

# Online Course: "Reps of Lie Algs" by Vyacheslav Futorny

## • PBW Thm.

If  $e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n$  basis of  $\mathfrak{g}$ , then

$\{e_1^{i_1} \dots e_n^{i_n} \mid i_j \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}, \forall j\}$  is a basis of  $U(\mathfrak{g})$

## • $\mathfrak{g}$ -module $\cong U(\mathfrak{g})$ -module

## • $\mathfrak{sl}_2$ -module construction

$$1) V_n \cong \mathbb{C}[x]_{\leq n} = \{f(x) \mid \deg f \leq n\}$$

$$e \mapsto \frac{d}{dx}, f \mapsto -x^2 \frac{d}{dx} + nx, h \mapsto -2x \frac{d}{dx} + n$$

$$2) V_n \cong \mathbb{C}[x, y]_n^h \text{ homogeneous polynomial of degree } n.$$

$$e \mapsto x \frac{\partial}{\partial y}; h \mapsto x \frac{\partial}{\partial x} - y \frac{\partial}{\partial y}; f \mapsto y \frac{\partial}{\partial x}$$

• Cartan subalg. of  $\mathfrak{g}$  is a maximal toral Lie alg. (consisting of semi-simple elements respect to adjoint rep)

$$U(\mathfrak{g}) \cong U(\mathfrak{N}_-) \otimes U(\mathfrak{H}) \otimes U(\mathfrak{N}_+)$$

$$\text{where } \mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{N}_- \oplus \mathfrak{H} \oplus \mathfrak{N}_+$$

• Simple Lie algs  $\leftrightarrow$  Dynkin diagrams  $\leftrightarrow$  Cartan matrices

$A = (a_{ij})_{i,j=1}^r$  is a Cartan matrix if

-  $A$  is indecomposable

$$- a_{ii} = 2, \forall i$$

$$- a_{ij} = 0 \Rightarrow a_{ji} = 0$$

$$- a_{ij} \in \mathbb{Z}_{\leq 0}$$

-  $\exists$  a diagonal  $D$  such that  $DA D^{-1}$  is symmetric and positive definite.

as a consequence, we get that  $a_{ij} \in \{2, 0, -1, -2, -3\}$

$$\bullet \text{ Serre relation. } [e_i, [e_i, e_j]] = [f_i, [f_i, f_j]] = 0.$$

• Any submodule and any quotient module of a weight module is a weight module

• Let  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{H}^*$ , a  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module  $V$  is a highest weight module with highest weight  $\lambda$  if

$$1) \exists v \in V_\lambda, \text{ such that } V = U(\mathfrak{g})v \text{ (generated by } v)$$

$$2) N_+ v = 0$$

• Universal highest weight modules = Verma modules

Denote by  $S(\lambda)$  a left ideal of  $U(\mathfrak{g})$  generated by  $N_+$  and elements  $h - \lambda(h), \forall h \in \mathfrak{H}$ . Then  $S(\lambda)$  is a  $\mathfrak{g}$ -submod and  $S(\lambda) \cap U(\mathfrak{N}_-) = 0$

$$M(\lambda) = U(\mathfrak{g})/S(\lambda) \cong U(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes_{U(\mathfrak{N}_+ \oplus \mathfrak{H})} k\lambda \cong U(\mathfrak{N}_-) \bar{1}, \text{ where } h\lambda = \lambda(h)\lambda, \forall h \text{ and } N_+ \lambda = 0.$$

Character of a weight module:

$$V = \bigoplus_{\lambda \in H^*} V_\lambda, \dim V_\lambda < \infty, \forall \lambda.$$

$$\text{ch } V = \sum_{\lambda \in H^*} (\dim V_\lambda) e^\lambda$$

formal character

$e^\lambda$  is a formal symbol such that  $e^\lambda e^\mu = e^{\lambda+\mu}$

$$\text{Ex. } \text{ch}(L(\lambda + \rho)) = e^{\lambda+\rho} + e^\lambda + e^\rho + e^{-\lambda} + e^{-\rho} + e^{-\lambda-\rho} + 2e^0$$

Remark. For  $\lambda$  dominant integral,  $\dim L(\lambda) < \infty$  and

$\text{ch } L(\lambda)$  can be viewed as a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -valued function on the lattice of integral weight:  $\text{ch } L(\lambda)(\mu) = \dim L(\lambda)_\mu$

Besides, it has finite support.

Theorem. (Weyl character formula) For any dominant <sup>integral</sup>  $\lambda$ .

$$\text{ch } L(\lambda) = \frac{\sum_{w \in W} (-1)^{l(w)} E_w(\lambda + \rho)}{\sum_{w \in W} (-1)^{l(w)} E_w(\rho)}$$

or equivalently

$$\text{ch } L(\lambda) * \left( \sum_{w \in W} (-1)^{l(w)} E_w(\rho) \right) = \sum_{w \in W} (-1)^{l(w)} E_w(\lambda + \rho)$$

← length of  $w$  (about simple reflection)

• If  $M(\mu) \subset M(\lambda)$ , then  $\chi_\mu = \chi_\lambda$  and  $\mu \in W\lambda$ .

Converse is not true.

•  $M(\lambda)$  has a finite composition series

$$M(\lambda) = M_0 \supset M_1 \supset \dots \supset M_r = 0, \text{ where } M_i/M_{i+1} \cong L(\mu_i)$$

The number of times  $L(\mu)$  appears as a subquotient in the composition series doesn't depend on the series. It's denoted by  $[M(\lambda):L(\mu)]$ .

1)  $[M(\lambda):L(\lambda)] = 1$  (only comes from the highest weight)

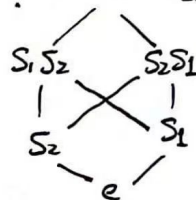
2) If  $[M(\lambda):L(\mu)] \neq 0$ , then  $\mu \in W\lambda$  (as for Verma <sup>sub</sup>modules above)

$$3) \text{ch } M(\lambda) = \sum_{\mu \in H^*} [M(\lambda):L(\mu)] \text{ch } L(\mu) = \sum_{w \in W} [M(\lambda):L(w\lambda)] \text{ch } L(w\lambda)$$

• Bruhat order on  $W$ : a partial order such that  $v \leq w$  if any reduced expression for  $w$  contains a subexpression which is reduced for  $v$ . (reduced expression is the shortest decomposition in the product of simple reflections)

$$\text{Ex. } g = s_3, W = S_3 = \langle s_1, s_2 \rangle = \{e, s_1, s_2, s_1s_2, s_2s_1, s_1s_2s_1\}$$

Bruhat order:  $w_0 = s_1s_2s_1 = s_2s_1s_2$



• Kazhdan-Lusztig conjecture:

Let  $-\lambda$  be integral dominant weight. Then  $w \in W$ ,  $\chi = \lambda - 2\rho$ .

$$1) \text{ch } M(w\lambda') = \sum_{v \leq w} P_{w_0w, w_0v}(1) \cdot \text{ch } L(v\lambda')$$

where  $P_{x,y}$  are certain polynomials (called Kazhdan-Lusztig polynomials)

Note that the formula does not depend on  $\lambda$ .

$$2) \text{ch } L(w\lambda') = \sum_{v \leq w} (-1)^{l(w)-l(v)} P_{v,w}(1) \cdot \text{ch } M(v\lambda')$$

Ex. Apply it on  $\text{ch } M(\lambda')$ , we can get

$$\text{ch } M(\lambda') = \frac{P_{e, s_1s_2s_1}(1)}{1} \text{ch } M(-\lambda) + \frac{P_{s_1, s_2s_1s_2}(1)}{1} \text{ch } M(\mu)$$

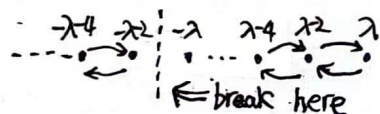


## • Properties of $M(\lambda)$

- 1) Any highest module with highest weight  $\lambda$  is a homomorphic image of  $M(\lambda)$ .
- 2)  $M(\lambda)$  has a unique maximal submodule and hence a unique irreducible quotient  $L(\lambda)$
- 3) Theorem. a)  $\dim L(\lambda) < \infty \Leftrightarrow \lambda(h_i) \in \mathbb{Z}_+, \forall i$   
b) Any irreducible fin-dim  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module is isomorphic to  $L(\lambda)$  for some  $\lambda$ .

Example 1)  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}_2$ ,  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ . then Verma module  $M(\lambda) \cong U(\mathcal{N}) \otimes \mathbb{C}[t]$

- If  $\lambda \notin \mathbb{Z}_+$ , then  $L(\lambda) = M(\lambda)$
- If  $\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ , then  $M(-\lambda-2) \subseteq M(\lambda)$  as a submodule and  $L(\lambda) \cong M(\lambda)/M(-\lambda-2) \cong V_n$  (that we construct before)

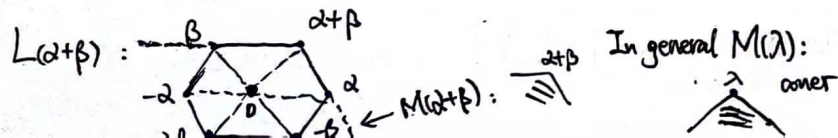


2)  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}_3$ . Consider adjoint rep  $\text{ad}: \mathfrak{sl}_3 \rightarrow \mathfrak{sl}_3$ .

weights of  $\text{ad} \Leftrightarrow \{\text{roots of } \mathfrak{g}\} \cup \{0\}$  (for  $\mathfrak{h}$ )

• Adjoint rep is irr (as  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$  is simple) of dim 8.

weights:  $\alpha, \beta, \alpha+\beta, -\alpha, -\beta, -\alpha-\beta, 0$



• Since  $K_{\mathfrak{g}}$  is nondeg, we have an isomorphism  $\nu: \mathfrak{h} \rightarrow \mathfrak{h}^*: h \rightarrow K_{\mathfrak{g}}(h, \cdot)$ .  
This allows to define a nondeg form on  $\mathfrak{h}^*: (\nu h, \nu h') = K_{\mathfrak{g}}(h, h')$ .

• For any  $\alpha \in \Delta$ , define a reflection in  $\alpha: S_{\alpha} \in \text{Aut } \mathfrak{h}^*$   
Such that  $S_{\alpha}(\lambda) = \lambda - \frac{2(\lambda, \alpha)}{(\alpha, \alpha)} \alpha$  (fixes the hyperplane orthogonal to  $\alpha$ )

• Further properties of Verma modules

1)  $Z(\mathcal{U}) \subset U(\mathfrak{g})$  the center of  $U(\mathfrak{g})$  (not  $\mathfrak{g}$ !)  $\swarrow$  action by a scalar!

$\exists$  a homo  $\chi_{\lambda}: Z(\mathcal{U}) \rightarrow k$  such that  $zv = \chi_{\lambda}(z)v, \forall z \in Z(\mathcal{U}), v \in M(\lambda)$ .  
 $\chi_{\lambda}$  is the central character of  $M(\lambda)$ . (or  $L(\lambda)$ )

Example  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}_2$ .  $Z = (h+1)^2 + 4f_e$  generates the center  $Z(\mathcal{U})$  (Casimir)

consider  $V_{\lambda}$ :  $\begin{matrix} \xrightarrow{-2} & \circ & \xrightarrow{2} \\ \nwarrow & & \nearrow \\ \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ \nwarrow & & \nearrow \\ v_{\lambda-2} & v_{\lambda} & v_{\lambda+2} \end{matrix}$   $\begin{matrix} Z v_{\lambda} = 9 v_{\lambda} \\ Z v_0 = 9 v_0 \Rightarrow \chi_{\lambda}(Z) = 9 \\ Z v_{\lambda+2} = 9 v_{\lambda+2} \end{matrix}$

2)  $Z(\mathcal{U}) \cong S(\mathfrak{h})^W$  (Harish-Chandra isomorphism)

e.g.  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}_3$ ,  $\mathfrak{h} = \mathbb{C}h_1 \oplus \mathbb{C}h_2$ ,  $S(\mathfrak{h}) \cong \mathbb{C}[h_1, h_2]$ ,  $W = S_2$  (Weyl group)

$$S(\mathfrak{h})^W = \mathbb{C}[h_1, h_2]^{S_2} = \mathbb{C}[h_1+h_2, h_1 h_2] \cong \mathbb{C}[x, y] \cong Z(\mathcal{U})$$

• Theorem. (Harish-Chandra)  $\chi_{\lambda} = \chi_{\mu} \Leftrightarrow \mu \in W \cdot \lambda$ .  $W$  is the Weyl group  
where  $W \cdot \lambda = W(\lambda + \rho) - \rho$ ,  $\rho = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha \in \Delta^+} \alpha$

## Category $\mathcal{O}$

Consider of  $\mathfrak{g}$ -modules satisfying:

- 1)  $V$  is  $\mathbb{N}$ -weighted module
- 2)  $V$  is a finitely generated module
- 3)  $\forall v \in V, \dim U(\mathbb{N}_+)v < \infty$   
then we say  $V \in \mathcal{O}$

Ex.  $\forall \lambda \in \mathfrak{h}^*, M(\lambda), L(\lambda) \in \mathcal{O}$



## Infinite dimensional Lie algs

Ex. (First Witt alg)

$W_1 = \text{Der } \mathbb{C}[t, t^{-1}]$ , has basis  $d_n = t^{n+1} \frac{d}{dt}, n \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $[d_n, d_m] = (n-m)d_{n+m}$

$W_1$ -module  $V$  is called weight if  $d_0$  is diagonalizable on  $V$ . ( $\mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{C}[t, t^{-1}]$ )  
and  $\mathbb{C} \subset \mathbb{C}[t, t^{-1}]$  as a submodule, &  $\mathbb{C}[t, t^{-1}]/\mathbb{C}$  is irr.  $\uparrow$  irr       $\uparrow$  not irr.

Highest weight modules:

$$W_1 = W_1^- \oplus \mathbb{C}d_0 \oplus W_1^+ \quad (d_n \in W_1^+ \Leftrightarrow n > 0)$$

Let  $a \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $\mathbb{C}v_a$  is a 1-dim module over  $\mathbb{C}d_0 \oplus W_1^+$ :  $\begin{cases} d_0 \cdot v_a = a v_a \\ W_1^+ v_a = 0 \end{cases}$ . Then

Define  $M^+(a) = U(W_1) \otimes_{U(\mathbb{C}d_0 \oplus W_1^+)} \mathbb{C}v_a \cong U(W_1^-)$  as the Verma module.

Notice that  $d_0(d_n v_a) = (a-n)d_n v_a$ , so  $M^+(a) = \sum_{k \geq 0} M^+(a)_{a-k}$ .

$$\text{Prop 1) } \text{ch } M^+(a) := \sum_{n \geq 0} (\dim M^+(a)_{a-n}) t^n = \prod_{j=1}^{\infty} (1-t^j)^{-1}$$

$$2) M^+(a) \text{ is irr} \Leftrightarrow a \neq \frac{m^2-1}{24}, \forall m \in \mathbb{Z}$$

Remark: 1) Similarly, we can define the lowest weight modules  $M^-(a)$ , where  $W_1^- v_a = 0$ .

2) Virasoro alg:  $\text{Vir} = W_1 \oplus \mathbb{C}c$  with  $[d_n, d_m] = (n-m)d_{n+m} + \delta_{n+m} \frac{n^3-m^3}{12} c$

3)  $W_1$  is isomorphic to the Lie alg of vector field on circle  $S^1$ .

Modules of Intermediate series = Kaplansky - Santharoubane modules.

$\forall \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{C}$ , define  $T(\alpha, \beta) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{C}v_{k\alpha\beta}$ , where  $d_n v_{k\alpha\beta} = (k\alpha + \beta + d_n)v_{k\alpha\beta} \quad \forall n$ .

1) Check that  $T(\alpha, \beta)$  is a  $W_1$ -module 2) SES:  $0 \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \rightarrow T(0,0) \rightarrow T(1,0) \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \rightarrow 0$

Since  $T(0,0) \in \mathbb{C}[t, t^{-1}]$ ,  $T(0,0)/\mathbb{C} \subset \mathbb{C}[t, t^{-1}]/\mathbb{C}$ , this SES contributes 2 irr modules ( $\mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{C}[t, t^{-1}]/\mathbb{C}$ )

Theorem.  $T(\alpha, \beta)$  is irr unless  $\alpha=0, 1$  and  $\beta \in \mathbb{Z}$ .



Remark. Let  $\mathcal{A} = \mathbb{C}[t, t^{-1}]$ . Consider  $\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{A}$  is a left

$\mathcal{A}$ -module:  $a(b \otimes c) = ab \otimes c$ .

Let  $I$  be a submodule generated by  $1 \otimes ab - a \otimes b - b \otimes a$  and  $\Omega_{\mathcal{A}}^1 = \mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{A} / I$  (differential 1-forms,  $a \otimes b := adb$ )

also a  $W_1$ -module.

•  $T(1,0) \cong \Omega_{\mathcal{A}}^1$ ,  $T(0,0) \cong \Omega_{\mathcal{A}}^0 \cong \mathcal{A}$

Theorem. (O. Mathieu, Martin-Prad, 1982)

Irreducible weight  $W_1$ -modules are:

- 1)  $\mathbb{C}[t, t^{-1}] / \mathbb{C}$  ; 2) Highest/lowest weight
- 3) Intermediate series  $T(\alpha, \beta)$

• Let  $W_n = \text{Der } \mathbb{C}[t_1^{\pm}, t_2^{\pm}, \dots, t_n^{\pm}]$ . If  $W_1 \subseteq \text{Vect } S^1$ , then  $W_n \cong ?$  In fact,  $W_n =$  polynomial vector fields on the torus  $T^n$ .

Generalization. Let  $X \subset \mathbb{A}^n$  an affine variety defined by an ideal  $I \subset k[X_1, \dots, X_n]$  and  $\mathcal{A} = \frac{k[X_1, \dots, X_n]}{I}$ .

The Lie alg of polynomials vector fields on  $X$ :  $V(X) = \text{Der } \mathcal{A}$ .

Theorem. Let  $k$  algebraically closed and  $\text{char } k = 0$ , If  $X$  is irr then  $V(X)$  is simple if and only if  $X$  is smooth. (Jordan, Siebert).

Remark. 1)  $X$  is irreducible  $\Leftrightarrow \mathcal{A}$  has no zero divisors ( $I$  is prime)  
2)  $X$  is smooth if the Jacobian matrix of  $I$  has the maximal possible rank at every point of  $X$ .

Examples. 1)  $V(\mathbb{A}^n) = W_n^+ = \text{Der } k[X_1, \dots, X_n]$ .

2) Consider an elliptic curve  $C: y^2 = x^3 + 1$ , then  $V(C) = A\mathfrak{g}$ , where  $\mathfrak{g} = y \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \frac{3}{2} x^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial y}$ . Here  $A = k[X, Y] / (Y^2 - X^3 - 1)$ .

Clearly,  $\mathfrak{g}$  is a vector field on  $\mathbb{A}^2$ . Also,  $\mathfrak{g}(y^2 - x^3 - 1) = -3xy + 3xy = 0$  and hence  $\mathfrak{g}$  is a vector field on  $A$ .

If  $f = y^2 - x^3 - 1$ , then  $J(f) = (2y, -3x^2)$ ,  $0 \notin C$

3)  $X = S^2$ ,  $A = k[X, Y, Z] / (X^2 + Y^2 + Z^2 - 1)$ .

$\Rightarrow J(f) = (2X, 2Y, 2Z)$   $\uparrow$   $f$

$\Delta_{xy} = x \frac{\partial}{\partial y} - y \frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ ,  $\Delta_{xy}(f) = 0 \Rightarrow \Delta_{xy} \in V(S^2)$ . Similarly,  $\Delta_{xz}, \Delta_{yz}$ .

•  $V(S^2) = A\Delta_{xy} + A\Delta_{yz} + A\Delta_{xz}$  as an  $A$ -module. But  $x\Delta_{yz} + y\Delta_{zx} + z\Delta_{xy} = 0 \Rightarrow$  not a free module.

• Kac-Moody algs.

Ex. Loop alg:  $\hat{\mathfrak{g}} = \mathfrak{g} \otimes \mathbb{C}[t, t^{-1}] = L(\mathfrak{g})$

Consider  $\Omega_{\mathcal{A}}^1$  and  $\Omega_{\mathcal{A}}^1/dA$  (1-forms modulo exact forms), there is a quotient  
Kähler differentials

Theorem. (Kassel)  $\hat{\mathfrak{g}} = \mathfrak{g} \otimes \mathbb{C}[t, t^{-1}] \oplus \Omega_{\mathcal{A}}^1/dA$  is the universal center extension of  $\hat{\mathfrak{g}}$ .  
center of  $\hat{\mathfrak{g}}$ , with  $[x \otimes a, y \otimes b] = [x, y] \otimes ab + K(x, y) b da$

•  $\hat{\mathfrak{g}}$  is untwisted Affine Lie alg

• Let  $\sigma \in \text{Aut } \mathfrak{g}$ ,  $\sigma^k = 1$ . Consider  $\mu \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $\mu^k = 1$ , Extend  $\sigma$  to an automorphism  $\hat{\sigma}: L(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow L(\mathfrak{g})$ :  $\hat{\sigma}(x \otimes t^n) = \mu^n \sigma(x) \otimes t^n$ . Then  $L(\mathfrak{g})^{\hat{\sigma}}$  is twisted affine Lie alg.