

Algebraic & definable closure in free groups

Abderezak Ould Houcine
Joint work with D. Vallino

(Université de Mons, Université Lyon 1)

Group Theory International Webinar, Stevens Institute of Technology

14 april 2010

- 1 Background
- 2 Constructibility from the algebraic closure
- 3 The algebraic closure & the JSJ-decomposition
- 4 The algebraic & the definable closure

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Then Γ can be constructed from $\text{acl}(A)$ by a finite sequence of amalgamated free products and HNN-extensions along cyclic subgroups.

In particular, $\text{acl}(A)$ is finitely generated, quasiconvex and hyperbolic.

Sketch of the proof

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- (1) Let Λ be the abelian JSJ-decomposition of K relative to $\text{acl}(A)$. Then the vertex group containing $\text{acl}(A)$ in Λ is exactly $\text{acl}(A)$.*

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 - (2)(i) f sends $\text{acl}(A)$ to $\text{acl}(A)$ pointwise;*

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 - (2)(i) f sends $\text{acl}(A)$ to $\text{acl}(A)$ pointwise;*
 - (2)(ii) if Λ is the abelian JSJ-decomposition of K relative to $\text{acl}(A)$, then f is injective in restriction to the vertex group containing $\text{acl}(A)$ in Λ .**

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(iii) if Λ is the abelian JSJ-decomposition of K_n , then the vertex group containing $acl(A)$ in Λ is exactly $acl(A)$.

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For $m \in \mathbb{N}$, we set

$$(*) \quad \varphi_m(\bar{x}) := W(\bar{x}) \wedge \bigwedge_{0 \leq i \leq m} v_i(\bar{x}) \neq 1.$$

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- Suppose that for every $m \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists a non-injective homomorphism $f : K \rightarrow \Gamma$ such that $\Gamma \models \varphi_m(f(\bar{d}))$. Therefore, we get a stable sequence $(f_n : K \rightarrow \Gamma)$, where each f_n is non-injective, and with trivial stable kernel. In that case, we take a shortening quotient.

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Let G be a group and A a subset of G . The Galois group of A , denoted $Gal(G/A)$, is the set of elements $g \in G$ for which the orbit $\{f(g) \mid f \in Aut(G/A)\}$ is finite.

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Remark. $Gal(G/A)$ is a subgroup which contains $acl(A)$.

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- $G = \langle G, t \mid B^t = C \rangle$. Similar. □

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Let $b \in V$. Since any $\sigma \in \text{Mod}(\Gamma/A)$ fixes V pointwise, for any automorphism $f \in \text{Aut}(F/A)$ we have $f(b) \in \{f_1(b), \dots, f_l(b)\}$. Thus $b \in \text{Gal}(\Gamma/A)$ and $V \leq \text{Gal}(\Gamma/A)$.

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where D is a free group. Since $dcl(A) \leq K \cap h(K)$, it follows that for some i , $g_i = 1$. Since K is $dcl(A)$ -freely indecomposable, we find that $h(K) = h(K) \cap K$ and thus $h(K) \leq K$. In particular

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Since h is a nontrivial automorphism of K of finite order, K is freely $dcl(A)$ -decomposable; a contradiction. Hence in each case, we get a contradiction. Therefore $dcl(A) = K$ as required. \square

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Then $F \models \varphi(y)$. Let $\gamma \in F$ such that $F \models \varphi(\gamma)$. Then the map defined by $f(y) = \gamma$, $f(t) = \alpha$ and the identity on A extends to a homomorphism of F and thus, by the first property, $\gamma = y^{\pm 1}$.

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$$\begin{aligned} g(v) &= ay^{-1}by^{-1}ayby = ay^{-1}by^{-1}aybyay^{-1}by^{-1}(ay^{-1}by^{-1})^{-1} \\ &= dvd^{-1}, \end{aligned}$$

where $d = ay^{-1}by^{-1}$.

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we get $g \in \text{Aut}(F/A)$ with $g(y) = y^{-1}$. Now if $\gamma \in H \setminus A$ then y appears in the normal form of γ and thus $g(\gamma) \neq \gamma$ as required. □

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- (3) Any nontrivial automorphism $f \in Aut(F/A)$ satisfies $f(y) = y^{-1}$.