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*Automorphism groups of affine varieties consisting of algebraic elements*

*Abstract:* This talk is based on joint works with S. Kovalenko, A. Regeta, and M. Zaidenberg, [KPZ], [PR]. Given an affine variety  $X$ , an automorphism  $g \in \text{Aut}(X)$  is called *algebraic* if it is contained in an algebraic subgroup of  $\text{Aut}(X)$ . We conjecture that the following conditions on the neutral component  $\text{Aut}^\circ(X)$  are equivalent:

- (1) it consists of algebraic elements;
- (2) it is exhausted by an inductive limit of algebraic subgroups;
- (3) it is a semidirect product of an algebraic torus and an abelian unipotent group;
- (4) its tangent algebra consists of locally finite elements;
- (5) its unipotent elements comprise an abelian subgroup.

In the case  $\dim X \leq 2$ , their equivalence follows from [KPZ]. In the case of higher dimensions, we prove some relations between them using the following result.

**Theorem.** [P.–Regeta] *Let  $X$  be an affine algebraic variety over an algebraically closed field  $\mathbf{k}$  of zero characteristic,  $\mathcal{U}(X) \subset \text{Aut}(X)$  be a subgroup generated by unipotent elements, and let  $\text{Der}^{lf}(\mathbf{k}[X]) \subset \text{Der}(\mathbf{k}[X])$  be a subset of locally finite derivations. Then  $\mathcal{U}(X)$  is abelian if and only if  $\text{Der}^{lf}(\mathbf{k}[X])$  is an algebra. In such a case  $\text{Der}^{lf}(\mathbf{k}[X])$  is equal as a vector space to a direct sum of abelian subalgebras  $\mathfrak{h}$  and  $\mathfrak{u}$ , where  $\mathfrak{h}$  consists of semisimple derivations and  $\mathfrak{u}$  consists of locally nilpotent derivations.*

[KPZ] S. Kovalenko, A. Perepechko, and M. Zaidenberg. *On automorphism groups of affine surfaces*, to appear in: Algebraic Varieties and Automorphism Groups, Advanced Studies in Pure Mathematics **99**, pp. 207-286.

[PR] A. Perepechko, A. Regeta. *Automorphism groups of affine varieties with only algebraic elements*, in preparation.