

## AUTOMORPHISMS OF METABELIAN GROUPS

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**ABSTRACT.** We investigate the problem of determining when  $\text{IA}(F_n(\mathbf{A}_m\mathbf{A}))$  is finitely generated for all  $n$  and  $m$ , with  $n \geq 2$  and  $m \neq 1$ . If  $m$  is a nonsquare free integer then  $\text{IA}(F_n(\mathbf{A}_m\mathbf{A}))$  is not finitely generated for all  $n$  and if  $m$  is a square free integer then  $\text{IA}(F_n(\mathbf{A}_m\mathbf{A}))$  is finitely generated for all  $n$ , with  $n \neq 3$ , and  $\text{IA}(F_3(\mathbf{A}_m\mathbf{A}))$  is not finitely generated. In case  $m$  is square free, Bachmuth and Mochizuki claimed in ([7], Problem 4) that  $\text{TR}(\mathbf{A}_m\mathbf{A})$  is 1 or 4. We correct their assertion by proving that  $\text{TR}(\mathbf{A}_m\mathbf{A}) = \infty$ .

**1. Introduction.** For any group  $G$ , let  $\text{IA}(G)$  be the IA-automorphism group of  $G$ , that is, the kernel of the natural mapping from  $\text{Aut}(G)$  into  $\text{Aut}(G/G')$ , where  $G'$  denotes the derived group of  $G$ . For each positive integer  $c$ , we write by  $\gamma_c(G)$  the  $c$ -th term of the lower central series of  $G$ . So,  $\gamma_2(G) = G'$ . If  $a_1, \dots, a_c$  are elements of a group  $G$  then  $[a_1, a_2] = a_1 a_2 a_1^{-1} a_2^{-1}$  and, for  $c \geq 3$ ,  $[a_1, \dots, a_c] = [[a_1, \dots, a_{c-1}], a_c]$ . For a positive integer  $n$ , with  $n \geq 2$ , we will denote by  $F_n$  the (absolutely) free group of rank  $n$  freely generated by the set  $\{f_1, \dots, f_n\}$ . If  $\mathbf{V}$  is a variety of groups, we write  $F_n(\mathbf{V})$  for the free group of rank  $n$  in  $\mathbf{V}$  and  $\mathbf{V}(F_n)$  for the verbal subgroup of  $F_n$  corresponding to  $\mathbf{V}$ . Every element in the image of the natural mapping from  $\text{Aut}(F_n)$  into  $\text{Aut}(F_n(\mathbf{V}))$  is called *tame*. For a non-negative integer  $m$ , with  $m \neq 1$ ,  $\mathbf{A}_m$  denotes the variety of all abelian groups of exponent dividing  $m$ , interpreted in such a way that  $\mathbf{A}_0 = \mathbf{A}$  is the variety of all abelian groups. Further,  $\mathbf{W}_m$  is the variety of all extensions of groups in  $\mathbf{A}_m$  by groups in  $\mathbf{A}$ . We write  $\mathbf{W}$  for  $\mathbf{W}_0$ . In the papers ([5] and [6]), Bachmuth and Mochizuki have proved that  $\text{IA}(F_n(\mathbf{W}))$  is finitely generated for  $n \neq 3$  and  $\text{IA}(F_3(\mathbf{W}))$  is not finitely generated. Bachmuth *et al.* (see [3], Theorem C) have shown that  $\text{IA}(F_2(\mathbf{W}_m))$  is not finitely generated if  $m$  is a free integer and finitely generated if  $m$  is a square free integer. In this paper we extend the latter result for all  $n$ , with  $n \geq 2$ .

We say  $\{\text{Aut}(F_n(\mathbf{V})), n \geq 1\}$  has tame range infinite, denoted by  $\text{TR}(\mathbf{V}) = \infty$ , if there does not exist a positive integer  $d$  such that all automorphisms of  $F_n(\mathbf{V})$  are tame for all  $n \geq d$ . Otherwise, we say it has a finite one. We deduce from [5] and [6] that  $\text{TR}(\mathbf{W}) = 4$ . So, we concentrate on  $m$ , with  $m \geq 2$ . If  $m$  is prime, say  $p$ , then  $\text{TR}(\mathbf{W}_p) = 4$ . Indeed, by means of techniques of [6] or more easily of [9], every automorphism of  $F_n(\mathbf{W}_p)$  is induced by an automorphism of  $F_n$  for all  $n \geq 4$ . As we shall see in Section 4,  $\text{IA}(F_3(\mathbf{W}_p))$  is not finitely generated and so  $\text{TR}(\mathbf{W}_p) = 4$ . The method of proving  $\text{IA}(F_3(\mathbf{W}_p))$  is not finitely generated is based on ideas of Bachmuth and Mochizuki in [5]. Thus, we may assume  $m$  is not prime. If  $m$  is nonsquare free, it follows from a result of Bachmuth and

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Mochizuki [8] that  $\text{TR}(\mathbf{W}_m) = \infty$ . In case  $m$  is square free, Bachmuth and Mochizuki claimed in ([7], Problem 4) that  $\text{TR}(\mathbf{W}_m)$  is 1 or 4. We correct their assertion by proving that  $\text{TR}(\mathbf{W}_m) = \infty$ .

For positive integers  $n$  and  $m$ , with  $n, m \geq 2$ , let  $G(n, m)$  be a free group of rank  $n$  in the variety  $\mathbf{W}_m$ . We write  $m = p_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots p_r^{\alpha_r}$ , where  $p_i$  are distinct prime integers and  $\alpha_i \in \mathbb{N}$ . For  $i = 1, \dots, r$ , we denote by  $G(n, m, i)$  the free group of rank  $n$  in the variety  $\mathbf{W}_{p_i^{\alpha_i}}$ . By a result of Bachmuth and Mochizuki [4],  $\text{IA}(G(n, m))$  is isomorphic to a direct product  $\text{IA}(G(n, m, 1)) \times \cdots \times \text{IA}(G(n, m, r))$ . Suppose  $m$  is a nonsquare free integer. Then there exists a prime  $p$  such that  $p^2$  divides  $m$ . Let  $T$  be the subgroup of  $\text{Aut}(G(n, p^2))$  consisting of all tame automorphisms. Since  $T$  is finitely generated,  $\text{Aut}(G(n, p^2)) = T \text{IA}(G(n, p^2))$  and  $\text{Aut}(G(n, p^2))$  is not finitely generated for all  $n$ , with  $n \geq 2$ , (see [8]), we obtain that  $\text{IA}(G(n, p^2))$  is not finitely generated for all  $n$ . Therefore  $\text{IA}(G(n, m))$  is not finitely generated. Thus, we may assume  $m$  is square free. Our main result deals with this case. In Section 4, we prove the following theorem.

**THEOREM.** *Let  $G(n, m)$  be a free group of rank  $n$  in the variety  $\mathbf{W}_m$ , with  $n, m \geq 2$ .*

- (i) *If  $m$  is a nonsquare free integer then  $\text{IA}(G(n, m))$  is not finitely generated for all  $n$ .*
- (ii) *If  $m$  is a square free integer then  $\text{IA}(G(n, m))$  is finitely generated for all  $n \neq 3$  and  $\text{IA}(G(3, m))$  is not finitely generated. Further,  $\text{IA}(G(n, m))$  contains nontame elements for all  $n$ .*

**COROLLARY.** *The tame range  $\text{TR}(\mathbf{W}_m)$  is infinite for any positive integer  $m$ , with  $m \geq 2$ , but not prime.*

**2. Preliminaries.** Let  $C = A *_U B$  be the free product of groups  $A$  and  $B$  with amalgamated subgroup  $U$ . An element  $c$  of  $C$  can be written as  $c = c_1 \cdots c_r$  where each  $c_i$  belongs to  $A$  or  $B$ ,  $c_i$  and  $c_{i+1}$  cannot both belong to  $A$  or both to  $B$  and  $r$  is uniquely determined. The number  $r$  is called the *length* of  $c$  and the length of the identity element is defined to be 0. By the length of a subset  $\Gamma$  we will mean the length of the shortest element in the subset.

We shall state the Subgroup Theorem for amalgamated products as in Cohen [10], who used the theory of groups acting on trees. Let  $H$  be a subgroup of  $C$ . Following Cohen, let  $\{D_\alpha\}$  be a set of double coset representatives for  $(H, A)$  in  $C$  and  $\{D_\beta\}$  be a set of double coset representatives for  $(H, B)$  in  $C$ . Further, for each  $D_\alpha$ , let  $\{E_\mu\}$  be a set of double coset representatives containing 1 of  $(D_\alpha^{-1}HD_\alpha \cap A, U)$  in  $A$ , and for each  $D_\beta$ , let  $\{E_\nu\}$  be a set of double coset representatives containing 1 of  $(D_\beta^{-1}HD_\beta \cap B, U)$  in  $B$ . For each  $\alpha$  and associated  $\mu$ , there exists a unique element  $D_\beta$  corresponding  $E_\nu$  and  $u \in U$  such that  $D_\alpha E_\mu \in HD_\beta E_\nu u$ . Thus

$$t_{\alpha,\mu} = D_\alpha E_\mu (D_\beta E_\nu u)^{-1} \in H,$$

and  $t_{\alpha,\mu} \neq 1$  if and only if  $D_\alpha E_\mu$  is neither a  $(H, A)$  double coset representative nor a  $(H, B)$  double coset representative.

SUBGROUP THEOREM (cf. [10], THEOREM 3). *Let  $H$  be a subgroup of  $A *_U B$ , where  $U = A \cap B$ . Then,*

- (i) *those  $t_{\alpha,\mu} \neq 1$  freely generate a free subgroup of  $H$ ;*
- (ii) *the group  $K$  generated by all  $H \cap (D_\alpha A D_\alpha^{-1})$  and  $H \cap (D_\beta B D_\beta^{-1})$  is the tree product of these groups, two such groups being adjacent if  $D_\alpha = D_\beta = 1$  or if  $D_\alpha = D_\beta b$ ,  $b \in B$ , or  $D_\beta = D_\alpha a$  for some  $a \in A$ ; the subgroup amalgamated between two adjacent groups is  $H \cap (DUD^{-1})$ , where  $D$  is the longer of  $D_\alpha$  and  $D_\beta$ ;*
- (iii)  *$H$  is the HNN-group*

$$\langle K, t_{\alpha,\mu}; t_{\alpha,\mu} (H \cap D_\beta E_\nu U E_\nu^{-1} D_\beta^{-1}) t_{\alpha,\mu}^{-1} = H \cap D_\alpha E_\mu U E_\mu^{-1} D_\alpha^{-1} \rangle$$

over all  $t_{\alpha,\mu} \neq 1$  and corresponding  $D_\beta, E_\nu$ .

Concerning tree products and HNN-groups, we refer the reader to ([11] and [12]). Since  $H \cap D_\alpha E_\mu U E_\mu^{-1} D_\alpha^{-1} \subseteq H \cap D_\alpha A D_\alpha^{-1}$  and  $H \cap D_\beta E_\nu U E_\nu^{-1} D_\beta^{-1} \subseteq H \cap D_\beta B D_\beta^{-1}$ , we apply a result of Karrass and Solitar ([11], Lemma 6) to obtain the following result.

PROPOSITION 2.1. *In the notation of the Subgroup Theorem, if  $H$  is a finitely generated subgroup of  $A *_U B$ , then only finitely many of the  $t_{\alpha,\mu} \neq 1$  and  $K$  is the tree product of finitely many of the  $H \cap (D_\alpha A D_\alpha^{-1})$  and the  $H \cap (D_\beta B D_\beta^{-1})$ .*

The proof of the following lemma is elementary.

LEMMA 2.2. *Let  $R$  be a principal ideal domain (PID), which is not a field, and let  $a \in R \setminus \{0\}$  be a nonunit of  $R$ . Then the localization  $R_S$  of  $R$  away from  $S$  is a PID, where  $S = \{a^n : n \geq 0\}$ .*

3. **A reduction.** For a fixed prime  $p$ , we set  $G := F_3(\mathbf{W}_p)$  and  $x_i := f_i(\mathbf{W}_p(F_3))$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3$ . Thus,  $G$  is a free group of rank 3 in  $\mathbf{W}_p$  freely generated by  $x_1, x_2, x_3$ . We denote by  $M$  a (left) free  $\mathbb{Z}_p(F_3/F'_3)$ -module with a basis  $\{\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3\}$  and by  $\Omega$  the cartesian product of  $F_3/F'_3$  by  $M$ . The set  $\Omega$  becomes a group by defining a multiplication

$$(\tilde{u}, m_1)(\tilde{v}, m_2) = (\tilde{u}\tilde{v}, \tilde{u}m_2 + m_1) = (\tilde{u}\tilde{v}, \tilde{u}m_2 + m_1),$$

for all  $\tilde{u}, \tilde{v} \in F_3/F'_3$ , where  $\tilde{u} = uF'_3$  and  $\tilde{v} = vF'_3$ , with  $u, v \in F_3$ , and  $m_1, m_2 \in M$ . For  $i = 1, 2, 3$ , let  $s_i = f_i F'_3$ . The mapping from  $G$  into  $\Omega$  sending  $x_i$  to  $(s_i, \lambda_i)$  is an embedding (see [2], [13]). Further, an element  $(g, a_1\lambda_1 + a_2\lambda_2 + a_3\lambda_3)$  represents an element of  $G$  if and only if  $a_1\sigma_1 + a_2\sigma_2 + a_3\sigma_3 = 1 - g$ , where  $\sigma_i = 1 - s_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3$ . We identify  $G$  with its image in  $\Omega$  and let  $\phi$  be an IA-automorphism of  $G$ . Then  $\phi$  can be described by

$$(3.1) \quad \phi: (s_j, \lambda_j) \longrightarrow (s_j, a_{1j}\lambda_1 + a_{2j}\lambda_2 + a_{3j}\lambda_3)$$

where

$$(3.2) \quad a_{1j}\sigma_1 + a_{2j}\sigma_2 + a_{3j}\sigma_3 = \sigma_j,$$

for all  $j \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ . The mapping of  $\text{IA}(G)$  into  $\text{GL}_3(\mathbb{Z}_p(F_3/F'_3))$  given by  $\phi \rightarrow (a_{ij})$ , where  $\phi$  is given by (3.1), is an embedding. By a result of Bachmuth (see [2],

Proposition 2),  $(a_{ij}) \in \text{GL}_3(\mathbb{Z}_p(F_3/F'_3))$  is in the image of this embedding if and only if the columns of  $(a_{ij})$  satisfy the condition (3.2).

We adopt the convention that a  $2 \times 2$  matrix  $(a_{ij})$  over a ring  $R$  is written as  $(a_{11}, a_{12}; a_{21}, a_{22})$ . Following [5], we identify  $\mathbb{Z}_p(F_3/F'_3)$  with  $\mathbb{Z}_p[s_1^{\pm 1}, s_2^{\pm 1}, s_3^{\pm 1}]$  and each element  $\phi$  of  $\text{IA}(G)$  can be uniquely represented by an element of  $\text{GL}_3(\mathbb{Z}_p[s_1^{\pm 1}, s_2^{\pm 1}, s_3^{\pm 1}])$  of the form

$$(3.3) \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 + \sigma_2 a_1 + \sigma_3 a_2 & -\sigma_2 b_3 - \sigma_3 b_1 & -\sigma_3 c_3 + \sigma_2 c_2 \\ -\sigma_1 a_1 + \sigma_3 a_3 & 1 + \sigma_3 b_2 + \sigma_1 b_3 & -\sigma_3 c_1 - \sigma_1 c_2 \\ -\sigma_1 a_2 - \sigma_2 a_3 & -\sigma_2 b_2 + \sigma_1 b_1 & 1 + \sigma_1 c_3 + \sigma_2 c_1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Further, there exists a representation  $\tau$  of  $\text{IA}(G)$  into  $\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p[s_1^{\pm 1}, s_2^{\pm 1}])$  by sending a matrix of the form (3.3) into a matrix of the form

$$(3.4) \quad (1 + \sigma_1 \hat{b}_3 + \sigma_2 \hat{a}_1, -\hat{c}_2; -\sigma_1 \sigma_2 \hat{b}_2 + \sigma_1^2 \hat{b}_1 + \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \hat{a}_2 + \sigma_2^2 \hat{a}_3, 1 + \sigma_1 \hat{c}_3 + \sigma_2 \hat{c}_1)$$

where  $\hat{a}, \hat{b}$  and  $\hat{c}$  are the images of  $a, b$  and  $c$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_p[s_1^{\pm 1}, s_2^{\pm 1}, s_3^{\pm 1}]$  via the natural mapping from  $\mathbb{Z}_p[s_1^{\pm 1}, s_2^{\pm 1}, s_3^{\pm 1}]$  into  $\mathbb{Z}_p[s_1^{\pm 1}, s_2^{\pm 1}]$  by sending  $s_3$  into 1 and  $\mathbb{Z}_p[s_1^{\pm 1}, s_2^{\pm 1}]$  is mapped identical onto itself. Let  $A$  be the image of the representation  $\tau$  and  $B = A \cap \text{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p[s_1^{\pm 1}, s_2^{\pm 1}])$ . Similar arguments as in the proof of Lemma 1 of [5], we have the following result.

LEMMA 3.1. *If  $A$  is finitely generated then  $B$  is finitely generated.*

4. **Proof of Theorem.** Let  $R$  be a PID with a quotient field  $Q$  and  $t$  an indeterminate over  $R$ . Write  $\text{SL}_2(Q[t])^S$  for  $S^{-1}(\text{SL}_2(Q[t]))S$  where  $S = (t, 0; 0, 1)$ . By Ihara's Theorem we obtain  $\text{SL}_2(Q[t, t^{-1}]) = \text{SL}_2(Q[t]) *_U \text{SL}_2(Q[t])^S$ , where  $U = \text{SL}_2(Q[t]) \cap \text{SL}_2(Q[t])^S$ .

LEMMA 4.1. *Let  $\pi$  be an irreducible element of  $R$ . Then the matrices  $A(i) = (1, 0; \frac{1}{\pi^i}, 1)$ , with  $i \geq 1$ , can be chosen as part of a set of double coset representatives of  $(\text{SL}_2(R[t]), U)$  in  $\text{SL}_2(Q[t])$ .*

PROOF. Suppose there exist  $1 \leq i < j$  such that  $A(i)$  and  $A(j)$  are in the same double coset. By setting  $t = 0$ , we obtain

$$A(i) = (f, g; h, k)A(j)(\delta^{-1}, \xi; 0, \delta)$$

where  $(f, g; h, k) \in \text{SL}_2(R)$  and  $(\delta^{-1}, \xi; 0, \delta) \in \text{SL}_2(Q)$ . Therefore,

$$(4.1) \quad f + \frac{g}{\pi^j} = \delta$$

$$(4.2) \quad h + \frac{k}{\pi^j} = \frac{\delta}{\pi^i}$$

$$(4.3) \quad \xi \left( f + \frac{g}{\pi^j} \right) + g\delta = 0$$

$$(4.4) \quad \xi \left( h + \frac{k}{\pi^j} \right) + k\delta = 1$$

From (4.1) and (4.3), we obtain that  $\xi = -g$ . So (4.4) becomes

$$(4.5) \quad \delta^{-1} = -\frac{g}{\pi^i} + k$$

We write  $\delta = \delta_1/\delta_2$ , where  $(\delta_1, \delta_2) = 1$ . We claim  $\pi^j$  divides  $g$ . To get a contradiction, we assume that  $\pi^j$  does not divide  $g$ . We first show that  $\pi$  divides  $g$ . Indeed, if not and since  $\pi$  is prime in  $R$ , we obtain from (4.1) that  $\pi$  divides  $\delta_2$ . Further, we obtain from (4.5) that  $\pi$  divides  $\delta_1$  which is a contradiction. Therefore,  $g = \pi^\mu g'$ , where  $g' \in R$  and  $(\pi, g') = 1$ . Since  $g$  is not divided by  $\pi^j$  and  $\pi$  divides  $g$ , we have  $1 \leq \mu \leq j-1$ . Now, either  $\mu < i$  or  $i \leq \mu \leq j-1$ . Suppose  $\mu < i$ . Then, we obtain from (4.1) that  $\pi$  divides  $\delta_2$ . Similarly, from (4.5), we have  $\pi$  divides  $\delta_1$ , which is a contradiction. Thus,  $i \leq \mu \leq j-1$ . By (4.5),  $\delta^{-1} \in R$  and so  $\pi^i$  must divide  $g$ . Therefore, we obtain from (4.1) and (4.2) that  $\delta \in R$  and  $\pi^{j-i}$  must divide  $k$ . Thus,  $\pi$  divides both  $g$  and  $k$ . Since  $(f, g, h, k)$  is invertible over  $R$  and the ideal  $\langle \pi \rangle$  is properly contained in  $R$ , we get the required contradiction.

Let  $m$  be a square free integer. If  $n \neq 3$  then  $\text{IA}(G(n, m))$  is finitely generated (see, Introduction). So, we may assume that  $n = 3$ . To prove that  $\text{IA}(G(3, m))$ , with  $m \geq 2$ , is not finitely generated, it is enough to show that, for any prime  $p$ ,  $\text{IA}(G(3, p))$  is not finitely generated. For a fixed prime  $p$ , we recall that  $G := F_3(\mathbf{W}_p)$  and  $x_i := f_i(\mathbf{W}_p(F_3))$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3$ . Thus,  $G$  is a free group of rank 3 in the variety  $\mathbf{W}_p$  freely generated by  $x_1, x_2, x_3$ . We set  $R := \mathbb{Z}_p[s_1, s_2^{-1}]$ ,  $\pi := s_1 + 1$  and  $A(i) := (1, 0; \frac{1}{(s_1+1)^i}, 1)$ , with  $i \geq 1$ . By Lemma 2.2, we obtain that  $R$  is a PID. Further, it is easily checked that  $\pi$  is an irreducible element of  $R$ . By Lemma 4.1, the set  $\{A(i), i \geq 1\}$  may be included as part of a set of double coset representatives of  $\text{SL}_2(R[s_2], U)$  in  $\text{SL}_2(Q[s_2])$ , where  $U = \text{SL}_2(Q[s_2]) \cap \text{SL}_2(Q[s_2])^S$  and  $S = (s_2, 0; 0, 1)$ . Hence also part of representatives of  $(B \cap \text{SL}_2(R[s_2]), U)$  in  $\text{SL}_2(Q[s_2])$ . We apply the Subgroup Theorem to  $B$  as a subgroup of  $\text{SL}_2(Q[s_2, s_2^{-1}])$ . Let  $\{D_\alpha\}$  be a set of double coset representatives for  $(B, \text{SL}_2(Q[s_2]))$  in  $\text{SL}_2(Q[s_2, s_2^{-1}])$  and  $\{D_\beta\}$  a set of double coset representatives for  $(B, \text{SL}_2(Q[s_2])^S)$  in  $\text{SL}_2(Q[s_2, s_2^{-1}])$ . Recall that the group  $K$  generated by all  $B \cap (D_\alpha \text{SL}_2(Q[s_2]) D_\alpha^{-1})$  and  $B \cap (D_\beta \text{SL}_2(Q[s_2])^S D_\beta^{-1})$  is the tree product of these groups. To show that  $B$  is not finitely generated, it is enough, by Proposition 2.1, to show that infinitely many of the  $A(i)$  are not double coset representatives of  $(B, \text{SL}_2(Q[s_2])^S)$  in  $\text{SL}_2(Q[s_2, s_2^{-1}])$ . To get a contradiction, we suppose that infinitely many of the  $A(i)$  are double coset representatives. We assert that  $K$  is not the tree product of only finitely many of the  $B \cap D_\alpha \text{SL}_2(Q[s_2]) D_\alpha^{-1}$  and the  $B \cap D_\beta \text{SL}_2(Q[s_2])^S D_\beta^{-1}$ . In particular, we claim that  $B \cap A(i) U A(i)^{-1}$  is a proper subgroup of  $B \cap A(i) \text{SL}_2(Q[s_2])^S A(i)^{-1}$  for all  $i$ . To see this, let  $\Lambda = (1, \pi^{2i} \sigma_1^2 \sigma_2 s_2^{-1}; 0, 1)$ . Then  $A(i) \Lambda A(i)^{-1} = (1 - \pi^i s_2^{-1} \sigma_1^2 \sigma_2, \pi^{2i} \sigma_1^2 \sigma_2 s_2^{-1}; -s_2^{-1} \sigma_1^2 \sigma_2, 1 + \pi^i s_2^{-1} \sigma_1^2 \sigma_2)$ . It is easily seen that both  $\Lambda$  and  $A(i) \Lambda A(i)^{-1}$  belong to  $B$ , also  $A(i) \Lambda A(i)^{-1} \in B \cap A(i) \text{SL}_2(Q[s_2])^S A(i)^{-1}$ , but  $A(i) \Lambda A(i)^{-1}$  does not belong to  $B \cap A(i) U A(i)^{-1}$ , which is the required contradiction.

To complete the proof of Theorem (ii), we need some further notation. Recall that  $G(n, m)$  is a free group of rank  $n$  in the variety  $\mathbf{W}_m$ , with  $n, m \geq 2$ . For the next few

lines, we set  $H := G(n, m)$  and  $y_i := f_i(\mathbf{W}_m(F_n))$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, m$ . Thus, the set  $\{y_1, \dots, y_m\}$  freely generates  $H$ . Let  $m = p_1 \cdots p_r$ , with  $r \geq 2$ , where  $p_i$  are distinct prime integers. Since  $Z_m$  is equal to the direct product  $I_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus I_r$ , where  $I_i$  is an ideal of  $Z_m$  which is isomorphic to  $Z_{p_i}$  as rings, there exists a (necessarily unique) complete set  $\{e_1, \dots, e_r\}$  of pairwise orthogonal idempotents in  $Z_m$  such that  $I_i = e_i Z_m$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, r$ . Note that  $H'$  may be regarded as a right  $Z_m(H/H')$ -module, where the action of  $H/H'$  comes from conjugation in  $H$ . For  $u \in H'$  and  $d \in Z_m(H/H)'$  we write  $u^d$  for the image of  $u$  under the module action by  $d$ .

**PROPOSITION 4.1.** *Let  $n \geq 2$  and, in the notation described above, let  $\lambda$  be the endomorphism of  $H$  satisfying  $\lambda(y_1) = y_1[y_1, y_2]^{-e_1 s_1}$ ,  $\lambda(y_2) = y_2[y_1, y_2]^{(1-e_1)s_2}$ , and  $\lambda(y_i) = y_i$ ,  $i \geq 3$ . Then  $\lambda$  is a non-tame automorphism of  $H$ .*

**PROOF.** Let  $\mu$  be the endomorphism of  $H$  satisfying  $\mu(y_1) = y_1[y_1, y_2]^{e_1 s_1 s_2}$ ,  $\mu(y_2) = y_2[y_1, y_2]^{-(1-e_1)s_1 s_2}$ , and  $\mu(y_i) = y_i$ ,  $i \geq 3$ . It is easily checked that  $\mu\lambda = \lambda\mu = 1$ , where 1 denotes the identity mapping on  $H$ . Hence,  $\lambda$  is an automorphism of  $H$ . By Corollary 3.2 of [4],  $\lambda$  may be represented by an  $n \times n$  matrix over  $Z_m(F_n/F'_n)$ , say  $\lambda^*$ . It is easy to see that the determinant of  $\lambda^*$  is equal to  $(1 - e_1)s_1 + e_1s_2$ . Now, suppose  $\lambda$  is tame automorphism. Thus, there exists an automorphism  $\psi$  of  $F_n$  such that  $\psi$  induces  $\lambda$  on  $H$ . Since  $H/H' \cong F_n/F'_n$ , we may take  $\psi \in \text{IA}(F_n)$ . Let  $\phi$  be the induced IA-automorphism of  $\psi$  on  $F_n(\mathbf{W})$ . By Theorem 1 of [1],  $\phi$  corresponds to an  $n \times n$  matrix  $C(\phi)$  over  $Z(F_n/F'_n)$  such that  $C(\phi)$  induces  $\lambda^*$ . Namely,  $C(\phi) = I_n + (\alpha_{ij})$ , where  $I_n$  is the identity matrix,  $\alpha_{11} = -e_1(1 - s_2) + u_{11}$ ,  $\alpha_{12} = (1 - e_1)(1 - s_2) + u_{12}$ ,  $\alpha_{21} = e_1(1 - s_1) + u_{21}$ ,  $\alpha_{22} = (1 - e_1)(1 - s_1) + u_{22}$  and  $\alpha_{ij} = u_{ij}$  otherwise. Each  $u_{ij}$  is a polynomial in the variables  $s_1^{\pm 1}, \dots, s_n^{\pm 1}$  over  $Z$  with coefficients multiples of  $m$ . But the determinant of  $C(\phi)$  equals  $\prod_{i=1}^n s_i^{\alpha_i}$ , where  $\alpha_i \in Z$ . Therefore, by working over  $Z_m$ , we have  $\prod_{i=1}^n s_i^{\alpha_i} = (1 - e_1)s_1 + e_1s_2$ , which is a contradiction. Thus,  $\lambda$  is a non-tame automorphism of  $H$  for all  $n \geq 2$ .

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