

## UNITS IN GROUP RINGS OF THE INFINITE DIHEDRAL GROUP

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ABSTRACT. This paper studies the group of units  $U(RD_\infty)$  of the group ring of the infinite dihedral group  $D_\infty$  over a commutative integral domain  $R$ . The structures of  $U(\mathbb{Z}_2D_\infty)$  and  $U(\mathbb{Z}_3D_\infty)$  are determined, and it is shown that  $U(\mathbb{Z}D_\infty)$  is not finitely generated.

1. **Introduction.** One of the fundamental problems in group ring theory is the Isomorphism Problem: given a ring isomorphism  $RG \approx RH$ , can we claim that the groups  $G$  and  $H$  are isomorphic? In general the answer is no (see [1], Chapter 3) but the problem is still open when  $R = \mathbb{Z}$ —the ring of rational integers—the case most interesting for topologists.

Recently a substantial progress was made for finite groups due to works of K. Roggenkamp with L. Scott [1] and A. Weiss [3].

One of possible ways of the attack of the Isomorphism Problem is to study the group of invertible elements of the ring  $RH$ : any ring homomorphism  $RG \rightarrow RH$  maps  $G$  into this group. A lot is known about units in  $RG$  for finite groups ([2]). On the other hand, the domain of infinite groups remains still to be investigated.

In this paper we deal with invertible elements in group rings  $RD_\infty$  where  $R$  is a commutative domain with unity and  $D_\infty$  stands for the infinite dihedral group. In Section 3 we describe a certain subgroup of  $U(RD_\infty)$  whose structure depends only on the structure of the additive group of  $R$ . This subgroup appears to be the whole group of units in cases  $R = \mathbb{Z}_2$  and  $R = \mathbb{Z}_3$ . This fact enables us to describe in Section 4 the structure of groups  $U(\mathbb{Z}_2D_\infty)$ ,  $U(\mathbb{Z}_3D_\infty)$  and prove that the group  $U(\mathbb{Z}D_\infty)$  is not finitely generated.

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2. **Notation.** In this paper  $R$  will be a commutative domain with unity. The infinite dihedral group can be defined as the semi-direct product of the infinite cyclic group  $C_\infty$  with the cyclic group of order two  $C_2$ :

$$D_\infty = C_\infty C_2 = \langle t \rangle \langle x \rangle$$

with a well-known presentation  $D_\infty = \langle t, x \mid x^2 = 1, xt = t^{-1}x \rangle$ . Since each element of the group  $D_\infty$  can be written as  $t^i$  or  $t^i x$  for some  $i \in \mathbb{Z}$  we can write any element  $\alpha \in RD_\infty$  in the form:

$$\alpha = \sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} \alpha_i t^i + \sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} b_i t^i x = a + bx \text{ where } a, b \in RC_\infty.$$

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Let  $*$ :  $RC_\infty \rightarrow RC_\infty$  be the involution of the group ring  $RC_\infty$  which comes from the non-trivial automorphism of the group  $C_\infty$ , i.e., let  $(\sum a_i t^i)^* := \sum a_i t^{-i}$ . Using the relator  $xt = t^{-1}x$  one can easily see that for any  $a \in RC_\infty$  the relation  $xa = a^*x$  holds. In particular:  $(a + bx)(c + dx) = (ac + bd^*) + (ad + bc^*)x$ . Applying this formula one can explicitly embed the group ring  $RD_\infty$  into a matrix ring.

REMARK 2.1. The function  $i_R: RD_\infty \rightarrow M_2(RC_\infty)$  defined as

$$i_R(a + bx) = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ b^* & a^* \end{pmatrix}$$

is a monomorphism of rings. ■

From now on we identify elements of the ring  $RD_\infty$  with their images in  $i_R(RD_\infty) \subseteq M_2(RC_\infty)$ .

Let  $U(P)$  denote the group of invertible elements (units) of a ring  $P$ .

If  $\alpha = a + bx \in U(RD_\infty)$  then there exists an element  $\beta \in RD_\infty$  such that  $\alpha\beta = 1$ . Since  $RC_\infty$  is a commutative domain, determinants make sense and  $\det \alpha \cdot \det \beta = \det(\alpha \circ \beta) = \det 1 = 1$ , which shows that  $\det \alpha \in U(RC_\infty)$ , i.e., it is a unit in the group ring  $RC_\infty$ . But  $RC_\infty$  contains only trivial units (see [2]) so  $\det \alpha = rt^i$  for some  $i \in \mathbb{Z}, r \in U(R)$ . Moreover  $rt^{-i} = (\det \alpha)^* = (aa^* - bb^*)^* = aa^* - bb^* = \det \alpha = rt^{-i}$ ; thus  $i = 0$  and  $\det \alpha = r \in U(R)$ . Conversely, if  $\det \alpha = r \in U(R)$  then

$$\alpha^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} a^*r^{-1} & -br^{-1} \\ -b^*r^{-1} & ar^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \in i_R(RD_\infty) \subseteq M_2(RC_\infty).$$

Thus we have proved the following:

REMARK 2.2. If  $R$  is a commutative domain then:

$$\alpha = a + bx \in U(RD_\infty) \iff \det \alpha = aa^* - bb^* \in U(R)$$

For  $0 \neq a = \sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} a_i t^i \in RC_\infty$  we set:

$$\begin{aligned} \max a &:= \max \{ i \mid a_i \neq 0 \} \\ \min b &:= \min \{ i \mid a_i \neq 0 \} \\ \deg a &:= \max a - \min a = \max aa^* \end{aligned}$$

If  $\alpha = a + bx \in RD_\infty$  is a non-trivial unit then  $a \neq 0, b \neq 0$ . By Remark 2.2 we have  $aa^* - bb^* \in U(R)$  hence  $\deg a = \max aa^* = \max bb^* = \deg b > 0$ . We define  $\deg \alpha := \deg a = \deg b$ . For trivial units  $\alpha$  we extend this definition by setting  $\deg \alpha := 0$ .

We consider special nilpotents in the group ring  $RD_\infty$ :

$$\begin{aligned} n_{ij} &= (1 + \operatorname{sgn}(i)t^j x)t^{|i|}(1 - \operatorname{sgn}(i)t^j x) \\ &= (-t^{-|i|} + t^{|i|}) + \operatorname{sgn}(i)t^j(t^{-|i|} - t^{|i|})x \quad \text{for } i, j \in \mathbb{Z}. \end{aligned}$$

where  $\text{sgn}(i)$  stands for the sign of  $i$ .

In fact  $(n_{ij})^2 = 0$  because

$$(n_{ij})^2 = (\dots)(1 \pm t^j x)(1 \mp t^j x)(\dots) = (\dots)(1 - (t^j x)^2)(\dots) = 0.$$

For any  $r \in \mathbb{R}, i, j \in \mathbb{Z}$  the element  $1 + rn_{ij}$  is a unit in  $RD_\infty$  as

$$(1 + rn_{ij})(1 - rn_{ij}) = 1 - r^2(n_{ij})^2 = 1.$$

We will further consider the subgroup of  $U(RD_\infty)$  generated by all units of the above form, so it is useful to introduce the following notation:

$$U = \langle 1 + rn_{ij} \rangle_{i,j \in \mathbb{Z}, r \in \mathbb{R}}$$

For all  $k > 0, j \in \mathbb{Z}$ :

$$V_j^k = \langle 1 + rn_{ij} \rangle_{0 < i \leq k, r \in \mathbb{R}}$$

$$W_j^k = \begin{cases} \langle 1 + rn_{ij} \rangle_{0 > i \geq -k, r \in \mathbb{R}} & \text{if char } R \neq 2 \\ \{1\} & \text{if char } R = 2 \end{cases}$$

Obviously, the groups  $\{V_j^k\}_{k=1}^\infty$  (respectively  $\{W_j^k\}_{k=1}^\infty$ ) form an ascending system. We set:

$$V_j = \varinjlim_k V_j^k, W_j = \varinjlim_k W_j^k$$

Natural inclusions induce homomorphisms from the free products:

$$\Phi_k: \star_j V_j^k * \star_j W_j^k \rightarrow U \text{ for } k > 0 \text{ and}$$

$$\Phi = \varinjlim_k \Phi_k: \star_j V_j * \star_j W_j \rightarrow U.$$

By  $l(w)$  we will denote the length of word  $w$  in a corresponding free product.

**3. A subgroup of obvious units in  $RD_\infty$ .** Let us start from the description of groups  $V_j^k$  and  $W_j^k$  (in any place where we consider groups  $W_j^k$  we assume that  $\text{char } R \neq 2$ ). If  $\text{sgn}(i) = \text{sgn}(l)$  then

$$n_{ij} \cdot n_{lj} = (\dots)(1 - \text{sgn}(i)t^j x)(1 + \text{sgn}(l)t^j x)(\dots) = (\dots) \cdot 0 \cdot (\dots) = 0,$$

therefore the function  $R^k \rightarrow V_j^k (R^k \rightarrow W_j^k)$  given by the formula :

$$(r_1, \dots, r_k) \rightarrow 1 + r_1 n_{1j} + \dots + r_k n_{kj}$$

$$= (-r_k t^{-k} - \dots - r_1 t^{-1} + 1 + r_1 t^1 + \dots + r_k t^k)$$

$$+ t^j (r_k t^{-k} + \dots + r_1 t^{-1} - r_1 t - \dots - r_k t^k) x$$

respectively

$$(r_1, \dots, r_k) \rightarrow 1 + r_1 n_{-1j} + \dots + r_k n_{-kj}$$

$$= (-r_k t^{-k} - \dots - r_1 t^{-1} + 1 + r_1 t^1 + \dots + r_k t^k)$$

$$+ t^j (-r_k t^{-k} - \dots - r_1 t^{-1} + r_1 t + \dots + r_k t^k) x.$$

is an isomorphism from the additive group of  $R^k$  onto the multiplicative group  $V_j^k (W_j^k)$ . Therefore we obtain isomorphisms  $V_j^k \cong R^k (W_j^k \cong R^k)$  and  $V_j \cong \bigoplus_{i>0} R (W_j \cong \bigoplus_{i>0} R)$ .

LEMMA 3.1. Let  $k > 0$  and let  $\omega \in \star_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} V_j^k \star \star_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} W_j^k$  be a non-empty, reduced word with the last letter  $g$  (i.e.,  $l(\omega g^{-1}) < l(\omega)$ ). If  $\Phi_k \omega = a + bx \in U \subseteq U(RD_\infty)$ , then:

- (i)  $\deg \Phi_k \omega > 0$  (in particular  $\Phi_k$  is a monomorphism)
- (ii)  $g \in V_j^k \iff \max(t^{-j}b + a) < \max\{\max a, \max t^{-j}b\}$  or  $\min(t^{-j}b + a) > \min\{\min a, \min t^{-j}b\}$   
 $g \in W_j^k \iff \text{char } R \neq 2$  and:  $\max(t^{-j}b - a) < \max\{\max a, \max t^{-j}b\}$  or  $\min(t^{-j}b - a) > \min\{\min a, \min t^{-j}b\}$ .

PROOF. Induction on the length of word  $w$ . From the explicit form of elements of  $V_j^k, W_j^k$  (that is words of length one) we conclude that for all words of length one our Lemma holds. We also observe that

- (v) for  $c + dx \in V_j^k$  we have  $c^* = -c, d^* = -t^{-2j}d, c + t^{-j}d = 1,$
- (w) for  $e + fx \in W_j^k$  we have  $e^* = -e, f^* = -t^{-2j}f, e - t^{-j}f = 1.$

Now let us assume that lemma holds for words of the length  $n \geq 1$ . Let  $w$  be a reduced word with  $l(w) = n + 1, w = v \cdot g, l(v) = n$ . There exists  $j \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $g \in V_j^k$  or  $g \in W_j^k$ . Consider the case  $g \in V_j^k$ . Let  $\Phi_k(v) = y = zx, g = c + dx, \Phi_k(w) = a + bx = (y + zx)(c + dx) = (yc + zd^*) + (yd + zc^*)x$ . Since  $w$  is a reduced word, so that last letter of  $v$  does not belong to  $V_j^k$  and by the inductive assumption (ii) we obtain the following inequalities:

$$(3.1.1) \quad \begin{aligned} \max(t^{-j}z + y) &\geq \max\{\max y, \max t^{-j}z\} \\ \min(t^{-j}z + y) &\leq \min\{\min y, \min t^{-j}z\}. \end{aligned}$$

We calculate

$$\begin{aligned} a &= yc + zd^* = yc - t^{-2j}zd = yc - t^{-j}z(t^{-j}d) = yc - t^{-j}z(1 - c) \\ &= c(y + t^{-j}z) - t^{-j}z. \end{aligned}$$

From (3.1.1) it follows that

$$\max(c(y + t^{-j}z)) = \max c + \max(y + t^{-j}z) > \max t^{-j}z$$

which implies the equality  $\max a = \max(c(y + t^{-j}z) - t^{-j}z) = \max(c(y + t^{-j}z))$ . On the other hand by (3.1.1) we have  $\max(y + t^{-j}z) \geq \max y$ , so  $\max a = \max(c(y + t^{-j}z)) = \max c + \max(y + t^{-j}z) > \max y$ . Replacing “max” by “min” and repeating the above calculations we obtain  $\min a < \min y$ . Thus  $\deg \Phi_k(w) = \deg a = \max a - \min a > \max y - \min y = \deg \Phi_k(v) > 0$ . Similarly we obtain  $\deg \Phi_k(w) > \deg \Phi_k(v) > 0$  for  $g \in W_j^k$ , which completes the inductive step for (i).

Now, we will show that implications “ $\Rightarrow$ ” in part (ii) are valid. Let  $g \in V_j^k$ ; then

$$\begin{aligned} t^{-j}b + a &= t^{-j}(yd + zc^*) + (yc + zd^*) = t^{-j}yd - t^{-j}zc + yc - t^{-2j}zd \\ &= t^{-j}d(y - t^{-j}z) + c(y - t^{-j}z) = (y - t^{-j}z)(c + t^{-j}d) = y - t^{-j}z. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $\max(t^{-j}b + a) = \max(y - t^{-j}z) \leq \max\{\max y, \max t^{-j}z\}$ . But we have shown that  $\max y < \max a$ . Using similar calculations and applying inequality (3.1.1) we obtain

$\max t^{-j}b = \max(y - c(y + t^{-j}z)) = \max c + \max(y + t^{-j}z) > \max t^{-j}z$ , so  $\max(t^{-j}b + a) \leq \max\{\max y, \max t^{-j}z\} < \max\{\max a, \max t^{-j}b\}$ . In analogous way for  $g \in W_j^k$  we obtain  $\max(t^{-j}b - a) < \max\{\max a, \max t^{-j}b\}$ . Considering “min” instead of “max” one can easily verify that:

$$g \in V_k^j \Rightarrow \min(t^{-j}b + a) > \min\{\min a, \min t^{-j}b\} \text{ and}$$

$$g \in W_k^j \Rightarrow \min(t^{-j}b + a) > \min\{\min a, \min t^{-j}b\}.$$

Hence to complete proof of (ii) it is enough to show that left sides of equivalences (ii) exclude one another. First let us notice that if  $\max(t^j b \pm a) < \max\{\max a, \max t^j b\}$  then  $\max a = \max t^j b$  and hence  $\max(t^j b \pm a) < \max t^j b = j + \max b$ . Therefore if  $\max(t^j b + \varepsilon a) < \max\{\max a, \max t^j b\}$   $\max(t^l b + \delta a) < \max\{\max a, \max t^l b\}$  for  $j, l \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $\varepsilon, \delta \in \{\pm 1\}$  then  $\max(t^j b + \varepsilon a - \varepsilon \delta^{-1}(t^l b + \delta a)) = \max(t^j b - \varepsilon \delta^{-1} t^l b) = \max b + \max(t^j - \varepsilon \delta^{-1} t^l) < \max\{j + \max b, l + \max b\}$ . Eventually we have  $\max(t^j - \varepsilon \delta^{-1} t^l) < \max(l, j)$ . But if  $t^j - \varepsilon \delta^{-1} t^l \neq 0$  then  $\max(t^j - \varepsilon \delta^{-1} t^l) = \max\{l, j\}$  which would lead to a contradiction, therefore  $t^j - \varepsilon \delta^{-1} t^l = 0$ , i.e.,  $j = 1$  and  $\varepsilon = \delta$ —what was to be shown. ■

Let  $R$  be a commutative domain with unity. By  $D$  we denote the group of trivial units of the group ring  $RD_\infty$ . We have an obvious isomorphism  $D \cong D_\infty \times U(R)$ . The groups  $U, V_j, W_j$  are defined as in Section 2.

**THEOREM 3.2.** *Let  $G = \langle U, D \rangle$ . Then:*

- (i)  $U \cong \star_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} V_j * \star_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} W_j \cong \star_{\mathbb{Z}} \oplus_{\mathbb{N}} R^+$ , where  $R^+$  denotes the additive group of the ring  $R$ .
- (ii)  $G = UD$ .

**PROOF.** (i) We have shown in the proof of Lemma 3.1 that  $V_j \cong \oplus_{\mathbb{N}} R^+$  (and for  $\text{char } R \neq 2$ :  $W_j \cong \oplus_{\mathbb{N}} R^+$ ). In order to prove (i) we should check that the homomorphism  $\Phi = \varinjlim_k \Phi_k: \star V_j * \star W_j \rightarrow U$  is an isomorphism.  $\Phi$  is an epimorphism because each generator  $1 + r_{ij}$  lies in the image of  $\Phi$ .  $\Phi$  is a monomorphism because for  $1 \neq w \in \star_j V_j * \star_j W_j$  there exists  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $w \in \star_j V_j^k * \star_j W_j^k$  and then by Lemma 3.1. (i)  $\Phi(w) = \Phi_k(w) \neq 1$ .

(ii) In order to prove (ii) it is enough to verify that:

$$1^\circ: U \cap D = \{1\} \quad 2^\circ: U \text{ is a normal subgroup of } G$$

1°: If  $1 \neq \alpha \in U$  then by Lemma 3.1.(i)  $\text{deg } \alpha > 0$  so  $\alpha \notin D$ .

2°:  $D = D \times U(R)$ .  $U(R)$  is contained in the centre of  $RD_\infty$  so it is sufficient to show that  $t \circ U \circ t^{-1} \subseteq U$  and  $x \circ U \circ x^{-1} \subseteq U$ .

We calculate:

$$(3.2.1) \quad \begin{aligned} t(1 + r_{ij})t^{-1} &= 1 + r_{tj}t^{-1} = 1 + r_{i(j+z)} \in U \\ x(1 + r_{ij})x^{-1} &= 1 + r_{xi}x^{-1} = 1 + r_{i(-j)} \in U \end{aligned}$$

which completes the proof of the Theorem. ■

COROLLARY 3.3.

$$\langle \text{im } \Phi_k, D \rangle = \text{im } \Phi_k D$$

PROOF. From Lemma 3.1. (i) it follows that for  $1 \neq \alpha \in \text{im } \Phi_k$  holds:  $\text{deg } \alpha > 0$  so  $\text{im } \Phi_k \cap D = \{1\}$ . But by (3.2.1)  $\text{im } \Phi_k$  is a normal subgroup of  $\langle \text{im } \Phi_k, D \rangle$  which complete the proof. ■

PROPOSITION 3.4. *The groups  $U, G$  are not finitely generated.*

PROOF. If  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \in U$  then there exist  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  such that:  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \in \Phi(\star_j V_j^k \star \star_j W_j^k)$ . Then  $\langle \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \rangle \subseteq \text{im } \Phi_k$ . But  $1 + n_{(k+1)j} \notin \text{im } \Phi_k$  because  $\Phi_{k+1}$  is a monomorphism. Therefore  $\langle \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \rangle \neq U$ . Similarly if  $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_n \in G$  then by Theorem 3.2 there exists  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\langle \beta_1, \dots, \beta_n \rangle \subseteq \text{im } \Phi_k D$  but by the Corollary 3.3,  $1 + n_{(k+1)j} \notin \text{im } \Phi_k D$  so  $\langle \beta_1, \dots, \beta_n \rangle \neq G$ . ■

4. **Description of groups  $U(\mathbb{Z}_2 D_\infty), U(\mathbb{Z}_3 D_\infty)$ .** In this section the group  $G$  defined in Section 3 for the rings  $\mathbb{Z}_2 D_\infty$  and  $\mathbb{Z}_3 D_\infty$  will be denoted by  $G_2$  and  $G_3$  respectively.

THEOREM 4.1.

$$U(\mathbb{Z}_2 D_\infty) = G_2 \cong (\star_{\mathbb{Z}} \oplus_{\mathbb{N}} \mathbb{Z}_2) D_\infty$$

$$U(\mathbb{Z}_3 D_\infty) = G_3 \cong (\star_{\mathbb{Z}} \oplus_{\mathbb{N}} \mathbb{Z}_3) D_\infty$$

PROOF. In both cases it is enough to prove that trivial units together with units of the form  $1 \pm n_{ij}$  for  $i, j \in \mathbb{Z}$  generate the whole group of units. We will prove this fact for the group  $U(\mathbb{Z}_3 D_\infty)$  only but it can be easily seen that the proof is valid also for the group  $U(\mathbb{Z}_2 D_\infty)$ .

Let  $\alpha \in U(\mathbb{Z}_3 D_\infty), \alpha = a + bx$ . If  $\text{deg } \alpha = 0$  then  $\alpha$  is a trivial unit. Hence we can assume that  $\text{deg } \alpha > 0$ . Let  $j = \max a - \max b$ ,

$$\varepsilon = -a_{\max a} \circ (b_{\max b})^{-1} = \pm 1,$$

$$k = \min\{\min(a + \varepsilon t^j b) - \min a, \max a - \max(a + \varepsilon t^j b)\}$$

Let us notice that  $aa^* - bb^* = \pm 1$  (Remark 2.2)  $\Rightarrow aa^* \neq bb^* \Rightarrow a \neq \pm t^j b \Rightarrow a + \varepsilon t^j b \neq 0$ ; thus  $k$  is well-defined. Moreover,  $k \geq 1$  because  $a_{\max a} = -\varepsilon b_{\max b}$  and  $a_{\min a} = -\varepsilon b_{\min b}$ —the second equality follows from the equality  $aa^* - bb^* = \pm 1$  and the assumption:  $\text{deg } \alpha = \text{deg } a = \text{deg } b > 0$ . As  $a_{\max a} a_{\min a} = aa_{\max a}^* = bb_{\max b}^* = b_{\max b} b_{\min b}$  hence  $a_{\min a} = b_{\max b} \circ b_{\min b} \circ (a_{\max a})^{-1} = -\varepsilon b_{\min b}$ . We will show that for  $s = 1$  or  $s = -1$  holds  $\text{deg}(\alpha \circ (1 + sn_{(\varepsilon k)j})) < \text{deg } \alpha$ .

$$\alpha \circ (1 + sn_{(\varepsilon k)j}) = [a + s(-t^{-k} + t^k)a + s(-t^{-k} + t^k)\varepsilon t^j b] + [\dots]x$$

$$= [a + s(-t^{-k}(a + \varepsilon t^j b) + t^k(a + \varepsilon t^j b))] + [\dots]x.$$

Let  $h = -t^{-k}(a + \varepsilon t^j b) + t^k(a + \varepsilon t^j b)$ .

Directly from the definition of  $k$  we have:

$$(4.1.1) \quad \max h = \max t^k(a + \varepsilon t^j b) = k + \max(a + \varepsilon t^j b) \leq \max a$$

$$(4.1.2) \quad \min h = \min t^{-k}(a + \varepsilon t^j b) = -k + \min(a + \varepsilon t^j b) \geq \min a$$

and at least one inequality is an equality. First let us assume that equality occurs in (4.1.1). The  $h_{\max h} = h_{\max a} \in \{\pm 1\} = \mathbb{Z}_3 - \{0\}$ . Also  $a_{\max a} \in \{\pm 1\}$  thus we can choose  $s \in \{\pm 1\}$  in such a way that  $\max(a + sh) < \max a$  ( $s = -h_{\max h} \circ a_{\max a}^{-1}$ ). Similarly if equality occurs in (4.1.2) then we can choose  $s \in \{\pm 1\}$  ( $s = -h_{\min h} \circ a_{\min a}^{-1}$ ) such that  $\min(a + sh) > \min a$ . As a result we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \deg(\alpha \circ (1 + sn_{(\varepsilon k j)})) &= \deg(a + sh) = \max(a + sh) - \min(a + sh) \\ &< \max a - \min a = \deg a = \deg \alpha. \end{aligned}$$

Simple inductive argument completes the proof. ■

**THEOREM 4.2.** *Groups  $U(\mathbb{Z}D_\infty)$ ,  $U(\mathbb{Z}_3D_\infty)$  and  $U(\mathbb{Z}_2D_\infty)$  are not finitely generated.*

**PROOF.** For groups  $U(\mathbb{Z}_3D_\infty)$ ,  $U(\mathbb{Z}_2D_\infty)$  the assertion follows directly from Theorem 4.1 and Proposition 3.4. The homomorphism  $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_2 = \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$  induces a homomorphism of rings  $\Psi: \mathbb{Z}D_\infty \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_2D_\infty$  which restricted to  $U(\mathbb{Z}D_\infty)$  gives us a homomorphism of groups  $\Psi: U(\mathbb{Z}D_\infty) \rightarrow U(\mathbb{Z}_2D_\infty)$ . Let us notice that for  $1 \circ x, 1 \circ t, n_{ij} \in \mathbb{Z}D_\infty$  we have:  $\Psi(1 \circ x) = 1 \circ x \in \mathbb{Z}_2D_\infty$ ,  $\Psi(1 \circ t) \in \mathbb{Z}_2D_\infty$ ,  $\Psi(n_{ij}) = n_{ij} \in \mathbb{Z}_2D_\infty$  so  $G_2 \subseteq \text{im } \Psi$ . But by Theorem 4.1  $G_2 = U(\mathbb{Z}_2D_\infty)$  thus  $\Psi: U(\mathbb{Z}D_\infty) \rightarrow U(\mathbb{Z}_2D_\infty)$  is an epimorphism. Therefore  $U(\mathbb{Z}D_\infty)$  cannot be a finitely generated group. ■

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