

§3. MAIN THEOREM; GROUP THEORY AND EXCEPTIONAL CASES: From

Proposition 2.3 we have only to show that $\mathcal{G}_g(\text{sol}) \cap \mathcal{G}_g(\text{prim})$ is empty for

$g > 6$. Excluding Theorem 3.4, we assume in this section that $g > 1$.

§3.1. PROOF OF THE MAIN THEOREM: Suppose that $G \in \mathcal{G}_g(\text{prim})$. Riemann's

existence theorem says that there exists an integer r and $\sigma \in S_n^r$ with properties (1.1).

Suppose that there is a constant α such that

$$(3.1) \quad \text{ind}(\sigma_i) \geq \alpha n, \quad i=1, \dots, r.$$

According to Principle 2.2, $r \geq 3g$. Therefore an application of (1.2) gives

$$(3.2) \quad 2(n-1)/(3\alpha n-2) \geq g \text{ with equality if and only if } \text{ind}(\sigma_i) = \alpha n, \quad i=1, \dots, r.$$

Proposition 3.1: *In the above formula, if G is a primitive subgroup of S_n with a minimal normal subgroup N that is abelian, then $n=p^e$ for some prime p . If $p \neq 2$ we may take $\alpha=1/3$ in (3.1). If $p=2$ then we may take $\alpha=1/4$. In particular, this applies to the case that $G \in \mathcal{G}_g(\text{sol}) \cap \mathcal{G}_g(\text{prim})$.*

The exceptional values for (g,n) in (3.2), with $g > 1$, are $(6,4), (5,4), (4,4), (4,3), (3,3), (3,4), (3,8)$ and $(2,n)$ for any primepower n .

Proof: Let G be a transitive subgroup of S_n . For $\sigma \in G$ the following hold:

- (3.3) a) if σ has no fixed points, then $\text{ind}(\sigma) \geq n/2$; and
 b) $\text{ind}(\sigma) \geq \text{ind}(\sigma^k)$ for any integer k .

Now assume that G is primitive, that H is the stabilizer of a point in the permutation representation and that N , a minimal normal subgroup,

is abelian. It is well known (e.g., [Bu]) that $p^e = n$, that the permutation action of H is equivalent to the faithful and irreducible action of H by conjugation on the elements of N ; and that $G = N \rtimes H$ (semidirect product). Thus if $\sigma \in G$ has a fixed point, then σ is conjugate to an element of H , and the permutation action of H is equivalent to the conjugation action on N .

From (3.3) we prove the statements about α if we show that for $\sigma \in H$ of prime order, say q ,

$$(3.4) \quad \text{ind}(\sigma) \geq (q-1)(p-1)n/qp.$$

But $\text{ind}(\sigma)$ is n minus the number of orbits of σ acting by conjugation on N . By the class equation the cardinality of these orbits is

$$|C_N(\sigma)| + (n - |C_N(\sigma)|)/q \geq (p^e - p^{e-1})/q.$$

From this (3.4) follows.

Consider the exceptional cases for (g, p^e) from the inequality (3.2), $2(n-1)/(3\alpha n-2) \geq g$, where αn is the right side of (3.4). For n odd we may replace α by $1/3$. Thus $g \leq 2(n-1)/(n-2)$ gives $(2, \text{any odd primepower})$, $(3, 3)$ and $(4, 3)$.

For n even we may replace α by $1/4$. Thus $g \leq (2^e-1)/(3 \cdot 2^{e-3}-1)$ gives $(g, 4)$, $g=3, 4, 5, 6$, $(3, 8)$ and $(2, \text{any power of } 2)$. \square

Remark: Let Ω denote those permutation groups G that have a normal subgroup N (not necessarily abelian) such that $G = NH$ and the restriction of the permutation action to N is equivalent to the regular representation of N . Define $\mathfrak{G}_g(\Omega)$ in a manner analogous to the above. With slight modifica-

tion, the proof of Proposition 3.1 can be improved to show that

$\mathfrak{G}_g(\Omega) \cap \mathfrak{G}_g(\text{prim})$ is empty for $g > 6$. \square

§3.2. FINITENESS OF $|\mathfrak{G}_g(\text{sol}) \cap \mathfrak{G}_g(\text{prim})|$ FOR $g > 1$: Since S_3 and S_4 are

solvable, Principle 2.5 tells us that the cases of form $(g,3)$ or $(g,4)$ in Proposition 3.1 actually are exceptions to the Main Theorem if and only if $n(g) \leq 3,4$ respectively. For example $n(6) = [9/2] = 4$. This leaves the cases

(3.5) a) $(2, \text{any prime power})$; and

b) $(3,8)$.

The next lemma eliminates (3.5) b) as a possibility and the theorem following it cuts down to a finite number the possible exceptional cases that appear under (3.5) a). After this our only concern in describing

$\mathfrak{G}_g(\text{sol}) \cap \mathfrak{G}_g(\text{prim})$ explicitly for $g > 1$ is with the finite number of cases

left over when $g=2$. In §4 we delineate the possible branch cycles which arise from the portion of the list remaining from Theorem 3.3.

Lemma 3.2: *Let $G = (\mathbb{Z}/2)^e \rtimes H$ with H a solvable subgroup of $GL(e, \mathbb{Z}/2)$ acting irreducibly on $(\mathbb{Z}/2)^e$ with $e > 2$. Let T be the subgroup of H generated by transvections. If $T \neq 1$, then the irreducible T submodules of $(\mathbb{Z}/2)^e$ are 2-dimensional. In particular, if H contains a transvection, then e is even.*

Finally, if $e=3$, then 7 divides the order of H . This excludes the cases of $(g,n)=(2,8)$ or $(3,8)$ from being exceptions to the Main Theorem.

Proof: We divide the proof into 4 parts, the first 3 of which consider a minimal normal subgroup A of H contained in T .

Part 1. *Decomposition of N under a minimal normal subgroup of H .* Let A be as above. Then A is an abelian p -group for some prime p . Decompose $N=(\mathbb{Z}/2)^e$ as $V_1 \oplus V_2 \oplus \cdots \oplus V_t$ with V_i an irreducible A module, $i=1, \dots, t$. In-

deed, if V_1 is a minimal A submodule, since H acts irreducibly on N , the images of V_1 under H form such a decomposition with $h(V_1)=V_i$ or

$h(V_1) \cap V_1$ empty for each i and $h \in H$. Suppose that $(\mathbb{Z}/2)^e$ has a 1-

dimensional T submodule, $\langle v \rangle$. Since T is normal in H , then $h^{-1}\tau h(v)=v$ for each $\tau \in T$ and $h \in H$. Conclude that H doesn't act irreducibly on N . This argument works with T replaced by any normal subgroup of H , in particular A . Thus all of the irreducible A and T submodules are of dimension at least 2.

Part 2. *Reduction to the case $H=T$ and A is cyclic acting irreducibly on N .*

If τ is a transvection, it fixes a hyperplane of N and therefore τ fixes a hyperplane of V_i . Thus $\tau(V_i)=V_i$, $i=1, \dots, t$, and we may reduce to the case

that $H=T$ and $N=V_1=V$. Let $(\mathbb{Z}/2)[A]$ denote the image of the group ring of A in $\text{End}(V)$. This is a field. Thus the elements of A represent a subgroup

of the multiplicative group of this field. Such a subgroup must be cyclic, and therefore A is a cyclic group.

Part 3. *H is dihedral and $\dim(V)=2$.* Denote the normalizer of $(\mathbb{Z}/2)[A]$ in $GL(V)$ by K (it includes the action of $T=H$). Since this acts as automorphisms of the finite field $(\mathbb{Z}/2)[A]$, the induced map $K \rightarrow \text{Aut}((\mathbb{Z}/2)[A])$ has image a cyclic group. Conclude that T/A is cyclic. Since it is generated by involutions it is of order 2 (or 1). Thus H is dihedral, and for any involution τ we check that $\dim([\tau, V]) = \dim(V)/2$. If, however τ is a transvection, then $\dim([\tau, V]) = 1$. This gives $\dim(V) = 2$ and concludes the first two sentences of the lemma. If we now return to the general case, the argument of Part 1 shows that (if T is nontrivial) N is a direct sum of irreducible 2-dimensional T submodules. In particular, e is even.

Part 4. *The case $e=3$.* From the above H contains no transvections. The order of $GL(3, \mathbb{Z}/2)$ is $7 \cdot 6 \cdot 4$. Let A be a minimal normal subgroup of H . Of course, this contains a copy of S_4 induced from its permutation action. If A stabilizes a line then $C_N(A) \neq 0$, which implies that $C_N(A) = N$. This con-

tradiction to the faithful action of H on N shows that A acts irreducibly on N . By Part 2 above, A is cyclic, and therefore $|A| = 7$ and $|H| = 7$ or 21 . In this case every involution is in N and it has no fixed points: its index is at least 4. An element of order 7 in H has index 6 and an element of order 3 has index 4. We exclude the case (3.5) b) by noting that $r \geq 9$. Thus the sum of the σ_i 's, which should be $2(8+3-1)=20$, must exceed 36. For the case $(g,n)=(2,8)$ we get a similar contradiction with $r \geq 6$. \square

Theorem 3.3: *Exclude the well known case $n=2$ and $G=S_2$. Then the only possible exceptional (solvable) groups that appear as the group of the Galois closure of some map of the generic curve of genus 2 to \mathbb{P}_Z^1 occur with $n=p^e$ and $G \subset S_n$ a primitive subgroup as follows:*

(3.6) a) $p=5=n$, $G=D_{10}$;

b) $p=3=n$, $G=S_3$;

c) $p=3$, $n=9$, $G=(\mathbb{Z}/3)^2 \rtimes D_8$;

d) $p=3$, $n=9$, $G=(\mathbb{Z}/3)^2 \rtimes \text{SL}(2,3)$;

e) $p=2$, $n=4$, $G=S_4$; and

f) $p=2$, $n=16$, $G=(\mathbb{Z}/2)^2 \times (\mathbb{Z}/2)^2 \rtimes ((S_3 \times S_3) \rtimes (\mathbb{Z}/2))$.

Proof: From Principle 2.2, $r \geq 6$, and in our previous notation, the Riemann-Hurwitz formula gives, $\sum_{i=1}^r \text{ind}(\sigma_i) = 2n+2$. Apply (3.4). For $p \geq 7$, $\text{ind}(\sigma_i) \geq (3/7)n$. Therefore, $\sum_{i=1}^r \text{ind}(\sigma_i) \geq (18/7)n \geq 2n+4$ and there are no examples. We break the proof into two parts according to n odd or even.

Part 1. n is odd. If $p=5$ a similar computation shows that

$$\sum_{i=1}^r \text{ind}(\sigma_i) \geq 2n + 2n/5 > 2n + 2 \text{ if } n > 5. \text{ If } n = 5, \text{ equality implies } \text{ind}(\sigma_i) = 2,$$

$i = 1, \dots, 6$. The only solvable subgroup of S_5 generated by such elements is D_{10} where σ_i is a product of two disjoint 2-cycles, $i = 1, \dots, 6$.

For $p = 3$, consider the possibilities for the action of σ on the vector space N as in the proof of Proposition 3.1. If σ fixes no points, then $\text{ind}(\sigma) \geq n/2$. Otherwise, we may assume for the index calculation that $\sigma \in \text{HCGl}(e, \mathbb{Z}/3)$. If σ is an involution, then $v + \sigma(v)$ is fixed by σ for each $v \in N$. These fixed vectors form a subspace N_1 . There are 2 possibilities:

(3.7) a) N_1 is a hyperplane (i.e., σ is a reflection in N_1), and

$$\text{ind}(\sigma) = (3^e - 3^{e-1})/2 = n/3; \text{ or}$$

b) the fixed subspace of σ has order no more than 3^{e-2} elements, and $\text{ind}(\sigma) \geq (3^e - 3^{e-2})/2 = n/3 + n/9 = 4n/9$.

If σ is not an involution, but σ is a transvection (i.e., σ fixes a hyperplane N_1 and $\sigma(v) - v \in N_1$ for each $v \in N$) then $\text{ind}(\sigma) = 2(3^e - 3^{e-1})/3 = 4n/9$.

Otherwise, $\text{ind}(\sigma) \geq n/2$. Clearly, if $n > 9$, either all σ_i 's are reflections and the sum of the indices is $rn/3 \neq 2(n+1)$ for all r ; or at least one of the σ_i 's is not a reflection and, since $r \geq 6$, the sum of the indices exceeds $2(n+1)$.

Here are the actual branch cycle possibilities for $n = p = 3$, $G = S_3$:

(3.8) a) $r = 6$, four of the σ_i 's are 2-cycles and two are 3-cycles;

b) $r=7$, six of the σ_i 's are 2-cycles and one is a 3-cycle; and

c) $r=8$, and all of the σ_i 's are 2-cycles.

For $n=9$ the σ_i 's that are reflections have index 3, transvections have index 4 and multiplication by -1 on N has index 4. Suppose that σ and τ are involutions that generate D_8 , with $\sigma\tau$ of order 4. We may assume that the action of σ on $(\mathbb{Z}/3)^2$ is given by mapping (α, β) to $(-\alpha, \beta)$, and similarly, that the action of τ is given by mapping (α, β) to (β, α) . Here are the actual branch cycle possibilities for $n=9$, $G=(\mathbb{Z}/3)^2 \rtimes SD_8$:

(3.9) $r=6$, four of the σ_i 's are reflections and the other two are

involutions of the form $(v; (\sigma\tau)^2)$ with $v \in N - \{(0,0)\}$.

In order to list the branch cycle possibilities for $n=9$, $G=(\mathbb{Z}/3)^2 \rtimes SG_1$ with $G_1=GL(2, \mathbb{Z}/3)$ or $SL(2, \mathbb{Z}/3)$ note that $SL(2, \mathbb{Z}/3)$ contains no reflections. Thus it is ruled out since, as above, at least four of the σ_i 's must be reflections. Consider the transvection

$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $B = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$, a matrix that is the product $\sigma\tau$ from D_8 above.

Also, A and B generate $SL(2, \mathbb{Z}/3)$. Since σ and τ have determinant -1 , σ, τ and α generate $GL(2, \mathbb{Z}/3)$. We therefore have the possibility for (3.6) d) that

(3.10) $r=6$, two of the σ_i 's project in $GL(2, \mathbb{Z}/3)$ to σ , two of them to τ ,

and two of them to A .

We have said enough about the odd degree case for now.

Part 2. $p=2$. If $n=4$, then the sum of the indices of the σ_i 's must be 10.

Since $r \geq 6$ this rules out the possibility that each σ_i has index at least 2,

and therefore it isn't possible that $G=A_4$. As in (3.8) there is a long, but

obvious list of the possibilities. The extremes for r are of the most interest to us:

(3.11) a) $r=10$, all of the σ_i 's are 2-cycles; and

b) $r=6$, two of the σ_i 's are 2-cycles and the remaining four are some combination of 3-cycles and products of two 2-cycles.

Now assume that $n=2^e$ with $e \geq 4$ (Lemma 3.2 excludes the possibility of $e=3$). Use the notation of Lemma 3.2. The following list indicates possibilities for the indices of elements $\sigma \in G$:

(3.12) a) if σ is a transvection, then σ fixes 2^{e-1} vectors and $\text{ord}(\sigma)$ is 2 (over $\mathbb{Z}/2$), so $\text{ind}(\sigma)=n/4$;

b) if $\text{ord}(\sigma)=3$, then $\text{ind}(\sigma) \geq (2/3)(2^e - 2^{e-2})=n/2$; and

c) if $\text{ord}(\sigma)=2$ and not a), then $\text{ind}(\sigma) \geq 3n/8 = (2^e - 2^{e-2})/2$.

d) if $\text{ord}(\sigma) \geq 5$, then $\text{ind}(\sigma) \geq 5n/8$ (below);

e) if $\text{ord}(\sigma)=4$, $\text{ind}(\sigma) \geq n/2$ and if σ^2 isn't a transvection, then $\text{ind}(\sigma) \geq 5n/8$ (below); and

f) if $\text{ord}(\sigma)=3$ and $|\langle \sigma, N \rangle| \geq 16$, then $\text{ind}(\sigma) \geq 2(2^e - 2^{e-4})/3 = 5n/8$ (below).

The remainder of the proof is organized into five points of which one covers expansion on (3.12) d) and e), three cover a list of possibilities on the

number of transvections among the σ_i 's and the final gives the example in which $e=4$.

Point 1. (3.12) d) and e). First consider (3.12) d). If $\text{ord}(\sigma)$ is an odd prime p then $\text{ind}(\sigma)=(p-1)(2^e-2^f)/p$ where f is the dimension of the fixed point space of σ . Since $\text{GL}(3, \mathbb{Z}/2)$ has order relatively prime to 5, if $p=5$, then $e-f>4$. Similarly, since $\text{GL}(2, \mathbb{Z}/2)$ has order relatively prime to p for $p>3$, then $e-f>3$ if $p>5$. Thus in these cases $\text{ind}(\sigma)\geq 3n/4$. Applying (3.3) b) we are reduced to the case that $\text{ord}(\sigma)$ is divisible only by the primes 2 and 3, and it suffices to establish this in the case that $\text{ord}(\sigma)=6, 8$ or 9.

In the case that $\text{ord}(\sigma)=9$ we may count the number of 9-cycles by similar thinking to the above: The number of 9 cycles is the number of 3-cycles of σ^3 . So there must be an integer t such that σ^3 has $(2^e-2^t)/3$ 3-cycles, which come together in groups of three from the 9-cycles of σ . Thus $\text{ind}(\sigma)\geq 8(2^e-2^t)/9$ where t is the minimal integer such that 2^e-2^t is divisible by 9. That is $t=e-6$, and (3.12) d) follows from $(8/9)(63/64)>3/4$. For the other two cases we use the following formula. If $\text{orb}(\sigma)$ is the number of orbits of σ and $\text{ord}(\sigma)=d$, then

$$(3.13) \text{ a) } \text{orb}(\sigma) = \left(\sum_{i=1}^d |\text{Fix}(\sigma^i)| \right) / d.$$

This follows from Frobenius reciprocity in the inner product formula $(\chi, 1)_{\langle \sigma \rangle} = (1, 1)_M$, where χ is the character of the permutation representation of $\langle \sigma \rangle$ and M is the subgroup that stabilizes an integer in this representation.

If $d=6$, then $\text{orb}(\sigma) = (2|\text{Fix}(\sigma)| + 2|\text{Fix}(\sigma^2)| + |\text{Fix}(\sigma^3)| + n)/6$. If we write σ in rational canonical form it is clear that $|\text{Fix}(\sigma)| \leq n/8$, $|\text{Fix}(\sigma^2)| \leq n/4$ and $|\text{Fix}(\sigma^3)| \leq n/2$. Therefore $\text{orb}(\sigma) \leq 3n/8$ and $\text{ind}(\sigma) = n - \text{orb}(\sigma) \geq 5n/8$. The exact same argument applied in the case that σ is of order 8 gives $\text{ind}(\sigma) = n - \text{orb}(\sigma) \geq (11)n/16$.

Now we consider e). Apply the above for σ of order 4 to get $\text{orb}(\sigma) = (2|\text{Fix}(\sigma)| + 2|\text{Fix}(\sigma^2)| + n)/4 \leq n/2$. But, if σ^2 isn't a transvection, then $|\text{Fix}(\sigma^2)| \geq n/4$ and $|\text{Fix}(\sigma)| \geq n/8$. Conclude e).

Point 2. *Existence of at least 1 transvection and 2 nontransvections among the σ_i 's.* Since $r \geq 6$ and $e > 3$, if there are no transvections among the σ_i 's the sum of the indices of the σ_i 's is at least $2n + (n/4) > 2n + 2$. Conclude

that there is at least one transvection. From Lemma 3.2, e is even. We treat the case $e=4$, as in (3.6) f) in Point 5. Assume now that $e \geq 6$.

Let T be the (normal) subgroup of H generated by transvections. If all but one of the σ_i 's are transvections, then $H=T$ and Lemma 3.2 implies that $e=2$.

Point 3. *The impossibility of exactly 2 nontransvections among σ_i 's.* If exactly two aren't transvections, then H/T is generated by a single element, and so is cyclic. Suppose that $|H/T| = 2$. From Lemma 3.2 the irreducible submodules of $(\mathbb{Z}/2)^e$ would be of dimension at most 4, contrary to

the irreducibility of the action of H and $e > 5$. Therefore $|H/T| = m > 2$. Thus these two nontransvections have order at least m .

If $\sigma = \sigma_i$, then $H \subseteq \langle T, \sigma \rangle$, so σ must transitively permute the irreducible T submodules of N . Also, no two T submodules of N are T -isomorphic (a given transvection can act nontrivially on only one irreducible submodule). Thus $|\langle \sigma, N \rangle| \geq 16$. By (3.12) d), e) and f), $\text{ind}(\sigma) \geq 5n/8$ and the sum of the indices of the σ_i 's must be at least $4(n/4) + 2(5/8)n > 2n + 2$.

Point 4. Impossibility of 3 nontransvections among σ_i 's. Since the sum of the indices of the σ_i 's is $\not\equiv 0 \pmod{4}$, one of the nontransvections must have index $\not\equiv 0 \pmod{4}$. We show that this nontransvection must have index at least $(5)n/8$.

If not, then (3.12) d) implies that $\sigma = \sigma_i$ has order at most 4. We list the cases. If $\text{ord}(\sigma) = 2$, the Jordan canonical form of σ shows that σ fixes at least $2^{e/2}$ elements so that, since $e \geq 6$, $\text{ind}(\sigma) \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$. If $\text{ord}(\sigma) = 3$, then $|\text{Fix}(\sigma)| = 1$ and $\text{ind}(\sigma) = 2(2^e - 1)/3 > 5n/8$. Finally, if $\text{ord}(\sigma) = 4$, then $-\text{ind}(\sigma) \equiv \text{orb}(\sigma) = (2|\text{Fix}(\sigma)| + 2|\text{Fix}(\sigma^2)| + n)/4 \pmod{4}$ from Point 1. If σ^2 is a transvection, then σ has exactly one Jordan block of size at most 3, and so $|\text{Fix}(\sigma)|$ is a multiple of 8 (and $|\text{Fix}(\sigma^2)| = n/2$). Hence $\text{ind}(\sigma) \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$. By (3.12) e), $\text{ind}(\sigma) \geq 5n/8$ as claimed. Therefore (again the formula of Point 1) the sum of the indices of the σ_i 's is at least $(3n/4) + 6n/8 + 5n/8 = 2n + n/8 > 2n + 2$.

Point 5. $e=4$. From the first part of the proof of Lemma 3.2 conclude that the subgroup T of H generated by transvections acts as $H_1 = S_3 \times S_3$ acting on $N = (\mathbb{Z}/2)^2 \times (\mathbb{Z}/2)^2$ through action of S_3 on $(\mathbb{Z}/2)^3 / \langle (1,1,1) \rangle \cong (\mathbb{Z}/2)^2$ in the standard degree 3 permutation representation. Note that in the argument of Point 2 the possibility of $|H/T| = 2$ was left open when $e=4$. It is easy to conclude that H is $S_3 \times S_3 \rtimes \mathbb{Z}/2$ where the action of $\mathbb{Z}/2$ is the switch on the two copies of S_3 (and on the two factors of N). The details on possible branch cycle descriptions σ appear in §4.4. \square

§3.3. INSPECTION OF $|\mathfrak{G}_g(\text{sol}) \cap \mathfrak{G}_g(\text{prim})|$ FOR $g=1$: The last theorem of this section shows that in the case $g=1$, the elements of $\mathfrak{G}_g(\text{sol}) \cap \mathfrak{G}_g(\text{prim})$ are groups whose degrees n are either of the form 2^e , 3^e , 5^e or 7^e . Of course, as explained in the introduction, we expect that $\mathfrak{G}_1(\text{sol}) \cap \mathfrak{G}_1(\text{prim})$ is actually finite. We have one further duty in this case before we go to Theorem 3.4. That is to explain the relation between $\mathfrak{G}_1(\text{sol}) \cap \mathfrak{G}_1(\text{prim})$ and $\mathfrak{G}_1(\text{sol})$ considering that Proposition 2.3 assumes that $g > 1$ (cf. Acknowledgements).

Indeed, in diagram (1.4) we must allow one further possibility. If

(3.14) $\phi: X_{\mathbf{m}} \rightarrow Y \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{Z}}^1$, with $X_{\mathbf{m}}$ the generic curve of genus 1,

then either Y is of genus 1 and $X_{\mathbf{m}} \rightarrow Y$ is an unramified Galois cover with abelian group of rank at most 2, or Y is of genus 0. In the former case Y is itself a generic curve of genus 1 (not necessarily isomorphic to $X_{\mathbf{m}}$).

Recall that genus 1 curves (over an algebraically closed field) have the structure of an abelian group. With no loss we may assume that the origins of the group structures for $X_{\mathbf{m}}$ and Y have been chosen so that $X_{\mathbf{m}} \rightarrow Y$

is an isogeny of elliptic curves. In particular, this is a Galois cover with group a quotient of $(\mathbb{Z}/u)^2$ for some integer u [L; p.24]. We explain the implications for the relationship between $\mathcal{G}_1(\text{sol}) \cap \mathcal{G}_1(\text{prim})$ and $\mathcal{G}_1(\text{sol})$

(or between $\mathcal{G}_1(\text{prim})$ and \mathcal{G}_1).

Suppose that $G_1 \in \mathcal{G}_1$ is a subgroup of the wreath product of V , a quotient of $(\mathbb{Z}/u)^2$ for some integer u , and a group G (i.e., a subgroup of $V_k \times^S G$ via a permutation representation of G of degree k). We say that G and G_1 are elementary wreath equivalent. This generates an equivalence relation. From the above comments if $G \in \mathcal{G}_1$ (resp., $\mathcal{G}_1(\text{sol})$), then it is a subgroup of a series of wreath products formed from groups G_1, \dots, G_v

where G_1 is elementary wreath equivalent to an element of $\mathcal{G}_1(\text{prim})$

(resp., $\mathcal{G}_1(\text{sol}) \cap \mathcal{G}_1(\text{prim})$) and $G_1 \in \mathcal{G}_0(\text{prim})$ (resp., $\mathcal{G}_0(\text{sol}) \cap \mathcal{G}_0(\text{prim})$),

$i=2, \dots, v$. We are willing to use the elementary formula (3.15) from the still incomplete [GTh] on the principles that this will appear right up front in that paper and that this use will help clarify the relationship between this paper and that.

Theorem 3.4: *The only possible degrees of primitive solvable groups that appear as the group of the Galois closure of some map of the generic curve of genus 1 to \mathbb{P}_Z^1 occur with $n=p^e$, with p equal to 2, 3, 5 or 7.*

Proof: From Principle 2.2, $r \geq 4$, and in our previous notation, the Riemann-Hurwitz formula gives, $\sum_{i=1}^r \text{ind}(\sigma_i) = 2n$. An application of (3.4)

here when $g=1$ falls short of giving us the opening argument of Theorem 3.3. Instead we borrow a more precise statement from [GTh]. If $|\sigma| = d$, then

- (3.15) a) $\text{ind}(\sigma) \geq (d-1)(p-1)n/d \cdot p$ if σ has fixed points; and
 b) $\text{ind}(\sigma) \geq (p-1)n/p$ if σ has no fixed points.

We divide the remainder of the proof into two parts.

Part 1. *Reduction to the case that $r=4$ and $\text{ord}(\sigma_i)=2$, $i=1, 2, 3, 4$.* First

Assume that at least one σ_i , say σ_r , has order greater than 2 and, of

course, that $p > 7$. Therefore,

$$\sum_{i=1}^r \text{ind}(\sigma_i) \geq (3(p-1)/2p + 2(p-1)/3p)n > 2n + 2$$

unless $p < 13$; and in the case $p = 13$, $|\sigma_i| = 2$, $i = 1, 2, 3$, and $|\sigma_4| = 3$ and each

σ_i leaves a hyperplane fixed. But in this case $\prod_{i=1}^r \det(\sigma_i) \neq 1$, contrary

to $\prod_{i=1}^r \det(\sigma_i) = 1$. Actually the same formula works for the case

$p = 11$, with the observation that since $11 \not\equiv 1 \pmod{3}$, (3.14) gives an improved bound for $|\sigma_4|$. Conclude that if p exceeds 7, then all of the σ_i 's

are of order 2.

Part 2. Conclusion. Use the above and that $\sigma_1 \cdot \sigma_2 \cdot \sigma_3 \cdot \sigma_4 = 1$ to conclude

that $\sigma_1 \cdot \sigma_2$ generates a normal subgroup of G (which, because of primi-

tivity, cannot fix an integer of the representation), and therefore that G

is the dihedral group of order $2p$. Finally, this implies that $\text{ind}(\sigma_i) = (p -$

$1)/2$, contrary to the sum of the indices of the σ_i 's equal to $2p$. \square