

Splitting  
Twisted  
Automorphism  
Groups

Gregory  
Cherlin  
*and Rebecca  
Coulson*

Twisted Auto-  
morphisms

Random Edge  
Colorings

Twists of  
metrically  
homogeneous  
graphs

Lifting  
involutions

# Splitting Twisted Automorphism Groups

Gregory Cherlin  
*and Rebecca Coulson*



Dec. 6, Oberseminar, SR1D

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# Structures and permutation groups

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<i>Structure</i>		<i>Permutation Group</i>
$A$	$\longrightarrow$	$\text{Aut}(A)$
$A^k/G$	$\longleftarrow$	$G$

## Remark

$A$  is **homogeneous** in the canonical language. (Orbits are isomorphism types.)

# Twisted isomorphism

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Isomorphism up to a permutation of the language is called a **twisted isomorphism**.

The **twist** is the associated permutation of the language.

# Twisted isomorphism

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Isomorphism up to a permutation of the language is called a **twisted isomorphism**.

The **twist** is the associated permutation of the language.

## Example (Homogeneous graphs)

Up to **graph complementation**, the infinite primitive homogeneous graphs are

- The random graph  $\mathcal{R}$
- The generic  $K_n$ -free graphs  $\mathcal{H}_n$ ,  $n < \infty$  (Henson).

# Twisted isomorphism

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- The random graph  $\mathcal{R}$
- The generic  $K_n$ -free graphs  $\mathcal{H}_n$ ,  $n < \infty$  (Henson).

$$\mathcal{H}_n \simeq^* \mathcal{H}_n^c$$

$$\mathcal{R} \simeq^* \mathcal{R} \text{ (with non-trivial twist)}$$

# Twisted Automorphisms

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The twisted automorphism group  $\text{Aut}^*(\Gamma)$ .

$$\text{Aut}^*(\Gamma) = N_{\text{Sym}(\Gamma)}(\text{Aut}(\Gamma))$$

# Twisted Automorphisms

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$$\text{Aut}^*(\Gamma) = N_{\text{Sym}(\Gamma)}(\text{Aut}(\Gamma))$$

$$1 \rightarrow \text{Aut}(\Gamma) \rightarrow \text{Aut}^*(\Gamma) \rightarrow \text{Out}(\Gamma) \rightarrow 1$$

$\text{Out}(\Gamma)$ , the group of twists, is a permutation group acting on the language.



# Twisted Automorphisms

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$\text{Out}(\Gamma)$ , the group of twists, is a permutation group acting on the language.

## Example

$$\text{Out}(\mathcal{H}_n) = 1$$

$$\text{Out}(\mathcal{R}) = \text{Sym}(2)$$

# The splitting problem

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Question (Cameron, Tarzi 2007)

When does the twisted automorphism group split?

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Question (Cameron, Tarzi 2007)

When does the twisted automorphism group split?

Example

The twisted automorphism group of  $\mathcal{R}$  does not split.

(No involutory anti-automorphism of  $\mathcal{R}$ .)

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# $m$ -Random Graphs

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$\mathcal{R}_n$ : Infinite complete graph with a random edge coloring by  $n$  colors

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$\mathcal{R}_n$ : Infinite complete graph with a random edge coloring by  $n$  colors

$\text{Out}(\mathcal{R}_n): \text{Sym}(n)$

When does this split?

# $m$ -Random Graphs

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$\mathcal{R}_n$ : Infinite complete graph with a random edge coloring by  $n$  colors

$$\text{Out}(\mathcal{R}_n): \text{Sym}(n)$$

When does this split?

$n$	1	2	...
Splits?	✓	✗	

Table: Data

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## Theorem (CT07)

*For fixed  $n$  the following are equivalent.*

- $\text{Aut}^*(\mathcal{R}_n)$  splits.
- $n$  is odd.



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## Theorem (CT07)

*For fixed  $n$  the following are equivalent.*

- *$\text{Aut}^*(\mathcal{R}_n)$  splits.*
- *Every involutory twist lifts to an involutory twisted automorphism.*
- *Every involution in  $\text{Sym}(n)$  fixes a point.*
- *$n$  is odd.*

# Splitting $m$ -random $p$ -hypergraphs

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## Theorem

*For fixed  $n$  and  $p$  prime the following are equivalent.*

- *$\text{Aut}^*(\mathcal{R}_n^{(p)})$  splits.*
- *Every twist of order  $p$  lifts to a twisted automorphism of order  $p$ .*
- *Every element of order  $p$  in  $\text{Sym}(n)$  fixes a point.*
- *$n$  is not divisible by  $p$ .*

# Splitting $m$ -random $k$ -hypergraphs

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## Theorem

*For fixed  $n$  and  $k$  the following are equivalent.*

- *$\text{Aut}^*(\mathcal{R}_n^{(k)})$  splits.*
- *Every subgroup of  $\text{Sym}(n)$  whose order divides  $k$  fixes a point.*
- *(Every cyclic subgroup of  $\text{Sym}(n)$  whose order divides  $k$  fixes a point.)*
- *( $n$  is not a sum of non-trivial divisors of  $k$ .)*

**Example:**  $k = 6$ ,  $n = 5$ ,  $\tau = (12)(345)$ .

# Splitting $m$ -random $k$ -hypergraphs

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- Every subgroup of  $\text{Sym}(n)$  whose order divides  $k$  fixes a point.

**Example:**  $k = 6$ ,  $n = 5$ ,  $\tau = (12)(345)$ . **Necessity.**

$H \leq \text{Sym}(n)$ , order divides  $k$ .

Then  $H$  leaves some  $k$ -set invariant. □

# Splitting construction

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**Target:** A lifting of  $\text{Sym}(n)$  on  $[n]$  to an action on  $\mathcal{R}_n^{(k)}$ .

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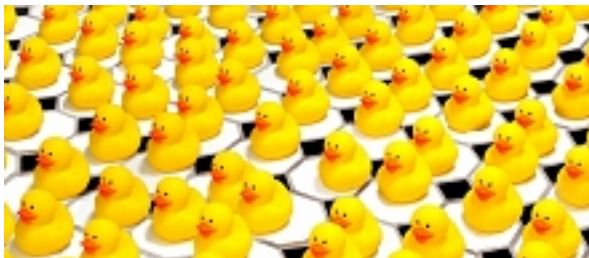
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# Splitting construction

**Target:** A lifting of  $\text{Sym}(n)$  on  $[n]$  to an action on  $\mathcal{R}_n^{(k)}$ .

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- Start with disjoint copies  $A_i$  of the regular action of  $\text{Sym}(n)$  on itself.



# Splitting construction

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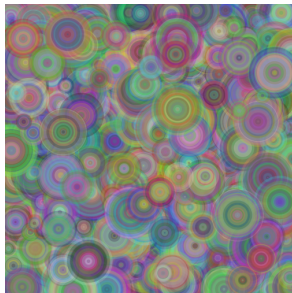
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- Define the coloring on each orbit on  $k$ -sets.





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- Define the coloring on each orbit on  $k$ -sets.
  - Representative  $e$ , setwise stabilizer  $H: H|_e$ , divides  $|e| = k$ .
  - Use a random fixed point for  $H$ .

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**Extension property**

infinitely many chances with trivial setwise stabilizer,  
randomness wins  
(new point in  $A_i$ ,  $i$  very large).

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# Metrically homogeneous graphs

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## Definition

A connected graph  $\Gamma$  is **metrically homogeneous** if it is homogeneous when viewed as a metric space in the graph metric.

- Implies **distance transitivity**: orbits on pairs are given by distance.

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## Definition

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- Implies **distance transitivity**: orbits on pairs are given by distance.

## Examples

- Any connected homogeneous graph ( $\delta = 2$ ).
- Random bipartite graph ( $\delta = 3$ ).
- Regular tree  $\delta = \infty$
- Urysohn graph, bounded Urysohn graph (any  $\delta$ ).

# Some classification theorems

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- Diameter 2: Lachlan/Woodrow 1980
- Diameter 3: Amato/Cherlin/Macpherson, preprint (78 pp.)
- **non-generic type**: finite or tree-like (Cameron, Macpherson, Ch2011)

# Some classification theorems

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- **non-generic type**: finite or tree-like (Cameron, Macpherson, Ch2011)

## Definition (Generic type)

- The neighbors of a vertex form a random graph, a Henson graph, or an infinite independent set; and
- Definitely not a tree (girth at most 4 ...)

# Metric Twists

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## Theorem (Bannai/Bannai, Gardiner, 1980)

*If a finite distance transitive graph of diameter  $\delta$  and degree at least 3 is distance transitive with respect to two edge relations, then the distances are permuted according to one of four permutations  $\rho, \rho^{-1}, \tau_0, \tau_1$  of the set  $[\delta]$ .*



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## Definition

- $\rho$ : double the small distances up to  $\delta/2$  and then work your way back down.
- $\tau_\epsilon$ : interchange  $i$  with its “reflection”  $(\delta + \epsilon - i)$  for  $i \leq \delta/2$  **odd**.

The twists  $\tau_\epsilon$  have order 2.

# Metric Twists, revisited

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## Theorem (Rebecca Coulson, 2019)

*If there is a twisted isomorphism with a non-trivial twist between two metrically homogeneous graphs of diameter  $\delta$  and generic type, then  $\delta$  is finite and the distances are permuted according to one of the four permutations  $\rho, \rho^{-1}, \tau_0, \tau_1$ .*

# Metric Twists, revisited

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## Problem

*Does this generalize to arbitrary distance transitive graphs?*

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# Outer automorphisms

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## Theorem

*If the outer automorphism group of a metrically homogeneous graph of generic type is non-trivial it is generated by  $\tau_0$  or  $\tau_1$ .*

# Outer automorphisms

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## Problem

*When does  $\tau_\epsilon$  lift?*

# Self-dual metrically homogeneous graphs

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## Theorem

*The  $\tau_0$ -self-dual metrically homogeneous graphs given by constraints on triangles are the following.*

- *Generic bipartite antipodal*
- *Generic nearly bipartite antipodal (odd cycles appear first at length  $2\lfloor \delta/2 \rfloor + 1$ ).*

*With few exceptions, the  $\tau_1$ -self-dual metrically homogeneous graphs given by constraints on triangles have a somewhat similar description.*

# Self-dual metrically homogeneous graphs

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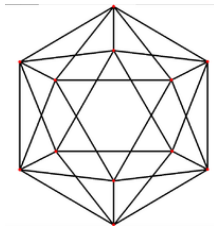
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- *Generic nearly bipartite antipodal (odd cycles appear first at length  $2\lfloor \delta/2 \rfloor + 1$ ).*

Antipodal: involutory symmetry at maximal distance.





# Splitting Theorem

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## Theorem

*Let  $\Gamma$  be one of the known metrically homogeneous graphs of generic type which is  $\tau$ -self-dual ( $\tau = \tau_\epsilon$ ). Then  $\tau$  lifts to an involutory twisted automorphism of  $\Gamma$  if and only if the midpoint or midpoints of the reflected interval in  $[\delta]$  are fixed.*

Concretely:

$$\delta + \epsilon \not\equiv 3 \pmod{4}$$

# The construction

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**Strategy:** This time, build the automorphism and structure at the same time.

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**Strategy:** This time, build the automorphism and structure at the same time.

Midpoint set  $F$ .

Generic automorphism  $\alpha$  of order 2 subject to

$$d(x, x^\alpha) \in F$$

Check amalgamation.

# The construction

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## Question

Can one use the Prague “magic semigroup” to simplify the calculations?

# Why fixed points in the middle?

$\alpha$  involutory twisted automorphism with twist  $\tau$

Suppose midpoints  $K_1, K_2$  are interchanged  
( $\delta + \epsilon \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ ).

Look at the values

$$\begin{aligned} D &= \{d(x, x, \alpha) \mid x \neq x^\alpha\} \\ &= D_0 \cup D_1 \text{ (small/large values, with a gap)} \end{aligned}$$

Splitting  
Twisted  
Automorphism  
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Twisted Auto-  
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Random Edge  
Colorings

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metrically  
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Lifting  
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- $D_0, D_1$  are both non-empty.
- $\exists x_1, x_2$  at distance 2 with  $d(x_i, x_i^\alpha) = K_i + (-1)^i$
- $\exists a$  at distance 1 from  $x_1, x_2$  and at distance  $K_1, K_2$  from  $x_1^\alpha, x_2^\alpha$  respectively.

$$d(a^\alpha, x_1) = K_2 \qquad d(a^\alpha, x_2) = K_1$$

$$d(a, a^\alpha) \in [K_2 - 1, K_1 + 1] \text{ (contradiction)}$$



# $\Lambda$ -ultrametric spaces

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## Definition

If  $\Lambda$  is a finite distributive lattice then there is a generic *generalized ultrametric space*  $U_\Lambda$  with values in  $\Lambda$ .

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## Definition

If  $\Lambda$  is a finite distributive lattice then there is a generic *generalized ultrametric space*  $U_\Lambda$  with values in  $\Lambda$ .

The outer automorphism group of  $U_\Lambda$  is

$$\text{Aut}(\Lambda)$$

This can be any finite group.  
When does this split?

# Summing up

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- 1 What are the relations in general between the following conditions in the binary homogeneous case (or replace 2 by any prime)?
  - Splitting the twisted automorphism group.
  - Lifting involutions.
  - Structure of fixed point sets for involutions.
- 2 Is there a general theory connecting fixed points of twists and some notion of generic automorphism?