

# Counting modulo $N$ in pseudo-finite fields

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October 18, 2018

- 1 Model-theoretic Euler characteristics
- 2 Pseudo-finite fields and difference fields
- 3  $\mathbb{Z}/N$ -valued Euler characteristics on pseudo-finite fields.

# Definable sets and functions

If  $M$  is a structure,  $\varphi(\vec{x}; \vec{y})$  is a first-order formula, and  $\vec{m}$  is a tuple from  $M$  with  $|\vec{m}| = |\vec{y}|$ , then

$$\varphi(M; \vec{m}) := \{\vec{a} \in M^{|\vec{x}|} : M \models (\vec{a}; \vec{m})\}$$

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## Definition

If  $X$  and  $Y$  are definable sets, a function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is a *definable function* if its graph  $\Gamma_f \subseteq X \times Y$  is a definable set.

## Definition

If  $X$  and  $Y$  are definable sets, a family  $\{D_b : b \in Y\}$  of subsets of  $X$  is a *definable family* if the set

$$\coprod_{b \in Y} D_b := \{(a, b) \in X \times Y : a \in D_b\}$$

is a definable subset of  $X \times Y$ . The definable set  $\coprod_{b \in Y} D_b$  is called the *total space* of the family.

## Definition

A function  $f : X \rightarrow R$  from a definable set  $X$  to an abstract set  $R$  is *definable* if the range  $f(X)$  is finite and if  $f^{-1}(r)$  is a definable subset of  $X$  for every  $r \in R$ .

# Definable functions to abstract sets

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## Example

In an  $\aleph_1$ -categorical theory, “Morley rank is definable” means that for every definable family  $\{D_a : a \in X\}$ , the function

$$a \mapsto RM(D_a)$$

is a definable function from  $X$  to  $\mathbb{N}$ .

## Definition

An ordered structure  $(M, <, \dots)$  is *o-minimal* if every definable subset of  $M^1$  is a finite union of points and intervals.

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## Definition

An o-minimal structure  $(M, <, \dots)$  is *dense* if the underlying order is dense, i.e.,

$$M \models \forall x, y : (x < y) \implies (\exists z : (x < z) \wedge (z < y))$$

# O-minimal Euler characteristic

Let  $(M, <, \dots)$  be a dense o-minimal structure. If  $X$  is a definable set, then  $X$  can be written as a disjoint union of cells

$$X = C_1 \amalg C_2 \amalg \cdots \amalg C_n$$

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## Proposition (van den Dries)

*This doesn't depend on the choice of the cell decomposition.*

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O-minimal Euler characteristic satisfies the following additional properties:

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$$x \mapsto \chi(D_x)$$

is a definable function from  $X$  to  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

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### Example

If  $1 \rightarrow G_1 \rightarrow G_2 \rightarrow G_3 \rightarrow 1$  is a short exact sequence of definable groups, then

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### Proof.

Consider the family of cosets of  $G_1$  in  $G_2$ , indexed by  $G_3$ . □

# Euler characteristic in topology

If  $X$  is a sufficiently nice topological space, the Euler characteristic  $\chi(X)$  is defined as the alternating sum of Betti numbers:

$$\chi(X) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} (-1)^i \dim_{\mathbb{C}} H^i(X; \mathbb{C}).$$

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When  $X$  is a finite simplicial complex,  $\chi(X)$  is given by a more familiar formula

$$\chi(X) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} (-1)^i F_i$$

where  $F_i$  is the number of  $i$ -dimensional simplices.

## Example

Euler's formula

$$V - E + F = 2$$

is the statement that the Euler characteristic of the sphere is 2.

# The reason for the name "Euler characteristic"

## Theorem (van den Dries)

*If  $R$  is an  $o$ -minimal expansion of the real field  $(\mathbb{R}, <, +, \cdot)$ , and  $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  is a definable and compact set, then the  $o$ -minimal Euler characteristic of  $X$  agrees with the topological Euler characteristic.*

# Abstract Euler characteristics

Let  $M$  be a structure and  $R$  be a (commutative) ring.

## Definition

An  $R$ -valued Euler characteristic on  $M$  is a map

$$\chi : \{\text{Definable sets in } M\} \rightarrow R$$

satisfying the axioms

- 1  $\chi(X) = \chi(Y)$  if there is a definable bijection  $f : X \rightarrow Y$ .
- 2  $\chi(\emptyset) = 0$
- 3  $\chi(X \cup Y) = \chi(X) + \chi(Y)$  if  $X \cap Y = \emptyset$
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An Euler characteristic  $\chi$  is *strong* if for every definable family  $\{D_x : x \in X\}$ , if  $\chi(D_x) = \alpha$  for all  $x \in X$  then

$$\chi\left(\coprod_{x \in X} D_x\right) = \alpha \cdot \chi(X)$$

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# Examples

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- Size, in finite structures:

$$\chi(X) = \#X$$

Both these examples are strong and definable.

# “Measures”

An  $R$ -valued “measure” on a definable set  $X$  is a function

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satisfying the axioms:

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A measure  $\mu$  is *definable* if for any definable family  $\{D_y : y \in Y\}$  of subsets of  $X$ , the following is a definable function from  $Y$  to  $R$ :

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## Remark

*An  $R$ -valued Euler characteristic  $\chi$  induces an  $R$ -valued measure  $\chi|_X$  on every definable set  $X$ . The Euler characteristic  $\chi$  is definable iff  $\chi|_X$  is definable for every  $X$ .*

# Integration against a “measure”

If  $\mu$  is an  $R$ -valued measure on  $X$ , and  $f : X \rightarrow R$  is definable, there is a well-defined “integral”

$$\int_{x \in X} f(x) d\mu(x).$$

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## Remark

*This does not depend on the choice of the partition.*

# Properties of integration

Integration is  $R$ -linear:

$$\int_{x \in X} (a \cdot f(x) + g(x)) d\mu(x) = a \cdot \int_{x \in X} f(x) d\mu(x) + \int_{x \in X} g(x) d\mu(x).$$

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If  $\mu$  is definable and  $f : X \times Y \rightarrow R$  is definable, then

$$\int_{x \in X} f(x, y) d\mu(x)$$

is a definable function  $Y \rightarrow R$ . Moreover, this property characterizes definable measures.

# Strong Euler characteristics and integration

Let  $\chi$  be a strong Euler characteristic and  $\{D_x : x \in X\}$  be a definable family.

Suppose the following function  $X \rightarrow R$  is definable:

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In particular,  $\chi$  of the total space is determined by  $\chi$  of the fibers and the restriction of  $\chi$  on the base.

# Strong definable Euler characteristics

Let  $\chi$  be a strong Euler characteristic on a 1-sorted structure  $M$ .

## Proposition

*The following are equivalent:*

- $\chi$  is definable
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*Moreover, when these hold,  $\chi$  is determined by  $\chi|_{M^1}$ .*

## Proof.

Let  $\mu = \chi|_{M^1}$ . Assuming  $\mu$  is definable, one proves by induction that for any definable  $X \subseteq M^n$ ,

$$\chi(D) = \int_{x_1 \in M} \cdots \int_{x_n \in M} 1_D(\vec{x}) d\mu(x_n) \cdots d\mu(x_1)$$



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- $\mu(\{a\}) = 1$  for every  $a \in M^1$ .
- For every definable  $D \subseteq M^2$ , the Fubini property holds:

$$\int_{x \in M^1} \int_{y \in M^1} 1_D(x, y) d\mu(y) d\mu(x) = \int_{y \in M^1} \int_{x \in M^1} 1_D(x, y) d\mu(x) d\mu(y)$$

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This can be used to construct the o-minimal Euler characteristic.

## Example: $ACF_0$

- The field  $\mathbb{C}$  can be interpreted in the field  $\mathbb{R}$ . The o-minimal Euler characteristic  $\chi_{\mathbb{R}}$  on  $(\mathbb{R}, +, \cdot)$  yields a strong Euler characteristic  $\chi_{\mathbb{C}}$  on  $(\mathbb{C}, +, \cdot)$ .

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- The induced measure on  $\mathbb{C}^1$  is

$$\mu(X) = |X| \quad \text{if } X \text{ finite}$$

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- This measure is definable, so  $\chi_{\mathbb{C}}$  is definable.
- If  $K \models ACF_0$ , then the same  $\mu$  is a definable measure, and

$$d\mu(x) d\mu(y) = d\mu(y) d\mu(x)$$

because  $K \equiv \mathbb{C}$ .

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- This measure is definable, so  $\chi_{\mathbb{C}}$  is definable.
- If  $K \models ACF_0$ , then the same  $\mu$  is a definable measure, and

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because  $K \equiv \mathbb{C}$ .

- Therefore,  $\mu$  gives rise to a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -valued definable strong Euler characteristic on  $K$ .

# Semiring-valued Euler characteristics

A (commutative) *semiring* is a structure  $(R, +, 0, 1, \cdot)$  such that

- $(R, 0, +)$  is a commutative monoid.
- $(R, 1, \cdot)$  is a commutative monoid.
- For every  $a \in R$ , the map  $x \mapsto x \cdot a$  is a monoid endomorphism of  $(R, 0, +)$ .

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- For every  $a \in R$ , the map  $x \mapsto x \cdot a$  is a monoid endomorphism of  $(R, 0, +)$ .

## Example

The *tropical semiring* is  $R = \{0, 1, \omega, \omega^2, \omega^3, \dots\}$ , where, for example

$$\omega^2 + \omega^3 = \omega^3$$

$$\omega^2 \cdot \omega^3 = \omega^5$$

# Semiring-valued Euler characteristics

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## Remark

*Semiring-valued Euler characteristics work just as well as ring-valued Euler characteristics!*

## Definition

A theory  $T$  is *geometric* if

- 1  $\exists^\infty$  can be eliminated
- 2  $\text{acl}$  satisfies Steinitz exchange:

$$a \in \text{acl}(\{b\} \cup S) \wedge a \notin \text{acl}(S) \implies b \in \text{acl}(\{a\} \cup S)$$

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Examples include ACVF,  $\mathbb{Q}_p$ , pseudo-finite fields, strongly minimal theories, o-minimal theories...

## Remark

*If  $M$  is a model of a geometric theory, there is an Euler characteristic taking values in the tropical semiring:*

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The *existence* of the dimension theory can be proven by checking definability and Fubini for the measure

$$\mu(X) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } X = \emptyset \\ \omega & \text{if } |X| \geq \aleph_0 \\ 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

## Definition

A strongly minimal structure  $M$  is *unimodular* if whenever  $a \in \text{acl}(Sb)$  and  $b \in \text{acl}(Sa)$  but  $a, b \notin \text{acl}(S)$ ,

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Pseudo-finite and  $\aleph_0$ -categorical strongly minimal structures are known to be unimodular.

## Remark

*In a unimodular strongly minimal structure, there is a semiring-valued Euler characteristic given by*

$$\chi(X) = Z(X)\omega^{\dim(X)}$$

*where  $\dim(X)$  is the Morley rank of  $X$  and  $Z(X)$  is the Zilber degree.*

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The relevant semiring can be constructed by taking the free semiring  $\mathbb{N}[\omega]$  on one generator  $\omega$ , modulo the equivalence relation of having the same leading term. For example,

$$2\omega^3 \cdot 3\omega^2 = 6\omega^5$$

$$2\omega^3 + 3\omega^2 = 2\omega^3$$

$$2\omega^3 + 3\omega^3 = 5\omega^3$$

# Pseudo-finite counting

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If  $N > 0$ , then  $\mathbb{Z}^*/N \cong \mathbb{Z}/N$ . The map

$$\chi_N(X) := |X| + N\mathbb{Z}^* \in \mathbb{Z}^*/N \cong \mathbb{Z}/N$$

defines a  $\mathbb{Z}/N$ -valued Euler characteristic  $\chi_N$ .

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## Proof.

- 1 It is a general fact that if  $\chi$  is a definable and strong  $R$ -valued Euler characteristic, and  $\phi : R \rightarrow S$  is a ring homomorphism, then  $\phi \circ \chi$  is a definable and strong  $R$ -valued Euler characteristic.

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- 4 Therefore,  $\chi_N$  is strong on ultraproducts of finite structures.



# $\hat{\mathbb{Z}}$ -valued Euler characteristics

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$$\hat{\mathbb{Z}} := \varprojlim_N \mathbb{Z}/N.$$

Let  $\pi_N$  be the natural map  $\hat{\mathbb{Z}} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/N$ .

## Definition (abuse of notation)

A  $\hat{\mathbb{Z}}$ -valued Euler characteristic  $\hat{\chi}$  is *strong* if  $\pi_N \circ \hat{\chi}$  is strong for every  $N$ .  
A  $\hat{\mathbb{Z}}$ -valued Euler characteristic  $\hat{\chi}$  is *definable* if  $\pi_N \circ \hat{\chi}$  is definable for every  $N$ .

## Remark

*For definable and strong  $\hat{\mathbb{Z}}$ -valued  $\hat{\chi}$ , the integration formula still holds*

$$\hat{\chi} \left( \prod_{x \in X} D_x \right) = \int_{x \in X} \hat{\chi}(D_x) d\hat{\chi}(x),$$

*but we need to use  $p$ -adic integration.*

# Where we are headed: Goal #1

If  $M$  is an ultraproduct of finite structures, then there is canonically a  $\hat{\mathbb{Z}}$ -valued Euler characteristic  $\hat{\chi}$  that is strong, but not necessarily definable.

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If  $M$  is an ultraproduct of finite structures, then there is canonically a  $\hat{\mathbb{Z}}$ -valued Euler characteristic  $\hat{\chi}$  that is strong, but not necessarily definable.

**Theorem (W. Johnson)**

*If  $K$  is an ultraproduct of finite fields, then this  $\hat{\chi}$  is definable.*

# $\hat{\chi}$ needn't be definable

If  $(M, <)$  is an ultraproduct of finite total orders, then  $\chi_2$  isn't definable:

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- No definable set has this property (use quantifier elimination or consider automorphisms of  $\aleph_0$ -saturated models).

# The theory of finite fields

Let  $\mathcal{L}_{rings}$  be the first-order language of rings.

## Definition

The (elementary) theory of finite fields is the set  $T_{ff}$  of sentences  $\varphi \in \mathcal{L}_{rings}$  such that  $K \models \varphi$  for every finite field  $K$ .

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## Example

- The map  $x \mapsto x(x - 1)$  isn't injective on any field. On finite fields, it can't be surjective, so

$$\exists y \forall x : y \neq x(x - 1)$$

is in  $T_{ff}$ .

- The sentence  $\forall x \exists y : x = y^2$  (every element is a square) is true in some finite fields, and false in others. This sentence is not in  $T_{ff}$ .

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Note:  $T_{ff}$  is not complete.

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Fields of the second type are called *pseudo-finite fields*.

The following transfer principles hold:

- If  $\varphi \in \mathcal{L}_{rings}$  holds in infinitely many finite fields, then  $\varphi$  holds in some pseudo-finite fields.
- If  $\varphi \in \mathcal{L}_{rings}$  holds in almost all finite fields, then  $\varphi$  holds in all pseudo-finite fields.

# James Ax's work

In *The Elementary Theory of Finite Fields*, Ax wrote down a computable set of axioms and proved that these axioms generate  $T_{ff}$ .

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From this, Ax proved:

## Corollary

*$T_{ff}$  is computable: there is an algorithm which takes  $\varphi \in \mathcal{L}_{rings}$  and determines whether  $\varphi$  holds in all finite fields.*

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## Proof.

$T_{ff}$  is computably enumerable (CE) because it is generated by a computable set of axioms.

$T_{ff}$  is co-CE because one can inspect individual finite fields one by one to look for counterexamples. □

# Ingredients in Ax's proof

Let  $T_{Ax}$  denote Ax's axioms for the theory of finite fields. The proof that  $T_{Ax} \vdash T_{ff}$  uses three ingredients:

- 1 Weil's Riemann Hypothesis for function fields: used to show that finite and pseudo-finite fields satisfy  $T_{Ax}$ .

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1 and 3 are moderately deep results from algebraic geometry and number theory, respectively.

# Ax's characterization of pseudo-finite fields

From the axioms that generate  $T_{ff}$ , Ax gave the following algebraic characterization of pseudo-finite fields:

## Corollary

*A field  $K$  is pseudo-finite exactly if it satisfies the following algebraic conditions:*

- 1  $K$  is perfect.

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- 3  $K$  is pseudo-algebraically closed (PAC)

# Two definitions of PAC

For model theorists:

## Definition

A field  $K$  is *perfect and PAC* if, when we embed  $K$  into a monster model  $\mathbb{M}$  of ACF, every stationary type over  $K$  is finitely satisfiable in  $K$ .

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*It suffices to check 1-dimensional  $V$  (i.e., algebraic curves).*

# Surprisingly pseudo-finite fields

- If  $\sigma$  is chosen randomly in  $\text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}) := \text{Aut}(\mathbb{Q}^{alg}/\mathbb{Q})$  with respect to Haar measure, then the field of elements fixed by  $\sigma$  is pseudo-finite with probability 1.

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- If  $(Z, +, \cdot)$  is a model of Peano arithmetic, and  $(p)$  is a principal prime ideal, then  $Z/(p)$  is a pseudo-finite field.
- Most subfields of  $\mathbb{F}_p^{alg}$  are pseudo-finite. For example, the subfield generated by

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- If  $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}}$  is the number theorist's ring of adeles and  $\mathfrak{m}$  is any maximal ideal other than the "obvious" ones, then quotient  $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathfrak{m}$  is a pseudo-finite field.

## Where we are headed: Goal #2

### Theorem (W. Johnson)

*Every pseudo-finite field  $K$  admits a definable and strong  $\hat{\mathbb{Z}}$ -valued Euler characteristic  $\hat{\chi}$ .*

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This  $\hat{\chi}$  isn't uniquely determined, unfortunately. It depends on a choice of an element  $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(K^{\text{alg}}/K)$ .

# Strong Euler characteristics needn't exist

## Proposition

*If  $K$  is an algebraically closed field of positive characteristic, then  $K$  admits no  $R$ -valued strong Euler characteristics for any nontrivial ring  $R$ .*

The proof involves examining a couple explicit maps from  $K$  to  $K$  and proving that  $1 = 0$  in  $R$ .

## Where we are headed: Goal #3

Let  $\mathcal{L}_{rings}^+$  be the first-order language of rings expanded with new quantifiers  $\mu_k^n x$ , where

$$\mu_k^n x : P(x) \iff$$

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These quantifiers make sense in any finite structure.

### Main Theorem (W. Johnson)

*There is an algorithm which takes a sentence  $\varphi \in \mathcal{L}_{rings}^+$  and determines whether  $\varphi$  holds in every finite field.*

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$\mu_1^5 x : x = x$  (size of the field is congruent to 1 mod 5) is equivalent to

$$(5 \neq 0) \wedge (\exists x : x \neq 1 \wedge x^5 = 1)$$

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$\mu_1^2 x \exists y : x = y^2$  (there are an odd number of perfect squares) is equivalent to

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$\mu_1^5 x : x = x$  (size of the field is congruent to 1 mod 5) is equivalent to

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We need an expanded structure.

## Definition

A *difference field*  $(K, \sigma)$  is a field  $K$  and an endomorphism  $\sigma : K \rightarrow K$ .

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Why?

# “Difference” fields

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A *differential field* is a field  $K$  and an operator  $\partial : K \rightarrow K$  satisfying the product and sum rules for differentiation.

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The difference operator  $(\delta f)(x) = f(x+1) - f(x)$  satisfies analogous rules:

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A *difference field* should be a field  $K$  and an operator  $\delta : K \rightarrow K$  satisfying the product and sum rules for differences.

## Remark

*The axioms of  $\delta$  are an obfuscated way of saying that  $x \mapsto x + \delta x$  is a field endomorphism.*

# The theory of Frobenius difference fields

In characteristic  $p$ , the following identities hold:

$$(x + y)^p = x^p + y^p$$

$$(xy)^p = x^p \cdot y^p$$

In particular,  $x \mapsto x^p$  is a field endomorphism. More generally,  $x \mapsto x^q$  is a field endomorphism for any power  $q = p^k$ .

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The (*elementary*) theory of Frobenius difference fields is the set  $T_{frob}$  of  $\varphi$  holding in every Frobenius difference field.

# Hrushovski's work

In *The Elementary Theory of the Frobenius Automorphism* (149 pages), Hrushovski wrote down a computable set of axioms and (probably) proved that these axioms generate  $T_{frob}$ .

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## Corollary

*$T_{frob}$  is computable: there is an algorithm which takes  $\varphi$  in the language of difference fields and determines whether  $\varphi$  holds in all finite fields.*

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*The models of  $T_{\text{frob}}$  are the Frobenius difference fields plus the models of ACFA.*

## Proposition

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This means:

- The models of ACFA are exactly the existentially closed difference fields.
- Every difference field can be embedded into a model of ACFA.
- If  $K \leq L$  is an inclusion of models of ACFA, then  $K \preceq L$ .

## Definition

If  $(K, \sigma)$  is a difference field, the *fixed field*  $K^\sigma$  is

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Consequently, Hrushovski's work *generalizes* Ax's work.

# Periodic difference fields

We need a (much easier) variant of Hrushovski's work on ACFA and Frobenius difference fields.

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A difference field  $(K, \sigma)$  is *periodic* if every  $x \in K$  has finite orbit under  $\sigma$ , i.e., for every  $x \in K$  there is some  $n \geq 1$  such that  $\sigma^n x = x$ .

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## Example

- If  $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{Q}^{\text{alg}}/\mathbb{Q})$ , then  $(\mathbb{Q}^{\text{alg}}, \sigma)$  is periodic.
- Frobenius difference fields are periodic.

# The multi-sorted language

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Solution: work in a multi-sorted structure  $(K_1, K_2, K_3, \dots)$ , where

- $K_i$  is the fixed field of  $\sigma^i$ .
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- There are inclusion maps  $\iota_{n,m} : K_n \rightarrow K_m$  whenever  $n|m$ .

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To highlight the change of language, we will refer to periodic difference fields as *periodic fields* henceforth.

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Let  $T_{frob}$  denote the (elementary) theory of Frobenius *periodic* fields.

- 1 There is a computable set of axioms which generate  $T_{frob}$ .
- 2 Therefore,  $T_{frob}$  is computable.
- 3 The theory of periodic difference fields has a model companion "ACPF."
- 4 The models of  $T_{frob}$  are the Frobenius periodic fields and the models of ACPF.

All of these facts were probably initially discovered by Hrushovski, prior to his work on ACFA.

ACPF is closely linked to pseudo-finite fields:

## Proposition

- 1 *If  $(K, \sigma)$  is a model of ACPF, then  $K^\sigma$  is a pseudo-finite field.*
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More explicitly, if  $K$  is pseudo-finite then  $\text{Aut}(K^{\text{alg}}/K)$  is isomorphic to  $\hat{\mathbb{Z}}$ . If  $\sigma$  is any *topological generator* of  $\hat{\mathbb{Z}}$ , then  $(K^{\text{alg}}, \sigma)$  is a model of ACPF with fixed field  $K$ .

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Consequently, the previous slide generalizes Ax's work.

# Today's main theorem

## Main Theorem (W. Johnson)

*Let  $(K, \sigma)$  be a model of ACPF. Then there is a canonical  $\hat{\mathbb{Z}}$  0-definable Euler characteristic  $\hat{\chi}$  on  $(K, \sigma)$ , which agrees with the pseudo-finite  $\hat{\chi}$  if  $(K, \sigma)$  is an ultraproduct of Frobenius periodic fields.*

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## Theorem

*The  $\mu_k^n$  quantifiers can be uniformly eliminated across Frobenius periodic fields.*

## Example: counting points in the fixed field

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Earlier, we considered the statement that the number of elements in the field is  $3 \pmod{5}$ :

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Interpreting the finite field as a fixed field of a Frobenius periodic field, the analogous statement for Frobenius periodic fields is

$$\mu_3^5 x \in K_1 : x = x.$$

Recall  $K_1$  is the sort for the fixed field  $K^\sigma$ .

## Example: counting points in the fixed field

Let  $\{1, \omega, \omega^2, \omega^3, \omega^4\}$  be the 5th roots of unity. In the  $q$ th Frobenius periodic field,  $\sigma(x) = x^q$ , and  $q = |K_1|$ .

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- If  $|K_1| \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$ , then  $\sigma$  fixes  $\omega$
- If  $|K_1| \equiv 2 \pmod{5}$ , then  $\sigma$  maps

$$\omega \mapsto \omega^2 \mapsto \omega^4 \mapsto \omega^8 = \omega^3 \mapsto \omega^6 = \omega$$

- If  $|K_1| \equiv 3 \pmod{5}$ , then  $\sigma$  maps

$$\omega \mapsto \omega^3 \mapsto \omega^9 = \omega^4 \mapsto \omega^{12} = \omega^2 \mapsto \omega^6 = \omega$$

- If  $|K_1| \equiv 4 \pmod{5}$ , then  $\sigma$  maps

$$\omega \mapsto \omega^4 \mapsto \omega^{16} = \omega$$

# Example: counting points in the fixed field

Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned} & (\mu_3^5 x \in K_1 : x = x) \iff \\ & (\exists x \in K_4 : x^5 = 1 \wedge x \neq 1 \wedge \sigma(x) = x^3) \end{aligned}$$

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In general,  $\chi_N(K_1)$  is determined by examining how  $\sigma$  acts on primitive  $N$ th roots of unity

... unless  $N$  is divisible by the field characteristic.

# Bad characteristic

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- 1 Write  $N = N_0 \cdot 2^k$  with  $N_0$  odd.
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- 2 Use the approach above to determine  $\chi_{2^k}(K_1)$ .
- 3 Use roots of unity to determine  $\chi_{N_0}(K_1)$ .
- 4  $\mathbb{Z}/N \cong (\mathbb{Z}/N_0) \times (\mathbb{Z}/2^k)$ .

Let  $C$  be the definable set

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Answer:  $C$  is a *genus 0 curve*, so it is birationally equivalent to the affine line. In this case, the function

$$(x, y) \mapsto x - y$$

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Therefore,  $\chi_N(C)$  is determined by  $\chi_N(K_1)$ .

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## Proposition (Folk theorem)

*When  $N$  is prime to the characteristic, the mod  $N$  value of  $|E(\mathbb{F}_q)|$  is determined by how the  $q$ th-power Frobenius automorphism acts on the  $N$ th roots of unity and the  $N$ -torsion in the group  $E(\mathbb{F}_q^{\text{alg}})$ .*

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This allows us to prove uniform definability of  $\chi_N(E(K_1))$  by breaking into cases according to how  $\sigma$  acts on the  $N$ -torsion in  $E(K)$  and  $K^\times$ .

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## Remark

*In the case of bad characteristic  $p|N$ , this approach still works, but is much more complicated and involves non-reduced finite group schemes.*

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- 2  $\chi_N(C)$  is determined by examining how  $\sigma$  acts on the  $N$ -torsion in the multiplicative group and the Jacobian.
- 3 For  $N$  prime to the characteristic, this again follows from folk theorems in arithmetic geometry.
- 4 For  $N = p^k$ , one needs to carefully analyze non-reduced finite group schemes.

## Example: the set of squares

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Note the utility of working with  $\hat{\chi}$  rather than one of the individual  $\chi_N$ : division by 2 wouldn't be well defined in  $\mathbb{Z}/4$ .

# General 1-dimensional definable sets

General definable subsets of  $K_1$  are like the set of squares:

## Proposition

*If  $X \subseteq K_1$  is definable, then there is an algebraic curve  $C$  defined over  $K_1$ , and an algebraic map  $f : C \rightarrow K_1$  defined over  $K_1$  such that  $X = f(C(K_1))$ .*

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This fact follows on general model-theoretic grounds by combining

- Model completeness of ACPF
- The ability to amalgamate periodic difference fields over bases that are algebraically closed.

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General definable subsets of  $K_1$  are like the set of squares:

## Proposition

*If  $X \subseteq K_1$  is definable, then there is an algebraic curve  $C$  defined over  $K_1$ , and an algebraic map  $f : C \rightarrow K_1$  defined over  $K_1$  such that  $X = f(C(K_1))$ .*

This fact follows on general model-theoretic grounds by combining

- Model completeness of ACPF
- The ability to amalgamate periodic difference fields over bases that are algebraically closed.

## Example

If  $D$  is the set of squares in  $K_1$ , then take  $C = K_1$  and  $f : K_1 \rightarrow K_1$  given by  $f(x) = x^2$ .

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## Proposition

*In the situation above,  $\hat{\chi}(X)$  is determined in an explicit way by the values*

$$\hat{\chi}(C), \hat{\chi}(C \times_{K_1} C), \hat{\chi}(C \times_{K_1} C \times_{K_1} C), \dots$$

# Endgame: Beth implicit definability

The overall proof strategy is to define the  $\chi_N$  uniformly across Frobenius periodic fields and models of ACPF by explicitly writing down axioms.

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These axioms are:

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- 2 If  $N|M$ , then  $\chi_N(X) \equiv \chi_M(X) \pmod N$ .

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- 2 If  $N|M$ , then  $\chi_N(X) \equiv \chi_M(X) \pmod N$ .
- 3 If  $C$  is an algebraic curve, then  $\chi_N(C)$  is given by an explicit black box from arithmetic geometry, involving  $N$ -torsion in the Jacobian and the multiplicative group.

# Endgame: Beth implicit definability

After writing down axioms, one then shows

- 1 The axioms are true in Frobenius periodic fields, hence in ultraproducts of Frobenius periodic fields.
- 2 In models of ACPF, the axioms determine at most one  $\hat{\chi}|K_1$ .

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- 4 Because  $\hat{\chi}$  is strong, it follows that  $\hat{\chi}$  must be definable, if it exists.
- 5 If  $K$  is a model of ACPF, then  $K \equiv L$  for some ultraproduct  $L$  of Frobenius periodic fields.
- 6 The Euler characteristic  $\hat{\chi}$  exists and is 0-definable in  $L$ , and therefore exists and is 0-definable in  $K$ .

# Directions for future research

Can we prove definability of  $\chi_N$  in these other pseudo-finite settings?

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Are there any connections to  $p$ -adic L-functions?

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# Acknowledgments

I would like to thank the organizers for inviting me.

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Parts of this work were carried out while I was funded by the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship under Grant No. DGE 1106400. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this talk are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the NSF.

# Questions?