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Abelianizations of derivation Lie algebras of the free associative algebra and the free Lie algebra

Shigeyuki Morita, Takuya Sakasai, Masaaki Suzuki

(Submitted on 19 Jul 2011 (v1), last revised 5 Jan 2013 (this version, v2))

We determine the abelianizations of the following three kinds of graded Lie algebras in certain stable ranges: derivations of the free associative algebra, derivations of the free Lie algebra and symplectic derivations of the free associative algebra. In each case, we consider both the whole derivation Lie algebra and its ideal consisting of derivations with positive degrees. As an application of the last case, and by making use of a theorem of Kontsevich, we obtain a new proof of the vanishing theorem of Harer concerning the top rational cohomology group of the mapping class group with respect to its virtual cohomological dimension.

Comments:	30 pages, 18 figures. Title modified, final version, to appear in Duke Math. J

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