

Quasi-derivation relations for multiple zeta values revisited

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QUASI-DERIVATION RELATIONS FOR MULTIPLE ZETA VALUES REVISITED

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ABSTRACT. We take another look at the so-called quasi-derivation relations in the theory of multiple zeta values, by giving a certain formula for the quasi-derivation operator. In doing so, we are not only able to prove the quasi-derivation relations in a simpler manner but also give an analog of the quasi-derivation relations for finite multiple zeta values.

1. INTRODUCTION

The *quasi-derivation relations* in the theory of multiple zeta values is a generalization, proposed by the first-named author and established by T. Tanaka, of a set of linear relations known as *derivation relations*, which we are first going to recall.

We use Hoffman's algebraic setup ([5]) with a slightly different convention. Let $\mathfrak{H} := \mathbb{Q}\langle x, y \rangle$ be the noncommutative polynomial algebra in two indeterminates x and y . This was introduced in order to encode multiple zeta values in the way the monomial $yx^{k_1-1}yx^{k_2-1}\dots yx^{k_r-1}$ corresponds to the multiple zeta value

$$\zeta(k_1, k_2, \dots, k_r) := \sum_{0 < n_1 < \dots < n_r} \frac{1}{n_1^{k_1} n_2^{k_2} \dots n_r^{k_r}}$$

when $k_r > 1$, which is a real number as the limiting value of a convergent series. If we denote by Z the \mathbb{Q} -linear map from $y\mathfrak{H}x$ to \mathbb{R} assigning each monomial $yx^{k_1-1}yx^{k_2-1}\dots yx^{k_r-1}$ to $\zeta(k_1, \dots, k_r)$, the derivation relations state that

$$Z(\partial_n(w)) = 0$$

for all $n \geq 1$ and $w \in y\mathfrak{H}x$. Here the operator ∂_n is a \mathbb{Q} -linear derivation on \mathfrak{H} determined uniquely by $\partial_n(x) = y(x+y)^{n-1}x$ and $\partial_n(y) = -y(x+y)^{n-1}x$. Set $z = x+y$, so that $\partial_n(z) = 0$. We use this repeatedly in the sequel.

In order to introduce the quasi-derivation relations, we first define a \mathbb{Q} -linear map $\theta := \theta^{(c)}: \mathfrak{H} \rightarrow \mathfrak{H}$ with a parameter $c \in \mathbb{Q}$ (we often drop c from the notation) by setting

$$\theta(u) = uz = u(x+y) \quad \text{for } u = x, y$$

and requiring

$$\theta(w w') = \theta(w)w' + w\theta(w') + cH(w)\partial_1(w')$$

for $w, w' \in \mathfrak{H}$, where H is the \mathbb{Q} -linear map from \mathfrak{H} to itself defined by $H(w) = \deg(w) \cdot w$ for any monomial $w \in \mathfrak{H}$ ($\deg(w)$ is the degree of w). This is well defined because H is a derivation on \mathfrak{H} . Now we define the quasi-derivation map $\partial_n^{(c)}$. Write $\text{ad}(\theta)$ the adjoint operator by θ , i.e., $\text{ad}(\theta)(\partial) := [\theta, \partial] = \theta\partial - \partial\theta$.

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Definition 1.1. For each positive integer n and any rational number c , we define a \mathbb{Q} -linear map $\partial_n^{(c)}: \mathfrak{H} \rightarrow \mathfrak{H}$ by

$$\partial_n^{(c)} := \frac{1}{(n-1)!} \text{ad}(\theta)^{n-1}(\partial_1).$$

Then the quasi-derivation relations of Tanaka [13] is stated as

$$Z(\partial_n^{(c)}(w)) = 0$$

for all $n \geq 1$, $c \in \mathbb{Q}$, and $w \in y\mathfrak{H}x$. Our aim in this paper is to take another look at this relation, or rather at the operator $\partial_n^{(c)}$.

Remark 1.2. 1) We have changed the definition of $\theta = \theta^{(c)}$ by shifting the original ([8, 13]) by the derivation $w \rightarrow [z, w]/2 = (zw - wz)/2$. However, we can check that this does not change $\partial_n^{(c)}(w)$. Note also that the convention of the order of the product in \mathfrak{H} there is opposite from ours.

2) As noted in [6], the special case $c = 0$ gives the original derivation $\partial_n: \partial_n = \partial_n^{(0)}$. This together with works of Connes-Moscovici [1, 2] motivated us to define $\partial_n^{(c)}(w)$ in [8].

3) From $\theta(z^r) = rz^{r+1}$ ($r \geq 1$) and $\partial_n(z) = 0$, we see that $\partial_n^{(c)}(wz) = \partial_n^{(c)}(w)z$ and $\partial_n^{(c)}(zw) = z\partial_n^{(c)}(w)$. We need to use this at several points later.

2. MAIN THEOREM

We present a formula for $\partial_n^{(c)}(w)$ when w is in $\mathfrak{H}x$. To describe the formula, we define a product \diamond on \mathfrak{H} introduced in Hirose-Murahara-Onozuka [3] by

$$(1) \quad w_1 \diamond w_2 := \phi(\phi(w_1) * \phi(w_2)) \quad (w_1, w_2 \in \mathfrak{H}),$$

where ϕ is an involutive automorphism of \mathfrak{H} determined by

$$\phi(x) = z = x + y \quad \text{and} \quad \phi(y) = -y,$$

and $*$ is the harmonic product on \mathfrak{H} (see [5, 4] for the precise definition of $*$). This is an associative and commutative binary operation with $1 \diamond w = w \diamond 1 = w$ for any $w \in \mathfrak{H}$. In [3], the definition of \diamond is given in an inductive manner like the definition of $*$ in [4]. Later we only use the shuffle-type equality

$$(2) \quad xw_1 \diamond yw_2 = x(w_1 \diamond yw_2) + y(xw_1 \diamond w_2),$$

which holds for any $w_1, w_2 \in \mathfrak{H}$.

We define a specific element $q_n = q_n^{(c)}$ in \mathfrak{H} for each $n \geq 1$ as follows.

Definition 2.1. Let $\tilde{\theta} = \tilde{\theta}^{(c)}$ be the map from \mathfrak{H} to itself given by

$$\tilde{\theta}(w) := \theta(w) + cH(w)y \quad (w \in \mathfrak{H}).$$

For each positive integer n , we define

$$q_n := \frac{1}{(n-1)!} \tilde{\theta}^{n-1}(y).$$

We thus have $q_1 = y$ and $q_n = \tilde{\theta}(q_{n-1})/(n-1)$ for $n \geq 2$.

Note that $q_n = q_n^{(c)}$ is in $y\mathfrak{H}$, as can be seen inductively by the definition. We shall give an explicit formula for q_n in the next section. Here is our main theorem.

Theorem 2.2. *For all $n \geq 1$ and $c \in \mathbb{Q}$, we have*

$$\partial_n^{(c)}(wx) = (w \diamond q_n)x \quad (w \in \mathfrak{H}).$$

Assuming the theorem, it is straightforward to deduce the quasi-derivation relations from Kawashima's relations (strictly speaking, its "linear part"). Recall the linear part of Kawashima's relations [11] asserts that

$$Z(\phi(w_1 * w_2)x) = 0$$

for any $w_1, w_2 \in y\mathfrak{H}$. Using this and the definition (1) of \diamond , we see that

$$Z(\partial_n^{(c)}(ywx)) = Z((yw \diamond q_n)x) = Z(\phi(\phi(yw) * \phi(q_n))x) = 0$$

because both $\phi(yw)$ and $\phi(q_n)$ are in $y\mathfrak{H}$. This is the quasi-derivation relations.

Another immediate corollary to the theorem is the commutativity of the operators $\partial_n^{(c)}$, that is, $\partial_{n_1}^{(c_1)}$ and $\partial_{n_2}^{(c_2)}$ commute with each other for any $n_1, n_2 \geq 1$ and $c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{Q}$. This was proved in [13] but the argument was quite involved. Here we may show

$$[\partial_{n_1}^{(c_1)}, \partial_{n_2}^{(c_2)}](w) = 0$$

first for $w \in \mathfrak{H}x$ as

$$\begin{aligned} [\partial_{n_1}^{(c_1)}, \partial_{n_2}^{(c_2)}](wx) &= (\partial_{n_1}^{(c_1)}\partial_{n_2}^{(c_2)} - \partial_{n_2}^{(c_2)}\partial_{n_1}^{(c_1)})(wx) \\ &= ((w \diamond q_{n_2}) \diamond q_{n_1})x - ((w \diamond q_{n_1}) \diamond q_{n_2})x \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

because the product \diamond is associative and commutative, and then for the general case by induction on the degree of w by noting $\partial_n^{(c)}(wz) = \partial_n^{(c)}(w)z$ as remarked before.

Proof of Theorem 2.2. We need some lemmas. Recall $z = x + y$.

Lemma 2.3. *For $w_1, w_2 \in \mathfrak{H}$, we have*

$$zw_1 \diamond w_2 = w_1 \diamond zw_2 = z(w_1 \diamond w_2).$$

Proof. This follows from $\phi(z) = x$, $\phi(x) = z$ and $xw_1 * w_2 = w_1 * xw_2 = x(w_1 * w_2)$. See also [3]. \square

Lemma 2.4. *For $w \in \mathfrak{H}$, we have $\partial_1(w) = w \diamond y - wy$.*

Proof. We proceed by induction on $\deg(w)$. The case $\deg(w) = 0$ is obvious because $\partial_1(1) = 0$. Suppose $\deg(w) \geq 1$. By linearity, it is enough to prove the equation when w is of the form zw' and xw' . If $w = zw'$, we have, by using the induction hypothesis and Lemma 2.3,

$$\partial_1(w) = \partial_1(zw') = z\partial_1(w') = z(w' \diamond y - w'y) = zw' \diamond y - zw'y = w \diamond y - wy.$$

When $w = xw'$, we similarly compute (using equation (2))

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_1(w) &= \partial_1(xw') = yxw' + x\partial_1(w') = yxw' + x(w' \diamond y - w'y) \\ &= y(xw' \diamond 1) + x(w' \diamond y) - xw'y = xw' \diamond y - xw'y \\ &= w \diamond y - wy. \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

Lemma 2.5. *For $u \in \mathbb{Q}x + \mathbb{Q}y$, we have*

$$\tilde{\theta}(uw) = u(\tilde{\theta}(w) + zw + c(w \diamond y)).$$

Proof. We only need to show the equation for $u = x$ and y . By the definition of $\tilde{\theta}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{\theta}(uw) &= \theta(uw) + cH(uw)y \\ &= uz w + u\theta(w) + cu\partial_1(w) + cuwy + cuH(w)y \\ &= u(\tilde{\theta}(w) + zw + c(\partial_1(w) + wy)).\end{aligned}$$

From Lemma 2.4, we complete the proof. \square

We need one more preparatory result, which may be of interest in its own right.

Proposition 2.6. *The \mathbb{Q} -linear map $\tilde{\theta}$ is a derivation on \mathfrak{H} with respect to the product \diamond , i.e., the equation*

$$(3) \quad \tilde{\theta}(w_1 \diamond w_2) = \tilde{\theta}(w_1) \diamond w_2 + w_1 \diamond \tilde{\theta}(w_2)$$

holds for any $w_1, w_2 \in \mathfrak{H}$.

Proof. We prove this by induction on $\deg(w_1) + \deg(w_2)$. The case $\deg(w_1) + \deg(w_2) = 0$ holds trivially:

$$\tilde{\theta}(1 \diamond 1) = \tilde{\theta}(1) = 0 = \tilde{\theta}(1) \diamond 1 + 1 \diamond \tilde{\theta}(1).$$

When $\deg(w_1) + \deg(w_2) \geq 1$, we first prove when w_1 is of the form $w_1 = zw'_1$. By the definition of $\tilde{\theta}$ and Lemmas 2.3 and 2.5, we have

$$\tilde{\theta}(zw'_1 \diamond w_2) = \tilde{\theta}(z(w'_1 \diamond w_2)) = z(\tilde{\theta}(w'_1 \diamond w_2) + z(w'_1 \diamond w_2) + c(w'_1 \diamond w_2 \diamond y)).$$

On the other hand, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{\theta}(zw'_1) \diamond w_2 + zw'_1 \diamond \tilde{\theta}(w_2) &= z(\tilde{\theta}(w'_1) + zw'_1 + c(w'_1 \diamond y)) \diamond w_2 + z(w'_1 \diamond \tilde{\theta}(w_2)) \\ &= z(\tilde{\theta}(w'_1) \diamond w_2 + w'_1 \diamond \tilde{\theta}(w_2) + z(w'_1 \diamond w_2) + c(w'_1 \diamond w_2 \diamond y)).\end{aligned}$$

Hence by the induction hypothesis we obtain

$$\tilde{\theta}(zw'_1 \diamond w_2) = \tilde{\theta}(zw'_1) \diamond w_2 + zw'_1 \diamond \tilde{\theta}(w_2).$$

Since the binary operator \diamond is commutative and bilinear, it suffices then to prove equation (3) only in the case where $w_1 = xw'_1$ and $w_2 = yw'_2$. By using equation (2) and Lemma 2.5, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{\theta}(xw'_1 \diamond yw'_2) &= \tilde{\theta}(x(w'_1 \diamond yw'_2) + y(xw'_1 \diamond w'_2)) \\ &= x(\tilde{\theta}(w'_1 \diamond yw'_2) + z(w'_1 \diamond yw'_2) + c(w'_1 \diamond yw'_2 \diamond y)) \\ &\quad + y(\tilde{\theta}(xw'_1 \diamond w'_2) + z(xw'_1 \diamond w'_2) + c(xw'_1 \diamond w'_2 \diamond y))\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{\theta}(xw'_1) \diamond yw'_2 + xw'_1 \diamond \tilde{\theta}(yw'_2) &= x((\tilde{\theta}(w'_1) + zw'_1 + c(w'_1 \diamond y)) \diamond yw'_2) + y(\tilde{\theta}(xw'_1) \diamond w'_2) \\ &\quad + x(w'_1 \diamond \tilde{\theta}(yw'_2)) + y(xw'_1 \diamond (\tilde{\theta}(w'_2) + zw'_2 + c(w'_2 \diamond y))) \\ &= x(\tilde{\theta}(w'_1) \diamond yw'_2 + w'_1 \diamond \tilde{\theta}(yw'_2) + z(w'_1 \diamond yw'_2) + c(w'_1 \diamond yw'_2 \diamond y)) \\ &\quad + y(\tilde{\theta}(xw'_1) \diamond w'_2 + xw'_1 \diamond \tilde{\theta}(w'_2) + z(xw'_1 \diamond w'_2) + c(xw'_1 \diamond w'_2 \diamond y)).\end{aligned}$$

From these, we see by the induction hypothesis that

$$\tilde{\theta}(xw'_1 \diamond yw'_2) = \tilde{\theta}(xw'_1) \diamond yw'_2 + xw'_1 \diamond \tilde{\theta}(yw'_2)$$

holds. \square

Now we prove Theorem 2.2 by induction on n . When $n = 1$, we have

$$\partial_1^{(c)}(wx) = \partial_1(wx) = \partial_1(w)x + wyx = (\partial_1(w) + wy)x = (w \diamond y)x = (w \diamond q_1)x$$

by Lemma 2.4. When $n \geq 2$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_n^{(c)}(wx) &= \frac{1}{n-1} ad(\theta)(\partial_{n-1}^{(c)})(wx) \\ &= \frac{1}{n-1} \left(\theta \partial_{n-1}^{(c)}(wx) - \partial_{n-1}^{(c)} \theta(wx) \right). \end{aligned}$$

By the induction hypothesis, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \theta \partial_{n-1}^{(c)}(wx) &= \theta((w \diamond q_{n-1})x) \\ &= \theta(w \diamond q_{n-1})x + (w \diamond q_{n-1})xz + cH(w \diamond q_{n-1})yx \\ &= \tilde{\theta}(w \diamond q_{n-1})x + (w \diamond q_{n-1})xz \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_{n-1}^{(c)} \theta(wx) &= \partial_{n-1}^{(c)} (\theta(w)x + wxz + cH(w)yx) \\ &= (\theta(w) \diamond q_{n-1})x + (w \diamond q_{n-1})xz + c(H(w)y \diamond q_{n-1})x \\ &= (\tilde{\theta}(w) \diamond q_{n-1})x + (w \diamond q_{n-1})xz. \end{aligned}$$

We therefore obtain by Proposition 2.6

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_n^{(c)}(wx) &= \frac{1}{n-1} (\tilde{\theta}(w \diamond q_{n-1}) - (\tilde{\theta}(w) \diamond q_{n-1}))x = \frac{1}{n-1} (w \diamond \tilde{\theta}(q_{n-1}))x \\ &= (w \diamond q_n)x, \end{aligned}$$

which completes the proof. \square

3. EXPLICIT FORMULA FOR q_n

We now describe the element $q_n = q_n^{(c)}$ in an explicit manner. For any index $\mathbf{l} = (l_1, \dots, l_s) \in \mathbb{N}^s$, we define $a(\mathbf{l}) = a(l_1, \dots, l_s) \in \mathbb{Q}$ (or $\in \mathbb{Z}[c]$ if we view c as a variable) inductively by $a(1) := 1$ and

$$a(\mathbf{l}) := \sum_{i=1}^s (l_i - 1 - (l_1 + \dots + l_{i-1})c) a(\mathbf{l}^{(i)}),$$

where

$$\mathbf{l}^{(i)} = \begin{cases} (l_1, \dots, l_{i-1}, l_{i+1}, \dots, l_s) & \text{if } l_i = 1, \\ (l_1, \dots, l_{i-1}, l_i - 1, l_{i+1}, \dots, l_s) & \text{if } l_i > 1. \end{cases}$$

Proposition 3.1. *For $n \geq 1$, we have*

$$(4) \quad q_n = -\frac{1}{(n-1)!} \sum_{|\mathbf{l}|=n} a(\mathbf{l})w(\mathbf{l}),$$

where the sum runs over all indices $\mathbf{l} = (l_1, \dots, l_s) \in \mathbb{N}^s$ of any length s and of weight $|\mathbf{l}| := l_1 + \dots + l_s = n$, and $w(\mathbf{l}) = \phi(yx^{l_1-1} \dots yx^{l_s-1}) = (-1)^s yz^{l_1-1} \dots yz^{l_s-1}$.

Proof. Let q'_n denote the right-hand side of (4). We prove (4) by induction on n . When $n = 1$, we easily see $q'_1 = y$.

Suppose $n \geq 2$. We want to show that $q'_n = \tilde{\theta}(q'_{n-1})/(n-1)$. Since $\theta(z^m) = mz^{m+1}$ and $\partial_1(z) = 0$, we have

$$\theta(yz^{k-1}) = yz^k + (k-1)yz^k = kyz^k,$$

and so

$$\begin{aligned} & \theta(yz^{k_1-1} \cdots yz^{k_r-1}) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^r yz^{k_1-1} \cdots yz^{k_{j-1}-1} \cdot k_j yz^{k_j} \cdot yz^{k_{j+1}-1} \cdots yz^{k_r-1} \\ & \quad + c \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq r} yz^{k_1-1} \cdots H(yz^{k_i-1}) \cdots \partial_1(yz^{k_j-1}) \cdots yz^{k_r-1} \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^r k_j yz^{k_1-1} \cdots yz^{k_{j-1}-1} yz^{k_j} yz^{k_{j+1}-1} \cdots yz^{k_r-1} \\ & \quad - c \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq r} yz^{k_1-1} \cdots (k_i yz^{k_i-1}) \cdots y(z-y)z^{k_j-1} yz^{k_{j+1}-1} \cdots yz^{k_r-1} \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^r k_j yz^{k_1-1} \cdots yz^{k_{j-1}-1} yz^{k_j} yz^{k_{j+1}-1} \cdots yz^{k_r-1} \\ & \quad - c \sum_{j=2}^r (k_1 + \cdots + k_{j-1}) yz^{k_1-1} \cdots yz^{k_{j-1}-1} y(z-y)z^{k_j-1} yz^{k_{j+1}-1} \cdots yz^{k_r-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Since $cH(yz^{k_1-1} \cdots yz^{k_r-1})y = c(k_1 + \cdots + k_r)yz^{k_1-1} \cdots yz^{k_r-1}y$, we finally obtain for $\mathbf{k} = (k_1, \dots, k_r)$

$$\begin{aligned} & \tilde{\theta}(w(\mathbf{k})) \\ &= (-1)^r \tilde{\theta}(yz^{k_1-1} \cdots yz^{k_r-1}) \\ &= (-1)^r \sum_{j=1}^r (k_j - c(k_1 + \cdots + k_{j-1})) yz^{k_1-1} \cdots yz^{k_{j-1}-1} yz^{k_j} yz^{k_{j+1}-1} \cdots yz^{k_r-1} \\ & \quad - (-1)^{r+1} c \sum_{j=1}^r (k_1 + \cdots + k_j) yz^{k_1-1} \cdots yz^{k_j-1} \cdot y \cdot yz^{k_{j+1}-1} \cdots yz^{k_r-1}. \end{aligned}$$

If we write

$$\tilde{\theta}(q'_{n-1}) = -\frac{1}{(n-2)!} \sum_{|\mathbf{l}|=n} a'(\mathbf{l})w(\mathbf{l}),$$

we see from this that the coefficient $a'(\mathbf{l})$ of $w(\mathbf{l}) = (-1)^s yz^{l_1-1} \cdots yz^{l_s-1}$ is given exactly by $a(\mathbf{l})$ as defined recursively. \square

4. QUASI-DERIVATION RELATIONS FOR FINITE MULTIPLE ZETA VALUES

In this section, we briefly discuss how the quasi-derivation relations look like for “finite” multiple zeta values. There are two versions, denoted $\zeta_{\mathcal{A}}(k_1, \dots, k_r)$ and $\zeta_{\mathcal{S}}(k_1, \dots, k_r)$, of “finite” analogues of multiple zeta values. The former lives in the \mathbb{Q} -algebra $\mathcal{A} := \prod_p \mathbb{F}_p / \bigoplus_p \mathbb{F}_p$ and the latter the quotient \mathbb{Q} -algebra of classical multiple zeta values modulo the ideal generated by $\zeta(2)$. It is conjectured that

the two versions satisfy completely the same relations, and there is a conjectural isomorphism between two \mathbb{Q} -algebras generated by those two versions. For more on finite multiple zeta values, see for instance [9].

Denote by $Z_{\mathcal{F}}$ the \mathbb{Q} -linear map from $y\mathfrak{H}$ to either algebra assigning the monomial $yx^{k_1-1} \cdots yx^{k_r-1}$ to $\zeta_{\mathcal{A}}(k_1, \dots, k_r)$ or $\zeta_{\mathcal{S}}(k_1, \dots, k_r)$. Then the derivation relations for finite multiple zeta values established by the second-named author [12] is the relation

$$(5) \quad Z_{\mathcal{F}}(\partial_n(w)x^{-1}) = 0$$

that holds for all $w \in y\mathfrak{H}x$.

As a consequence of our Theorem 2.2, we have the following.

Theorem 4.1 (Quasi-derivation relations for finite multiple zeta values). *For all $n \geq 1$ and $c \in \mathbb{Q}$, we have*

$$Z_{\mathcal{F}}(\partial_n^{(c)}(w)x^{-1}) = Z_{\mathcal{F}}(wx^{-1})Z_{\mathcal{F}}(q_n^{(c)}) \quad (w \in y\mathfrak{H}x).$$

Proof. This is almost immediate from Theorem 2.2 if one notes $Z_{\mathcal{F}} \circ \phi = Z_{\mathcal{F}}$ and $Z_{\mathcal{F}}$ is a $*$ -homomorphism (for these, see [7, 9, 10]). \square

Remark 4.2. When $c = 0$, we can easily compute that $q_n^{(0)} = yz^{n-1}$. Since $Z_{\mathcal{F}}(yz^{n-1}) = Z_{\mathcal{F}}(\phi(yz^{n-1})) = -Z_{\mathcal{F}}(yx^{n-1}) = -\zeta_{\mathcal{F}}(n) = 0$ for $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{A}$ or \mathcal{S} , we see that Theorem 4.1 generalizes the derivation relations (5).

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