

A FIRST-ORDER THEORY OF ULM TYPE

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ABSTRACT. The class of abelian p -groups are an example of some very interesting phenomena in computable structure theory. We will give an elementary first-order theory T_p whose models are each bi-interpretable with the disjoint union of an abelian p -group and a pure set (and so that every abelian p -group is bi-interpretable with a model of T_p) using computable infinitary formulas. This answers a question of Knight by giving an example of an elementary first-order theory of “Ulm type”: Any two models, low for ω_1^{CK} , and with the same computable infinitary theory, are isomorphic. It also gives a new example of an elementary first-order theory whose isomorphism problem is Σ_1^1 -complete but not Borel complete.

1. INTRODUCTION

The class of abelian p -groups is a well-studied example in computable structure theory. A simple compactness argument shows that abelian p -groups are not axiomatizable by an elementary first-order theory, but they are definable by the conjunction of the axioms for abelian groups (which are first-order $\forall\exists$ sentences) and the infinitary Π_2^0 sentence which says that every element is torsion of order some power of p .

Abelian p -groups are classifiable by their Ulm sequences [Ulm33]. Due to this classification, abelian p -groups are examples of some very interesting phenomena in computable structure theory and descriptive set theory. We will define a theory T_p whose models behave like the class of abelian p -groups, giving a first-order example of these phenomena. In particular, Theorem 1.6 below answers a question of Knight. Unfortunately, the techniques used do not seem to be able to be generalized much beyond p -groups.

1.1. Infinitary Formulas. The infinitary logic $\mathcal{L}_{\omega_1\omega}$ is the logic which allows countably infinite conjunctions and disjunctions but only finite quantification. If the conjunctions and disjunctions of a formula φ are all over computable sets of indices for formulas, then we say that φ is computable. We use $\Sigma_\alpha^{\text{in}}$ and Π_α^{in} to denote the classes of all infinitary Σ_α and Π_α formulas respectively. We will also use Σ_α^c and Π_α^c to denote the classes of computable Σ_α and Π_α formulas, where $\alpha < \omega_1^{CK}$ the least non-computable ordinal. See Chapter 6 of [AK00] for a more complete description of computable formulas.

1.2. Bi-Interpretability. One way in which we will see that the models of T_p are essentially the same as abelian p -group is using bi-interpretations using infinitary formulas [Mon, HTMMM, HTMM]. A structure \mathcal{A} is infinitary interpretable in a structure \mathcal{B} if there is an interpretation of \mathcal{A} in \mathcal{B} where the domain of the interpretation is allowed to be a subset of $\mathcal{B}^{<\omega}$ and where all of the sets in the interpretation are definable using infinitary formulas. This differs from the classical

notion of interpretation, as in model theory [Mar02, Definition 1.3.9], where the domain is required to be a subset of \mathcal{B}^n for some n , and the sets in the interpretation are first-order definable.

Definition 1.1. We say that a structure $\mathcal{A} = (A; P_0^{\mathcal{A}}, P_1^{\mathcal{A}}, \dots)$ (where $P_i^{\mathcal{A}} \subseteq A^{a(i)}$) is *infinitary interpretable* in \mathcal{B} if there exists a sequence of relations $(\text{Dom}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}}, \sim, R_0, R_1, \dots)$, definable using infinitary formulas (from $\mathcal{L}_{\omega_1\omega}$, in the language of \mathcal{B} , without parameters), such that

- (1) $\text{Dom}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}} \subseteq \mathcal{B}^{<\omega}$,
- (2) \sim is an equivalence relation on $\text{Dom}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}}$,
- (3) $R_i \subseteq (\mathcal{B}^{<\omega})^{a(i)}$ is closed under \sim within $\text{Dom}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}}$,

and there exists a function $f_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}}: \text{Dom}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ which induces an isomorphism:

$$(\text{Dom}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}} / \sim; R_0 / \sim, R_1 / \sim, \dots) \cong (A; P_0^{\mathcal{A}}, P_1^{\mathcal{A}}, \dots),$$

where R_i / \sim stands for the \sim -collapse of R_i .

Two structures \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} are infinitary bi-interpretable if they are each effectively interpretable in the other, and moreover, the composition of the interpretations—i.e., the isomorphisms which map \mathcal{A} to the copy of \mathcal{A} inside the copy of \mathcal{B} inside \mathcal{A} , and \mathcal{B} to the copy of \mathcal{B} inside the copy of \mathcal{A} inside \mathcal{B} —are definable.

Definition 1.2. Two structures \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} are *infinitary bi-interpretable* if there are infinitary interpretations of each structure in the other as in Definition 1.1 such that the compositions

$$f_{\mathcal{B}}^{\mathcal{A}} \circ \tilde{f}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}}: \text{Dom}_{\mathcal{B}}^{(\text{Dom}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}})} \rightarrow \mathcal{B} \quad \text{and} \quad f_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}} \circ \tilde{f}_{\mathcal{B}}^{\mathcal{A}}: \text{Dom}_{\mathcal{A}}^{(\text{Dom}_{\mathcal{B}}^{\mathcal{A}})} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$$

are $\mathcal{L}_{\omega_1\omega}$ -definable in \mathcal{B} and \mathcal{A} respectively. (Here, we have $\text{Dom}_{\mathcal{B}}^{(\text{Dom}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}})} \subseteq (\text{Dom}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}})^{<\omega}$, and $\tilde{f}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}}: (\text{Dom}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}})^{<\omega} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}^{<\omega}$ is the obvious extension of $f_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}}: \text{Dom}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ mapping $\text{Dom}_{\mathcal{B}}^{(\text{Dom}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\mathcal{B}})}$ to $\text{Dom}_{\mathcal{B}}^{\mathcal{A}}$.)

If we ask that the sets and relations in the interpretation (or bi-interpretation) be (uniformly) relatively intrinsically computable, i.e., definable by both a Σ_1^c formula and a Π_1^c formula, then we say that the interpretation (or bi-interpretation) is effective. Any two structures which are effectively bi-interpretable have all of the same computability-theoretic properties; for example, they have the same degree spectra and the same Scott rank. See [Mon, Lemma 5.3].

Here, we will use interpretations which use (lightface) Δ_2^c formulas. It is no longer true that any two structures which are Δ_2^c -bi-interpretable have all of the same computability-theoretic properties, but it is true, for example, that any two such structures either both have computable, or both have non-computable, Scott rank.

Theorem 1.3. *Each abelian p -group is effectively bi-interpretable with a model of T_p . Each model of T_p is Δ_2^c -bi-interpretable with the disjoint union of an abelian p -group and a pure set.*

This theorem will follow from the constructions in Sections 3 and 4. Given a model \mathcal{M} of T_p , \mathcal{M} is bi-interpretable with an abelian p -group G and a pure set. The domain of the copy of G inside of \mathcal{M} is definable by a Σ_1^c formula but not by a Π_1^c formula. This is the only part of the bi-interpretation which is not effective.

1.3. Classification via Ulm Sequences. Let G be an abelian group. For any ordinal α , we can define $p^\alpha G$ —the image of the multiplication-by- p map iterated α times—by transfinite induction:

- $p^0 G = G$;
- $p^{\alpha+1} G = p(p^\alpha G)$;
- $p^\beta G = \bigcap_{\alpha < \beta} p^\alpha G$ if β is a limit ordinal.

These subgroups $p^\alpha G$ form a filtration of G . This filtration stabilizes, and we call the smallest ordinal α such that $p^\alpha G = p^{\alpha+1} G$ the length of G . We call the intersection $p^\infty G$ of these subgroups, which is a p -divisible group, the p -divisible part of G . Any countable p -divisible group is isomorphic to some (possibly infinite) direct product of copies of the Prüfer group

$$\mathbb{Z}(p^\infty) = \mathbb{Z}[1/p, 1/p^2, 1/p^3, \dots]/\mathbb{Z}.$$

Denote by $G[p]$ the subgroup of G consisting of the p -torsion elements. The α th Ulm invariant $u_\alpha(G)$ of G is the dimension of the quotient

$$(p^\alpha G)[p] / (p^{\alpha+1} G)[p]$$

as a vector space over $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$.

Theorem 1.4 (Ulm’s Theorem, see [Fuc70]). *Let G and H be countable abelian p -groups such that for every ordinal α their α th Ulm invariants are equal, and the p -divisible parts of G and H are isomorphic. Then G and H are isomorphic.*

1.4. Scott Rank and Computable Infinitary Theories. Scott [Sco65] showed that if \mathcal{M} is a countable structure, then there is a sentence φ of $\mathcal{L}_{\omega_1\omega}$ such that \mathcal{M} is, up to isomorphism, the only countable model of φ . We call such a sentence a Scott sentence for \mathcal{M} . There are many different definitions [AK00, Sections 6.6 and 6.7] of the Scott rank of \mathcal{M} , which differ only slightly in the ranks they assign. The one we will use, which comes from [Mon15], defines the Scott rank of \mathcal{A} to be the least ordinal α such that \mathcal{A} has a $\Pi_{\alpha+1}^{\text{in}}$ Scott sentence. We denote the Scott rank of a structure \mathcal{A} by $\text{SR}(\mathcal{A})$. It is always the case that $\text{SR}(\mathcal{A}) \leq \omega_1^{\mathcal{A}} + 1$ [Nad74]. We could just as easily use any of the other definitions of Scott rank; for all of these definitions, given a computable structure \mathcal{A} :

- (1) \mathcal{A} has computable Scott rank if and only if there is a computable ordinal α such that for all tuples \bar{a} in \mathcal{A} , the orbit of \bar{a} is defined by a computable Σ_α formula.
- (2) \mathcal{A} has Scott rank ω_1^{CK} if and only if for each tuple \bar{a} , the orbit is defined by a computable infinitary formula, but for each computable ordinal α , there is a tuple \bar{a} whose orbit is not defined by a computable Σ_α formula.
- (3) \mathcal{A} has Scott rank $\omega_1^{CK} + 1$ if and only if there is a tuple \bar{a} whose orbit is not defined by a computable infinitary formula.

Given a structure \mathcal{M} , define the computable infinitary theory of \mathcal{M} , $\text{Th}_\infty(\mathcal{M})$, to be collection of computable $\mathcal{L}_{\omega_1\omega}$ sentences true of \mathcal{M} . We can ask, for a given structure \mathcal{M} , whether $\text{Th}_\infty(\mathcal{M})$ is \aleph_0 -categorical, or whether there are other countable models of $\text{Th}_\infty(\mathcal{M})$. For \mathcal{M} a hyperarithmetic structure:

- (1) If $\text{SR}(\mathcal{M}) < \omega_1^{CK}$, then $\text{Th}_\infty(\mathcal{M})$ is \aleph_0 -categorical. Indeed, \mathcal{M} has a computable Scott sentence [Nad74].
- (2) If $\text{SR}(\mathcal{M}) = \omega_1^{CK}$, then $\text{Th}_\infty(\mathcal{M})$ may or may not be \aleph_0 -categorical [HTIK].

- (3) If $\text{SR}(\mathcal{M}) = \omega_1^{CK} + 1$, then $\text{Th}_\infty(\mathcal{M})$ is not \aleph_0 -categorical as \mathcal{M} has a non-principal type (in $\mathcal{L}_{\omega_1\omega}$) which may be omitted.

In the case of abelian p -groups, we can say something even when we replace the assumption that \mathcal{M} is hyperarithmetic with the assumption that $\omega_1^G = \omega_1^{CK}$.

Definition 1.5 (Definition 6 of [FKM⁺11]). A class of countable structures has *Ulm type* if for any two structures \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} in the class, if $\omega_1^{\mathcal{A}} = \omega_1^{\mathcal{B}} = \omega_1^{CK}$ and $\text{Th}_\infty(\mathcal{A}) = \text{Th}_\infty(\mathcal{B})$, then \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} are isomorphic.

It is well-known that abelian p -groups are of Ulm type; however, we do not know of a good reference with a complete proof, so we will give one in Section 2. We also note that there are indeed non-hyperarithmetic abelian p -groups G with $\text{SR}(G) < \omega_1^{CK}$.

Knight asked whether there was a (non-trivial) first-order theory of Ulm type. By a non-trivial example, we mean that the elementary first-order theory should have non-hyperarithmetic models which are low for ω_1^{CK} . Our theory T_p is such an example.

Theorem 1.6. *The class of countable models of T_p are of Ulm type. Moreover, given $\mathcal{M} \models T_p$ with $\omega_1^{CK} = \omega_1^{\mathcal{M}}$ and $\text{SR}(\mathcal{M}) < \omega_1^{CK} = \omega_1^{\mathcal{M}}$, $\text{Th}_\infty(\mathcal{M})$ is \aleph_0 -categorical.*

Proof. Let \mathcal{M} be a model of T_p . Now \mathcal{M} is bi-interpretable, using computable infinitary formulas, with the disjoint union of an abelian p -group G and a pure set. Thus \mathcal{M} inherits these properties from G (see Theorem 2.1). \square

Of course, there will be non-hyperarithmetic models of T_p with Scott rank below ω_1^{CK} .

1.5. Borel Incompleteness. In their influential paper [FS89], Friedman and Stanley introduced Borel reductions between invariant Borel classes of structures with universe ω in a countable language. Such classes are of the form $\text{Mod}(\varphi)$, the set of models of φ with universe ω , for some $\varphi \in \mathcal{L}_{\omega_1\omega}$. A Borel reduction from $\text{Mod}(\varphi)$ to $\text{Mod}(\psi)$ is a Borel map $\Phi: \text{Mod}(\varphi) \rightarrow \text{Mod}(\psi)$ such that

$$\mathcal{M} \cong \mathcal{N} \iff \Phi(\mathcal{M}) \cong \Phi(\mathcal{N}).$$

If such a Borel reduction exists, we say that $\text{Mod}(\varphi)$ is Borel reducible to $\text{Mod}(\psi)$ and write $\varphi \leq_B \psi$. If $\varphi \leq_B \psi$ and $\psi \leq_B \varphi$, then we say that $\text{Mod}(\varphi)$ and $\text{Mod}(\psi)$ are Borel equivalent and write $\varphi \equiv_B \psi$. Friedman and Stanley showed that graphs, fields, linear orders, trees, and groups are all Borel equivalent, and form a maximal class under Borel reduction.

If $\text{Mod}(\varphi)$ is Borel complete, then the isomorphism relation on $\text{Mod}(\varphi) \times \text{Mod}(\varphi)$ is Σ_1^1 -complete. The converse is not true, and the most well-known example is abelian p -groups, whose isomorphism relation is Σ_1^1 -complete but not Borel complete. Until very recently, they were one of the few such examples, and there were no known examples of elementary first-order theories with similar properties. Recently, Laskowski, Rast, and Ulrich [URL] gave an example of a first-order theory which is not Borel complete, but whose isomorphism relation is not Borel. Our theory T_p is another such example.

Theorem 1.7. *The class of models of T_p is Borel equivalent to abelian p -groups.*

Because abelian p -groups are not Borel complete, but their isomorphism relation is Σ_1^1 -complete, we get:

Corollary 1.8. *The class of models of T_p is not Borel complete but the isomorphism relation is Σ_1^1 -complete.*

Theorem 1.7 is a specific instance of the following general question asked by Friedman:

Question 1.9. Is it true that for every $\mathcal{L}_{\omega_1\omega}$ sentence there is a Borel equivalent first-order theory?

2. ABELIAN p -GROUPS ARE OF ULM TYPE

In this section we will describe a proof of the following well-known theorem, which shows that abelian p -groups are of Ulm type.

Theorem 2.1. *Let G be an abelian p -group with $\omega_1^{CK} = \omega_1^G$. Then:*

- (1) G is the only countable model of $\text{Th}_\infty(G)$ with $\omega_1^G = \omega_1^{CK}$, and
- (2) if $\text{SR}(G) < \omega_1^{CK} = \omega_1^G$, then $\text{Th}_\infty(G)$ is \aleph_0 -categorical.

The proof of Theorem 2.1 consists essentially of expressing the Ulm invariants via computable infinitary formulas.

Definition 2.2. Let G be an abelian p -group. For each ordinal $\alpha < \omega_1^{CK}$, there is a computable infinitary sentence $\psi_\alpha(x)$ which defines $p^\alpha G$ inside of G :

- $\psi_0(x)$ is just $x = x$;
- $\psi_{\alpha+1}(x)$ is $(\exists y)[\psi_\alpha(y) \wedge py = x]$;
- $\psi_\beta(x)$ is $\bigwedge_{\alpha < \beta} \psi_\alpha(x)$ for limit ordinals β .

Definition 2.3. For each ordinal $\alpha < \omega_1^{CK}$ and $n \in \omega \cup \{\omega\}$, there is a computable infinitary sentence $\varphi_{\alpha,n}$ such that, for G an abelian p -group,

$$G \models \varphi_{\alpha,n} \Leftrightarrow u_\alpha(G) = n.$$

For $n \in \omega$, define $\varphi_{\alpha,\geq n}$ to say that there are x_1, \dots, x_n such that:

- $\psi_\alpha(x_1) \wedge \dots \wedge \psi_\alpha(x_n)$,
- $px_1 = \dots = px_n = 0$, and
- for all $c_1, \dots, c_n \in \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ not all zero, $\neg\psi_{\alpha+1}(c_1x_1 + \dots + c_nx_n)$.

Then for $n \in \omega$, $\varphi_{\alpha,n}$ is $\varphi_{\alpha,\geq n} \wedge \neg\varphi_{\alpha,\geq n+1}$, and $\varphi_{\alpha,\omega}$ is $\bigwedge_{n \in \omega} \varphi_{\alpha,\geq n}$.

Lemma 2.4 (Proposition 3.1 of [CGK07] and Theorem 8.17 of [AK00]). *Let G be an abelian p -group. Then:*

- (1) *the length of G is at most ω_1^G , and*
- (2) *if G has length ω_1^G then G is not reduced (in fact, its p -divisible part has infinite rank) and has Scott rank $\omega_1^G + 1$.*

We are now ready to give the proof of Theorem 2.1.

Proof of Theorem 2.1. Since $\omega_1^{CK} = \omega_1^G$, G has length at most ω_1^{CK} . Note that $\text{Th}_\infty(G)$ contains the sentences $\varphi_{\alpha,u_\alpha(G)}$ for $\alpha < \omega_1^{CK}$. Thus any model of $\text{Th}_\infty(G)$ has the same Ulm invariants as G , for ordinals below ω_1^{CK} .

Suppose that G has length $\lambda < \omega_1^G$. Then $\text{Th}_\infty(G)$ includes the computable formula $(\forall x)[\psi_\lambda(x) \leftrightarrow \psi_{\lambda+1}(x)]$, so that any countable model of $\text{Th}_\infty(G)$ has length at most λ . Note that in such a model, ψ_λ defines the p -divisible part. Let $n \in \omega \cup \{\omega\}$ be such that $p^\infty G$ is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}(p^\infty)^n$. Then, if $n \in \omega$, $\text{Th}_\infty(G)$ contains the formula which says that there are x_1, \dots, x_n such that

- $\psi_\lambda(x_1) \wedge \cdots \wedge \psi_\lambda(x_n)$,
- for all $c_1, \dots, c_n < p$ not all zero and $k_1, \dots, k_n \in \omega$,

$$\frac{c_1}{p^{k_1}}x_1 + \cdots + \frac{c_n}{p^{k_n}}x_n \neq 0,$$

- for all y with $\psi_\lambda(y)$, there are $c_1, \dots, c_n < p$ and $k_1, \dots, k_n \in \omega$ such that

$$y = \frac{c_1}{p^{k_1}}x_1 + \cdots + \frac{c_n}{p^{k_n}}x_n.$$

If $n = \omega$, then $\text{Th}_\infty(G)$ contains the formula which says that for each $m \in \omega$, there are x_1, \dots, x_m such that

- $\psi_\lambda(x_1) \wedge \cdots \wedge \psi_\lambda(x_m)$, and
- for all $c_1, \dots, c_m < p$ not all zero and $k_1, \dots, k_m \in \omega$,

$$\frac{c_1}{p^{k_1}}x_1 + \cdots + \frac{c_m}{p^{k_m}}x_m \neq 0.$$

Any countable model of $\text{Th}_\infty(G)$ has p -divisible part isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}(p^\infty)^n$. So any countable model of $\text{Th}_\infty(G)$ has the same Ulm invariants and p -divisible part as G , and hence is isomorphic to G . Hence $\text{Th}_\infty(G)$ is \aleph_0 -categorical. In fact, we have shown that there is a single computable infinitary formula which defines G up to isomorphism among countable structures, and $\text{SR}(G) < \omega_1^{CK}$.

If G has length $\omega_1^G = \omega_1^{CK}$, then by the previous lemma, $\text{SR}(G) = \omega_1^{CK} + 1$. Let H be any other countable model of $\text{Th}_\infty(G)$ with $\omega_1^H = \omega_1^G = \omega_1^{CK}$. Thus G and H both have length ω_1^{CK} and their p -divisible parts have infinite rank. As remarked before, they have the same Ulm invariants, and so they must be isomorphic.

This argument by cases completes the proof of both (1) and (2). \square

3. THE THEORY T_p

Fix a prime p . The language \mathcal{L}_p of T_p will consist of a constant 0, unary relations R_n for $n \in \omega$, and ternary relations $P_{\ell, m}^n$ for $\ell, m \in \omega$ and $n \leq \max(\ell, m)$. The following transformation of an abelian p -group into an \mathcal{L}_p -structure will illustrate the intended meaning of the symbols.

Definition 3.1. Let G be an abelian p -group. Define $\mathfrak{M}(G)$ to be the \mathcal{L}_p -structure with the same domain as G and the symbols of \mathcal{L}_p interpreted as follows:

- Set $0^{\mathfrak{M}(G)}$ to be the identity element of G .
- For each n , let $R_n^{\mathfrak{M}(G)}$ be the elements which are torsion of order *exactly* p^n .
- For each $\ell, m \in \omega$ and $n \leq \max(\ell, m)$, and $x, y, z \in G$, set $P_{\ell, m}^{n, \mathfrak{M}(G)}(x, y, z)$ if and only if $x + y = z$, $x \in R_\ell^{\mathfrak{M}(G)}$, $y \in R_m^{\mathfrak{M}(G)}$, and $z \in R_n^{\mathfrak{M}(G)}$.

One should think of such \mathcal{L}_p -structures as the canonical models of T_p . The theory T_p will consist of following axiom schemata:

(A1) For all $\ell, m, n \in \omega$:

$$(\forall x \forall y \forall z) [P_{\ell, m}^n(x, y, z) \rightarrow (R_\ell(x) \wedge R_m(x) \wedge R_n(z))].$$

(A2) (R_n contains the elements which are torsion of order exactly p^n .)

$$(\forall x) [R_0(x) \leftrightarrow x = 0].$$

and, for all $n \geq 1$:

$$(\forall x) \left[x \in R_n \leftrightarrow \left[x \neq 0 \wedge (\exists x_2 \cdots \exists x_p) \left[P_{n,n}^n(x, x, x_2) \wedge P_{n,n}^n(x, x_2, x_3) \wedge \cdots \wedge P_{n,n}^{n-1}(x, x_{p-1}, x_p) \right] \right] \right].$$

(A3) (*P defines a partial function.*) For all $\ell, m, n, n' \in \omega$:

$$(\forall x \forall y \forall z \forall z') \left[\left(P_{\ell,m}^n(x, y, z) \wedge P_{\ell,m}^{n'}(x, y, z') \right) \rightarrow z = z' \right].$$

(A4) (*P is total.*) For all $\ell, m \in \omega$:

$$(\forall x \forall y) \left[\left(R_\ell(x) \wedge R_m(y) \right) \rightarrow \bigvee_{n \leq \max(\ell, m)} (\exists z) P_{\ell,m}^n(x, y, z) \right].$$

(A5) (*Identity.*) For all $\ell \in \omega$:

$$(\forall x) \left[R_\ell(x) \rightarrow \left[P_{0,\ell}^\ell(0, x, x) \wedge P_{\ell,0}^\ell(x, 0, x) \right] \right].$$

(A6) (*Inverses.*) For all $\ell \in \omega$:

$$(\forall x) (\exists y) \left[R_\ell(x) \rightarrow \left[P_{\ell,\ell}^0(x, y, 0) \wedge P_{\ell,\ell}^0(y, x, 0) \right] \right].$$

(A7) (*Associativity.*) For all $\ell, m, n \in \omega$:

$$(\forall x \forall y \forall z) \left[\left[R_\ell(x) \wedge R_m(y) \wedge R_n(z) \right] \rightarrow \bigvee_{\substack{r \leq \max(\ell, m) \\ s \leq \max(m, n) \\ t \leq \max(r, n), \max(\ell, s)}} (\exists u \exists v \exists w) \left[P_{\ell,m}^r(x, y, u) \wedge P_{r,n}^t(u, z, w) \wedge P_{m,n}^s(y, z, v) \wedge P_{\ell,s}^t(x, v, w) \right] \right].$$

(A8) (*Abelian.*) For all $\ell, m \in \omega$ and $n \leq \max(\ell, m)$:

$$(\forall x \forall y \forall z) \left[\left[P_{\ell,m}^n(x, y, z) \right] \rightarrow P_{m,\ell}^n(y, x, z) \right].$$

We must now check that the definition of T_p works as desired, that is, that if G is an abelian p -group, then $\mathfrak{M}(G)$ is a model of T_p .

Lemma 3.2. *If G is an abelian p -group, then $\mathfrak{M}(G) \models T_p$.*

Proof. We must check that each instance of the axiom schemata of T_p holds in $\mathfrak{M}(G)$. The proof is straightforward and can easily be skipped.

(A1) Suppose that x, y , and z are elements of G with $P_{m,\ell}^{n,\mathfrak{M}(G)}(x, y, z)$. Then, by definition, $x + y = z$, $x \in R_\ell^{\mathfrak{M}(G)}$, $y \in R_m^{\mathfrak{M}(G)}$, and $z \in R_n^{\mathfrak{M}(G)}$.

(A2) $R_0^{\mathfrak{M}(G)}$ contains the elements of G which are torsion of order $p^0 = 1$, so R_0 contains just the identity. For each $n > 0$, $R_n^{\mathfrak{M}(G)}$ contains the elements of order exactly p^n . An element $x \neq 0$ has order exactly p^n if and only if px has order exactly p^{n-1} . It remains only to note that if x has order p^n , then $x, 2x, 3x, \dots, (p-1)x$ all have order exactly p^n as well. The existential quantifier is witnessed by $x_2 = 2x$, $x_3 = 3x$, and so on.

(A3) If, for some x, y, z , and z' , $P_{\ell,m}^{n,\mathfrak{M}(G)}(x, y, z)$ and $P_{\ell,m}^{n',\mathfrak{M}(G)}(x, y, z')$, then $x + y = z$ and $x + y = z'$, so that $z = z'$.

(A4) Given x and y in G which are of order p^m and p^ℓ respectively, $x + y$ is of order p^n for some $n \leq \max(m, \ell)$, and so we have $P_{m,\ell}^{n,\mathfrak{M}(G)}(x, y, x + y)$.

(A5) If $x \in G$ is of order p^ℓ , then $x + 0 = 0 + x = x$ and so we have $P_{\ell,0}^{\ell,\mathfrak{M}(G)}(x, 0, x)$.

- (A6) If $x \in G$ is of order p^ℓ , then $-x$ is also of order p^ℓ , and $x + (-x) = 0 = (-x) + x$. So we have $P_{\ell,\ell}^{0,\mathfrak{M}(G)}(x, -x, 0)$.
- (A7) Given $x, y, z \in G$ of order p^ℓ, p^m , and p^n respectively, there are $r \leq \max(\ell, m)$ and $s \leq \max(m, n)$ such that $x + y$ and $y + z$ are of order p^r and p^s respectively. Then there is t such that $x + y + z$ is of order p^t ; $t \leq \max(r, n)$ and $t \leq \max(\ell, s)$.
- (A8) Given $x, y, z \in G$ of order p^ℓ, p^m , and p^n respectively, $n \leq \max(\ell, m)$, and with $x + y = z$, we have $y + x = z$ as G is abelian.

Thus we have shown that $\mathfrak{M}(G)$ is a model of T_p . \square

Note that G and $\mathfrak{M}(G)$ are effectively bi-interpretable, proving one half of Theorem 1.3.

4. FROM A MODEL OF T_p TO AN ABELIAN p -GROUP

Given an abelian p -group G , we have already described how to turn G into a model of T_p . In this section we will do the reverse by turning a model of T_p into an abelian p -group.

Definition 4.1. Let \mathcal{M} be a model of T_p . Define $\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M})$ to be the group obtained as follows.

- The domain of $\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M})$ will be the subset of the domain of \mathcal{M} given by $\bigcup_{n \in \omega} R_n^{\mathcal{M}}$.
- The identity element of $\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M})$ will be $0^{\mathcal{M}}$.
- We will have $x + y = z$ in $\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M})$ if and only if, for some ℓ, m , and n , $P_{\ell,m}^{n,\mathcal{M}}(x, y, z)$.

We will now check that $\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M})$ is always an abelian p -group.

Lemma 4.2. *If \mathcal{M} is a model of T_p , then $\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M})$ is an abelian p -group.*

Proof. First we check that the operation $+$ on $\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M})$ defines a total function. Given $x, y \in \mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M})$, choose ℓ and m such that $x \in R_\ell^{\mathcal{M}}$ and $y \in R_m^{\mathcal{M}}$. Then by (A3) and (A4), there is a unique $n \leq \max(\ell, m)$ and a unique z such that $P_{\ell,m}^{n,\mathcal{M}}(x, y, z)$. Thus $x + y = z$, and z is unique.

Second, we check that $\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M})$ is in fact a group. To see that $0^{\mathcal{M}}$ is the identity, given $x \in \mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M})$, there is ℓ such that $x \in R_\ell^{\mathcal{M}}$. By (A5), $P_{\ell,0}^{\ell,\mathcal{M}}(x, 0^{\mathcal{M}}, x)$ and $P_{0,\ell}^{\ell,\mathcal{M}}(0^{\mathcal{M}}, x, 0^{\mathcal{M}})$. Thus $x + 0^{\mathcal{M}} = 0^{\mathcal{M}} + x = x$, and $0^{\mathcal{M}}$ is the identity of $\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M})$. To see that $\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M})$ has inverses, given $x \in \mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M})$, there is ℓ such that $x \in R_\ell^{\mathcal{M}}$, and by (A6) there is $y \in R_\ell^{\mathcal{M}}$ such that $P_{\ell,\ell}^{0,\mathcal{M}}(x, y, 0^{\mathcal{M}})$ and $P_{\ell,\ell}^{0,\mathcal{M}}(y, x, 0^{\mathcal{M}})$. Thus $x + y = y + x = 0^{\mathcal{M}}$, and so y is the inverse of x . Finally, to see that $\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M})$ is associative, given $x, y, z \in \mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M})$, there are ℓ, m , and n such that $x \in R_\ell^{\mathcal{M}}$, $y \in R_m^{\mathcal{M}}$, and $z \in R_n^{\mathcal{M}}$. Then by (A7) there are r, s , and t , and u, v , and w , such that $P_{\ell,m}^{r,\mathcal{M}}(x, y, u)$, $P_{r,n}^{t,\mathcal{M}}(u, z, w)$, $P_{m,n}^{s,\mathcal{M}}(y, z, v)$, and $P_{\ell,s}^{t,\mathcal{M}}(x, v, w)$. Thus $x + y = u$, $u + z = w$, $y + z = v$, and $x + v = w$. So $(x + y) + z = x + (y + z)$. Thus $\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M})$ is associative.

Third, to see that $\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M})$ is abelian, let $x, y \in \mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M})$. There are ℓ and m such that $x \in R_\ell^{\mathcal{M}}$ and $y \in R_m^{\mathcal{M}}$. Let $n \leq \max(\ell, m)$ be such that $z = x + y \in R_n^{\mathcal{M}}$. (Such an n and z exist by the arguments above that $+$ is total, via (A3) and (A4).) Then

$P_{\ell,m}^{n,\mathcal{M}}(x,y,z)$, and so by (A8), $P_{m,\ell}^{n,\mathcal{M}}(y,x,z)$. Thus $y+x=z$ and so $\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M})$ is abelian.

Finally, we need to see that $\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M})$ is a p -group. We claim, by induction on $n \geq 0$, that $R_n^{\mathcal{M}}$ consists of the elements of $\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M})$ which are of order exactly p^n . From this claim, it follows that $\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M})$ is a p -group. For $n=0$, the claim follows directly from (A2). Given $n > 0$, suppose that $x \in R_n^{\mathcal{M}}$. Then the witnesses x_2, x_3, \dots, x_p to (A2) must be $2x, 3x, \dots, px$. Note that since $P_{n,n}^{n-1,\mathcal{M}}(x, (p-1)x, px)$, $px \in R_{n-1}^{\mathcal{M}}$. Thus px is of order exactly p^{n-1} , and so (since $x \neq 0$) x is of order exactly p^n . On the other hand, if x is of order exactly p^n , then px is of order exactly p^{n-1} and so $px \in R_{n-1}^{\mathcal{M}}$. Moreover, $x_2 = 2x, x_3 = 3x, \dots, x_{p-1} = (p-1)x$ are all of order exactly p^n . So we have $P_{n,n}^{n,\mathcal{M}}(x, x, x_2), P_{n,n}^{n,\mathcal{M}}(x, x_2, x_3), \dots, P_{n,n}^{n-1,\mathcal{M}}(x, x_{p-1}, x_p)$. By (A2), $x \in R_n^{\mathcal{M}}$. This completes the inductive proof. \square

We now have two operations, one which turns an abelian p -group into a model of T_p , and another which turns a model of T_p into an abelian p -group. These two operations are almost inverses to each other. If we begin with an abelian p -group, turn it into a model of T_p , and then turn that model into an abelian p -group, we will obtain the original group. However, if we start with a \mathcal{M} model of T_p , turn it into an abelian p -group, and then turn that abelian p -group into a model of T_p , we may obtain a different model of T_p . The problem is that the elements of \mathcal{M} which are not in any of the sets $R_n^{\mathcal{M}}$ are discarded when we transform \mathcal{M} into an abelian p -group. However, these elements form a pure set, and so the only pertinent information is their size.

Definition 4.3. Given a model \mathcal{M} of T_p , the pure set size of \mathcal{M} , $\#\mathcal{M} \in \omega \cup \{\infty\}$, is the number of elements of \mathcal{M} not in any relation R_n .

Lemma 4.4. Given an abelian p -group G , $\mathfrak{G}(\mathfrak{M}(G)) = G$.

Proof. Since $\#\mathfrak{M}(G) = 0$, we see that G , $\mathfrak{M}(G)$, and $\mathfrak{G}(\mathfrak{M}(G))$ all have the same domain. The identity of $\mathfrak{G}(\mathfrak{M}(G))$ is $0^{\mathfrak{M}(G)}$ which is the identity of G . If $x+y=z$ in G , then, for some $\ell, m, n \in \omega$, we have $P_{\ell,m}^{n,\mathfrak{M}(G)}(x,y,z)$. Thus, in $\mathfrak{G}(\mathfrak{M}(G))$, we have $x+y=z$. So $\mathfrak{G}(\mathfrak{M}(G)) = G$. \square

We make a simple extension to \mathfrak{M} as follows.

Definition 4.5. Let G be an abelian p -group and $m \in \omega \cup \{\infty\}$. Define $\mathfrak{M}(G, m)$ to be \mathcal{L}_p -structure with domain $G \cup \{a_1, \dots, a_m\}$ with the relations interpreted as in $\mathfrak{M}(G)$. Thus, no relations hold of any of the elements a_1, \dots, a_m .

Lemma 4.6. Given a model \mathcal{M} of T_p , $\mathfrak{M}(G(\mathcal{M}), \#\mathcal{M}) \cong \mathcal{M}$.

Proof. We will show that if $\#\mathcal{M} = 0$, then $\mathfrak{M}(\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M})) = \mathcal{M}$. From this one can easily see that $\mathfrak{M}(G(\mathcal{M}), \#\mathcal{M}) \cong \mathcal{M}$ in general.

If $\#\mathcal{M} = 0$, then \mathcal{M} , $\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M})$, and $\mathfrak{M}(\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M}))$ all share the same domain. It is clear that $0^{\mathcal{M}} = 0^{\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M})} = 0^{\mathfrak{M}(\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M}))}$. From the proof of Lemma 4.2, we see that for each n , $R_n^{\mathcal{M}}$ defines the set of elements of $\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M})$ which are torsion of order p^n , and so $R_n^{\mathcal{M}} = R_n^{\mathfrak{M}(\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M}))}$. Given $\ell, m \in \omega$ and $n \leq \max(\ell, m)$, and x, y , and z elements of the shared domain, we have $P_{\ell,m}^{n,\mathcal{M}}(x,y,z)$ if and only if

$$x+y=z \text{ in } \mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M}) \text{ and } x \in R_{\ell}^{\mathcal{M}}, y \in R_m^{\mathcal{M}}, \text{ and } z \in R_n^{\mathcal{M}}.$$

Since $R_i^{\mathcal{M}} = R_i^{\mathfrak{M}(\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M}))}$ for each i , this is the case if and only if $P_{\ell, m}^{n, \mathfrak{M}(\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M}))}(x, y, z)$. Thus we have shown that $\mathfrak{M}(\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M})) = \mathcal{M}$. \square

Note that \mathcal{M} and the disjoint union of $\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M})$ with a pure set of size $\#\mathcal{M}$ are bi-interpretable, using computable infinitary formulas, completing the proof of Theorem 1.3.

5. BOREL EQUIVALENCE

In this section we will prove Theorem 1.7 by showing that the class of models of T_p and the class of abelian p -groups are Borel equivalent. $G \mapsto \mathfrak{G}(\mathfrak{M}(G)) = \mathfrak{G}(\mathfrak{M}(G, 0))$ is a Borel reduction from isomorphism on abelian p -groups to isomorphism on models of T_p . However, $\mathcal{M} \mapsto \mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M})$ is not a Borel reduction in the other direction, because two non-isomorphic models of T_p might be mapped to isomorphic groups. We need to find a way to turn $\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M})$ and $\#\mathcal{M}$ into an abelian p -group $\mathfrak{H}(\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M}), \#\mathcal{M})$, so that \mathcal{M} and $\#\mathcal{M}$ can be recovered from $\mathfrak{H}(\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M}), \#\mathcal{M})$.

We will define $\mathfrak{H}(G, m)$ for any abelian p -group H and $m \in \omega \cup \{\infty\}$. It is helpful to think about what this reduction will do to the Ulm invariants: The first Ulm invariant of $\mathfrak{H}(G, m)$ will be m , and for each α , then $1 + \alpha$ th Ulm invariant of $\mathfrak{H}(G, m)$ will be the same as the α th Ulm invariant of G .

Definition 5.1. Given an abelian p -group G , and $m \in \omega \cup \{\infty\}$, define an abelian p -group $\mathfrak{H}(G, m)$ as follows. Let $\hat{\mathcal{B}}$ be a basis for the \mathbb{Z}_p -vector space G/pG . Let $\mathcal{B} \subseteq G$ be a set of representatives for $\hat{\mathcal{B}}$. Let G^* be the abelian group $\langle G, a_b : b \in \mathcal{B} \mid pa_b = b \rangle$. Then define $\mathfrak{H}(G, m) = G^* \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_p)^m$.

To make this Borel, we can take \mathcal{B} to be the lexicographically first set of representatives for a basis. It will follow from Lemma 5.4 that the isomorphism type of $\mathfrak{H}(G, m)$ does not depend on these choices. First, we require a couple of lemmas.

Lemma 5.2. *Each element of G can be written uniquely as a (finite) linear combination $h + \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} x_b b$ where $h \in pG$ and each $x_b < p$.*

Proof. Given $g \in G$, let \hat{g} be the image of g in G/pG . Then, since $\hat{\mathcal{B}}$ is a basis for G/pG , we can write

$$\hat{g} = \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} x_b \hat{b}$$

with $x_b < p$, where \hat{b} is the image of b in G/pG . Thus setting

$$h = g - \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} x_b b \in pG$$

we get a representation of g as in the statement of the theorem.

To see that this representation is unique, suppose that

$$h + \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} x_b b = h' + \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} y_b b.$$

Then, modulo pG ,

$$\sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} x_b \hat{b} = \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} y_b \hat{b}.$$

Since $\hat{\mathcal{B}}$ is a basis, $x_b = y_b$ for each $b \in \mathcal{B}$. Then we get that $h = h'$ and the two representations are the same. \square

Lemma 5.3. *Each element of G^* can be written uniquely in the form $h + \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} x_b a_b$ where $h \in G$ and each $x_b < p$.*

Proof. It is clear that each element of G^* can be written in such a way. If

$$h + \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} x_b a_b = h' + \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} y_b a_b$$

then, in G ,

$$ph + \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} x_b b = ph' + \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} y_b b.$$

This representation is unique, so $x_b = y_b$ for each $b \in \mathcal{B}$, and so $h = h'$. \square

Lemma 5.4. *The isomorphism type of $\mathfrak{H}(G, m)$ depends only on the isomorphism type of G , and not on the choice of \mathcal{B} .*

Proof. It suffices to show that if \mathcal{C} is another choice of representatives for a basis of G/pG , then $G_{\mathcal{B}}^* = G_{\mathcal{C}}^*$, where the former is constructed using \mathcal{B} , and the later is constructed using \mathcal{C} . Let $f: \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ be a bijection.

Given $g \in G_{\mathcal{B}}^*$, write $g = g' + \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} x_b a_b$ with $g' \in G$ and $0 \leq x_b < p$. This representation of g is unique by Lemma 5.3. Define $\varphi(g) = g' + \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} x_b a_{f(b)}$. It is not hard to check that φ is a homomorphism. The inverse of φ is the map ψ which is defined by $\psi(h) = h' + \sum_{c \in \mathcal{C}} y_c a_{f^{-1}(c)}$ where $h = h' + \sum_{c \in \mathcal{C}} y_c a_c$. \square

The next two lemmas will be used to show that if G is not isomorphic to G' , or if m is not equal to m' , then $\mathfrak{H}(G, m)$ will not be isomorphic to $\mathfrak{H}(G', m')$.

Lemma 5.5. $G = pG^*$.

Proof. Each element of G can be written as $g + \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} x_b b$ with $g \in pG$. Let $g' \in G$ be such that $pg' = g$. Then

$$p(g' + \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} x_b a_b) = g + \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} x_b b.$$

Hence $G \subseteq pG^*$. Given $h \in G^*$, write $h = g + \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} x_b a_b$. Then $ph = pg + \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} x_b b \in G$. So $pG^* \subseteq G$, and so $G = pG^*$. \square

If G is a group, recall that we denote by $G[p]$ the elements of G which are torsion of order p .

Lemma 5.6. $\mathfrak{H}(G, m)[p] / (p\mathfrak{H}(G, m))[p] \cong (\mathbb{Z}_p)^m$.

Proof. Note that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{H}(G, m)[p] / (p\mathfrak{H}(G, m))[p] &\cong (G^*[p] / (pG^*)[p]) \oplus ((\mathbb{Z}_p)^m[p] / (p(\mathbb{Z}_p)^m)[p]) \\ &\cong (G^*[p] / G[p]) \oplus (\mathbb{Z}_p)^m. \end{aligned}$$

We will show that $(G^*[p] / G[p])$ is the trivial group by showing that if $g \in G^*$, $pg = 0$, then $g \in G$. Indeed, write $g = g' + \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} y_b a_b$ with $g' \in G$. Then

$$0 = pg = pg' + \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} py_b a_b = pg' + \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} y_b b.$$

Since $0 \in pG$ has a unique representation (by Lemma 5.2) $0 = 0 + \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} 0b$, we get that $y_b = 0$ for each $b \in \mathcal{B}$, and so $g = g' \in G$. \square

By the previous lemma, we can recover m from $\mathfrak{H}(G, m)$. We have

$$p\mathfrak{H}(G, m) = pG^* \oplus p(\mathbb{Z}_p)^m \cong pG^* = G$$

so that we can also recover G .

Thus, using Lemma 4.6, $\mathcal{M} \mapsto \mathfrak{H}(\mathfrak{G}(\mathcal{M}), \#\mathcal{M})$ gives a Borel reduction from T_p to abelian p -groups. This completes the proof of Theorem 1.7.

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