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The restricted Burnside problem for Moufang loops

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Dedicated to the memory of Peter Plaumann

Abstract

We prove that for positive integers $m \geq 1$, $n \geq 1$ and a prime number $p \neq 2, 3$ there are finitely many finite m-generated Moufang loops of exponent p^n.

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1. *Introduction*

A loop U is called a *Moufang loop* if it satisfies the following identities:

$$((zx)y)x = z((xy)x) \quad \text{and} \quad x(y(xz)) = (x(yx))z.$$

In this paper we solve the restricted Burnside problem for Moufang loops of exponent p^n, $p > 3$.

THEOREM 1. *For an arbitrary prime power p^n, $p > 3$, there exists a function $f(m)$ such that any finite m-generated Moufang loop of exponent p^n has order $< f(m)$.*

For groups this assertion was proved by E. Zelmanov ([20, 21]). For Moufang loops of prime exponent it was proved by A. Grishkov [6] (if $p \neq 3$) and G. Nagy [15] (if $p = 3$).

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In [16, 17] the restricted Burnside problem was solved for a subclass of Moufang loops and related Bruck loops.

2. *Groups with triality*

A group G with automorphisms ρ and σ is called a *group with triality* if $\rho^3 = \sigma^2 = (\rho\sigma)^2 = 1$ and

$$[x, \sigma][x, \sigma]^{\rho}[x, \sigma]^{\rho^2} = 1$$

for every $x \in G$, where $[x, \sigma] = x^{-1}x^{\sigma}$.

Let G be a group with triality. Let $U = \{[x, \sigma] | x \in G\}$. Then the subset U endowed with the multiplication

$$a \cdot b = (a^{-1})^{\rho} b (a^{-1})^{\rho^2};\ a, b \in U$$

becomes a Moufang loop.

Every Moufang loop U can be obtained in this way from a suitable group with triality, which is finite if U is finite. Moreover, if p is a prime number, then a finite Moufang p-loop can be obtained from a finite p-group with triality ([3, 5, 10]).

3. *Lie and Malcev algebras*

Let $\mathbb{F}_p$ be a field of order p, let G be a group. Consider the group algebra $\mathbb{F}_pG$ and its fundamental ideal ω, spanned by all elements $1 - g,\ g \in G$. The Zassenhaus filtration is the descending chain of subgroups

$$G = G_1 > G_2 > \cdots ,$$

where $G_i = \{g \in G \mid 1 - g \in \omega^i\}$. Then $[G_i, G_j] \subseteq G_{i+j}$ and each factor G_i/G_{i+1} is an elementary abelian p-group. Hence,

$$L = L_p(G) = \sum_{i \geq 1} L_i, \quad L_i = G_i/G_{i+1}$$

is a vector space over $\mathbb{F}_p$. The bracket

$$[x_i G_{i+1}, y_j G_{j+1}] = [x_i, y_j] G_{i+j+1};\quad x_i \in G_i,\ y_j \in G_j,$$

makes L a Lie algebra. Notice that the bracket [,] on the left-hand side of the last equality is a Lie bracket whereas [,] on the right-hand side denotes the group commutator.

Let x, y be generators of a free associative algebra over $\mathbb{F}_p$. Then $(x + y)^p = x^p + y^p + \{x, y\}$, where $\{x, y\}$ is a Lie element. Following [12], we call a Lie $\mathbb{F}_p$−algebra L with an operation $a \to a^{[p]}$, $a \in L$, a Lie p-algebra if

$$\begin{aligned} (ka)^{[p]} &= k^p a^{[p]}, \\ (a + b)^{[p]} &= a^{[p]} + b^{[p]} + \{a, b\}, \\ [a^{[p]}, b] &= [\underbrace{a, [a, \ldots [a}_{p}, b] \ldots] \end{aligned}$$

for arbitrary $k \in \mathbb{F}_p$; $a, b \in L$. The mapping $L_i \to L_{ip}$, $(g_i G_{i+1})^{[p]} = g_i^p G_{ip+1}$, extends to the operation $a \to a^{[p]}$, $a \in L$, making L a Lie p-algebra. For more details about this construction see [2, 11, 22].

We call a Lie algebra (resp. Lie p-algebra) L with automorphisms ρ, σ a *Lie algebra with triality* if $\rho^3 = \sigma^2 = (\rho\sigma)^2 = 1$ and for an arbitrary element $x \in L$ we have

$$(x^\sigma - x) + (x^\sigma - x)^\rho + (x^\sigma - x)^{\rho^2} = 0.$$

LEMMA 3·1. *Let G be a group with triality and let p be a prime number. Then $L_p(G)$ is a Lie p-algebra with triality.*

Proof. The automorphisms ρ, σ of the group G give rise to automorphisms ρ, σ of the Lie algebra $L_p(G)$. For an element $x_i \in G_i$ we have

$$[x_i, \sigma][x_i, \sigma]^\rho[x_i, \sigma]^{\rho^2} = 1.$$

It implies that for the element $x = x_i G_{i+1} \in L_i$ we have

$$(x^\sigma - x) + (x^\sigma - x)^\rho + (x^\sigma - x)^{\rho^2} = 0.$$

This completes the proof of the lemma.

Recall that a (nonassociative) algebra is called a *Malcev algebra* if it satisfies the identities:

(1). $xy = -yx$;
(2). $(xy)(xz) = ((xy)z)x + ((yz)x)x + ((zx)x)y$,

see [4, 14, 23].

LEMMA 3·2 (see [7]). *Let L be a Lie algebra with triality over a field of characteristic $\neq 2, 3$. Let $H = \{x \in L | x^\sigma = -x\}$. Recall, that for any $x \in H$, $x + x^\rho + x^{\rho^2} = 0$. Then H is a Malcev algebra with multiplication*

$$a * b = [a + 2a^\rho, b] = [a^\alpha, b],$$

where $a, b \in H$, $\alpha = 1 + 2\rho$.

LEMMA 3·3. *For arbitrary elements $a, b, c \in H$ we have*

$$3[[a, b], c] = 2(a * b) * c + (c * b) * a + (a * c) * b.$$

We remark that in a Lie algebra with triality over a field F, for arbitrary elements $a_1, \ldots, a_n \in H$ the subspace

$$\sum_{i=1}^n F a_i + \sum_{i=1}^n F a_i^\alpha = \sum_{i=1}^n F a_i + \sum_{i=1}^n F a_i^\rho$$

is invariant with respect to the group of automorphisms $\langle \sigma, \rho \rangle$.

Proof. Let's prove that for any $x, y, z \in H$:

$$(x * y) * z = 2[[x^{\rho^2}, y^\rho], z] + [[x, y], z]. \qquad (3·1)$$

Using $x+x^{\rho}+x^{\rho^2}=0$ and $y+y^{\rho}+y^{\rho^2}=0$, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
v&=[x^{\rho},y]-[x,y^{\rho}]=-[x^{\rho^2},y]-[x,y]+[x,y^{\rho^2}]+[x,y]=[x,y^{\rho^2}]-[x^{\rho^2},y];\\
v^{\rho}&=[x^{\rho^2},y^{\rho}]-[x^{\rho},y^{\rho^2}]=-[x^{\rho},y^{\rho}]-[x,y^{\rho}]\\
&\quad+[x^{\rho},y^{\rho}]+[x^{\rho},y]=[x^{\rho},y]-[x,y^{\rho}]=v.
\end{aligned}$$

Then

$$v^{\sigma}=[x^{\rho\sigma},y^{\sigma}]-[x^{\sigma},y^{\rho\sigma}]=[x^{\rho^2},y]-[x,y^{\rho^2}]=-v,$$

hence $v\in H$ and, by triality, we have $v+v^{\rho}+v^{\rho^2}=3v=0$. Since the characteristic of the field is not 3 then $v=0$ and we proved that

$$[x^{\rho},y]=[x,y^{\rho}],\;\;[x^{\rho^2},y^{\rho}]=[x^{\rho},y^{\rho^2}]. \tag{3·2}$$

Finally, we have by (3·2)

$$\begin{aligned}
(x*y)*z&=[x+2x^{\rho},y]*z\\
&=[[x+2x^{\rho},y],z+2z^{\rho}]\\
&=[[x,y],z]+2[[x^{\rho},y],z]+2[[x+2x^{\rho},y],z^{\rho}]\\
&=[[x,y],z]+2[[x^{\rho},y],z]+2[[x^{\rho}+2x^{\rho^2},y^{\rho}],z]\\
&=[[x,y],z]+2[[x^{\rho},y],z]+2[[-x+x^{\rho^2},y^{\rho}],z]\\
&=2[[x^{\rho^2},y^{\rho}],z]+[[x,y],z].
\end{aligned}$$

Let $J=J(x,y,z)=(x*y)*z+(y*z)*x+(z*x)*y$, then by (3·1) we get

$$J=2([[x^{\rho^2},y^{\rho}],z]+[[y^{\rho^2},z^{\rho}],x]+[[z^{\rho^2},x^{\rho}],y]).$$

But $t=[[x^{\rho^2},y^{\rho}],z]-[[z^{\rho^2},x^{\rho}],y]=0$, indeed, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
t-t^{\rho}&=([[x^{\rho^2},y^{\rho}],z]-[[z^{\rho^2},x^{\rho}],y])^{\rho}-[[x^{\rho^2},y^{\rho}],z]+[[z^{\rho^2},x^{\rho}],y]\\
&=[[x,y^{\rho^2}],z^{\rho}]-[[z,x^{\rho^2}],y^{\rho}]-[[x^{\rho^2},y^{\rho}],z]+[[z^{\rho^2},x^{\rho}],y]\\
&=[[x^{\rho^2},y],z^{\rho}]-[[z,x^{\rho^2}],y^{\rho}]-[[x^{\rho^2},y^{\rho}],z]+[[z^{\rho^2},x^{\rho}],y]\\
&=[[x^{\rho^2},z^{\rho}],y]+[x^{\rho^2},[y,z^{\rho}]]-[[z,y^{\rho}],x^{\rho^2}]-[z,[x^{\rho^2},y^{\rho}]]\\
&\quad-[[x^{\rho^2},y^{\rho}],z]+[[z^{\rho^2},x^{\rho}],y]\\
&=[x^{\rho^2},[y,z^{\rho}]]-[[z,y^{\rho}],x^{\rho^2}]\\
&=0.
\end{aligned}$$

Hence, $t\in H\cap\{v|v^{\rho}=v\}$. As above we can prove that $v=0$, since the characteristic of the field is $\neq 3$.

Then

$$J(x,y,z)=(x*y)*z+(y*z)*x+(z*x)*y=6[[x^{\rho^2},y^{\rho}],z]. \tag{3·3}$$

Now we are ready to prove the Lemma. By (3·1) and (3·3) we get

$$
\begin{aligned}
&2(x*y)*z+(z*y)*x+(x*z)*y \\
&\quad =3(x*y)*z+(z*y)*x+(x*z)*y+(y*x)*z \\
&\quad =3(x*y)*z+J(x,y,z) \\
&\quad =6[[x^{\rho^2},y^{\rho}],z]+3[[x,y],z]-6[[x^{\rho^2},y^{\rho}],z] \\
&\quad =3[[x,y],z],
\end{aligned}
$$

which proves the lemma.

LEMMA 3·4. *If a Lie algebra L with triality is generated by elements*

$$a_1,\ldots,a_m,a_1^{\alpha},\ldots,a_m^{\alpha},$$

where $a_1,\ldots,a_m\in H$, then the Malcev algebra H is generated by $a_1,\ldots,a_m$.

Proof. We have $L=H\dotplus S$, where $S=\{a\in L|a^{\sigma}=a\}$ and $H^{\alpha}\subseteq S$. Hence the subspace H of L is spanned by left-normed commutators $b=[\ldots[b_1,b_2],b_3],\ldots,b_r]$, where $b_1,\ldots,b_r\in\{a_1,\ldots,a_m,a_1^{\alpha},\ldots,a_m^{\alpha}\}$ and elements from $\{a_1,\ldots,a_m\}$ occur in b an odd number of times.

(1) Suppose that $b_r=a_i^{\alpha}$, $1\le i\le m$, $b'=[\ldots[b_1,b_2],\ldots,b_{r-1}]$. Then by the induction assumption on r the element b' lies in the Malcev algebra H' generated by $a_1,\ldots,a_m$ and $b=[b',a_i^{\alpha}]=-a_i*b'$;

(2) Suppose that $b_r\in\{a_1,\ldots,a_m\}$. If the element b_{r-1} also lies in $\{a_1,\ldots,a_m\}$ and $b''=[\ldots[b_1,\ldots],b_{r-2}]$ then by the induction assumption $b''\in H'$. In this case it remains to use Lemma 3·3.

Let $b_{r-1}\in\{a_1^{\alpha},\ldots,a_m^{\alpha}\}$. Then

$$b=[[b'',b_{r-1}],b_r]=[b'',[b_{r-1},b_r]]+[b_{r-1},[b_r,b'']]$$

By the induction assumption on r applied to the elements $a_1,\ldots,a_m,a_{m+1}=[b_{r-1},b_r]\in H'$ the first summand lies in H'. The second summand was considered in case (1). This completes the proof of the lemma.

4. *Commutator identities in groups*

Let Fr be the free group on free generators x_i, $i\ge 1$; y,z_1,z_2. Recall the Hall commutator identity

$$[xy,z]=[y,[z,x]][x,z][y,z],$$

where $[x,y]=x^{-1}y^{-1}xy$ is the group commutator.

Let N be the normal subgroup of Fr generated by the element y and let N' by the subgroup of N generated by $[N,N]$ and by all elements g^p, $g\in N$. Then N/N' is a vectors space over the finite field $\mathbb{F}_p$. For an element $g\in Fr$ consider the linear transformation

$$g':N/N'\longrightarrow N/N',\ \ hN'\longrightarrow[g,h]N'.$$

Then the Hall identity implies

$$(ab)' = a' + b' - b'a',$$

or, equivalently, $1 - (ab)' = (1 - b')(1 - a')$, where 1 is the identity map. Hence, $1 - (a^{p^n})' = (1 - a')^{p^n}$. This implies the following well known lemma

LEMMA 4·1. $\underbrace{[x_1, [x_1, [\dots [x_1}_{p^n}, y]] \dots] = [x_1^{p^n}, y] \mod N'$.

COROLLARY. $[[x_1, z_1], [[x_1, z_1], [\dots, [[x_1, z_1], y] \dots] = [[x_1, z_1]^{p^n}, y] \mod N'$.

Applying the so called "collection process" of G. Higman [11] (see also [22]) we linearize this equality in x_1.

LEMMA 4·2. *The product*

$$\prod_{\pi \in S_{p^n}} [[x_{\pi(1)}, z_1], [[x_{\pi(2)}, z_1], [\dots, [[x_{\pi(p^n)}, z_1], y] \dots]$$

with an arbitrary order of factors lies in the subgroup generated by elements

$$[[x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_r}, z_1]^{p^n}, y],$$

$1 \leq i_1 < \cdots < i_r \leq p^n$, *and commutators c in* $y, z_1, x_1, \dots, x_{p^n}$ *such that:*

(i) *c involves all elements* $y, x_1, \dots, x_{p^n}$;

(ii) *some element y or* x_j, $1 \leq j \leq p^n$, *occurs in c at least twice.*

Consider again a group with triality G and the Lie algebra with triality $L = L_p(G) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} L_i$. The subspace $H = \{a \in L \mid a^\sigma + a = 0\}$ is graded, i.e. $H = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} H_i$, $H_i = H \cap L_i$.

LEMMA 4·3. *Suppose that for an arbitrary element* $g \in G$ *we have* $[g, \sigma]^{p^n} = 1$. *Then*

(i) *for an arbitrary homogeneous element* $a \in H_i$, $i \geq 1$, *we have* $\mathrm{ad}(a)^{p^n} = 0$,

(ii) *for arbitrary homogeneous elements* $a_1, \dots, a_{p^n}$ *from H we have*

$$\sum_{\pi \in S_{p^n}} \mathrm{ad}(a_{\pi(1)}) \cdots \mathrm{ad}(a_{\pi(p^n)}) = 0.$$

Proof. For a homogeneous element $a \in H_i$ there exists an element $g \in G_i$ such that $a = [g, \sigma]G_{i+1}$. Then $a^{[p^n]} = [g, \sigma]^{p^n} G_{p^n i+1} = 0$. This implies $ad(a)^{p^n} = ad(a^{[p^n]}) = 0$.

Let $a_1, \dots, a_{p^n}$ be homogeneous elements from H, $a_i = [g_i, \sigma]G_{n(i)+1}$, $g_i \in G_{n(i)}$, $b = g'G_{j+1}$, $g' \in G_j$. Applying Lemma 4·2 to $x_i = g_i$, $z_1 = \sigma$, $y = g'$ we get the assertion (ii).

LEMMA 4·4. *For an arbitrary element* $a \in H$ *we have* $[a, a^\rho] = 0$.

Proof. We have already mentioned that for an arbitrary element $g \in [G, \sigma]$ we have $[g, g^\rho] = 1$, see [8]. Hence, $[g, g^\rho] = 0$ in $L(G)$.

Let $a_i \in H_i$, $a_j \in H_j$ be homogeneous elements. We need to show that $[a_i, a_j^\rho] + [a_j, a_i^\rho] = 0$. There exist elements $g_i \in G_i$, $g_j \in G_j$ such that $a_i = [g_i, \sigma]G_{i+1}$, $a_j =$

$[g_j, \sigma]G_{j+1}$. In the free group Fr consider the element

$$X = [[x_1, z_1], [x_2, z_1]^{z_2}][[x_2, z_1], [x_1, z_1]^{z_2}].$$

Applying the Hall identity and the Collection Process in the free group Fr we get

$$[[x_1x_2, z_1], [x_1x_2, z_1]^{z_2}] = [[x_1, z_1], [x_1, z_1]^{z_2}][[x_2, z_1], [x_2, z_1]^{z_2}] \cdot X \cdot c_1 \cdots c_r,$$

where $c_1, \ldots, c_r$ are commutators in x_1, x_2, z_1, z_2; each of these commutators involved both elements x_1, x_2 and at least one of these elements occurs more than once.

Substitute $x_1 = g_i$, $x_2 = g_j$, $z_1 = \sigma$, $z_2 = \rho$. Then the equality above in the free group Fr implies $X \in G_{i+j+1}$. Hence $[a_i, a_j^{\rho}] + [a_j, a_i^{\rho}] = 0$, which completes the proof of the lemma.

Example 4·1. Let L be a nilpotent 3-dimensional Lie algebra with basis a, b, c and multiplication $[a, b] = c$, $[a, c] = [b, c] = 0$. The group S_3 acts on L via $a^{\sigma} = -a$, $b^{\sigma} = a + b$, $c^{\sigma} = c$, $a^{\rho} = b$, $b^{\rho} = -a - b$, $c^{\rho} = c$. The straightforward computation shows that L is a Lie algebra with triality and that $[a, a^{\rho}] = -c \neq 0$.

LEMMA 4·5.

(i) *For an arbitrary element $a \in H$, arbitrary $k \geq 1$, we have*

$$\mathrm{ad}(a^{\alpha})^{p^k} = \mathrm{ad}(a)^{p^k} + 2\rho^{-1}\mathrm{ad}(a)^{p^k}\rho;$$

(ii) *for arbitrary elements $a_1, \ldots, a_{p^k} \in H$ we have*

$$\sum_{\pi \in S_{p^k}} \mathrm{ad}(a^{\alpha}_{\pi(1)}) \cdots \mathrm{ad}(a^{\alpha}_{\pi(p^k)})$$
$$= \sum_{\pi \in S_{p^k}} \mathrm{ad}(a_{\pi(1)}) \cdots \mathrm{ad}(a_{\pi(p^k)}) + 2\rho^{-1} \sum_{\pi \in S_{p^k}} \mathrm{ad}(a_{\pi(1)}) \cdots \mathrm{ad}W(a_{\pi(p^k)})\rho.$$

Proof. We only need to prove part (i). Part (ii) is obtained from (i) by linearization. We have $a^{\alpha} = a + 2a^{\rho}$. By Lemma 4·4 $[a, a^{\rho}] = 0$. Hence,

$$ad(a^{\alpha})^{p^k} = ad(a)^{p^k} + 2^{p^k} ad(a^{\rho})^{p^k} = ad(a)^{p^k} + 2\rho^{-1}ad(a)^{p^k}\rho.$$

This completes the proof of the lemma.

We remark that the proof of linearised Engel identity in [6] contains a gap that is filled in this paper.

For an element $a \in H$ let $ad^*(a)$ denote the operator of multiplication by a in the Malcev algebra, $ad^*(a) : h \to a * h$, $ad^*(a) = ad(a^{\alpha})$.

LEMMA 4·6.

(i) *For an arbitrary homogeneous element $a \in H_i$, $i \geq 1$, we have* $\mathrm{ad}^*(a)^{p^n} = 0$;
(ii) *for arbitrary elements $a_1, \ldots, a_{p^n} \in H$ we have*

$$\sum_{\pi \in S_{p^n}} ad^*(a_{\pi(1)}) \cdots \mathrm{ad}^*(a_{\pi(p^n)}) = 0.$$

Proof. Assertion (i) follows from Lemma 4·3 and Lemma 4·5. Assertion (ii) follows from Lemma 4·3 and Lemma 4·5.

5. *Local nilpotence in Malcev algebras*

PROPOSITION 1. *Let $M = M_1 + M_2 + \cdots$ be a finitely generated graded Malcev algebra over a field of characteristic $p \neq 2, 3$, such that:*

(i) $\mathrm{ad}^*(a)^{p^n} = 0$ *for an arbitrary homogeneous element* $a \in M$*;*

(ii) $\sum_{\pi \in S_{p^n}} \mathrm{ad}^*(a_{\pi(1)}) \cdots \mathrm{ad}^*(a_{\pi(p^n)}) = 0$ *for arbitrary* $a_1, \ldots, a_{p^n} \in M$.

Then the Malcev algebra M is nilpotent and finite dimensional.

If I is an ideal of a Malcev algebra M then $\widetilde{I} = I^2 + I^2 \cdot M$ is also an ideal of M. Consider the descending chain of ideals $M^{[0]} = M$, $M^{[i+1]} = \widetilde{M^{[i]}}$. We say that a Malcev algebra M is *solvable* if $M^{[n]} = (0)$ for some $n \geq 1$.

LEMMA 5·1 (Filippov, [4]). *A finitely generated solvable Malcev algebra over a field of characteristic > 3 is nilpotent if and only if each of its Lie homomorphic images is nilpotent.*

Consider the free Malcev algebra $M(m)$ on m free generators $x_1, \ldots, x_m$. As always $\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, \ldots\}$ is the set of positive integers. The algebra $M(m)$ is $\mathbb{N}^m$-graded via

$$\deg(x_i) = (0, 0, \ldots, \underset{i}{1}, 0, \ldots, 0), \quad 1 \leq i \leq m, \quad M(m) = \bigoplus_{\gamma \in \mathbb{N}^m} M(m)_\gamma .$$

Let I be the ideal of $M(m)$ generated by elements $\underbrace{a(a(\cdots a}_{p^n} b) \cdots)$ and elements

$$\sum_{\pi \in S_{p^n}} a_{\pi(1)}(a_{\pi(2)}(\cdots (a_{\pi(p^n)} b) \cdots),$$

where $a, a_1, \ldots, a_{p^n}, b$ run over all homogeneous elements of $M(m)$. Let

$$M(m, p^n) = M(m)/I$$

LEMMA 5·2. *The algebra $M(m, p^n)^2$ is finitely generated.*

Proof. Kuzmin (see [14]) showed that for an arbitrary Malcev algebra M we have $M^{[3]} \subseteq M^2 \cdot M^2$. By [20] every Lie homomorphic image of $M(m, p^n)$ is a nilpotent algebra. Hence by Lemma 5·1 of Filippov there exists $t \geq 1$ such that

$$M(m, p^n)^t \subseteq M(m, p^n)^{[3]} \subseteq M(m, p^n)^2 M(m, p^n)^2 .$$

Since the algebra $M(m, p^n)$ is $\mathbb{N}^m$-graded it implies that $M(m, p^n)^2$ is generated by products of $x_1, \ldots, x_m$ of length ℓ, $2 \leq \ell \leq t - 1$. This completes the proof of the lemma.

Recall that an algebra is said to be *locally nilpotent* if every finitely generated subalgebra is nilpotent.

LEMMA 5·3. *Let $M = M_1 + M_2 + \cdots$ be a graded Malcev algebra that satisfies assumptions* (i) *and* (ii) *of Proposition* 1. *Let I be an ideal of M such that both I and M/I are locally nilpotent. Then the algebra M is locally nilpotent.*

Proof. Let M' be a subalgebra of M generated by m homogeneous elements. Then M' is a homomorphic image of the Malcev algebra $M(m, p^n)$. By Lemma 5·2 the algebra $(M')^2$ is finitely generated.

Let's prove that the algebra M' is solvable. Since the factor M/I has been assumed to be locally nilpotent the algebra $(M' + I)/I$ is nilpotent and finite dimensional. We will prove solvability of M' by induction on $\dim_F(M' + I/I)$. If $\dim_F(M' + I)/I = 0$ then the subalgebra M' is nilpotent since it lies in I. If $\dim_F(M' + I)/I > 0$ then $\dim_F(M')^2 + I/I < \dim_F(M' + I)/I$. Hence the algebra $(M')^2$ is solvable which implies solvability of M'.

Since M' is solvable then by [20] all Lie homomorphic images of the algebra M' are nilpotent. Hence by Lemma 5·1 the algebra M' is nilpotent, which completes the proof of the lemma.

LEMMA 5·4. *Let $M = M_1 + M_2 + \cdots$ be a graded Malcev algebra that satisfies assumptions (i) and (ii) of Proposition 1. Then M contains a largest graded locally nilpotent ideal $Loc(M)$ such that the factor algebra $M/Loc(M)$ does not contain nonzero locally nilpotent ideals.*

REMARK. For Lie algebras this assertion was proved in [13, 18]

Proof. Let I_1, I_2 be graded locally nilpotent ideals of M. Since the factor algebra $I_1 + I_2/I_1 \cong I_2/I_1 \cap I_2$ is locally nilpotent it follows from Lemma 5·3 that the algebra $I_1 + I_2$ is locally nilpotent.

Let $\mathrm{Loc}(M)$ be the sum of all graded locally nilpotent ideals of M. We showed that the ideal $\mathrm{Loc}(M)$ is locally nilpotent. By Lemma 5·3 the factor algebra $\overline{M} = M/\mathrm{Loc}(M)$ does not contain nonzero graded locally nilpotent ideals. Let J be a nonzero (not necessarily graded) locally nilpotent ideal of $\overline{M}$. Let J_{gr} be the ideal of $\overline{M}$ generated by nonzero homogeneous components of elements of J of maximal degree. It is easy to see that the ideal J_{gr} of $\overline{M}$ is locally nilpotent, a contradiction. This completes the proof of the lemma.

Recall that an algebra A is called *prime* if for any nonzero ideals I, J of A we have $IJ \neq (0)$. A graded algebra $A = A_1 + A_2 + \cdots$ is *graded prime* if for any nonzero graded ideals I, J we have $IJ \neq (0)$. Passing to ideals $I_{\mathrm{gr}}, J_{\mathrm{gr}}$ we see that a graded prime algebra is prime.

The proof of the following lemma follows a well-known scheme (see [21]). We still include it for the sake of completeness.

LEMMA 5·5. *Let $M = M_1 + M_2 + \cdots$ be a graded Malcev algebra satisfying assumptions (i) and (ii) of Proposition 1. Then the ideal $Loc(M)$ is an intersection $Loc(M) = \bigcap P$ of graded ideals $P \lhd M$ such that the factor algebra M/P is prime.*

Proof. Choose a homogeneous element $a \in M \setminus \mathrm{Loc}(M)$. Since the ideal $I(a)$ generated by the element a in M is not locally nilpotent there exists a finitely generated graded subalgebra $B \subseteq I(a)$ that is not nilpotent. Since the algebra B satisfies assumptions (i) and (ii) it follows from Filippov's Lemma 5·1 that the algebra B is not solvable.

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Consider the descending chain of subalgebras $B^{(0)} = B$, $B^{(i+1)} = (B^{(i)})^2$. Since the algebra B is not solvable we conclude that $B^{(i)} \neq (0)$ for all $i \geq 0$.

By Zorn's Lemma there exists a maximal graded ideal P of M with the property that $B^{(i)} \nsubseteq P$ for all i. Indeed, let $P_1 \subseteq P_2 \subseteq \cdots$ be an ascending chain of graded ideals such that B is not solvable modulo each of them. If B is solvable modulo $\bigcup_{i\geq 1} P_i$ then $B^{(s)} \subseteq \bigcup_{i\geq 1} P_i$ for some $s \geq 1$. By Lemma 5·2 the subalgebra $B^{(s)}$ is finitely generated, hence $B^{(s)} \subseteq P_i$ for some i, a contradiction.

We claim that the factor algebra M/P is graded prime. Indeed, suppose that I, J are graded ideals of M, $P \subsetneq I$, $P \subsetneq J$, and $IJ \subseteq P$. By maximality of P there exists $i \geq 1$ such that $B^{(i)} \subseteq I$ and $B^{(i)} \subseteq J$. Then $B^{(i+1)} \subseteq P$, a contradiction. This completes the proof of the lemma.

Proof of Proposition 1. Let M be a graded Malcev algebra satisfying assumptions (i) and (ii). If M is not nilpotent then $M \neq \mathrm{Loc}(M)$. By Lemma 5·5, M has a nonzero prime homomorphic image. Filippov [4] showed that every prime non-Lie Malcev algebra over a field of characteristic $p > 3$ is 7-dimensional over its centroid. Now it remains to refer to the result of Stitzinger [19] on Engel's Theorem in the form of Jacobson for Malcev algebras. This completes the proof of Proposition 1.

6. *Proof of Theorem 1*

Let $U(m, p^n)$ be the free Moufang loop of exponent p^n on m free generators $x_1, \ldots, x_m$. Let $E = E(U(m, p^n))$ be the minimal group with triality that corresponds to the loop $U(m, p^n)$ (see [9]). The group E is generated by elements $x_1, \ldots, x_m, x_1^\rho, \ldots, x_m^\rho$. Consider the Zassenhaus descending chain of subgroups $E = E_1 > E_2 > \cdots$. Let

$$G = E/\bigcap_{i\geq 1} E_i, \quad U = [G, \sigma].$$

Theorem 4 from [5] implies that an arbitrary finite m-generated Moufang loop of exponent p^n is a homomorphic image of the loop U. We will show that the loop U is finite.

As above, consider the Lie p-algebra

$$L = L_p(G) = \bigoplus_{i\geq 1} L_i, \qquad L_i = G_i/G_{i+1},$$

over the field $\mathbb{F}_p$, $|\mathbb{F}_p| = p$, and the Malcev algebra $H = \{a - a^\sigma \,|\, a \in L\}$. The Malcev algebra H is graded, $H = \bigoplus_{i\geq 1} H_i$, $H_i = H \cap L_i$, and satisfies assumptions (i) and (ii) of Proposition 1.

Consider the Lie subalgebra L' of L generated by the set $I_m = \{a_1, \ldots, a_m, a_1^\alpha, \ldots, a_m^\alpha\}$, where $a_i = x_i E_2 \in L_1$, $1 \leq i \leq m$. The whole Lie algebra L is generated by I_m as a p-algebra.

Since the subalgebra L' is S_3-invariant it follows that L' is a Lie algebra with triality. Therefore L' gives rise to the Malcev algebra $H' = L' \cap H$. By Lemma 3·4 the elements $a_1, \ldots, a_m$ generate H' as a Malcev algebra. Hence, by Proposition 1 the algebra H' is nilpotent and finite dimensional. Let $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} H' = d$.

Since the Lie algebra L is generated by $a_1, \ldots, a_m$ as a p-algebra it follows that L is spanned by p powers $c^{[p^k]}$, where c is a commutator in $a_1, \ldots, a_m$ of length $\leq 2d$, $k \geq 0$. The space H is spanned by pth powers $c^{[p^k]}$, where the commutators c have odd length.

An arbitrary homogeneous element $a \in H_i$ can be represented as $[g, \sigma]G_{i+1}$, where $g \in G_i$. Hence $[g, \sigma]^{p^n} = 1$ implies $a^{[p^n]} = 0$. Then H is spanned by p-powers $c^{[p^k]}$, where c is a commutator in $a_1, \ldots, a_m$ of odd length $\leq 2d$ and $k < n$. Hence, $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} H < \infty$. Since $|H| = |U|$ we conclude that $|U| < \infty$. This concludes the proof of Theorem 1.

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