Geometry of involutions in ranked groups

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$SO_3(\mathbb{R})$ vs $PGL_2(\mathbb{C})$ An inner-geometric dividing line

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 - The action of $PGL_2(\mathbb{C})$ on the completed plane is in fact isomorphic to the one obtained from projectivizing the adjoint representation.
- The geometries can more-or-less be reconstructed from the properties of the subgroup *C*. This is the main point we want to explore.

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$SO_3(\mathbb{R})$ vs $PGL_2(\mathbb{C})$ A model-theoretic dividing line



















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• Our focus—though not evident at the outset—will be on groups with $pr_2(G) = 1$, similar to $PGL_2(\mathbb{C})$ (and $SO_3(\mathbb{R})$). This includes a particularly persistent potential counterexample to the Algebraicity Conjecture.

Algebraicity Conjecture: every simple group of fMr is algebraic over an ACF.

Theorem (Altınel-Borovik-Cherlin—2008)

The Algebraicity Conjecture is true for those groups with an infinite elementary abelian 2-subgroup.

- Thus, a counterexample to the conjecture has m₂(G) < ∞.
- In fact, a minimal counterexample to the conjecture has pr₂(G) ≤ 3.

• $\operatorname{pr}_2(G)$ is the maximal k such that $\bigoplus_k Z(2^\infty) \leq G$

- Our focus—though not evident at the outset—will be on groups with $pr_2(G) = 1$, similar to $PGL_2(\mathbb{C})$ (and $SO_3(\mathbb{R})$). This includes a particularly persistent potential counterexample to the Algebraicity Conjecture.
- In general, the less 2-torsion a group has, the harder it becomes to analyze by "standard/generic" methods.

Geometry of involutions in quasi-Frobenius groups

Joshua Wiscons

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In fact, 1. \implies (2. \iff 2.' conjugates of *C* generically cover *G*.)

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 - this implies C = C[◦]_G(i), N_G(C) = C_G(i), and N_G(C) = C ⋊ ω with ω inverting C (as in SO₃(ℝ) and PGL₂(ℂ))

Both SO₃(\mathbb{R}) and PGL₂(\mathbb{C}) satisfy all of the <u>group-theoretic</u> conditions in our Global Hypotheses (as well as [$N_G(C) : C$] = 2). However, there is a difference:

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Corollary (Borovik-Burdges)

If $G \leq GL_n(K)$ is simple, definable, but not Zariski closed for K of fMr in characteristic 0, then G has no involutions.

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Step 3: the geometry—but not just a plane: a 3-space

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That it is genuine hinges on the conjugates of C genuinely covering G.

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- Hilbert: $\Gamma \simeq \mathbb{P}^3(\mathbb{K})$ with \mathbb{K} definable, so \mathbb{K} is algebraically closed
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- Note: *C* is abelian, so \overline{C} (its closure in PGL₃(\mathbb{K})) is as well
- **Borel:** \overline{C} (hence *C*) has a fixed point in it's action on $\mathbb{P}^3(\mathbb{K})$

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- G acts (regularly!) on Γ by left multiplication, so G ≤ Aut(Γ) = PGL₃(K)
- Note: *C* is abelian, so \overline{C} (its closure in PGL₃(\mathbb{K})) is as well
- Borel: \overline{C} (hence C) has a fixed point in it's action on $\mathbb{P}^3(\mathbb{K})$
- But the action is regular.
Proof sketch

Aside

This construction works in both $SO_3(\mathbb{R})$ and $PGL_2(\mathbb{C})$.

- It turns $SO_3(\mathbb{R})$ into a 3-dimensional projective space.
- It turns PGL₂(C) into a generically defined 3-dimensional projective space.

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Step 4: Contradiction.

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- But the action is regular. Contradiction.

Final thoughts

Let G be a connected group of fMr with $0 < m_2(G) < \infty$. Suppose G is quasi-Frobenius with respect to C < G. Then the conjugates of C do <u>not</u> contain all SR elements of G.

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 - To be realistic, we need to assume G is not honestly Frobenius

Let G be a connected group of fMr with $0 < m_2(G) < \infty$. Suppose G is a nonsolvable quasi-Frobenius group with respect to C < G. If C is solvable and $[N_G(C) : C] = 2$, then either C is a maximal connected solvable of G or $G \cong PGL_2(K)$.

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- So what might this be working towards...

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Let G be a connected group of fMr with $0 < m_2(G) < \infty$. Suppose G is a nonsolvable quasi-Frobenius group with respect to C < G. Also assume a level of modesty: $[N_G(C) : C]$ is even. Then $G \cong PGL_2(K)$.

Moreover, in a suitable 'dimensional' setting (generalizing the fMr and o-minimal contexts), one still finds nice recognition of G, including now $PGL_2(K)$, $SO_3(\mathcal{R})$, and other related groups.

Thank You