

## On quasi HNN groups

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### ABSTRACT

In this paper we extend the class of HNN groups to a new class of groups called quasi HNN groups. Also in this paper we formulate and prove an embedding theorem and version of Britton's Lemma for the new class of quasi HNN groups.

**Keywords:** Britton's Lemma, Embedding theorem, Quasi HNN groups,  
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### 1. INTRODUCTION

First we start by the following definition.

Let  $A$  be a nontrivial group, and  $\phi : A \rightarrow A$  be an automorphism. We say that  $\phi$  is an outer automorphism of rank  $n$  determined by  $a \in A$ , if  $\phi(a) = a$ , and  $n$  is the minimal integer such that  $n \geq 2$ ,  $\phi \notin \text{Inn}(A)$ ,  $\phi^n \in \text{Inn}(A)$ , and  $\phi^n(x) = a a^{-1}x$  for all elements  $x$  of  $A$ .

If  $A$  is trivial, we take the identity map to be outer automorphism of rank  $n \geq 2$  determined by the identity element of  $A$ .

We note that if  $\phi$  is an automorphism of a nontrivial group  $G$  such that,  $\phi \notin \text{Inn}(G)$ ,  $\phi^n \in \text{Inn}(G)$ ,  $\phi(g) = g$  for a fixed element  $g$  of  $G$ , and for a positive integer  $n$ , such that  $\phi^n(x) = g g^{-1}x$  for all elements  $x$  of  $G$ , then it is clear that  $n \geq 2$  and  $\phi$  is an outer automorphism of  $G$  of rank  $n \geq 2$  determined by  $g$ .

Now we define the quasi HNN groups as follows.

Let  $G$  be a group and  $I$  and  $J$  be index sets. Let  $\{A_i; i \in I\}$ ,  $\{B_i; i \in I\}$ , and  $\{C_j; j \in J\}$  be families of subgroups of  $G$ . For each  $i \in I$ , let  $\phi_i : A_i \rightarrow B_i$  be an onto isomorphism and for each  $j \in J$ , let  $\alpha_j : C_j \rightarrow C_j$  be an outer automorphism of rank  $h_j \geq 2$  determined by  $c_j \in C_j$ .

The group  $G^*$  with the presentation

$G^* = \langle G, t_i, t_j \mid \text{rel } G, t_i A_i t_i^{-1} = B_i, t_j C_j t_j^{-1} = C_j, t_j^{h_j} = c_j, i \in I, j \in J \rangle$  is called a quasi HNN group with base  $G$ , stable letters  $t_i$  and  $t_j$  and associated pairs  $(A_i, B_i)$  and  $(C_j, C_j)$ ,  $i \in I, j \in J$ , of subgroups of  $G$ , where  $t_i A_i t_i^{-1} = B_i$ , stands

for the set of relations  $t_i a t_i^{-1} = \phi_i(a)$ , for all  $a \in A_i$  and  $t_j C_j t_j^{-1} = C_j$  stands for the set of relations  $t_j c t_j^{-1} = \alpha_j(c)$ , for all  $c \in C_j$ . We note that if  $J = \phi$ , then  $G^*$  is an HNN group with base  $G$  and associated pairs  $(A_i, B_i), i \in I$ , of subgroups of  $G$ .

This paper is divided into four sections. In section two we prove an embedding theorem for quasi HNN groups. In section three Britton's Lemma for HNN groups is extended to quasi HNN groups. In section four we give examples of quasi HNN groups.

## 2. THE EMBEDDING THEOREM FOR QUASI HNN GROUPS

The main result of this paper states that if  $G^*$  is a quasi HNN group with base  $G$ , then  $G$  is embedded in  $G^*$ . The proof of the main result will follow from the following lemmas.

**Lemma 1.** Let  $A$  be a group and let  $\alpha : A \rightarrow A$  be an outer automorphism of rank  $n \geq 2$  determined by  $a_0 \in A$ .

Let  $A^* = \langle A, t \mid \text{rel } A, t A t^{-1} = A, t^n = a_0 \rangle$  be a quasi HNN group with base  $A$ . Then  $A$  is embedded in  $A^*$ . Moreover,  $n$  is the smallest power of  $t$  in the image of  $A$  in  $A^*$ .

**Proof.** If  $A$  is trivial, the result is clear.

Let  $A$  be nontrivial and  $S = A \cup At \cup At^2 \cup \dots \cup At^{n-1}$  be a union of cosets of  $A$ .

Let  $S^*$  denote the group of all permutations of  $S$ . Our aim is to construct a homomorphism from  $A^*$  into  $S^*$ . Clearly, it suffices to define this homomorphism on  $A$  and  $t$ , and then verify that all defining relations in  $A^*$  hold under the constructed homomorphism. We adopt the convention that  $t^0 = 1_A$ , the identity of  $A$  and  $\alpha^0$ , the identity automorphism. We first define a homomorphism  $\theta : A \rightarrow S^*$ .

For  $a' \in A$  define  $\theta(a') : S \rightarrow S$  as follows

$$(a t^r) \theta(a') = a \alpha^r(a') t^r, \quad 0 \leq r \leq n-1.$$

Now for any  $a_1, a_2 \in A$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} (a t^r) \theta(a_1) \theta(a_2) &= a \alpha^r(a_1) t^r \theta(a_2) \\ &= a \alpha^r(a_1) \alpha^r(a_2) t^r \\ &= a \alpha^r(a_1 a_2) t^r, \quad \text{since } \alpha^r \in \text{Aut}(A) \\ &= (a t^r) \theta(a_1 a_2). \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $\theta(a_1) \theta(a_2) = \theta(a_1 a_2)$ . In particular  $\theta(a_1) \theta(a_1^{-1}) = \theta(a_1^{-1}) \theta(a_1)$  is a permutation of  $S$ . That is, relations of  $A$  hold under  $\theta$ . Hence  $\theta(a')$  is a permutation of  $S$  and  $\theta$  is a homomorphism from  $A$  into  $S^*$ .

Since  $(1_A) \theta(a) = a$  for every  $a \in A$ , therefore  $\theta(a)$  is the identity on  $S$  if and only if  $a = 1_A \in A$ . Hence  $\theta$  is a monomorphism form  $A$  into  $S^*$ .

Now we construct a homomorphism  $\phi^* : A^* \rightarrow S^*$ .

Define  $\phi(a') : S \rightarrow S$  by  $\phi(a') = \theta(a')$  and define  $\phi(t) : S \rightarrow S$  as follows.

$$(a t^r) \phi(t) = a t^{r+1} \quad , \quad \text{for } 0 \leq r \leq n-2 .$$

$$(a t^{n-1}) \phi(t) = a a_0 .$$

To show that  $\phi(t)$  is also a permutation on  $S$  define  $\Psi(t) : S \rightarrow S$  by

$$(a t^r) \Psi(t) \begin{cases} a t^{r-1} & \text{if } 1 \leq r \leq n-1 \\ a a_0^{-1} t^{n-1} & \text{if } r = 0 \end{cases}$$

Then we have  $(a t^r) \phi(t) \Psi(t) = (a t^{r+1}) \Psi(t) = a t^r$  ,  $0 \leq r \leq n-2$

$$(a t^{n-1}) \phi(t) \Psi(t) = a a_0 \Psi(t) = a a_0 a_0^{-1} t^{n-1} = a t^{n-1}$$

$$(a t^r) \Psi(t) \phi(t) = (a t^{r-1}) \phi(t) = a t^r \quad , \quad 1 \leq r \leq n-1$$

$$(a) \Psi(t) \phi(t) = (a a_0^{-1} t^{n-1}) \phi(t) = a a_0^{-1} a_0 = a \quad \text{for } r = 0 .$$

Thus  $\phi(t) \Psi(t) = \Psi(t) \phi(t) =$  the identity on  $S$ . Hence  $\phi(t)$  is a permutation on  $S$ . To show that  $\phi(a')$  together with  $\phi(t)$  induce a homomorphism  $\phi^*$  from  $A^*$  into  $S^*$ , we only have to verify that the defining relations in  $A^*$  hold under  $\phi$ .

Let  $\phi(t^n)$  denote  $\phi(t) \phi(t) \dots \phi(t)$  to  $n$  factors. Then

$$(a t^r) \phi(t^n) = (a t^{r+1}) \phi(t^{n-1}) \quad , \quad 0 \leq r \leq n-2$$

$$= (a t^{r+2}) \phi(t^{n-2})$$

$$\vdots$$

$$= a a_0 t^r$$

$$= a \alpha^r(a_0) t^r \quad , \quad \text{since } \alpha^r(a_0) = a_0$$

$$= (a t^r) \phi(a_0) .$$

Thus  $\phi(t^n) = \phi(a_0)$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 (a t^r) \phi(t) \phi(a')(\phi(t))^{-1} &= (a t^{r+1}) \phi(a')(\phi(t))^{-1}, \quad 0 \leq r \leq n-2 \\
 &= (a \alpha^{r+1}(a')t^{r+1}) \Psi(t) \\
 &= a \alpha^{r+1}(a') t^r \\
 &= a \alpha^r(\alpha(a')) t^r \\
 &= (a t^r) \phi(\alpha(a'))
 \end{aligned}$$

Now for  $r = n-1$  we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (a t^{n-1}) \phi(t) \phi(a')(\phi(t))^{-1} &= (a a_0) \phi(a')(\phi(t))^{-1} \\
 &= (a a_0 a') \Psi(t) \\
 &= a a_0 a' a_0^{-1} t^{n-1} \\
 &= a \alpha^n(a') t^{n-1} \\
 &= a \alpha^{n-1}(\alpha(a')) t^{n-1} \\
 &= (a t^{n-1}) \phi(\alpha(a'))
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $\phi(t) \phi(a')(\phi(t))^{-1} = \phi(\alpha(a'))$ , and the defining relations in  $A^*$  hold under  $\phi$ .

Hence  $\phi$  induces a homomorphism  $\phi^*$  from  $A^*$  into  $S^*$ . Since  $\phi$  is a monomorphism  $A$  is embedded in  $A^*$ . Moreover, identifying  $A$  with its image in  $A^*$ , we have  $(1_A) \phi(t^r) = t^r$ ,  $1 \leq r \leq n-1$ ,  $(1_A) \phi(a) = a$ , for every  $a \in A$ . Thus  $\phi(t^r) \neq \phi(a)$  in  $S^*$ . Hence  $t^r \neq a$  in  $A^*$  for  $1 \leq r \leq n-1$ . That is, no nontrivial power of  $t$  smaller than  $n$  is in the image of  $A$ . This completes the proof.

**Lemma 2.** Let  $G$  be a group, and  $A$  be a subgroup of  $G$ . Let  $\alpha : A \rightarrow A$  be an outer automorphism of rank  $n \geq 2$  determined by  $a_0 \in A$ .

Let  $G^* = \langle G, t \mid \text{rel } G, t A t^{-1} = A, t^n = a_0 \rangle$  be the quasi HNN group with base  $G$ . Then  $G$  is embedded in  $G^*$ . Moreover, the smallest power of  $t$  in the image of  $A$  in  $G^*$  is  $n$ .

**Proof.** If  $A$  is trivial, then  $G^* = \langle G, t \mid \text{rel } G, t^n = 1 \rangle$ . Then  $G^*$  is the free product of  $G$  and of a cyclic group of order  $n$  generated by  $t$ . Then it is clear that  $G$  is embedded in  $G^*$ .

Now let  $A$  be nontrivial.

If  $G = A$ , we have Lemma 1. If  $A \neq G$ , let  $A^*$  be the group

$A^* = \langle A, t \mid \text{rel } A, t A t^{-1} = A, t^n = a_0 \rangle$ . By Lemma 1,  $A$  is embedded as a subgroup  $A'$  in  $A^*$ . We consider the amalgamated free product  $H = G *_A A^*$  in which we amalgamate the subgroup  $A$  of  $G$  with the subgroup  $A'$  of  $A^*$  by an isomorphism from  $A$  onto  $A'$ . Then  $H$  has the presentation

$H = \langle G, A', t \mid \text{rel } G, \text{rel } A', t A' t^{-1} = A', t^n = a_0, a' = a, a \in A \rangle$ . Hence the presentation  $H = \langle G, t \mid \text{rel } G, t A t^{-1} = A, t^n = a_0 \rangle$ . Thus  $H \cong G^*$ , and hence  $G^* \cong G *_A A^*$ . By Theorem 2.6 (page 187 of Lyndon and Schupp 1977)  $G$  is embedded in  $G^*$ . This completes the proof.

**Lemma 3.** Let  $G$  be a group and  $\{A_i; i \in I\}$  be a family of subgroups of  $G$ . For each  $i \in I$ , let  $\alpha_i : A_i \rightarrow A_i$  be an outer automorphism of rank  $n_i \geq 2$  determined by  $a'_i \in A_i$ . Then  $G$  is embedded in the quasi HNN group

$$G^* = \langle G, t_i \mid \text{rel } G, t_i A_i t_i^{-1} = A_i, t_i^{n_i} = a'_i, i \in I \rangle .$$

**Proof.** If  $A_i$  is trivial,  $i \in I$ , then  $G^* = \langle G, t_i \mid \text{rel } G, t_i^{n_i} = 1 \rangle$ . Then  $G^*$  is the free product of  $G$  and of a cyclic group of order  $n_i$  generated by  $t_i$ . Then it is clear that  $G$  is embedded in  $G^*$ .

Now let  $A_i, i \in I$  be nontrivial. For each  $i \in I$ , let  $G_i$  be an isomorphic copy of  $G$ . Then  $G$  contains an isomorphic copy  $\overline{A_i}$  of the subgroup  $A_i$  of  $G$ . For each  $i \in I$ , let

$$H_i = \langle G_i, t_i \mid \text{rel } G_i, t_i \overline{A_i} t_i^{-1} = \overline{A_i}, t_i^{n_i} = \hat{a}_i, \hat{a}_i \in \overline{A_i} \rangle .$$

Then  $H_i$  is a quasi HNN group with base  $G_i$ . By Lemma 2,  $G_i$  is embedded in  $H_i$  for each  $i \in I$ . Take  $H = *_G H_i$  for each  $i \in I$ , amalgamating the subgroups  $G_i$ . Then  $H_i$  is embedded in  $H$  for each  $i \in I$ . It follows that  $G_i$  and  $G$  are embedded in  $H$ . Now a presentation for  $H$  is  $HH = \langle G, G_i, t_i \mid \text{rel } G, t_i \overline{A_i} t_i^{-1} = \overline{A_i}, t_i^{n_i} = \hat{a}_i, G_i = G, i \in I \rangle$ . Hence  $H$  has the presentation  $H = \langle G, t_i \mid \text{rel } G, t_i A_i t_i^{-1} = A_i, t_i^{n_i} = a'_i, a'_i \in A_i, i \in I \rangle$ . Thus  $H \cong G^*$ ,  $G^* = *_G HH_i$ , for each  $i \in I$ , and hence  $G$  is embedded in  $G^*$ .

This completes the proof.

The main result of this section is the following theorem.

**Theorem 1.** Let  $\{A_i, i \in I\}$ ,  $\{B_i, i \in I\}$ , and  $\{C_j, j \in J\}$  be families of subgroups of a group  $G$ . For each  $i \in I$  let  $\phi_i : A_i \rightarrow B_i$  be an onto isomorphism and for each  $j \in J$  let  $\alpha_j : C_j \rightarrow C_j$  be an outer automorphism of rank  $h_j \geq 2$  determined by  $c_j \in C_j$ .

Let  $G^* = \langle G, t_i, t_j \mid \text{rel } G, t_i A_i t_i^{-1} = B_i, t_j C_j t_j^{-1} = C_j, t_j^{h_j} = c_j, i \in I, j \in J \rangle$  be a quasi HNN group. Then  $G$  is embedded in  $G^*$ .

**Proof.** If the subgroups  $C_j, j \in J$  are trivial, then  $G^*$  is the free product of the HNN group  $\langle G, t_i \mid \text{rel } G, t_i A_i t_i^{-1} = B_i, i \in I \rangle$  and cyclic groups of orders  $h_j \geq 2$  generated by  $t_j, j \in J$ . By the embedding theorem for HNN groups,  $G$  is embedded in  $\langle G, t_i \mid \text{rel } G, t_i A_i t_i^{-1} = B_i, i \in I \rangle$ . This implies that  $G$  is embedded in  $G^*$ .

Now assume that the subgroups  $C_j, j \in J$  are nontrivial.

Let  $G_1 = \langle G, t_i \mid \text{rel } G, t_i A_i t_i^{-1} = B_i, i \in I \rangle$ .

Then  $G_1$  is an HNN group with base  $G$ , stable letters  $t_i$  and associated pairs  $(A_i, B_i), i \in I$  of subgroups of  $G_1$ . Then by Theorem 2.1 (page 182 of Karrass and Solitar 1970),  $G$  is embedded in  $G_1$ . Now take

$$G^* = \langle G_1, t_j \mid \text{rel } G_1, t_j C_j t_j^{-1} = C_j, t_j^{h_j} = c_j, j \in J \rangle.$$

Then  $G^*$  is a quasi HNN group with base  $G_1$ , stable letters  $t_j$ , and associated pairs  $(C_j, C_j), j \in J$ , of subgroups of  $G_1$ . By Lemma 3,  $G_1$  is embedded in  $G^*$ .

Hence  $G$  is embedded in  $G^*$ . This completes the proof.

### 3. VERSIONS OF BRITTON'S LEMMA FOR QUASI HNN GROUPS

We turn now to a discussion of the word problem in quasi HNN groups.

Britton's Lemma (Lyndon and Schupp 1977, page 1881) settle the problem for HNN groups. We are seeking some versions of this lemma which will hold in quasi HNN groups.

Recall that if  $G = \langle X \mid R \rangle$  is a presentation of the group  $G$ , then a reduced word  $w$  on the generating set  $X$  is a word on  $X$  which contains no subword of the form  $x x^{-1}$  or  $x^{-1} x, x \in X$ .

**Lemma 4.** Let  $A$  and  $A^*$  be as in Lemma 1. If  $w$  is a reduced word on  $\{A, t\}$ , involving  $t$ , and if  $w = 1$  in  $A^*$ , then  $w$  contains a subword of the form  $t^e a t^\delta$ , or  $t^{\pm n}$ , where  $a \in A$ , and  $e, \delta = \pm 1$ .

**Proof.** By Lemma 1,  $A$  is embedded in  $A^*$ . We identify  $A$  with its image in  $A^*$ . We need only consider the word  $w = a' t^{e_1} a_1 \dots t^{e_k} a_k, k \geq 1$ , where  $e_i \neq 0$ , are integers,  $-n < e_i < n, i = 1, \dots, k$ , and  $a', a_1, \dots, a_k$  are in  $A$  of which only  $a'$  and  $a_k$  may be trivial. Let  $Z_n = \langle z \rangle$  denote the cyclic group of order  $n$  generated by  $z$  and consider the map  $\phi : A^* \rightarrow Z_n$  defined by  $\phi(a) = 1$  for all  $a \in A$ , and  $\phi(t) = z$ . Then  $\phi$  is a homomorphism because all relations in  $A^*$  are mapped to the identity in  $Z_n$ .

Now  $\phi(w) = \phi(a' t^{e_1} a_1 \dots t^{e_k} a_k) = 1$  in  $Z_n$ . That is,  $z^{e_1+e_2+\dots+e_k} = 1$  in  $Z_n$ . Hence  $\sum_{i=1}^k e_i \equiv 0(n)$  and  $k \neq 1$ . That is,  $k \geq 2$  and hence  $w$  contains a subword  $t^e a t^\delta$ , where  $a \in A$ , and  $e, \delta = \pm 1$ . this completes the proof.

**Lemma 5.** Let  $G, A, \alpha$ , and  $G^*$  be as in Lemma 2. If  $w$  is a reduced word on  $\{G, t\}$  involving  $t$ , and if  $w = 1$  in  $G^*$ , then  $w$  contains a subword of the form  $t^e a t^\delta$ , or  $t^{\pm n}$ , where  $a \in A$ , and  $e, \delta = \pm 1$ .

**Proof.** By Lemma 2,  $G$  is embedded in  $G^* = G^*_A A^*$ , where

$$A^* = \langle A, t \mid \text{rel } A, t A t^{-1} = A, t^n = a_0 \rangle .$$

We identify  $G$  with its image in  $G^*$ , and consider the word  $w = g_0 t^{e_1} g_1 \dots t^{e_k} g_k$ ,  $k \geq 1$ , where  $e_i \neq 0$ , are integers,  $-n < e_i < n, i = 1, \dots, k$ , and  $g_0, g_1, \dots, g_k$  are in  $G$  of which  $g_0$  and  $g_k$  may be trivial. Now  $w = g_0 t^{e_1} g_1 \dots t^{e_k} g_k = 1$  in  $G^* = G^*_A A^*$ . Since  $t^{e_i}$  is not in  $A$ , by Lemma 1, at least  $g_i, 1 \leq i \leq k-1$  is in the amalgamated subgroup  $A$ . We observe that  $k \geq 2$ , since otherwise  $t^{e_1} = g_0^{-1} g_1^{-1}$  in  $G$  and hence in  $A$  because of the amalgamation. This contradicts Lemma 1. Hence  $w$  contains no subword of the claimed form. This completes the proof.

**Lemma 6.** Let  $G, A_i, \alpha_i, i \in I$ , be as in Lemma 3. Let

$$G^* = \langle G, t_i \mid \text{rel } G, t_i A_i t_i^{-1} = A_i, t_i^{n_i} = a'_i, i \in I \rangle .$$

Let  $w$  be a reduced word on  $\{G, t_i\}$  involving  $t_i, i \in I$ . If  $w = 1$  in  $G^*$ , then  $w$  contains a subword of the form  $t_i^e a_i t_i^\delta$ , or  $t_i^{\pm n_i}$ , where  $a_i \in A_i$ , and  $e, \delta = \pm 1$ .

**Proof.** For each  $i \in I$ , let  $H_i = \langle G, t_i \mid \text{rel } G, t_i A_i t_i^{-1} = A_i, t_i^{n_i} = a'_i, a'_i \in A_i \rangle$ .

Then  $H_i$  is a quasi HNN group with base  $G$  and stable letters  $t_i, i \in I$ .

For this  $i$ , let  $A_i^* = \langle A_i, t_i \mid \text{rel } A_i, t_i A_i t_i^{-1} = A_i, t_i^{n_i} = a'_i, a'_i \in A_i \rangle$ .

By Lemma 2,  $H_i = G^*_{A_i} A_i^*$ , and by the proof of Lemma 3,  $G^* = {}^*_G H_i$ , for each  $i \in I$ . Then  $G^*$  is generated by an isomorphic copies of the  $H_i$ . Thus an element of  $G^*$  can be expressed as a word  $w = h_{i_1} \dots h_{i_r}$ , where  $h_{i_j} \in H_{i_j}, j = 1, \dots, r$ , and  $H_{i_j} \neq H_{i_{j+1}}$ , for  $j = 1, \dots, r-1$ . Now suppose that  $w = h_{i_1} \dots h_{i_r}$ , represents the identity in  $G^*$ . Then at least one  $h_{i_j}$  for  $1 < j < r$  is in the amalgamated subgroup  $G$ . Then  $h_{i_j}$  can be expressed as a reduced word on  $\{G, t_i\}$ , for some  $i: h_{i_j} = g_0 t_i^{e_1} g_1 \dots t_i^{e_m} g_m$ , where  $g_0, g_1, \dots, g_m$  are in  $G$  and for this  $i, -n_i < e_k < n_i, k = 1, \dots, m$ . Now since the word  $h_{i_j}$  represents an element of  $G$ , there is a word  $g$  on the generators of  $G$  such that  $h_{i_j} g^{-1} = g_0 t_i^{e_1} g_1 \dots t_i^{e_m} g_m g^{-1}$  representing the identity in  $H_i$ . But  $H_i = G^*_{A_i} A_i^*$ , and by Lemma 2,  $t_i^{e_k}$  is not in  $G$  for  $k = 1, \dots, m$ . Since  $g$  does not involve  $t_i$ , we have at least one

$g_s, 1 \leq s \leq m-1$  in the amalgamated subgroup  $A_i$ . Hence  $h_j g^{-1}, h_j$ , and  $w$  contain a subword of at least one of the claimed forms. This completes the proof.

We now consider words representing the identity in the most general quasi HNN groups of Theorem 1. This general question is answered in the following.

**Theorem 2.** Let  $G, A_i, B_i, \phi_i, C_j, \alpha_j, i \in I$  and,  $j \in J$  be as in Theorem 1. Let

$$\pi^* = \langle G, t_i, t_j \mid \text{rel } G, t_i A_i t_i^{-1} = B_i, t_j C_j t_j^{-1} = C_j, t_j^{h_j} = c_j, i \in I, j \in J \rangle.$$

Let  $w$  be a reduced word on  $\{G, t_i, t_j\}$  involving some  $t_i$  or some  $t_j$  or both.

If  $w = 1$  in  $\pi^*$ , then  $w$  contains a subword of the forms

- (1)  $t_i a t_i^{-1}, a \in A_i$ , for some  $i \in I$ ,
- or (2)  $t_i^{-1} b t_i, b \in B_i$ , for some  $i \in I$ ,
- or (3)  $t_j^e c t_j^\delta, c \in C_j$  for some  $j \in J$ , and  $e, \delta = \pm 1$ .
- or (4)  $t_j^{\pm h_j}$ , for some  $j \in J$ .

**Proof.** Let  $\pi_1 = \langle G, t_i \mid \text{rel } G, t_i A_i t_i^{-1} = B_i, i \in I \rangle$ . Then  $\pi_1$  is an HNN group with base  $G$ , stable letters  $t_i$  and associated pairs  $(A_i, B_i), i \in I$ . Therefore  $G$  and hence all subgroups of  $G$  are embedded in  $\pi_1$ .

Let  $\pi_2 = \langle G, t_j \mid \text{rel } G, t_j C_j t_j^{-1} = C_j, t_j^{h_j} = c_j, j \in J \rangle$ . Then  $\pi_2$  is a quasi HNN group with base  $G$ , stable letters  $t_j$  and associated pairs  $(C_j, C_j), j \in J$ . By Lemma 3,  $G$  and hence all subgroups of  $G$  are embedded in  $\pi_2$ .

Take  $\pi_1^* = \langle \pi_1, t_j \mid \text{rel } \pi_1, t_j C_j t_j^{-1} = C_j, t_j^{h_j} = c_j, j \in J \rangle$ , and  $\pi_2^* = \langle \pi_2, t_i \mid \text{rel } \pi_2, t_i A_i t_i^{-1} = B_i, i \in I \rangle$ . Then  $\pi_1, G$  and all subgroups of  $G$  are embedded in  $\pi_1^*$ , while  $\pi_2, G$  and all subgroups of  $G$  are embedded in  $\pi_2^*$ . Clearly  $\pi_1^* \cong \pi_2^* \cong \pi^*$ . Now if  $w$  involves only  $t_i$ , then  $w = 1$  in  $\pi_1$ . By Britton's Lemma for HNN groups  $w$  contains a subword of the form  $t_i a t_i^{-1}, a \in A_i$ , for some  $i, i \in I$ , or  $t_i^{-1} b t_i, b \in B_i$ , for some  $i, i \in I$ . If  $w$  involves only  $t_j$ , then  $w = 1$  in  $\pi_2$ . By Lemma 6,  $w$  contains a subword of the form  $t_j^e c t_j^\delta, c \in C_j$  for some  $j, j \in J$ , and  $e, \delta = \pm 1$ .

Consider now the general case in which  $w$  contains some  $t_i$  and some  $t_j$ . By the first part of the proof we have the embedding  $G \subseteq \pi_2 \subseteq \pi^*$ . then  $\pi^*$  is an HNN group with base the quasi HNN group with base  $\pi_2$ , stable letters  $t_i$ , and associated pairs  $(A_i, B_i), i \in I$ . By Britton's Lemma for HNN groups,  $w$  contains a subword of the form  $t_i^e u t_i^{-e}, e = \pm 1$ , where  $u$  is a word on  $\{G, t_j, j \in J\}$  representing an element of  $A_i$  or  $B_i$  for some  $i, i \in I$  whether  $e = 1$  or  $e = -1$ .

Assume that  $e = 1$ . If  $u$  is a word on the generators of  $G$  alone then  $u$



represents an element of  $A_i$  and  $t_i u t_i^{-1}$  is the desired subword.

If  $u$  involves some of the  $t_j$ , then  $u$  is a word in  $\pi_2$ . Since  $u$  represents an element of  $A_i$ , that is, an element of  $G$ , there is a word  $v$  on the generators of  $G$  such that  $u v^{-1}$  represents the identity in  $\pi_2$ . But  $\pi_2$  is a quasi HNN group with base  $G$ , hence by Lemma 3,  $u v^{-1}$  contains a subword of the form  $t_j^e c t_j^\delta$ , or  $t_j^{\pm h_j}$ , for some  $j, j \in J$ , and  $e, \delta = \pm 1$ , where  $c$  is a word on the generators of  $G$  representing an element of  $C_j$  for some  $j \in J$ . Since  $v$  contains no  $t_j, u$  and hence  $w$  contains a subword of at least one of the claimed forms.

The case  $e = -1$  is similar. This completes the proof.

**Remark.** Consider the HNN group  $G^* = \langle G, t_i \mid \text{rel } G, t_i A_i t_i^{-1} = B_i, i \in I \rangle$ .

Karrass and Solitar (1977, Lemma 3) proved that if  $G^*$  is finitely generated and  $A_i, i \in I$  are finitely generated, then  $G$  is finitely generated. Mahmood (1993) proved that if  $G^*$  and  $G$  are finitely presented, then  $A_i, i \in I$  is finitely generated. Now we can generalize these results to quasi HNN groups as in the following lemma. The proof is similar.

**Lemma 7.** Let  $G^*$  be the quasi HNN group

$$G^* = \langle G, t_i, t_j \mid \text{rel } G, t_i A_i t_i^{-1} = B_i, t_j C_j t_j^{-1} = C_j, t_j^{h_j} = c_j, i \in I, j \in J \rangle .$$

Then

- (1) If  $G^*$  is finitely generated, then  $I \cup J$  is finite. Moreover, if  $I \cup J$  is finite and  $G$  is finitely generated then  $G^*$  is finitely generated. Also, if  $I \cup J$  is finite,  $A_i$  and  $C_j, i \in I, j \in J$  are finitely generated and  $G$  is finitely presented, then  $G^*$  is finitely presented.
- (2) If  $G^*$  is finitely generated and  $A_i$  and  $C_j, i \in I, j \in J$  are finitely generated, then  $G$  is finitely generated.
- (3) If  $G^*$  and  $G$  are finitely presented, then  $A_i$  and  $C_j, i \in I, j \in J$  are finitely generated.

#### 4. EXAMPLES OF QUASI HNN GROUPS

We say that a group  $H$  is a quasi free group if  $H$  is a free product of cyclic groups (finite or infinite), i.e.  $H$  is a free product of a free group and finite cyclic groups.

The next theorem and corollary give more examples of quasi free groups.

**Theorem 3.** A quasi HNN group is a quasi free group if and only if its base is trivial.

**Proof.** Let  $G^*$  be the quasi HNN group

$$G^* = \langle G, t_i, t_j \mid \text{rel } G, t_i A_i t_i^{-1} = B_i, t_j C_j t_j^{-1} = C_j, t_j^{h_j} = c_j, i \in I, j \in J \rangle .$$

Since  $G$  is trivial, therefore the subgroups  $A_i, C_j, i \in I, j \in J$  are trivial. This implies that  $G^* = \langle t_i, t_j \mid t_j^{h_j} = 1, i \in I, j \in J \rangle$ . Then  $G^*$  is the free product of the free group generated by  $t_i, i \in I$  and cyclic groups of orders  $h_j$  generated by  $t_j, j \in J$ . Hence  $G^*$  is a quasi free group

Conversely, let  $G^*$  be a quasi free group. Then  $G^*$  is a free product of a free group generated by  $t_i, i \in I$  and of finite cyclic groups of orders  $h_j$  generated by  $t_j, j \in J$ . Then  $G^*$  has the presentation  $\langle t_i, t_j \mid t_j^{h_j} = 1, i \in I, j \in J \rangle$  which is a quasi HNN group with trivial base and trivial pairs of subgroups. This completes the proof.

The proof of the following corollary is clear.

**Corollary 1.** Let  $G^*$  be the quasi HNN group

$$G^* = \langle G, t_i, t_j \mid \text{rel } G, t_i A_i t_i^{-1} = B_i, t_j C_j t_j^{-1} = C_j, t_j^{h_j} = c_j, i \in I, j \in J \rangle .$$

Then

(1) If  $G$  is trivial,  $I = \varnothing, |J| = 2$ , and  $h_1 = h_2 = 2$ , then  $G^*$  is the infinite dihedral group  $\langle t_1, t_2 \mid t_1^2 = 1, t_2^2 = 1 \rangle$ .

(2) If  $G$  is trivial,  $I = \varnothing$ , and  $|J| = 1$ , then  $G^*$  is the cyclic group  $\langle t \mid t^h = 1 \rangle$  of order  $h$ .

Now we conclude this section by the following lemma which gives more examples of quasi HNN groups. The proof is similar to the proof of Lemma 12 of Baumslag (1993).

**Lemma 8.** Let  $G^*$  be the quasi HNN group

$$G^* = \langle G, t_i, t_j \mid \text{rel } G, t_i A_i t_i^{-1} = B_i, t_j C_j t_j^{-1} = C_j, t_j^{h_j} = c_j, i \in I, j \in J \rangle .$$

Suppose that  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$  such that

$$t_i(A_i \cap H)t_i^{-1} = B_i \cap H, t_j(C_j \cap H)t_j^{-1} = C_j \cap H, c_j \in H, i \in I, j \in J .$$

Then the subgroup  $gp(H, t_i, t_j)$  of  $G^*$  generated by  $H, t_i$  and  $t_j$  is the quasi HNN group

$$\langle H, t_i, t_j \mid \text{rel}(H), t_i H_i t_i^{-1} = \overline{H}_i, t_j H_j t_j^{-1} = H_j, t_j^{h_j} = c_j, i \in I, j \in J \rangle$$

with base  $H$ , stable letters  $t_i$ , and  $t_j$ , and associated pairs  $(H_i, \overline{H}_i)$  and  $(H_j, H_j)$ ,  $i \in I, j \in J$ , of subgroups of  $H$ , where

$$A_i \cap H = H_i, B_i \cap H = \overline{H}_i, \text{ and } C_j \cap H = H_j, I \in I, j \in J.$$

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## أشباه الزمر HNN

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### خلاصة

لقد تم في هذا البحث توسيع فئات الزمر HNN إلى فئات جديدة من الزمر تسمى أشباه الزمر HNN. كذلك تم تعميم مبرهنة Britton للزمر HNN إلى أشباه الزمر HNN.