

Torsion in  
Groups of  
Finite Morley  
Rank

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Cherlin

Structure  
Theory

Permutation  
Groups

Torsion

# Torsion in Groups of Finite Morley Rank

Gregory Cherlin



Zilber Geometric Model Theory Conference  
March 25-28

## I Connected Groups

- Structure

## II Permutation Groups

- Bounds on Rank

## III Torsion

- Centralizers
- Semisimplicity
- Sylow Theorem
- Weyl Group

Torsion in  
Groups of  
Finite Morley  
Rank

Gregory  
Cherlin

Structure  
Theory

Permutation  
Groups

Torsion

1 Structure Theory

2 Permutation Groups

3 Torsion

# Essential Notions—Generalities

Torsion in  
Groups of  
Finite Morley  
Rank

Gregory  
Cherlin

Structure  
Theory

Permutation  
Groups

Torsion

- Morley rank ( $\text{rk}(X)$ )
- Connected group
$$[G : H] < \infty \implies G = H.$$
$$X, Y \subseteq G \text{ generic} \implies X \cap Y \text{ generic}$$
- $d(X)$ : definable subgroup generated by  $X$ .
- **Fubini**: Zilber-Lascar-Borovik-Poizat

# The Algebraicity Conjecture

## Conjecture (Algebraicity)

$G$ : finite Morley rank, *connected*.

$H$ : maximal connected solvable normal, definable.

$$1 \rightarrow H \rightarrow G \rightarrow \bar{G} \rightarrow 1$$

$\bar{G}$ : a central product of algebraic groups.

Equivalently: The simple groups are algebraic.

Torsion in  
Groups of  
Finite Morley  
Rank

Gregory  
Cherlin

Structure  
Theory

Permutation  
Groups

Torsion

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## Theorem (ABC, 2008)

$$1 \rightarrow U_2(G) \rightarrow G \rightarrow \bar{G} \rightarrow 1$$

$U_2(G)$ :  $1 \rightarrow O_2(G) \rightarrow \prod_i L_i$  (char 2, Altinel's Jugendtraum - and his habilitation - and Wagner's good tori)

$\bar{G}$ : Connected 2-Sylow divisible abelian. ("odd type")

# Odd Type: Torsion

Torsion in  
Groups of  
Finite Morley  
Rank

Gregory  
Cherlin

Structure  
Theory

Permutation  
Groups

Torsion

## Theorem (Degenerate Type)

*If there is no nontrivial connected abelian  $p$ -subgroup, then there is no  $p$ -torsion.*

## Theorem (Burdges-Altinel)

*The centralizer of a divisible torsion subgroup is connected.*

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Torsion in  
Groups of  
Finite Morley  
Rank

Gregory  
Cherlin

Structure  
Theory

Permutation  
Groups

Torsion

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## Corollary

*If there are no  $p$ -unipotent subgroups, then any  $p$ -element which centralizes a maximal divisible  $p$ -subgroup  $T$  lies in  $T$ .*



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Torsion in  
Groups of  
Finite Morley  
Rank

Gregory  
Cherlin

Structure  
Theory

Permutation  
Groups

Torsion

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## Proof.

$T$  the definable hull of a maximal divisible  $p$ -subgroup.

$H = C(T)/T$  connected.

$H$  has no  $p$ -torsion.



Torsion in  
Groups of  
Finite Morley  
Rank

Gregory  
Cherlin

Structure  
Theory

Permutation  
Groups

Torsion

1 Structure Theory

2 Permutation Groups

3 Torsion

# MPOSA

**Definably primitive:** no nontrivial  $G$ -invariant definable equivalence relation.

## Theorem (BC)

*$(G, X)$  definably primitive. Then  $rk(G)$  is bounded by a function of  $rk(X)$ .*

MPOSA = Macpherson-Pillay/O'Nan-Scott-Aschbacher  
A description of the **socle** of a primitive permutation group, and the stabilizer of a point in that socle.

- Affine: The socle  $A$  is abelian and can be identified with the set  $X$  on which  $G$  acts.
- Non-affine: The socle is a product of copies of one simple group.

# Generic multiple transitivity

Torsion in  
Groups of  
Finite Morley  
Rank

Gregory  
Cherlin

Structure  
Theory

Permutation  
Groups

Torsion

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Generic transitivity: one large orbit.

**Generic  $t$ -transitivity:** on  $X^t$ .

Torsion in  
Groups of  
Finite Morley  
Rank

Gregory  
Cherlin

Structure  
Theory

Permutation  
Groups

Torsion

# Generic multiple transitivity

Torsion in  
Groups of  
Finite Morley  
Rank

Gregory  
Cherlin

Structure  
Theory

Permutation  
Groups

Torsion

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Generic transitivity: one large orbit.

**Generic  $t$ -transitivity:** on  $X^t$ .

## Proposition

*$(G, X)$  definably primitive. Then the degree of multiple transitivity of  $G$  is bounded by a function of  $\text{rk}(X)$ .*

(Special case of the theorem, but sufficient.)

# Bounds on $t$

## Proposition

*$(G, X)$  definably primitive, generically  $t$ -transitive. Then  $t$  is bounded by a function of  $\text{rk}(X)$ .*

Torsion in  
Groups of  
Finite Morley  
Rank

Gregory  
Cherlin

Structure  
Theory

Permutation  
Groups

Torsion

# Bounds on $t$

Torsion in  
Groups of  
Finite Morley  
Rank

Gregory  
Cherlin

Structure  
Theory

Permutation  
Groups

Torsion

## Proposition

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**Strategy:** Let  $T$  be a maximal 2-torus.

- 1 Derive an upper bound on the complexity of  $T$  from  $\text{rk}(X)$ ;
- 2 Derive a lower bound on the complexity of  $T$  from  $t$ .



# Bounds on $t$

Torsion in  
Groups of  
Finite Morley  
Rank

Gregory  
Cherlin

Structure  
Theory

Permutation  
Groups

Torsion

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The upper bound:  $\text{rk}(T/O_\infty(T)) \leq \text{rk}(X)$ . This is because the stabilizer of a generic element of  $X$  is torsion-free.

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Torsion in  
Groups of  
Finite Morley  
Rank

Gregory  
Cherlin

Structure  
Theory

Permutation  
Groups

Torsion

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The upper bound:  $\text{rk}(T/O_\infty(T)) \leq \text{rk}(X)$ . This is because the stabilizer of a generic element of  $X$  is torsion-free.

But the lower bound requires attention.

# $t$ and $T$

We want to show that a large degree of generic transitivity ( $t$  large) blows up  $rk(T/T_\infty)$  for  $T$  the definable hull of a 2-torus.

Torsion in  
Groups of  
Finite Morley  
Rank

Gregory  
Cherlin

Structure  
Theory

Permutation  
Groups

Torsion

# $t$ and $T$

We want to show that a large degree of generic transitivity ( $t$  large) blows up  $rk(T/T_\infty)$  for  $T$  the definable hull of a 2-torus.

The group  $G$  will induce the action of  $Sym_t$  on any  $t$  independent generic points.

Trading  $T$  in for a smaller torus, and trading  $t$  in for a smaller value as well (but not too small) we can set this up so that we have:

- a finite group  $\Sigma$  operating on  $T$ , covering  $Sym_t$ ,
- — and sitting inside a connected group  $H$  —
- such that  $T$  is the definable hull of a maximal 2-torus in  $H$ .

Let us simplify considerably.

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Imagine the simplest case:  $Sym_t$  sits inside  $G$  and acts on  $T$ , the definable hull of a maximal 2-torus.

# $t$ and $T$

Torsion in  
Groups of  
Finite Morley  
Rank

Gregory  
Cherlin

Structure  
Theory

Permutation  
Groups

Torsion

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Imagine the simplest case:  $Sym_t$  sits inside  $G$  and acts on  $T$ , the definable hull of a maximal 2-torus.

It seems reasonable that this action can be exploited to blow up  $T$ , and also  $T/T_\infty$ .

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Torsion in  
Groups of  
Finite Morley  
Rank

Gregory  
Cherlin

Structure  
Theory

Permutation  
Groups

Torsion

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It seems reasonable that this action can be exploited to blow up  $T$ , and also  $T/T_\infty$ .

*There is a glaring hole in this argument.*

# Plugging a hole

## The Setup

$T$  inside  $G$ ,

$G$  connected,

$Sym_t$  acts on  $T$ ,

$t$  large,

and  $T$  is the definable hull of a maximal 2-torus.

The problem:

Torsion in  
Groups of  
Finite Morley  
Rank

Gregory  
Cherlin

Structure  
Theory

Permutation  
Groups

Torsion



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The problem: if  $Sym_t$  acts trivially on  $T$ , then this says  
**nothing.**

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But since this configuration is in a connected subgroup of  $G$ , and  $T$  is a maximal 2-torus, the 2-elements of  $Sym_t$  act nontrivially on  $T$ , and the action of  $Alt_t$  is faithful.

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So we are done.

Torsion in  
Groups of  
Finite Morley  
Rank

Gregory  
Cherlin

Structure  
Theory

Permutation  
Groups

Torsion

1 Structure Theory

2 Permutation Groups

3 Torsion

# More results on torsion

Torsion in  
Groups of  
Finite Morley  
Rank

Gregory  
Cherlin

Structure  
Theory

Permutation  
Groups

Torsion

Assume no  $p$ -unipotents.

# More results on torsion

Torsion in  
Groups of  
Finite Morley  
Rank

Gregory  
Cherlin

Structure  
Theory

Permutation  
Groups

Torsion

Assume no  $p$ -unipotents.

- Semisimplicity

If  $G$  is connected, then every  $p$ -element is in a torus.

- Sylow theory

For all primes  $p$

- Weyl groups  $N(T)/T$ .

If the Weyl group is nontrivial, it contains an involution.

(Burdges-Deloro) If the group is minimal simple, the Weyl group is cyclic

# Applications

Torsion in  
Groups of  
Finite Morley  
Rank

Gregory  
Cherlin

Structure  
Theory

Permutation  
Groups

Torsion

- 1 Permutation Groups
- 2 Classification in odd type and low 2-rank
- 3 Bounds on 2-rank revisited?

# Other aspects

- 1 The Borovik Program: Signalizer functor theory, strong embedding, black box group theory . . .
- 2 Burdges unipotence theory and the Bender method
- 3 Generix strikes back [Nesin, Jaligot]
- 4 Conjugacy of Carter subgroups [Frécon]
- 5 Quasithin methods
  - 1 Amalgam method, representation theory (even type)
  - 2 Component analysis (odd type) [Borovik, Altseimer, Burdges]

Torsion in  
Groups of  
Finite Morley  
Rank

Gregory  
Cherlin

Structure  
Theory

Permutation  
Groups

Torsion



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## Desiderata

$L^*$ -group theory in odd type (absolute bounds on 2-rank)

Control of actions of 2-tori on degenerate type groups.  
and

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Bad groups and non-commutative geometry . . . ?