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## THE CATEGORIES OF FREE METABELIAN GROUPS AND LIE ALGEBRAS

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**Abstract:** Homomorphisms of free metabelian  $A_q A$ -groups,  $q \geq 0$ , and free metabelian Lie algebras over a commutative associative unital ground ring  $k$  are studied. It is proved that the group of automorphisms of a free metabelian Lie algebra  $L$  of rank 2, identical on  $L/L'$  is isomorphic to the additive group of the polynomial group  $k[X, Y]$ . Further; If  $f: L_1 \rightarrow L_2$  is an epimorphism of free  $A_q A$ -groups or metabelian Lie algebras over a ring  $k = k_0[X_1, \dots, X_r, X_{r+1}^{\pm 1}, \dots, X_s^{\pm 1}]$ , where  $k_0$  is a Dedekind ring,  $\text{rk} L_1 = n$ ,  $\text{rk} L_2 = d$ , then  $L_1$  possesses a free generating set  $z_1, \dots, z_n$  such that  $f(z_1), \dots, f(z_d)$  is a free generating set for  $L_2$  and  $z_{d+1}, \dots, z_n$  generate  $\text{Ker } f$  as a normal subgroup or an ideal.

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**Key words:** Free metabelian group, free metabelian Lie algebra, automorphism, free generating set.

The present paper concerns homomorphisms of free metabelian  $A_q A$ -groups,  $q \geq 0$ , and free metabelian Lie algebras over a commutative associative unital ground ring  $k$ . In § 2 we show that the group of automorphisms of a free metabelian Lie algebra  $L$  of rank 2, identical on  $L/L'$  ( $1A$ -automorphisms in terms of [1]) is isomorphic to the additive group of the polynomial group  $k[X, Y]$ . For comparison the similar group for a free metabelian  $A^2$ -group consists of inner automorphisms

(see [1]).

In § 3 and 4 we show that if  $f: L_1 \rightarrow L_2$  is an epimorphism of free  $A_Q A$ -groups or metabelian Lie algebras over a ring  $k = k_0 [X_1, \dots, X_r, X_{r+1}^{\pm 1}, \dots, X_s^{\pm 1}]$ , where  $k_0$  is a Dedekind ring,  $\text{rk} L_1 = n$ ,  $\text{rk} L_2 = d$ , then  $L_1$  possesses a free generating set  $z_1, \dots, z_n$  such that  $f(z_1), \dots, f(z_d)$  is a free generating set for  $L_2$  and  $z_{d+1}, \dots, z_n$  generate  $\text{Ker} f$  as a normal subgroup or an ideal. In particular, let  $P$  be a retract of a free metabelian  $A_Q A$ -group or Lie  $k$ -algebra  $L$  with a projection  $f: L \rightarrow P$ ,  $k$  as above with  $k_0$  a principal ideal ring. Then by [2]  $P$  is free and  $L$  possesses a free generating set  $z_1, \dots, z_n$  such that  $f(z_1) \equiv z_1 \pmod{\text{Ker} f}$  in addition to the properties mentioned above.

A consideration of metabelian Lie algebras is motivated by the following reason. If  $k$  is a field,  $\text{char} k = 0$ , then any proper subvariety of metabelian Lie algebras is nilpotent (see [3]). Moreover, this variety is semisimple, [4]. By [5] if  $L$  is a free nilpotent algebra over a field with a retract  $P$  then  $P$  is a free factor of  $L$ . A trivial example in § 3 shows that this does not hold for metabelian Lie algebras.

It is worthy of mention that the similar results for absolutely free linear algebras were exhibited in [6].

§ 1. Homomorphisms of free metabelian Lie algebras. First we need a representation of free metabelian Lie algebras of finite rank  $n$ . Let  $K = k [X_1, \dots, X_n]$  be a polynomial ring with the augmentation ideal  $\mathcal{M} = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$  and  $M$  a free

K-module with the base  $e_1, \dots, e_n$ . Define an epimorphism of K-modules

$$\mathcal{L}: M \rightarrow \mathcal{M}, \quad \mathcal{L}(e_i) = X_i.$$

Then M can be regarded as a k-algebra with the multiplication

$$(1) \quad ab = \mathcal{L}(b)a - \mathcal{L}(a)b, \quad a, b \in M.$$

A direct calculation shows that M is a metabelian Lie algebra. Put

$$L = \{a \in M \mid \mathcal{L}(a) = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i X_i, \quad \alpha_i \in k\}$$

Theorem 1. L is a subalgebra in M and a free metabelian Lie algebra with the base  $e_1, \dots, e_n$ .

The proof under assumption that k is a field was given in [7]. But this restriction on k was not used in the proof and is not necessary.

Corollary.  $L' = \text{Ker } \mathcal{L}$ .

Proof. If  $a, b \in L$ , then by (1)  $\mathcal{L}(ab) = 0$ . Conversely, if

$$a = \sum \alpha_i e_i \text{ mod } L', \quad \alpha_i \in k,$$

and  $\mathcal{L}(a) = 0$ , then  $\mathcal{L}(a) = \sum \alpha_i X_i$  implies  $\alpha_1 = \dots = \alpha_n = 0$  and  $a \in L'$ .

Consider now two free metabelian Lie algebras  $L_1, L_2$  over k with the bases  $e_1, \dots, e_n$  and  $u_1, \dots, u_d$ . Let

$$K_1 = k[X_1, \dots, X_n], \quad K_2 = k[Y_1, \dots, Y_d]$$

and  $M_i, K_i, \mathcal{M}_i, \mathcal{L}_i$  be associated with  $L_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , by Theo-

rem 1. Given any homomorphism  $\varphi : K_1 \rightarrow K_2$  of  $k$ -algebras such that

$$(2) \quad \varphi(X_1) = \sum \varphi_{ij} Y_j, \quad \varphi_{ij} \in k,$$

consider a  $\varphi$ -semilinear homomorphism  $h: M_1 \rightarrow M_2$  of modules making commutative the following diagram

$$(2') \quad \begin{array}{ccc} M_1 & \xrightarrow{\ell_1} & m_1 \\ h \downarrow & & \downarrow \varphi \\ M_2 & \xrightarrow{\ell_2} & m_2 \end{array}$$

Proposition 1.  $h$  is a homomorphism of Lie algebras, defined by (1), and  $h(L_1) \subseteq L_2$ .

Proof. If  $a, b \in M_1$  then by (1) and (2')

$$\begin{aligned} h(ab) &= h(\ell_1(b)a - \ell_1(a)b) = \varphi(\ell_1(b))h(a) - \varphi(\ell_1(a))h(b) = \\ &= \ell_2(h(b))h(a) - \ell_2(h(a))h(b) = h(a)h(b). \end{aligned}$$

Also by (2) and Theorem 1 we have  $h(L_1) \subseteq L_2$ .

Now we show that every homomorphism  $f: L_1 \rightarrow L_2$  can be extended to a unique semilinear homomorphism  $(h, \varphi)$  with the properties (2), (2'). In order to do this define  $\varphi: K_1 \rightarrow K_2$  as  $\varphi(X_1) = \ell_2(f(e_1))$ . Note that by (2') and Theorem 1 this is the unique way of defining  $\varphi$ . Define also  $h: M_1 \rightarrow M_2$  by  $h(e_1) = f(e_1)$ .

Proposition 2. If  $a \in L_1$ , then  $f(a) = h(a)$ .

Proof. The case  $a = e_1$  follows from definition. If  $f(a_j) = h(a_j)$ , then  $f(\sum \alpha_j a_j) = h(\sum \alpha_j a_j)$ . Now let  $f(a) = h(a)$ ,  $f(b) = h(b)$ . In this case

$$\begin{aligned}
f(ab) &= f(a)f(b) = \mathcal{L}_2(f(b))f(a) - \mathcal{L}_2(f(a))f(b) = \\
&= \mathcal{L}_2(h(b))h(a) - \mathcal{L}_2(h(a))h(b) = h(a)h(b) = h(ab)
\end{aligned}$$

by Proposition 1.

Thus we have proved

Theorem 2. Each semilinear map  $(h, \varphi)$  with (2), (2') defines a homomorphism  $f: L_1 \rightarrow L_2$  of free metabelian Lie algebras and conversely every homomorphism  $f: L_1 \rightarrow L_2$  of Lie algebras has a unique representation by a semilinear morphism of modules.

By uniqueness the correspondence between morphisms of Lie algebras and semilinear morphisms is functorial. Starting from now we identify homomorphism  $f: L_1 \rightarrow L_2$  with its semilinear representation  $(h, \varphi)$ .

§ 2. Automorphisms of free metabelian Lie algebras.

In this part we consider the case  $L_1 = L_2 = L$  and  $f = (h, \varphi) \in \text{Aut } L$ . By the corollary from Theorem 1 an automorphism  $f$  is identical on  $L/L'$  iff  $\varphi = 1$ . Let  $G$  be a group of all these automorphisms (IA-automorphisms in terms of [1]). It is clear that  $G \triangleleft \text{Aut } L$  and by [5]  $\text{Aut } L$  is a semidirect product of  $\text{GL}(n, k)$  and  $G$ . By (2')  $f = (h, 1) \in G$  iff  $h$  is an automorphism of  $M$  as  $K$ -module, that is  $h \in \text{GL}(n, K)$ , and  $\mathcal{L}(a) = \mathcal{L}(f(a))$  for all  $a \in M$ . If  $e_1, \dots, e_n$  is a base of  $M$ ,  $\mathcal{L}(e_i) = X_i$ , then  $h = (h_{ij})$ , where  $h(e_i) = \sum_{j=1}^n e_j h_{ji}$  and

$$(3) \quad X_i = \mathcal{L}(e_i) = \mathcal{L}(h(e_i)) = \sum_{j=1}^n X_j h_{ji}$$

This implies  $h_{ij} = \delta_{ij} + \varepsilon_{ij}$ , where  $\sum_{i=1}^n X_i \varepsilon_{ij} = 0$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, n$ . Hence,

$$h = E + T \in SL(n, K), T = (g_{ij})$$

In particular for  $n = 2$  we have

$$T = \begin{pmatrix} X_2 t_1 & X_2 t_2 \\ -X_1 t_1 & -X_1 t_2 \end{pmatrix} \quad t_1, t_2 \in k[X_1, X_2]$$

and

$$1 = \det(E + T) = (1 + X_2 t_1)(1 - X_1 t_2) + X_1 X_2 t_1 t_2 = 1 + X_2 t_1 - X_1 t_2, \text{ that is } t_1 = X_1 t, t_2 = X_2 t. \text{ Hence,}$$

$$T = \begin{pmatrix} X_1 X_2 t & X_2^2 t \\ -X_1^2 t & -X_1 X_2 t \end{pmatrix} = T(t)$$

Note that  $T(t)T(t') = 0$  and thus for  $E + T(t), E + T(t') \in G$  we have

$$(E + T(t))(E + T(t')) = E + T(t + t')$$

Thus, we have proved

**Theorem 3.** If  $L$  is a free metabelian Lie algebra of rank 2, then  $\text{Aut } L$  is a semidirect product of  $GL(2, k)$  and a group  $G$  of IA-automorphisms isomorphic to the additive group of  $k[X_1, X_2]$ .

§ 3. Epimorphisms of free metabelian Lie algebras. In this part we assume that for all  $s, r$  the group  $GL(s, k[X_1, \dots, X_r])$  acts transitively on unimodular rows (see [8]). This is equivalent to the following fact: if  $R = k[X_1, \dots, X_s]$  and  $M$  is  $R$ -module such that  $R^s \simeq M \oplus R^p$  then  $M \simeq R^{s-p}$ . The fundamental result of [8] shows that this condition is satisfied when  $k = k_0[Y_1, \dots, Y_n, Z_1^{\pm 1}, \dots, Z_r^{\pm 1}]$ , where  $k_0$  is a Dedekind

ring.

Let  $L_1, K_1, M_1, \mathfrak{M}_1, \ell_1, i = 1, 2$ , be as in § 1 and  $f: L_1 \rightarrow L_2$  an epimorphism,  $f = (h, \varphi)$ ,  $\text{rk} L_1 = n$ ,  $\text{rk} L_2 = d$ . Since  $L_2$  is projective it can be regarded as a retract of  $L_1$ , that is  $L_2$  is a subalgebra in  $L_1$  and there is a projection  $f: L_1 \rightarrow L_2$  identical on  $L_2$ , i.e.  $f^2 = f$ . By (2), Theorem 2 and the remark made after this theorem  $\varphi$  is an idempotent endomorphism of  $K_1 = k[X_1, \dots, X_n]$ , where  $\varphi(X_i) = \sum \varphi_{ij} X_j$ ,  $\varphi_{ij} \in k$ . Thus  $\varphi$  is an idempotent endomorphism of a free  $k$ -module  $kX_1 + \dots + kX_n \simeq k^n$  and  $\text{Im } \varphi \simeq k^d$  since  $L_2$  is free. By the remark made above  $\text{Ker } \varphi \simeq k^{n-d}$  and thus

$$K = k[X_1, \dots, X_n] = k[Y_1, \dots, Y_n]$$

for some  $Y_1, \dots, Y_n$ , where

$$(4) \quad \varphi(Y_i) = \begin{cases} Y_i, & i = 1, \dots, d; \\ 0, & i = d + 1, \dots, n. \end{cases}$$

Let  $\alpha = (\alpha_{ij}) \in \text{GL}(n, k) \subseteq \text{Aut } K$  and  $Y_i = \alpha(X_i) = \sum_j \alpha_{ij} X_j$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . Then the map  $g, g(e_i) = \sum_j \alpha_{ij} e_j$  defines an  $\alpha$ -semilinear map  $(g, \alpha)$  for

$$\ell_1(g(e_i)) = \sum \alpha_{ij} X_j = Y_i = \alpha(X_i) = \alpha(\ell_1(e_i)).$$

Thus without loss of generality we can suppose from the very beginning that in (4)

$$(4') \quad \varphi(X_i) = \begin{cases} X_i, & i = 1, \dots, d; \\ 0, & i = d + 1, \dots, n. \end{cases}$$

Let  $\mathfrak{M}_2$  be the augmentation ideal  $(X_1, \dots, X_d) \triangleleft k[X_1, \dots, X_d]$ ,  $\text{Im} h = \mathfrak{M}_2$ , and  $J = (X_{d+1}, \dots, X_n) \triangleleft k[X_1, \dots, X_n]$ ,  $f = (h, \varphi)$ , where  $\varphi$  from (4'). Then the diagram (2') looks



as

$$(5) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} M_1 & \xrightarrow{\ell_1} & \mathfrak{m}_1 \\ \downarrow h & & \downarrow \varphi \\ M_2 & \xrightarrow{\ell_2} & \mathfrak{m}_2 \end{array}$$

Note that by (4')  $JM_1 \subseteq \text{Ker } h$  and hence (5) induces a commutative diagram

$$(5') \quad \begin{array}{ccc} M_1' = M_1/JM_1 & \xrightarrow{\ell_1'} & \mathfrak{m}_1/J\mathfrak{m}_1 = \mathfrak{m}_2 \\ \downarrow h' & & \downarrow 1 \\ M_2 & \xrightarrow{\ell_2} & \mathfrak{m}_2 \end{array}$$

Now  $M_1'$  is a free  $K_2 = k[X_1, \dots, X_d]$ -module with the base  $e_i' = e_i + JM_1$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , and by (5')  $h'$  is an epimorphism of free  $K_2$ -modules. As we have already noticed  $\text{Ker } h$  is a free  $K_2$ -module of rank  $n - d$ . Now we can identify  $M_1'$  with  $\sum_{i=1}^n K_2 e_i \subseteq M_1$ . Thus we choose in  $M_1$  a new base  $w_1, \dots, w_n \in \sum_{i=1}^n K_2 e_i$  such that  $h(w_1), \dots, h(w_d)$  is a base for  $M_2$  and  $w_{d+1}, \dots, w_n \in \text{Ker } h$ . Moreover,  $\text{Ker } \varphi = J$ . Since  $X_i + \mathfrak{m}_1^2$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , is a base of a free  $k$ -module  $\mathfrak{m}_1/\mathfrak{m}_1^2$  by (4') we can also assume that

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} \ell_1(w_1) \\ \vdots \\ \ell_n(w_n) \end{pmatrix} \equiv X \pmod{J}, \text{ where } X = \begin{pmatrix} X_1 \\ \vdots \\ X_n \end{pmatrix}$$

for we can always suppose that  $\ell_2(h(w_i)) = X_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, d$ , and  $w_j \in \text{Ker } h$  implies  $\ell_1(w_j) \in J$ . Thus  $H$  is  $\mathfrak{m}_1$ -modular (see

[2],[7]).

Consider now a subgroup  $D \subseteq GL(n, K_1)$  generated by  $GL(n, K_1, J)$  (see [9]) and all matrices

$$\begin{pmatrix} A & U \\ 0 & B \end{pmatrix}, \quad A \in GL(d, K_1), \quad B \in GL(n-d, K_1).$$

**Proposition 3.** There exists  $C \in D$  such that  $CH = X$ .

The proof in a more general situation will be given in Proposition 4.

Since  $w_{d+1}, \dots, w_n \in \text{Ker} h$ ,  $JM_1 \subseteq \text{Ker} h$  by Proposition 3 for a new base  $u_i = Cw_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$  in  $M_1$  we have

$$\ell_1(u_i) = X_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, n; \quad u_j \in \text{Ker} h, \quad j = d+1, \dots, n,$$

and  $h(u_1), \dots, h(u_d)$  is a base for  $M_2$ . Thus we have proved

**Theorem 4.** Let  $k$  be a ring such that  $GL(s, k[X_1, \dots, X_r])$  acts transitively on sets of unimodular columns for all  $s, r$ . If  $f: L_1 \rightarrow L_2$  is an epimorphism of free metabelian Lie algebras over  $k$ ,  $\text{rk} L_1 = n$ ,  $\text{rk} L_2 = d$ , then  $L_1$  possesses a free base  $u_1, \dots, u_n$  such that  $f(u_1), \dots, f(u_d)$  is a base for  $L_2$  and  $u_{d+1}, \dots, u_n$  generate  $\text{Ker} f$  as an ideal. In particular, the theorem holds for  $k = k_0[Y_1, \dots, Y_c, Z_1^{\pm 1}, \dots, Z_p^{\pm 1}]$ , where  $k_0$  is a Dedekind ring (see [8]).

**Corollary.** Let  $k$  be as above with  $k_0$  a principal ideal ring,  $L$  a free metabelian Lie algebra over  $k$ ,  $\text{rk} L = n$ , and  $P$  a retract of  $L$ ,  $\text{rk} P = d$  (see [2],[7]). If  $f: L \rightarrow P$  is a projection, then  $L$  possesses a free base  $u_1, \dots, u_n$  with the properties of Theorem 4 such that in addition  $f(u_i) \equiv u_i \pmod{\text{Ker} f}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, d$ .

**Proof.** By [2]  $P$  is free and  $f(a) - a \in \text{Ker} f$  for all  $a \in L$

since  $f^2 = f$ .

Now we need to prove Proposition 3. Following [2] consider a more general situation: let  $A_0 \subset A_1 \subset \dots \subset A_n \subset \dots$  be a chain of commutative rings,  $1 \in A_0$  and for all  $i$

- 1)  $A_i$  is a retract of  $A_{i+1}$  with kernel  $(X_{i+1})$ ;
- 2) each  $X_i$  is not a zero divisor;
- 3) if  $\mathfrak{m}_i = (X_1, \dots, X_i) \triangleleft A_i$ , then  $\mathfrak{m}_i / \mathfrak{m}_i^2$  is a free  $A_0$ -module of rank  $i$ ;
- 4)  $GL(t, A_i)$  acts transitively on sets of unimodular columns for all  $t \geq i$ .

**Proposition 4.** Let  $H$  be a column of length  $t \geq n$ , that is an element of a free  $A_n$ -module  $A_n^t$ ,  $J = (X_{d+1}, \dots, X_n) \triangleleft A_n$  and

$$H \equiv X = \begin{pmatrix} X_1 \\ \vdots \\ X_n \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \pmod{J}$$

If  $H$  is  $\mathfrak{m}_n$ -modular then there exists  $C \in D$  (definition  $D$  as in Proposition 3) such that  $CH = X$ .

**Proof.** The case  $d = n$  is trivial. Suppose now that for  $n - 1$  the affirmation has been proved. By induction (see [2]) for  $n$  we can suppose that  $H \equiv X \pmod{X_n}$ . Again by [2] there exists  $C_1 \in D$  such that  $H_1 = C_1 H \equiv X \pmod{X_n^3}$  and thus for some unimodular  $Q \in A_n^t$

$$(6) \quad Q \equiv \left( \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{array} \right) \Bigg\}^n \pmod{X_n}$$

the product

$$(6') \quad Q^* H_1 = X_n$$

By (6) and 4) as it is well known there exists  $C_2 \in GL(t, A_n, X_n)$  with  $Q$  as the  $n$ -th row. Hence by (6') the  $n$ -th element in the column  $H_2 = C_2 H_1$  is  $X_n$  and still  $H_2 \equiv X \pmod{X_n}$ . Eventually applying matrices

$$\begin{pmatrix} U & V \\ 0 & W \end{pmatrix}, \quad U \in GL(d, A_n), \quad W \in GL(t-d, A_n)$$

we obtain  $X$ . The proof is over.

In [5] it was shown that if  $L$  was a free algebra over a field in a nilpotent variety and  $P$  retract of  $L$ , then  $P$  was free and  $L = P * B$ . The following example shows that this condition is not satisfied in metabelian Lie algebras, though by [3] and [4] they are quite close to nilpotent algebras. Let  $L$  be a free metabelian algebra over a ring  $k$  with the base  $e_1, e_2$ . Define  $f: L \rightarrow L$ ,  $f = (h, \varphi)$  as in § 1 by

$$(7) \quad h(e_1) = e_1 + X e_2 - Y e_1, \quad h(e_2) = 0, \quad \varphi(X) = X, \quad \varphi(Y) = 0.$$

Then  $f^2 = f$ . Suppose that there exists a base  $u_1 = h(e_1)$ ,  $u_2$  in  $M$  such that  $\ell(u_1) = X$ ,  $\ell(u_2) = Y$  and  $h(u_2) = 0$ . By Theorem 3

$$u_1 = (1 + XYg)e_1 + Y^2 g e_2 \quad g \in k[X, Y]$$

Via (7) this is not possible. Hence  $\text{Im} f$  is not a free factor of  $L$ .

§ 4. Homomorphisms of free metabelian  $A_qA$ -groups. Let  $q \geq 0$  and  $q \neq 1$ . If  $C_n$  is a free abelian group with free generators  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  consider a group ring  $K = \mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z} C_n = \mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z} [X_1^{\pm 1}, \dots, X_n^{\pm 1}]$  with the augmentation ideal  $\mathcal{M} = (X_1 - 1, \dots, X_n - 1)$ . Let  $M$  be a free  $K$ -module with the base  $e_1, \dots, e_n$ . Define  $\ell : M \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$  by  $\ell(e_i) = X_i - 1$ . Following [1],[2] a free  $A_qA$ -group  $F$  of rank  $n$  is a group of all matrices

$$(8) \quad \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ b & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad a \in C_n, \quad b \in M, \quad \ell(b) = a - 1.$$

The free generators of  $F$  are

$$\begin{pmatrix} X_i & 0 \\ e_i & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad i = 1, \dots, n.$$

Note that by [1]  $F'$  consists of all matrices (8) with  $a = 1$ , or equally  $\ell(b) = 0$ .

We are going to show that the results similar to those of § 1, 3 hold for metabelian groups. Let  $C_1$  be a free abelian group with the base  $X_1, \dots, X_n$ ;  $C_2$  with the base  $Y_1, \dots, Y_r$ ;  $K_1 = \mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z} C_1$ ,  $M_1$ ,  $\mathcal{M}_1$ ,  $\ell_1$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , correspond to free  $A_qA$ -groups  $F_1$  and  $F_2$ . Let  $f: F_1 \rightarrow F_2$  be a group homomorphism. As in [1] define  $\varphi: K_1 \rightarrow K_2$  and  $h: M_1 \rightarrow M_2$  by

$$(9) \quad f \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ b & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \varphi(a), 0 \\ h(b), 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Thus by (9) we define group homomorphism  $\varphi: C_1 \rightarrow C_2$  which in its turn determines ring homomorphism  $\varphi: K_1 \rightarrow K_2$ . An easy calculation based on matrix multiplication shows that  $h$  is a  $\varphi$ -semilinear homomorphism  $h: M_1 \rightarrow M_2$ . Note that by (9)

$$(9') \quad \ell_2(h(b)) = \varphi(a) - 1 = \varphi(\ell_1(b))$$

or equally, the following diagram is commutative

$$(9'') \quad \begin{array}{ccc} M_1 & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \mathfrak{M}_1 \\ \downarrow h & \searrow \ell_1 & \downarrow \varphi \\ M_2 & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \mathfrak{M}_2 \\ & \searrow \ell_2 & \end{array}$$

Conversely, if  $\varphi: C_1 \rightarrow C_2$  is a group homomorphism,  $h: M_1 \rightarrow M_2$  is a  $\varphi$ -semilinear morphism and (9'') is commutative, then by (9) the pair  $(h, \varphi)$  determines group homomorphism  $f = (h, \varphi): F_1 \rightarrow F_2$ . It is clear that this correspondence is one-to-one and is functorial.

**Theorem 5.** Let  $f: F_1 \rightarrow F_2$  be an epimorphism of free  $A_q A$ -groups,  $q \geq 0$ ,  $q \neq 1$ ,  $\text{rk} F_1 = n$ ,  $\text{rk} F_2 = d$ . Then there exists a base  $z_1, \dots, z_n$  in  $F_1$  such that  $f(z_1), \dots, f(z_d)$  is a base for  $F_2$  and  $z_{d+1}, \dots, z_n$  generate  $\text{Ker} f$  as a normal subgroup.

**Corollary.** Let  $P$  be a retract of a free  $A_q A$ -group  $F$  with a projection  $f: F \rightarrow P$ . Then  $F$  possesses a base  $z_1, \dots, z_n$  as in Theorem 5 and in addition  $f(z_i) \equiv z_i \pmod{\text{Ker} f}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, d$ .

The proof follows immediately from freeness of  $P$  (see [21]).

**Proof of Theorem 5.** First we assume that  $q = 0$  or  $q$  is a prime. If  $f: F_1 \rightarrow F_2$  is onto as in § 3 we can assume that

$$(10) \quad \varphi(x_i) = \begin{cases} x_i, & i = 1, \dots, d, \\ 1, & i = d + 1, \dots, n. \end{cases}$$

Put  $J = (x_{d+1} - 1, \dots, x_n - 1) \triangleleft K_1$ . If  $A_1 = \mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z} [x_1^{\pm 1}, \dots$

$\dots, X_1^{\pm 1}$ ], then by [8] the conditions 1) - 4) in § 3, where  $X_1$  stands for  $X_1 - 1$ , are satisfied. Hence, as in the proof of Theorem 4 we can choose in  $M_1$  a new base  $u_1, \dots, u_n$  such that if  $f = (h, \varphi)$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \ell_1(u_i) &= X_i - 1, \quad i = 1, \dots, n; \\ u_j &\in \text{Ker} h, \quad j = d + 1, \dots, n, \end{aligned}$$

and  $h(u_1), \dots, h(u_d)$  is the base for  $M_2$ . By (9), (9'), (9'') and (10)

$$z_1 = \begin{pmatrix} X_1 & 0 \\ u_1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

is the necessary base for  $F_1$  (see [1, 2]). Thus in the case  $q = 0$  or  $q$  prime the theorem is proved.

Suppose now that  $q = p^t$ , where  $p$  is a prime, and  $f: F_1 \rightarrow F_2$  as in the theorem. Let  $N_1 \triangleleft F_1$  be a verbal subgroup in  $F_1$  corresponding to the subvariety  $A_p A \subset A_q A$ . Then  $f$  induces  $f': F_1/N_1 \rightarrow F_2/N_2$ . By the preceding results there exists a base  $z'_1, \dots, z'_n$  in  $F_1/N_2$  associated with  $f'$ . By [2] there is a base  $z_1, \dots, z_n$  in  $F_1$  such that  $z_i \equiv z'_i \pmod{N_1}$ . By the same argument  $f(z_1), \dots, f(z_d)$  is a base for  $F_2$ . Thus,

$$f(z_j) = g_j(f(z_1), \dots, f(z_d)), \quad j = d + 1, \dots, n$$

and hence,

$$z_1, \dots, z_d, z_j g_j^{-1}(z_1, \dots, z_d), \quad j = d + 1, \dots, n$$

is the base we need.

Finally we have to consider the case of arbitrary  $q > 2$ . Let  $q$  have a prime-power factorization  $q = \prod q_i$  with prime powers  $q_i$ . Note that  $q_i$  are coprime for distinct  $i$ . Let  $f$ ,

$F_1, C_1, K_1, M_1, \mathcal{M}_1, \ell_1, i = 1, 2$ , be as above. Put  $s_1 = qq_1^{-1}$  and consider a  $\mathbb{Z}/q_j\mathbb{Z}$   $C_1$ -module  $s_j M_1$  with epimorphism of  $\mathbb{Z}/q_j\mathbb{Z}$   $C_1$ -modules

$$s_j \ell_1: s_j M_1 \rightarrow s_j \mathcal{M}_1.$$

As in [2] the group  $F_{1j}$  of all matrices

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ s_j b & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad a \in C_1, b \in M_1, s_j(a - 1) = s_j \ell_1(b)$$

forms a free  $A_{q_j}$   $A$ -group with free generators

$$\begin{pmatrix} X_i & 0 \\ s_j e_i & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n.$$

The epimorphism  $f: F_1 \rightarrow F_2$  induces epimorphism  $f_j: F_{1j} \rightarrow F_{2j}$  for all  $j$ . From a prime power case for every  $j$  there is a base  $z_{1j}, \dots, z_{nj}$  in  $F_{1j}$  such that images of the first  $d$  of them form a base in  $F_{2j}$ , the others generate  $\text{Ker } f_j$  as a normal subgroup. Moreover, as it follows from the preceding case

$$z_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} X_i & 0 \\ s_j u_{ij} & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n.$$

By [2] there exist free generators  $z_1, \dots, z_n$  in  $F_1$  such that

$$z_i = \begin{pmatrix} X_i & 0 \\ u_i & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

and  $s_j u_i = s_j u_{ij}$  for all  $i, j$ . The same argument shows that images of  $z_1, \dots, z_d$  form a free generating set for  $F_2$ . Thus as in prime-power case we can construct the necessary base



$z_1, \dots, z_d, z_j g_j^{-1}$ ,  $j = d + 1, \dots, n$ , where  $g_j = g_j(z_1, \dots, z_d)$ .

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