

April 20, 2021

CORRIGENDUM TO “A COMPACTLY GENERATED PSEUDOGROUP WHICH IS NOT REALIZABLE”

There is an error in [1], Section 3, on page 1208, at the place “it is easily verified that”. The identity that follows this phrase does not hold for $C \neq 1$.

The problem takes place in the construction of two germs α, β at 0 of smooth (C^∞) diffeomorphisms of the real halfline $[0, +\infty)$, infinitely tangential to the identity, which generate a free nonabelian group.

The alleged method cannot work, since if it did, it would apply as well to Thurston’s Example 2 in [3], making this example smooth, contrarily to Thurston’s Stability Theorem.

Instead, there is a correct (and classical) construction of such α and β , as follows.

After White [5], the two homeomorphisms $A : x \mapsto x + 1$ and $B : x \mapsto x^3$ of the real line generate a free group. Hence, so do A and $B^{-1} \circ A \circ B$. By analyticity, so do the germs of A and $B^{-1} \circ A \circ B$ at $+\infty$. After a conjugation by $x \mapsto 1/x$, we find that the germs at $0+$ of the two real analytic diffeomorphisms of the line

$$f : t \mapsto t(1+t)^{-1}$$
$$g : t \mapsto t(1+t^3)^{-1/3}$$

generate a free group. Now, remember the Muller-Tsuboi conjugacy:

LEMMA ([2,4]). *Let h be the germ at 0 of a smooth diffeomorphism of $[0, +\infty)$, such that $h'(0) = 1$. Consider*

$$\phi : t \mapsto e^{-1/t}.$$

Then, $\phi^{-1} \circ h \circ \phi$ is smooth and infinitely tangential to the identity at 0.

Hence, $\alpha := \phi^{-1} \circ f \circ \phi$ and $\beta := \phi^{-1} \circ g \circ \phi$ work.

The rest of the paper [1] is not changed, nor its results.

I’m grateful to Sam Nariman for pointing to me this error.

REFERENCES

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- [2] M.-P. Muller, *Sur l’approximation et l’instabilité des feuilletages*, preprint IRMA (Strasbourg 1982).
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- [4] T. Tsuboi, “ T_1 -structures avec une seule feuille,” Transversal structure of foliations (Toulouse, 1982), Astérisque, tome 116 (1984), p. 222–234
- [5] S. White, *The group generated by $x \mapsto x + 1$ and $x \mapsto x^p$ is free*, Journal of Algebra 118 (1988), 408–422.

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