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## COTORSION THEORIES COGENERATED BY $\aleph_1$ -FREE ABELIAN GROUPS

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ABSTRACT. Given an  $\aleph_1$ -free abelian group  $G$  we characterize the class  $\mathfrak{C}_G$  of all torsion abelian groups  $T$  satisfying  $\text{Ext}(G, T) = 0$  assuming the special continuum hypothesis  $CH$ . Moreover, in Gödel's constructible universe we prove that this characterizes  $\mathfrak{C}_G$  for arbitrary torsion-free abelian  $G$ . It follows that there exists some ugly  $\aleph_1$ -free abelian groups.

**1. Introduction.** In 1969 Griffith [8] solved Baer's splitting problem on mixed abelian groups when he proved that an abelian group  $G$  is free if and only if  $\text{Ext}(G, T) = 0$  for all torsion abelian groups  $T$ . It is easy to see that an abelian group  $G$  which satisfies  $\text{Ext}(G, T) = 0$  for all torsion abelian groups  $T$  must be torsion-free and homogeneous of type  $\mathbf{Z}$ . Thus it was natural to ask whether or not one could extend Griffith's result to homogeneous torsion-free groups which are not necessarily of idempotent type, i.e., to ask whether a torsion-free abelian group  $G$  which is homogeneous of type  $R \subseteq \mathbf{Q}$  has to be completely decomposable if and only if  $\text{Ext}(G, T) = 0$  whenever  $\text{Ext}(R, T) = 0$  for all torsion groups  $T$  (clearly  $\text{Ext}(G, T) = 0$  implies  $\text{Ext}(R, T) = 0$ ). That this is not the case was shown in [10] by the second author. This was a consequence of techniques and results obtained in [12]. Inspired by Baer's question [1] to characterize all pairs of torsion-free abelian  $G$  and torsion abelian  $T$  such that  $\text{Ext}(G, T) = 0$ , Wallutis and the second author considered in [12] the torsion groups of the cotorsion class singly cogenerated by a torsion-free group  $G$ . Cotorsion theories were introduced by Salce in [9] but it was the first time in [12] that only the torsion groups of the cotorsion theory were considered. Recall that, for a torsion-free abelian group  $G$ , the class of all torsion abelian groups  $T$  satisfying  $\text{Ext}(G, T) = 0$

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is denoted by  $\mathcal{TC}(G)$  (see [12]). This class is obviously closed under taking epimorphic images and contains all torsion cotorsion groups, i.e., all bounded groups. In [12] satisfactory characterizations of  $\mathcal{TC}(G)$  were obtained for countable torsion-free abelian groups and for completely decomposable groups. In fact, it was proved in [12] that, for every countable torsion-free abelian group  $G$ , there exists a completely decomposable group  $C$  such that  $\mathcal{TC}(G) = \mathcal{TC}(C)$ . It was later shown in [10] by the second author that, for every finite rank torsion-free abelian group  $G$ , there even exists a rational group  $R \subseteq \mathbf{Q}$  such that  $\mathcal{TC}(G) = \mathcal{TC}(R)$ . Thus, knowing the class  $\mathcal{TC}(C)$  for completely decomposable groups  $C$ , it was reasonable to search for groups  $G$  of uncountable cardinality such that  $\mathcal{TC}(G)$  equals  $\mathcal{TC}(C)$  for some completely decomposable group  $C$ . Although a criterion was found in [12, Theorem 3.6] for characterizing those classes of torsion abelian groups which may appear as  $\mathcal{TC}(C)$  for completely decomposable group  $C$ , it remained open if for instance in Gödel's universe every torsion-free abelian group is of this kind. It shall be shown in this paper that this is not the case, but it holds if we replace completely decomposable by  $\aleph_1$ -free of cardinality  $\aleph_1$ .

Assuming  $CH$  we give in Section 2 a construction of  $\aleph_1$ -free abelian groups  $G$  of size  $\aleph_1$  having a strange class  $\mathcal{TC}(G)$ . It shall be proved that, for every ideal  $I$  in the set of primes (more general in the set of all powers of primes) containing all finite subsets of the set of primes, there exists an  $\aleph_1$ -free abelian group  $G$  of size  $\aleph_1$  such that  $\bigoplus_{p \in P} \mathbf{Z}(p) \in \mathcal{TC}(G)$  if and only if  $P \in I$ . It follows in Section 3 that in Gödel's constructible universe ( $V = L$ ) every torsion-free abelian group  $G$  satisfies  $\mathcal{TC}(G) = \mathcal{TC}(H)$  for some  $\aleph_1$ -free group  $H$  of size  $\aleph_1$ . Thus, we obtain a characterization of the class  $\mathcal{TC}(G)$  for all torsion-free abelian groups  $G$  in Gödel's universe and prove that the structure of the group  $G$  is not very much affected by the class  $\mathcal{TC}(G)$ . This solves Baer's problem in  $V = L$  and contrasts a result from [7] in which it was shown that the cotorsion theory singly cogenerated by  $G$  determines the group  $G$  up to isomorphism in many cases.

All groups under consideration are abelian. The notations are standard and, for unexplained notions in abelian group theory and set theory, we refer to [6] and [5].

**2. The construction.** In this section we construct some  $\aleph_1$ -free abelian groups having special properties. Let us first recall a definition from [12]. For a torsion-free group  $G$  we denote by  $\mathcal{TC}(G)$  the class of all torsion groups  $T$  satisfying  $\text{Ext}(G, T) = 0$ . Obviously, the class  $\mathcal{TC}(G)$  is closed under taking epimorphic images and contains all torsion cotorsion groups, i.e., all bounded groups. Recall that a torsion-free group  $G$  is called  $\aleph_1$ -free if all its countable subgroups are free. Let  $\Pi$  be the set of natural primes. By  $\bar{\Pi}$  we denote the set of all powers of natural primes, i.e.,  $\bar{\Pi} = \{p^n : p \in \Pi, n < \omega\}$ . Moreover, for an infinite subset  $P \subseteq \bar{\Pi}$  we define  $T_P = \bigoplus_{p \in P} \mathbf{Z}(p)$ , where  $\mathbf{Z}(p)$  denotes the cyclic group of order  $p$ . The reader should keep in mind that here  $p$  is not necessarily a prime but could be a prime power. We begin with a compactness result for countable torsion-free groups (see [10, Lemma 3.1]).

**Lemma 2.1** ([10]). *Let  $G$  be a countable torsion-free group and  $T$  a torsion group. Then  $T \in \mathcal{TC}(G)$  if and only if  $T \in \mathcal{TC}(H)$  for all finite rank pure subgroups  $H$  of  $G$ .*

*Proof.* The proof can be found in [10, Lemma 3.1] and is based on the fact that, for countable  $G$  and any pure subgroup  $H \subseteq G$  of finite rank,  $T \in \mathcal{TC}(G)$  implies  $T \in \mathcal{TC}(G/H)$  ( $T$  a torsion group).  $\square$

Recall that, for a torsion-free group  $G$  of size  $\kappa$ , a  $\kappa$ -filtration of  $G$  is a continuous ascending chain of pure subgroups of cardinality less than  $\kappa$  such that its union equals  $G$ .

**Proposition 2.2** (CH). *Let  $G$  be a torsion-free group of cardinality  $\aleph_1$  and  $P$  an infinite subset of  $\bar{\Pi}$ . If  $\langle G_\alpha : \alpha < \omega_1 \rangle$  is an  $\omega_1$ -filtration of  $G$ , then  $T_P \notin \mathcal{TC}(G)$  if and only if one of the following conditions holds:*

- (i)  $T_P \notin \mathcal{TC}(H)$  for some finite rank pure subgroup  $H$  of  $G$  or;
- (ii)  $\{\delta < \omega_1 : G/G_\delta \text{ contains a finite rank pure subgroup } L_\delta \subseteq G/G_\delta \text{ such that } T_P \notin \mathcal{TC}(L_\delta)\}$  is stationary in  $\omega_1$ .

*Proof.* Let

$$(2.1) \quad S = \left\{ \delta < \omega_1 : G/G_\delta \text{ contains a finite rank pure subgroup} \right. \\ \left. L_\delta \subseteq G/G_\delta \text{ such that } T_P \notin \mathcal{TC}(L_\delta) \right\}.$$

By Lemma 2.1,  $S = \{ \delta < \omega_1 : T_P \notin \mathcal{TC}(G_\beta/G_\delta) \text{ for some } \delta < \beta < \omega_1 \}$ . Now it is easy to see that  $S$  stationary implies that the relative  $\Gamma$ -invariant  $\Gamma_{T_P}(G) \neq 0$ . Since we are assuming  $CH$  the weak diamond  $\Phi_{\aleph_1}$  holds (see [3]). Thus (i) or (ii) imply  $T_P \notin \mathcal{TC}(G)$  by [5, Proposition XII.1.15]. Conversely, assume that  $T_P \notin \mathcal{TC}(G)$  but (i) and (ii) do not hold. Then the relative  $\Gamma$ -invariant  $\Gamma_{T_P}(G) = 0$  and hence [5, Theorem XII.1.14] shows that  $T_P \in \mathcal{TC}(G)$  – a contradiction.  $\square$

*Remark 2.3.* If we assume  $V = L$ , then we could extend Proposition 2.2 to larger cardinalities using techniques as, for instance, developed in [2, Theorem 3.1] and using an appropriate filtration, but it is not needed here.

Let  $S$  be a stationary subset of  $\omega_1$  consisting of limit ordinals, i.e., for all  $\alpha \in S$ , cf  $(\alpha) = \omega$ . Recall the following definition.

**Definition 2.4.** A ladder system  $\bar{\eta}$  on  $S$  is a family of functions  $\bar{\eta} = \langle \eta_\delta : \delta \in S \rangle$  such that  $\eta_\delta : \omega \rightarrow \delta$  is strictly increasing with  $\sup(\text{rg}(\eta_\delta)) = \delta$  where  $\text{rg}(\eta_\delta)$  denotes the range of  $\eta_\delta$ . We call the ladder system *tree-like* if, for all  $\delta, \nu \in \bar{\eta}$  and every  $\alpha, \beta \in \omega$ ,  $\eta_\delta(\alpha) = \eta_\nu(\beta)$  implies  $\alpha = \beta$  and  $\eta_\delta(\rho) = \eta_\nu(\rho)$  for all  $\rho \leq \alpha$ .

**Proposition 2.5** ( $CH$ ). *Let  $\langle P_\alpha : \alpha < \omega_1 \rangle$  be a sequence of infinite subsets of  $\bar{\Pi}$ . Then there exists an  $\aleph_1$ -free torsion-free group  $G$  of cardinality  $\aleph_1$  such that, for any infinite subset  $P$  of  $\bar{\Pi}$ ,  $T_P \notin \mathcal{TC}(G)$  if and only if  $\{ \delta < \omega_1 : |P \cap P_\delta| = \aleph_0 \}$  is stationary.*

*Proof.* Since we are assuming  $CH$ , the weak diamond  $\Phi_{\aleph_1}$  holds. Let  $S$  be a stationary subset of  $\omega_1$  such that  $\Phi_{\aleph_1}(S)$  holds. Since  $\lim(\omega_1)$  is a cub in  $\omega_1$ , we may assume without loss of generality that  $S = \lim(\omega_1)$ , i.e.,  $S$  consists of all limit ordinals of  $\omega_1$ . Choose a tree-like ladder

system  $\bar{\eta} = \langle \eta_\delta : \delta \in S \rangle$  such that  $\eta_\delta(\alpha)$  is a successor ordinal for all  $\alpha < \omega$  and  $\delta \in S$  (see [5, p. 386, Exercise 17]). We enumerate the sets  $P_\alpha$  by  $\omega$  without repetitions, e.g.,  $P_\alpha = \{p_{\alpha,n} : n < \omega\}$ . Now let  $F$  be the free group generated by the elements  $\{x_\nu : \nu < \omega_1\} \cup \{y_{\delta,n} : \delta \in S, n < \omega\}$ . Let  $z_{\delta,-1} = y_{\delta,0}/p_{\delta,0}$  and, for  $n \geq 0$ ,

$$z_{\delta,n} = (y_{\delta,0} - w_{\delta,n}) / \left( \prod_{i=0}^{n+1} p_{\delta,i} \right),$$

where  $w_{\delta,n} = \sum_{i=0}^n (\prod_{j=0}^i p_{\delta,j}) x_{\eta_\delta(i)}$ . Let  $G$  be the subgroup of  $F$  generated by the elements  $\{x_\nu : \nu < \omega_1\} \cup \{z_{\delta,n} : \delta \in S, n < \omega\}$ . Then the only relations between the generators of  $G$  are

$$(2.2) \quad p_{\delta,n+1} z_{\delta,n} = z_{\delta,n-1} - x_{\eta_\delta(n)}$$

for  $\delta \in S$  and  $n \geq 0$ . Now for  $\nu < \omega_1$ , let  $G_\nu$  be the pure closure in  $G$  of  $G \cap (\{x_\mu : \mu < \nu\} \cup \{z_{\delta,n} : \delta \in S \cap \nu, n < \omega\})$ . Then the sequence  $\langle G_\nu : \nu < \omega_1 \rangle$  forms an  $\omega_1$ -filtration of  $G$ . Moreover, for  $\nu \in S$  we have

$$(2.3) \quad G_{\nu+1}/G_\nu \cong F_\nu \oplus H_\nu,$$

where  $F_\nu$  is the free group on the generator  $x_\nu + G_\nu$  and  $H_\nu \cong \langle 1/p_{\nu,n} : n < \omega \rangle =: R_{P_\nu} \subseteq \mathbf{Q}$ . Finally  $G$  is  $\aleph_1$ -free by Pontryagin's criterion. Indeed, if  $J_0$  is a finite subset of  $G$ , then the pure closure of  $J_0$  is contained in the pure closure of a finite subset  $J_1$  of  $\{x_\nu : \nu < \omega_1\} \cup \{y_{\delta,n} : \delta \in S, n < \omega\}$ . By enlarging  $J_1$  we may assume that there exists  $m$  such that, for all  $y_{\delta,0} \in J_1$ ,  $x_{\eta_\delta(n)} \in J_1$  if and only if  $n \leq m$ . Then the equations (2.2) show that the pure closure of  $J_1$  is free (compare [5, Example VIII 1.1]).

Finally, let  $P$  be an infinite subset of  $\bar{\Pi}$ . Since  $G$  is  $\aleph_1$ -free there exists no finite rank pure subgroup  $H$  of  $G$  such that  $T_P \notin \mathcal{TC}(H)$ , hence Proposition 2.2 shows that  $T_P \notin \mathcal{TC}(G)$  if and only if the set

$$(2.4) \quad N = \left\{ \delta < \omega_1 : G/G_\delta \text{ contains a finite rank pure subgroup } L_\delta \subseteq G/G_\delta \text{ such that } T_P \notin \mathcal{TC}(L_\delta) \right\}$$

is stationary in  $\omega_1$ . Since for  $\delta \in S$  we have  $G_{\delta+1}/G_\delta \cong R_{P_\delta}$  it is now easy to see that  $N$  is stationary if and only if  $U = \{\delta < \omega_1 : |P \cap P_\delta| = \aleph_0\}$  is stationary. Note that  $S$  is a cub in  $\omega_1$ .  $\square$

If  $G$  is a torsion-free group, then it is not hard to see that the set

$$(2.5) \quad \{P \subseteq \bar{\Pi} : T_P \in \mathcal{TC}(G)\}$$

forms an ideal of  $\mathcal{P}(\bar{\Pi})$  containing all finite subsets of  $\bar{\Pi}$ . In fact, the next theorem shows that every such ideal may appear. To avoid additional notation let us allow an ideal in  $\mathcal{P}(\bar{\Pi})$  to contain  $\bar{\Pi}$  itself.

**Theorem 2.6 (CH).** *Let  $I \subseteq \mathcal{P}(\bar{\Pi})$  be an ideal containing all finite subsets of  $\bar{\Pi}$ . Then there exists an  $\aleph_1$ -free group  $G$  of cardinality  $\aleph_1$  such that for every  $P \subseteq \bar{\Pi}$ ,  $T_P \in \mathcal{TC}(G)$  if and only if  $P \in I$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $I$  be given. If  $\bar{\Pi} \in I$ , then we choose  $G$  to be free of cardinality  $\aleph_1$ , and we are done. Therefore, assume that  $\bar{\Pi} \notin I$ . Choose a continuous increasing sequence of boolean subalgebras  $\langle B_\alpha \subseteq \mathcal{P}(\bar{\Pi}) : \alpha < \omega_1 \rangle$  such that each  $B_\alpha$  is countable and contains all finite subsets of  $\bar{\Pi}$ . Note that this is possible since we are assuming *CH*. Let  $\alpha < \omega_1$  and put

$$(2.6) \quad I \cap B_\alpha = \{I_{\alpha,i}^- : i < \omega\}$$

and

$$(2.7) \quad B_\alpha \setminus I = \{I_{\alpha,i}^+ : i < \omega\},$$

where we assume that each  $I_{\alpha,i}^+$  is repeated infinitely many times. Choose for  $\alpha < \omega_1$  and  $i < \omega$

$$(2.8) \quad p_{\alpha,i} \in I_{\alpha,i}^+ \setminus \left( \bigcup \{I_{\alpha,j}^- : j < i\} \cup \{i_{\alpha,j} : j < i\} \right).$$

Note that this is possible since  $I_{\alpha,i}^+$  is infinite and  $\bigcup \{I_{\alpha,j}^- : j < i\} \in I$ . Let

$$(2.9) \quad P_\alpha = \{p_{\alpha,i} : i < \omega\}$$

and let  $G$  be the group from Proposition 2.5 for  $\langle P_\alpha : \alpha < \omega_1 \rangle$ . Then  $G$  is  $\aleph_1$ -free and of cardinality  $\aleph_1$  and, by Proposition 2.5, it suffices to prove that for a subset  $P \subseteq \bar{\Pi}$  we have  $P \in I$  if and only if there exists  $\gamma < \omega_1$  such that, for all  $\delta > \gamma$ ,  $P \cap P_\alpha$  is finite. Thus, let  $P \subseteq \bar{\Pi}$

and assume that  $P \in I$ . Then there exists  $\gamma < \omega_1$  such that, for all  $\delta > \gamma$ ,  $P \in I \cap B_\delta$ . Fix  $\delta > \gamma$ . Then  $P = I_{\delta,i}^-$  for some  $i < \omega$ . Hence, for all  $j > i$  we obtain  $p_{\delta,j} \notin I_{\delta,i}^-$ . Thus  $P \cap P_\delta \subseteq \{p_{\delta,j} : j \leq i\}$  which is finite. Conversely, assume that  $P \notin I$ . Then there exists  $\gamma < \omega_1$  such that, for all  $\delta \in \gamma$ ,  $P \in B_\delta \setminus I$ . Fix  $\delta > \gamma$ , then  $P = I_{\delta,j}^+$  for infinitely many  $j < \omega$  by the choice of the  $I_{\delta,i}^+$ s. But, if  $P = I_{\delta,j}^+$ , then  $p_{\delta,j} \in P_\delta \cap (P \setminus \{p_{\delta,i} : i < j\})$  and hence  $P \cap P_\delta$  is infinite. This finishes the proof.  $\square$

We are now able to characterize the class  $\mathcal{TC}(G)$  for torsion-free groups of cardinality  $\aleph_1$  assuming  $CH$ .

**3. The characterization.** In [12, Theorem 3.6 (v)] a characterization of all classes  $\mathfrak{C}$  of torsion groups was given which could satisfy  $\mathfrak{C} = \mathcal{TC}(C)$  for some completely decomposable group  $C$ . We shall show next that we can drop condition [12, Theorem 3.6 (v)] if we assume  $CH$  and replace completely decomposable by  $\aleph_1$ -free cardinality  $\aleph_1$ . Recall that condition [12, Theorem 3.6 (v)] says the following

- (3.1) *If  $P$  is an infinite set of primes such that  $T_P \notin \mathfrak{C}$ , then there exists an infinite subset  $P'$  of  $P$  such that for all infinite subsets  $X$  of  $P'$ ,  $T_X \notin \mathfrak{C}$ .*

**Theorem 3.1** ( $CH$ ). *Let  $\mathfrak{C}$  be a class of torsion groups. Then  $\mathfrak{C} = \mathcal{TC}(G)$  for some ( $\aleph_1$ -free) torsion-free group  $G$  of cardinality less than or equal to  $\aleph_1$  if and only if the following conditions are satisfied:*

- (i)  $\mathfrak{C}$  is closed under epimorphic images;
- (ii)  $\mathfrak{C}$  contains all torsion cotorsion groups;
- (iii) If  $p$  is a natural prime, then  $\bigoplus_{n < \omega} \mathbf{Z}(p^n) \in \mathfrak{C}$  if and only if  $\mathfrak{C}$  contains all  $p$ -groups;
- (iv) If  $P$  is an infinite subset of  $\Pi$ , then  $\bigoplus_{p \in P} \mathbf{Z}(p) \in \mathfrak{C}$  if and only if  $\bigoplus_{p \in P} H_p \in \mathfrak{C}$  for all  $p$ -groups  $H_p \in \mathfrak{C}$ ,  $p \in P$ .

*Proof.* Let us first show that (i)–(iv) hold for  $\mathcal{TC}(G)$  for any torsion-free group  $G$  of cardinality less than or equal to  $\aleph_1$ . Clearly (i) and (ii)

are true. Moreover, if  $G$  is countable, then [12, Corollary 3.7] shows that (iii) and (iv) hold for  $G$ . Thus assume that  $G$  is of cardinality  $\aleph_1$ , and let  $\langle G_\alpha : \alpha < \omega_1 \rangle$  be an  $\omega_1$ -filtration of  $G$ . Let  $p$  be a prime and assume that  $\bigoplus_{n < \omega} \mathbf{Z}(p^n) \in \mathcal{TC}(G)$ . Moreover, assume that  $T$  is a  $p$ -group and  $T \notin \mathcal{TC}(G)$ . By Proposition 2.2 there exists either a finite rank pure subgroup  $H$  of  $G$  such that  $T \notin \mathcal{TC}(H)$  or the set  $Q = \{\delta < \omega_1 : G/G_\delta \text{ contains a finite rank pure subgroup } L_\delta \subseteq G/G_\delta \text{ such that } T \notin \mathcal{TC}(L_\delta)\}$  is stationary in  $\omega_1$ . If  $H$  exists, then [12, Theorem 3.6] shows that  $\bigoplus_{n < \omega} \mathbf{Z}(p^n) \notin \mathcal{TC}(H)$ , contradicting the fact that  $\bigoplus_{n < \omega} \mathbf{Z}(p^n) \in \mathcal{TC}(G) \subseteq \mathcal{TC}(H)$ . Thus assume that  $Q$  is stationary in  $\omega_1$ . Again by [12, Theorem 3.6], it follows that for  $\delta \in Q$  also  $\bigoplus_{n < \omega} \mathbf{Z}(p^n) \notin \mathcal{TC}(L_\delta)$  since all  $G_\alpha$ 's are countable. Thus,

$$(3.2) \quad Q = \left\{ \delta < \omega_1 : G/G_\delta \text{ contains a finite rank pure subgroup } L_\delta \subseteq G/G_\delta \text{ such that } \bigoplus_{n < \omega} \mathbf{Z}(p^n) \notin \mathcal{TC}(L_\delta) \right\}$$

and Proposition 2.2 shows that  $\bigoplus_{n < \omega} \mathbf{Z}(p^n) \notin \mathcal{TC}(G)$  – a contradiction. Thus (iii) holds since the converse implication is trivial.

It is straightforward to see that also (iv) holds for  $\mathcal{TC}(G)$  using similar arguments as above.

Finally, assume that  $\mathfrak{C}$  satisfies (i) to (iv). We identify  $\omega$  with  $\bar{\Pi}$  by a bijection  $i : \omega \rightarrow \bar{\Pi}$ . Let  $I = \{X \subseteq \omega : \bigoplus_{p \in i(X)} \mathbf{Z}(p) \in \mathfrak{C}\}$ . Then it is easy to see that  $I$  is an ideal on  $\omega$  containing all finite subsets of  $\omega$ . Thus by Theorem 2.6 there exists an  $\aleph_1$ -free group  $G$  of cardinality  $\aleph_1$  such that, for every subset  $P \subseteq \bar{\Pi}$ ,  $\bigoplus_{p \in P} \mathbf{Z}(p) \in \mathcal{TC}(G)$  if and only if  $i^{-1}(P) \in I$ . Since we have already shown that  $\mathcal{TC}(G)$  satisfies (i) to (iv), it is now obvious that  $\mathfrak{C} = \mathcal{TC}(G)$ .  $\square$

Since it was shown in [11, Theorem 2.7] and [12, Corollary 3.9] that in Gödel's universe for every torsion-free group  $G$ , Theorem 3.1 (i)–(iv) are satisfied for  $\mathfrak{C} = \mathcal{TC}(G)$ , we immediately get the following result.

**Corollary 3.2** ( $V = L$ ). *For every torsion-free group  $G$ , there exists an  $\aleph_1$ -free group  $H$  of cardinality  $\aleph_1$  such that  $\mathcal{TC}(G) = \mathcal{TC}(H)$ .*

Moreover, we obtain the existence of some ugly torsion-free groups showing that the  $\mathcal{TC}$ -conjecture from [11,  $\mathcal{TC}$ -Conjecture 2.12] does



not hold. In [11] it was conjectured that in  $V = L$  for every torsion-free group  $G$ , there exists a completely decomposable group  $C$  such that  $\mathcal{TC}(G) = \mathcal{TC}(C)$ , hence condition (3.1) would be satisfied for all torsion-free groups  $G$ . This is not the case.

**Corollary 3.3 (CH).** *For every infinite set of primes  $P$ , there exists an  $\aleph_1$ -free torsion-free group  $G$  of cardinality  $\aleph_1$  satisfying  $T_P \notin \mathcal{TC}(G)$  such that for every infinite subset  $Q \subseteq P$ , there exists an infinite subset  $Q_1 \subseteq Q$  such that  $T_{Q_1} \in \mathcal{TC}(G)$ . Thus  $\mathcal{TC}(G) \neq \mathcal{TC}(C)$  for every completely decomposable group  $C$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $P$  be the given infinite set of primes. It was shown by Eda in [4, Theorem 5, Proof] that there exists a strictly decreasing chain of subsets  $P_\alpha \subseteq P$ ,  $\alpha < \omega_1$ , such that

- (i)  $P_\alpha$  is infinite;
- (ii)  $\alpha < \beta$  implies  $P_\beta$  is almost contained in  $P_\alpha$ ;
- (iii)  $\alpha < \beta$  implies  $|P_\alpha \setminus P_\beta|$  is infinite;
- (iv)  $\bigcap_{\alpha < \omega_1} P_\alpha$  is infinite.

Let  $U$  be the ultrafilter generated by  $\overline{P} = \{P_\alpha : \alpha < \omega_1\}$  and let  $G$  be the group from Proposition 2.5 for  $\overline{P}$ . If  $Q$  is an infinite subset of  $P$ , then divide  $Q$  into two disjoint infinite subsets, e.g.,  $Q = Q_1 \cup Q_2$ . Since  $U$  is an ultrafilter, it follows that without loss of generality  $Q_1 \notin U$ . Hence, there exists  $\alpha < \omega_1$  such that  $|P_\alpha \cap Q_1|$  is finite. Thus, for every  $\alpha \leq \beta$ , we obtain  $|P_\beta \cap Q_1|$  is finite. Therefore the set  $\{\delta < \omega_1 : |P \cap P_\delta| = \aleph_0\}$  is not stationary in  $\omega_1$  and Proposition 2.5 implies that  $T_{Q_1} \in \mathcal{TC}(G)$ .

Finally  $\mathcal{TC}(G) \neq \mathcal{TC}(C)$  for any completely decomposable group  $C$  since  $\mathcal{TC}(G)$  violates [12, Theorem 3.2 (v)] which is our condition (3.1).  $\square$

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