



# Varieties and algebraic algebras of bounded degree

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### Abstract

We study varieties of associative algebras over an infinite field. We prove that any variety is generated by an algebraic algebra of bounded degree over a commutative algebra and determine when it can be generated by an algebraic algebra over a field. We also give upper and lower bounds for the minimal algebraic degree of the algebra  $M_n(G)$ . © 1998 Elsevier Science B.V. All rights reserved.

It is well known that an algebraic algebra of bounded degree  $n$  is a *PI*-algebra, satisfying, for example, the identity

$$\sum_{\sigma \in S(n+1)} (-1)^\sigma x^{\sigma(0)} y_1 x^{\sigma(1)} y_2 \dots y_n x^{\sigma(n)} = 0.$$

We prove the following theorem.

**Theorem.** *Any proper variety of associative algebras over a field of characteristic 0 can be generated by an algebraic algebra of bounded degree over some commutative algebra.*

Thus, for any *PI*-algebra  $A$ , there exists an algebraic algebra of bounded degree which has the same identities as  $A$ .

Let  $A$  be an associative algebra over a commutative ring  $R$ . An arbitrary  $R$ -linear mapping  $Tr : A \rightarrow R$  will be called a trace. For example, in the full matrix algebras  $M_n(F)$  over a field  $F$ , the mapping  $Tr$  can be defined by the formula

$$Tr \left( \sum_{i,j=1}^n a_{ij} e_{ij} \right) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ii}.$$

Note that we do not require that the trace satisfy the condition  $Tr(a_1 a_2) = Tr(a_2 a_1)$ .

Let  $X$  be a countable set, and let  $F\langle X \rangle$  denote the free associative algebra (without unit) over a field  $F$  generated by the set  $X$ . Denote by  $T$  the free associative

and commutative algebra with unit generated by all the elements  $Tr(u)$ , where  $u$  are nonempty words over  $X$ . We call the algebra  $\tilde{F}\langle X \rangle = F\langle X \rangle \otimes T$  the free algebra with trace. We will omit the symbol  $\otimes$  below. The elements of the algebra  $\tilde{F}\langle X \rangle$  will be called polynomials with trace. Any polynomial with trace can be written as an  $F$ -linear combination of the monomials

$$u_0 Tr(u_1) \cdots Tr(u_n),$$

where  $u_i \in F\langle X \rangle$ .

Let  $A$  be an algebra with trace and  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  a polynomial with trace. We say the algebra  $A$  satisfies the identity with trace  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0$  if for any  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in A$  the equality  $f(a_1, \dots, a_n) = 0$  is satisfied in  $A$ .

Polynomials with trace are said to have Cayley–Hamilton form of degree  $n$  if they have the form

$$x^n + \sum_{(i)} \alpha_{(i)} x^{i_0} Tr(x^{i_1}) \cdots Tr(x^{i_t}),$$

where  $(i) = (i_0, i_1, \dots, i_t)$  are various collections such that

$$i_1 \geq \cdots \geq i_t, \quad i_0 + i_1 + \cdots + i_t = n, \quad i_0 < n.$$

Since  $\text{char } F = 0$ , the linearity of  $Tr$  implies by the usual multilinearization process that any trace identity is equivalent to a multilinear trace identity. The full matrix algebra of order  $n$  clearly satisfies the following identity with trace:  $X_n(x) = 0$ , where  $X_n(x)$  is a Cayley–Hamilton polynomial defined recursively by the formulas

$$X_1(x) = x - Tr(x), \quad X_n(x) = X_{n-1}(x) \cdot x - \frac{1}{n} \cdot Tr(X_{n-1}(x) \cdot x).$$

Thus, the matrix algebra satisfies an identity of Cayley–Hamilton form. An arbitrary finite-dimensional algebra  $A$  can be embedded in algebra of matrices of finite order; therefore, a map  $Tr: A \rightarrow F$  can be defined in  $A$  so that the algebra  $A$  satisfies some identity with trace of Cayley–Hamilton form.

Consider  $A \otimes_F G$ , where  $A$  is an arbitrary finite-dimensional algebra over a field  $F$ ,  $\text{char } F = 0$ , and  $G$  is the Grassmann algebra of countable rank. Then  $G = G_0 \oplus G_1$ , where  $G_0$  (resp.  $G_1$ ) is the subspace of  $G$  generated by the words of even (resp. odd) length. Since  $C(G) = G_0$  is the centre of  $G$ , the algebra  $A \otimes_F G$  can be considered as an algebra over the commutative algebra  $G_0$ .

If  $Tr$  is defined on the algebra  $A$ , then we define the  $G_0$ -linear mapping  $Tr$  in  $A \otimes_F G$  as follows:

$$Tr(a \otimes g) = Tr(a) \cdot Tr(g), \quad a \in A, \quad g \in G,$$

where  $Tr(g) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} Tr(g_0 + g_1) = g_0, \quad g \in G, \quad g_0 \in G_0, \quad g_1 \in G_1.$

Since  $G_0 = C(G)$ , the mapping  $Tr$  in the algebra  $A \otimes_F G$  is defined correctly.

**Theorem 1.** *Any proper variety of associative algebras over a field of characteristic 0 can be generated by an algebraic algebra of bounded degree over some commutative algebra.*

**Proof.** Indeed, by the theorem of Kemer [1], any proper variety of associative algebras is generated by the Grassmann hull of some finite-dimensional superalgebra. Thus, it is sufficient to prove that Grassmann hull of an arbitrary finite-dimensional superalgebra satisfies some identity with trace of Cayley–Hamilton form. This implies that the Grassmann hull is an algebraic algebra of bounded degree over the commutative algebra  $G_0$ . We prove it in more explicit form.

**Lemma 1.** *If an algebra  $A$  satisfies multilinear identity of Cayley–Hamilton form of degree  $n$ ,  $\dim A = m$ , then the algebra  $A \otimes_F G$  satisfies some identity of Cayley–Hamilton form of degree  $n(mn + 1)$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $\{a_1, \dots, a_m\}$  be a basis of  $A$ ,  $\dim A = m$  and  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0$ ,  $\deg f = n$  be a multilinear identity with trace equivalent to a Cayley–Hamilton identity which is satisfied in  $A$ . Trivially, it is sufficient to prove that  $A \otimes_F G$  satisfies the identity

$$(f(x_1, \dots, x_n))^{mn+1} = 0.$$

Consider arbitrary elements  $b_1, \dots, b_n \in A \otimes_F G$ ,

$$b_l = \sum_{i=1}^m a_i \otimes g_{(i)}^{(l)}, \quad g_{(i)}^{(l)} \in G, \quad l = 1, \dots, n$$

and substitute them into the given identity with trace. Since the polynomial  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  is multilinear, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} (f(b_1, \dots, b_n))^{mn+1} &= \left( f \left( \sum_{i_1=1}^m a_{i_1} \otimes g_{(i_1)}^{(1)}, \dots, \sum_{i_n=1}^m a_{i_n} \otimes g_{(i_n)}^{(n)} \right) \right)^{mn+1} \\ &= \left( \sum_{(i)} f \left( a_{i_1} \otimes g_{(i_1)}^{(1)}, \dots, a_{i_n} \otimes g_{(i_n)}^{(n)} \right) \right)^{mn+1} \\ &= \left( \sum_{(i)} f \left( a_{i_1} \otimes \left( g_{0(i_1)}^{(1)} + g_{1(i_1)}^{(1)} \right), \dots, a_{i_n} \otimes \left( g_{0(i_n)}^{(n)} + g_{1(i_n)}^{(n)} \right) \right) \right)^{mn+1}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $(i) = (i_1, \dots, i_n)$ ,  $i_l \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ . We notice  $g_{0(i_l)}^{(l)} \in G_0$ ,  $g_{1(i_l)}^{(l)} \in G_1$ .

Divide the sum

$$\sum_{(i)} f \left( a_{i_1} \otimes \left( g_{0(i_1)}^{(1)} + g_{1(i_1)}^{(1)} \right), \dots, a_{i_n} \otimes \left( g_{0(i_n)}^{(n)} + g_{1(i_n)}^{(n)} \right) \right)$$

into two parts, where the first part consists of the summands of the form

$$f\left(a_{i_1} \otimes g_{0(i_1)}^{(1)}, \dots, a_{i_n} \otimes g_{0(i_n)}^{(n)}\right)$$

and the second one consists of all the other summands.

Since  $G_0 = C(G)$  and the mapping  $Tr$  is  $G_0$ -linear the first part equals 0 in  $A \otimes_F G$ , because the algebra  $A$  satisfies the identity  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0$ .

Note also that if  $P_n(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  is an arbitrary multilinear polynomial with trace and  $\rho_t \in \{0, 1\}$  then

$$P_n\left(a_{i_1} \otimes g_{\rho_1}^{(1)}, \dots, a_{i_n} \otimes g_{\rho_n}^{(n)}\right) = P'_n\left(a_{i_1}, \dots, a_{i_n}\right) \otimes g_{\rho_1}^{(1)} \cdots g_{\rho_n}^{(n)},$$

where  $P'_n$  is some other multilinear polynomial with trace.

Denote  $u_j = g_{\rho_1(i_1)}^{(1)} \cdots g_{\rho_n(i_n)}^{(n)}$ , if there exist  $t \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  such that  $\rho_t = 1$ . Then we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( \sum_{(i)} \left[ f\left(a_{i_1} \otimes g_{0(i_1)}^{(1)}, \dots, a_{i_n} \otimes g_{1(i_n)}^{(n)}\right) + \cdots + f\left(a_{i_1} \otimes g_{1(i_1)}^{(1)}, \dots, a_{i_n} \otimes g_{1(i_n)}^{(n)}\right) \right] \right)^{mn+1} \\ &= \left[ \sum_{(i)} \sum_{j=1}^{2^n-1} f_j(a_{i_1}, \dots, a_{i_n}) \otimes u_j \right]^{mn+1} \\ &= \sum_{(i),(j)} \left[ \prod_{t=1}^{mn+1} f_{j_t}(a_{i_{1,t}}, \dots, a_{i_{n,t}}) \right] \otimes u_{j_1} \cdot u_{j_2} \cdots u_{j_{mn+1}} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Here  $(j) = (j_1, \dots, j_{mn+1})$ , where  $j_t \in \{1, \dots, 2^n - 1\}$ , and

$$(i) = (i_{1,t}, \dots, i_{n,t}) \quad \text{where } i_{l,t} \in \{1, \dots, m\}.$$

Indeed, every word of the form  $u_{j_t}$  contains at least one element of the set  $L = \{g_{1(1)}^{(1)}, \dots, g_{1(m)}^{(1)}, \dots, g_{1(1)}^{(n)}, \dots, g_{1(m)}^{(n)}\} \subset G_1$ . Since  $\text{card } L = nm$ , all words of the form  $u_{j_1} \cdots u_{j_{mn+1}}$  contain two identical elements from  $L$ . Therefore, using  $g_1^2 = 0$ , where  $g_1 \in G_1$ , obtain  $u_{j_1} \cdot u_{j_2} \cdots u_{j_{mn+1}} = 0$ . Thus the lemma is proved.  $\square$

As observed above, an arbitrary finite-dimensional superalgebra  $A$  satisfies some multilinear identity with trace of Cayley–Hamilton form. Hence, by Lemma 1 the Grassmann hull of  $A$  also satisfies a Cayley–Hamilton form identity with trace. Hence the theorem is proved.  $\square$

We remark it is not true that any variety of associative algebras is generated by an algebraic algebra of bounded degree over a field.

**Theorem 2.** *A variety of associative algebras over a field of characteristic 0 is generated by an algebraic algebra of bounded degree over a field if and only if it can be generated by some finite-dimensional algebra.*

**Proof.** Let  $B$  be an algebraic algebra of degree  $n$  over a field  $F$ . Let  $N$  be the nil-radical of the algebra  $B$ . Then  $N$  satisfies the identity  $x^n = 0$  and, by the Nagata–Higman theorem,  $N$  is nilpotent. The quotient algebra  $B/N$  has no nonzero nil-ideals, hence it satisfies the standard identity of some degree. It means the algebra  $B$  satisfies the identity

$$S_k(x_1, \dots, x_k) \cdot S_k(x_{k+1}, \dots, x_{2k}) \cdot \dots \cdot S_k(x_{k(t-1)+1}, \dots, x_{t \cdot k}) = 0.$$

The last identity obviously is not satisfied in the Grassmann algebra. Therefore, by the theorem of Kemer [1],  $Var(B)$  can be generated by some finite-dimensional algebra  $C$ .

The converse assertion is trivial because a finite-dimensional algebra is always an algebraic algebra of bounded degree. Hence Theorem 2 is proved.  $\square$

Lemma 1 gives us an upper bound for the minimal degree  $d$  of the Cayley–Hamilton form identities of the algebra  $M_n(G) = M_n(F) \otimes_F G : d \leq n^4 + n$ . Now we give the lower bound for this degree.

**Theorem 3.** *If the algebra  $M_n(G)$  satisfies some multilinear identity with trace of Cayley–Hamilton form  $P_d(x_1, \dots, x_d) = 0$  then  $d \geq 2n$ .*

**Proof.** Assume  $\deg P_d < 2n$ . Consider the matrix units  $e_{11}, e_{12}, e_{22}, e_{23}, e_{33}, \dots, e_{n-1n}, e_{nn}$ . There are  $2n - 1$  of them; therefore, we can choose of them the first  $d$  among them and make the substitution (below we assume  $d = 2n - 1$ )

$$x_1 = e_{11} \otimes g_{11}, \quad x_2 = e_{12} \otimes g_{12}, \quad x_3 = e_{22} \otimes g_{13}, \dots, x_d = e_{nn} \otimes g_{1d}.$$

Here  $g_{11}, g_{12}, \dots, g_{1d}$  are arbitrary elements from  $G_1$ . But by the definition of the trace  $Tr(a \otimes g_1) = Tr(a) \cdot Tr(g_1) = Tr(a) \cdot 0$ , and  $g_{1i_1} \cdot \dots \cdot g_{1i_{2k+1}} \in G_1$ , if  $g_{1i_1}, \dots, g_{1i_{2k+1}} \in G_1$ . Hence, all monomials which are contained in  $P_d$  and have a subword of the form  $Tr(x_{i_1} \cdot \dots \cdot x_{i_{2k+1}})$  vanish. Consider the trace of even length  $Tr(x_{i_1} \cdot \dots \cdot x_{i_{2k}})$ . After substitution we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} Tr(e_{i_1 j_1} \otimes g_{11} \cdot \dots \cdot e_{i_{2k} j_{2k}} \otimes g_{12k}) &= Tr(e_{i_1 j_1} \cdot \dots \cdot e_{i_{2k} j_{2k}} \otimes g_{11} \cdot \dots \cdot g_{12k}) \\ &= Tr(e_{i_1 j_1} \cdot \dots \cdot e_{i_{2k} j_{2k}}) \cdot g_{11} \cdot \dots \cdot g_{12k} \\ &= 0 \cdot g_{11} \cdot \dots \cdot g_{12k} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $e_{i_1 j_1}, \dots, e_{i_{2k} j_{2k}}$  are matrix units from the given set, either  $e_{i_1 j_1} \cdot \dots \cdot e_{i_{2k} j_{2k}} = 0$ , or  $e_{i_1 j_1} \cdot \dots \cdot e_{i_{2k} j_{2k}} = e_{i_1 j_{2k}}$ , and since  $2k > 1$ ,  $i_1 < j_{2k}$  and we have  $Tr(e_{i_1 j_1} \cdot \dots \cdot e_{i_{2k} j_{2k}}) = Tr(e_{i_1 j_{2k}}) = 0$ . Thus, any monomial containing the symbol  $Tr$  vanishes after substitution. It is evident that all the other monomials also vanish except  $x_1 \cdot x_2 \cdot \dots \cdot x_d$ . Hence,

$$P_d(e_{11} \otimes g_{11}, \dots, e_{dd} \otimes g_{1d}) = e_{11} \cdot \dots \cdot e_{nn} \otimes g_{11} \cdot \dots \cdot g_{1d} = e_{1n} \otimes g_{11} \cdot \dots \cdot g_{1d} \neq 0.$$

Thus, any identity with trace of Cayley–Hamilton form of degree less than  $2n$  is not satisfied in the algebra  $M_n(G)$ . Theorem 3 is thus proved.  $\square$

Consider an associative algebra  $B$  with unit over an infinite field of arbitrary characteristic. Let  $\Gamma$  be the ideal of identities of the algebra  $B$ . Let us prove the following lemma.

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $T$  be the  $T$ -ideal of  $F\langle X \rangle$  generated by commutators. Consider any  $f, g \in F\langle X \rangle$ . If  $f \notin T$ ,  $g \notin \Gamma$ , then  $f \cdot g \notin \Gamma$ .*

**Proof.** Consider the homogeneous in all variables components of  $f \cdot g$ . Since  $\Gamma$  is a  $T$ -ideal over infinite field it is enough to prove at least one of homogeneous components of  $f \cdot g$  does not belong to  $\Gamma$ . Let us order the homogeneous components of an element of  $F\langle X \rangle$  lexicographically on the degrees of the variables.

Denote by  $\hat{f}$  a minimal homogeneous component of  $f$  which does not belong to  $T$ . It exists because  $f \notin T$ .

It is well known that any polynomial  $g$  can be written in the form

$$g = \sum_{i=1}^s h_i g_i, \tag{1}$$

where  $h_i = x_{i_1} x_{i_2} \dots x_{i_m}$ ,  $i_1 \leq i_2 \leq \dots \leq i_m$  and

$$g_i = \sum_{(j)} \alpha_{(j)} [x_{j_1}, x_{j_2}, \dots, x_{j_l}] \dots [x_{k_1}, x_{k_2}, \dots, x_{k_n}],$$

$g_i$  are homogeneous in all variables.

Since  $g \notin \Gamma$ , there exist  $g_i \notin \Gamma$  in the form (1). Let  $\hat{g}$  be the minimal  $g_i$  satisfying this condition, and  $\hat{h}$  is the minimal of multipliers  $h_i$  corresponding to  $\hat{g}$  in (1).

Consider the homogeneous in all variables component of  $f \cdot g$  of the same degrees as  $\hat{f} \hat{h} \hat{g}$ . It can be written in the form

$$q(x_{j_1}, \dots, x_{m_r}) = \hat{f}(x_{j_1}, \dots, x_{j_r}) \hat{h}(x_{l_1}, \dots, x_{l_t}) \hat{g}(x_{m_1}, \dots, x_{m_n}) + \sum_{i_1} f_{i_1} \cdot h_{i_1} \cdot \hat{g} + \sum_{i_2} f_{i_2} \cdot h_{i_2} \cdot g_{i_2} \pmod{\Gamma},$$

where  $f_{i_1}$ ,  $f_{i_2}$  are homogeneous components of  $f$  and  $h_{i_1} \hat{g}$ ,  $h_{i_2} g_{i_2}$  are the components of  $g$ . The choice of  $\hat{g}$  and  $\hat{h}$  implies  $g_{i_2} > \hat{g}$ ,  $h_{i_1} > \hat{h}$  and because of homogeneity  $f_{i_1} < \hat{f}$ .

Let us change all variables of  $q$  the polynomials  $\hat{f} \cdot \hat{h}$  and  $\hat{g}$  depend on at the same time by  $z$ 's and the other variables of  $\hat{f} \cdot \hat{h}$  by  $y$ 's with the same indices. Then

$$q(y_{j_1}, \dots, y_{l_r}, z_{j_r+1}, \dots, z_{l_t}, x_{m_1}, \dots, x_{m_n}) = \hat{f}(y_{j_1}, \dots, y_{j_r}, z_{j_r+1}, \dots, z_{j_r}) \times \hat{h}(y_{l_1}, \dots, y_{l_t}, z_{j_r+1}, \dots, z_{l_t}) \hat{g}(x_{m_1}, \dots, x_{m_n}, z_{m_r+1}, \dots, z_{m_n}) + \sum_{i_1} f_{i_1} \cdot h_{i_1} \cdot \hat{g} + \sum_{i_2} f_{i_2} \cdot h_{i_2} \cdot g_{i_2} \pmod{\Gamma}.$$

Consider the partial linearization of  $q$  on all variables  $z_l$ :

$$q(y_{j_1}, \dots, z_l, \dots, x_{m_{r'}}) |_{z_l=y_l-x_l} - q(y_{j_1}, \dots, y_l, \dots, x_{m_{r'}}) - q(y_{j_1}, \dots, x_l, \dots, x_{m_{r'}}).$$

Let  $\tilde{q}$  be its homogeneous component with the same degrees in  $x$ 's as degrees of  $\hat{g}$ . Obviously, it is enough to prove  $\tilde{q} \notin \Gamma$ .

Since  $\deg_{x_m} \tilde{q}(y_{j_1}, \dots, y_{l_r}, x_{m_1}, \dots, x_{m_v}) = \deg_{x_m} \hat{g}(x_{m_1}, \dots, x_{m_v})$  for any  $m \in \{m_1, \dots, m_v\}$ , modulo  $\Gamma$   $\tilde{q}$  is a sum of polynomials

$$\begin{aligned} & \hat{f}(y_{j_1}, \dots, y_{j_r}) \hat{h}(y_{l_1}, \dots, y_{l_r}) \hat{g}(x_{m_1}, \dots, x_{m_v}), \\ & \sum \tilde{f} \cdot \tilde{h} \cdot \tilde{g}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\tilde{g}$  are partial linearizations of  $\hat{g}$  depending on  $y$ 's,

$$\sum \tilde{f}_{i_1} \cdot \tilde{h}_{i_1} \cdot \hat{g}(x_{m_1}, \dots, x_{m_v}),$$

where  $\tilde{f}_{i_1}$  are partial linearizations of  $f_{i_1} < \hat{f}$  depending on  $y$ 's only,

$$\sum \tilde{f}_{i_2} \cdot \tilde{h}_{i_2} \cdot \tilde{g}_{i_2},$$

where  $\tilde{g}_{i_2}$  are partial linearizations of  $g_{i_2} > \hat{g}$ . Notice, in the last summand  $\tilde{g}_{i_2}$  also depend on  $y$ 's, since  $\deg_{x_m} \sum \tilde{f}_{i_2} \cdot \tilde{h}_{i_2} \cdot \tilde{g}_{i_2} = \deg_{x_m} \hat{g}$  for any  $m$  and  $g_{i_2} > \hat{g}$ .

Let  $B$  be an  $F$ -algebra with unit such that  $T[B] = \Gamma$ . Since  $\hat{g} \notin \Gamma$ , there exist  $b_1, \dots, b_v \in B$  such that  $\hat{g}(b_1, \dots, b_v) \neq 0$ . Consider the substitution  $y_{j_1} = \dots = y_{l_r} = 1$ ,  $x_{m_1} = b_1, \dots, x_{m_v} = b_v$  into  $\tilde{q}$ . Then the second and the fourth summands vanish, because  $\tilde{g}$ ,  $\tilde{g}_{i_2}$  are the sums of products of commutators. The third summand also vanishes; since  $f_{i_1} < \hat{f}$ , this implies  $f_{i_1} \in T$  and  $\tilde{f}_{i_1}(y_{n_1}, \dots, y_{n_k}) |_{y_j=1} = 0$ .

Thus

$$\tilde{q}(1, \dots, 1, b_1, \dots, b_m) = \alpha \cdot \hat{g}(b_1, \dots, b_l) \neq 0,$$

where  $\alpha \in F$ ,  $\alpha = \hat{f}(1, \dots, 1) \neq 0$ , since  $\hat{f} \notin T$ . It means  $\tilde{q} = 0$  is not satisfied in  $B$ , therefore  $\tilde{q} \notin \Gamma$ . Thus the lemma is proved.  $\square$

We have shown above that if  $\text{char } F = 0$  the variety  $\text{Var}(G)$  cannot be generated by an algebraic algebra of bounded degree over a field. This is not true in the case where the field has nonzero characteristic.

**Theorem 4.** *If an associative algebra  $B$  with unit over infinite field of characteristic  $p > 0$  satisfies the Engel identity of some degree  $[y, x, \dots, x] = 0$ , then  $\text{Var}(B)$  can be generated by an algebraic algebra of bounded degree over some extension of the base field.*

**Proof.** We can assume that the field  $F$  is algebraically closed. Let  $\Gamma$  denote the ideal of identities of  $B$ . Let  $\bar{F}\langle X \rangle = F\langle X \rangle / \Gamma$  be the relatively free algebra corresponding to  $\Gamma$ .  $C(\bar{F}\langle X \rangle)$  denotes the centre of  $\bar{F}\langle X \rangle$ , and  $J = J(\bar{F}\langle X \rangle)$  denotes the Jacobson radical of  $\bar{F}\langle X \rangle$ .

If  $B$  satisfies the Engel identity of some degree  $[y, x, \dots, x] = 0$ , then for some  $n$ ,  $[x^{p^n}, y] \in \Gamma$ . Hence,  $x^{p^n} \in C(\bar{F}\langle X \rangle)$  for any  $x \in \bar{F}\langle X \rangle$ .  $Var(\bar{F}\langle X \rangle)$  is a nonmatrix variety; therefore,  $J$  is the verbal ideal generated by commutators. By the theorem of Kemer [2]  $J$  is nil of bounded degree; denote this degree by  $k$ .

Consider  $S = \{x^{p^{n+l}} \mid x \in \bar{F}\langle X \rangle\}$ , where  $p^l \geq k$ , and the subalgebra  $C$  generated by  $S$ . Then using  $x^{p^n} \in C(\bar{F}\langle X \rangle)$ , we have, for any  $c \in C$ ,

$$c = \sum_{(i)} \alpha_{(i)} x_{i_1}^{p^{n+l}} \dots x_{i_s}^{p^{n+l}} = \sum_{(i)} \left( \beta_{(i)} x_{i_1}^{p^n} \dots x_{i_s}^{p^n} \right)^{p^l} = \left( \sum_{(i)} \beta_{(i)} x_{i_1}^{p^n} \dots x_{i_s}^{p^n} \right)^{p^l}.$$

Here,  $x_{i_j} \in \bar{F}\langle X \rangle$ , and  $\alpha_{(i)} \in F$ ,  $\beta_{(i)}$  is a solution of equation  $y^{p^l} = \alpha_{(i)}$ . Hence, for any  $c \in C$   $c = x^{p^l}$ . There are two cases: either  $x \in J$  then  $c = 0$ , or  $x \notin J$  and  $c$  also does not belong to the commutator ideal. Therefore by Lemma 2  $C$  is regular.

We construct using the central localization an algebra  $A = \{fc^{-1} \mid f \in \bar{F}\langle X \rangle, c \in C\}$ . Since  $C$  is regular and  $C \subseteq C(\bar{F}\langle X \rangle)$  by the theorem of Rowen [3],  $T[A] = \Gamma$ . Let  $K$  be the field of fractions of  $C$ . Then  $K \subseteq A$  and  $A$  is algebraic of degree  $p^{n+l}$  over the field  $K$ . Indeed, for any  $a \in A$

$$a^{p^{n+l}} = (fc^{-1})^{p^{n+l}} = f^{p^{n+l}}(c^{p^{n+l}})^{-1} = k \quad \text{where } k \in K,$$

because for any  $f \in \bar{F}\langle X \rangle$ ,  $f^{p^{n+l}} \in C$ . Theorem 4 is thus proved.  $\square$

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