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A NEW EFFICIENT PRESENTATION FOR  $PSL(2, 5)$  AND THE  
STRUCTURE OF THE GROUPS  $G(3, m, n)$

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*Abstract.*  $G(3, m, n)$  is the group presented by  $\langle a, b \mid a^5 = (ab)^2 = b^{m+3}a^{-n}b^m a^{-n} = 1 \rangle$ . In this paper, we study the structure of  $G(3, m, n)$ . We also give a new efficient presentation for the Projective Special Linear group  $PSL(2, 5)$  and in particular we prove that  $PSL(2, 5)$  is isomorphic to  $G(3, m, n)$  under certain conditions.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The problem of determining which finite groups are efficient has been investigated using both computational and algebraic techniques. Here we shall also use both techniques. In [10] the structure of the group  $\langle a, b \mid a^7 = (ab)^2 = b^{m+7}a^{-m}b^m a^{-m} = 1 \rangle$  has been studied by Vatansever and Robertson. In [11] the structure of the group  $\langle a, b \mid a^9 = (ab)^2 = b^{m+9}a^{-m}b^m a^{-m} = 1 \rangle$  and in [12] the structure of the group  $\langle a, b \mid a^5 = (ab)^2 = b^{m+5}a^{-m}b^m a^{-m} = 1 \rangle$  has been determined by Vatansever. Some other groups of this type were given in [9].

In this paper, we shall be interested in the group defined by the presentation of the form  $\langle a, b \mid a^5 = (ab)^2 = b^{m+3}a^{-n}b^m a^{-n} = 1 \rangle$  where  $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . We also point out the connection between  $\langle a, b \mid a^5 = (ab)^2 = b^{m+3}a^{-n}b^m a^{-n} = 1 \rangle$  and  $PSL(2, 5)$ . We give a new efficient presentation for  $PSL(2, 5)$ .

The notation used in this paper is reasonably standard. For any group  $G$ ,  $G'$  denotes the derived subgroup of  $G$ . Let  $Z(G)$  denote the center of  $G$  where  $G$  is a finite group. A group  $C$  of maximal order with the properties that there is a subgroup  $A$  with  $A \leq Z(C) \cap C'$  and  $C/A \cong G$  is called a covering group of  $G$ . In general  $C$  is not unique but  $A$  is unique and is called the Schur multiplier  $M(G)$  of  $G$ . For details see [1, 6, 14]. If  $G$  is perfect then it was proved in [2] that  $G$  has a unique covering group which we denote by  $G^-$ .

Schur [7] showed that any presentation for  $G$  with  $n$  generators requires at least  $n + \text{rank}(M(G))$  relations. If  $G$  has a presentation with  $n$  generators and precisely  $n + \text{rank}(M(G))$  relations we say that  $G$  is efficient. Swan in [8] showed that not all finite groups are efficient. He gave examples of solvable groups with trivial multiplier which are not efficient. Further details of such groups are given in [1], [5], [14].

For any integers  $p, q$  let  $(p, q)$  denote their highest common factor. For any prime number  $n$ , define  $SL(2, n)$  to be the group of  $2 \times 2$  matrices with determinant 1 over the field of integers modulo  $n$ . Define  $PSL(2, n) = SL(2, n) / \langle \{\pm I\} \rangle$  where  $I$  denotes the identity matrix. If  $n$  is an odd prime then the Schur multiplier of  $PSL(2, n)$  is  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  and the unique covering group of  $PSL(2, n)$  is  $SL(2, n)$  (see [5] Theorem 25.7).

## 2. ABOUT PROGRAM

Here we give some details about the programming language CAYLEY.

CAYLEY is a high level programming language designed to support convenient and efficient computation with other algebraic structures that arise naturally in the study of groups [3].

The following CAYLEY program which will be used in Section 3 has been written in order to find out the structure of the group

$$\langle a, b \mid a^5 = (ab)^2 = (b^2a^{-1})^2 = b^3 = 1 \rangle.$$

CAYLEY Program:

```
>cayley;
>set workspace=2000000;
>G:free(a,b);
>G.relations: a^5, (a*b)^2, (b^2*a^-1)^2, b^3;
>h=<b>;
>print index(G,h);
>f,i,k=cosact homomorphism(G,h);
>print composition factor(i);
>print order(i);
>print order(i);
>QUIT;
```

### 3. $G(3, m, n)$ GROUPS

Let  $G(3, m, n)$  denote the group with the presentation

$$\langle a, b \mid a^5 = b^{m+3}a^{-n}b^m a^{-n} = (ab)^2 = 1 \rangle.$$

**Lemma 1.** *In  $G(3, m, n)$  we have:*

- (i) *if  $(5, n) = d$  then  $b^3$  commutes with  $a^d$ ;*
- (ii) *if  $(5, n) = 1$  then  $b^3$  commutes with  $a$ .*

*Proof.* (i): From relation 2, i.e.  $b^{m+3}a^{-n}b^m a^{-n} = 1$  we get

$$(3.1) \quad b^m a^{-n} b^m = b^{-3} a^n,$$

$$(3.2) \quad b^m a^{-n} b^m = a^n b^{-3}.$$

From (3.1) and (3.2) yield  $a^n b^{-3} = b^{-3} a^n$ , consequently we get  $a^n b^3 = b^3 a^n$ . If  $(5, n) = d$ , then  $b^3$  commutes with  $a^d$ .

(ii) is a special case of (i). □

**Theorem 1.** *If  $[m \equiv 2(\text{mod } 3), m \neq 0(\text{mod } 5)$  and  $n \equiv 1(\text{mod } 5)]$  or  $[m \equiv 1(\text{mod } 3), m \neq 2(\text{mod } 5)$  and  $n \equiv 4(\text{mod } 5)]$  then  $G(3, m, n)$  is isomorphic to  $PSL(2, 5)$  and  $G(3, m, n)$  has an efficient presentation.*

*Proof.* Case  $m \equiv 2(\text{mod } 3), m \neq 0(\text{mod } 5)$  and  $n \equiv 1(\text{mod } 5)$ . Abelianizing the relations of  $G(3, m, n)$  we get  $G(3, m, n)/G'(3, m, n) = \langle a, b \mid a^5 = a^2 b^2 = b^{2m+3} a^{-2} = a b a^{-1} b^{-1} = 1 \rangle$ , which is the trivial group. Therefore  $G(3, m, n) = G'(3, m, n)$ . Since  $(5, n) = 1$  by the above Lemma,  $b^3$  commutes with  $a$  and so  $b^3 \in Z(G(3, m, n))$ . Since  $b^3 \in G'(3, m, n)$  we see that  $b^3 \in Z(G(3, m, n)) \cap G'(3, m, n)$ .

Consider the homomorphic image of  $G(3, m, n)$  by  $H = \langle b^3 \rangle$ , i.e.

$$G(3, m, n)/\langle b^3 \rangle = \langle a, b \mid a^5 = (ab)^2 = (b^2 a^{-1})^2 = b^3 = 1 \rangle.$$

Using the CAYLEY program it can be seen that  $G(3, m, n)/\langle b^3 \rangle \cong PSL(2, 5)$ . Since  $b^3 \in Z(G(3, m, n)) \cap G'(3, m, n)$  we can deduce that  $\langle b^3 \rangle \leq M(PSL(2, 5)) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2$ . This means  $|\langle b^3 \rangle| = 1$  or  $2$ , i.e.  $G(3, m, n) \cong PSL(2, 5)$  or  $G(3, m, n)$  is isomorphic to its covering group  $SL(2, 5)$ .

Assume  $(b^3)^2 = 1$  but  $b^3 \neq 1$ , i.e.  $G(3, m, n) \cong SL(2, 5)$ .

It can be seen that  $G(3, m, n)$  is generated by  $a$  and  $ab$ , the latter element having order 2. On the other hand,  $SL(2, 5)$  has only one element of order 2, so this element has to be  $ab$ . However,  $SL(2, 5)$  is not generated by the element of order two and one other element. Therefore there is only one possibility which is  $G(3, m, n) \cong PSL(2, 5)$ . □

$G(3, m, n)$  has two generators, three relations and the Schur multiplier of  $G(3, m, n)$  is  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ . Therefore this presentation for  $G(3, m, n)$  is efficient.

*Case*  $[m \equiv 1(\bmod 3), m \not\equiv 2(\bmod 5)$  and  $n \equiv 4(\bmod 5)]$ :

**Claim:** If  $[m \equiv 1(\bmod 3), m \not\equiv 2(\bmod 5)$  and  $n \equiv 4(\bmod 5)]$  then  $G(3, m, n) \cong \langle a, b \mid a^5 = (ab)^2 = b^{p+3}a^{-q}b^pa^{-q} = 1 \rangle$ ; here  $p \equiv 2(\bmod 3)$ ,  $p \not\equiv 0(\bmod 5)$  and  $q \equiv 1(\bmod 5)$ .

Let  $[m \equiv 1(\bmod 3), m \not\equiv 2(\bmod 5)$  and  $n \equiv 4(\bmod 5)]$ . Then using relation 1,  $G(3, m, n) \cong \langle a, b \mid a^5 = (ab)^2 = b^{m+3}a^{-4}b^ma^{-4} = 1 \rangle$ .

Using the map  $b \mapsto b^{-1}, a \mapsto a^{-1}$  we obtain

$$G(3, m, n) \cong \langle a, b \mid a^5 = (ab)^2 = b^{-m-3}a^4b^{-m}a^4 = 1 \rangle.$$

Now let  $-m = p+3$  and  $-n = q$ . Since  $m \equiv 1(\bmod 3)$  and  $m \not\equiv 2(\bmod 5)$ , we have  $p \equiv 2(\bmod 3)$ ,  $p \not\equiv 0(\bmod 5)$ . Since  $n \equiv 4(\bmod 5)$ , we have  $q \equiv 1(\bmod 5)$ . Replacing  $-m$  with  $p+3$ ,  $-n$  with  $q$  in  $G(3, m, n)$  and using relation 1 yields the result as claimed.

Before proving Theorem 2 we give some details about the polyhedral group  $(k, m, n)$  defined by

$$\langle a, b \mid a^k = b^m = (ab)^n = 1 \rangle.$$

If  $k, m, n$  are all greater than 1, then we know that the group  $(k, m, n)$  is finite when  $\frac{1}{k} + \frac{1}{m} + \frac{1}{n} > 1$  and infinite otherwise [4].

Now we can formulate Theorem 2.

**Theorem 2.** (i) *If  $n \equiv 0(\bmod 5)$  and  $m \neq -1, -2, -3$  then the group  $G(3, m, n)$  is infinite.*

(ii) *If  $n \equiv 0(\bmod 5)$  and  $(m = -1$  or  $m = -2)$  then the group  $G(3, m, n)$  is trivial.*

(iii) *If  $n \equiv 0(\bmod 5)$  and  $m = -3$  then the group  $G(3, m, n)$  is  $PSL(2, 5)$ .*

**P r o o f.** (i) Let  $n \equiv 0(\bmod 5)$  and  $m \neq -1, -2, -3$ . Using relation 1, we obtain

$$G(3, m, n) \cong \langle a, b \mid a^5 = (ab)^2 = b^{2m+3} = 1 \rangle.$$

By virtue of the above statement about  $(k, m, n)$  it can be easily seen that  $G(3, m, n)$  is an infinite polyhedral group.

(ii) Let  $n \equiv 0(\bmod 5)$  and  $(m = -1$  or  $m = -2)$ . Using relation 1 we conclude

$$G(3, m, n) \cong \langle a, b \mid a^5 = (ab)^2 = b^{2m+3} = 1 \rangle.$$

If  $m = -1$  or  $m = -2$  then it can be easily seen that  $G(3, m, n)$  is the trivial group.

(iii) Let  $n \equiv 0(\bmod 5)$  and  $m = -3$ . Using relation 1 and  $m = -3$  and rewriting relation 3 as  $b^3 = 1$  we get  $G(3, m, n) \cong \langle a, b \mid a^5 = (ab)^2 = b^3 = 1 \rangle$ . Hence  $G(3, m, n)$  is the group  $PSL(2, 5)$  as claimed.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.** *If  $(m \equiv 1 \pmod{3})$  and  $n \equiv 1, 2$  or  $3 \pmod{5}$ ) or  $(m \equiv 2 \pmod{3})$  and  $n \equiv 2, 3$  or  $4 \pmod{5}$ ) then  $G(3, m, n)$  is the trivial group.*

*P r o o f.* *Case I* ( $m \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$  and  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$ ).

Using relation 1 we rewrite relation 3 as  $b^{m+3}a^{-1}b^m a^{-1} = 1$ . Since  $(3, m) = 1$  by Lemma 1,  $b^3$  commutes with  $a$ . Hence

$$\begin{aligned}
 & b^{2m+2}a^{-1}ba^{-1} = 1 \\
 & \Rightarrow b^{2m+3}b^{-1}a^{-1}ba^{-1} = 1 \\
 & \Rightarrow b^{2m+3}ab^2a^{-1} = 1 \text{ (using relation 2 as } a^{-1} = bab) \\
 & \Rightarrow ab^2a^{-1} = b^{-2}b^{3k} \text{ (where } b^{3k} \text{ is central)} \\
 & \Rightarrow (ab^2a^{-1})^2 = (b^{-2}b^{3k})^2 \\
 & \Rightarrow ab^4a^{-1} = b^{+2(-2+3k)} \\
 & \Rightarrow aba^{-1}b^3 = b^{+2(-2+3k)} \text{ (using Lemma 1)} \\
 & \Rightarrow aba^{-1} = b^t
 \end{aligned}$$

and  $\langle b \rangle \triangleleft G(3, m, n)$ . Now  $G(3, m, n)/\langle b \rangle = \langle a, b \mid a^5 = 1, b = 1, a^2 = 1 \rangle$ , therefore  $G(3, m, n)/\langle b \rangle$  is the trivial group. Hence  $G(3, m, n)$  is a cyclic group and so its order is given by the invariant factors of the relation matrix

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 0 \\ 2 & 2 \\ -2n & 2m+3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Then 1 is the only invariant factor of  $M$ . Hence  $G(3, m, n)$  is the trivial group.

*Case II* ( $m \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$  and  $n \equiv 4 \pmod{5}$ ).

*Claim:* If  $m \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$  and  $n \equiv 4 \pmod{5}$  then  $G(3, m, n)$  is isomorphic to  $\langle a, b \mid a^5 = (ab)^2 = b^{p+3}a^{-q}b^p a^{-q} = 1 \rangle$ , where  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$  and  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$ .

Let  $m \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$  and  $n \equiv 4 \pmod{5}$ , then  $G(3, m, n) = \langle a, b \mid a^5 = (ab)^2 = b^{m+3}a^{-4}b^m a^{-4} = 1 \rangle$  by relation 1.

Using the map  $b \mapsto b^{-1}$ ,  $a \mapsto a^{-1}$  we get

$$G(3, m, n) \cong \langle a, b \mid a^5 = (ab)^2 = b^{-m-3}a^4b^{-m}a^4 = 1 \rangle.$$

Now let  $-m = p + 3$  and  $-n = q$ .

Since  $m \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$  we have  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$  and since  $n \equiv 4 \pmod{5}$  we have  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$ . Replacing  $-m = p + 3$ ,  $-n = q$  in  $G(3, m, n)$  and using relation 1 yields the result as claimed.

*Case III* ( $m \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$  and  $n \equiv 2 \pmod{5}$ ).

In this case the full proof is essentially the same as the proof of Case I, with slight modifications. Therefore it is omitted.

*Case IV* ( $m \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$  and  $n \equiv 3 \pmod{5}$ ).

Claim: If  $m \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$  and  $n \equiv 3 \pmod{5}$  then  $G(3, m, n)$  is isomorphic to  $\langle a, b \mid a^5 = (ab)^2 = b^{p+3}a^{-q}b^pa^{-q} = 1 \rangle$ , where  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$  and  $q \equiv 2 \pmod{5}$ .

In this case the full proof is essentially the same as the proof of the Case II, therefore it is omitted.

*Case V* ( $m \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$  and  $n \equiv 3 \pmod{5}$ ).

In this case the full proof is essentially the same as the proof of Case I, with slight modifications. Therefore it is omitted.

*Case VI* ( $m \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$  and  $n \equiv 2 \pmod{5}$ ).

Claim: If  $m \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$  and  $n \equiv 2 \pmod{5}$  then  $G(3, m, n)$  is isomorphic to  $\langle a, b \mid a^5 = (ab)^2 = b^{p+3}a^{-q}b^pa^{-q} = 1 \rangle$ , where  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$  and  $q \equiv 3 \pmod{5}$ .

In this case the full proof is essentially the same as the proof of Case II, therefore it is omitted.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.** *If  $m \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  and  $n \equiv 4 \pmod{5}$  then  $G(3, m, n)$  is isomorphic to  $\langle a, b \mid a^5 = (ab)^2 = b^{p+3}a^{-q}b^pa^{-q} = 1 \rangle$ , where  $p \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  and  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $m \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  and  $n \equiv 4 \pmod{5}$ . Then  $G(3, m, n) = \langle a, b \mid a^5 = (ab)^2 = b^{m+3}a^{-4}b^ma^{-4} = 1 \rangle$  by relation 1.

Using the map  $b \mapsto b^{-1}, a \mapsto a^{-1}$  we get  $G(3, m, n) \cong \langle a, b \mid a^5 = (ab)^2 = b^{-m-3}a^4b^{-m}a^4 = 1 \rangle$ . Now let  $-m = p+3$  and  $-n = q$ . Since  $m \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  we have  $p \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  and since  $n \equiv 4 \pmod{5}$  we have  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$ . Replacing  $-m = p+3$ ,  $-n = q$  in  $G(3, m, n)$  and using relation 1 yields the result as claimed.  $\square$

**Theorem 4.** *If  $(m \equiv 0 \pmod{3})$  and  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$ ) then*

- (i)  $G(3, m, n)$  is trivial, where  $m \not\equiv 0 \pmod{5}$ ;
- (ii)  $G(3, m, n)$  is  $\mathbb{Z}_5$ , where  $m \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $m \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  and  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$ . Then  $G(3, m, n) = \langle a, b \mid a^5 = (ab)^2 = b^{m+3}a^{-1}b^ma^{-1} = 1 \rangle$  using relation 1. Since  $(3, 1) = 1$  by Lemma 1,  $b^3$  commutes with  $a$ . Using this we can rewrite relation 3 as

$$(3.3) \quad \begin{aligned} b^{2m+3}a^{-2} &= 1 \\ \Rightarrow a^2 &= b^{2m+3}. \end{aligned}$$

Relation 1 and (3.3) imply that  $a = b^{-2(2m+3)}$ . Hence  $G(3, m, n)$  is a cyclic group and so its order is given by the invariant factors of the relation matrix

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 0 \\ 2 & 2 \\ -2n & 2m+3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

If  $m \not\equiv 0 \pmod{5}$ , 1 is the only invariant factor of  $M$ . Hence  $G(3, m, n)$  is the trivial group as claimed in (i).

If  $m \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$ , 5 is the only invariant factor of  $M$ . Hence  $G(3, m, n)$  is a cyclic group of order 5,  $\mathbb{Z}_5$ , as claimed in (ii).  $\square$

**Lemma 3.** *If  $m \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  and  $n \equiv 3 \pmod{5}$  then  $G(3, m, n)$  is isomorphic to  $\langle a, b \mid a^5 = (ab)^2 = b^{p+3}a^{-q}b^pa^{-q} = 1 \rangle$ , where  $p \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  and  $q \equiv 2 \pmod{5}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $m \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  and  $n \equiv 3 \pmod{5}$ . Then  $G(3, m, n) = \langle a, b \mid a^5 = (ab)^2 = b^{m+3}a^{-3}b^ma^{-3} = 1 \rangle$  by relation 1.

Using the map  $b \mapsto b^{-1}, a \mapsto a^{-1}$  we get  $G(3, m, n) \cong \langle a, b \mid a^5 = (ab)^2 = b^{-m-3}a^3b^{-m}a^3 = 1 \rangle$ . Now let  $-m = p+3$  and  $-n = q$ . Since  $m \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  we have  $p \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  and since  $n \equiv 3 \pmod{5}$  we have  $q \equiv 2 \pmod{5}$ . Replacing  $-m = p+3, -n = q$  in  $G(3, m, n)$  and using relation 1 yields the result as claimed.  $\square$

**Theorem 5.** *If  $(m \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  and  $n \equiv 2 \pmod{5})$  then  $G(3, m, n)$  is trivial.*

*Proof.* Let  $m \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  and  $n \equiv 2 \pmod{5}$ . Then  $G(3, m, n) = \langle a, b \mid a^5 = (ab)^2 = b^{m+3}a^{-2}b^ma^{-2} = 1 \rangle$  by relation 1. Since  $(3, 1) = 1$  by Lemma 1,  $b^3$  commutes with  $a^2$ . Using this we can rewrite relation 3 as

$$b^{2m+3}a^{-4} = 1 \Rightarrow a = b^{-2m-3}$$

(using relation 1).

Hence  $G(3, m, n)$  is a cyclic group and so its order is given by the invariant factors of the relation matrix

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 0 \\ 2 & 2 \\ -2n & 2m+3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

If  $m \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  and  $n \equiv 2 \pmod{5}$  then 1 is the only invariant factor of  $M$ . Hence  $G(3, m, n)$  is the trivial group as claimed.  $\square$



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