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Alfred W. Hales* (hales@ccrwest.org), 4320 Westerra Court, San Diego, CA 92121. *Group Rings, Jordan Decomposition and Don Passman.*

Let G be a finite group and x an element of the rational group ring $\mathbb{Q}G$. Then x can be written (uniquely) in the form $s + n$ where s is semisimple, n is nilpotent, and s, n commute. Suppose x is integral, i.e. lies in $\mathbb{Z}G$. When can we be sure that these Jordan components s and n must also be integral?

This seemingly innocent question, and its multiplicative counterpart, have spawned a number of papers over several decades. The work has involved three generations of mathematicians from three different countries, and Don's role in all of this has been critical - and in one aspect unexpected even to him. We will outline this fascinating story, and provide background for the later talk by Don's student Chia-Hsin Liu. (Received July 27, 2015)