

# Effectivity in Abelian Group Theory

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## Our Concern

- ▶ Effective (computable) processes in algebra.
- ▶ Explicitly goes back to Kronecker (1890's) and Grete Hermann Fields
- ▶ Groups and topology famously Max Dehn around 1910.
- ▶ In particular countable abelian groups, where a lot of work is due to Julia Knight and her co-authors.

## Our Concern

- ▶ Mal'cev 1962 A computable abelian group is **computably presented** if we have  $G = (G, +, 0)$  has  $+$  and  $=$  computable functions/relations on  $G = \mathbb{N}$ .
- ▶ **When** can an abelian group be computably presented? (Relative to an oracle) Is there any reasonable answer?
- ▶ Do different computable presentations have different computable properties?
- ▶ Mal'cev produced examples presentations of  $\mathbb{Q}^\infty$  that were not computably isomorphic, as we see later.
- ▶ Along with Rabin and Frölich and Shepherdson, began the theory of presentations of computable structures, though arguably back to Emmy Noether as recycled in van der Waerden (first edition).
- ▶ See Metakies and Nerode “Effective Content of Field Theory”.

# Why should we care?

- ▶ We are logicians after all, and hence its our calling,....but:
- ▶ If we are interested in actual processes on algebraic structures then surely we need to understand the extent to which they are algorithmic.
- ▶ Effective algorithmics requires **more detailed** understanding of the model theory. Witness the resurrection of the study of invariants despite Hilbert's celebrated "destruction" of the programme. The Hilbert basis (or nulstellensatz) theorem(s) are fine, but suppose we need to **calculate** the relevant basis.
- ▶ Examples of this include the whole edifice of combinatorial group theory. The theory of Gröbner bases etc. Ashenbrunner's Thesis.
- ▶ As we will see a backdoor into establishing classical results about the **existence/nonexistence of invariants** in mathematics. Computability is used to establish classical result.
- ▶ Establishing calibrations of complexity of algebraic constructions.... reverse mathematics.

## While we are on the subject of logic

- ▶ Thanks to Moshe Vardi for this and the next quote (my highlighting).
- ▶ Cosma R. Shalizi, Santa Fe Institute (A famous US think-tank).

*If, in 1901, a talented and sympathetic outsider had been called upon (say by a **granting agency**) to survey the sciences and name a branch that would be the **least fruitful** in the century ahead, his choice might well have settled upon **mathematical logic**, and exceedingly recondite field whose practitioners could all have fit into a small auditorium. It had no practical applications, and not even that much mathematics to show for itself: its crown was an exceedingly obscure definition of cardinal numbers.*



## More recently

- ▶ Martin Davis (1988) Influences of mathematical Logic on Computer Science.

*When I was a student, even the topologists regarded mathematical logicians as living in **outer space**. Today the connections between logic and computers are a matter of **engineering practice** at every level of computer organization.*

- ▶ Yuri Gurevich (Microsoft) quoted as saying engineers need logic not calculus!
- ▶ Read a somewhat dated but wonderful collection in the Bulletin of Symbolic Logic: **On the Unusual Effectiveness of Logic in Computer Science** (Halpern, Harper, Immerman, Kolaitis, and Vardi).
- ▶ Echoes Wigner's 1960 article "The unreasonable effectiveness of mathematics in the natural sciences," and Galileo's "The book of nature is writ in the language of mathematics."

# Computability

- ▶ Primitive notion: **computable**=intuitively computable=Turing computable.
- ▶ Basic Fact: the Halting Problem coded by the set of pairs  $\langle e, j \rangle$ , such that  $\{e \mid \text{the } e\text{-th programme on input } j \text{ halts}\}$  is not computable.
- ▶ Need more subtle notions according to how hard things are to **approximate**
- ▶ For example,  $A$  is computable from the halting problem iff membership of  $A$  can be approximated with only finitely many mistakes for each question: on input  $n$ , we say: yes, no, no, no, no, yes, no... but must come to a final value.
- ▶ For all  $n$ ,  $A(n) = \lim_s f(n, s)$  for a computable  $f$ . 
- ▶ Can do this with the range of functions, but this time get  $\sigma_2^0$  sets. The elements  $f$  gets stuck on.
- ▶ Sometimes how this happens is important.
- ▶ Some approximations are better than others.
- ▶ Also “higher” versions of the halting problem. That is, w  computable given the halting problem as read only memory, as an

# Computable abelian groups

- ▶ Describe computably presentable Abelian groups.

## Theorem (Khisamiev 1970's, Ash-Knight-Oates 1980's)

*A certain characterization of computable reduced abelian  $p$ -groups of finite Ulm type in terms of **limitwise monotonic approximations of functions**.*

- ▶ Recall that a set  $S$  is **limitwise monotonic** iff  $S = \text{ra}(f)$ , i.e. image of  $\lim_s f(\cdot, \cdot)$ , for some computable  $f = f(\cdot, \cdot)$ , where for  $\lim_s f(n, s)$  exists for all  $n$ , and  $f(n, s + 1) \geq f(n, s)$  for all  $s$ .
- ▶ Sometimes the function  $f$  has only elements of  $\omega$  in its range and sometimes for convenience we have  $\infty$  there.
- ▶ Fact: the finite members of the range of one of these functions is a  $\Sigma_2^0$  set.



## Equivalence relations/structures

- ▶ Will be of relevance and interest later.
- ▶  $E$  is a structure with cells  $c_i$  for  $i \in \omega$ . As above, note that they only get bigger.

### Theorem (Calvert, Cenzer, Harizanov, and Morozov 2006)

*An equivalence structure  $\mathcal{E}$  with infinitely many classes is computable if and only if there is a limitwise monotonic function  $F$  (with range  $\omega \cup \{\infty\}$ ) for which there are exactly  $|\{x : F(x) = \kappa\}|$  many classes of size  $\kappa$  (for each  $\kappa \in \omega \cup \{\infty\}$ ) in  $\mathcal{E}$ .*

- ▶ Limitwise monotonic approximations found applications:
- ▶ in computable linear orders (Downey-Khoussainov, Harris, Kach-Turetsky),
- ▶ in computable models of  $\aleph_1$ -categorical theories (Khoussainov, Nies, Shore),
- ▶ in computable equivalence structures (Harizanova et al.),
- ▶ in a characterization of high c.e. degrees (Downey, Kach, Turetsky).
- ▶ Groups as we soon see:

# Ulm's Theorem

- ▶  $A$  is a  $p$ -group if each element has order  $p^n$  for some  $n$ .  $A$  is **reduced** if no element of infinite height. The **height** of  $g$  is the largest  $n$  with  $p^n x = g$  having a solution (or  $\infty$ ).
- ▶ Ulm used this notion to describe invariants for  $p$ -groups in terms of a sequence of ordinals based on the existence of elements of various heights, and dimensions of certain spaces.
- ▶ **Ulm Sequence**  $A_0 = A$ ,  $A^{\alpha+1} = pA^\alpha$ , and for limit  $A^\alpha = \bigcap_{\beta < \alpha} A^\beta$ . There is some  $\alpha = \lambda(A)$  with  $A^\alpha = A^{\alpha+1}$ . This  $\alpha$  is called the **length**
- ▶ Another method of considering this, is to form derivatives. Let  $A'$  denote the elements of  $A$  of finite  $p$ -height. Then form  $A_\alpha = A^{(\alpha+1)}/A^{(\alpha)}$ , etc and the first  $\alpha$  with  $A_{\alpha+1} = A_\alpha$  is called the **type**. Thus is, e.g.  $A$  has type 1, it has length  $\leq \omega$ .
- ▶ If  $A$  is computable then  $\alpha < \omega_1^{CK}$  by general results.

# Ulm Factors

- ▶ The **Ulm Factors**  $A_\alpha$  are easily shown to be sums of finite cyclic groups. Such direct sums can be fully characterized by the sizes of the summands. This gives rise to a sequence of ordinals below  $\nu\omega$  called called the **Ulm sequence**  $u(\alpha)$  for  $\alpha < \lambda(A)$ , the length of  $G$  which is the type times  $\omega$ .
- ▶ Another way, due to Kaplansky, is to think of this follows using the  $A^\alpha$ : Let  $P = \{a \in A \mid pa = 0\}$ . Then  $(A^{\alpha+1} \cap P)/(A^\alpha \cap P)$  can be thought of as a vector space over  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ . The Ulm factor is the dimension of this space, which is a member of  $\omega \cup \{\infty\}$ .

## Theorem (Ulm, 1933)

- ▶ *If  $A$  and  $G$  are isomorphic iff  $A$  and  $G$  have the same Ulm sequences.*
  - ▶ *A sequence  $u(\beta)$  for  $\beta < \alpha$  of countable sequence of elements of  $\omega \cup \{\infty\}$  is the Ulm sequence for a countable reduced abelian group iff (i) if  $\alpha = \beta + 1$ ,  $u(\beta) \neq 0$  and (ii) for any limit  $\beta \leq \alpha$ , there is an increasing  $u(\beta_n) \neq 0$  and  $\beta_n \rightarrow \beta$ .*
- 
- ▶ That is, this sequence of numbers captures the group. The point of the second part is that not every sequence can be an Ulm sequence. For example, there is no sequence of for a  $G$  with length  $\omega + 1$ ,  $u_\omega(G) = 1$ , and  $u_i(G) = 0$  for all  $i < \omega$ .
  - ▶ Now, the question arises, can we use a similar **effective version** of this sequence to capture **computable**  $p$ -groups?
  - ▶ First guess : if we have a uniformly computable sequence of computable ordinals. Then yes, (e.g. Charlotte Lin) but that is peanuts. As in the case of equivalence relations the answer lies in monotonically approximable ordinals.

- ▶ The first step was the following result of Khisamiev which answers the question completely for Ulm type 1 (i.e. of length  $\omega$ ).

### Theorem (Khisamiev)

*Let  $A$  be a direct sum of finite cyclic  $p$ -groups whose orders are unbounded. Then  $A$  has a computable copy iff the following two conditions hold:*

1.  $S(A) = \{(m, k) : \text{at least } k \text{ summands of } A \text{ have order } p^m\}$  is a  $\Sigma_2^0$ -set, and
2.  $\#A = \{m : \mathbb{Z}_{p^m} \text{ is a summand of } A\}$  is limitwise monotonic.

- ▶ This can be extended to **some** Ulm sequences of greater length than  $\omega$  as follows.

## Theorem (Khisamiev; Ash, Knight, Oates)

Let  $A$  be a reduced (abelian)  $p$ -group of Ulm type  $n < \omega$ . Then the following are equivalent:

1.  $A$  has a computable copy;
2.  $A$  can be represented by a “computable  $p$ -basic tree” (next slides); (This is solely due to Ash, Knight, Oates.)
3. (i) For each  $i < n$ , the set  $S(A_i) = \{(m, k) : \text{at least } k \text{ summands of } A_i \text{ are of order } p^m\}$  is  $\Sigma_{2i+2}^0$ , and  
(ii) for every  $i < n$ , the set  $\#A_i = \{m : \mathbb{Z}_{p^m} \text{ is a summand of } A_i\}$  is  $0^{(2i)}$ -limitwise monotonic (i.e.  $\Delta_{2i+1}^0$ ).

- ▶ You should note that item 3, for any computable  $A$  of arbitrary length, the sets  $(A_i)$  are always uniformly  $\Sigma_{2i+2}^0$ , but it is not clear if the sets  $\#A_i$  are also uniformly  $\Delta_{2i+1}^0$ .
- ▶ We remark that **if** we are given any length  $\nu < \omega_1^{CK}$  and the  $\Delta_{2i+1}^0$  functions **uniformly**, then we have a group  $G$  corresponding to the functions, by more or less the same proof.

# Uniformity

- ▶ **Question** (Khisameiv, Ash et al.) Does the characterization hold for types  $\geq \omega$  i.e. lengths ordinals  $\geq \omega^2$ ? If not, what is a possible characterization?
- ▶ The **problem** is that the proof is nonuniform, and works by induction on ordinals below  $\omega^2$ . It appears to lack **uniformity**.

## Theorem (Downey, Menikov, Ng)

- (i) *There is a computable abelian  $p$ -group of Ulm length  $\omega^2$  which does not satisfy the uniform version of Khisameiv-Ash-Knight-Oates theorem. Therefore, their proof can not be pushed up to  $\omega^2$ .*
- (ii) *Specifically, there exists a computable reduced abelian  $p$ -group  $G$  such that there is no uniformly  $\Sigma_{3+2i}^0$ -effective procedure which would guess the index for limitwise monotonic functions for  $\#G_i$ .*



- ▶ Strangely, the proof filters through computable **trees**. Namely a corollary to the proof is the following:

### Corollary

*There exists a computable  $p$ -basic tree such that the computable group it generates has no uniformly  $\Sigma_{3+2}^0$  sequence of monotonic functions.*

- ▶ Laurel Rogers gave an analysis of Ulm's Theorem in TAMS in the 1960's demonstrating that you can obtain it via trees.
- ▶ Question: Is there a computable reduced  $p$ -group with no corresponding computable tree? Conj Yes (Downey), No (Melnikov), No Clue (current state of affairs).

# Rogers' analysis

- ▶  $T = (\omega^{<\omega}, p, \emptyset)$ ,  $p$  predecessor.
- ▶  $G(T)$  via  $\emptyset = 0$ ,  $pa = b$  iff  $p(a) = b$   $b \in G(T)$  represented by  $\sum_{i=1}^n k_i a_i$  with  $a_i \in T$  and  $k_i \in \omega$ .
- ▶ (Rogers) If  $T$  has no infinite branches then  $G(T)$  is a reduced abelian  $p$ -group. The converse is also true.
- ▶ Trees are not unique, but there is an equivalence relation which is  $T_1 \equiv T_2$ , then  $G(T_1) \cong G(T_2)$ , and conversely. Equivalence relation = sequences of "strippings"
- ▶ Example:  $T$  is the tree with one node  $p$  at level 1, and infinitely many successors  $c_k$  such that each is a chain and for each  $n$  there are infinitely many  $c_k$  of length  $\geq n$ .  $\hat{T}$  is the same as  $T$  except that for each  $n$  there is a node  $a_n$  of length 1 with a chain of length  $n$  below it.  $\hat{T}$  stripped them off  $p$ .  $T \equiv \hat{T}$ . Same Ulm invariants.

# The Ash-Knight-Oates proof

- ▶ If  $T$  is computable, so is  $G(T)$ . Open : Converse?
- ▶ The Ash, Knight, Oates proof shows how to construct a computable tree from the given information. I could not understand the Khisamiev proof.
- ▶ Thus it is conceivable that we could construct a computable tree  $T$  for a group  $G$  in some other way. So the question of trees and invariants are distinct.
- ▶ This is what is done in the Downey-Melnikov-Ng paper with an iterated  $\mathbf{0}'''$  argument and lots of algebra.

## A minor victory

- ▶ The framework we used has other applications.

- ▶ Calvert, Cenzer, Harizanov, and Morozov asked

Let  $G$  be a computable abelian  $p$ -group isomorphic to  $D \oplus H$ , where  $D$  is a direct sum of finitely many copies of the Prüfer group, and  $H$  is a direct sum of cyclic summands of unbounded orders. Can  $G$  be  $\Delta_2^0$ -categorical? (Soon to be discussed; meaning that all copies of the group are isomorphic via an isomorphism computable from the halting problem..)

### Theorem (DMN)

*Let  $G$  be a computable  $p$ -group of finite Ulm type  $n$ , such that: (i)*

*$G^{(n)} = \bigoplus_{i \leq m} \mathbb{Z}_{p^i}$ , for some  $m < \omega$ ;*

*(ii) orders of cyclic summands in  $G_{n-1}$  are not bounded. Then  $G$  is not  $\Delta_{2n}^0$ -categorical.*

## Another minor victory

- ▶ A positive example (not using the trees):
- ▶ **Problem** [Khisamiev 1990's] Describe computable groups of the form  $\bigoplus_{p \in P} Q^{(p)}$ , where  $P$  is a set of primes, and  $Q^{(p)} = \{ \frac{n}{p^k} : n \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ and } k \in \mathbb{N} \}$ .

### Theorem (Khisamiev 2002)

*The group  $G_P$  is computable with some extra condition if and only if  $P$  is not in a certain proper subclass of hh-immune sets.*

### Theorem (Downey, Goncharov, Knight et al. 2010)

*The group  $G_P$  is computable if and only if  $P$  is  $\Sigma_3^0$ .*

# Computable Categoricity

- ▶ The effective classification tool.
- ▶ A computable structure  $\mathcal{A}$  is computably categorical iff for all  $\mathcal{B} \cong \mathcal{A}$ ,  $\mathcal{A} \cong_{\text{computable}} \mathcal{B}$ .
- ▶ **relatively** if it works for all oracles.
- ▶ There is a longstanding program to understand the relationship between  $\cong$ ,  $\cong_{\text{comp}}$ , classical structure of  $\mathcal{A}$  and logical structure of  $\mathcal{A}$  in terms of definability.
- ▶ These all also have “higher up” versions, like  $\Delta_{\alpha}^0$  categoricity, definability etc.
- ▶ Isomorphism types of finite structures are defined by first order formulae. For countable structures we have Scott’s Theorem which uses infinitary formulae for the same purpose. Is there an analog?

# Goncharov's Theorem

## Theorem (Goncharov, 1975)

*If  $\mathcal{A}$  is 2-decidable, then  $\mathcal{A}$  is computable cat iff it is relatively computably cat iff it has an effective naming, that is a c.e. Scott family of existential formulae with parameters  $\bar{c}$ , such that for all  $\bar{a}, \bar{b}$  if they satisfy the same  $\phi$ , then they are automorphic.*

- ▶ The 2-decidable is necessary here.

## Theorem (Kudinov)

*There is a 1-decidable structure that is computably categorical but not relatively computably categorical.*

- ▶ The proof I know uses “isomorphism pressing” and is a  $\Pi_2^0$  argument, essentially.

## More Recent Metatheorems

Theorem (Downey, Kach, Lempp, Turetsky-Fund. Math)

*If  $\mathcal{A}$  is 1-decidable and it is computably cat, then it is relatively  $\Delta_2^0$  cat, as it has a  $\Sigma_2$  Scott family.*

Theorem (Downey, Kach, Lempp, Lewis, Montalbán, Turetsky-submitted J. European Math. Soc.)

*For each  $\alpha < \omega_1^{CK}$  there is a computably cat  $\mathcal{A}$  which is not relatively  $\Delta_\alpha^0$  cat.*

Corollary

*The index set of computably categorical structures is  $\Pi_1^1$  complete.*

(more later)



## Example-Equivalence relations

- ▶ Computationally cat equivalence structures are rare. Basically finitary.

### Theorem (Calvert, Cenzer, Harizanov, Morozov)

*A computable equivalence relation is comput. cat iff*

1. *it has only finitely many finite cells, or*
2. *has finitely many infinite classes, **bounded character**, and at most one finite  $k > 0$  with infinitely many equivalence classes of size  $k$ .*

- ▶ **character**  $\chi(E) = \{\langle n, k \rangle \mid E \text{ has at least } n \text{ classes of size } \geq k.\$   
**bounded** if  $k$  is bounded.
- ▶ More interesting we look at  $\Delta_2^0$  categoricity. General classification seems hard.

## Case study: coding a set

- ▶ The singleton case is interesting.

### Definition

For a set  $X \subset \omega$ , let  $E(X)$  be an equivalence structure with  $\omega$ -many infinite classes and exactly one class of size  $n$  for each  $n \in X$ .

Say that an infinite  $\Sigma_2^0$  set  $X$  is **categorical** if the computable  $E(X)$  is  $\Delta_2^0$ -categorical.

- ▶ There are infinite  $X$  which are categorical.
- ▶ If an infinite  $\Sigma_2^0$  set  $X$  is limitwise monotonic then  $X$  is not categorical.
- ▶ There exists an infinite set which is not categorical and not limitwise monotonic.
- ▶ The general intuition is that being not categorical is a “non-uniform version” of being limitwise monotonic.
- ▶ **Question** How much do these notions differ?

## Categoricity bounding vs. (non-)l.m. bounding

- ▶ Being limitwise monotonic is not a degree-invariant property. The same is true about being categorical.
- ▶ Which c.e. degrees bound a categorical set?

### Theorem (Downey, Melnikov, Ng)

*For a c.e. degree  $\mathbf{a}$ , the following are equivalent:*

- 1.  $\mathbf{a}$  is high (i.e.  $\mathbf{a}' = \mathbf{0}''$ ).*
- 2. There exists an infinite categorical set  $X \leq_T \mathbf{a}$ .*
- 3. (Downey, Kach, Turetsky) There exists an infinite  $X \leq_T \mathbf{a}$  such that  $X$  is not limitwise monotonic.*

- ▶ Thus, c.e. degrees do not see the difference. The proof of  $1 \Leftrightarrow 2$  has nothing to do with limitwise monotonicity.

# The general case of multi-sets

- ▶ **Question** Can we at least reduce the general problem to the set case (remove repetitions)?
- ▶ Given an equivalence structure  $E$ , remove repetitions of finite classes from  $E$ . Call the resulting  $E_0$  the **condensation** of  $E$ .

## Theorem (DMN)

*If  $E$  is  $\Delta_2^0$ -categorical, then its condensation is  $\Delta_2^0$ -categorical as well.*

- ▶ We **think** we have a proof of the converse.

# Back to groups

## Definition (Multi-cyclic groups)

A multi-cyclic group is a direct sum of cyclic ( $\mathbb{Z}_{p^n}$ ) and quasi-cyclic ( $\mathbb{Z}_{p^\infty}$ ) abelian  $p$ -groups.

## Theorem

*A multi-cyclic group with infinitely many infinite quasi-cyclic summands is effectively  $\Delta_2^0$ -categorical if, and only if, the naturally associated equivalence structure is effectively  $\Delta_2^0$ -categorical.*

## Corollary

*There exists a  $\Delta_2^0$ -categorical multi-cyclic group having infinitely many quasi-cyclic summands. (Answers a question left open by CCHM)*

# Multi-cyclic groups

- ▶ Comments on the proof:
  1. (Uniform)  $\Delta_2^0$ -categoricity in such groups is regulated by the complexity of height-function. (The proof uses a refinement of the first half of Kaplansky's book.)
  2. We don't know if the theorem holds for plain  $\Delta_2^0$ -categoricity (conjecture: no).
  3. A direct proof of the Corollary, without using the Theorem, would be problematic.
- ▶ (Remark) In the context of c.e. degrees, effective  $\Delta_2^0$ -categoricity bounding is equivalent to being complete (a pretty proof).

# Categoricity questions for abelian groups

- ▶ When we specialize to specific structures within which it is hard to code graphs questions become more complex. You actually have to do some algebra!
- ▶ This is not too hard if you have torsion, and in particular  $p$ -groups.
- ▶ These have proven useful in lots of areas,  $\aleph_1$  categorical theories, equivalence relations, linear orderings, etc.

## Theorem (Goncharov, Smith)

*A computable  $p$ -group is computably categorical iff it can be written in one of the following forms.*

1.  $(\mathbb{Z}(p^\infty))^\ell \oplus G$  for  $\ell \in \omega \cup \{\infty\}$  and  $G$  finite;
2.  $(\mathbb{Z}(p^\infty))^n \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_{p^k})^\infty \oplus G$  where  $G$  is finite, and  $n, k \in \omega$ .

- ▶ (Calvert-Cenzer-Harizanov-Morozov) A p-group is computably categorical iff it is uniformly computably categorical (and hence iff relatively computably categorical) (and hence has a simple algebraic structure by results of Goncharov-Smith)
- ▶ We remark that this phenomenon (uniform=nonuniform) is kind of rare.
- ▶ The **reason** is that the uniform cases can be dealt with by **forcing** whereas the non-uniform ones use priority arguments.
- ▶ Example: The **algorithmic dimension** of a structure  $\mathcal{A}$  is the number of computable isomorphism types it has. Goncharov showed that finite dimensions are possible. Ash-Knight-Manasse-Slaman, and Chisholm showed that only 1 and  $\infty$  are possible in the relative case.



# Torsion-Free Abelian Groups

- ▶ Here we will study torsion-free abelian groups. That is, they have no elements  $z$  with  $z^n$  trivial.
- ▶ Some kind of good behaviour.

## Theorem (Khisamiev)

*If  $G$  is a computable torsion free abelian group then  $G$  can be effectively embedded as a additive subgroup of a computable copy of  $\oplus \mathbb{Q}$ .*

## Theorem (Khisamiev)

*Every  $\Pi_{n+1}^0$  presentable torsion-free abelian group is isomorphic to one which is  $\Delta_n^0$ -presentable. In particular, each  $\Pi_1^0$  presentable torsion-free abelian group is isomorphic to one with a solvable word problem.*

- ▶ In general the isomorphism problem is very complex:

## Theorem (Downey and Montalbán)

*The isomorphism problem for torsion-free abelian groups is  $\Sigma_1^1$  complete.*

# What is $\Sigma_1^1$ -completeness?

- ▶ The halting problem is  $\Sigma_1^0$ . This means it can be described by an existential quantifier on numbers around a computable predicate. “There is a stage  $s$  where the  $e$ -th machine with input  $y$  halts in at most  $s$  steps”
- ▶ Notice that here we are quantifying over the countable number of stages.
- ▶ Showing that a problem  $A$  is  $\Sigma_1^0$  complete means that there is a computable  $f$  such that for each instance  $I$  of a  $\Sigma_1^0$  problem  $B$ , I can compute  $f(I)$  which is an instance of  $A$  such that  $I$  is a yes for  $B$  iff  $f(I)$  is a yes for  $A$ .  $A$  is the “most complex”  $\Sigma_1^0$  problem.
- ▶ Such transformations are common in maths. Think about deciding if a matrix is invertible using determinants.
- ▶ If a problem can be expressed as a finite number of alternations of number quantifiers, it is called **arithmetical**, “ $\Delta_n^0$ ” for some  $n$ .
- ▶ Some problems are too complex for this. Classical isomorphism of infinite structures: “There is a function such that ....”
- ▶ If we allow **function** quantifiers, we put a “1” on top.

## Consequences of $\Sigma_1^1$ -completeness

- ▶ The idea of an invariant is that is ought to make the problem simpler.
- ▶ Classical isomorphism is always  $\Sigma_1^1$ .
- ▶ Invariants make this easier, you would expect. Dimension in a vector space makes the problem  $\Delta_3^0$ .
- ▶ The point is that a  $\Sigma_1^1$ -**completeness result** means that the **cannot** be reasonable invariants for the isomorphism problem.
- ▶ As explained in the DM paper, group theorists try to understand finitely presented groups via spectral sequences, one called the **integral homology sequence** (Stallings etc)
- ▶ The above result, combined with one of Baumslag, Dyer and Miller shows that deciding if two finitely presented groups have the same **3rd** members of this sequence is already  $\Sigma_1^1$  complete!!
- ▶ This methodology understands invariant theory **computationally**.
- ▶ There are other programmes like this as we now will see.

# The Borel game

- ▶ This is related to work by the descriptive set theorists who seek to have a notion of **Borel cardinality** for isomorphism types.
- ▶ One class  $\mathcal{C}$  is reducible to another  $\mathcal{D}$  if there is a Borel mapping injectively taking the isomorphism types of  $\mathcal{C}$  into  $\mathcal{D}$ .
- ▶ For example, rank 3 torsion free groups are above rank 2 groups here.
- ▶ H. Friedman, Kechris, Thomas, Hjorth etc.
- ▶ Also miniaturized recently by Knight and her co-authors.

## Better algebraic classes

- ▶ The idea is to look at algebraically more tractable classes; this is what is done classically anyway.
- ▶ Recall that if  $G$  is a torsion-free then  $G$  embeds into  $\bigoplus_{i \in F} (\mathbb{Q}, +)$ . The cardinality of the least such  $F$  is called the (Prüfer) rank of  $G$ .
- ▶ Khisamiev proved that there is an effective embedding.

# Rank One Groups

- ▶ The only groups we understand well are the rank one groups (and certain mild generalizations) If  $g \in G$ , define  $t(g) = (a_1, a_2, \dots)$  where  $a_i \in \{\infty\} \cup \omega$  and represents the maximum number of times  $p_i$  divides  $g$ . Say that  $t(g) = t(h)$  if they are  $=^*$ , meaning that they must be  $\infty$  in the same places, but otherwise are finitely often different. Thus we can write  $t(G)$ .
- ▶ For example, a divisible group would have  $(\infty, \infty, \dots)$  as its type.

## Theorem (Baer, Levi)

*For rank 1 torsion-free abelian groups,  $G \cong H$  iff they have the same type.*

- ▶ One corollary is that if we consider  $T(G) = \{\langle x, y \rangle \mid x \leq t(G)_y\}$ , then  $G$  is computably presentable iff  $T(G)$  is c.e.. (Mal'tsev)

## Two Corollaries

- ▶  $G$  is a computably categorical torsion-free abelian group iff it has finite rank.

### Definition

A structure  $\mathcal{A}$  has a **degree** iff  $\min\{\deg(\mathcal{B}) \mid \mathcal{B} \cong \mathcal{A}\}$  exists.

- ▶ Strictly speaking, we would mean the isomorphism type here.
- ▶ (Jockusch) Can define **jump degree** by replacing  $\deg(\mathcal{B})$  by  $\deg(\mathcal{B})'$ . The same for  $\alpha$ -th jump degree. **Proper** if no  $\beta$ -th jump degree for  $\beta < \alpha$ .
- ▶ (Coles, Downey and Slaman) Every torsion free abelian group of finite rank has first jump degree.
- ▶ This is a computability-theoretic interpretation of Baer-Levi.
- ▶ (Anderson, Kach, Melnikov, Solomon) For each computable  $\alpha$  and  $\mathbf{a} > \mathbf{0}^\alpha$  there is a torsion-free abelian group with proper  $\alpha$ -th jump degree  $\mathbf{a}$ .

## The infinite rank case

- ▶ It could be hoped that if  $G$  has infinite rank, then  $G \cong \bigoplus_{i \in \omega} H_i$  with  $H_i$  of rank one.
- ▶ **Alas**, this is not true, **however**, there is a class of groups for which this is true, called **completely decomposable** for which this does happen.
- ▶ What about categoricity for such groups?
- ▶ We cannot hope for **computable** categoricity, but can hope for things “higher up” .



# The homogeneous case

- ▶ If  $G \cong \bigoplus H$  for a fixed  $H$  then  $G$  is called **homogeneous**

## Theorem (Downey and Melnikov)

*Homogeneous computable torsion free abelian groups are  $\Delta_3^0$  categorical.*

- ▶ The proof relies on a new notion of independence called  $S$ -independence generalizing a notion of Fuchs to sets  $S$  of primes.
- ▶  $B$ , a set of elements, is  $S$ -independent (in  $G$ ) iff for all  $p \in S$  and  $b_1, \dots, b_k \in G$ ,

$$p \mid \sum_{i=1}^k m_i b_i \text{ implies } p \mid m_i \text{ for all } i.$$

- ▶ This bound is tight.

## But when can it be $\Delta_2^0$ categorical?

- ▶ Recall that a set  $S$  is called **semilow** if  $\{e \mid W_e \cap S \neq \emptyset\} \leq \emptyset'$ .
- ▶ Semilow sets allow for a certain kind of local guessing, and arose in (i) automorphisms of the lattice of computably enumerable sets (Soare) and in (ii) computational complexity as non-speedable ones. (Soare, Blum-Marques, etc.)

### Theorem (Downey and Melnikov)

*$G$  is  $\Delta_2^0$  categorical iff the type of  $H$  consists of only 0's and  $\infty$ 's and the position of the 0's is semilow.*

- ▶ The proof is tricky and splits into 5 cases depending on “settling times”.
- ▶ We remark that this is one of the very few known examples of when  $\Delta_2^0$  categoricity of structures has been classified.

# The general completely decomposable case

## Theorem (Downey and Melnikov)

*A completely decomposable  $G$  is  $\Delta_5^0$  categorical. The bound is tight.*


The proof uses methods from the homogeneous case, plus some new ideas. The sharpness is a coding argument. For sharpness we use copies of  $\bigoplus_{i \in \omega} \mathbb{Z} \oplus \bigoplus_{i \in \omega} \mathbb{Q}^{(p)} \oplus \bigoplus_{i \in \omega} \mathbb{Q}^{(q)}$ , where  $p \neq q$  primes and  $\mathbb{Q}^{(r)}$  denotes the additive group of the localization of  $\mathbb{Z}$  by  $r$ . Then a relation  $\theta$  on this group which is decidable in one copy and very bad in another.

With some extra work we can also prove the following. We don't know if the bound is sharp here.

## Corollary (Downey and Melnikov)

*The index set of completely decomposable groups is  $\Sigma_7^0$ .*

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Thank You