

A SHORT PROOF OF LYNDON AND NEWMAN'S RESULT THAT $c = [x, y]$ IS NOT A PRODUCT OF TWO SQUARES IN THE FREE GROUP F WITH BASIS $\{x, y\}$ USING THE LYNDON IDENTITY THEOREM

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ABSTRACT. Unlike [1-4,6-9], we use [5].

If $c = a^2 b^2 = (ab)b^{-1}(ab)b$, $ab \in F'$ so $ab = \prod_{i=1}^n d_i c^{\epsilon_i} d_i^{-1}$ ($d_i \in F$, $\epsilon_i = \pm 1$) and $1 = c^{-1} \prod_{i=1}^n d_i c^{\epsilon_i} d_i^{-1} \prod_{i=1}^n b^{-1} d_i c^{\epsilon_i} d_i^{-1} b$ has $2n+1$ factors.

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