# ON NICHOLS ALGEBRAS OVER PGL(2,q) AND PSL(2,q)

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ABSTRACT. We compute necessary conditions on Yetter-Drinfeld modules over the groups  $\mathbf{PGL}(2,q) = \mathbf{PGL}(2,\mathbb{F}_q)$  and  $\mathbf{PSL}(2,q) = \mathbf{PSL}(2,\mathbb{F}_q)$  to generate finite dimensional Nichols algebras. This is a first step towards a classification of pointed Hopf algebras with group of group-likes isomorphic to one of these groups.

As a by-product of the techniques developed in this work, we prove that any finite-dimensional pointed Hopf algebra over the Mathieu groups  $M_{20}$  or  $M_{21} = \mathbf{PSL}(3, 4)$  is the group algebra.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Quantum groups, introduced by Drinfeld and Jimbo in the 1980's, were constructed as a mean to solve the Quantum Yang-Baxter Equation. They are deformations of enveloping algebras of semisimple complex Lie algebras. But they are also pointed Hopf algebras, and this marked the beginning of an algebraic program: classifying pointed Hopf algebras. A new chapter in this program was introduced by Lusztig: when the deformation parameter q is a root of unit, we can consider the so called Frobenius-Lusztig kernels. These are now finite dimensional pointed Hopf algebras, which carry the combinatorial information of a Cartan matrix and a Weyl group.

Soon, the question became how to construct new finite dimensional pointed Hopf algebras, and how Cartan matrices and Weyl groups appear in them. To keep this Introduction short, let us just mention that the Lifting Procedure [AS02] was the answer to the first question and the introduction of a Weyl groupoid [Hec06a] was the answer to the second one.

When the group of grouplikes is abelian, the whole procedure is well understood nowadays. However, when the group is not abelian, we are still far away from the classification. Not only so, but even the construction of finite dimensional pointed Hopf algebras over non abelian groups is an elusive matter [Gr].

Let us recall that, according to the Lifting Procedure, to classify finite dimensional pointed Hopf algebras with a specific group of grouplikes, the key step is to compute the Nichols algebras generated by Yetter-Drinfeld modules over the group which are finite dimensional. With the abelian tools at hand, it is possible to rule out, for a given group (or a family of groups), a large class of Yetter-Drinfeld modules which can be shown to produce infinite dimensional Nichols algebras. Therefore, the next step to classify f.d. pointed Hopf algebras over those groups is to study the Nichols algebras produced by the remaining modules.

One of the key tools to produce Yetter-Drinfeld modules over groups is that of racks and 2-cocycles. They allow to work with the braided vector spaces without

This work was partially supported by CONICET and ANPCyT (Argentina).

having to resort to groups. However, when trying to classify pointed Hopf algebras parametrized by groups, sometimes the rack 2-cocycles are "too general". When the group is fixed, a conjugacy class can not hold any 2-cocycle, but only some of them. Many times, one can prove that all Nichols algebras produced by a conjugacy class within a group are infinite-dimensional, while one is not able to prove that, as a rack, the same thing happens with any 2-cocycle. Therefore, we develop in this article the concept of class of type B, as follows  $(C_G(g))$  is the centralizer of  $g \in G$ and  $\mathfrak{B}(\mathcal{C}, \rho)$  stands for the Nichols algebra produced by the Yetter-Drinfeld module  $M(\mathcal{C}, \rho)$  -see below-):

**Definition 1.1.** Let G be a group,  $g \in G$  and  $C = \{xgx^{-1} : x \in G\}$  its conjugacy class. We say that C is a class of type B if for any representation  $\rho \in \widehat{C_G(g)}$  the Nichols algebra  $\mathfrak{B}(\mathcal{C}, \rho)$  is infinite dimensional. We also say that g is of type B if its conjugacy class is. We say that the group G is of type B if all its conjugacy classes are.

Remark 1.2. By the lifting procedure, if G is of type B then any finite dimensional pointed Hopf algebra with group of grouplikes (isomorphic to) G is (isomorphic to) the group algebra of G.

Remark 1.3. It is proved in [AFGV08] that if  $g \in G$  is of type B and  $f : G \hookrightarrow H$  is a monomorphism of groups then f(g) is of type B in H. This is the reason why this concept turns out to be a powerful tool.

In [FGV07] Nichols algebras over  $\mathbf{GL}(2,q)$  and  $\mathbf{SL}(2,q)$  were studied. In that paper it is proved that  $\mathbf{SL}(2,2^n)$  is of type B for n > 1. In this paper we deal with the groups  $\mathbf{PGL}(2,q)$  and  $\mathbf{PSL}(2,q)$  for q a power of an odd prime number (recall that if q is even then  $\mathbf{PSL}(2,q) = \mathbf{PGL}(2,q) = \mathbf{SL}(2,q)$ ). For definitions and elementary properties of these groups, see for example [AB95].

One of the main results of this work is Theorem 1.4.

**Theorem 1.4.** The Mathieu groups  $M_{20}$  and  $M_{21} = \mathbf{PSL}(3, 4)$  are of type B.

It is interesting to note that  $M_{20}$  is non-simple. Also, notice that this is the first example of a non-simple group which is of type B. Other results of this work are (see notations below):

**Theorem 1.5.** Let  $G = \mathbf{PGL}(2, q)$  (see Table 4 in §5 for the conjugacy classes of G). Then, class  $C_2$  is of type B. Also, the conditions to obtain finite-dimensional Nichols algebras on the representations for classes  $C_3$ ,  $C_4$ ,  $C_5$  and  $C_6$  are given in propositions 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4.

**Theorem 1.6.** Let  $G = \mathbf{PSL}(2, q)$  (see Tables 2 and 3 in §4). Then, classes  $C_i$  are of type B for i < 6. Also, the conditions to obtain finite-dimensional Nichols algebras on the representation for class  $C_6$  are given in Proposition 4.2 if  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ , or in Proposition 4.4 if  $q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ .

#### 2. Preliminaries

2.1. Notations. As said, we use the same notation as in [FGV07]. The number p will be an odd prime number and q a power of p,  $E = \mathbb{F}_{q^2}$  will be the quadratic extension of  $\mathbb{F}_q$ ,  $\overline{x} = x^q$  will be the Galois conjugate of  $x \in E$ , k will be an algebraically closed field of characteristic zero, and we will write  $\mathcal{R}_n$  for the set of

	Degree	$r^k$	$sr^k$
$\chi_1$	1	1	1
$\chi_2$	1	1	-1
$\chi_3$	1	$(-1)^k$	$(-1)^k$
χ4	1	$(-1)^k$	$(-1)^{k+1}$
$\mu_h \ (0 < h < \frac{n}{2})$	2	$2\cos\frac{2\pi hk}{n}$	0

TABLE 1. Character table of  $\mathbb{D}_n$  (*n* even)

primitive *n*-th roots of 1 in *k*. If  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  we write  $\pm i$  for the square roots of -1 in  $\mathbb{F}_q$ . Following the notation in [Ada02], we fix an element  $\Delta \in \mathbb{F}_q \setminus \mathbb{F}_q^2$  and an element  $\delta \in E$  which is a square root of  $\Delta$ . We consider elements  $z \in E$  being written as  $z = x + \delta y$ , with  $x, y \in \mathbb{F}_q$ .

If G is a finite group, C is a conjugacy class of  $g \in G$ , and  $\rho$  is an irreducible representation of the centralizer  $C_G(g)$ , we write  $\mathfrak{B}(\mathcal{C},\rho)$  (or  $\mathfrak{B}(\mathcal{C})$  if no confusion can arise) for the Nichols algebra generated by the Yetter-Drinfeld module  $V(g,\rho)$ (see for example [AG99]).

2.2. Representations of the Dihedral group. We present the Dihedral group  $\mathbb{D}_n$  of order 2n by generators r and s and relations

$$r^n = s^2 = 1, \quad srs = r^{-1}.$$

When n is even, the irreducible representations are given in Table 1 (see [Ser77, Section 5.3]). We will not need the Dihedral groups  $\mathbb{D}_n$  with n odd.

2.3. Main tools. Note that, since  $\rho$  is irreducible and  $g \in Z(C_G(g))$  (the center of  $C_G(g)$ ), then  $\rho(g)$  is a scalar (by Schur lemma). The following lemmas are contained in [AF07a, AF07b, AZ07, FGV07, Hec06b].

**Lemma 2.1.** Assume that dim  $\mathfrak{B}(\mathcal{C},\rho) < \infty$ . If  $g^{-1} \in \mathcal{C}$  then  $\rho(g) = -1$ .

Proof. See [AZ07].

As in the cited papers, a conjugacy class is called *real* if it contains the inverses of its elements.

**Lemma 2.2.** Assume that dim  $\mathfrak{B}(\mathcal{C}, \rho) < \infty$ . If there exist n > 1 such that  $g^n \in \mathcal{C}$  then  $\rho(g) = -1$  or  $\rho(g) \in \mathcal{R}_3$ . Moreover, if  $g^{n^2} \neq g$  then  $\rho(g) = -1$ .

*Proof.* For the proof see for example [FGV07].

As in the cited papers, a conjugacy class is called *quasireal* if it contains proper powers of its elements.

The next lemma is useful to treat, for instance, some conjugacy classes of involutions. A particular case of this Lemma appears also in [Fan07].

Lemma 2.3. Let G be a group.

- (1) Assume that  $g_0, g_1, g_2 \in G$  are conjugate and commute to each other, that  $x_1x_2$  and  $x_2x_1$  belong to  $C_G(g_0)$ , (where  $x_i$  are such that  $g_i = x_ig_0x_i^{-1}$  for i = 1, 2), and that  $g_1g_2 = g_0^m$  for an odd integer m. Then  $g_0$  is of type B.
- (2) The conjugacy class of involutions in the alternating group  $\mathbb{A}_4$  is of type B.
- (3) If  $g_0, x \in G$  are such that  $g_0$  has order 2 and both x and  $g_0x$  have order 3, then  $g_0$  is of type B.

*Proof.* Part 2 is a consequence of Part 1 by taking  $g_0 = (12)(34)$ ,  $g_1 = (13)(24)$ ,  $g_2 = (14)(23)$ ,  $x_1 = (243)$  and  $x_2 = x_1^{-1}$  (we have  $g_1g_2 = g_0$  in this way). Also, Part 3 is a consequence of Part 2 and Remark 1.3 since, as proved in [Dic58, Theorem 265] (or use GAP to check it),  $\mathbb{A}_4$  can be presented by generators  $g_0$  and x and relations

$$g_0^2 = x^3 = (g_0 x)^3 = 1.$$

Therefore, we need to prove Part 1. First notice that, since  $g_ig_j = g_jg_i$ , there exists  $w \in V \setminus \{0\}$  and  $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{C}$  such that  $\rho(g_i)(w) = \lambda_i w$  for i = 0, 1, 2. For any  $0 \leq i, j \leq 2$ , let  $\gamma_{ij} = x_j^{-1}g_ix_j \in C_G(g_0)$ . It is easy to see that

$$\gamma = (\gamma_{ij}) = \begin{pmatrix} g_0 & g_2 & g_1 \\ g_1 & g_0 & g_1^m g_0^{-1} \\ g_2 & g_2^m g_1^{-1} & g_0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then,  $W = \text{span}\{x_1 \otimes w, x_2 \otimes w, x_3 \otimes w\}$  is a braided vector subspace of  $M(\mathcal{C}, \rho)$  of abelian type with Dynkin diagram given by



For  $\mathfrak{B}(\mathcal{C},\rho)$  to be finite dimensional, we should have  $\lambda_0 = -1$  (see [Hec05, Table 3]) and *m* should be an even number, which contradicts our assumption.

#### 3. Two examples: $M_{20}$ and $M_{21}$

In [Fan07] the five simple Mathieu groups are studied. In this section we will study finite dimensional Nichols algebras over the Mathieu groups  $M_{20}$  and  $M_{21}$  (= **PSL**(3, 4)). We begin with the non-simple Mathieu group  $M_{20}$ . For a definition and elementary properties of this group, see [Hup67, Chapter XII]. Since we do computations with GAP, we use the product in the symmetric groups as they do: the product of two permutations  $\sigma$  and  $\tau$  means the composition of the permutation  $\sigma$  followed by  $\tau$ .

We know (see for example [ATLAS]) that  $M_{20} = \langle \alpha, \beta \rangle$  as a subgroup of  $\mathbb{S}_{20}$ , where

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha &= (1,2,4,3)(5,11,7,12)(6,13)(8,14)(9,15,10,16)(1,19,20,18), \\ \beta &= (2,5,6)(3,7,8)(4,9,10)(11,17,12)(13,16,18)(14,15,19). \end{aligned}$$

This is a group of order 960. The conjugacy classes are 1A, 2A, 2B, 3A, 4A, 4B, 4C, 5A, 5B (we are using the ATLAS notation for conjugacy classes, the name of a class begins with the order of its elements).

## **Proposition 3.1.** The Mathieu group $M_{20}$ is of type B.

*Proof.* By [AZ07, Remark 1.1] we know that the class 1A gives infinite dimensional Nichols algebras for every representation. Using GAP it is easy to check that all conjugacy classes of  $M_{20}$  are real. Therefore, by Lemma 2.1, the conjugacy classes with representatives of odd order (i.e. 3A, 5A, 5B) will also give infinite dimensional Nichols algebras.

All the remaining classes are dealt with Lemma 2.3. We just list the elements  $g_1$ ,  $g_2$  and  $x_1$  for each of them. In all the cases, we put  $g_0 = g_1 g_2$  and  $x_2 = x_1^{-1}$ . We have

used GAP to find those elements, with the help of some scripts which may be downloaded from the third author's web page: http://mate.dm.uba.ar/~lvendram/. For class 2A, we take

$$g_1 = (2,3)(5,19)(6,13)(7,18)(8,14)(11,17)(12,20)(15,16),$$
  

$$g_2 = (2,15)(3,16)(5,18)(6,8)(7,19)(11,12)(13,14)(17,20),$$
  

$$x_1 = (1,4,10)(3,16,15)(5,11,14)(6,18,17)(7,12,8)(13,19,20)$$

For class 2B,

$$\begin{split} g_1 &= (1,15)(2,10)(3,4)(5,13)(6,7)(8,18)(9,16)(14,19), \\ g_2 &= (1,13)(2,7)(3,19)(4,14)(5,15)(6,10)(8,9)(16,18), \\ x_1 &= (2,19,8)(3,18,6)(4,9,10)(5,13,15)(7,14,16)(12,17,20). \end{split}$$

For class 4A,

$$g_1 = (1, 2, 10, 15)(3, 4, 16, 9)(5, 14, 7, 8)(6, 19, 13, 18)(11, 12)(17, 20),$$
  

$$g_2 = (1, 5, 4, 19)(2, 14, 16, 13)(3, 6, 15, 8)(7, 9, 18, 10)(11, 17)(12, 20),$$
  

$$x_1 = (2, 6, 5)(3, 8, 7)(4, 10, 9)(11, 12, 17)(13, 18, 16)(14, 19, 15).$$

For class 4B,

$$\begin{split} g_1 &= (1,3,4,15)(2,10,16,9)(5,8,19,6)(7,14,18,13)(11,20)(12,17), \\ g_2 &= (1,7,9,19)(2,6,3,14)(4,18,10,5)(8,15,13,16)(11,12)(17,20), \\ x_1 &= (2,6,5)(3,8,7)(4,10,9)(11,12,17)(13,18,16)(14,19,15). \end{split}$$

For class 4C,

$$\begin{split} g_1 &= (1, 16, 9, 15)(2, 10, 3, 4)(5, 6, 18, 14)(7, 13, 19, 8)(11, 17)(12, 20), \\ g_2 &= (1, 18, 10, 19)(2, 13, 15, 6)(3, 8, 16, 14)(4, 7, 9, 5)(11, 20)(12, 17), \\ x_1 &= (2, 6, 5)(3, 8, 7)(4, 10, 9)(11, 12, 17)(13, 18, 16)(14, 19, 15). \end{split}$$

We do the same now with  $M_{21}$ :

## **Proposition 3.2.** The Mathieu group $M_{21} = \mathbf{PSL}(3, 4)$ is of type B.

*Proof.* As in all groups, the trivial class 1A is of type B. Classes 3A, 3B, 5A and 5B are real, as can be checked with GAP using the function RealClasses. Then these classes are of type B by Lemma 2.1. Classes 7A and 7B are quasireal, as can be checked with GAP with the function PowerMaps. Then these classes are of type B by Lemma 2.2.

We are left with classes 2A, 4A, 4B, 4C. By ATLAS, we know that the semidirect product  $2^4 : \mathbb{A}_5 = M_{20}$  is a maximal subgroup of **PSL**(3, 4) (see [CCN<sup>+</sup>85, pp. 23]). Now the result follows from 3.1, by looking at how classes of even order in  $M_{20}$  sit into  $M_{21}$ , by using the function **PossibleClassFusions**: since  $M_{20}$  is a subgroup of  $M_{21}$  there exists a monomorphism  $f : M_{20} \hookrightarrow M_{21}$  and therefore there exist a fusion of conjugacy classes. Moreover, with **GAP** we calculate all possible fusion of conjugacy classes and by inspection of all of these fusions it is easy to arrive to the desired result (see the file fgv.log for the results).

# 4. NICHOLS ALGEBRAS OVER $\mathbf{PSL}(2,q)$

In this section we deal with the groups  $\mathbf{PSL}(2,q) = \mathbf{SL}(2,\mathbb{F}_q)/\{\pm I\}$ , which have order  $\frac{(q-1)q(q+1)}{2}$ . Recall that if  $q \neq 2, 3$  then  $\mathbf{PSL}(2,q)$  is simple (see eg. [AB95, Theorem 2.6.8]).

Representative Number Size 1  $\mathcal{C}_1$  $c_1 =$ 1 1 1 1 1  $\tfrac{q^2-1}{2}$  $\mathcal{C}_2$ 1  $c_2 =$ 1  $\Delta$ 1  $\frac{q^2 - 1}{2}$  $\mathcal{C}_3$ 1  $c_{3} =$ 1  $\Delta y$ x $\frac{q-1}{4}$  $(N(z) = x^2 - \Delta y^2 = 1, \, y \neq 0)$  $\mathcal{C}_4$  $c_4(z) =$ q(q-1)x $\boldsymbol{u}$  $\frac{q(q+1)}{2}$  $\mathcal{C}_5$ 1  $c_5$ -ix $\frac{q-5}{4}$  $(x \notin \{\pm 1, \pm i\})$  $\mathcal{C}_6$  $c_6(x) =$ q(q+1) $x^{-1}$ 

TABLE 2. Conjugacy classes of  $\mathbf{PSL}(2, \mathbb{F}_q)$  for  $q \equiv 1(4)$ 

4.1. The case  $q \equiv 1(4)$ . There are  $\frac{q+5}{2}$  conjugacy classes, which are listed in Table 2 (see [Ada02]).

**Proposition 4.1.** Classes  $C_i$  are of type B for i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

*Proof.* The trivial class is of type B for any group. For class  $C_2$  (resp.  $C_3$ ) we apply Lemma 2.1, since  $c_2$  and  $c_2^{-1}$  (resp.  $c_3$  and  $c_3^{-1}$ ) are conjugate and have odd order p.

For i = 4, we notice that  $c_4(z)^{-1} = c_4(z^{-1}) = \begin{pmatrix} x & -\Delta y \\ -y & x \end{pmatrix}$ , which is conjugate to  $c_4(z)$ . Indeed,  $c_5c_4(z)c_5^{-1} = c_4(z^{-1})$ . Then the result follows from Lemma 2.1, since the order of  $c_4(z)$  is a divisor of  $\frac{q+1}{2}$ , which is odd.

TABLE 3. Conjugacy classes of  $\mathbf{PSL}(2,q)$  for  $q \equiv 3(4)$ 

	Representative	Number	Size
$\mathcal{C}_1$	$c_1 = \left(\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ & 1 \end{array}\right)$	1	1
$\mathcal{C}_2$	$c_2 = \left(\begin{array}{cc} 1 & 1\\ & 1 \end{array}\right)$	1	$\frac{q^2-1}{2}$
$\mathcal{C}_3$	$c_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \Delta \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix}$	1	$\frac{q^2-1}{2}$
$\mathcal{C}_4$	$c_4(z) = \begin{pmatrix} x & \Delta y \\ y & x \end{pmatrix} (N(z) = x^2 - \Delta y^2 = 1, xy \neq 0)$	$\frac{q-3}{4}$	q(q-1)
$\mathcal{C}_5$	$c_5 = \begin{pmatrix} & -1 \\ 1 & \end{pmatrix}$	1	$\frac{q(q-1)}{2}$
$\mathcal{C}_6$	$c_6(x) = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ & x^{-1} \end{pmatrix} (x \notin \{\pm 1\})$	$\frac{q-3}{4}$	q(q+1)

For i = 5, we notice that  $\mathbb{A}_4$  is a subgroup of  $\mathbf{PSL}(2, q)$  (see [Dic58, Ch. XII] or [Hup67, Satz II.8.18 (b)]). Since the only involutions in  $\mathbf{PSL}(2, q)$  lie in class  $\mathcal{C}_5$ , Lemma 2.3 part 2 and Remark 1.3 say that  $\mathcal{C}_5$  is of type B.

The centralizer of  $c_6(x)$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{F}_q^*/\{\pm 1\} \simeq \mathbb{Z}/\frac{q-1}{2}$ .

**Proposition 4.2.** If dim  $\mathfrak{B}(C_6, \rho) < \infty$  then  $c_6(x)$  has even order and  $\rho(c_6(x)) = -1$ .

*Proof.* Again,  $C_6$  is a real class, since conjugating  $c_6(x)$  by  $\binom{1}{1}^{-1}$  gives  $c_6(x^{-1}) = c_6(x)^{-1}$ . The result then follows from Lemma 2.1.

4.2. The case  $q \equiv 3(4)$ . There are  $\frac{q+5}{2}$  conjugacy classes, which are listed in Table 3 (see [Ada02]).

**Proposition 4.3.** Classes  $C_i$  are of type B for i = 1, 2, 3, 5, 6.

*Proof.* It is entirely analogous to that of Proposition 4.1. The only difference is that now classes  $C_6$  have elements of odd order, instead of classes  $C_4$ .

The centralizer of  $c_4(x)$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}/\frac{q+1}{2}$ . Again, by using Lemma 2.1 we have

**Proposition 4.4.** If dim  $\mathfrak{B}(\mathcal{C}_4, \rho) < \infty$ , then  $c_4(z)$  has even order and  $\rho(c_4(z)) = -1$ .

#### 5. NICHOLS ALGEBRAS OVER $\mathbf{PGL}(2,q)$

We deal in this section with  $\mathbf{PGL}(2,q) = \mathbf{GL}(2,q)/\{tI : t \in \mathbb{F}_q^{\times}\}\)$ , which has order (q-1)q(q+1). Since  $\mathbf{PGL}(2,3) \simeq \mathbb{S}_4$  and  $\mathbf{PGL}(2,5) \simeq \mathbb{S}_5$  (which are treated in [AZ07]) we may assume that q > 5. There are q+2 conjugacy classes, which are listed in Table 4 (see [Ada02]).

TABLE 4. Conjugacy classes of  $\mathbf{PGL}(2,q)$ 

	Representative	Number	Size
$\mathcal{C}_1$	$c_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix}$	1	1
$\mathcal{C}_2$	$c_2 = \left(\begin{array}{cc} 1 & 1\\ & 1 \end{array}\right)$	1	$q^2 - 1$
$\mathcal{C}_3$	$c_3(x) = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix} (x \neq \pm 1)$	$\frac{q-3}{2}$	q(q+1)
$\mathcal{C}_4$	$c_4 = \left(\begin{array}{cc} -1 \\ & 1 \end{array}\right)$	1	$\frac{q(q+1)}{2}$
$\mathcal{C}_5$	$c_5(z) = \begin{pmatrix} x & \Delta y \\ y & x \end{pmatrix} (xy \neq 0)$	$\frac{q-1}{2}$	q(q-1)
$\mathcal{C}_6$	$c_6 = \left(\begin{array}{c} & \Delta \\ 1 & \end{array}\right)$	1	$\frac{q(q-1)}{2}$

By considering the inclusion  $\mathbf{PSL}(2,q) \hookrightarrow \mathbf{PGL}(2,q)$ , we get from the previous section that the following classes are of type B:

 $\begin{array}{l} \mathcal{C}_1, \, \mathcal{C}_2 \\ \mathcal{C}_3 & \text{if } q \equiv 3 \pmod{4} \text{ and } x \in \mathbb{F}_q^2 \\ \mathcal{C}_4 & \text{if } q \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \text{ (because it is class } \mathcal{C}_5 \text{ in } \mathbf{PSL}(2,q)) \\ \mathcal{C}_5 & \text{if } q \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \text{ and } N(z) = x^2 - \Delta y^2 \in \mathbb{F}_q^2 \\ \mathcal{C}_6 & \text{if } q \equiv 3 \pmod{4} \text{ (because it is class } \mathcal{C}_5 \text{ in } \mathbf{PSL}(2,q)) \end{array}$ 

We consider now the other cases. They are not of type B, but one can restrict the representations anyway.

The centralizer of  $c_3(x)$  is given by the classes in  $\mathbf{PGL}(2,q)$  of matrices  $\begin{pmatrix} \sigma \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$  and therefore it is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{F}_q^{\times}$ .

**Proposition 5.1.** Let  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ . If  $\dim \mathfrak{B}(\mathcal{C}_3, \rho) < \infty$ , then x has even order and  $\rho(c_3(x)) = -1$ .

*Proof.* Notice that  $C_3$  is a real class, and use Lemma 2.1.

The centralizer of  $c_4$  is given by the classes in  $\mathbf{PGL}(2,q)$  of matrices  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \sigma \end{pmatrix}$  and  $\begin{pmatrix} \sigma \\ \end{pmatrix}$  for  $\sigma \in \mathbb{F}_q^{\times}$ . It is easy to see that this group is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{D}_{q-1}$ . In the presentation by r, s given at §2.2,  $c_4$  corresponds to  $r^{\frac{q-1}{2}}$ .

**Proposition 5.2.** Let  $q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$  and let  $\rho$  be a representation of  $C_{\mathbf{PGL}(2,q)}(c_4)$  with character  $\chi$ . If dim  $\mathfrak{B}(\mathcal{C}_4) < \infty$ , then  $\chi \in \{\chi_3, \chi_4, \mu_h \ (h \ odd)\}$  (see Table 1).

*Proof.* Since  $c_4$  is an involution, we must have  $\rho(c_4) = -1$ . Then, the result follows by inspection of the Table.

The centralizer of  $c_5(z)$  is isomorphic to  $E^*/\mathbb{F}_q^* \simeq \mathbb{Z}/q + 1$  (see [Ada02]).

**Proposition 5.3.** Let  $q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ . If  $\dim \mathfrak{B}(\mathcal{C}_5, \rho) < \infty$ , then  $c_5(z)$  has even order and  $\rho(g) = -1$ .

*Proof.* In a similar way as the proof of Prop. 4.1, we see that classes  $C_5$  are real by conjugating  $c_5(z)$  with  $c_4$ . Now, we apply Lemma 2.1.

The centralizer of  $c_6$  is given by the classes in  $\mathbf{PGL}(2,q)$  of matrices  $\begin{pmatrix} x \pm \Delta y \\ y & x \end{pmatrix}$ . It is easy to see that this group is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{D}_{q+1}$ . In the presentation by r, s given at §2.2,  $c_6$  corresponds to  $r^{\frac{q+1}{2}}$ .

**Proposition 5.4.** Let  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  and let  $\chi$  be the character of the representation  $\rho$ . If dim  $\mathfrak{B}(\mathcal{C}_6) < \infty$ , then  $\chi \in \{\chi_3, \chi_4, \mu_h \pmod{4}\}$  (see Table 1).

Proof. Analogous to that of Prop. 5.2.

6. The class of order 4 in  $\mathbf{SL}(2,q)$ 

In this section we use the tools in the present paper to improve a result in [FGV07]. There, we considered in  $\mathbf{SL}(2,q)$  the classes  $\mathcal{C}_7$  of  $c_7(x) = \begin{pmatrix} x & 0 \\ 0 & x^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$ , and  $\mathcal{C}_8$  of  $c_8(z) = \begin{pmatrix} x & \Delta y \\ y & x \end{pmatrix}$ , where  $z = x + \delta y \in E \setminus \mathbb{F}_q$ . Propositions 3.4 (resp. 3.5) in [FGV07] prove that in order for  $\mathfrak{B}(\mathcal{C}_7)$  (resp.  $\mathfrak{B}(\mathcal{C}_8)$ ) to be finite dimensional, the order of x (resp. z) must be even. On the other hand, when q = 3 there is only one class  $\mathcal{C}_8$ , and it is proved in [AFGV08] that it is of type B. We prove here that

 $\mathbf{SL}(2,3)$  is a subgroup of  $\mathbf{SL}(2,q)$ . This implies that when  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  and x has order 4, the class of  $c_7(x) \in \mathbf{SL}(2,q)$  is of type B, and when  $q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$  and z has order 4, the class of  $c_8(z) \in \mathbf{SL}(2,q)$  is of type B.

One possible presentation of  $\mathbf{SL}(2,3)$  is given by generators x, y and relations  $x^3 = y^4 = (xy^3)^3 = 1$ ,  $xy^2 = y^2x$ . In fact, one can take

$$x = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \qquad y = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Then, if a group G has elements A, B, C of orders 3, 3 and 4 respectively such that  $ABC = [B, C^2] = 1$ , then G has a subgroup isomorphic to  $\mathbf{SL}(2, 3)$ . Indeed, take the map  $x \mapsto B$ ,  $y \mapsto C^3$ . It is easy to see that this defines a map  $\mathbf{SL}(2, 3) \to G$ . It is injective because otherwise the orders of A, B or C would be smaller than stated, as can be seen by considering the normal subgroups of  $\mathbf{SL}(2, 3)$  (the non-trivial ones being isomorphic to  $C_2$  and the quaternion group Q of order 8). Also, any  $C \in \mathbf{SL}(2,q)$  has order 4 if and only if tr C = 0. Indeed, it is easy to see that if  $\alpha = \operatorname{tr} C$ , then  $C^4 = (\alpha^3 - 2\alpha)C + (1 - \alpha^2)$ , which implies the claim. Therefore, there is only one class in  $\mathbf{SL}(2,q)$  sends the class of  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbf{SL}(2,3)$  of type B to it.

We prove now the existence of the embedding  $\mathbf{SL}(2,3) \hookrightarrow \mathbf{SL}(2,q)$ . Since  $\mathbf{SL}(2,p)$  embeds in  $\mathbf{SL}(2,q)$ , it is enough to prove that  $\mathbf{SL}(2,3)$  embeds in  $\mathbf{SL}(2,p)$ . Let  $x \in \mathbb{F}_p^{\times}$  be of order p-1 and let  $\mathcal{G}_l$  be the class of  $c_7(x^l)$ . Let  $z \in E$  generate the group  $\{a + \delta b \in E \mid a^2 - \Delta b^2 = 1\}$  and let  $\mathcal{H}_m$  be the class of  $c_8(z^m)$ . The character table of  $\mathbf{SL}(2,p)$  restricted to the classes  $\mathcal{G}_l$  and  $\mathcal{H}_m$  is given in Table 5, where we write  $c[\frac{a}{b}] = e^{\frac{2\pi i a}{b}} + e^{-\frac{2\pi i a}{b}}$ . There,  $1 \leq i \leq \frac{p-3}{2}$  for  $\zeta_i$  and  $1 \leq i \leq \frac{p-1}{2}$  for  $\theta_i$ .

TABLE 5. Character table on classes  $\mathcal{G}_l$  and  $\mathcal{H}_m$ .

	1	$\psi$	$\zeta_i$	$\xi_1$	$\xi_2$	$ heta_i$	$\eta_1$	$\eta_2$
deg	1	p	p+1	$\frac{1}{2}(p+1)$	$\frac{1}{2}(p+1)$	p - 1	$\frac{1}{2}(p-1)$	$\frac{1}{2}(p-1)$
$\mathcal{G}_l$	1	1	$c[\frac{il}{p-1}]$	$(-1)^{l}$	$(-1)^{l}$	0	0	0
$\mathcal{H}_m$	1	-1	0	0	0	$-c[\frac{im}{p+1}]$	$(-1)^{m+1}$	$(-1)^{m+1}$

When  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ , classes  $\mathcal{G}_l$  have order 3 for  $l = \frac{p-1}{3}$  and  $l = \frac{2(p-1)}{3}$ . On the other hand, when  $p \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ , classes  $\mathcal{H}_m$  have order 3 for  $m = \frac{p+1}{3}$  and  $m = \frac{2(p+1)}{3}$ . We use then classes  $\mathcal{G}_l$  and  $\mathcal{H}_m$  for A, B or C depending on the class of  $p \pmod{12}$ .

We apply then the well-known formula (see e.g. [Go68, Theorem 2.12])

$$S(\mathcal{C}_i, \mathcal{C}_j, \mathcal{C}_k) = \frac{|\mathcal{C}_i||\mathcal{C}_j||\mathcal{C}_k|}{|G|} \sum_{\chi} \frac{\chi(\mathcal{C}_i)\chi(\mathcal{C}_j)\chi(\mathcal{C}_k)}{\chi(1)}$$

which counts solutions of the equation abc = 1 with a, b, c respectively in classes  $C_i$ ,  $C_j$  and  $C_k$ . Therefore, it is enough to see that for any p we have  $S(C_i, C_j, C_k) > 0$ , where classes  $C_i, C_j$  and  $C_k$  have orders 3, 3 and 4. We have then the following possibilities:

• If  $p \equiv 5 \pmod{12}$ , the element of order 4 belongs to the class  $\mathcal{G}$  with  $l = \frac{p-1}{4}$  and the element of order 3 belongs to the class  $\mathcal{H}$  with  $m = \frac{p+1}{3}$ .

Then,

$$S(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{H}, \mathcal{G}) = \frac{p^3(p-1)^2(p+1)}{p(p-1)(p+1)} \left(1 + \frac{1}{p}\right) = (p-1)p(p+1) > 0.$$

• If  $p \equiv 7 \pmod{12}$ , the element of order 4 belongs to the class  $\mathcal{H}$  with  $m = \frac{p+1}{4}$  and the element of order 3 belongs to the class  $\mathcal{G}$  with  $l = \frac{p-1}{3}$ . Then,

$$S(\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{G}, \mathcal{H}) = \frac{p^3(p+1)^2(p-1)}{p(p-1)(p+1)} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right) = (p-1)p(p+1) > 0.$$

• If  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{12}$ 

$$\begin{split} S(\mathcal{G}_{\frac{p-1}{3}},\mathcal{G}_{\frac{p-1}{3}},\mathcal{G}_{\frac{p-1}{4}}) \\ &= \frac{p^2(p+1)^2}{p-1} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{p} + \sum_{j=1}^{\frac{p-3}{2}} \frac{1}{p+1} c[\frac{j}{3}]^2 c[\frac{j}{4}] + 4\frac{(-1)^{\frac{p-1}{4}}}{p+1} \right) \\ &\geq \frac{p^2(p+1)^2}{p-1} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{p} + \sum_{j=1}^{\frac{p-3}{2}} \frac{8}{p+1} \cos(\frac{2\pi j}{3})^2 \cos(\frac{2\pi j}{4}) - \frac{4}{p+1} \right) \\ &= \frac{p^2(p+1)^2}{p-1} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{p} + \frac{8}{p+1} \sum_{l=1}^{\frac{p-3}{4}} \cos(\frac{4\pi l}{3})^2 \cos(\pi l) - \frac{4}{p+1} \right) \\ &= \frac{p^2(p+1)^2}{p-1} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{p} + \frac{8}{p+1} \left( \sum_{\substack{l=1\\l \equiv 0(3)}}^{\frac{p-3}{4}} \cos(\pi l) + \sum_{\substack{l=1\\l \neq 0(3)}}^{\frac{p-3}{4}} \frac{1}{4} \cos(\pi l) \right) - \frac{4}{p+1} \right) \\ &= \frac{p^2(p+1)^2}{p-1} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{p} + \frac{2}{p+1} \left( \sum_{\substack{l=1\\l \equiv 0(3)}}^{\frac{p-3}{4}} 3\cos(\pi l) + \sum_{\substack{l=1\\l \neq 0(3)}}^{\frac{p-3}{4}} \cos(\pi l) \right) - \frac{4}{p+1} \right) \\ &\geq \frac{p^2(p+1)^2}{p-1} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{p} - \frac{12}{p+1} \right) > 0 \end{split}$$

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• If 
$$p = 11 \pmod{12}$$
  

$$S(\mathcal{H}_{\frac{p+1}{3}}, \mathcal{H}_{\frac{p+1}{3}}, \mathcal{H}_{\frac{p+1}{4}})$$

$$= \frac{p^2(p-1)^2}{p+1} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p} - \sum_{j=1}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \frac{1}{p-1} c[\frac{j}{3}]^2 c[\frac{j}{4}] + 4\frac{(-1)^{\frac{p+5}{4}}}{p-1}\right)$$

$$\geq \frac{p^2(p-1)^2}{p+1} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p} - \sum_{j=1}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \frac{8}{p-1} \cos(\frac{2\pi j}{3})^2 \cos(\frac{2\pi j}{4}) - \frac{4}{p-1}\right)$$

$$= \frac{p^2(p-1)^2}{p+1} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p} - \frac{8}{p-1} \sum_{l=1}^{\lfloor\frac{p-1}{4}\rfloor} \cos(\frac{4\pi l}{3})^2 \cos(\pi l) - \frac{4}{p-1}\right)$$

$$= \frac{p^2(p-1)^2}{p+1} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p} - \frac{8}{p-1} \left(\sum_{\substack{l=1\\l\equiv 0(3)}}^{\lfloor\frac{p-1}{4}\rfloor} \cos(\pi l) + \sum_{\substack{l=1\\l\neq 0(3)}}^{\lfloor\frac{p-1}{4}\rfloor} \frac{1}{4} \cos(\pi l)\right) - \frac{4}{p-1}\right)$$

$$= \frac{p^2(p-1)^2}{p+1} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p} - \frac{2}{p-1} \left(\sum_{\substack{l=1\\l\equiv 0(3)}}^{\lfloor\frac{p-1}{4}\rfloor} 3\cos(\pi l) + \sum_{\substack{l=1\\l\equiv 1}}^{\lfloor\frac{p-1}{4}\rfloor} \cos(\pi l)\right) - \frac{4}{p-1}\right)$$

Acknowledgement. We thank Nicolás Andruskiewitsch and Fantino Fantino for fruitful discussions. We have used GAP [GAP] to do some of the computations.

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