

# Verbal width in the Nottingham group and related Lie algebras

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## Abstract

In [1], B. Klopsch proved that the Nottingham group over a finite field is verbally elliptic. We prove a similar result for fields of zero characteristic. We also prove that the Virasoro Lie algebra and some of its subalgebras are polynomially elliptic.

*Keywords:* Group; Lower central series; Graded Lie algebra; Nottingham group; Virasoro algebra; Witt algebra; Verbal width; Ellipticity.

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## 1. Introduction

Let  $\omega(x_1, \dots, x_k)$  be an element of the free group on  $k$  free generators  $x_1, \dots, x_k$ . We will refer to elements of free groups as words.

Let  $G$  be a group. The verbal subgroup  $\omega(G)$  is the subgroup of  $G$  generated by the verbal set

$$\omega[G] = \{\omega(g_1, \dots, g_k) \mid g_i \in G, 1 \leq i \leq k\}.$$

The word  $\omega$  is said to have finite width in the group  $G$  if there exists  $d \geq 1$  such that every element  $g$  in the verbal subgroup  $\omega(G)$  can be expressed as  $g = g_1^{\pm 1} \dots g_d^{\pm 1}$ , where  $g_i \in \omega[G]$ .

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If a word  $\omega$  has finite width in a group  $G$ , we say that the group  $G$  is  $\omega$ -elliptic. If all words have finite width in the group  $G$ , then the group  $G$  is called verbally elliptic.

10 It is clear that every word  $\omega$  has finite length in a finite group  $G$  and the verbal width of  $\omega$  over  $G$  is upper bounded by  $|G|$  (see [2]).

Martínez and Zelmanov [3] and, independently, Saxl and Wilson [4] proved that for any natural number  $n$ , there is a function  $N = N(n)$  such that the width of the word  $\tau = x^n$  in any finite simple group is bounded by  $N$ .

15 An important result related to verbally elliptic groups was proved by P. Stroud [5]: Every finitely generated abelian-by-nilpotent group is verbally elliptic.

Rhemtulla [6] poses the question of the existence of nontrivial words having finite verbal width in every group  $G$ . He proved that a word  $\omega$  in the free group  
20  $\mathcal{F}_k$  has finite width in every group  $G$  if and only if there exist relatively prime integers  $i_1, \dots, i_k$  such that  $\omega \in x_1^{i_1} \dots x_k^{i_k} \mathcal{F}_k'$ .

Romankov [7] proved that every finitely generated virtually nilpotent group is verbally elliptic. Segal proved in [2] a more general result using the Prüfer rank of a group defined as

$$rk(G) := \sup\{d(K) \mid K \text{ is a finitely generated subgroup of } G\}.$$

25 Here,  $d(G)$  denotes the minimum possible number of generators of the group  $G$ . So in [2] it is proved that every virtually nilpotent group with finite Prüfer rank is verbally elliptic.

J.P. Serre [8] considered the same question for profinite groups and Brian Hartley [9] proved that a word  $\omega$  has finite width in a profinite group  $G$  if and  
30 only if the verbal subgroup  $\omega(G)$  is closed in  $G$ .

Andrei Jaikin-Zapirain ([10]) proved that  $p$ -adic analytic pro- $p$ -groups are verbally elliptic.

In [11] C. Martínez proved that if  $\Gamma$  is a finitely generated residually- $p$ -torsion group and  $G$  is its pro- $p$ -completion, then the group  $G$  is verbally elliptic

35 (understanding that a word  $\omega$  is an arbitrary element in the free pro- $p$ -group on countably many variables).

For a good survey of what is known about verbal subgroups we refer to the book [2]. In this paper we will prove that the Nottingham group in zero characteristic is verbally elliptic. The same result was proved by B. Klopsch in  
 40 [12] for the Nottingham group over a finite field. In the paper we will consider a similar question for Lie algebras, proving that the Virasoro algebra and some of its subalgebras, that are related to the Nottingham group, are polynomially elliptic.

## 2. Lie algebras

45 Let  $\phi$  be an associative commutative ring. Consider an absolutely free algebra  $\phi\langle X \rangle$  on the set of free generators  $X = \{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$ . Let  $f(x_1, \dots, x_k) \in \phi\langle X \rangle$ . For a  $\phi$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  consider the set  $f[\mathcal{A}] = \{f(a_1, \dots, a_k) \mid a_1, \dots, a_k \in \mathcal{A}\}$  and the  $\phi$ -linear span  $\text{Span}_\phi f[\mathcal{A}]$ .

**Definition 2.1.** (see [11]) *A polynomial  $f$  has finite width in the algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  if there exists  $d \geq 1$  such that*

$$\text{Span}_\phi f[\mathcal{A}] = \underbrace{f[\mathcal{A}] + \dots + f[\mathcal{A}]}_d.$$

*In other words, every element  $a \in \text{Span}_\phi f[\mathcal{A}]$  can be written as*

$$a = f(a_1^{(1)}, \dots, a_k^{(1)}) + \dots + f(a_1^{(d)}, \dots, a_k^{(d)}),$$

where  $a_i^{(j)} \in \mathcal{A}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq k$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq d$ .

50 We will define now a stronger notion for multilinear polynomials.

**Definition 2.2.** *A multilinear polynomial  $f(x_1, \dots, x_k)$  is **strongly elliptic** in  $\mathcal{A}$  if there exists a finite set of  $(k-1)$ -tuples,  $M \subset \underbrace{\mathcal{A} \times \dots \times \mathcal{A}}_{k-1}$  such that*

$$f[\mathcal{A}] \subset \sum_{(a_1, \dots, a_{k-1}) \in M} f(\mathcal{A}, a_1, \dots, a_{k-1}).$$

**Lemma 2.1.** *If a multilinear polynomial  $f(x_1, \dots, x_k)$  is strongly elliptic in  $\mathcal{A}$  then  $f$  has finite width in  $\mathcal{A}$ .*

*Proof.* It is enough to consider the expression

$$\text{Span}_{\mathbb{F}} f[\mathcal{A}] = \sum_{(a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}) \in M} f(\mathcal{A}, a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}),$$

and note that the number of terms to the right is always less than or equal to  $|M|$ . □

55      Fix a field  $\mathbb{F}$  of zero characteristic.

The *centerless Virasoro algebra*,  $Vir$ , is the algebra over  $\mathbb{F}$  having a basis  $\{e_i \mid i \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  with the multiplication  $[e_i, e_j] = (i - j)e_{i+j}$ .

**Theorem 2.2.** *An arbitrary multilinear polynomial is strongly elliptic in  $Vir$ .*

*Proof.* Consider  $f(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1})$  a multilinear element of the free Lie algebra. We have that

$$f = \sum_{\pi \in S_{n-1}} \alpha_{\pi} [x_0, x_{\pi(1)}, \dots, x_{\pi(n-1)}], \quad \alpha_{\pi} \in \mathbb{F},$$

where  $[x_0, x_1 \cdot x_2] = [[x_0, x_1], x_2]$  and inductively,

$$[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{t+1}] = [[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_t], x_{t+1}].$$

Let  $M$  be the finite set given by

$$M = \{(e_{i_1}, \dots, e_{i_{n-1}}) \mid 0 \leq i_1, \dots, i_{n-1} \leq n\}.$$

We want to prove that

$$Vir = \sum_{(e_{i_1}, \dots, e_{i_{n-1}}) \in M} f(Vir, e_{i_1}, \dots, e_{i_{n-1}}).$$

Notice that for an arbitrary  $s \in \mathbb{Z}$ , we have that

$$f(e_{s-i_1-\dots-i_{n-1}}, e_{i_1}, \dots, e_{i_{n-1}}) = h(s, i_1, \dots, i_{n-1})e_s,$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} h(s, i_1, \dots, i_{n-1}) &= \\ &= \sum \alpha_\pi (s - i_1 - \dots - i_{n-1} - i_{\pi(1)}) (s - i_1 - \dots - i_{n-1} + i_{\pi(1)} - i_{\pi(2)}) \dots \\ &\quad \dots (s - i_1 - \dots - i_{n-1} + i_{\pi(1)} + i_{\pi(2)} + \dots + i_{\pi(n-2)} - i_{\pi(n-1)}), \end{aligned}$$

is a homogeneous polynomial in  $s, i_1, \dots, i_{n-1}$  of degree  $n - 1$ .

60 If  $f = 0$  is an identity in  $Vir$ , then there is nothing to prove. So we will assume that  $f(Vir) \neq (0)$ . Then  $Span_{\mathbb{F}} f[Vir]$  is a non-zero ideal of  $Vir$  and  $Vir$  is simple, what implies that  $Vir = Span_{\mathbb{F}} f[Vir]$ .

If there is an integer  $s$  such that

$$e_s \notin \sum_{(e_{i_1}, \dots, e_{i_{n-1}}) \in M} f(e_{s-i_1-\dots-i_{n-1}}, e_{i_1}, \dots, e_{i_{n-1}}),$$

then  $h(s, i_1, \dots, i_{n-1}) = 0$  for every  $(n - 1)$ -tuple  $(i_1, \dots, i_{n-1}) \in [0, n]^{n-1}$ .

65 But this implies that the polynomial  $g(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}) = h(s, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1})$  (non homogeneous) has degree at most  $n - 1$  and it is 0 over  $[0, n]^{n-1}$ . Consequently  $g$  is the zero polynomial, or equivalently,  $h(s, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1})$  is the zero polynomial.

But  $e_s \in Span_{\mathbb{F}} f[Vir]$ , so there are integers  $j_1, \dots, j_{n-1}$  such that

$$f(e_{s-j_1-\dots-j_{n-1}}, e_{j_1}, \dots, e_{j_{n-1}}) = \lambda e_s,$$

with  $\lambda = h(s, j_1, \dots, j_{n-1}) \neq 0$ . This contradiction proves the theorem. □

Let  $k \geq -1$ . Then  $Vir^{(k)} = \sum_{i=k}^{\infty} Fe_i$  is a subalgebra of  $Vir$ .

70 **Theorem 2.3.** *An arbitrary multilinear polynomial is strongly elliptic in  $Vir^{(k)}$ .*

*Proof.* Let

$$f(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}) = \sum_{\pi \in S_{n-1}} \alpha_\pi [x_0, x_{\pi(1)}, \dots, x_{\pi(n-1)}], \quad \alpha_\pi \in F,$$

be a multilinear element of the free Lie algebra that is not identical on  $Vir^{(k)}$ .

As above,

$$f(e_{s-i_1-\dots-i_{n-1}}, e_{i_1}, \dots, e_{i_{n-1}}) = h(s, i_1, \dots, i_{n-1})e_s,$$

for arbitrary integers  $i_1, \dots, i_{n-1}, s \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Consider the finite set  $M_1 = \{(e_{i_1}, \dots, e_{i_{n-1}}) \mid k \leq i_1, \dots, i_{n-1} \leq k+n\}$ .

We will show that

$$Vir^{((k+n)(n-1)+k)} \subseteq \sum_{(e_{i_1}, \dots, e_{i_{n-1}}) \in M_1} f(Vir^{(k)}, e_{i_1}, \dots, e_{i_{n-1}}).$$

Indeed, if  $s \geq (k+n)(n-1) + k$  and  $(e_{i_1}, \dots, e_{i_{n-1}}) \in M_1$  then

$$s - i_1 - \dots - i_{n-1} \geq k.$$

If for all  $(e_{i_1}, \dots, e_{i_{n-1}}) \in M_1$  we have

$$f(e_{s-i_1-\dots-i_{n-1}}, e_{i_1}, \dots, e_{i_{n-1}}) = h(s, i_1, \dots, i_{n-1})e_s = 0,$$

then arguing as above we conclude that  $h(s, i_1, \dots, i_{n-1})$  is the zero polynomial.

75 For every  $k \leq j < (k+n)(n-1) + k$  such that  $e_j \in Span_F f[Vir^{(k)}]$  choose elements  $a_0^j, \dots, a_{n-1}^j \in \{e_i \mid i \geq k\}$  such that  $e_j = f(a_0^j, \dots, a_{n-1}^j)$ .

Let  $M_2 = M_1 \cup \{(a_1^j, \dots, a_{n-1}^j)\}$ . Then

$$Span_F f[Vir^{(k)}] = \sum_{(a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}) \in M_2} f(Vir^{(k)}, a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}).$$

This completes the proof of the theorem. □

The following theorem concerns ideals  $I$  of a Lie ring  $Vir^{(k)}$ ,  $k \geq -1$ . It  
80 means that we do not assume, a priori, that  $I$  is an  $F$ -vector subspace.

**Theorem 2.4.** *An arbitrary nonzero ideal of a Lie ring  $Vir^{(k)}$ ,  $k \geq -1$ , contains  $Vir^{(l)}$  for some  $l \geq k$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $I \neq (0)$  be an ideal of the Lie ring  $Vir^{(k)}$ . Let  $0 \neq a = \alpha_1 e_{i_1} + \alpha_2 e_{i_2} + \dots + \alpha_m e_{i_m} \in I$ ;  $0 \neq \alpha_i \in F$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m$ ;  $k \leq i_1 < \dots < i_m$  and  $m$  a  
85 minimal integer with this property.

If  $m \geq 2$  then

$$0 \neq [a, e_{i_1}] = \alpha_2(i_2 - i_1)e_{i_1+i_2} + \alpha_3(i_3 - i_1)e_{i_1+i_3} + \cdots + \alpha_m(i_m - i_1)e_{i_1+i_m} \in I,$$

which contradicts minimality of  $m$ . Hence  $m = 1$ , the ideal  $I$  contains an element  $\alpha e_i$ ,  $0 \neq \alpha \in F$ ,  $i \geq k$ . It is easy to see that in this case  $Vir^{(i+k)} = [\alpha e_i, Vir^{(k)}] \subseteq I$ . This completes the proof of the theorem.  $\square$

### 3. Nottingham Group in Characteristic 0

90 Given a field  $\mathbb{F}$ , consider the set of infinite series

$$N_{\mathbb{F}}(t) := \left\{ t + \sum_{k \geq 1} \alpha_k t^{k+1} \mid \alpha_k \in \mathbb{F} \quad k \in \mathbb{N} \right\}.$$

with the group multiplication

$$fg := g(f); f, g \in N_{\mathbb{F}}(t)$$

For a finite field  $\mathbb{F} = GF(p^k)$ , the group  $N_{\mathbb{F}}(t)$  is a finitely generated pro- $p$  group that has been widely studied in the literature.

As always  $O(t^n)$  stands for a formal series lying in  $t^n F[[t]]$ .

**Lemma 3.1.** [13]

- 95
1. If  $f = t + \alpha t^n + O(t^{n+1})$ ,  $g = t + \beta t^n + O(t^{n+1})$ , where  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{F}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , then  $fg = t + (\alpha + \beta)t^n + O(t^{n+1})$ .
  2. If  $f = t + \alpha t^n + O(t^{n+1})$ ,  $0 \neq \alpha \in \mathbb{F}$ , then  $f^{-1} = t - \alpha t^n + O(t^{n+1})$ .
  3. If  $f = t + \alpha t^n + O(t^{n+1})$ ,  $g = t + \beta t^m + O(t^{m+1})$ , where  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{F}$ ,  $n, m \geq 2$ , then  $[f, g] = t + \alpha\beta(n - m)t^{n+m-1} + O(t^{n+m})$ .

100 Notice that the Nottingham group over a field of characteristic 0 is torsion free.

**Lemma 3.2.** Let  $\text{char}\mathbb{F} = 0$ . Then for an arbitrary integer  $n \geq 1$  and an arbitrary element  $g \in N_{\mathbb{F}}(t)$  there exists a unique element  $h \in N_{\mathbb{F}}(t)$  such that  $h^n = g$ .

105 *Proof.* It is easy to see that for any  $n \geq 2$  there exist polynomials  $P_k(x_1, \dots, x_{k-2})$ ,  $k \geq 3$ , such that the  $n$ -th power of an element  $t + \sum_{i=2}^{\infty} \alpha_i t^i \in N_{\mathbb{F}}(t)$  is equal to  $t + n\alpha_2 t^2 + \sum_{k=3}^{\infty} (n\alpha_k + P_k(\alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_{k-1})) t^k$ .

Let  $g = t + \sum_{i=2}^{\infty} \beta_i t^i$ . Define a sequence

$$\alpha_2 = \frac{1}{n} \beta_2, \dots, \alpha_k = \frac{1}{n} (\beta_k - P_k(\alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_{k-1})), \quad k \geq 3.$$

Let  $h = t + \sum_{i=2}^{\infty} \alpha_i t^i$ . Then  $h^n = g$ . It is easy to see that the element  $h$  is the unique element with this property. This completes the proof of the

110 lemma. □

For  $n \geq 1$  consider

$$K_n := \{t + O(t^{n+1})\}$$

In particular,  $K_1 = N_{\mathbb{F}}(t)$ . Lemma 3.1 implies that  $K_n$  is a normal subgroup of  $N_{\mathbb{F}}(t)$  and the mapping

$$\theta : K_n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}, \quad \theta(t + \alpha t^{n+1} + O(t^{n+2})) = \alpha$$

is a homomorphism into the additive group of the field  $\mathbb{F}$ ,  $\text{Ker}\theta = K_{n+1}$ . Hence  $K_n/K_{n+1} \simeq \mathbb{F}$ .

For a group  $G$  let  $\gamma_n(G)$  denote the  $n$ -th term of the lower central series:

$$G = \gamma_1(G) \geq \gamma_2(G) \geq \dots,$$

$$\gamma_n(G) = [\gamma_{n-1}(G), G], \quad n \geq 2.$$

**Lemma 3.3.** ([13]) *For every  $n \geq 1$ , we have that  $\gamma_n = \gamma_n(N_{\mathbb{F}}(t)) = K_n$ .*

Recall that the Lie ring associated with the lower central series of a group  $G$  is the  $\mathbb{N}$ -graded abelian group

$$L(G) = \bigoplus_{n \geq 1} \gamma_n(G)/\gamma_{n+1}(G)$$

with multiplication

$$[a\gamma_{n+1}(G), b\gamma_{m+1}(G)] = [a, b]\gamma_{n+m+1}(G),$$



115 for  $a \in \gamma_n(G)$ ,  $b \in \gamma_m(G)$ .

The isomorphisms  $K_n/K_{n+1} \simeq \mathbb{F}$  define a structure of  $\mathbb{F}$ -vector space on  $L(N_{\mathbb{F}}(t))$ . Lemma 3.1(3) implies that multiplication on  $L(N_{\mathbb{F}}(t))$  is  $\mathbb{F}$ -bilinear, hence  $L(N_{\mathbb{F}}(t))$  is a Lie algebra over the field  $\mathbb{F}$ .

Again from Lemma 3.1(3) it follows that  $L(N_{\mathbb{F}}(t)) \simeq \text{Vir}^{(1)}$

**Definition 3.1.** A group  $G$  is said to be residually nilpotent if

$$\bigcap_{n \geq 1} \gamma_n(G) = (1).$$

120 Taking the system of subgroups  $\gamma_n(G)$ ,  $n \geq 1$ , for the basis of neighbourhoods of 1 we define a topology on the group  $G$ .

If this topology is complete then we say that the group  $G$  is pronilpotent.

By Lemma 3.3 the pronilpotent topology on the group  $N_{\mathbb{F}}(t)$  coincides with the degree topology. Hence  $N_{\mathbb{F}}(t)$  is a pronilpotent group.

125 **Lemma 3.4.** Let  $g \in K_n \setminus K_{n+1}$ ,  $g = t + \alpha t^{n+1} + O(t^{n+2})$ ,  $0 \neq \alpha \in \mathbb{F}$ . Then

1.  $K_{2n+1} = [g, K_{n+1}]$ .
2. For any  $s$ ,  $n < s < 2n$ , we have  $K_s = [g, K_{s-n}]K_{2n}$ .

*Proof.* Denote  $f_i(\beta) = t + \beta t^{i+1}$ ,  $i \geq 1$ ,  $\beta \in \mathbb{F}$ .

We claim that for an arbitrary  $s > n$ ,  $s \neq 2n$ ,

$$K_s = [g, K_{s-n}]K_{s+1} \tag{C}$$

Indeed, choose an arbitrary element  $h = t + \gamma t^{s+1} + O(t^{s+2}) \in K_s$ . Let

130  $\beta = \frac{\gamma}{(2n-s)\alpha}$ .

By Lemma 3.1(3)

$$[g, f_{s-n}(\beta)] = t + (2n-s)\alpha\beta t^{s+1} + O(t^{s+2}) = t + \gamma t^{s+1} + O(t^{s+2}).$$

By Lemma 3.1,  $[g, f_{s-n}(\beta)]^{-1}h \in K_{s+1}$ , which implies the claim.

Now choose an arbitrary element  $h \in K_{2n+1}$ . We will construct a sequence of elements  $a_i \in K_{n+i}$ ,  $i \geq 1$ , such that

$$h \in [g, a_1 \cdots a_i] K_{2n+1+i} \quad \text{for any } i \geq 1.$$

For  $i = 1$ , by (C), there exists an element  $a_1 = f_{n+1}(\beta) \in K_{n+1}$  such that  $h \in [g, a_1] K_{2n+2}$ .

Suppose that elements  $a_1, \dots, a_i$  satisfying that  $h \in [g, a_1 \cdots a_i] K_{2n+1+i}$  have been found. Then  $[g, a_1 \cdots a_i]^{-1} h \in K_{2n+1+i}$ .

By (C) there exists an element  $a_{i+1} \in K_{n+i+1}$  such that

$$[g, a_1 \cdots a_i]^{-1} h = [g, a_{i+1}] \text{ mod } K_{2n+i+2}.$$

Hence,  $h = [g, a_1 \cdots a_i][g, a_{i+1}] \text{ mod } K_{2n+i+2}$ .

Using Hall identity:

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

we get  $[g, a_1 \cdots a_i][g, a_{i+1}] = [g, a_1 \cdots a_i a_{i+1}] \text{ mod } K_{2n+i+2}$ .

We have completed the construction of a sequence  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m, \dots$  with the required properties.

Let  $a = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} a_1 \cdots a_i \in K_{n+1}$ . Then  $h = [g, a]$ .

Let's prove the second assertion. Consider  $s$  any number satisfying  $n < s < 2n$  and  $h' \in K_s$ . Arguing as above and using (C) we find elements  $a_i \in K_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n-1$ , such that

$$h' = [g, a_1 \cdots a_i] \text{ mod } K_{n+i+1}.$$

For the element  $a = a_1 \cdots a_{n-1}$  we have  $h' = [g, a] \text{ mod } K_{2n}$ . This completes the proof of the lemma.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.5.** *An arbitrary non-identical normal subgroup of  $N_{\mathbb{F}}(t)$  contains a subgroup  $K_m$  for some  $m \geq 1$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $H$  be a non-identical normal subgroup of  $N_{\mathbb{F}}(t)$ . Let  $1 \neq g \in H$ , then there is an  $n$  such that  $g \in K_n \setminus K_{n+1}$ .

Then, by Lemma 3.4(1)  $K_{2n+1} = [g, K_{n+1}] \subseteq H$ . This completes the proof, taking  $m = 2n + 1$ .  $\square$

Let  $p(x_1, \dots, x_m)$  be a non-zero polynomial over  $\mathbb{F}$ . Suppose that

$$p = p_0(x_2, \dots, x_m) + x_1 p_1(x_2, \dots, x_m) + x_1^d p_d(x_2, \dots, x_m),$$

where  $p_d(x_2, \dots, x_m) \neq 0$ . Let  $\mathcal{P} = \{p(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m) \mid \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m \in \mathbb{F}\}$ .

**150 Lemma 3.6.**  $\mathbb{F} = \underbrace{\pm \mathcal{P} \pm \mathcal{P} \pm \dots \pm \mathcal{P}}_{2^d}$ . That is, every element in  $\mathbb{F}$  is the sum of  $2^d$  elements, each of them lying in  $\mathcal{P}$  or  $-\mathcal{P}$ .

*Proof.* Introduce  $d$  new variables,  $y_1, \dots, y_d$  and consider the polynomial

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{p}(y_1, \dots, y_d, x_2, \dots, x_m) &= p(y_1 + \dots + y_d, x_2, \dots, x_m) - \\ &\sum_{i=1}^d p(y_1 + \dots + \hat{y}_i + \dots + y_d, x_2, \dots, x_m) + \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq d} p(y_1 + \dots + \hat{y}_i + \dots + \hat{y}_j + \dots + y_d, x_2, \dots, x_m) + \\ &\dots + (-1)^{d-1} \sum_{i=1}^d p(y_i, x_2, \dots, x_m) + (-1)^d p(0, x_2, \dots, x_m) = d! y_1 \dots y_d p_d(x_2, \dots, x_m). \end{aligned}$$

Every element from the field  $\mathbb{F}$  is a value of the polynomial

$$d! y_1 \dots y_d p_d(x_2, \dots, x_m)$$

which implies the assertion of the lemma.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.7.** Let  $\mathbb{F}$  be a field of characteristic zero. Then, the Nottingham group  $N_{\mathbb{F}}(t)$  is verbally elliptic.

**155 Proof.** Let  $\omega(x_1, \dots, x_m)$  be an element of the free group  $\mathcal{F}_m$  on  $m$  free generators  $x_1, \dots, x_m$ .

Let  $G = N_{\mathbb{F}}(t)$ . Suppose that  $\omega[G] \subseteq K_n$  and  $n$  is maximal with this property.

If  $\omega \notin [\mathcal{F}_m, \mathcal{F}_m]$  then  $\omega(G) = G$ . Indeed, if  $\omega \notin [\mathcal{F}_m, \mathcal{F}_m]$  then

$$\omega = x_1^{n_1} x_2^{n_2} \dots x_m^{n_m} \omega',$$

where  $\omega' \in [\mathcal{F}_m, \mathcal{F}_m]$  and some  $n_i \neq 0$ . Suppose that  $n_1 \neq 0$ . Choose  $x_2 = 1, \dots,$

**160**  $x_m = 1$ . Then  $\omega(x_1, 1, \dots, 1) = x_1^{n_1}$ .

Using Lemma 3.2 we can extract roots in  $N_{\mathbb{F}}(t)$  so for every  $f \in N_{\mathbb{F}}(t)$ ,  $f = g^{n_1} = \omega(g, 1, \dots, 1) \in \omega[G]$ .

Hence, without loss of generality, we assume that  $\omega \in [\mathcal{F}_m, \mathcal{F}_m]$ , hence  $n \geq 2$ .

Choose an element  $g \in \omega[G]$ ,  $g \in K_n \setminus K_{n+1}$ .

There exists a polynomial  $p(x_{ij}, 1 \leq i \leq m, 1 \leq j \leq n)$  such that

$$\omega(t + \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_{1j} t^{j+1}, t + \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_{2j} t^{j+1}, \dots, t + \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_{mj} t^{j+1}) = t + p(\alpha_{ij}) t^{n+1} + O(t^{n+2}).$$

165 Let  $d$  be the maximum of (total) degrees of monomials from  $p(x_{ij})$ . By Lemmas 3.1(1) and 3.6, an arbitrary element  $u$  from  $\omega(G)$  is a product of not more than  $r = 2^d$  elements from  $\omega[G]^{\pm 1}$  modulo  $K_{n+1}$ . Hence there exist elements  $g_1, \dots, g_r \in \omega[G]^{\pm 1}$  such that  $u = g_1 \dots g_r$  modulo  $K_{n+1}$ .

By Lemma 3.4(2) there exists an element  $b \in G$  such that

$$(g_1 \dots g_r)^{-1} u = [g, b] \pmod{K_{2n}}.$$

On the other side, since the element  $[g, f_1(1)]$  lies in  $K_{n+1} \setminus K_{n+2}$ , we can  
170 use again Lemma 3.4(2) to get an element  $b_1 \in K_n$  such that

$$[g, b]^{-1} (g_1 \dots g_r)^{-1} u = [[g, f_1(1)], b_1] \pmod{K_{2(n+1)}}.$$

By Lemma 3.4(1) there exists an element  $b_2 \in K_{n+1}$  such that

$$[[g, f_1(1)], b_1]^{-1} [g, b]^{-1} (g_1 \dots g_r)^{-1} u = [g, b_2].$$

Now,  $u = g_1 \dots g_r [g, b] [[g, f_1(1)], b_1] [g, b_2]$ .

A commutator  $[g, b_i]$  is a product of two elements ( $g^{-1}$  and  $g^{b_i} = b_i^{-1} g b_i$ ) of  $\omega[G]^{\pm 1}$ . The commutator  $[[g, f_1(1)], b_1]$  is a product of four elements from  $\omega[G]^{\pm 1}$ . Hence the verbal width in the group  $G = N_{\mathbb{F}}(t)$  is at most  $r + 8$ .

175 This completes the proof of the Theorem.  $\square$

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