

# On the function sum of element orders in a finite group

Mercede MAJ

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*Dedicated to* **Sandra Cherubini**



**Congratulations!**



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-  M. Herzog, P. Longobardi, M. Maj, An exact upper bound for sums of element orders in non-cyclic finite groups, *J. Pure Appl. Algebra*, **222** n. 7 (2018), 1628-1642.
-  M. Herzog, P. Longobardi, M. Maj, Sums of element orders in groups of order  $2m$  with  $m$  odd, *Comm. Algebra*, to appear. [doi.org/10.1080/00927872.2018.1527924](https://doi.org/10.1080/00927872.2018.1527924),
-  M. Herzog, P. Longobardi, M. Maj, Two criteria for solvability of finite groups, *J. Algebra*, **511** (2018), 215-226.
-  M. Herzog, P. Longobardi, M. Maj, The second maximal groups with respect to the sum of elements orders, submitted, [arxiv.org/abs/1901.09662](https://arxiv.org/abs/1901.09662).

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Let  $G$  be a **periodic** group.

## Main Problem

*Obtain information about the structure of  $G$   
by looking at the orders of its elements.*



# The function $\psi$

Let  $G$  be a **finite** group.

## Definition

$$\psi(G) := \sum_{x \in G} o(x).$$

## Problem

*What can be said about the structure of  $G$   
by looking at the value  $\psi(G)$ ?*

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# The function $\psi$ - some examples

## Examples

$$\psi(\mathcal{S}_3) = 13.$$

For,  $\psi(\mathcal{S}_3) = 1 \cdot 1 + 3 \cdot 2 + 2 \cdot 3.$

$$\psi(\mathcal{C}_6) = 21.$$

For,  $\psi(\mathcal{C}_6) = 1 \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot 2 + 2 \cdot 3 + 2 \cdot 6.$

$$\psi(\mathcal{C}_5) = 21.$$

For,  $\psi(\mathcal{C}_5) = 1 \cdot 1 + 4 \cdot 5.$

where  $\mathcal{C}_n$  is the cyclic group of order  $n$  and  $\mathcal{S}_3$  is the symmetric group of degree 3.

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# The function $\psi$ - some remarks

## Remark

$\psi(G) = \psi(G_1)$  does not imply  $G \simeq G_1$ .

## Example

Let  $A = C_8 \times C_2$ ,  
 $B = C_2 \times C_8$ , where  $C_2 = \langle a \rangle$ ,  $C_8 = \langle b \rangle$ ,  $b^a = b^5$ .

Then

$$\psi(A) = \psi(B) = 87.$$

## Remark

$|G| = |G_1|$  and  $\psi(G) = \psi(G_1)$  do not imply  $G \simeq G_1$ .

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# The function $\psi$ - a problem

## Remark

$$\psi(G) = \psi(\mathcal{S}_3) \text{ implies } G \simeq \mathcal{S}_3.$$

## Problem

*Find information about the structure of a finite group  $G$  from some inequalities on  $\psi(G)$ .*

# The function $\psi$ - a property

## Proposition

If  $G = G_1 \times G_2$ , where  $|G_1|$  and  $|G_2|$  are coprime, then

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# Sum of the orders of the elements in a cyclic group

## Remark

$$\psi(C_n) = \sum_{d|n} d\varphi(d),$$

where  $\varphi$  is the Euler's function.

## Proposition

Let  $p$  be a prime,  $\alpha \geq 0$ . Then:

$$\psi(C_{p^\alpha}) = \frac{p^{2\alpha+1} + 1}{p+1}.$$

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Let  $p$  be a prime,  $\alpha \geq 0$ . Then:  $\psi(C_{p^\alpha}) = \frac{p^{2\alpha+1}+1}{p+1}$ .

*Proof.*  $\psi(C_{p^\alpha}) = 1 + p\varphi(p) + p^2\varphi(p^2) + \dots + p^\alpha(\varphi(p^\alpha)) =$   
 $1 + p(p-1) + p^2(p^2-p) + \dots + p^\alpha(p^\alpha - p^{\alpha-1}) =$   
 $= 1 + p^2 - p + p^4 - p^3 + \dots + p^{2\alpha} - p^{2\alpha-1} = \frac{p^{2\alpha+1}+1}{p+1}$ , as required. //

## Corollary

Let  $n > 1$ . Write  $n = p_1^{\alpha_1} \dots p_s^{\alpha_s}$ ,  $p_i$ 's different primes,  $\alpha_i$ 's  $> 0$ . Then

$$\psi(C_n) = \prod_{i \in \{1, \dots, s\}} \frac{p_i^{2\alpha_i+1} + 1}{p_i + 1}.$$

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# The function $\psi$ - a first result

**Theorem** [H. Amiri, S.M. Jafarian Amiri, M. Isaacs]

Let  $G$  be a finite group,  $|G| = n$ . Then

$$\psi(G) \leq \psi(C_n).$$

Moreover

$$\psi(G) = \psi(C_n) \text{ if and only if } G \simeq C_n.$$



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**Theorem** [M. Herzog, P. L., M. M.]

Let  $G$  be a non-cyclic group of order  $n$ . Then

$$\psi(G) \leq \frac{7}{11}\psi(C_n).$$

Moreover

this bound is best possible.



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## Remark

The upper bound  $\frac{7}{11}$  is best possible.

For example,

$\psi(\mathcal{C}_2 \times \mathcal{C}_2) = 7$  and  $\psi(\mathcal{C}_4) = 11$ . Therefore

$$\psi(\mathcal{C}_2 \times \mathcal{C}_2) = \frac{7}{11}\psi(\mathcal{C}_4).$$

Moreover,

it is easy to see that if  $n = 4k$  for some odd integer  $k$ , then the group  $G = \mathcal{C}_{2k} \times \mathcal{C}_2$  satisfies the above equality.

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**Theorem** [M. Herzog, P. L., M. M.]

Let  $G$  be a **non-cyclic** group of order  $n$  and let  $q$  be the **smallest prime divisor** of  $n$ . Then

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Let  $G$  be a **non-cyclic** finite group of **odd order**  $n$ . Then

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and the equality holds if and only if

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Notice that for  $q = 2$  we have:

$$\frac{((2^2 - 1)2 + 1)(2 + 1)}{2^5 + 1} = \frac{(3 \cdot 2 + 1)3}{33} = \frac{7}{11}.$$

# The function $\psi$ - a new result - some ingredients

**Theorem** [H. Amiri, S.M. Jafarian Amiri, I.M. Isaacs]

Let  $G$  be a finite group,  $p$  a prime,  
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with equality if and only if  $P$  is central in  $G$ .

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Let  $n$  be a positive integer and let  $q$  be the smallest prime  
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Let  $G = P \rtimes F$ , where  $P$  is a cyclic Sylow  $p$ -subgroup,  $|F| > 1$  and  $Z = C_F(P)$ . Then

$$\psi(G) < \psi(P)\psi(F) \left( \frac{\psi(Z)}{\psi(F)} + \frac{|P|}{\psi(P)} \right).$$

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Let  $G = P \rtimes F$ , where  $P$  is a cyclic Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$  and  $F$  is a cyclic  $p$ -complement. If  $\psi(G)$  has the second largest value for groups of order  $|G|$ , then  $C_F(P)$  is a maximal subgroup of  $F$ .



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# The function $\psi$ - some recent results - the even case

**Theorem** [M. Herzog, P. L., M. M.]

Let  $G$  be a non-cyclic group of order  $n = 2m$ ,  
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$$\psi(G) \leq \frac{13}{21}\psi(C_n).$$

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$$\psi(G) = \frac{13}{21}\psi(C_n) \quad \text{if and only if} \quad G = S_3 \times C_{n/6},$$

where  $n = 6m_1$  with  $(m_1, 6) = 1$  and

$S_3$  is the symmetric group on three letters.



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**Theorem** [M. Herzog, P. L., M. M.]

Let  $G$  be a **non-cyclic** group of even order  $n = 2^\alpha m$ ,  
with  $m$  an **odd** integer. Then

(i) if  $\alpha = 1$ , then  $\frac{\psi(G)}{\psi(C_n)} \leq \frac{13}{21} = \frac{\psi(S_3)}{\psi(C_6)}$ ,

(ii) if  $\alpha = 2$ , then  $\frac{\psi(G)}{\psi(C_n)} \leq \frac{7}{11} = \frac{\psi(C_2 \times C_2)}{\psi(C_4)}$ ,

In particular, these upper bounds are **best possible**.

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Let  $G$  be a **non-cyclic** group of even order  $n = 2^\alpha m$ , with  $m$  an **odd** integer. Then

$$(iii) \text{ if } \alpha = 3, \text{ then } \frac{\psi(G)}{\psi(C_n)} \leq \frac{27}{43} = \frac{\psi(Q_8)}{\psi(C_8)},$$

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In particular, these upper bounds are **best possible**.

# The function $\psi$ - some recent results - the even case

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It is not possible to substitute  $q - 1$  by  $q$ . For:

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**Theorem** [M. Herzog, P. L., M. M., J. Pure Appl. Algebra 2018]

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Hence if  $G$  is a finite **non soluble** group of order  $n$  and  $q$  is the **smallest prime** divisor of  $n$ , then

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# The function $\psi$ - some new results - a solubility criterium

**Theorem** [M. Herzog, P. L., M. M.]

Let  $G$  be a finite group of order  $n$  and suppose that

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# The function $\psi$ - a conjecture

## Remark

Notice that  $\psi(\mathcal{A}_5) = 211$  and  $\psi(\mathcal{C}_{60}) = 1617$ . Therefore

$$\psi(\mathcal{A}_5) = \frac{211}{1617}\psi(\mathcal{C}_{60}) > \frac{1}{7.67}\psi(\mathcal{C}_{60}).$$

So our lower bound  $\frac{1}{6.68}$  in the previous Theorem is not very far from the best possible one.

## Conjecture

If  $G$  is a group of order  $n$  and

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If true, this lower bound is certainly best possible.

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Moreover, if  $G = \mathcal{A}_5 \times C_m$ , where  $(30, m) = 1$ ,

$$\text{then } \psi(G) = \frac{211}{1617}\psi(C_n) .$$



M. Baniasad Asad, B. Khosravi, A Criterion for Solvability of a Finite Group by the Sum of Element Orders, *J. Algebra* **516** (2018), 115-124.

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**Theorem** [A. Bahri, B. Khosravi, Z. Akhlaghi]

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## Theorem [M. Herzog, P. L., M. M.]

Let  $G$  be a **non-cyclic** group of order  $n = 2m$ ,  
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## Theorem [M. Tărnăuceanu]

Let  $G$  be a group of order  $n$  with  $\psi(G) > \frac{13}{21}\psi(C_n)$ .

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## The function $\psi$ - Other results

M. Tărnăuceanu, D.G. Fodor considered the class of all finite abelian groups  $G$  and gave an explicit formula for  $\psi(G)$ .

 M. Tărnăuceanu, D.G. Fodor, On the sum of element orders of finite abelian groups, *Sci. An. Univ. "A.I. Cuza" Iasi, Ser. Math.*, **XL** (2014), 1-7.

S.M. Jafarian Amiri and M. Amiri considered the class of all finite  $p$ -groups and all groups with square-free order.

 S.M. Jafarian Amiri, M. Amiri, Characterization of  $p$ -groups by sum of the element orders, *Publ. Math. Debrecen* **86** no. 1-2 (2015), 31-37.

 S.M. Jafarian Amiri, M. Amiri, Sum of the Element Orders in Groups with the Square-Free Order, *Bull. Malays. Math. Sci. Soc.* **40** (2017), 1025-1034.

# Sum of the orders of the elements

## Definition

Let  $n$  be a positive integer. Put

$$\mathcal{T}_n := \{\psi(H) \mid |H| = n\}$$

Recall that

$\psi(C_n)$  is the **maximum** of  $\mathcal{T}_n$ .

## Problem

*What is the structure of  $G$  if  $\psi(G)$  is the **minimum** of  $\mathcal{T}_n$ ?*

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# Sum of the orders of the elements - minimum

## Remarks

If  $n = p^\alpha$  for some prime  $p$  and some  $\alpha > 0$  and  $|G| = p^\alpha$ ,  
then obviously

$\psi(G)$  is **minimum** if and only if  $\exp G = p$ .

If  $p = 2$  and  $\psi(G)$  is minimum,  
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But there are **non-isomorphic** groups  $G$  and  $G_1$  of order  $p^\alpha > p^2$  ( $p > 2$ )  
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*What happens in the **general case**?*

*What happens for **non-abelian simple groups**?*

## Theorem [H. Amiri, S.M. Jafarian Amiri, 2011]

Let  $G$  be a finite nilpotent group of order  $n$   
and assume that there are non-nilpotent groups of order  $n$ .

Then there exists a non-nilpotent group  $K$  with  $|K| = |G|$  such that

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If  $S$  is a **simple** group of order  $n$ ,  
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**NO!**

There are **non-isomorphic simple** groups  $S$  and  $S_1$  such that  
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For instance, the groups  $A_8$  and  $PSL(3, 4)$  are such that  
 $|A_8| = 20160 = |PSL(3, 4)|$  and  
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Conjecture [H. Amiri, S.M. Jafarian Amiri, 2011]

Let  $G$  be a finite **non-simple** group,  $S$  a finite **simple** group,  $|G| = |S|$ .

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Theorem [S.M. Jafarian Amiri, 2013]

Let  $G$  be a finite non-simple group.

If  $|G| = 60$ , then  $\psi(\mathcal{A}_5) < \psi(G)$ .

If  $|G| = 168$ , then  $\psi(\mathcal{PSL}(2, 7)) < \psi(G)$ .

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## Remarks

Assume  $G$  is a finite **non-simple** group.

Using GAP it is possible to see that:

If  $|G| = 360$ , then  $\psi(\mathcal{A}_6) < \psi(G)$ .

If  $|G| = 504$ , then  $\psi(\mathcal{PSL}(2, 8)) < \psi(G)$ .

If  $|G| = 660$ , then  $\psi(\mathcal{PSL}(2, 11)) < \psi(G)$ .

If  $|G| = 1092$ , then  $\psi(\mathcal{PSL}(2, 13)) < \psi(G)$ .



# Sum of the orders of the elements - minimum

But the conjecture is **not** true.

Theorem [Y. Marefat, A. Iranmanesh, A. Tehranian, 2013]

Let  $S = \mathcal{PSL}(2, 64)$  and  $G = 3^2 \times \mathcal{Sz}(8)$ .

Then  $|G| = |S|$  and  $\psi(G) \leq \psi(S)$ .

Conjecture

Let  $G$  be a finite **soluble** group,  $S$  a **simple** group,  $|G| = |S|$ .

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# Some other functions

Let  $G$  be a **finite** group.

## Definition

$$\mathcal{P}(G) := \prod_{x \in G} o(x).$$

## Theorem [M. Garonzi, M. Patassini, 2016]

Let  $G$  be a finite group,  $|G| = n$ . Then

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## Some other functions

Let  $G$  be a finite group,  $r, s$  real numbers.

### Definition

$$\mathcal{R}_G(r, s) := \sum_{x \in G} \frac{o(x)^s}{\varphi(o(x))^r}.$$

$$\mathcal{R}_G(r) := \mathcal{R}_G(r, r).$$

### Remark

$$\mathcal{R}_G(0, 1) = \psi(G).$$

## Theorem [M. Garonzi, M. Patassini, 2016]

Let  $G$  be a finite group,  $|G| = n$ ,  $r < 0$ .

Then  $\mathcal{R}_G(r) \geq \mathcal{R}_{C_n}(r)$ .

Moreover

$\mathcal{R}_G(r) = \mathcal{R}_{C_n}(r)$  if and only if  $G$  is nilpotent.

## Problem

Let  $G$  be a finite group,  $|G| = n$ , and  $r, s$  real numbers.

Does  $\mathcal{R}_G(s, r) = \mathcal{R}_{C_n}(s, r)$  imply  $G$  soluble?

## Some other functions

Theorem [T. De Medts, M. Tărnăuceanu, 2008]

Let  $G$  be a finite group,  $|G| = n$ .

If  $G$  is nilpotent, then  $\mathcal{R}_G(1) = \mathcal{R}_{C_n}(1)$ .

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*Thank you for the attention !*

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and again



to **Sandra**





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