

Pacific Journal of Mathematics

**INTERSECTIONS OF TERMS OF POLYCENTRAL SERIES OF
FREE GROUPS AND FREE LIE ALGEBRAS. II**

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INTERSECTIONS OF TERMS OF POLYCENTRAL SERIES OF FREE GROUPS AND FREE LIE ALGEBRAS, II

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This paper investigates intersections of second terms of polycentral series of free groups and free Lie algebras and derives bases for the lower central factors of the resulting factors.

Let G_m denote the n th term of the lower central series a group G and L_m the ideal in a Lie Algebra L generated by of products of m elements. Define $G_{m,n} = (G_m)_n$ and $L_{m,n} = (L_m)_n$. Let F denote a free group and L a free Lie Algebra. This paper investigates $F_{m,n} \cap F_{p,q}$ and $L_{m,n} \cap L_{p,q}$ and the factors $F/(F_{m,n} \cap F_{p,q})$ and $L/(L_{m,n} \cap L_{p,q})$. Bases for the lower central factors of $F/(F_{m,n} \cap F_{p,q})$ and for the additive group of $L/(L_{m,n} \cap L_{p,q})$ are derived. This enables us to describe $L_{m,n} \cap L_{p,q}$ as a product of certain ideals in L and also to describe $F_{m,n} \cap F_{p,q}$ as a product of commutator subgroups of F . Some special cases of the bases have been communicated to me by M. Boral.

If $m = p$ then

$$\begin{aligned} F_{m,n} \cap F_{p,q} &= F_{m,n} \text{ for } n \geq q \\ &= F_{p,q} \text{ for } q \geq n. \end{aligned}$$

Assume without loss of generality that $m \geq p$. Then $F_m \subseteq F_p$ and if further $n \geq q$ then $F_{m,n} \subseteq F_{p,q}$ and hence $F_{m,n} \cap F_{p,q} = F_{m,n}$. Similar remarks of course apply for the Lie Algebra. So we shall assume in what follows that $m > p$ and $n < q$.

In [1] it is defined what is meant by saying that a basic group commutator is structurally contained in $F_{m,n}$; and what is meant by saying that a basic element is structurally contained in $L_{m,n}$ is similarly defined.

It follows from [1] Lemma 4 that the basic commutators structurally contained in both $F_{m,n}$ and in $F_{p,q}$ are contained in $F_{m,n} \cap F_{p,q}$. Let S_r denote the set of basic commutators of weight r structurally contained in both $F_{m,n}$ and in $F_{p,q}$ and let $T_r = B_r \setminus S_r$ where B_r denotes the totality of basic commutators of weight r . Define $T = \bigcup_1^\infty T_r$. We shall also use S_r, T_r, B_r and T for the corresponding Lie elements in L .

THEOREM A.

(i) The r th lower central factor of $F/(F_{m,n} \cap F_{p,q})$ is free abelian on the set T_r .

(ii) T is an additive basis for $L/(L_{m,n} \cap L_{p,q})$.

Proof. (i) It follows from [1] Lemma 4 that T_r generates $F_r(F_{m,n} \cap F_{p,q})/F_{r+1}(F_{m,n} \cap F_{p,q})$ and so it is only necessary to show that T_r is linearly independent modulo $F_{r+1}(F_{m,n} \cap F_{p,q})$. If $r+1 \leq mn$ or $r+1 \leq pq$ then this is clear. Hence suppose $r+1 = mn + s = pq + t$, for $s, t \geq 1$.

Suppose a product Π of elements from T_r is contained in $F_{r+1}(F_{m,n} \cap F_{p,q})$. Then $\Pi = ab$, where $a \in F_{r+1}$ and $b \in F_{m,n} \cap F_{p,q}$. Then by Theorem C of [1] b is a product modulo $F(m, n; s)$ of basic commutators structurally contained in $F_{m,n}$ and also a product modulo $F(p, q; t)$ of basic commutators structurally contained in $F_{p,q}$. Of course $b \in F_r$. Now from the uniqueness modulo F_{r+1} of the expression for an element as a product of basic commutators, it follows that b is a product of basic commutators each of which is structurally contained in both $F_{m,n}$ and in $F_{p,q}$, i.e., b is a product of elements from S_r . However, $T_r \cap S_r = \emptyset$ and thus Π induces the identity in $F_r(F_{m,n} \cap F_{p,q})/F_{r+1}(F_{m,n} \cap F_{p,q})$.

(ii) The proof for the Lie Algebra case is similar and is omitted. (It also follows from part (i) by setting up a homomorphism (which is consequently an isomorphism) from $L/(L_{m,n} \cap L_{p,q})$ to the Lie Algebra formed from the direct sum of the lower central factors of $F/(F_{m,n} \cap F_{p,q})$.) \square

Now define (for $m \geq p, q > n$),

$$F(m, 1; p, q) = F_m \cap F_{p,q},$$

$$F(m, n; p, q) = \Pi[F_m \cap F_{p,i_1}, F_m \cap F_{p,i_2}, \dots, F_m \cap F_{p,i_n}], \text{ for } n > 1,$$

where the product is over all positive integers i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n such that $i_1 + i_2 + \dots + i_n = q$.

Note that it is easily verified that $[F_m \cap F_{p,j_1}, F_m \cap F_{p,j_2}, \dots, F_m \cap F_{p,j_n}] \leq F(m, n; p, q)$ for $j_1 + j_2 + \dots + j_n \geq q$ and hence in the definition we could have taken i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n such that $i_1 + i_2 + \dots + i_n \geq q$. In [1] Theorem A, $F_m \cap F_{p,s}$ is identified as a product of certain commutator subgroups of F . If $ps \geq m$ then $F_m \cap F_{p,s} = F_{p,s}$; for $m = ps + r$ the notation $F(p, s; r)$ is used for the product of commutator subgroups which is identified with $F_m \cap F_{p,s}$. In [1] "structurally contained in $F_m \cap F_{p,s}$ " has been defined and we wish to extend this definition to defining what is meant by saying

that a basic commutator is structurally contained in $F(m, n; p, q)$. If $n = 1$, then $F(m, 1; p, q) = F_m \cap F_{p,q}$ and structurally contained in $F_m \cap F_{p,q}$ has been defined. Assume $n > 1$ and suppose it has been defined what is meant by saying that a basic commutator is structurally contained in $F(m, k; p, q)$ for all $k, 1 \leq k < n$, and for all m, p, q with $m \geq p$. If $q \leq n$ say a basic commutator a is structurally contained in $F(m, n; p, q)$ ($=F_{m,n}$) iff a is structurally contained in $F_{m,n}$. If $q > n$ (this forces $q \geq 2$) say the basic commutator a is structurally contained in $F(m, n; p, q)$ iff $a = [b, c]$ for basic commutators b, c with b structurally contained in $F(m, n_1, p, q_1)$, c structurally contained in $F(m, n_2; p, q_2)$, for positive integers n_1, n_2, q_1, q_2 satisfying $n_1 + n_2 = n$ and $q_1 + q_2 = q$.

For a basic commutator a , use $a \overline{\in} F(m, n; p, q)$ to mean that a is structurally contained in $F(m, n; p, q)$.

LEMMA 1.

- (i) $F(m, n; p, q) \leq F_{m,n} \cap F_{p,q}$.
- (ii) If $a \overline{\in} F(m, n; p, q)$ then $a \in F(m, n; p, q)$.

Proof. This follows easily from e.g., [1], Lemma 1.

PROPOSITION B. $a \overline{\in} F_{m,n}$ and $a \overline{\in} F_{p,q}$ if and only if $a \overline{\in} F(m, n; p, q)$.

Proof. If $a \overline{\in} F(m, n; p, q)$ then it follows easily from the definitions that $a \overline{\in} F_{m,n}$ and $a \overline{\in} F_{p,q}$.

Suppose on the other hand, $a \overline{\in} F_{m,n}$ and $a \overline{\in} F_{p,q}$. We can assume that $m > p$ and $n \leq q$. If $p = 1$ or $n = 1$ there is nothing to be shown. Hence we can assume $p > 1$ and $n > 1$. Therefore $a = [b, c]$ with b, c basic commutators and satisfying

$$(1) \quad b \overline{\in} F_{m,k_1}, \quad c \overline{\in} F_{m,k_2} \quad \text{with } k_1 + k_2 = n$$

$$(2) \quad b \overline{\in} F_{p,j_1}, \quad c \overline{\in} F_{p,j_2} \quad \text{with } j_1 + j_2 = q$$

((1) follows since $n > 1$ and $a \overline{\in} F_{m,n}$. (2) follows since $q > 1$ and $a \overline{\in} F_{p,q}$.)

Hence, by induction, $b \overline{\in} F(m, k_1; p, j_1)$, $c \overline{\in} F(m, k_2; p, j_2)$ giving that $a \overline{\in} F(m, n; p, q)$. □

Let $a \in F_{m,n} \cap F_{p,q}$. Then from Theorem A (i), for any r, a is a product modulo F_{r+1} of basic commutators of weight $\leq r$ each of which is structurally contained in both $F_{m,n}$ and in $F_{p,q}$. Hence for any $r, a = b_r c_r$ for $b_r \in F(m, n; p, q)$ and $c_r \in F_{r+1}$. Thus up to a residual

part $a \in F(m, n; p, q)$. More specifically let $R = \bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} F(m, n; p, q)F_i$ and then $a \in F(m, n; p, q)R$. Also $R \subseteq F_{m,n} \cap F_{p,q}$, since both $F/F_{m,n}$ and $F/F_{p,q}$ are residually nilpotent. I have proved

PROPOSITION C.

$$F_{m,n} \cap F_{p,q} = F(m, n; p, q)R . \quad \square$$

If it could be shown that $F/F(m, n; p, q)$ is residually nilpotent then it would follow that $\bigcap_i F(m, n; p, q)F_i = F(m, n; p, q)$. Then $F_{m,n} \cap F_{p,q}$ would be identified with $F(m, n; p, q)$.

This is no residual problem for the Lie Algebra case, and so I get the following proposition. ($L(m, n; p, q)$ is defined by analogy to the group case.)

PROPOSITION D.

$$L_{m,n} \cap L_{p,q} = L(m, n; p, q) .$$

Proof. Suppose $a \in L_{m,n} \cap L_{p,q}$. Then as above we get that for any r , $a = b_r + c_r$ with $b_r \in L(m, n; p, q)$ and $c_r \in L_r$. If a_j denotes the j th homogeneous part of a then

$$a = a_0 + a_1 + \dots + a_s \quad (s < \infty) .$$

Therefore $c_{s+1} = 0$ giving that $a \in L(m, n; p, q)$. □

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Received November 15, 1978.

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Hédi Amara, Groupe des classes et unité fondamentale des extensions quadratiques relatives à un corps quadratique imaginaire principal	1
Douglas S. Bridges, On the isolation of zeroes of an analytic function	13
Andrew J. Casson and John L. Harer, Some homology lens spaces which bound rational homology balls	23
Z. A. Chanturia, On the absolute convergence of Fourier series of the classes $H^\omega \cap V[v]$	37
J.-F. Colombeau and Mário Carvalho Matos, On some spaces of entire functions defined on infinite-dimensional spaces	63
Edwin Duda, Pointwise periodic homeomorphisms on chainable continua	77
Richard F. Gustafson, A simple genus one knot with incompressible spanning surfaces of arbitrarily high genus	81
Fumio Hiai, Masanori Ohya and Makoto Tsukada, Sufficiency, KMS condition and relative entropy in von Neumann algebras	99
Ted Hurley, Intersections of terms of polycentral series of free groups and free Lie algebras. II	111
Robert Edward Jamison, II, Partition numbers for trees and ordered sets	115
R. D. Ketkar and N. Vanaja, A note on FR-perfect modules	141
Michihiko Kikkawa, On Killing-Ricci forms of Lie triple algebras	153
Jorge Lewowicz, Invariant manifolds for regular points	163
Richard W. Marsh, William H. Mills, Robert L. Ward, Howard Rumsey and Lloyd Richard Welch, Round trinomials	175
Claude Schochet, Topological methods for C^* -algebras. I. Spectral sequences	193
Yong Sian So, Polynomial near-fields?	213
Douglas Wayne Townsend, Imaginary values of meromorphic functions in the disk	225
Kiyoshi Watanabe, Coverings of a projective algebraic manifold	243
Martin Michael Zuckerman, Choosing l -element subsets of n -element sets	247