## 1. HANDLING EQUATION 63

Equation 63 is  $x = y \diamond (x \diamond (x \diamond y))$ . Work with a carrier set G that is the free group on countably many letters  $x_1, x_2, \ldots$  (If easier, the free abelian group will also work. I just personally found it easier to work multiplicatively, and so kept track of orders of products.) Setting y = hx and  $a \diamond b = f(ba^{-1})a$ , where  $f: G \to G$  is a function, we are led to the functional equation

$$f(f^2(h)h^{-1}) = h^{-1}.$$

Think of this as saying that if  $(a, b), (b, c) \in f$ , then we must have  $(ca^{-1}, a^{-1}) \in f$ .

An important initial seed is the following:

$$E_0 := \{(1, x_1), (x_1, x_2), (x_2, 1), (x_1^{-1}, x_1^{-1}), (x_1 x_2^{-1}, x_2^{-1}), (x_2^{-1}, x_3), (x_3 x_2 x_1^{-1}, x_2 x_1^{-1}), (x_3, x_1 x_2^{-1}), (x_2^{-1} x_3^{-1}, x_3^{-1})\}.$$

Define  $\mathscr{E}$  as the collection of sets  $E \subseteq G^2$  satisfying the following properties.

- (1) E is finite.
- (2) E is a function.
- (3)  $E_0 \subseteq E$ .
- (4) If  $(a, 1) \in E$ , then  $a = x_2$ .
- (5) If  $(a, b), (b, c) \in E$ , then  $(ca^{-1}, a^{-1}) \in E$ .
- (6) If  $(a, b), (a', b), (a^{-1}, d) \in E$ , then  $da \neq a'$ .
- (7) If  $(a, b), (a', b), (a^{-1}, d), (a'^{-1}, d') \in E$ , and da = d'a', then a = a'.
- (8) If  $(a, b), (a', b), (a^{-1}, d), (a'^{-1}, d) \in E$ , then a = a'.

**Lemma 1.1.** For any  $E \in \mathscr{E}$  and any  $a \in G$ , there is an extension  $E \subseteq E' \in \mathscr{E}$  where the functional equation holds for a.

*Proof.* Case 1: Assume  $(a, b) \in E$  for some  $b \in G$ .

If  $b \in \text{dom}(E)$ , then by condition (5) we are already done. So reduce to the case when  $b \notin \text{dom}(E)$ . Let  $a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_n$  be the finite list of first coordinates in E that map to b. In particular, note that this means  $a_i \neq 1$  and  $a_i \neq q^{-1}$  (for each i) by condition (3). (This, plus the closure condition (5), is the reason we need so many pairs in  $E_0$ .)

Let S be the subset of indices j where  $(a_j^{-1}, d_j) \in E$  for some  $d_j \in G$ . Note that  $d_j \neq 1$ , since  $a_j \neq x_2^{-1}$ , using condition (4). Also note that if  $j, k \in S$  are distinct, then  $d_j \neq d_k$  by condition (8), and also by condition (7) we know  $d_j a_j \neq d_k a_k$ .

Fix c to be the least generator of G that does not appear anywhere in the reduced forms for the coordinates in E. We then take

$$E' := E \cup \{(b,c), (ca_i^{-1}, a_i^{-1})\}_{i \in [1,n]} \cup \{(d_j a_j c^{-1}, a_j c^{-1}\}_{j \in S}.$$

Conditions (1) and (3) for E' are clear. For (2), use  $d_j a_j \neq d_k a_k$  when  $j, k \in S$  are distinct. Next, (4) holds since none of the new pairs ends in 1 (because  $a_i \neq 1$ ). A finite check also shows that condition (5) holds (here, we need to use the fact that (6) holds for E to get  $da_j \neq a_i$  for any  $j \in S$  and  $i \in [1, n]$ ).

Next, (6) holds by considering cases, noting that c is a new generator, and again using  $da_i \neq a_i$  (so that  $a_i c^{-1} \notin \text{dom}(E')$ ), and similarly for (7) and (8).

**Case 2**: Assume  $a \notin \text{dom}(E)$ . If  $(y, a) \in E$  for some  $y \in G$ , then applying Case 1 to y, we reduce to the situation when  $a \in \text{dom}(E)$  after all. Thus, we may assume  $a \notin \text{im}(E)$ . Using  $E \cup \{(a, b)\}$ , where b is the least generator of G not appearing in the reduced forms for the coefficients of E, nor of a, we reduce to Case 1 again.

Equation 1692 is  $x = (y \diamond x) \diamond ((y \diamond x) \diamond y)$ . The corresponding functional equation is  $hf(h)^{-1} = f^2(f(h)^{-1}).$ 

The seed  $E_0 \cup \{(x_4, x_5), (x_5^{-1}, x_6), (x_6, x_7), (x_7x_5, x_5)\}$  is in  $\mathscr{E}$  (by a finite check) and fails this new equation. After extending to a full function, we are done.