

# Turner's Theorem is not First Order

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We say a group is a **Turner group** just in case nonprojectibility implies being a test element. We call a group a **vacuous Turner group** provided every element of the group lies in a proper retract of the group.

We also say a group is **curious** if it is elementarily equivalent to a Turner group.

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Since finite gp.'s are stably hyperbolic, O&T recovers Kearnes' result.



# Logical Preliminaries

Let  $L_0$  be the first order language with equality appropriate for group theory. ( $L_0$  contains a binary operation symbol  $\cdot$  or juxtaposition, unary operation symbol  $^{-1}$ , and a constant symbol  $1$ .)

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A group which has the same universal theory as any nonabelian free group, i.e., satisfies the same universal sentences

( $\forall \bar{x}(\varphi(\bar{x}))$  where  $\bar{x}$  is a tuple of variables of  $L_0$  and  $\varphi$  is a formula of  $L_0$  which contains at most the variables in  $\bar{x}$  but contains no quantifiers.) as any nonabelian free group is said to be **universally free**.

Of course, being elementarily free  $\implies$  being universally free

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A group  $G$  is **fully residually free** if given any finite set  $S \subseteq G \setminus \{1\} \exists$  a homomorphism  $\varphi : G \rightarrow F$  where  $F$  is a free group and  $\varphi(s) \neq 1$  for all  $s \in S$ .

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*(Remeslennikov) Let  $G$  be a f.g. universally free group. Then  $G$  is residually free.*



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*(Re & GS) Suppose the group  $G$  is nonabelian and residually free. Then the following are equivalent:*

- (1)  $G$  is fully residually free*
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*(Kh & M): Let  $G$  be a f.g. group. If  $G$  is fully residually free and has cyclic centralizers of nontrivial elements, then  $G$  is hyperbolic.*

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Let  $x$  be a variable and  $\Phi(x)$  be a set of formulas,  $\varphi(x)$ , of  $L_0$ . Here the formulas  $\varphi(x)$  can contain one or more free occurrences of at most the variable  $x$  -but no other variable.

If  $G$  is a gp. and  $g \in G$  then we say  $\Phi(g)$  holds provided  $\varphi(g)$  holds in  $G$  for every formula  $\varphi(x) \in \Phi(x)$ .

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*(Nondefinability Theorem.) (1) There is no set  $N(x)$  of formulas of  $L_0$  s.t. for an arbitrary gp.  $G$  and an arbitrary element  $g \in G$ ,  $N(g)$  holds iff  $g$  is nonprojectible.*

*(2) There is no set  $T(x)$  of formulas of  $L_0$  s.t. for an arbitrary gp.  $G$  and an arbitrary element  $g \in G$ ,  $T(g)$  holds iff  $g$  is a test element.*

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- (2) Let  $G$  be a curious group. Must  $G$  be a Turner group? What if the curious gp.  $G$  is also finitely presented and Hopfian?
- (3) Are infinitely generated elementarily free gp.'s Turner gp's ?