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Some Sporadic Groups as Galois Groups.

H. Pahlings (*)

In recent years a large number of finite simple groups have been proved to be Galois groups over the field Q(t) or $Q^{ab}(t)$ of rational functions over Q or its maximal abelian extension Q^{ab} (see e.g. [1], [4], [5], [7], [8], [11]). In [6] Matzat studies the problem for composite groups (see also [7]). He defines a GAR-realization of a finite group G with trivial center Z(G) for an algebraic function field $K = k(t_1, ..., t_r)$ of finite transcendence degree over k to be a regular field extension N/K with Galois group G with two additional properties:

- (A) Aut (N/k) has a subgroup A = Aut(G) and K is the fixed field of the group corresponding to Inn(G).
- (R) Any regular field extension R/N^4 with $\bar{k}R = \bar{k}(t_1, ..., t_r)$ is a rational function field over k. (Here \bar{k} is the algebraic closure of k and N^4 is the fixed field of A.) Matzat shows (see [6]) that if all the composition factors of a finite group G have GAR-realizations over k(t), k a Hilbert field (just as \mathbb{Q} or \mathbb{Q}^{ab}) then G can be realized as a Galois group over k. He also shows ([6], Satz 6) that
- a) the sporadic simple groups M_{11} , M_{12} , M_{22} , J_1 , J_2 , HS, Sz, ON, Co_3 , Co_2 , Co_1 , Fi_{23} , Fi_{24}' , F_5 , F_3 , F_2 , F_1 have GAR-realizations over $\mathbb{Q}(t)$ and
- b) all sporadic simple groups with the possible exceptions He, Fi_{22} and J_4 have GAR-realizations over $\mathbb{Q}^{ab}(t)$.

The purpose of this note is to prove

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THEOREM. The sporadic simple groups He, Fi_{22} and J_4 have GAR-realizations over $\mathbb{Q}(t)$.

By extending the field of constants with Q^{ab} one obtains from the GAR-realizations over Q(t) GAR-realizations over $Q^{ab}(t)$. Thus every sporadic simple group has a GAR-realization over $Q^{ab}(t)$ and so, in particular, is a Galois group over Q^{ab} .

The method of proof is quite similar to that of [5]. For conjugacy classes C_1, \ldots, C_n of a finite group G let a class structure be

$$\mathfrak{L} = (C_1, ..., C_n) = \{(g_1, ..., g_n) \colon g_i \in C_i\},\,$$

 $l^{i}(\mathcal{L})$ be the number of orbits of Inn (G) on

$$\{(g_1, ..., g_n) \in \mathcal{L}: g_1 ... g_n = 1, \langle g_1, ..., g_n \rangle = G\},$$

and

$$n(\mathfrak{L}) = \frac{1}{|G|} |\{(g_1, ..., g_n) \in \mathfrak{L} : g_1 ... g_n = 1\}|.$$

The point is, that $n(\mathfrak{L})$ (usually called «normalized structure constant») can be computed from the character table of G:

$$n(\hat{\Gamma}) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{|G|^{n-2}}{\chi_i(1)^{n-2}} \prod_{j=1}^{n} \frac{\chi_i(g_j)}{|C_{G}(g_j)|},$$

where $\{\chi_1, ..., \chi_h\} = \operatorname{Irr}(G)$ is the set of complex irreducible characters of $G, g_j \in C_j$, and $C_G(g_j)$ is the centralizer of g_j , as usual. Obviously $l^i(\mathfrak{L}) \leqslant n(\mathfrak{L})$ and in order to compute $l^i(\mathfrak{L})$, which is relevant to the problem at hand one usually invokes information on the maximal subgroups of G. A special case of a theorem of Matzat and Thompson ([5], [11]) says, that if a finite group G with G with G has a rational class structure G (i.e. a class structure with all conjugacy classes G rational) with G with G hence the Theorem follows from the following Lemma as in [6].

LEMMA. a) For the rational class structure $\mathfrak{L}=(2B,\,6C,\,30A)$ of Aut(He) one has $l^i(\mathfrak{L})=n(\mathfrak{L})=1$.

b) For the rational class structure

$$\mathcal{L} = (2A, 18E, 42A)$$
 of Aut (Fi_{22})

one has $l^i(\mathfrak{C}) = n(\mathfrak{C}) = 1$.

c) For the rational class structure $\mathfrak{L}=(2A,4C,11A)$ of J_4 one has $l^i(\mathfrak{L})=1$.

Here we use the notation of the ATLAS [2]; in particular 2B, 6C, 30A are rational conjugacy classes in Aut (He) = He. 2 of elements of order 2, 6 and 30, respectively. From the Lemma and the result of Matzat and Thompson cited above it follows that there is a regular field extension N/Q(t) with Galois group Aut (He) (or Aut (Fi_{22})). The fixed field of $He \cong Inn(He)$ (resp. Fi_{22}) is a rational function field. So one obtains a GAR-realization of He (resp. Fi_{22}), since condition (R) is fulfilled by [6], Bemerkung 4.

PROOF. a) Let $G = \operatorname{Aut}(He)$ and $\mathfrak{L} = (2B, 2C, 30A)$. From the character table of G (see e.g. [2]) it follows that $n(\mathfrak{L}) = 1$.

Let $g_1 \in 2B$ and $g_2 \in 6C$ be such that $g_1 g_2 \in 30A$, so $(g_1, g_2, (g_1 g_2)^{-1}) \in \mathcal{L}$ and let $U = \langle g_1, g_2 \rangle$.

We will show that U = G, thereby proving that $l^i(\mathfrak{L}) = n(\mathfrak{L})$. The maximal subgroups of G with order divisible by 30 are (cf. [2]) He and

$$PSP(4,4)\cdot 4$$
, $3\cdot S_7 \times 2$, $2^2\cdot PSL(3,4)\cdot D_{12}$, $(S_5 \times S_5):2$. $5^2:4S_4$,

The first two subgroups in this list have relatively small indices in G (2058 and 8330, respectively); so it is very easy to find the corresponding permutation characters (the CAS-system, cf. [10], does this automatically). One finds that the permutation characters vanish on the class 30A, so that U cannot be contained in one of these subgroups. Also $5^2:4S_4$ has no elements of order 15, because the 3-Sylow subgroups of GL(2,5) have regular orbits on the non-zero vectors of the standard module.

In order to exclude $U \leq 3 \cdot S_7 \times 2$ and

$$U \leqslant (S_5 \times S_5)$$
: $2 = S_5 \sim S_2$,

the character tables of these groups are computed and the fusion of these groups into G is determined as in [10]. The character tables

of these groups are included in the appendix. The relevant parts of the fusions are

class of
$$3 \cdot S_7 \times 2$$
 $2C$ $6F$ $6J$ $30A$ fuses to class of $\operatorname{Aut}(He)$ $2B$ $6C$ $6C$ $30A$

and

class of
$$(S_5 \times S_5)$$
:2 2B 6D 30A fuses to class of Aut (He) 2B 6C 30A.

Using the character tables one finds that

$$n(2C, 6F, 30A) = n(2C, 6J, 30A) = 0$$
 in $3 \cdot S_7 \times 2$

and

$$n(2B, 6D, 30A) = 0$$
 in $(S_5 \times S_5)$:2.

Hence U cannot be contained in $3 \cdot S_7 \times 2$ or $(S_5 \times S_5)$:2 either, so U = G.

b) We consider the rational class structure $\mathfrak{L}=(2A,18E,42A)$ of $G=\operatorname{Aut}(Fi_{22})$, again referring to the ATLAS [2] for the notation of the classes (in the notation of the CAS-library, cf. [10], it would be (2A,18D,42A)). From the character table one computes $n(\mathfrak{L})=1$.

Let $g_1 \in 2A$ and $g_2 \in 18D$ be such that $g_1g_2 \in 42A$ and $U = \langle g_1, g_2 \rangle$. Again we have to show that U = G.

The maximal subgroups of $Aut(Fi_{22})$ with orders divisible by 7 are (cf. [2], and a list of corrections and additions to [2] issued by the authors)

$$egin{array}{lll} 2 \cdot PSU(6,2) \cdot 2 \ , & 2^{10} \colon M_{22} \colon 2 \ , \\ & G_2(3) \colon 2 \ , & 2^7 \colon PSp(6,2) \ , \\ & PSO^+(8,2) \colon S_3 \times 2 \ , & S_3 \times PSU(4,3) \cdot 2^2 \ . \end{array}$$

and, of course, Fi_{22} .

The groups PSU(6,2), $G_2(3)$, M_{22} and PSp(6,2) have no elements of order 21. So U cannot be contained in one of the corresponding extensions.

The subgroup $S_3 \times PSU(4,3) \cdot 2^2$ contains elements of 2A and 42A but none of the class 18E, as the permutation character shows. Of course, it is not feasible to list all candidates for a permutation character of G of this degree (1 647 360). So at first the fusion of $S_3 \times PSU(4,3)$ into G was determined as in [10], and hence the permutation character of this subgroup. This gives very strong restrictions for the irreducible constituents of the permutation character of $S_3 \times PSU(4,3) \cdot 2^2$, so that this can easily be found. The character table of $H = PSO^+(8,2)$: $S_3 \times 2$ is known (see e.g. [9]) and it is not difficult to obtain the fusion of H into G. One finds that $18E \cap H$ and $42A \cap H$ are contained in the normal subgroup $N = PSO^+(8,2) : A_3 \times 2$, whereas $2A \cap N = \emptyset$. Hence $U \leq H$ and so U = G.

c) Let \mathcal{L} be the rational class structure (2A, 4C, 11A) of $G = J_4$ in the notation of the ATLAS [2] or the CAS-library, cf. [10]. From the charactertable one computes $n(\mathcal{L}) = \frac{3}{2}$.

Any maximal subgroup of J_4 with order divisible by 11 is conjugate to one of the following (cf. [2], and the list of corrections and additions to [2] issued by the authors):

$$\begin{split} H_1 &= PSL(2,23) : 2 \;, \qquad H_5 = PSU(3,11) : 2 \;, \\ H_2 &= PSL(2,32) : 5 \;, \qquad H_6 = 2^{11} : M_{24} \;, \\ H_3 &= 11^{1+2}_+ : (5 \times 2S_4) \;, \qquad H_7 = 2^{1+12}_+ : 3M_{22} : 2 \;. \\ H_4 &= M_{22} : 2 \;, \end{split}$$

 H_2 has no elements of order 4. The subgroups H_1 , H_4 , or H_5 contain no elements of the class 4C of J_4 . This is so, since in J_4 the elements of 4C are not squares of elements, whereas all elements of order 4 in H_1 , H_4 , and H_5 are, in fact, squares as can be seen from the powermaps in the character tables, cf. [2]. It is quite obvious that in H_3 a product of an involution with an element of order 4 does not have order 11. Furthermore 2^{11} : M_{24} does not contain elements of the class 11A. This can be seen e.g. by computing the only candidate for a permutation character of degree $173\,067\,389$ (which is the index of H_6 in J_4) of J_4 ; this character vanishes on the class 11A. Actually it is not even necessary to compute this permutation character θ , for a glance at the character table of J_4 shows that all possible constituents of θ have non-negative values at 11B, so that 2^{11} : M_{24} must

contain 11B and, since all elements of order 11 are conjugate in M_{24} , not 11A.

The character table of H_7 has been computed by B. Fischer [3] together with the fusion into J_4 : The relevant part of the fusion is

$$2A$$
, $2B$, $2D$, $2F$, $2H$ of H_7 fuse into $2A$ of J_4 , $4C$, $4G$, $4L$, $4O$, $4R$, $4U$, $4X$ of H_7 fuse into $4C$ of J_4 , $11A$ of H_7 fuses into $11A$ of J_4 .

Computing the structure constants of H_7 one finds that $n(C_1, C_2, C_3) = 0$ for all conjugacy classes C_1 , C_2 , C_3 of H_7 fusing into 2A, 4C, 11A of J_4 , respectively, except for

$$n(2H, 4U, 11A) = \frac{1}{2}$$
.

(2H corresponds to the outer involution class 2B of M_{22} :2, and 4U to the class 4C.)

Altogether this shows that the number of triples (x, y, z) with $x \in 2A$, $y \in 4C$, $xy = z^{-1} \in 11A$ in J_4 which generate a proper subgroup of J_4 is at most (in fact equal to) $\frac{1}{2}|J_4|$. This implies $l^i(\mathfrak{L}) = 1$, since J_4 has trivial center.

REMARK. J_4 is not rigid in the sense of Thompson [11], that is contains no class structure $\mathfrak L$ with $n(\mathfrak L) = l^i(\mathfrak L) = 1$. If $\mathfrak L = (C_1, C_2, C_3)$ is a class structure in J_4 with $n(\mathfrak L) = 1$, and $x \in C_1$, $y \in C_2$, $xy \in C_3$ then $\langle x, y \rangle$ is a dihedral group or $\mathfrak L = (2A, 4A, 11B)$ and $\langle x, y \rangle \leqslant 2^{11}$: M_{24} .

Acknowledgement. Thanks are due to Prof. B. Fischer for sending me character tables of some maximal subgroups of J_4 (including $2^{1+12}_+ \cdot M_{22}$:2) and to the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft for financial support.

APPENDIX

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N = 21 A = /A = 1 +w -2w2 +w4 +w7 -w8 -w9 -w11

= (1 + SCRT(21)) / 2

N = 21 B = /8 = -w +2w2 -w4 -w7 +w8 +w9 +w11

= (1 - SOPT(21)) / 2
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w - EXP (2.PI.1 / N)

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