamma$  has infinite diameter and all local subgraphs  $\Gamma_i$  which contain an edge are of known type, then  $\Gamma$  is of known type.*

Target:  $\Gamma_{K_1, \mathcal{S}}^\infty!$   
( $\mathcal{S} = \{K_n\}$  or empty)

- Reduce to the case  $K_1 < \infty$
- Show that  $\Gamma_i$  contains an edge for  $i \geq K_1$  and apply local analysis to conclude.

# The infinite diameter bipartite case

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Difficulty: locally, no edges.



# The infinite diameter bipartite case

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**Difficulty:** locally, no edges.

But we have a reduction from  $\Gamma$  to  $B\Gamma$ .

# The infinite diameter bipartite case

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**Difficulty:** locally, no edges.

But we have a reduction from  $\Gamma$  to  $B\Gamma$ .

**Difficulty:** diameter does not go down.

# The infinite diameter bipartite case

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**Difficulty:** locally, no edges.

But we have a reduction from  $\Gamma$  to  $B\Gamma$ .

**Difficulty:** diameter does not go down.

But  $K_1 = 1$  (or classified previously).

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**Difficulty:** locally, no edges.

But we have a reduction from  $\Gamma$  to  $B\Gamma$ .

**Difficulty:** diameter does not go down.

But  $K_1 = 1$  (or classified previously).

O.K. THEN 😊

# Infinite diameter, $K_1 < \infty$

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## Lemma (Embedding lemma)

*If  $A$  omits triangles of small odd perimeter then  $A$  embeds into  $\Gamma$ .*

# Infinite diameter, $K_1 < \infty$

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## Lemma (Embedding lemma)

*If  $A$  omits triangles of small odd perimeter then  $A$  embeds into  $\Gamma$ .*

Plan of attack.

- $\Gamma_i$  contains an edge when  $i \geq K_1$ .
- When  $i$  is large, then the diameter of  $\Gamma_i$  and the values of  $K_2, C_0, C_1$  are all large, and hence do not constrain  $A$ .
- Prove a local clique lemma (avoid  $\Gamma_1$ )
- For  $i \geq \max(K_1, 2)$ , the value  $\tilde{K}_1$  of the numerical parameter  $K_1$  associated to  $\Gamma_i$  is equal to the original  $K_1$ .

$A$  embeds into  $\Gamma_i$  for  $i$  large, hence into  $\Gamma$ .

# The easy bits

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- the diameter  $\tilde{\delta}$  of  $\Gamma_i$  is  $2i$ .
- $\tilde{C}_0, \tilde{C}_1 \geq 2\tilde{\delta}$
- $\tilde{K}_2 \geq \tilde{\delta}/2$

# The easy bits

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- the diameter  $\tilde{\delta}$  of  $\Gamma_i$  is  $2i$ .
- $\tilde{C}_0, \tilde{C}_1 \geq 2\tilde{\delta}$
- $\tilde{K}_2 \geq \tilde{\delta}/2$

## What is left?

For  $i \geq \max(K_1, 2)$ :

- $\Gamma_i$  contains an edge; moreover
- $\Gamma_i$  contains a triangle of type

$(K_1, K_1, 1)$



# The tricky bit

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## Lemma (Main technical lemma)

*For  $\Gamma$  of infinite diameter with  $K_1 < \infty$ , if all the local graphs  $\Gamma_i$  which contain an edge are of known type, then for  $i \geq \max(K_1, 2)$  they all contain triangles of type  $(K_1, K_1, 1)$ .*

# The tricky bit

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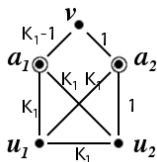
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## Lemma (Main technical lemma)

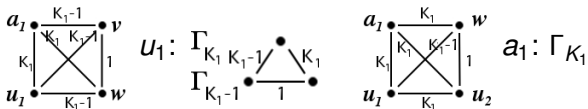
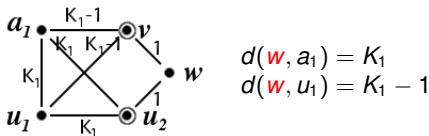
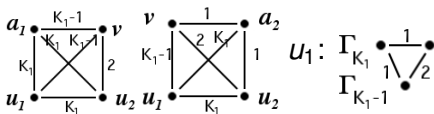
*For  $\Gamma$  of infinite diameter with  $K_1 < \infty$ , if all the local graphs  $\Gamma_i$  which contain an edge are of known type, then for  $i \geq \max(K_1, 2)$  they all contain triangles of type  $(K_1, K_1, 1)$ .*

- Base  $i = K$  (usually,  $K_1$ ): explicit amalgamation
- Induction for  $i > K$  (look at  $\Gamma_{i+1}(\Gamma_i)$ ).

# Proof of the lemma $i = K_1 > 1$



$(d(v, u_1) = K_1 - 1, d(v, u_2) = 2)$   
 Target:  $\Gamma_1(a_1)$



# Blow-up

Metrically Homogeneous Graphs:  
A complete Census?

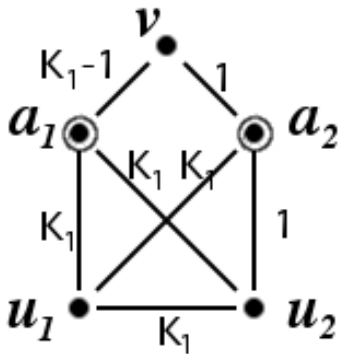
Gregory Cherlin

History

Census takers

Evidence

infinite diameter



$$d(v, u_1) = K_1 - 1, d(v, u_2) = 2$$

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# Desiderata

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Graphs:  
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Census?

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## Theorem (Smith)

*An imprimitive metrically homogeneous graph is bipartite or antipodal.*

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## Theorem (Smith)

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## Problem (Unfinished business)

*Give a conditional reduction of the antipodal case.*