### Problems on the frontier of commutator theory

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#### AAA90 Novi Sad 2015

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#### Modular Commutator Theory

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#### Outline



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#### New algebras in varieties generated by a class, 1

**HSP Theorem.** If  $\mathcal{K}$  is a class, then  $V(\mathcal{K}) = HSP(\mathcal{K})$ 

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New algebras in varieties generated by a class, 1

**HSP Theorem.** If  $\mathcal{K}$  is a class, then  $V(\mathcal{K}) = HSP(\mathcal{K})$ 

Representation.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{B} & \leq & \prod \mathbf{A}_i, \ \mathbf{A}_i \in \mathcal{K} \\ \downarrow & & \\ \mathsf{V}(\mathcal{K}) \ni & \mathbf{C} \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{rcl} \textbf{B} & \leq_{\textit{sd}} & \prod \textbf{A}'_i, & \textbf{A}'_i \in \textbf{S}(\mathcal{K}) \\ & \downarrow & \\ \textbf{V}(\mathcal{K}) \ni & \textbf{C} \end{array}$$

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#### New algebras in varieties generated by a class, 2

Product congruences.

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New algebras in varieties generated by a class, 2

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#### New algebras in varieties generated by a class, 2

Product congruences.



All other congruences are **skew**.

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#### Examples

#### Field





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### Diagonal skew congruences, 1

$$\begin{array}{cccc} \mathbf{G} & \stackrel{\delta}{\hookrightarrow} & \mathbf{G} \times \mathbf{G} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathbf{G}/\alpha & \hookrightarrow & (\mathbf{G} \times \mathbf{G})/\Delta \end{array}$$

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### Diagonal skew congruences, 1

$$\begin{array}{cccc} \mathbf{G} & \stackrel{\delta}{\hookrightarrow} & \mathbf{G} \times \mathbf{G} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathbf{G}/\alpha & \hookrightarrow & (\mathbf{G} \times \mathbf{G})/\Delta \end{array}$$

If 
$$\mathbf{G} = \operatorname{Sl}_2(5)$$
, then  
Con( $\mathbf{G}$ ):  
 $\mathbf{0} = [\alpha, 1]$   
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Con( $(\mathbf{G} \times \mathbf{G})/\Delta$ ):  
 $\mathbf{0} = [\alpha, 1]$ 

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#### Diagonal Skew Congruences, 2

 $lpha, eta \in \operatorname{Con}(\mathsf{A}); \qquad \mathsf{B} = \mathsf{A} imes_{eta} \mathsf{A} := eta \ (\leq \mathsf{A} imes \mathsf{A})$ 

 $\Delta_{\alpha,\beta} = \Delta =$  arising from pushout





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## Where (in Con( $\mathbf{A} \times_{\beta} \mathbf{A}$ )) is $\Delta_{\alpha,\beta}$ ?

 $\langle \eta_1, \eta_2, \Delta \mid$ 



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$$\langle \eta_1, \ \eta_2, \ \Delta \mid \eta_1 \cdot \eta_2 = \mathbf{0} \leq \Delta \rangle$$



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![](_page_21_Figure_3.jpeg)

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$$\langle \eta_1, \eta_2, \Delta \mid \eta_1 \cdot \eta_2 \leq \Delta \rangle$$

![](_page_22_Figure_3.jpeg)

#### Where (in Con( $\mathbf{A} \times_{\beta} \mathbf{A}$ )) is $\Delta_{\alpha,\beta}$ ?

![](_page_23_Figure_2.jpeg)

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#### Abelian algebras in CM varieties are "affine"

We know all abelian algebras in CM varieties up to term equivalence:

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#### Abelian algebras in CM varieties are "affine"

We know all abelian algebras in CM varieties up to term equivalence:

Let *R* be a ring and *M* a left *R*-module. Consider *R* also as a left *R*-module. For any submodule  $U \le R \times M$  define an algebra with universe *M* and operations of the form

$$r_1x_1+\cdots+r_nx_n+m,\ \left(1-\sum r_i,m\right)\in U.$$

Any algebra of this type is abelian and lies in a CM variety, and conversely any abelian algebra in a CM variety is term equivalent to one of this type.

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Any algebra of this type is abelian and lies in a CM variety, and conversely any abelian algebra in a CM variety is term equivalent to one of this type.

Quasiaffine := subalgebra of a reduct of an affine algebra

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![](_page_27_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### Modular Commutator Theory

![](_page_27_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Figure_2.jpeg)

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#### Some types of results/problems/questions

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1. What is the structure of an abelian object?

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1. What is the structure of an abelian object? How close to affine?

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1. What is the structure of an abelian object? How close to affine?

2. How does one decide centrality? I.e., what does it mean for  $[\alpha, \beta] = 0$  to hold?

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#### Modular commutator theory

## 1. What is the equational theory of the modular commutator?

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2. Is it true that a subvariety of a finitely generated CM variety is finitely generated?

1. What is the equational theory of the modular commutator? (E.g.,  $[\alpha, \beta + \gamma] = [\alpha, \beta] + [\alpha, \gamma]$ .)

2. Is it true that a subvariety of a finitely generated CM variety is finitely generated?

3. Which finite algebras in CM varieties are dualizable?

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([ $\alpha, \beta$ ] defined by dropping the modularity assumption. Fairly highly developed through TCT.)

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([ $\alpha, \beta$ ] defined by dropping the modularity assumption. Fairly highly developed through TCT.)

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2. Is there a finite, inherently nonfinitely based, abelian algebra?

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3. Which algebras are homomorphic images of finite abelian algebras?

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#### Nonmodular commutator theory

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4. Is every idempotent abelian algebra quasiaffine?

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4. Is every idempotent abelian algebra quasiaffine?

5. Is there a "nice" explicit characterization of " $[\alpha, \beta] = 0$ " in a variety with a weak difference term?

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6. Describe how rings act on abelian congruences in a variety with a weak difference term.

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# 7. Does ∃weak difference term + symmetric commutator imply ∃difference term?

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#### Higher commutator theory

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#### Higher commutator theory

Higher = above binary

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#### Higher commutator theory

Higher = above binary

1. Do the laws of higher commutator theory which hold in congruence permutable varieties also hold in congruence modular varieties? (Five open questions here.)

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#### Higher commutator theory

Higher = above binary

1. Do the laws of higher commutator theory which hold in congruence permutable varieties also hold in congruence modular varieties? (Five open questions here.)

2. Does the Bulatov higher commutator equal the 2-terms higher commutator for modular varieties?

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3. Find good applications of multivariable commutator theory.

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#### Higher commutator theory

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1. Do the laws of higher commutator theory which hold in congruence permutable varieties also hold in congruence modular varieties? (Five open questions here.)

2. Does the Bulatov higher commutator equal the 2-terms higher commutator for modular varieties?

3. Find good applications of multivariable commutator theory. (Beyond supernilpotence.)

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# Modular commutator theory for quasivarieties, pseudovarieties, and other categories

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1. What is an abelian object in a moderately nice "modular category?"

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- 2. Describe the abelian relatively modular qausivarieties.

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4. The 3- and 4-ary difference terms for a variety depend on Gumm's permutability results. Is there something similar for relatively modular quasivarieties?

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5. Is every finitely generated relatively modular quasivariety finitely axiomatizable?