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On solutions of the translation equation commuting with some function

*Dedicated to Professor Zenon Moszner with best wishes on his
60-th birthday*

ABSTRACT. In this paper the general construction of solutions of the translation equation (1) such that $F(f(\alpha), \chi) = f(F(\alpha, \chi))$, when $f \in \Gamma^\Gamma$ and $f^3 = f$, is presented.

Let Γ be an arbitrary set and let (G, \cdot, e) be an arbitrary group. By $F: \Gamma \times G \rightarrow \Gamma$ we denote an arbitrary solution of the translation equation

$$F\left(F(\alpha, \chi), y\right) = F(\alpha, \chi \cdot y) \quad (1)$$

The general solution of the translation equation has been given by Z. Moszner [2] in the following Construction C1:

1° The function $q: \Gamma \rightarrow \Gamma$ is such that $q \circ q = q$.

2° $q(\Gamma) = \bigcup_{k \in K} \Gamma_k$ is a disjoint union of non-empty sets (fibres)

Γ_k such that for every $k \in K$ there exists a subgroup $G_k \leq G$ and a bijection $g_k: G/G_k \rightarrow \Gamma_k$, where G/G_k is the set of right cosets of the group G with respect to subgroup G_k .

3° Then $F(\alpha, \chi) = g_k(g_k^{-1}(q(\alpha)) \cdot \chi)$ when $q(\alpha) \in \Gamma_k$.

In this paper we will formulate and solve the problem which is essential in considerations of solutions of the translation equation on 3-adic groups (see [1]). By the results of this paper we can also describe all solutions of certain functional equation (see Remark 5).

The function $f: \Gamma \rightarrow \Gamma$ satisfying equation

$$f^3 = f \tag{2}$$

is fixed in the sequel.

Let $F: \Gamma \times G \rightarrow \Gamma$ be a solution of the translation equation (1) such that

$$F(\alpha, e) = f^2(\alpha). \tag{3}$$

$$F(f(\alpha), \chi) = f(F(\alpha, \chi)), \text{ for } \alpha \in \Gamma \text{ and } \chi \in G. \tag{4}$$

The condition (4) means that every function $F(\cdot, \chi)$, for $\chi \in G$, commutes with the fixed function f .

The aim of this paper is the characterization of all solutions $F: \Gamma \times G \rightarrow \Gamma$ of the translation equation (1) satisfying (3) and (4).

Let us denote:

$$A_f := \{\alpha \in \Gamma: f(\alpha) = f^2(\alpha)\}, B_f := \Gamma \setminus A_f = \{\alpha \in \Gamma: f(\alpha) \neq f^2(\alpha)\}.$$

LEMMA 1. *The following inclusions are true:*

- (i) $F(A_f \times G) \subseteq A_f$,
- (ii) $F(B_f \times G) \subseteq B_f$.

Proof. (i). Let $\alpha \in A_f$, $\chi \in G$ and $F(\alpha, \chi) =: \beta$. We have $f(\beta) = f(F(\alpha, \chi)) = F(f(\alpha), \chi) = F(f^2(\alpha), \chi) = F(\alpha, \chi) = \beta$, and hence $f^2(\beta) = f(\beta)$, therefore $\beta \in A_f$.

(ii). Let $\beta \in B_f$, $\chi \in G$ and $F(\beta, \chi) =: \alpha$. It is not possible that $\alpha \in A_f$ because the equality $f(\alpha) = f^2(\alpha)$ implies $F(\alpha, \chi^{-1}) = F(F(\beta, \chi), \chi^{-1}) = F(\beta, e) = f^2(\beta)$

and

$$\begin{aligned} F(\alpha, \chi^{-1}) &= F(f^2(\alpha), \chi^{-1}) = F(f(\alpha), \chi^{-1}) = f(F(\alpha, \chi^{-1})) \\ &= f(F(F(\beta, \chi), \chi^{-1})) = f(F(\beta, e)) = f(f^2(\beta)) \\ &= f^3(\beta) = f(\beta), \end{aligned}$$

and this contradiction.

REMARK 1. It is visible that if $A_f = \Gamma$ then every F of the translation equation (1) such that $F(\alpha, e) = f^2(\alpha)$ satisfies (4). Indeed: $F(f(\alpha), \chi) = F(f^2(\alpha), \chi) = F(\alpha, \chi) = f^2(F(\alpha, \chi)) = f(F(\alpha, \chi))$.

REMARK 2. It is easy to prove that $f(B_f) \subseteq B_f$ and $f^2(B_f) = f(B_f)$.

By Remark 1 it follows that in the case $A_f = \Gamma$ the condition (4) is not essential. By virtue of Lemma 1 and Remark 1 we can consider the case $B_f = \Gamma$ only.

Let us denote:

$$E_\alpha(\beta) := \{\chi \in G : F(\alpha, \chi) = \beta\}, \text{ for } \alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$$

and

$$G_\alpha := E_\alpha(\alpha).$$

Lemma 2. For every $\alpha \in f^2(\Gamma)$ the set G_α is a subgroup of the group G and the equalities

$$G_\alpha = G_{f(\alpha)}, \quad (5)$$

$$E_{f(\alpha)}(\alpha) = E_\alpha(f(\alpha)) = G_\alpha \cdot \chi_0, \text{ where } \chi_0 \in E_\alpha(f(\alpha)) \quad (6)$$

are satisfied.

Proof. Because $\alpha \in f^2(\Gamma)$ then $\alpha = f^2(\beta)$, for certain $\beta \in \Gamma$. Therefore: $F(\alpha, e) = F(f^2(\beta), e) = F(F(\beta, e), e) = F(\beta, e) = f^2(\beta) = \alpha$.

By construction of solutions of the translation equation in [2] there results that G_α is a subgroup of group G . The equality (5) can be verified as follows:

$$\chi \in G_\alpha \Rightarrow F(\alpha, \chi) = \alpha \Rightarrow F(f(\alpha), \chi) = f(F(\alpha, \chi)) = f(\alpha) \Rightarrow \chi \in G_{f(\alpha)},$$

$$\chi \in G_{f(\alpha)} \Rightarrow F(f(\alpha), \chi) = f(\alpha) \Rightarrow f(F(\alpha, \chi)) = F(f(\alpha), \chi) =$$

$$f(\alpha) \Rightarrow f^2(F(\alpha, \chi)) = f^2(\alpha) \Rightarrow F(\alpha, \chi) = \alpha \Rightarrow \chi \in G_\alpha.$$

We will prove (6). Let $\chi \in E_{f(\alpha)}(\alpha)$. We have

$$F(f(\alpha), \chi) = \alpha \Rightarrow f(F(\alpha, \chi)) = \alpha \Rightarrow f^2(F(\alpha, \chi)) = f(\alpha) \Rightarrow F(\alpha, \chi) = f(\alpha),$$

then $\chi \in E_\alpha(f(\alpha))$. Hence $E_{f(\alpha)}(\alpha) \subseteq E_\alpha(f(\alpha))$.

Similarly. $E_\alpha(f(\alpha)) \subseteq E_{f(\alpha)}(\alpha)$.

Now let $\chi, \chi_0 \in E_\alpha(f(\alpha))$. We have $\chi = \chi \cdot \chi_0^{-1} \cdot \chi_0$ and because $F(\alpha, \chi \cdot \chi_0^{-1}) = F(F(\alpha, \chi), \chi_0^{-1}) = F(f(\alpha), \chi_0^{-1}) = F(F(\alpha, \chi_0), \chi_0^{-1}) = F(\alpha, e) = \alpha$, then $\chi \cdot \chi_0^{-1} \in G_\alpha$, whence $\chi \in G_\alpha \cdot \chi_0$. Therefore, $E_\alpha(f(\alpha)) \subseteq G_\alpha \cdot \chi_0$. Since for every $\chi \in G$ and $\chi_0 \in E_\alpha(f(\alpha))$ we have

$\chi \in G_\alpha \cdot \chi_0 \Rightarrow \chi = a \cdot \chi_0$, where $a \in G_\alpha \Rightarrow F(\alpha, \chi) = F(\alpha, a \cdot \chi_0) = F(F(\alpha, a), \chi_0) = F(\alpha, \chi_0) = f(\alpha) \Rightarrow \chi \in E_\alpha(f(\alpha))$, then $G_\alpha \cdot \chi_0 \subseteq E_\alpha(f(\alpha))$.

The proof of Lemma 2 is finished.

According to the point 2° of Construction C1 let us denote the family of fibres of the solution F by $\{\Gamma_k\}_{k \in K}$.

LEMMA 3. For every fibre Γ_k one of the following equalities is true:

$$f(\Gamma_k) = \Gamma_k \tag{6}$$

or

$$\exists l \in K : l \neq k \text{ and } f(\Gamma_k) = \Gamma_l. \tag{7}$$

Proof. Let us choose $\alpha_0 \in \Gamma_k$ and let us consider two possibilities:

- a) $f(\alpha_0) \in \Gamma_k$,
- b) $f(\alpha_0) \in \Gamma_l$ and $l \neq k$.

Ad a). We will prove (6). Let $\alpha \in \Gamma_k$. Hence $F(\alpha_0, \chi) = \alpha$, for a certain $\chi \in G$. We have $F(f(\alpha_0), \chi) = f(F(\alpha_0, \chi)) = f(\alpha)$ and by the condition a): $f(\alpha) \in \Gamma_k$. Therefore, $f(\Gamma_k) \subseteq \Gamma_k$. Since

$$\forall \alpha \in \Gamma_k : f^2(\alpha) = F(\alpha, e) = \alpha$$

then

$$\Gamma_k = f^2(\Gamma_k) = f(f(\Gamma_k)) \subset f(\Gamma_k) \subset \Gamma_k$$

whence $f(\Gamma_k) = \Gamma_k$.

Ad b). We will prove (7). For every $\alpha \in \Gamma_k$ there exists $\chi \in G$ such that $F(\alpha_0, \chi) = \alpha$, hence $F(f(\alpha_0), \chi) = f(F(\alpha_0, \chi)) = f(\alpha)$, whence by b) : $f(\alpha) \in \Gamma_1$. Therefore, $f(\Gamma_k) \subseteq \Gamma_1$. Using the equality $f(f(\alpha_0)) = \alpha_0$ we obtain similarly the converse inclusion.

LEMMA 4. If the fibre Γ_k satisfies (6) and $\alpha \in \Gamma_k$ and $F(\alpha, \chi_0) = f(\alpha)$ then $G_\alpha^\circ := G_\alpha \cup G_\alpha \cdot \chi_0$ is a subgroup of G .

Proof. Since $G_\alpha \subseteq G_\alpha^\circ$ then $e \in G_\alpha^\circ$. Let $\chi, \psi \in G_\alpha^\circ$. We will show that:

- (i) $\chi, \psi \in G_\alpha \Rightarrow \chi \cdot \psi^{-1} \in G_\alpha \subset G_\alpha^\circ$,
- (ii) $\chi \in G_\alpha, \psi \in G_\alpha \cdot \chi_0 \Rightarrow \chi \cdot \psi^{-1} \in G_\alpha \cdot \chi_0 \subset G_\alpha^\circ$,
- (iii) $\chi \in G_\alpha \cdot \chi_0, \psi \in G_\alpha \Rightarrow \chi \cdot \psi^{-1} \in G_\alpha \cdot \chi_0 \subset G_\alpha^\circ$,
- (iv) $\chi, \psi \in G_\alpha \cdot \chi_0 \Rightarrow \chi \cdot \psi^{-1} \in G_\alpha \subset G_\alpha^\circ$.

Ad (i). It is evident by Lemma 2.

Ad (ii). Let $\psi = a \cdot \chi_0$, where $a \in G_\alpha$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} F(f(\alpha), \chi \cdot \psi^{-1}) &= F(F(f(\alpha), \chi), \psi^{-1}) = F(f(\alpha), \psi^{-1}) \\ &= F(f(\alpha), \chi_0^{-1} \cdot \bar{a}^{-1}) = F(F(\alpha, \chi_0), \chi_0^{-1} \cdot \bar{a}^{-1}) = F(\alpha, a^{-1}) = \alpha \end{aligned}$$

whence by Lemma 2

$$\chi \cdot \psi^{-1} \in E_{f(\alpha)}(\alpha) = G_\alpha \cdot \chi_0.$$

Ad (iii). Similarly, if $\chi = a \cdot \chi_0$, where $a \in G_\alpha$ then:

$$\begin{aligned} F(\alpha, \chi \cdot \psi^{-1}) &= F(F(\alpha, a), \chi_0 \cdot \bar{\psi}^{-1}) = F(\alpha, \chi_0 \cdot \psi^{-1}) \\ &= F(F(\alpha, \chi_0), \psi^{-1}) = F(f(\alpha), \psi^{-1}) = f(\alpha), \end{aligned}$$

whence $\chi \cdot \psi^{-1} \in E_\alpha(f(\alpha)) = G_\alpha \cdot \chi_0$.

Ad (iv). Let $\chi = a_1 \cdot \chi_0$, $\psi = a_2 \cdot \chi_0$, where $a_1, a_2 \in G_\alpha$.

We have:

$$\chi \cdot \psi^{-1} = a_1 \cdot \chi_0 \chi_0^{-1} \cdot a_2^{-1} = a_1 \cdot a_2^{-1} \in G_\alpha^o \subset G_\alpha.$$

We have shown Lemma 4.

The subgroup G_α is evidently invariant subgroup of G_α^o , as the subgroup of index 2. Therefore,

if $W = G_\alpha \cdot a \in G/G_\alpha$ and $\chi_0 \in G_\alpha^o \setminus G_\alpha$ then $\chi_0 \cdot W = \chi_0 \cdot G_\alpha \cdot a = G_\alpha \cdot \chi_0 \cdot a \in G/G_\alpha$.

REMARK 3. If the fibre Γ_k satisfies (6) and $\alpha \in \Gamma_k$ then the function $h_\alpha : G/G_\alpha \rightarrow \Gamma_k$ defined as follows

$$h_\alpha(W) := F(\alpha, W)$$

satisfies equality

$$h_\alpha(\chi_0 \cdot W) = f(h_\alpha(W)), \text{ for every } W \in G/G_\alpha,$$

where χ_0 is a fixed element of the set $G_\alpha^o \setminus G_\alpha$.

Proof. For arbitrary $W \in G/G_\alpha$ we have:

$$\begin{aligned} f(h_\alpha(W)) &= f(F(\alpha, W)) = F(f(\alpha), W) = F(F(\alpha, \chi_0), W) \\ &= F(\alpha, \chi_0 \cdot W) = h_\alpha(\chi_0 \cdot W). \end{aligned}$$

REMARK 4. If the fibre Γ_k satisfies (7) and $\alpha \in \Gamma_k$, $f(\alpha) \in \Gamma_1$ and the functions $h_\alpha : G/G_\alpha \rightarrow \Gamma_k$, $h_{f(\alpha)} : G/G_\alpha \rightarrow \Gamma$ are defined as follows $h_\alpha(W) = F(\alpha, W)$ and $h_{f(\alpha)}(W) = F(f(\alpha), W)$ then

$$h_{f(\alpha)}(W) = f(h_\alpha(W)), \quad \text{for every } W \in G/G_\alpha.$$

Indeed:

$$h_{f(\alpha)}(W) = F(f(\alpha), W) = f(F(\alpha, W)) = f(h_\alpha(W)).$$

DEFINITION. The solution $F: \Gamma \times G \rightarrow \Gamma$ of the translation equation (1) satisfying (3), (4) is called f -compatible (respectively not f -compatible) if all its fibres satisfy condition (6) (respectively (7)).

First we will characterize solutions which are f -compatible.

THEOREM 1. Let (G, \cdot, e) be a group, Γ an arbitrary set and a function $f \in \Gamma^\Gamma$ satisfies equalities: $f^3 = f$ and $A_f = \emptyset$. All f -compatible solutions $F: \Gamma \times G \rightarrow \Gamma$ of the translation equation (1) satisfying (3), (4) and only such we obtain by the presented below.

CONSTRUCTION C2

1° Let us denote $B_f^\circ := \{ \{f(\alpha), f^2(\alpha)\} : \alpha \in \Gamma \}$. We decompose $B_f^\circ = \bigcup_{k \in K} \Gamma_k^\circ$ in a disjoint union of non-empty sets such that

a) $\forall k \in K \exists G_k^\circ \leq G : \text{card } \Gamma_k^\circ = \text{card } G/G_k^\circ.$

b) $\forall k \in K \exists G_k < G : ((G_k^\circ : G_k) = 2).$

2° For every k belonging to K let us denote by Γ_k^1 a selection of the set Γ_k° and let us denote by S_k a selection of the set

$$\left\{ \{W, \chi_k \cdot W\} : W \in G/G_k \right\}, \text{ where } \chi_k \text{ is a fixed element of the set } G_k^\circ \setminus G_k.$$

3° Let $\Gamma_k := \Gamma_k^1 \cup f(\Gamma_k^1)$ and let us define the bijection $g_k : G/G_k \longrightarrow \Gamma_k$ in the following way

$$g_k(W) := \begin{cases} g_k^*(W) : W \in S_k, \\ f(g_k^*(\chi_k \cdot W)) : W \notin S_k, \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

where $g_k^* : S_k \longrightarrow \Gamma_k^1$ is an arbitrary bijection.

4° The function $F : \Gamma \times G \longrightarrow \Gamma$ is defined as follows:

$$F(\alpha, \chi) := g_k(g_k^{-1}(f^2(\alpha)) \cdot \chi), \text{ when } f^2(\alpha) \in \Gamma_k, \chi \in G. \quad (9)$$

Proof. It is visible by (2) and by Construction C1 that every function $F : \Gamma \times G \longrightarrow \Gamma$ obtained by Construction C2 satisfies the translation equation and the condition (3). Because for every k from K we have

$$f(\Gamma_k) = f(\Gamma_k^1) \cup f^2(\Gamma_k^1) = f(\Gamma_k^1) \cup \Gamma_k^1 = \Gamma_k$$

then the solution F is f -compatible.

We will show the condition (4). Let $\alpha \in \Gamma, \chi \in G, f(\alpha), f^2(\alpha) \in \Gamma_k$. We have:

$$F(f(\alpha), \chi) = g_k(g_k^{-1}(f^3(\alpha)) \cdot \chi) = g_k(g_k^{-1}(f(\alpha)) \cdot \chi)$$

and

$$f(F(\alpha, \chi)) = f(g_k(g_k^{-1}(f^2(\alpha)) \cdot \chi)).$$

In virtue of (8) : if $W \in G/G_k$ and $g_k(W) = f(\alpha)$ then $g_k(\chi_k \cdot W) = f^2(\alpha)$. Indeed: if $W \in S_k$ then $\chi_k \cdot W \notin S_k$ and $g_k(\chi_k \cdot W) = f(g_k^*(\chi_k^2 \cdot W)) = f(g_k^*(W)) = f^2(\alpha)$. (Similarly in the case : $W \notin S_k$).

From the above

$$F(f(\alpha), \chi) = g_k(W \cdot \chi)$$

and

$$f(F(\alpha), \chi) = f(g_k(\chi_k \cdot W \cdot \chi))$$

If $W \cdot \chi \in S_k$ then $\chi_k \cdot W \cdot \chi \notin S_k$ and we have

$$F(f(\alpha), \chi) = g_k(W \cdot \chi) = g_k^*(W \cdot \chi)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} f(F(\alpha), \chi) &= f(g_k(\chi_k \cdot W \cdot \chi)) = f(f(g_k^*(\chi_k^2 \cdot W \cdot \chi))) \\ &= f^2(g_k^*(W \cdot \chi)) = g_k^*(W \cdot \chi), \end{aligned}$$

therefore

$$F(f(\alpha), \chi) = f(F(\alpha), \chi).$$

The second case $W \cdot \chi \notin S_k$ implies $\chi_k \cdot W \cdot \chi \in S_k$ and

$$F(f(\alpha), \chi) = g_k(W \cdot \chi) = f(g_k^*(\chi_k \cdot W \cdot \chi))$$

and

$$f(F(\alpha, \chi)) = f(g_k(\chi_k \cdot W \cdot \chi)) = f(g_k^*(\chi_k \cdot W \cdot \chi)),$$

therefore

$$F(f(\alpha), \chi) = f(F(\alpha, \chi)).$$

This ends one part of the proof of Theorem 1.

Assume now that $F: \Gamma \times G \rightarrow \Gamma$ is a solution of the translation equation (1) satisfying (3), (4) and f -compatible. By the general Construction C1 of solutions of the translation equation we have the following parameters: the family $\{\Gamma_k\}_{k \in K}$ of fibres such that $f^2(\Gamma) = \bigcup_{k \in K} \Gamma_k$; the family of subgroups $\{G_k\}_{k \in K}$ and the family of bijections $g_k: G/G_k \rightarrow \Gamma_k$ such that the condition (9) is satisfied. It is visible that

$$\forall k \in K : G_{\alpha_k} = G_k, \text{ where } \alpha_k := g_k(G_k).$$

By virtue of Lemma 4 $: G_k^\circ := G_{\alpha_k} \cup G_{\alpha_k} \cdot \chi_k$, where χ_k is an arbitrary element of G satisfying equality $F(\alpha_k, \chi_k) = f(\alpha_k)$, is a subgroup of G and obviously $(G_k^\circ : G_k) = 2$.

If we define

$$B_f^\circ := \bigcup_{k \in K} \Gamma_k^\circ, \quad \text{where } \Gamma_k^\circ := \bigcup_{\alpha \in \Gamma_k} \{f(\alpha), f^2(\alpha)\}$$

then

$$\text{card } \Gamma_k^\circ = \text{card } G_k^\circ, \text{ for } k \in K.$$

Therefore, the point 1° of construction C2 is fulfilled.

Let S_k be a selection of the set $\{(W, \chi_k \cdot W) \in G/G_k\}$ such that $G_k \in S_k$. We define the function g_k° as follows

$$g_k^\circ(W) := F(\alpha_k, W), \text{ for } W \in S_k.$$

Let $\Gamma_k^1 := \{\bar{g}_k(W) : W \in S_k\}$. It is visible by Remark 3 that the condition (8) is fulfilled because $g_k(W) = F(\alpha_k, W) = h_{\alpha_k}(W)$, $W \in G/G_k$.

The proof of Theorem 1 is finished.

Now, we will characterize all solutions which are not f -compatible.

THEOREM 2. *Let (G, \cdot, e) be a group, Γ an arbitrary non-empty set and a function $f \in \Gamma^\Gamma$ satisfies equalities: $f^3 = f$ and $A_f = \emptyset$. All not f -compatible solutions $F: \Gamma \times G \rightarrow \Gamma$ of the translation equation (1) satisfying (3), (4) and only such we obtain by presented below*

CONSTRUCTION C3

1° Let us denote $B_f^\circ := \left\{ \{f(\alpha), f^2(\alpha)\} : \alpha \in \Gamma \right\}$. We decompose the set B_f° in a disjoint union $\bigcup_{t \in T} \Gamma_t^\circ$ of non-empty sets such that

$$\forall t \in T \exists G_t \leq G : \text{card } \Gamma_t^\circ = \text{card } G/G_t.$$

2° For $t \in T$ we take a selection Γ_t of the set Γ_t° and we define $\bar{\Gamma}_t := f(\Gamma_t)$ (By (2) $\bar{\Gamma}_t$ is a selection of Γ_t° and $\Gamma_t \cap \bar{\Gamma}_t = \emptyset$ by (7)).

3° For $t \in T$ we take a bijection $g_t: G/G_t \rightarrow \Gamma_t$, put $\bar{G}_t := G_t$ and we define the bijection $\bar{g}_t: G/\bar{G}_t \rightarrow \bar{\Gamma}_t$ as follows

$$\bar{g}_t(W) = f(g_t(W)). \quad (10)$$

4° The family of sets $\{\Gamma_t\}_{t \in T} \cup \{\bar{\Gamma}_t\}_{t \in T}$ we denote by $\{\Gamma_k\}_{k \in K}$. The family of subgroups $\{G_t\}_{t \in T} \cup \{\bar{G}_t\}_{t \in T}$ we denote respectively by $\{G_k\}_{k \in K}$. The family of bijections $\{g_t\}_{t \in T} \cup \{\bar{g}_t\}_{t \in T}$ we denote by $\{g_k\}_{k \in K}$ respectively.

5° We put

$$F(\alpha, \chi) := g_k(g_k^{-1}(f^2(\alpha)) \cdot \chi), \text{ when } f^2(\alpha) \in \Gamma_k.$$

Proof. It is visible that the function $F: \Gamma \times G \rightarrow \Gamma$ obtained by Construction C3 satisfies the translation equation and conditions (3) and (7). We will show the condition (4) only. Let $\alpha \in \Gamma$, $\chi \in G$, $f^2(\alpha) \in \Gamma_k$, $f(\alpha) \in \Gamma_1$. There exists $t \in T$ such that $\Gamma_k = \Gamma_t$ and $\Gamma_1 = \bar{\Gamma}_t$. We have

$$f(F(\alpha, \chi)) = f(g_k(g_k^{-1}(f^2(\alpha)) \cdot \chi)) = f g_t(g_t^{-1}(f^2(\alpha)) \cdot \chi)$$

and

$$F(f(\alpha), \chi) = g_1(g_1^{-1}(f(\alpha)) \cdot \chi) = \bar{g}_t(\bar{g}_t^{-1}(f(\alpha)) \cdot \chi)$$

If $W \in G/G_t$ and $g_t(W) = f^2(\alpha)$ then by (10) $\bar{g}_t(W) = f(\alpha)$. From the above

$$f(F(\alpha, \chi)) = f(g_t(W \cdot \chi))$$

and

$$F(f(\alpha), \chi) = \bar{g}_t(W \cdot \chi)$$

and using (10) we obtain

$$f(F(\alpha, \chi)) = F(f(\alpha), \chi).$$

This ends the one part of the proof.

Now let $f^3 = f$ and $A_f = \emptyset$ and let us suppose that $F: \Gamma \times G \rightarrow \Gamma$ is not compatible with f solution of the translation equation (1) satisfying (3), (4). By the general Construction C1 of solutions of the translation equation we have: the family $\langle \Gamma_k \rangle_{k \in K}$ of fibres such that $f^2(\Gamma_k) = \bigcup_{k \in K} \Gamma_k$, the family $\langle G_k \rangle_{k \in K}$ of subgroups of group G such that $\text{card } \Gamma_k = \text{card } G/G_k$ and the family $\langle g_k \rangle_{k \in K}$ of bijections $g_k: G/G_k \rightarrow \Gamma_k$.

Let $\langle \Gamma_t : t \in T \rangle$ denote the selection of the set $\left\{ \langle \Gamma_k, f(\Gamma_k) \rangle : k \in K \right\}$. Let $\langle g_t \rangle_{t \in T}$ denote the family of bijections adequate to $\langle \Gamma_t \rangle_{t \in T}$. For every $t \in T$ we put:

$$\bar{\Gamma}_t := f(\Gamma_t),$$

$$\bar{G}_t := G_t,$$

$$\bar{g}_t(W) := f(g_t(W)), \text{ for } W \in G/\bar{G}_t,$$

$$\Gamma_t^\circ := \left\{ \langle f(\alpha), \alpha \rangle : \alpha \in \Gamma_t \right\},$$

$$B_f^0 := \left\{ \langle f(\alpha), f^2(\alpha) \rangle : \alpha \in \Gamma \right\}.$$

For every $t \in T$ and every $W \in G/G_t$ we have:

$$g_t(W) = F(\alpha_t, W) = h_{\alpha_t}(W), \text{ where } \alpha_t := g_t(G_t)$$

and by Remark 4

$$\bar{g}_t(W) = f(g_t(W)) = f(h_{\alpha_t}(W)) = h_{f(\alpha_t)}(W) = F(f(\alpha_t), W).$$

In virtue of the proof of Theorem 1 in [2] the proof of Theorem 2 is finished.

The next theorem describes all solutions $F: \Gamma \times G \rightarrow \Gamma$ of (1) satisfying (3), (4).

THEOREM 3. *Let (G, \cdot, e) be a group, Γ an arbitrary non-empty set and the function $f \in \Gamma^\Gamma$ satisfies equality $f^3 = f$. All solutions $F: \Gamma \times G \rightarrow \Gamma$ of the translation equation (1) satisfying (3), (4) and only such can be obtained by*

CONSTRUCTION C4

1° Let $A_f := \{ \alpha \in \Gamma : f(\alpha) = f^2(\alpha) \}$ and let $\phi: A_f \times G \rightarrow A_f$ be a solution of the translation equation (1) obtained by construction C1 such that $\phi(\alpha, e) = f^2(\alpha)$.

2° We decompose the set $\left\{ \langle f(\alpha), f^2(\alpha) \rangle : \alpha \in \Gamma \setminus A_f \right\} = B_f^1 \cup B_f^2$ in a disjoint union of sets B_f^1, B_f^2 . Let

$$\Gamma_i := \left\{ \alpha \in \Gamma \setminus A_f : \langle f(\alpha), f^2(\alpha) \rangle \in B_f^i \right\}, \text{ for } i=1,2.$$

3° Let $\psi_1: \Gamma_1 \times G \rightarrow \Gamma_1$ be a compatible with f solution of the translation equation (1) satisfying (3), (4). This means ψ_1 is obtained by construction C2.

4° Let $\psi_2: \Gamma_2 \times G \rightarrow \Gamma_2$ be a not compatible with f solution of the translation equation (1) satisfying (3), (4). This means ψ_2 is obtained by construction C3.

5° We put

$$F := \phi \cup \psi_1 \cup \psi_2.$$

Proof. It is evident that F obtained by construction C4 satisfies (1), (3), (4). Assume that $F: \Gamma \times G \rightarrow \Gamma$ is a solution of (1) satisfying (3), (4). By Lemma 1 we can put $\phi := F|_{A_f \times G}$. By Lemma 3 all fibres $\{\Gamma_k\}_{k \in K}$ of F satisfy (6) or (7). Let us define:

$$B_f^1 := \left\{ \{f(\alpha), f^2(\alpha)\} : \alpha \in \Gamma \setminus A_f \text{ and } \exists k \in K : f(\alpha), f^2(\alpha) \in \Gamma_k \right\},$$

$$B_f^2 := \left\{ \{f(\alpha), f^2(\alpha)\} : \alpha \in \Gamma \setminus A_f \text{ and } \exists k, l \in K : k \neq l \text{ and } \right. \\ \left. f(\alpha) \in \Gamma_k, f^2(\alpha) \in \Gamma_l \right\}$$

and

$$\Gamma_i := \left\{ \alpha \in \Gamma \setminus A_f : \{f(\alpha), f^2(\alpha)\} \in B_f^i \right\}, \text{ for } i = 1, 2$$

and

$$\psi_i := F|_{\Gamma_i \times G}, \text{ for } i = 1, 2.$$

It is visible that

$$F = \phi \cup \psi_1 \cup \psi_2, \text{ where } A_f, \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2, \phi, \psi_1, \psi_2 \text{ are such as in}$$

Construction C4.

The proof of Theorem 3 is finished.

REMARK 5. A.A.J. Marley of McGill University is interested in solutions of the following equation:

$$F(F(A(\ell, \Delta)x + B(\ell, \Delta), \ell), \Delta) = F(x, \ell + \Delta), \text{ where } F: \mathbb{R}^2 \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}. \quad (11)$$

Let us consider the equation

$$F(F(-\chi, \ell), \Delta) = F(\chi, \ell + \Delta), \quad (12)$$

where $F: \mathbb{R}^2 \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is such that the function $F(\cdot, 0)$ is invertible.

The equation (12) is the special case of equation (11) when $A(\ell, \Delta) \equiv -1$, $B(\ell, \Delta) \equiv 0$.

If we put $f(x) := F(x, 0)$ then by (12) $f(x) = -x$, therefore $f^3 = f$. Let us define $\Phi(\chi, \ell) := -F(\chi, \ell)$. We have:

$$\Phi(-\chi, \ell) = -F(-\chi, \ell) = F(F(-\chi, \ell), 0) = F(\chi, \ell) = -\Phi(\chi, \ell) \text{ and}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(\chi, \ell + \Delta) &= -F(\chi, \ell + \Delta) = -F(F(-\chi, \ell), \Delta) = -F(-\Phi(-\chi, \ell), \Delta) \\ &= \Phi(-\Phi(-\chi, \ell), \Delta) = \Phi(\Phi(\chi, \ell), \Delta). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, Φ is the solution of the translation equation commuting with the function $f(\chi) = -\chi$.

We conclude that every solution of (12) is of the form

$$F(\chi, \ell) = -\Phi(\chi, \ell).$$

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