

# Lie Algebras

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## 1 Lecture 1

The material for this class will roughly come from Humphrey, Chapters 1 to 5. There is also a useful appendix which has been uploaded to the ELC system online.

### 1.1 Overview

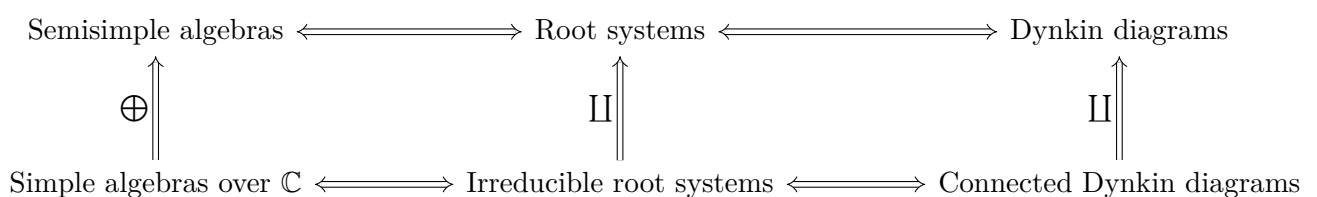
Here is a short overview of the topics we expect to cover:

#### 1.1.1 Chapter 2

- Ideals, solvability, and nilpotency
- Semisimple Lie algebras
  - These have a particularly nice structure and representation theory
- Determining if a Lie algebra is semisimple using Killing forms
- Weyl's theorem for complete reducibility for finite dimensional representations
- Root space decompositions

#### 1.1.2 Chapter 3-4

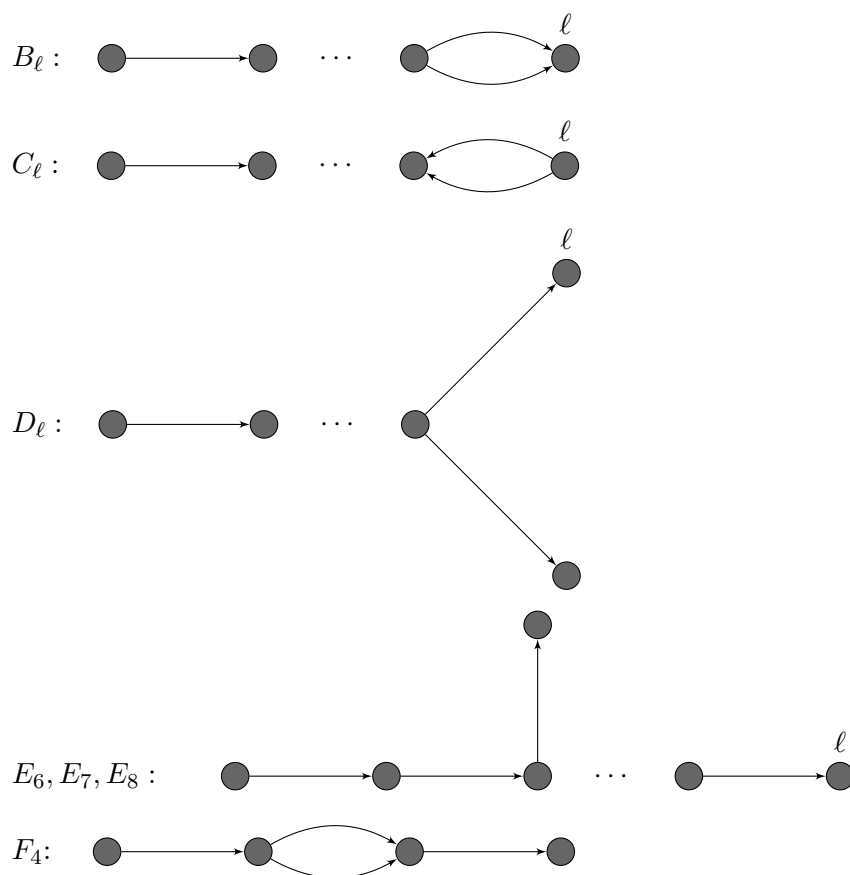
We will describe the following series of correspondences:



### 1.2 Classification

The classical Lie algebras can be essentially classified by certain classes of diagrams:





### 1.3 Chapters 4-5

These cover the following topics:

- Conjugacy classes of Cartan subalgebras
- The PBW theorem for the universal enveloping algebra
- Serre relations

#### 1.3.1 Chapter 6

Some important topics include:

- Weight space decompositions
- Finite dimensional modules
- Character and the Harish-Chandra theorem
- The Weyl character formula
  - This will be computed for the specific Lie algebras seen earlier

We will also see the type  $A_\ell$  algebra used for the first time; however, it differs from the other types in several important/significant ways.

## 1.3.2 Chapter 7

Skip!

## 1.3.3 Topics

Time permitting, we may also cover the following extra topics:

- Infinite dimensional Lie algebras [Carter 05]
- BGG Cat- $\mathcal{O}$  [Humphrey 08]

## 1.4 Content

Fix  $F$  a field of characteristic zero – note that prime characteristic is closer to a research topic.

**Definition 1.** A **Lie Algebra**  $\mathfrak{g}$  over  $F$  is an  $F$ -vector space with an operation denoted the Lie bracket,

$$\begin{aligned} [\cdot, \cdot] : \mathfrak{g} \times \mathfrak{g} &\rightarrow \mathfrak{g} \\ (x, y) &\mapsto [x, y]. \end{aligned}$$

satisfying the following properties:

- $[\cdot, \cdot]$  is bilinear
- $[x, x] = 0$
- The Jacobi identity:

$$[x, [y, z]] + [y, [x, z]] + [z, [x, y]] = 0.$$

**Exercise 1.** Show that  $[x, y] = -[y, x]$ .

**Definition 2.** Two Lie algebras  $\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}'$  are said to be isomorphic if  $\varphi([x, y]) = [\varphi(x), \varphi(y)]$ .

## 1.5 Linear Lie Algebras

Let  $V = \mathbb{F}^n$ , and define  $\text{End}(V) = \{f : V \rightarrow V \mid V \text{ is linear}\}$ . We can then define  $\mathfrak{gl}(n, V)$  by setting  $[x, y] = (x \circ y) - (y \circ x)$ .

**Exercise 2.** Verify that  $V$  is a Lie algebra.

**Definition 3.** Define

$$\mathfrak{sl}(n, V) = \{f \in \mathfrak{gl}(n, V) \mid \text{Tr}(f) = 0\}.$$

(Note the different in definition compared to the lie *group*  $\text{SL}(n, V)$ .)

**Definition 4.** A *subalgebra* of a Lie algebra is a vector subspace that is closed under the bracket.

**Definition 5.** The symplectic algebra

$$\mathfrak{sp}(2\ell, F) = \left\{ A \in \mathfrak{gl}(2\ell, F) \mid MA - A^T M = 0 \right\} \text{ where } M = \left( \begin{array}{c|c} 0 & I_n \\ \hline -I_n & 0 \end{array} \right).$$

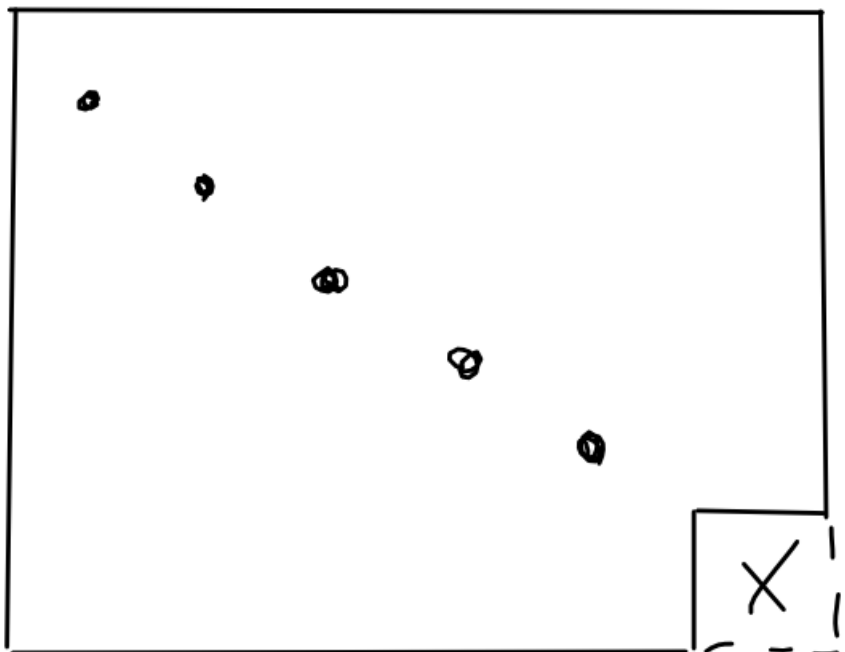
**Definition 6.** The orthogonal algebra

$$\mathfrak{so}(2\ell, F) = \left\{ A \in \mathfrak{gl}(2\ell, F) \mid MA - A^T M = 0 \right\} \text{ where}$$

$$M = \begin{cases} \left( \begin{array}{c|c|c} 1 & 0 & \\ \hline 0 & 0 & I_n \\ \hline & -I_n & 0 \end{array} \right) & n = 2\ell + 1 \text{ odd,} \\ \left( \begin{array}{c|c} 0 & I_n \\ \hline -I_n & 0 \end{array} \right) & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

**Proposition 7.** The dimensions of these algebras can be computed;

- The dimension of  $\mathfrak{gl}(n, \mathbb{F})$  is  $n^2$ , and has basis  $\{e_{i,j}\}$  the matrices if a 1 in the  $i, j$  position and



zero elsewhere.

- For type  $A_\ell$ , we have  $\dim \mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbb{F}) = (\ell + 1)^2 - 1$ .
- For type  $C_\ell$ , we have  $\dim \mathfrak{sp}(n, \mathbb{F}) = \ell^2 + 2 \left( \frac{\ell(\ell+1)}{2} \right)$ , and so elements here

$$\begin{pmatrix} A & B = B^t \\ C = C^t & A^t \end{pmatrix}.$$

- For type  $D_\ell$  we have

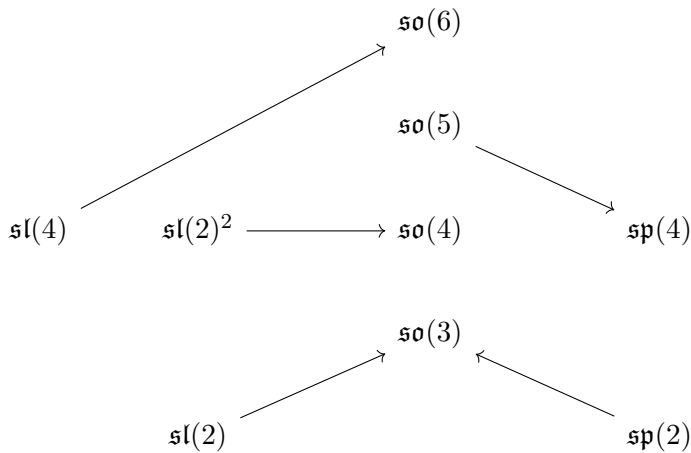
$$\dim \mathfrak{so}(2\ell, \mathbb{F}) = \dim \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} A & B = -B^t \\ C = -C^t & -A^t \end{pmatrix} \right\},$$

which turns out to be  $2\ell^2 - \ell$ .

- For type  $B_\ell$ , we have  $\dim \mathfrak{so}(2\ell, \mathbb{F}) = 2\ell^2 - \ell + 2\ell = 2\ell^2 + \ell$ , with elements of the form

$$\left( \begin{array}{c|cc} 0 & M & N \\ \hline -N^t & A & C = C^t \\ -M^t & B = B^t & -A^t \end{array} \right).$$

**Exercise 3.** Use the relation  $MA = A^t M$  to reduce restrictions on the blocks.



**Theorem 8.** These are *all* of the isomorphisms between any of these types of algebras, in any dimension.

## 2 Lecture 2

Recall from last time that a Lie Algebra is a vector space with a bilinear bracket, which importantly satisfies the Jacobi identity:

$$[x, [y, z]] + [y, [x, z]] + [z, [x, y]] = \mathbf{0}.$$

Also recall the examples from last time:

- $A_\ell \iff \mathfrak{sl}(\ell + 1, F)$
- $B_\ell \iff \mathfrak{so}(2\ell + 1, F)$
- $C_\ell \iff \mathfrak{sp}(2\ell, F)$
- $D_\ell \iff \mathfrak{so}(2\ell, F)$

**Exercise 4.** Characterize these matrix subalgebras in terms of basis elements, and compute their dimensions.

## 2.1 Lie Algebras of Derivations

**Definition 9.** An  $F$ -algebra  $A$  is an  $F$ -vector space endowed with a bilinear map  $A^2 \rightarrow A$ ,  $(x, y) \mapsto xy$ .

**Definition 10.** An algebra is **associative** if  $x(yz) = (xy)z$ .

Modern interest: simple Lie algebras, which have a good representation theory. Take a look at Erdmann-Wildon (Springer) for an introductory look at 3-dimensional algebras.

**Definition 11.** Any map  $\delta : A^2 \rightarrow A$  that satisfies the Leibniz rule is called a **derivation** of  $A$ , where the rule is given by  $\delta(xy) = \delta(x)y + x\delta(y)$ .

**Definition 12.** We define  $\text{Der}(A) = \{\delta \mid \delta \text{ is a derivation}\}$ .

Any Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  is an  $F$ -algebra, since  $[\cdot, \cdot]$  is bilinear. Moreover,  $\mathfrak{g}$  is associative iff  $[x, [y, z]] = 0$ .

**Exercise 5.** Show that  $\text{Der } \mathfrak{g} \leq \mathfrak{gl}(\mathfrak{g})$  is a Lie subalgebra. One needs to check that  $\delta_1, \delta_2 \in \mathfrak{g} \implies [\delta_1, \delta_2] \in \mathfrak{g}$ .

**Exercise 6** (Turn in). Define the adjoint by  $\text{ad } x : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}, y \mapsto [x, y]$ . Show that  $\text{ad } x \in \text{Der}(\mathfrak{g})$ .

## 2.2 Abstract Lie Algebras

Fact: Every finite-dimensional Lie algebra is isomorphic to a linear Lie algebra, i.e. a subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{gl}(V)$ . Each isomorphism type can be specified by certain *structure constants* for the Lie bracket.

**Example 13.** Any  $F$ -vector space can be made into a Lie algebra by setting  $[x, y] = 0$ ; such algebras are referred to as *abelian*.

Attempting to classify Lie algebras of dimension at most 2.

- 1 dimensional: We can write  $\mathfrak{g} = Fx$ , and so  $[x, x] = 0 \implies [\cdot, \cdot] = 0$ . So every bracket must be zero, and thus every Lie algebra is abelian.
- 2 dimensional: Write  $\mathfrak{g} = Fx \oplus Fy$ , the only nontrivial bracket here is  $[x, y]$ . Some cases:
  - $[x, y] = 0 \implies \mathfrak{g}$  is abelian.
  - $[x, y] = ax + by \neq 0$ . Assume  $a \neq 0$  and set  $x' = ax + by, y' = \frac{y}{a}$ . Now compute  $[x', y'] = [ax + by, \frac{y}{a}] = [x, y] = ax + by = x'$ . Punchline:  $\mathfrak{g} \cong Fx' \oplus Fy', [x', y'] = x'$ .

We can fill in a table with all of the various combinations of brackets:

$[\cdot, \cdot]$	$x'$	$y'$
$x'$	0	$x'$
$y'$	$-x'$	0



**Example 14.** Let  $V = \mathbb{R}^3$ , and define  $[a, b] = a \times b$  to be the usual cross product.

**Exercise 7.** Look at notes for basis elements of  $\mathfrak{sl}(2, F)$ ,

$$e = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$h = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$f = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Compute the matrices of  $\text{ad}(e)$ ,  $\text{ad}(h)$ ,  $\text{ad}(f)$  with respect to this basis.

## 2.3 Ideals

**Definition 15.** A subspace  $I \subseteq \mathfrak{g}$  is called an **ideal**, and we write  $I \trianglelefteq \mathfrak{g}$ , if  $x, y \in I \implies [x, y] \in I$ .

Note that there is no need to distinguish right, left, or two-sided ideals. This can be shown using  $[x, y] = -[y, x]$ .

**Exercise 8.** Check that the following are all ideals of  $\mathfrak{g}$ :

- $\{0\}, \mathfrak{g}$ .
- $\mathfrak{z}(\mathfrak{g}) = \{z \in \mathfrak{g} \mid [x, z] = 0 \quad \forall x \in \mathfrak{g}\}$
- The commutator (or derived) algebra  $[\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}] = \{\sum_i [x_i, y_i] \mid x_i, y_i \in \mathfrak{g}\}$ .  
– Moreover,  $[\mathfrak{gl}(n, F), \mathfrak{gl}(n, F)] = \mathfrak{sl}(n, F)$ .

Fact: If  $I, J \trianglelefteq \mathfrak{g}$ , then

- $I + J = \{x + y \mid x \in I, y \in J\} \trianglelefteq \mathfrak{g}$
- $I \cap J \trianglelefteq \mathfrak{g}$
- $[I, J] = \{\sum_i [x_i, y_i] \mid x_i \in I, y_i \in J\} \trianglelefteq \mathfrak{g}$

**Definition 16.** A Lie algebra is **simple** if  $[\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}] \neq 0$  (i.e. when  $\mathfrak{g}$  is not abelian) and has no non-trivial ideals. Note that this implies that  $[\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}] = \mathfrak{g}$ .

**Theorem 17.** Suppose that  $\text{char } F \neq 2$ , then  $\mathfrak{sl}(2, F)$  is not simple.

*Proof.* Recall that we have a basis of  $\mathfrak{sl}(2, F)$  given by  $B = \{e, h, f\}$  where

- $[e, f] = h$ ,
- $[h, e] = 2e$ ,
- $[h, f] = -2f$ .

So think of  $[h, e] = \text{ad } h$ , so  $h$  is an eigenvector of this map with eigenvalues  $\{0, \pm 2\}$ . Since  $\text{char } F \neq 2$ , these are all distinct. Suppose  $\mathfrak{sl}(2, F)$  has a nontrivial ideal  $I$ ; then pick  $x = ae + bh + cf \in I$ . Then  $[e, x] = 0 - 2be + ch$ , and  $[e, [e, x]] = 0 - 0 + 2ce$ . Again since  $\text{char } F \neq 2$ , then if  $c \neq 0$  then  $e \in I$ . Now you can show that  $h \in I$  and  $f \in I$ , but then  $I = \mathfrak{sl}(2, F)$ , a contradiction. So  $c = 0$ .

Then  $x = bh \neq 0$ , so  $h \in I$ , and we can compute

$$\begin{aligned} 2e = [h, e] \in I &\implies e \in I, \\ 2f = [h, -f] \in I &\implies f \in I. \end{aligned}$$

which implies that  $I = \mathfrak{sl}(2, F)$  and thus it is simple.

□

Note that there is a homework coming due next Monday, about 4 questions.

### 3 Lecture 3

Last time, we looked at ideals such as  $0, \mathfrak{g}, Z(\mathfrak{g})$ , and  $[\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}]$ .

**Definition:** If  $I \trianglelefteq \mathfrak{g}$  is an ideal, then the quotient  $\mathfrak{g}/I$  also yields a Lie algebra with the bracket given by  $[x + I, y + I] = [x, y] + I$ .

**Exercise:** Check that this is well-defined, so that if  $x + I = x' + I$  and  $y + I = y' + I$  then  $[x, y] + I = [x', y'] + I$ .

#### 3.1 Homomorphisms and Representations

**Definition 18.** A linear map  $\phi : \mathfrak{g}_1 \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}_2$  is a *Lie homomorphism* if  $\phi[x, y] = [\phi(x), \phi(y)]$ .

**Remark.**  $\ker \phi \trianglelefteq \mathfrak{g}_1$  and  $\text{im } \phi \leq \mathfrak{g}_2$  is a subalgebra.

**Fact:** There is a canonical way to set up a 1-to-1 correspondence  $\{I \trianglelefteq \mathfrak{g}\} \iff \{\text{hom } \phi : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}'\}$  where  $I \mapsto (x \mapsto x + I)$  and the inverse is given by  $\phi \mapsto \ker \phi$ .

**Theorem (Isomorphism theorem for Lie algebras):**

- If  $\phi : \mathfrak{g}_1 \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}_2$  is a Lie algebra homomorphism, then  $\mathfrak{g}/\ker \phi \cong \text{im } \phi$
- If  $I, J \trianglelefteq \mathfrak{g}$  are ideals and  $I \subset J$  then  $J/I \trianglelefteq \mathfrak{g}/I$  and  $(\mathfrak{g}/I)/(J/I) \cong \mathfrak{g}/J$ .
- If  $I, J \trianglelefteq \mathfrak{g}$  then  $(I + J)/J \cong I/(I \cap J)$ .

**Definition:** A *representation* of a Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  is a Lie algebra homomorphism  $\phi : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{gl}(V)$  into a linear Lie algebra for some vector space  $V$ .

We call  $V$  a  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module with action  $g \cdot v = \phi(g)(v)$ .

**Example:** The *adjoint representation*:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ad} : \mathfrak{g} &\rightarrow \mathfrak{gl}(\mathfrak{g}) \\ x &\mapsto [x, \cdot]. \end{aligned}$$

**Corollary 19.** Any simple Lie algebra is isomorphic to a linear Lie algebra.

Proof: Since  $\mathfrak{g}$  is simple, the center  $Z(\mathfrak{g}) = 0$ . We can rewrite the center as

$$\begin{aligned} Z(\mathfrak{g}) &= \left\{ x \in \mathfrak{g} \mid \text{ad}_x(y) = 0 \quad \forall y \in \mathfrak{g} \right\} \\ &= \ker \text{ad}_x. \end{aligned}$$

Using the first isomorphism theorem, we have  $\mathfrak{g}/Z(\mathfrak{g}) \cong \text{im ad} \subseteq \mathfrak{gl}(\mathfrak{g})$ . But  $\mathfrak{g}/Z(\mathfrak{g}) = \mathfrak{g}$  here, so we are done.

## 3.2 Automorphisms

Definition: An automorphism of  $\mathfrak{g}$  is an isomorphism  $\mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$ , and we define

$$\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{g}) = \{ \phi : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g} \mid \phi \text{ is an isomorphism} \}.$$

Proposition: If  $\delta \in \text{Der}(\mathfrak{g})$  is nilpotent, then

$$\exp(\delta) := \sum \frac{\delta^n}{n!} \in \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{g}).$$

This is well-defined because  $\delta$  is nilpotent, and a binomial formula holds:

$$\frac{\delta^n([x, y])}{n!} = \sum_{i=0}^n \left[ \frac{\delta^i(x)}{i!}, \frac{\delta^{n-i}(y)}{(n-i)!} \right].$$

and for  $n = 1$ ,  $\delta([x, y]) = [x, \delta(y)] + [\delta(x), y]$ .

Exercise: Show that

$$[(\exp \delta)(x), (\exp \delta)(y)] = \sum_{n=0}^{k-1} \frac{\delta^n([x, y])}{n!}.$$

Example: Let  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{F})$  and define

$$s = \exp(\text{ad}_e) \exp(\text{ad}_{-f}) \exp(\text{ad}_e) \in \text{Aut} \mathfrak{g}.$$

where  $e, f$  are defined as (todo, see written notes).

Then define the Weyl group  $W = \langle s \rangle$ .

Exercise: Check that  $s(e) = -f, s(f) = -e, s(h) = -h$ , and so the order of  $s$  is 2 and  $W = \{1, s\}$ .

## 4 Lecture 4

### 4.1 Solvability

Idea: Define a semisimple Lie algebra

Definition: The derived series for  $\mathfrak{g}$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned}\mathfrak{g}^{(0)} &= \mathfrak{g} \\ \mathfrak{g}^{(1)} &= [\mathfrak{g}^{(0)}, \mathfrak{g}^{(0)}] \\ &\dots \\ \mathfrak{g}^{(i+1)} &= [\mathfrak{g}^{(i)}, \mathfrak{g}^{(i)}].\end{aligned}$$

The Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  is *solvable* if there is some  $n$  for which  $\mathfrak{g}^{(n)} = 0$ .

Exercise (to turn in): Check that the Lie algebra of upper triangular matrices in  $\mathfrak{gl}(n, \mathbb{F})$ .

Example: Abelian Lie algebras are solvable

Example: Simple Lie algebras are *not* solvable.

Proposition: Let  $\mathfrak{g}$  be a Lie algebra, then

1. If  $\mathfrak{g}$  is solvable, then all subalgebras and all homomorphic images of  $\mathfrak{g}$  are also solvable.
2. If  $I \trianglelefteq \mathfrak{g}$  and both  $I$  and  $\mathfrak{g}/I$  are solvable, then so is  $\mathfrak{g}$ .
3. If  $I, J \trianglelefteq \mathfrak{g}$  are solvable, then so is  $I + J$ .

Corollary (of part 3 above): Any Lie algebra has a unique maximal solvable ideal, which we denote the *radical*  $\text{Rad}(\mathfrak{g})$ .

Definition: A Lie algebra is semisimple if  $\text{Rad}(\mathfrak{g}) = 0$ .

Example: Any simple Lie algebra is semisimple.

Example: Using part (2) above, we can deduce that we can construct a semisimple Lie algebra from *any* Lie algebra: for any  $\mathfrak{g}$ , the quotient  $\mathfrak{g}/\text{Rad}(\mathfrak{g})$  is semisimple.

### 4.2 Nilpotency

$$\begin{aligned}\mathfrak{g}^0 &= \mathfrak{g} \\ \mathfrak{g}^1 &= [\mathfrak{g}^0, \mathfrak{g}^0] \\ &\dots \\ \mathfrak{g}^{i+1} &= [\mathfrak{g}^i, \mathfrak{g}^i].\end{aligned}$$

Much like the previous case, we have

Example: Abelian Lie algebras are nilpotent.

Example: Nilpotent Lie algebras are solvable.

Example: The *strictly* upper triangular matrices (with zero on the diagonal) are nilpotent.

1. If  $\mathfrak{g}$  is nilpotent, then all subalgebras and all homomorphic images of  $\mathfrak{g}$  are also nilpotent.
2. If  $\mathfrak{g}/Z(\mathfrak{g})$  is nilpotent, then so is  $\mathfrak{g}$ .
3. If  $\mathfrak{g} \neq 0$  is nilpotent, then  $Z(\mathfrak{g}) \neq 0$ .

Claim: If  $\mathfrak{g}$  is nilpotent, then  $\text{ad } x \in \text{End}(\mathfrak{g})$  is nilpotent for all  $x \in \mathfrak{g}$ .

Proof: This is because  $\mathfrak{g}^n = 0 \iff [\mathfrak{g}, [\mathfrak{g}, [\mathfrak{g}, \dots]]] = 0$ , and so for every  $x_i, y \in \mathfrak{g}$  we have  $[x_1, [x_2, \dots [x_n, y]]] = 0$ , and so  $\text{ad } x_1 \circ \text{ad } x_2 \circ \dots \circ \text{ad } x_n = 0$  which implies that  $\text{ad } x^n = 0$  for all  $x \in \mathfrak{g}$ .

Theorem [Engel]: If  $\text{ad } x$  is nilpotent for all  $x \in \mathfrak{g}$ , then  $\mathfrak{g}$  is nilpotent.

Remark: This can be confusing if  $\mathfrak{g}$  is a linear algebra, we can consider elements  $x \in \mathfrak{g}$  and ask if it is the case  $x$  being nilpotent (as an endomorphism) iff  $\mathfrak{g}\mathfrak{g}$  is nilpotent? False, a counterexample is  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{gl}(2, \mathbb{C})$ , where there exists an  $x$  which is *not* nilpotent while  $\text{ad } x$  is nilpotent, which contradicts the above theorem.

Proof:

Lemma: Let  $\mathfrak{g} \subseteq \mathfrak{gl}(V)$  be a Lie subalgebra for some finite dimensional vector space  $V$ . If  $x$  is nilpotent as an endomorphism on  $V$  for all  $x \in \mathfrak{g}$ , then there exists a nonzero vector  $v \in V$  such that  $\mathfrak{g}v = 0$ , so  $x \in \mathfrak{g} \implies x(v) = 0$ .

Proof of lemma Use induction on  $\dim \mathfrak{g}$ , splitting into two separate base cases: - Case  $\dim \mathfrak{g} = 0$ , then  $\mathfrak{g} = \{0\}$ . - Case  $\dim \mathfrak{g} = 1$ , left as an exercise.

Inductive step: Let  $A$  be a maximal proper subalgebra and define  $\phi : A \rightarrow \mathfrak{gl}(\mathfrak{g}/A)$  where  $a \mapsto (x + A \mapsto [a, x] + A)$ . We need to check that  $\phi$  is a homomorphism, this just follows from using the Jacobi identity.

We also need to show that  $\text{im } \phi \leq \mathfrak{gl}(\mathfrak{g}/A)$  is a Lie subalgebra, and  $\dim \text{im } \phi < \dim \mathfrak{g}$ . The claim is that  $\phi(a) \in \text{End}(\mathfrak{g}/A)$  is nilpotent for all  $a \in A$ . By the inductive hypothesis, there is a nonzero coset  $y + A \in \mathfrak{g}/A$  such that  $(\text{im } \phi) \cdot (y + A) = A$ . Since  $y \notin A$ , then  $\phi(a)(y + A) = A$  for all  $a \in A$ , and so  $[a, y] \in A$ .

We want to show that  $A$  is a subalgebra of codimension 1, and  $A \oplus F_y \leq \mathfrak{g}$  is a Lie subalgebra. This is because  $[a_1 + c_1y, a_2 + c_2y] = [a_1, a_2] + c_2[a_1, y] - c_2[a_2, y] + c_1c_2[y, y]$ . The last term is zero, the middle two terms are in  $A$ , and because  $A$  is closed under the bracket, the first term is in  $A$  as well.

But then  $A \oplus F_y$  is a larger subalgebra than  $A$ , which was maximal, so it must be everything. So  $A \oplus F_y = \mathfrak{g}$ . So  $A \trianglelefteq \mathfrak{g}$  because  $[a_1, a_2 + cy]$  is in  $A$ ,  $A \oplus F_y = \mathfrak{g}$  respectively, and this equals  $[a_1, a_2] + c[a_1, y]$ , where both terms are in  $A$ .

Proof to be continued on Friday!

## 5 Lecture 5

Last time: we had a theorem that said that if  $\mathfrak{g} \in \mathfrak{gl}(V)$  and every  $x \in \mathfrak{g}$  is nilpotent, then there exists a nonzero  $v \in V$  such that  $\mathfrak{g}v = 0$ .

We proceeded by induction on the dimension of  $V$ , constructing  $\text{im } \phi \subseteq \mathfrak{gl}(\mathfrak{g}/A)$ , and showed that  $\mathfrak{g} = A \oplus F_y$ . Now consider

$$W = \{v \in V \mid Av = 0\},$$

which is  $\mathfrak{g}$ -invariant, so  $\mathfrak{g}(W) \subseteq W$ , or for all  $a \in A, x \in \mathfrak{g}, v \in W$ , we have  $a \curvearrowright x(v) = 0$ . This is true because  $a \curvearrowright x = x \circ a + [a, x] \in \mathfrak{gl}(V)$ . But  $V$  is killed by any element in  $A$ , and both of these terms are in  $A$ . In particular, the  $y$  appearing in  $Fy$  also satisfies  $y \in W$ . Consider  $y|_W \in \text{End}(W)$ , and we want to apply the inductive hypothesis to  $Fy|_W \subseteq \mathfrak{gl}(V)$ .

We need to check that  $y|_W \in \text{End}(V)$ , which is true exactly because  $y$  is nilpotent. So we can construct a nonzero  $v \in W \subset V$  such that  $y(v) = 0$ , and so  $gv = 0$ .

Claim:  $\phi(a) \in \text{End}(\mathfrak{g}/A)$  is nilpotent. Each  $a \in A \subset \mathfrak{g}$  is nilpotent by assumption. Define the maps for left multiplication by  $a$ ,  $m_\ell : x \mapsto ax$ , and the right multiplication  $m_r : x \mapsto xa$ . These are nilpotent, and since  $m_\ell, m_r$  commute, the difference  $m_\ell - m_r$  is nilpotent, and this is exactly  $\text{ad}_a$ . But then  $\phi(a)$  is nilpotent.

Good proof for using all of the definitions!

Now we can see what the consequences of having such a nonzero vector are. This theorem implies Engel's theorem, which says that if  $\text{ad}_x \in \text{End}(\mathfrak{g})$  is nilpotent for every  $x \in \mathfrak{g}$ , then  $\mathfrak{g}$  is nilpotent.

Proof: By induction on dimension. The base case is easy. For the inductive step, the previous theorem applies to  $\text{ad}_g \in \mathfrak{gl}(\mathfrak{g})$ . So we can produce the nonzero  $v \in \mathfrak{g}$  such that  $\text{ad}_g v = 0$ . Then  $[x, v] = 0$  for all  $x \in \mathfrak{g}$ , so either  $v \in Z(\mathfrak{g})$  or  $Z(\mathfrak{g}) \neq 0$ . In either case,  $\mathfrak{g}/Z(\mathfrak{g})$  has smaller dimension. Since  $\text{ad}_x$  is nilpotent, so is  $\text{ad}_x + Z(\mathfrak{g})$ , and so  $\mathfrak{g}/Z(\mathfrak{g})$  is nilpotent. By an earlier proposition, since the quotient is nilpotent, so is the total space.  $\square$

Let  $\mathfrak{N}(F)$  be the subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{gl}(F)$  consisting of strictly upper triangular matrices. We have a corollary: if  $\mathfrak{g} \subset \mathfrak{gl}(n, F)$  is a Lie subalgebra such every  $x \in \mathfrak{g}$  is nilpotent as an endomorphism of  $F$ , then the matrices of  $\mathfrak{g}$  with respect to some bases of in  $\mathfrak{N}(n, F)$ .

The proof is by induction on  $n$ , where the base case is easy. For the inductive step, we use the previous theorem to get a  $v_1$  such that  $x(v_1) = 0$  for all  $x \in \mathfrak{g}$ . Let  $\bar{V} = F^n/Fv_1 \cong F^{n-1}$ , and define  $\phi : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{gl}(\bar{V})$  where  $x \mapsto (\bar{y} \mapsto \overline{y(x)})$ .

Then  $\text{im } \phi \leq \mathfrak{gl}(n-1, F)$  as a subalgebra, and every  $\phi(x) \in \text{End}(F^{n-1})$  is nilpotent, since  $x$  was nilpotent on the larger space. But (see notes) then  $x$  can be written as a strictly upper-triangular matrix.

## 5.1 Chapter 2: Semisimple Lie Algebras

We now assume  $\text{char } F = 0$  and  $\bar{F} = F$ .

Theorem: If  $\mathfrak{g}$  is a solvable Lie subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{gl}(V)$  for some finite dimensional  $V$ , then  $V$  contains a common eigenvector for a  $x \in \mathfrak{g}$ , i.e. a  $\lambda : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow F, x \mapsto \lambda(x)$  such that  $x(v) = \lambda(x)v$  for all  $x \in \mathfrak{g}$ .

Proof: We will use induction on the dimension of  $\mathfrak{g}$ . For the inductive step:

Claim 1: There is an ideal  $A \trianglelefteq \mathfrak{g}$  such that  $\mathfrak{g} = A \oplus Fy$  for some  $y \neq 0$ , so  $A$  is a subalgebra of a solvable Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  and thus solvable itself. By hypothesis, we can produce a  $w \in V \setminus \{0\}$ , and thus a functional  $\lambda : A \rightarrow F$  such that  $aw = \lambda(a)w$  for all  $a \in A$ . So we define

$$V_\lambda = \{v \in V \mid av = \lambda(a)v \forall a \in A\}$$

where  $w \in V_\lambda$ .

Claim 2:  $y(V_\lambda) \subseteq V_\lambda$ , or  $y|_{V_\lambda} \in \text{End}(V_\lambda)$ .

Thus  $F(y|_{V_\lambda}) \leq \mathfrak{gl}(V_\lambda)$  is a Lie algebra of dimension 1, and thus solvable. By the inductive hypothesis, we can find a  $v \in V_\lambda$  and some  $\mu \in F$  such that  $y(v) = \mu v$ . An arbitrary element  $x \in \mathfrak{g}$  can be written as  $x = a + cy$  for some  $a \in A, c \in F$  and it acts by  $x(v) = a(v) + cy(v) = \lambda(a)v + c\mu v = (\lambda(a) + c\mu)v \in V_\lambda$ .

## 6 Lecture 6

### Chapter 3: Theorems of Lie and Cartan

#### 6.1 4.1: Lie's Theorem

**Theorem:** Let  $L$  be a solvable subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{gl}(V)$ , where  $V$  is finite-dimensional. If  $V \neq 0$ , then  $V$  contains a common eigenvector for all of the endomorphisms in  $L$ .

**Proof:** Use induction on  $\dim L$ . The case  $\dim L = 0$  is trivial. We'll attempt to mimic the proof of Theorem 3.3. The idea is to

1. Locate an ideal of  $K$  of codimension 1,
2. Show by induction that common eigenvectors exist for  $k$ ,
3. Verify that  $L$  stabilizes a space consisting of such eigenvectors,
4. Find in that space an eigenvector for a single  $z \in L$  satisfying  $L = K + Fz$ .

Step (1): Since  $L$  is solvable and of positive dimension, then  $L \not\subseteq [L, L]$ . Otherwise, if  $L = [L, L]$ , then  $L^{(1)} = L \implies L^{(n)} = L$ , which would contradict  $L$  being solvable.

Since  $[L, L]$  is abelian, any subspace is automatically an ideal. So take a subspace of codimension one, then its inverse image  $K \trianglelefteq L$  is an ideal satisfying  $[L, L] \subseteq K$ .

Step (2): Use induction to find a common eigenvector  $v \in V$  for  $K$ . ( $K$  is solvable; if  $K = 0$  then  $L$  is abelian of dimension 1 and any eigenvector for a basis vector of  $L$  finishes the proof.)

This means that  $x \in K \implies x \curvearrowright v = \lambda(x)v$  for some  $\lambda : K \rightarrow F$  a linear functional. Fix this  $\lambda$ , and let  $W = \{w \in V \mid x \curvearrowright w = \lambda(x)w \forall x \in K\}$ ; note that  $W \neq 0$ .

Step (3): This will involve showing that  $L$  leaves  $W$  invariant. Assume for the moment that this is done, and proceed to step (4).

Step (4):

Write  $L = K + Fz$ . Since  $F$  is algebraically closed, we can find an eigenvector  $v_0 \in W$  of  $z$  for some eigenvalue of  $z$ . Then  $v_0$  is a common eigenvector for  $L$ , and  $\lambda$  can be extended to a linear function on  $L$  satisfying  $x \curvearrowright v_0 = \lambda(x)v_0$  where  $x \in L$ .

It remains to show that  $L$  stabilizes  $W$ . Let  $w \in W, x \in L$ . To test whether or not  $x \curvearrowright w \in W$ , we take an arbitrary  $y \in K$  and examine

$$yx \curvearrowright w = xy \curvearrowright w - [x, y] \curvearrowright w = \lambda(y)x \curvearrowright w - \lambda([x, y])w.$$

Note: the above equality is an important trick.

Thus we need to show that  $\lambda([x, y]) = 0$ . To this end, fix  $w \in W, x \in L$ . Let  $n > 0$  be the smallest integer for which  $w, x \curvearrowright w, \dots, x^n \curvearrowright w$  are all linearly independent. Let  $W_i =$

$\text{span}(\{w, x \curvearrowright w, \dots, x^{i-1} \curvearrowright w\})$  and set  $W_0 = 0$ . Then  $\dim W_n = n$ , and  $W_{n+i} = W_n$  for all  $i \geq 0$ . Moreover,  $x$  maps  $W_n$  into itself. It is easy to check that each  $y \in K$  is represented by an upper-triangular matrix with diagonal entries equal to  $\lambda(y)$ . This follows immediately from the congruence

$$yx^i \curvearrowright w = \lambda(y)x^i \curvearrowright w \pmod{W_i},$$

which can be proved by induction on  $i$ . The case  $i = 0$  is trivial. For the inductive step, write

$$yx^i \curvearrowright w = yxx^{i-1} \curvearrowright w = xyx^{i-1} \curvearrowright w = [x, y]x^{i-1} \curvearrowright w$$

By induction,

$$yx^{i-1} \curvearrowright w = \lambda(y)x^{i-1} \curvearrowright w + w',$$

where  $w' \in W_{i-1}$ . Since  $x$  maps  $W_{i-1}$  into  $W_i$  by construction, the congruence holds for all  $i$ .

According to our description of the action of  $y \in K$  on  $W_n$ , we have  $\text{Tr}_{W_n}(y) = n\lambda(y)$ . In particular, this is true for elements  $k$  of  $f$  of the special form  $[x, y]$  where  $x$  is as it was above and  $y$  is in  $K$ .

**But both  $x$  and  $y$  stabilize  $W_n$ , so  $[x, y]$  acts on  $W_n$  as the commutator of two endomorphisms of  $W_n$ , and the trace is therefore zero.**

We conclude that  $n\lambda([x, y]) = 0$ . Since  $\text{char } F = 0$ , this forces  $\lambda([x, y]) = 0$  as required.  $\square$

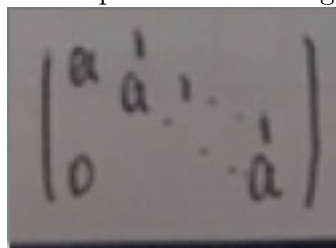
**Corollary A (Lie's Theorem):** Let  $L \leq \mathfrak{gl}(V)$  be a solvable subalgebra where  $\dim V = n < \infty$ . Then  $L$  stabilizes some flag in  $V$ , i.e. the matrices of  $L$  relative to a suitable basis of  $V$  are upper triangular.

**Proof:** Use the above theorem, along with induction on  $\dim V$ . This is similar to the proof of corollary 3.3.

## 6.2 4.2: Jordan-Chevalley Decomposition

Fact 1:

The Jordan Canonical Form of a single endomorphism  $x$  over  $F$  algebraically closed is an expression



of  $x$  in matrix form as a sum of blocks:

Fact 2:

Call  $x \in \text{End } V$  *semisimple* if the roots of its minimal polynomial over  $F$  are all distinct. Equivalently, if  $F$  is algebraically closed, then  $x$  is semisimple iff  $x$  is diagonalizable.

Fact 3:

Two commuting semisimple endomorphisms can be simultaneously diagonalized. Therefore, their sum or difference is again semisimple.

**Proposition:** Let  $V$  be a finite dimensional vector space over  $F$  and  $x \in \text{End } V$ . Then



- a. There exist unique  $x_s, x_n \in \text{End}V$  satisfying the conditions  $x = x_s + x_n$ ,  $x_s$  is semisimple,  $x_n$  is nilpotent, and  $x_s, x_n$  commute.
- b. There exists polynomials  $p(t), q(t)$  such that  $x_s = p(x)$  and  $x_n = q(x)$ . In particular,  $x_s, x_n$  commute with any endomorphism commuting with  $x$ .
- c. If  $A < B < V$  are subspaces and  $x$  maps  $B$  into  $A$ , then  $x_s, x_n$  also map  $B$  into  $A$ .

The decomposition  $x = x_s + x_n$  is called the (additive) **Jordan-Chevalley decomposition** of  $x$ , or just the Jordan decomposition.  $x_s, x_n$  are respectively called the **semisimple part** and the **nilpotent part** of  $x$ .

Example:

$$x = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \implies x_s = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad x_n = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Note that  $x_s x_n = x_n = x_n x_s$ ,  $x_s = 2x - x^2$ , and  $x_n = x^2 - x$ . We thus have  $p(t) = 2t - t^2$  and  $q(t) = t^2 - t$ .

## 7 Lecture n+2

Definition (Jordan Decomposition)

Let  $X \in \text{End}(V)$  for  $V$  finite dimensional. Then,

- (a) There exists a unique  $X_s, X_n \in \text{End}(V)$  such that  $X = X_s + X_n$  where  $X_s$  is semisimple,  $X_n$  is nilpotent, and  $[X_s, X_n] = 0$ .
- (b) There exists a  $p(t), q(t) \in t\mathbb{F}[t]$  such that  $X_s = p(X)$ ,  $X_n = q(X)$ .

(Polynomials with no constant term.)

Proof of (a): Assume  $X_s = X_s + X_n = X'_s + X'_n$ , so both have bracket zero. Assuming that (b) holds, we have  $X_s = p(X)$ , and so

$$[X, X_s] = [X_s + X'_n, X'_s] = [X'_s, X'_s] + [X'_s, X'_n] = 0 \implies [p(X), X'_s] = 0 = [X_s, X'_s]$$

Using fact (c) from last time, then  $X_s, X'_s$  can be diagonalized simultaneously, and so  $X_s - X'_s$  is semisimple.

On the other hand, if  $X'_n, X_n$  are nilpotent, and since these commute,  $X_n - X'_n$  is nilpotent. But then this is a Jordan decomposition of the zero map, i.e.

$$0 = X - X = (X_s - X'_s) + (X_n + X'_n)$$

where the first term is semisimple and the second is nilpotent. Then each term is both semisimple and nilpotent, so they must be zero, which is what we wanted to show.

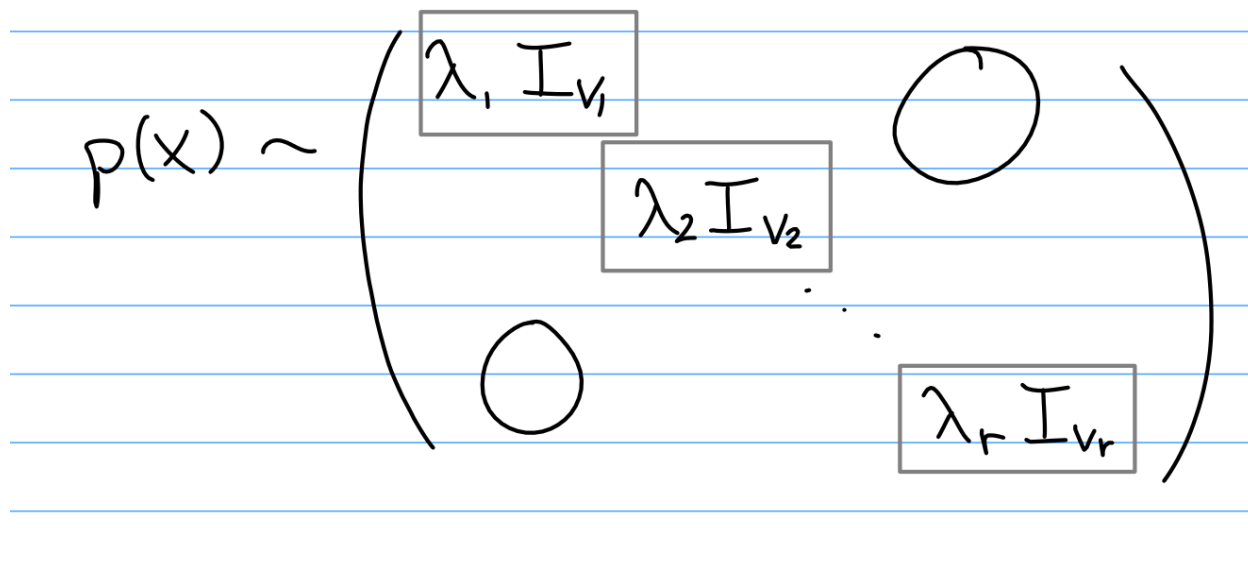


Figure 1: ???

Proof of part (b): Let  $m(t) = \prod_{i=1}^r (t - \lambda_i)^{m_i}$  be the minimal polynomial of  $X$ , where each  $m_i \geq 1$  and the  $\lambda_i$  are distinct. Then the primary composition of  $V$  is given by

$$V = \bigoplus_{i=1}^r V_i, \quad V_i = \ker(X - \lambda_i I_V)^{m_i} \neq 0, \quad X(V_i) \subseteq V_i$$

Claim: There exists a polynomial  $p \in F[t]$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} p &\equiv \lambda_i \pmod{(t - \lambda_i)^{m_i}} \quad \forall i, \\ p &\equiv 0 \pmod{t}. \end{aligned}$$

The existence follows from the Chinese Remainder Theorem.

What is  $p(X) \curvearrowright V_i$ ? This acts by scalar multiplication by  $\lambda_i$  for all  $i$ . (Check). Because of the restrictive conditions,  $p(X)$  has no constant term.

So  $p(X) = X_s$  is the semisimple part we want. Now just set  $q(t) = t - p(t)$ , then  $X_n := q(X) = X - X_s$  is nilpotent.

Example: The Jordan Decomposition is invariant under taking adjoints.

If we have  $X = X_s + X_n$ , then  $\text{ad } X \in \text{End}(\text{End}(V))$ . It can be shown that  $(\text{ad } X)_s + (\text{ad } X)_n = \text{ad } (X_s) + \text{ad } (X_n)$ .

Let  $e_{ij}$  be the elementary matrix with a 1 in the  $i, j$  position. You can write  $\text{ad } X$  as a  $4 \times 4$  matrix (see image).

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$X = X_S + X_n$$

$$= \begin{matrix} e_{11} \\ e_{12} \\ e_{21} \\ e_{22} \end{matrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\rightarrow \text{JNF} \left( \begin{array}{c|ccc} 0 & & & \\ \hline & 0 & 1 & \\ & & 0 & 1 \\ & & & \ddots & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

$$= \begin{matrix} e_{11} \\ e_{12} \\ e_{21} \\ e_{22} \end{matrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\rightarrow \text{JNF} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & & & \\ \hline & 0 & 1 & \\ & & 0 & 1 \\ & & & \ddots & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

You can check that  $(\text{ad } X)_S = 0$ ,  $\text{ad } (X_S) = 0$ , and  $(\text{ad } X)_n$  is the Jordan form given above.

Lemma:

- (a)  $x \in \text{End}(V) \implies \text{ad } (x)_S = \text{ad } (x_S)$  and  $\text{ad } (x)_n = \text{ad } (x_n)$ .
- (b) If  $A$  is a finite dimensional  $\mathbb{F}$ -algebra, then  $\delta \in \text{Der}(A) \implies \delta_S, \delta_n \in \text{Der}(A)$  as well.

Proof of (a):

Check that  $\text{ad } (x) = \text{ad } (x_S) + \text{ad } (x_n)$ . Then for  $y \in \text{End}(V)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} (\text{ad } (x))(y) &= [x, y] \\ &= [x_S + x_n, y] \\ &= [x_S, y] + [x_n, y] \\ &= (\text{ad } (x_S))(y) + (\text{ad } (x_n))(y). \end{aligned}$$

Using theorem 3.3,  $x_n$  nilpotent  $\implies \text{ad } (x_n)$  is also nilpotent. So write  $x_S = \sum \lambda_i e_{ii}$  with the eigenvalues on the diagonal. Then  $\text{ad } x_S(e_{ij}) = (\lambda_i - \lambda_j)e_{ij}$  for all  $i, j$ . But then  $\text{ad } x_S$  is given

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (\delta - (\lambda + \mu)I)^n([x, y]) \\
 &= \sum_{i=0}^n \binom{n}{i} \left[ (\delta - \lambda I)^i(x), (\delta - \mu I)^{n-i}(y) \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

Figure 2: Image

by a matrix with  $\lambda_i - \lambda_j$  in the  $i, j$  position and zeros elsewhere. By the uniqueness of the Jordan decomposition, the statement follows.

Proof of (b):

Since  $\delta \in \text{Der}(A)$ , the primary decomposition with respect to  $\delta$  is given by

$$A = \bigoplus_{\lambda \in F} A_\lambda \quad \text{where } A_\lambda = \left\{ a \in A \mid (\delta - \lambda I)^k a = 0 \text{ for some } k \gg 0 \right\}.$$

So  $\delta_s \sim A_\lambda$  by scalar multiplication (by  $\lambda$ ). Then for  $\lambda, \mu \in F$ , we have

So  $[A_x, A_y] \subseteq A_{\lambda+\mu}$  for all  $x, y \in A$ . But then

and so  $\delta_s \in \text{Der}(A)$ , and  $\delta_n = \delta - \delta_s \in \text{Der}(A)$  as well.

## 8 Lecture n+3

Todo

## 9 Lecture n+4

Review of bilinear forms: let  $V = \mathbb{F}^n$ .

Definition: A bilinear form  $\beta : V^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$  can be represented by a matrix  $B$  with respect to a basis  $\{\mathbf{v}_i\}$  such that

$$\beta\left(\sum a_i \mathbf{v}_i, \sum b_i \mathbf{v}_i\right) = (a_1 \ a_2 \ \cdots) B (b_1 \ b_2 \ \cdots)$$

- $\beta$  is *symmetric* iff  $\beta(a, b) = \beta(b, a)$ .
- $\beta$  is *symplectic* iff  $\beta(a, b) = -\beta(b, a)$ .
- $\beta$  is *isotropic* iff  $\beta(a, a) = 0$ .

$$S_S([x, y])$$

||

$$(\lambda + \mu)[x, y] = [\lambda x, y] + [x, \mu y]$$

||

$$[S_S(x), y] + [x, S_S(y)]$$

Figure 3: Image

For a subspace  $U \leq V$ , define

$$U^\perp := \{v \in V \mid \beta(u, v) = 0 \forall u \in U\}.$$

Note: in general, left/right orthogonality are distinguished, but these will be identical when  $\beta$  is symmetric/symplectic.

The form  $\beta$  is said to be *non-degenerate* iff  $V^\perp = 0$  iff  $\det B \neq 0$ .

Assume  $F$  is an algebraically closed field, so  $\bar{F} = F$ , and  $\text{char} F \neq 2$ , then

- If  $\beta$  is non-degenerate and symmetric, then  $B \sim I_n$
- If  $\beta$  is non-degenerate and symplectic, then  $B \sim [0, I_{n/2}; I_{n/2}, 0]$ .

Remark:

$\mathfrak{so}(n, \mathbb{F}) = \{x \in \mathfrak{gl}(n, F) \mid \beta(x(u), v) = -\beta(u, x(v))\}$ , where  $B$  has the matrix  $[0, I; I, 0]$  if  $n$  is odd, or this matrix with a 1 in the top-left corner if  $n$  is even.

Similarly,  $\mathfrak{sp}(2m, \mathbb{F})$  can be described this way with the matrix  $[0, -I_m; -I_m, 0]$ .

Overview: The Killing form is defined as  $\kappa : \mathfrak{g}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$  where  $\kappa(x, y) = \text{tr}(\text{ad}_x \circ \text{ad}_y)$ .

Then we have **Cartan's Criteria**:

- $\mathfrak{g}$  solvable  $\iff \kappa(x, y) = 0 \forall x \in [\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}], y \in \mathfrak{g}$ .
- $\mathfrak{g}$  semisimple  $\iff \kappa$  is non-degenerate.

Note that if  $\mathfrak{g}$  is semisimple, then  $\mathfrak{g} = \bigoplus_i I_i$  with each  $I_i \trianglelefteq \mathfrak{g}$  and simple.

## 9.1 Cartan's Criteria

Some facts:

1.  $\kappa$  is symmetric
2. If  $\mathfrak{g}$  is finite dimensional, then  $\kappa$  is associative, i.e  $\kappa([x, y], z) = \kappa(x, [y, z])$ .

Exercise: Show that if  $I \trianglelefteq \mathfrak{g}$ , then  $I^\perp \leq \mathfrak{g}$  is an ideal.

Proof of (2): In section 4.3, it was shown that  $\text{tr}([a, b] \circ c) = \text{tr}(a \circ [b, c])$  for all  $a, b, c \in \text{End}(V)$  (provided  $V$  is finite dimensional).

So

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa([x, y], z) &= \text{tr}(\text{ad}_{[x, y]} \circ \text{ad}_z) \\ &= \text{tr}([\text{ad}_x, \text{ad}_y] \circ \text{ad}_z) \\ &= \text{tr}(\text{ad}_x \circ [\text{ad}_y, \text{ad}_z]) \\ &= \text{tr}(\text{ad}_x \circ \text{ad}_{[y, z]}) \\ &= \text{tr}(x, [y, z]).. \end{aligned}$$

Theorem:  $\mathfrak{g}$  is semisimple iff  $\kappa$  is nondegenerate.

Proof:  $\implies$  : We want to show that  $\mathfrak{g}^\perp = 0$ . Note that  $[\mathfrak{g}^\perp, \mathfrak{g}^\perp] \subseteq \mathfrak{g}$ , and so for all  $x \in [\mathfrak{g}^\perp, \mathfrak{g}^\perp]$  and for any  $y \in \mathfrak{g}^\perp$ , we have

$$\kappa(x, y) = \text{tr}(\text{ad}_x \circ \text{ad}_y) = 0$$

by the const(?) of  $\mathfrak{g}^\perp$ . This implies  $\mathfrak{g}^\perp$  is solvable.

Using fact (2), we have  $\mathfrak{g}^\perp \trianglelefteq \mathfrak{g}$  and thus  $\mathfrak{g}^\perp \subseteq \text{rad}(\mathfrak{g})$ , which is 0 since because  $\mathfrak{g}$  is semisimple. So either  $\mathfrak{g}^\perp = 0$  or  $\kappa$  is nondegenerate.

Used the fact that the radical was a maximal solvable ideal.

$\impliedby$  : We want to show that for all  $I \trianglelefteq \mathfrak{g}$  where  $[I, I] = 0$ , we have  $I^\perp \subseteq \mathfrak{g}^\perp$ .

For  $x \in I, y \in \mathfrak{g}$ , we have

$$(\text{ad}_x \circ \text{ad}_y)^2 = \mathfrak{g} \xrightarrow{\text{ad}_y} \mathfrak{g} \xrightarrow{\text{ad}_x} I \xrightarrow{\text{ad}_y} I \xrightarrow{\text{ad}_x} 0$$

And thus  $\text{tr}(\text{ad}_x \circ \text{ad}_y) = 0$  and  $I \subseteq \mathfrak{g}^\perp$ .

Suppose that  $\mathfrak{g}$  is *not* semisimple. Then there exists a solvable ideal  $J \neq 0$  such that the last term  $J^i$  in the derived series is an ideal  $I \trianglelefteq \mathfrak{g}$  such that  $[I, I] = 0$ , forcing  $J^i \subset \mathfrak{g}^\perp = 0$ , which is a contradiction.

$$\kappa_{\mathfrak{g}} \sim I_i \begin{pmatrix} \kappa_{I_i} & \\ & \end{pmatrix}$$

Figure 4: Image

## 9.2 Section 5.2

Theorem: If  $\mathfrak{g}$  is semisimple, then

- There exist ideals  $I_i \trianglelefteq \mathfrak{g}$  which are simple Lie algebras satisfying  $\mathfrak{g} = \bigoplus I_i$ . Note that  $[I_i, I_j] \subseteq I_i \cap I_j = 0$ , since direct summands intersect only trivially.
- Every simple  $I \trianglelefteq \mathfrak{g}$  is one of these  $I_i$ .
- $\kappa_{I_i} = \kappa_{\mathfrak{g}}|_{I_i \times I_i}$ , so

Remark:  $\mathfrak{g}$  is semisimple  $\iff \mathfrak{g} = \bigoplus_i I_i$  for some simple Lie algebras  $I_i$ .

$\Leftarrow$  : For all  $i, S := \text{rad } \mathfrak{g}, I_i \trianglelefteq I_i$  is a solvable ideal. This implies that it is 0, since  $I_i$  is simple.

By definition, simple Lie algebras are not abelian.

Supposing that  $S = I_i$ , we would then have  $[S, S] \neq 0$  since  $[I_i, I_i] \neq 0$  by definition. But  $[S, S] \neq S$  because  $S$  is solvable, which says that  $S$  is not simple (a contradiction).

Note that  $[\text{rad } \mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}] \subseteq \bigoplus [\text{rad } \mathfrak{g}, I_i] = 0$ , which forces  $\text{rad } \mathfrak{g} \subseteq Z(\mathfrak{g})$ . Since  $I_i$  is simple,  $Z(I_i) = 0$  for all  $i$ . But  $Z(\mathfrak{g}) = \bigoplus Z(I_i) = 0$ , and this forces  $\text{rad } (\mathfrak{g}) \subseteq Z(\mathfrak{g}) \implies \text{rad } \mathfrak{g} = 0$ . So  $\mathfrak{g}$  is semisimple.

Next time – starting the representation theory with  $\mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{F})$ .

## 10 Lecture 10?

Recall the killing form:



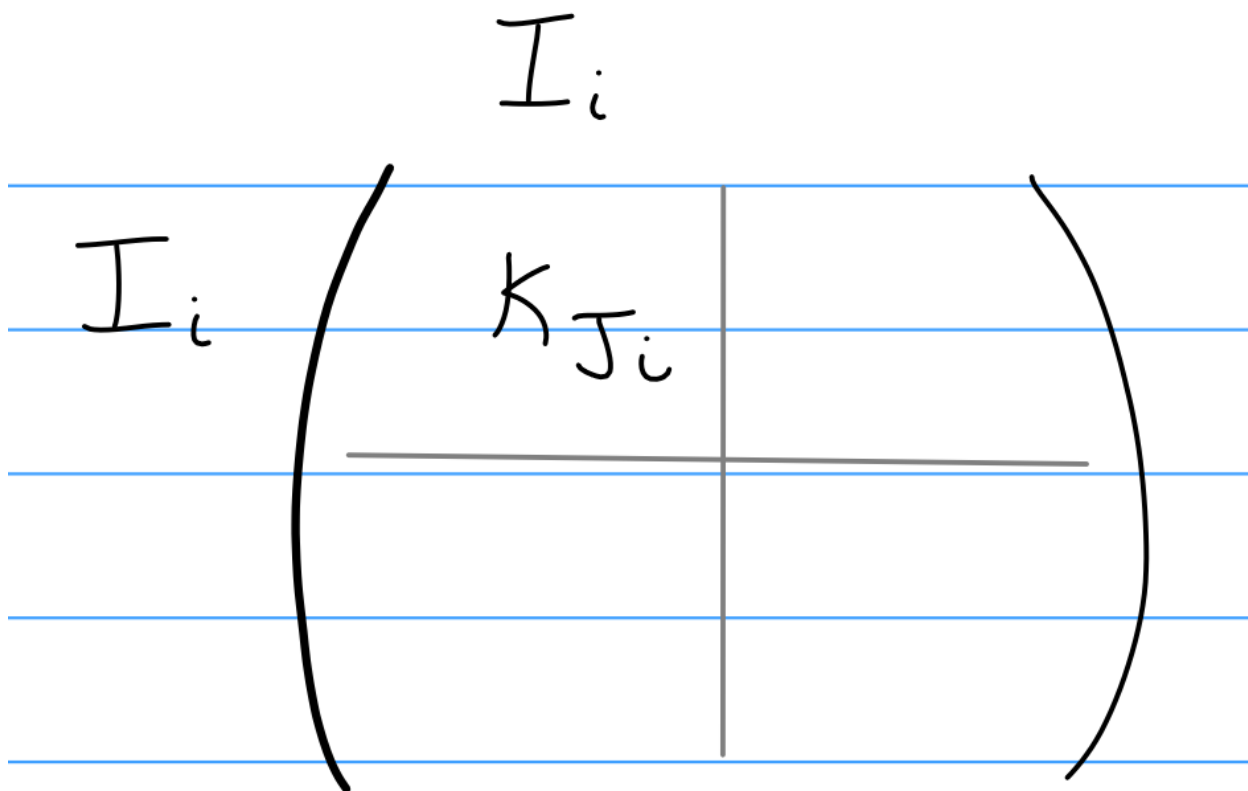


Figure 5: Image

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa : \text{lieg}^2 &\rightarrow \mathbb{F} \\ (x, y) &\mapsto \text{tr}(\text{ad}_x \circ \text{ad}_y). \end{aligned}$$

and Cartan's criteria:

1.  $\mathfrak{g}$  is solvable  $\iff \kappa(x, y) = 0 \ \forall x \in \mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}], \ y \in \mathfrak{g}$ .
2.  $\mathfrak{g}$  is semisimple  $\iff \kappa$  is non-degenerate.

Theorem: If  $\mathfrak{g}$  is semisimple, then

- a.  $\mathfrak{g} = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n I_i$  for some  $I_i \trianglelefteq \mathfrak{g}$  which are all simple.
- b. Every simple ideal  $I \trianglelefteq \mathfrak{g}$  is one of the  $I_i$ .
- c.  $\kappa_{I_i} = \kappa_{\mathfrak{g}}|_{I_i \times I_i}$ .

Proof of (a): Use induction on  $\dim \mathfrak{g}$ . If  $\mathfrak{g}$  has no nonzero proper ideals, then  $\mathfrak{g}$  is simple and we're done.

Otherwise, let  $I_1$  be a minimal nonzero ideal of  $\mathfrak{g}$ . Then  $I_1^\perp \trianglelefteq \mathfrak{g}$  is also an ideal, and thus  $I := I_1 \cap I_1^\perp \trianglelefteq \mathfrak{g}$  is as well. Then for all  $x \in [I, I]$ , we must have  $\kappa(x, y) = 0$  for any  $y \in I \subseteq I_1^\perp$ . So  $I$  is solvable, and thus  $I = 0$ . So  $\mathfrak{g} = I_1 \oplus I_1^\perp$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{ad } x &\sim \left( \begin{array}{c|c} A_x & B_x \\ \hline 0 & 0 \end{array} \right) & \kappa_{\mathfrak{g}}(x, y) &= \text{tr} \left( \left( \begin{array}{c|c} A_x & B_x \\ \hline 0 & 0 \end{array} \right) \left( \begin{array}{c|c} A_y & B_y \\ \hline 0 & 0 \end{array} \right) \right) \\
 \text{ad } y &\sim \left( \begin{array}{c|c} A_y & B_y \\ \hline 0 & 0 \end{array} \right) & &= \text{tr} \left( \begin{array}{c|c} A_x A_y & B_x B_y \\ \hline 0 & 0 \end{array} \right) \\
 & & &= \text{tr}(A_x A_y) \\
 & & &= \chi_{\mathcal{I}_i}(x, y)
 \end{aligned}$$

Figure 6: Image

Note that any ideal of  $I_1^\perp$  is also an ideal of  $\mathfrak{g}$ , which implies that  $\text{rad}(I_1^\perp) \subseteq \text{rad}(\mathfrak{g})$ , which is zero since  $\mathfrak{g}$  is semisimple, and thus  $I_1^\perp$  is semisimple as well.

By the inductive hypothesis,  $I_1^\perp = I_2 \oplus \cdots \oplus I_n$  where each  $I_j \trianglelefteq I_i^\perp$  is simple. Then  $I_j \trianglelefteq \mathfrak{g} \implies [I_1, I_j] \subset I_1 \cap I_j$ , since  $I_1$  has no contribution. But this is a subset of  $I_1 \cap I_1^\perp = 0$ .  $\square$

Proof of (b): If  $I \trianglelefteq \mathfrak{g}$ , then  $[I, \mathfrak{g}] \trianglelefteq I$  because  $[[I, \mathfrak{g}], I] \subseteq [I, I] \subseteq [I, \mathfrak{g}]$ .

Since  $\mathfrak{g}$  is semisimple,  $0 = \text{rad}(\mathfrak{g}) \supseteq Z(\mathfrak{g})$ . So  $[I, \mathfrak{g}] \neq 0$ , and thus  $[I, \mathfrak{g}] = I$  since  $I$  is simple. But then  $[I, \mathfrak{g}] = \bigoplus [I, I_i]$  is simple as well. So only one direct summand can survive, since otherwise this would produce at least 2 nontrivial ideals, and  $[I, \mathfrak{g}] = [I, I_i]$  for some  $i$ .

So for all  $j \neq i$ , we must have  $I_j \cap I = I_j \cap [I, I_i] = 0$ , and so  $I \subseteq I_i$ . But then  $I = I_i$  since  $I_i$  itself is simple, and we're done.

Proof of (c):

(Without using the simplicity of  $I_i$ )

For  $x, y \in I_i$ , we have

## 10.1 Inner Derivations

Recall that  $\text{ad } \mathfrak{g} \subseteq \text{Derg}$ , and in fact (lemma) this is an ideal.

Theorem: If  $\mathfrak{g}$  is semisimple, then  $\text{ad } \mathfrak{g} = \text{Derg}$ .

Proof of lemma:

For all  $\delta \in \text{Der } \mathfrak{g}$  and all  $x, y \in \mathfrak{g}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} [\delta, \text{ad } x](y) &= \delta([x, y]) - [x, \delta(y)] \\ &= [\delta(x), y] \\ &= [\text{ad } \delta(x)](y), \end{aligned}$$

and so  $[\delta, \text{ad } x] \subseteq \text{ad } \mathfrak{g}$ .  $\square$

Proof of theorem:

If  $\mathfrak{g}$  is semisimple, then  $0 = \text{rad } \mathfrak{g} \supseteq Z(\mathfrak{g}) = \ker \text{ad}$ . Thus  $\text{ad } \mathfrak{g} \cong \mathfrak{g} / \ker \text{ad} \cong \mathfrak{g}$  is also semisimple.

This means that  $\kappa_{\text{ad } \mathfrak{g}}$  is non-degenerate, and thus  $\text{ad } \mathfrak{g} \cap (\text{ad } \mathfrak{g})^\perp = 0$ , where  $(\text{ad } \mathfrak{g})^\perp \leq \text{Der}(\mathfrak{g})$ .

(Note that the non-degeneracy of  $\kappa$  already forces  $(\text{ad } \mathfrak{g})^\perp = 0$ .)

Then  $[(\text{ad } \mathfrak{g})^\perp, \text{ad } \mathfrak{g}] = 0$ , and so for all  $\delta \in (\text{ad } \mathfrak{g})^\perp$ , we have  $\delta(x) = [\delta, \text{ad } x]$  by the lemma, but we've shown that this is zero.

But then  $\delta$  must be zero because  $\text{ad}$  is an isomorphism, and in particular it is injective. This means that  $(\text{ad } \mathfrak{g})^\perp = 0$ , and thus  $\text{ad } \mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}$ .  $\square$

We can use this to define an abstract Jordan decomposition by pulling back decompositions on adjoints:

## 11 Wednesday September 4th

### 11.1 4.3: Cartan's Criterion

Lemma: Let  $A \subset B$  be two subspaces of  $\mathfrak{gl}(V)$  where  $\dim V < \infty$ . Set  $M = \{x \in \mathfrak{gl}(V) \mid [x, B] \subset A\}$ . Suppose that  $x \in M$  satisfies  $\text{Tr}(xy) = 0$  for all  $y \in M$ . Then  $x$  is nilpotent.

Proof: Let  $x = s + n$  (where  $s = x_s$  and  $n = x_n$ ) be the Jordan decomposition of  $x$ . Fix a basis  $v_1 \cdots v_m$  of  $V$  relative to which  $s$  has matrix  $\text{diag}(a_1 \cdots a_m)$ . Let  $E$  be the vector subspace of  $F$  over the prime field  $Q$  spanned by the eigenvalues  $a_1 \cdots a_m$ . We have to show that  $s = 0$ , or equivalently that  $E = 0$ , since  $E$  has finite  $Q$ -dimension by construction. It will suffice to show that the dual space  $E^*$  is 0, i.e. that any linear functional  $f : E \rightarrow Q$  is zero.

Given  $f$ , let  $y$  be the element of  $\mathfrak{gl}(V)$  whose matrix is given by  $\text{diag}(f(a_1), \dots, f(a_m))$ . If  $\{e_{ij}\}$  is a basis of  $\mathfrak{gl}(V)$ , then  $\text{ad } s(e_{ij}) = (a_i - a_j)e_{ij}$  and  $\text{ad } y(e_{ij}) = (f(a_i) - f(a_j))e_{ij}$ .

Now let  $r(t) \in F[t]$  be a polynomial with no constant term, satisfying  $r(a_i - a_j) = f(a_i) - f(a_j)$  for all pairs  $i, j$ . The existence of such  $r(t)$  follows from Lagrange interpolation, and the fact that if  $a_i = a_j$  then  $0 = r(a_j) - r(a_i) = r(a_i - a_j) = r(0)$ , so  $r$  has no constant term. Thus there is no ambiguity in the assigned values, since  $a_i - a_j = a_j - a_l$  would imply (by linearity of  $f$ ) that  $f(a_i) - f(a_j) = f(a_k) - f(a_l)$ . Thus  $\text{ad } y = r(\text{ad } s)$ .

Note that Lagrange Interpolation is a special case of the Chinese Remainder Theorem for polynomials. If all  $x_i$ s are distinct, then  $p_i(x) = x - x_i$  are all pairwise coprime. Then dividing  $\frac{p(x)}{p_i(x)} = p(x_i)$ . So letting  $A_1 \cdots A_k$  be constants in  $k$ , there is a unique polynomial of degree less than  $k$  such that  $p(x_i) = A_i$ . Thus there is a polynomial  $p(x)$  such that  $p(x) \equiv A_i \pmod{p_i(x)}$ , and  $p(x_i) = A_i$ .

$$\mathfrak{g} \subseteq \text{End}(V)$$

$$x \xrightarrow{\text{ad}} \text{ad } x$$

$$\parallel \text{JD}$$

$$\parallel \text{JD}$$

$$x_s \mapsto \text{ad } x_s = (\text{ad } x)_s$$

+

$$x_n \mapsto \text{ad } x_n = (\text{ad } x)_n$$



Can recover some  $x_s$  and  $x_n$  from the adjoints

Figure 7: Image

Now  $\text{ad}_s$  is the semisimple part of  $\text{ad}_x$ . By lemma A of 4.2,  $\text{ad}_s$  can be written as a polynomial in  $\text{ad}_x$  without a constant term. Therefore  $\text{ad}_y$  is also a polynomial in  $\text{ad}_x$  without constant term. By hypothesis,  $\text{ad}_x$  maps  $B$  into  $A$ , so we have  $\text{ad}_y(B) \subset A$ , and so  $y \in M$ . Using the hypothesis of the lemma,  $\text{Tr}(xy) = 0$ , and so  $\sum a_i f(a_i) = 0$ . The left side is a  $Q$ -linear combination of elements of  $E$ . Applying  $f$ , we obtain  $\sum f(a_i)^2 = 0$ . But the numbers  $f(a_i)$  are rational, so this forces all of them to be zero. Finally,  $f$  must be identically 0 because the  $a_i$  span  $E$ .  $\square$

Note that  $\text{Tr}([x, y]z) = \text{Tr}(x[y, z])$ . To verify this, write  $[x, y]z = xyz - yxz$  and  $x[y, z] = xyz - xzy$ , then use the fact that  $\text{Tr}(y(xz)) = \text{Tr}((xz)y)$ .

**Theorem (Cartan's Criterion):** Let  $L \leq \mathfrak{gl}(V)$  be a subalgebra with  $V$  finite dimensional. Suppose  $\text{Tr}(xy) = 0$  for all  $x \in [L, L]$  and  $y \in L$ . Then  $L$  is solvable.

**Proof:** It suffices to show that  $[L, L]$  is nilpotent, or just that all  $x \in [L, L]$  are nilpotent endomorphisms. We apply the above lemma, with  $V$  as given,  $A = [L, L]$ , and  $B = L$ , so  $M = \{x \in \mathfrak{gl}(V) \mid [x, L] \subset [L, L]\}$ . We have  $L \subset M$ . Our hypothesis is that  $\text{Tr}(xy) = 0$  for all  $x \in [L, L]$  and  $y \in L$ . To use the lemma to reach the desired conclusion, we need a stronger result: that  $\text{Tr}(xy) = 0$  for  $x \in [L, L]$  and  $y \in M$ .

If  $[x, y]$  is a generator of  $[L, L]$  and  $z \in M$ , then  $\text{Tr}([x, y]z) = \text{Tr}(x[y, z]) = \text{Tr}([y, z]x)$ . By definition of  $M$ ,  $[y, z] \in [L, L]$ , so the right side is 0 by hypothesis.

**Corollary:** Let  $L$  be a Lie algebraic such that  $\text{Tr}(\text{ad}_x \circ \text{ad}_y) = 0$  for all  $x \in [L, L], y \in L$ . Then  $L$  is solvable.

**Proof:** Apply the theorem to the adjoint representation of  $L$ . We then get  $\text{ad } L$  is solvable. Since  $\ker \text{ad} = Z(L)$  is also solvable,  $L$  itself is solvable.

## 11.2 Killing Form

### 11.2.1 Criterion for Semisimplicity

Let  $L$  be any lie algebra. If  $x, y \in L$ , then define  $\kappa(x, y) = \text{Tr}(\text{ad}_x \circ \text{ad}_y)$ . Then  $\kappa$  is a symmetric bilinear form on  $L$ , called the **killing form**.

**Theorem:**  $\mathfrak{g}$  is solvable  $\iff \kappa(x, y) = 0$  for all  $x \in [\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}], y \in \mathfrak{g}$ .

**Proof:**  $\Leftarrow$  : By Cartan's Criterion.

$\Rightarrow$  : Exercise.

**Example:** The killing form of  $\mathfrak{sl}(2, F)$ .

We have

$$\begin{aligned} x &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ h &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \\ y &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Then  $\text{ad } h = \text{diag}(2, 0, -2)$ , and

$$\begin{aligned}\text{ad } x &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ \text{ad } y &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.\end{aligned}$$

and thus  $k$  has the matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 8 & 0 \\ 4 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

where  $k_{ij} = \kappa(x_i, x_j)$  where  $x_i$  is a basis of  $L$ .

## 12 Wednesday September 11th

Theorem: If  $L$  is semisimple and  $x \in L$ , there exists a unique  $x_s, x_n$  in  $L$  such that  $x = x_s + x_n$ ,  $[x_n, x_s] = 0$ ,  $\text{ad } x_s$  is semisimple, and  $\text{ad } x_n$  is nilpotent.

## 13 Friday September 13th

Todo

## 14 Monday September 16th

Let  $S = \exp(\text{ad } e) \circ \exp(\text{ad } -f) \circ \exp(\text{ad } ei)$ , which has the following matrix:

Where  $\exp(\text{ad } e) = 1 + \text{ad } e + \frac{1}{2}(\text{ad } e)^2$ , which would have the form

Theorem: If  $\mathfrak{g}$  is semisimple, then any finite dimensional  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module  $V$  is completely reducible, i.e. it splits into a direct sum of simple modules.

### 14.1 Proof of Weyl's(?) Theorem

If  $V$  itself is simple, then we're done, so suppose it is not.

Assume there exists a nonzero submodule  $U \subsetneq V$ . It suffices to show that  $V = U \oplus U'$  for some  $U'$ .

$$\begin{pmatrix} & & -1 \\ & -1 & \\ -1 & & \end{pmatrix}$$

Figure 8: Image

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & & \\ & 1 & \\ & & 1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & 2 & \\ & \cdot & -1 \\ & & \cdot \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \cdot & 1 \\ & \cdot & \cdot \\ & & \cdot \end{pmatrix}$$

Figure 9: Image

### 14.1.1 Step 1:

If  $\dim V = 2$  and  $\dim U = 1$ .

Then  $U, V/U$  are both trivial modules. So  $g \curvearrowright u = 0$  for all  $u \in U$ . But then  $g \curvearrowright (v + U) = U$  for all  $v \in V$ , since  $g \curvearrowright v \in U$ .

So for all  $x, y \in \mathfrak{lieg}$  and all  $v \in V$ , we have  $[x, y] \curvearrowright v = x \curvearrowright (y \curvearrowright v) - y \curvearrowright (x \curvearrowright v)$ . But both of the terms in parenthesis are in  $U$ , and all elements in  $\mathfrak{g}$  kill elements in  $U$ , so this is zero. So  $[\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}] \curvearrowright V$  trivially.

Exercise: If  $\mathfrak{g}$  is semisimple, then  $[\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}] = \mathfrak{g}$ .

So  $\mathfrak{g} \curvearrowright V$  trivially. Thus any  $U'$  that is a complementary subspace of  $U$  will be a submodule of  $V$ .

### 14.1.2 Step 2:

Suppose  $U$  is simple and  $\dim U > 1$ , so  $\dim V/U = 1$ .

Let  $\Omega$  be the Casimir element on  $U$  (faithful representation?). Then  $\Omega u = c u$  for some  $c \in \mathbb{F}$ , and so  $\Omega(U) \subseteq U$ .

Since  $\Omega : V \rightarrow V$  is a homomorphism,  $\ker \Omega \subseteq V$  is a  $\mathfrak{g}$ -submodule. Then  $\dim V/U = 1 \implies V/U$  is a trivial module. So  $\mathfrak{g} \curvearrowright V/U = 0$ , i.e.  $\mathfrak{g} \curvearrowright V \subseteq U$ .

Then  $\Omega(v) = \sum_i x_i \curvearrowright (y_i \curvearrowright v) \in U$  for all  $v \in V$ . What is the matrix of  $\Omega$ ?

In particular,  $\text{Tr}(\Omega|_{V/U}) = 0$ . So  $\text{Tr}(\Omega) = \text{Tr}(\Omega|_U)$ . From 6.2, we know that  $\text{Tr}(\Omega) \neq 0 \implies c \neq 0$ , where  $c$  is the scalar appearing above. So  $\ker \Omega$  is 1-dimensional, and  $\ker \Omega \cap U = \{0\}$ .

So take  $U' = \ker \Omega$ .

### 14.1.3 Step 3:

Suppose  $U$  is *not* simple, but  $\dim V/U = 1$ .

We will induct on the dimension of  $U$ . Pick a proper nonzero submodule  $\bar{U} \subsetneq U$ , so that  $\dim U/\bar{U} < \dim U$ . Now  $V/U \cong (V/\bar{U})/(U/\bar{U})$  by an isomorphism theorem. So  $U/\bar{U}$  is a submodule of  $V/\bar{U}$  of codimension 1. Applying the inductive hypothesis, we obtain  $V/\bar{U} = U/\bar{U} \oplus \bar{V}/\bar{U}$  for some  $\bar{V}$  such that  $U \subseteq \bar{V} \subseteq V$ .

In particular, since  $U \subseteq \bar{V}$  has codimension 1,  $\dim \bar{U} < \dim U$ . So apply the inductive hypothesis again:  $\bar{V} = \bar{U} \oplus U'$  for some  $U'$ , and  $V = U \oplus U'$ .

### 14.1.4 Step 4: The general case

Recall that  $\text{hom}(V, U)$  is a  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module where

$$(g \curvearrowright \phi)(v) = g \curvearrowright \phi(v) - \phi(g \curvearrowright v).$$



$$\begin{array}{c}
 u \qquad \qquad \qquad v/u \\
 \left( \begin{array}{c|c}
 u & * \\
 \hline
 v/u & 0 \dots 0
 \end{array} \right)
 \end{array}$$

Handwritten diagram of a block matrix. The matrix is partitioned into four quadrants by a horizontal and a vertical line. The top-left quadrant contains the symbol  $u$ . The top-right quadrant contains the symbol  $v/u$ . The bottom-left quadrant contains the symbol  $v/u$ . The bottom-right quadrant contains a sequence of zeros  $0 \dots 0$ . The symbol  $cI$  is written in the center of the matrix, and an asterisk  $*$  is written in the top-right quadrant.

Figure 10: Image

Define

$$S = \{\phi \in \text{hom}(V, U) \mid \phi|_U \in F1_U\}.$$

Then  $S \leq \text{hom}(V, U)$  as a submodule. Define  $T = \{\phi \in S \mid \phi|_U = 0\}$ . Then  $T \leq S$  as a submodule, and  $\mathfrak{g}(S) \subseteq T$ .

Now each  $\phi \in S$  is determined (mod  $T$ ) by the scalar  $\phi|_U$ . Note that  $\dim(S/T) = 1$ . By steps 1-3, we know that  $S = T \oplus T'$  for some  $T' \subseteq S$  of dimension 1. Then  $T' = \text{span}_{\mathbb{F}}(f)$  for some nonzero map  $f : V \rightarrow U$  such that  $f(u) = cu$  for some  $c \neq 0$ .

Then  $\mathfrak{g}(T \oplus T') = \mathfrak{g}(S) \subseteq T \implies \mathfrak{g}(T') = 0$ . So for all  $g \in \mathfrak{g}$ , we have  $0 = (g \curvearrowright f)(v) = f \curvearrowright f(v) - f(g \curvearrowright v)$ . Then  $f : V \rightarrow U$  is a lie algebra homomorphism,  $\ker f = U'$ , and thus  $V = U \oplus U'$ .  $\square$

Some consequences of Weyl's theorem:

## 14.2 Preservation of Jordan Decomposition

Recall that when  $\mathfrak{g} \in \mathfrak{gl}(V)$  is a linear lie algebra, then for  $x \in \mathfrak{g}$  we have:

Jordan Decomposition:  $x = x_s + x_n$  where  $x_s, x_n \in \text{End}(V)$ .

Abstract Jordan Decomposition:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{g} &\xrightarrow{\text{ad}} \text{ad}(\mathfrak{g}) \\ x &\mapsto \text{ad } x \\ x_s &\leftarrow (\text{ad } x)_s \\ x_n &\leftarrow (\text{ad } x)_n. \end{aligned}$$

and so  $x = x'_s + x'_n$  for some  $x'$ . The theorem will be that these recover the usual Jordan decomposition.

Theorem: If  $\mathfrak{g} \in \mathfrak{gl}(V)$  is semisimple and  $V$  is finite dimensional, then  $x_s, x_n \in \mathfrak{g}$ , and  $x_s = x'_s, x'_n$ .

Corollary: If  $\mathfrak{g}$  is semisimple and finite dimensional and  $\phi : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{gl}(V)$  is a finite dimensional representation, then if  $x = x_s + x_n$  is the abstract Jordan decomposition, then  $\phi(x) = \phi(x_s) + \phi(x_n)$  is the Jordan decomposition in  $\mathfrak{gl}(V)$ .

Example: If  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{C})$  is semisimple and finite dimensional, and  $h$  is diagonal, then by JD  $h = h + 0$ ,  $\phi(h) = \phi(h) + 0$ . Then  $h \curvearrowright V$  semisimply, or  $V = \bigoplus_{\lambda \in \mathbb{C}} V_\lambda$ , where  $V_\lambda = \{v \in V \mid h \curvearrowright v = \lambda v\}$  are the eigenspaces.

## 15 Wednesday Lecture

Last time: The abstract Jordan Decomposition coincides with the actual Jordan Decomposition.

$$h = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Figure 11: Image

$$\begin{aligned} \phi : \mathfrak{g} &\rightarrow \mathfrak{gl}(V) \\ x &\mapsto \phi(x) = \phi(x)_s + \phi(x)_n = \phi(x_n) + \phi(x_s) \\ x_s + x_n &\mapsto \phi(x_s) + \phi(x_n). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $x_s \curvearrowright V$  semisimply. The example we saw last time was  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{C})$ , with a matrix  $h = [1, 0; 0, -1]$  and  $V = \bigoplus_{\lambda \in \mathbb{C}} V_\lambda$ .

### 15.1 Finite Dimensional Representations of $\mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{C})$

#### 15.2 Weights and Maximal Vectors

Definition: If  $V_\lambda \neq 0$ , then  $V_\lambda$  is a *weight space* of  $V$  and  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$  is a *weight* of  $h$  in  $V$ . We then define  $W_t(V) = \{\text{weights in } V\}$ .

Lemma: If  $v \in V_\lambda$  then  $e \curvearrowright v \in V_{\lambda+2}$  and  $f \curvearrowright v \in V_{\lambda-2}$ .

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} h \curvearrowright (e \curvearrowright v) &= [h, e] \curvearrowright v + e \curvearrowright (h \curvearrowright v) \\ &= 2e \curvearrowright v + \lambda e \curvearrowright v \\ &= (\lambda + 2)e \curvearrowright v. \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
h \curvearrowright (f \curvearrowright v) &= [h, f] \curvearrowright v + f \curvearrowright (h \curvearrowright v) \\
&= -2f \curvearrowright v + \lambda f \curvearrowright v \\
&= (\lambda - 2)f \curvearrowright v.
\end{aligned}$$

So if  $V$  is a finite-dimensional  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module, then there exists a  $V_\lambda \neq 0$  such that  $V_{\lambda+2} = 0$ . Any nonzero  $v \in V_\lambda$  is called a *maximal vector*.

Note: in category  $\mathcal{O}$ , these always exist?

Some computations:

- $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{gl}(2, \mathbb{C})$  Then  $V = \mathbb{C}$  is the trivial module, and  $g \curvearrowright V = 0$ . So  $W_t(V) = \{0\}$ , and  $V = V_0$ .

If  $V = \mathbb{C}^2$ , then take the natural representation  $\text{span}_{\mathbb{C}} \{v_1 = [1, 0], v_2 = [0, 1]\}$ . Then  $g \curvearrowright V$  by matrix multiplication, and if  $h = [1, 0; 0, -1]$  then  $h \curvearrowright v_1 = v_1$  and  $h \curvearrowright v_2 = -v_2$  by just doing the matrix-vector multiplication. Then  $\mathbb{C}([1, 0]) = V_1, \mathbb{C}([0, 1]) = V_{-1}$ , so  $W_t(V) = \{\pm 1\}$ .

Taking  $V = \mathbb{C}^3 = \text{ad } \mathfrak{g} = \text{span}_{\mathbb{C}} \{e, f, h\}$ , then

$$\begin{aligned}
h \curvearrowright f &= [h, f] = -2f \\
h \curvearrowright h &= [h, h] = 0h \\
h \curvearrowright e &= [h, e] = 2e.
\end{aligned}$$

So  $W_t(V) = \{2, 0, -2\}$  and  $V_2 = \mathbb{C}e, V_0 = \mathbb{C}h, V_{-2} = \mathbb{C}f$ .

Note the pattern: some largest value, then jumping by 2 to lower values, ending at negative the largest value. In some sense, the rest of the theory will reduce to the case of  $\mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{C})$ .

Lemma: Let  $V$  be a finite dimensional simple  $\mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{C})$ -module, and  $V_0 \in V_\lambda$  a maximal vector.

Set  $V_{-1} = 0, V_i = f^{(i)} \curvearrowright v_0$  (where  $f^{(i)} = \frac{f^i}{i!}$ ). Then for all  $i \geq 0$ , we have

- $h \curvearrowright v_i = (\lambda - 2i)v_i$
- $f \curvearrowright v_i = (i + 1)v_{i+1}$
- $e \curvearrowright v_i = (\lambda - i + 1)v_{i-1}$

Proof of (a): By lemma 7.1, we have  $f \curvearrowright v_0 \in V_{\lambda-2}$ , and so inductively  $f^{(i)} \curvearrowright v_0 \in V_{\lambda-2i}$

Proof of (b): By definition.

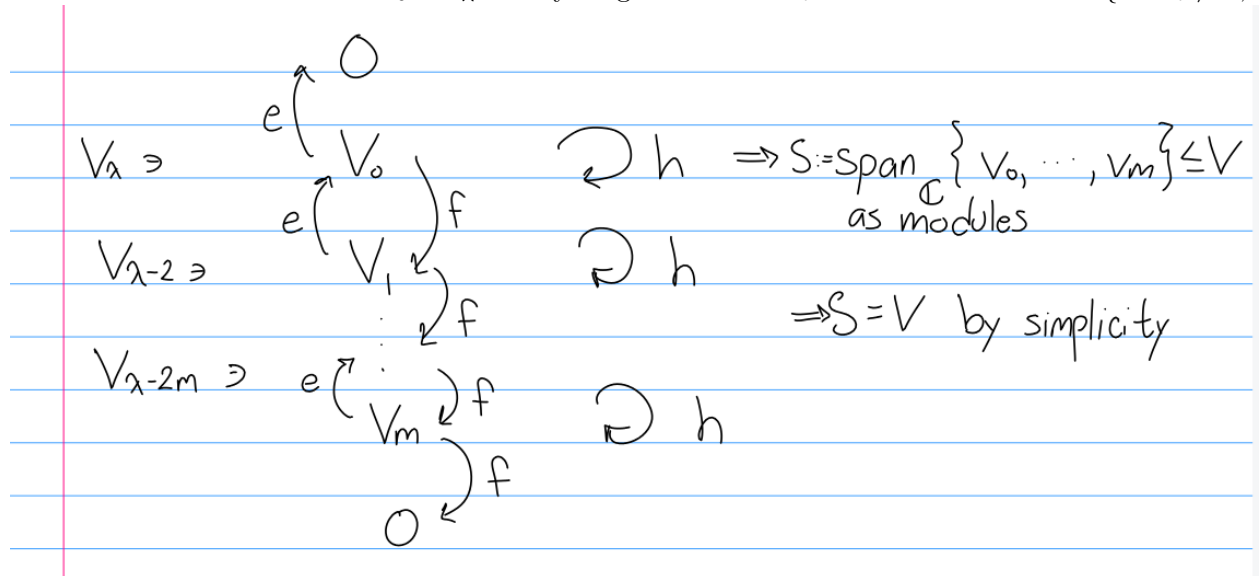
Proof of (c):

$$\begin{aligned}
ie \curvearrowright v_i &= ie \curvearrowright \frac{f^i \curvearrowright v_0}{i!} \\
&= e \curvearrowright (f \curvearrowright v_{i-1}) \\
&= [e, f] \curvearrowright v_{i-1} + f \curvearrowright (e \curvearrowright v_{i-1}) \\
&= h \curvearrowright v_{i-1} + f \curvearrowright ((\lambda - i + 2)v_{i-2}) \text{ind} \\
&= (\lambda - 2i + 2)v_{i-2} + (\lambda + i - 2)(i - 1)v_{i-1} \\
&= i(\text{RHS}).
\end{aligned}$$

Theorem: If  $V$  is a finite dimensional and simple, then  $V \cong L(m)$  for some  $m \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  where  $L(m) = \text{span}_{\mathbb{C}} \{v_0, v_1, \dots, v_m\}$  where each  $v_i$  is of weight  $m - 2i$ .

Thus  $L(m) = L(m)_m \oplus L(m)_{m-2} \oplus \dots \oplus L(m)_{-m}$  where  $\dim L(m)_{\mu} = 1$  for all  $\mu$  and  $\dim L(m) = m + 1$ .)

Proof: Pick a maximal vector  $v_0 \in V_{\lambda}$  for any weight  $\lambda$ . Define  $v_i$  as usual. Let  $m = \min \{i \ni V_i \neq 0, V_{i+1} = 0\}$



Definition: A module  $V$  is a *highest weight module* of weight  $\lambda$  if  $V = \mathfrak{g} \curvearrowright v_0$  for some maximal vector  $v_0 \in V_{\lambda}$ .

Then  $\lambda$  is referred to as the *highest weight*, and  $v_0$  is the *highest weight vector*.

Corollary: If  $V$  is finite-dimensional, then

- $V = \bigoplus_{\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}} V_{\lambda}$
- The number of summands  $= \dim V_0 + \dim V_1$ .

Proof of (a): By Weyl's theorem, we know  $V = \bigoplus W_i$  for some simple  $W_i$ . By theorem 7.2, this is equal to  $\bigoplus_{m \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}} L(m)^{\mu_m}$

Proof of (b):  $\dim V_0 = \# \{\text{summands where } m \text{ is even}\} \dim V_1 = \# \{\text{summands where } m \text{ is odd}\}$

Remark: Let  $V_d = \{f \in \mathbb{C}[x, y] \ni f \text{ is homogeneous of total degree } d\} = \text{span}_{\mathbb{C}} \{x^d, x^{d-1}y, \dots, y^d\}$ .

Then  $\mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{C}) \curvearrowright V_d$  by

$$\begin{aligned}
e &\mapsto x \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \\
f &\mapsto y \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \\
h &\mapsto x \frac{\partial}{\partial x} - y \frac{\partial}{\partial y}.
\end{aligned}$$

Fact: For  $L(m), \phi : \mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \mathfrak{gl}(L(m))$ , define

$$s = (\exp \phi(e)) \circ (\exp \phi(-f)) \circ (\exp \phi(e))$$

Then  $s(v_i) = -v_{m-i}$ .

## 16 Friday Lecture

Last time: Construction of simple finite-dimensional  $\mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{C})$  module.

Today: Root space decomposition for semisimple finite-dimensional  $\mathfrak{g}$ .

### 16.1 Root Space Decomposition

Let  $\mathfrak{g}$  be semisimple and finite dimensional, and let  $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}$ .

#### 16.1.1 Maximal Toral subalgebra and roots

Definition: A subalgebra  $\mathfrak{h} \leq \mathfrak{g}$  is *toral* if  $\mathfrak{h} \neq 0$  and it consists of only semisimple elements (i.e.  $x_n = 0 \forall x \in \mathfrak{h}$ )

Lemma:

- a. There exists a toral subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{g}$ , which is a nontrivial maximal toral subalgebra.
- b. Any toral subalgebra is abelian.

Proof of (a): Want to show that there exists an  $x \in \mathfrak{g}$  such that  $x_s \neq 0$ , which will imply that  $\mathfrak{h} = \mathbb{C}x_s$  is toral.

Suppose  $x_s = 0$  for all  $x \in \mathfrak{g}$ , then  $\text{ad } x = \text{ad } x_n$  is nilpotent. By Engel's theorem, this means  $\mathfrak{g}$  must be nilpotent. But this contradicts  $[\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}] = \mathfrak{g}$  (since  $\mathfrak{g}$  is semisimple) so the derived series can never reach zero.

Proof of (b): Fix  $x \in \mathfrak{h}$ , want to show that  $[x, h] = 0 \forall h \in \mathfrak{h}$ . Then  $x = x_s$ , and so  $\text{ad } x : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$  is diagonalizable. It suffices to show that  $\text{ad } x|_{\mathfrak{h}} = 0$  for all  $\mathfrak{h}$ .

Suppose that  $[x, h] = ah$  for some vector  $h$  where  $a \neq 0$ . Decompose  $\mathfrak{h}$  into eigenspaces, so  $\mathfrak{h} = \bigoplus_{\lambda} \mathfrak{h}_{\lambda}$  where  $\mathfrak{h}_{\lambda} = \{y \in \mathfrak{h} \mid [h, y] = \lambda y\}$ . But then  $[h, x] \in \mathfrak{h}_0$ , since  $[h, [h, x]] = [h, -ah] = 0$ .

So write  $x = \sum_{\lambda} c_{\lambda} x_{\lambda}$ , where  $c_{\lambda} \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $x_{\lambda} \in \mathfrak{h}_{\lambda}$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} [h, x] &= \sum_{\lambda} c_{\lambda} [h, x_{\lambda}] \\ &= \sum_{\lambda} c_{\lambda} \lambda x_{\lambda} \in \mathfrak{h}_0, \end{aligned}$$

so  $\lambda c \lambda = 0 \forall \lambda \neq 0$ , which means  $c_{\lambda} = 0 \forall \lambda \neq 0$ , and thus  $x \in \mathfrak{h}_0$  and  $[h, x] = 0$ . But this contradicts  $[x, h] = ah$ .

Now  $\forall x, h \in \mathfrak{h}, g \in \mathfrak{g}$ , we have  $[h, [x, y]] = [x, [h, y]] + [y, [x, h]] = [x, [h, y]]$ . Thus  $\text{ad } h \circ \text{ad } x = \text{ad } x \circ \text{ad } h$  as elements of  $\text{End}(\mathfrak{g})$ .

So  $\mathfrak{g} = \bigoplus_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{h}^*} \mathfrak{g}_{\alpha}$ , where  $\mathfrak{g}_{\alpha} = \{x \in \mathfrak{g} \mid [h, x] = \alpha(h)x \forall h \in \mathfrak{h}\}$ .

Note that  $\mathfrak{g}_0 = \{x \in \mathfrak{g} \mid [h, x] = 0 \forall h \in \mathfrak{h}\} = C_{\mathfrak{g}}(\mathfrak{h}) \supseteq \mathfrak{h}$ , i.e. the centralizer of  $\mathfrak{h}$  in  $\mathfrak{g}$ .

Definition: Fix a toral subalgebra  $\mathfrak{h} \subseteq \mathfrak{g}$ , then a *root* is a nonzero  $\alpha \in \mathfrak{h}^*$  such that  $\mathfrak{g}_{\alpha} \neq 0$ .  $\mathfrak{g}_{\alpha}$  is referred to as the *root space*.

We write  $\Phi = \{\text{roots}\}$  and  $\mathfrak{g} = C_{\mathfrak{g}}(\mathfrak{h}) \oplus (\bigoplus_{\alpha \in \Phi} \mathfrak{g}_{\alpha})$ .

Example:  $\mathfrak{sl}(3, \mathbb{C})$ .

TODO: Insert image from phone.

Then  $\Phi = \{\alpha : \mathfrak{h} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}, h_1 \mapsto \alpha(h_1) \in \{\pm 1, \pm 2\}\}$ . So

- $\mathfrak{g}_0 = \mathbb{C}h_1 \oplus \mathbb{C}h_2$
- $\mathfrak{g}_1 = \mathbb{C}f_2 \oplus \mathbb{C}e_3$
- $\mathfrak{g}_2 = \mathbb{C}e_1$
- $\mathfrak{g}_{-1} = \mathbb{C}f_3 \oplus \mathbb{C}e_2$
- $\mathfrak{g}_{-2} = \mathbb{C}f_1$ .

TODO: Insert second and third image from phone

From these computations, we collect the eigenvalues as ordered pairs. If we choose a larger toral subalgebra, we get a finer decomposition. And if we take a maximal toral subalgebra, then  $\mathfrak{h} = \mathfrak{g}_0$  and all  $\dim \mathfrak{g}_{\alpha} = 1$ .

Proposition (a):  $[\mathfrak{g}_{\alpha}, \mathfrak{g}_{\beta}] \subseteq \mathfrak{g}_{\alpha+\beta}$  for all  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathfrak{h}^*$ .

Proposition (b): If  $x \in \mathfrak{g}_{\alpha}$  and  $\alpha \neq 0$  then  $\text{ad } x$  is nilpotent.

Proposition (c): If  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathfrak{h}^*$  and  $\alpha + \beta = 0$ , then  $\kappa(x, y) = 0 \forall x \in \mathfrak{g}_{\alpha}, y \in \mathfrak{g}_{\beta}$ .

Proof of (a): Easy exercise:

Proof of (b): For all  $y \in \mathfrak{g}$ ,  $y \in \mathfrak{g}_{\mu}$  for some  $\mu \in \mathfrak{h}^*$ . We have  $\mathfrak{g}_u \xrightarrow{\text{ad } x} \mathfrak{g}_{\mu+\alpha} \xrightarrow{\text{ad } x} \mathfrak{g}_{\mu+2\alpha} \rightarrow \dots$  by  $y \mapsto [x, y] \mapsto \dots$ . Since  $\mathfrak{g}$  is finite dimensional, this must terminate, so  $(\text{ad } x)^n(y) = 0$  for some  $n$ .

Proof of (c): If  $\alpha + \beta = 0$ , then there exists an  $h \in \mathfrak{h}$  such that  $\alpha(h) + \beta(h) \neq 0$ . Since the killing form is associative, we have

Corollary:  $\kappa|_{\mathfrak{g}_0}$  is nondegenerate.

Proof: We want to show  $\kappa(h, y) = 0 \forall y \in \mathfrak{g}_0 \implies h = 0$  holds for any choice of  $y \in \mathfrak{g}_{\alpha}$  with  $\alpha \neq 0$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 K([h, x], y) & = & \alpha(h) K(x, y) \\
 \parallel & \nearrow x \in \mathfrak{g}_\alpha & \\
 - K([x, h], y) & & \\
 \parallel & \nwarrow x \in \mathfrak{g}_\beta & \\
 - K(x, [h, y]) & = & -\beta(h) K(x, y)
 \end{array}$$

Figure 12: Image

By proposition (c), we have  $\kappa(h, y) = 0$ . Note that we have  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}_0 \oplus (\bigoplus_{\alpha \neq 0} \mathfrak{g}_\alpha)$ . This implies that  $\kappa(h, y) = 0 \forall y \in \mathfrak{g}$ . But then  $h = 0$  because  $\kappa$  is nondegenerate and  $\mathfrak{g}$  is semisimple.

## 17 Monday Lecture

Last time:  $\mathfrak{h}$  is a *toral* subalgebra if it contains only semisimple elements, and implies that there is a *root space decomposition*

$$\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}_0 \oplus \bigoplus_{\alpha \in \Phi} \mathfrak{g}_\alpha$$

where  $\mathfrak{g}_\alpha = \{x \in \mathfrak{g} \mid [h, x] = \alpha(h)x \ \forall h \in \mathfrak{h}\}$  and  $\Phi = \{\alpha : \mathfrak{h} \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \mid \mathfrak{g}_\alpha \neq 0, \alpha \neq 0\}$  and  $\mathfrak{g}_0 = C_{\mathfrak{g}}(\mathfrak{h})$ .

Take larger  $\mathfrak{h}$  yields finer decompositions, and a maximal  $\mathfrak{h}$  gives  $\dim \mathfrak{g}_\alpha = 1 \forall \alpha \in \Phi$ .

Corollary:  $\kappa|_{\mathfrak{g}_0}$  is nondegenerate.

### 17.1 The Centralizer of $\mathfrak{h}$

If  $x, y \in \text{End}(V)$  where  $V$  is finite dimensional,  $xy = yx$ , and  $y$  is nilpotent, then  $xy$  is nilpotent and  $\text{Tr}(xy) = 0$ .

Proposition: If  $\mathfrak{h} \subseteq \mathfrak{g}$  is a maximal toral subalgebra, then  $\mathfrak{h} = \mathfrak{g}_0$ .

Proof:

*Step 1:* If  $x \in \mathfrak{g}_0$ , then  $x_s, x_n \in \mathfrak{g}_0$ .



If  $x \in \mathfrak{g}_0$ , then  $\text{ad } x(\mathfrak{h}) \subseteq 0$ . By proposition 4.2,  $\text{ad } x_s(\mathfrak{h}) \subseteq 0$ ,  $\text{ad } x_n(\mathfrak{h})$ , and so  $x_s, x_n \in \mathfrak{g}_0$ .

*Step 2:*  $\{x_s \ni x \in \mathfrak{g}_0\} \subseteq \mathfrak{h}$ .

If  $x \in \mathfrak{g}_0$ , then by step 1 we have  $x_s \in \mathfrak{g}_0$  and so  $\mathfrak{h} + \mathbb{C}x_s$  is toral, and thus  $x_s \in \mathfrak{h}$ .

*Step 3:*  $\kappa|_{\mathfrak{h}}$  is non-degenerate.

We want to show that  $\kappa(h, x) = 0 \ \forall x \in \mathfrak{g} \implies h = 0$ . By the corollary, it suffices to show that  $\kappa(h, x) = 0 \ \forall x \in \mathfrak{g}_0$ . By step 2, it suffices to check this only for  $x \in \mathfrak{g}_0$  such that  $x = x_n$ .

If  $x = x_n$ , then  $\text{ad } x_n$  is nilpotent and  $\text{ad } h$  commutes with  $\text{ad } x$  because  $[h, x] = 0$  (since  $x \in \mathfrak{g}_0$ ). By the lemma,  $\text{Tr}(\text{ad } h \circ \text{ad } x) = 0$ , since  $\text{ad } h = \kappa(h, x)$ .

*Step 4:*  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  is nilpotent.

Pick  $x \in \mathfrak{g}_0$ . Then by step 2,  $x_s \in \mathfrak{h}$ , so  $\text{ad } x_s : \mathfrak{g}_0 \odot$  is a zero map and thus nilpotent.

So  $\text{ad } x_n$  is nilpotent, meaning that  $\text{ad } x$  is nilpotent. By Engel's theorem, this implies that  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  itself is nilpotent.

*Step 5:*  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  is abelian.

Suppose that  $I := [\mathfrak{g}_0, \mathfrak{g}_0] \neq 0$ . We have  $I \trianglelefteq \mathfrak{g}_0$ , and  $I$  is not nilpotent whereas  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  is.

By Lemma 3.3, we have  $I \cap Z(\mathfrak{g}_0) \neq 0$ , so pick  $x$  in the intersection. Note that  $\kappa(\mathfrak{h}, I) = \kappa(\mathfrak{h}, [\mathfrak{g}_0, \mathfrak{g}_0])$ , which by associativity equals  $\kappa([\mathfrak{h}, \mathfrak{g}_0], \mathfrak{g}_0) = 0$ .

By step 3, we have  $\mathfrak{h} \cap I = 0$ . By step 2,  $x \neq x_s$ , and thus  $x_n \neq 0$ . But we also have  $x \in Z(\mathfrak{g}_0)$ , so  $[x, \mathfrak{g}_0] = 0$  and  $\text{ad } x(\mathfrak{g}_0) \subseteq 0$ . By Proposition 4.2, this holds for  $x_s, x_n$  as well, which are both in the center. So for all  $y \in \mathfrak{g}_0$ ,  $\text{ad } y$  commutes with  $\text{ad } x_n$ , which is nilpotent.

By the lemma, this implies that  $0 = \text{Tr}(\text{ad } y \circ \text{ad } x_n) = \kappa(x_n, y)$  for all  $y \in \mathfrak{g}_0$ . So  $x_n = 0$ .

*Step 6:* Suppose  $\mathfrak{g}_0 \not\subseteq \mathfrak{h}$ . By step 2, there exists an  $x \in \mathfrak{g}_0$  such that  $x \notin \mathfrak{h}$ , where  $x_n \neq 0$ . By step 5,  $[x_n, y] = 0$  for all  $y \in \mathfrak{g}_0$ . Then  $\text{ad } x$  (which is nilpotent) commutes with  $\text{ad } y$ . By the lemma,  $0 = \kappa(x_n, y)$  for all  $y \in \mathfrak{g}_0$ , and thus  $x_n = 0$ .  $\square$

Main idea: Choose a maximal toral subalgebra to get a nice root space decomposition, and so it coincides with  $\mathfrak{g}_0$ .

Corollary:  $\kappa|_{\mathfrak{g}}$  is nondegenerate.

Thus for all  $\alpha \in \mathfrak{h}^*$ , there exists a unique  $t_\alpha \in \mathfrak{h}$  such that  $\alpha = \kappa(t_\alpha, \cdot) : \mathfrak{h} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ .

In other words, there is an identification

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{h} &\xrightarrow{1-1} \mathfrak{h}^* \\ h &\mapsto \kappa(h, \cdot) \\ t_\alpha &\leftarrow \alpha. \end{aligned}$$

Definition: A subalgebra  $\mathfrak{h} \subseteq \mathfrak{g}$  is a *Cartan subalgebra* if  $\mathfrak{h}$  is nilpotent and

$$\mathfrak{h} = N_{\mathfrak{g}}(\mathfrak{h}) = \{x \in \mathfrak{g} \ni [x, h] \subseteq \mathfrak{h}\}.$$

Note that  $N_{\mathfrak{g}}(\mathfrak{h})$  is the largest subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{g}$  in which  $\mathfrak{h}$  is an ideal.

Remark: If  $\mathfrak{g}$  is semisimple and finite dimensional with  $\text{char}(F) = 0$ , we will have a correspondence:

$$\{\text{CSAs of } \mathfrak{g}\} \iff \{\text{maximal toral subalgebras of } \mathfrak{g}\}.$$

Maximal toral subalgebras advantages over Cartan subalgebra definition:

- Yields the finest root space decomposition
- $\mathfrak{h}^* = \mathfrak{h}$ , Weyl group?
- Existence is easy compared to CSAs

On the other hand, CSA advantages:

- All CSAs are conjugate under  $G$  (some group to be defined)
- The dimensions of all CSAs are the same, giving a well-defined notion of dimension ( $\text{rank } \mathfrak{g} = \dim \mathfrak{h}$ ).

### 17.2 8.3: Orthogonality Properties

From now on,  $\mathfrak{h}$  will be a maximal toral subalgebra.

Proposition: Let  $\alpha \in \Phi$ . Then

- $\Phi$  spans  $\mathfrak{h}^*$
- $-\alpha \in \Phi$
- $\forall x \in \mathfrak{g}_\alpha, y \in \mathfrak{g}_{-\alpha}$ , we have  $[x, y] = \kappa(x, y)t_\alpha$
- $[\mathfrak{g}_\alpha, \mathfrak{g}_{-\alpha}] = \mathbb{C}t_\alpha$  (let the nonzero scalar be  $\lambda$ )
- $\alpha(t_\alpha) = \kappa(t_\alpha, t_\alpha) \neq 0$ .
- For any nonzero  $e_\alpha \in \mathfrak{g}_\alpha$ , there exists a unique  $f_\alpha \in \mathfrak{g}_{-\alpha}$  such that  $[e_\alpha, f_\alpha] = h_\alpha := \frac{\lambda}{\kappa(t_\alpha, t_\alpha)}t_\alpha$ .  
Moreover,  $\langle e_\alpha, f_\alpha, h_\alpha \rangle = \mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{C})$ .

## 18 Lecture Wednesday

Today: Properties of the root space when the toral subalgebra is maximal.

Last time: We have  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g} \oplus (\bigoplus_{\alpha \in \Phi} \mathfrak{g}_\alpha)$  where  $\kappa|_{\mathfrak{h}}$  is nondegenerate. We also have a correspondence

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{h} &\iff \mathfrak{h}^* h \mapsto \kappa(\mathfrak{h}, \cdot) \\ t_\alpha &\leftarrow \alpha := \kappa(t_\alpha, \cdot). \end{aligned}$$

### 18.1 Orthogonality Properties

Proposition: Let  $\alpha \in \Phi$ . Then:

- $\Phi$  spans  $\mathfrak{h}^*$
- $-\alpha \in \Phi$

- c.  $[x, y] = \kappa(x, y)t_\alpha$  for all  $x \in \mathfrak{g}_\alpha$  and  $y \in \mathfrak{g}_{-\alpha}$
- d.  $[\mathfrak{g}_\alpha, \mathfrak{g}_{-\alpha}] = \mathbb{C}t_\alpha$
- e.  $\alpha(t_\alpha) = \kappa(t_\alpha, t_\alpha) \neq 0$
- f. For each nonzero  $e_\alpha \in \mathfrak{g}_\alpha$ , there exists a unique  $f_\alpha \in \mathfrak{g}_{-\alpha}$  such that  $[e_\alpha, f_\alpha] = h_\alpha := \frac{2}{\kappa(t_\alpha, t_\alpha)}t_\alpha$ .  
Moreover,  $\langle e_\alpha, t_\alpha, h_\alpha \rangle \cong \mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{C})$ .

Proof of (a): We want to show that  $h \in \mathfrak{h}$  implies that if  $\alpha(h) = 0$  for all  $\alpha \in \Phi$ , then  $h = 0$ .

Take  $x \in \mathfrak{g}_\alpha$ . Then  $[h, x] = \alpha(h)x = 0$ . So  $[\mathfrak{h}, \mathfrak{g}] = 0$  because  $\mathfrak{h}$  is abelian. But then  $[h, \mathfrak{g}] = 0$ , or  $h \in Z(\mathfrak{g}) = 0$  since  $\mathfrak{g}$  is semisimple.

Proof of (b): By Proposition 8.1c, we have  $\kappa(\mathfrak{g}_\alpha, \mathfrak{g}_\beta) = 0$  for all  $\beta \neq -\alpha$ .

If  $-\alpha \notin \Phi$ , then  $\mathfrak{g}_{-\alpha} = 0$ . So  $\kappa(\mathfrak{g}_\alpha, \mathfrak{g}) = 0$  by the non-degeneracy of  $\kappa$ .

Proof of (c): For all  $h \in \mathfrak{h}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \kappa(h, [x, y]) &= \kappa([h, x], y) \\
 &= \kappa(\alpha(h)x, y) \\
 &= \kappa(t_\alpha, h)\kappa(x, y) \\
 &= \kappa(\kappa(x, y)t_\alpha, h) \\
 &= \kappa(h, \kappa(x, y)t_\alpha).
 \end{aligned}$$

which implies that  $\kappa(h, [x, y]) - \kappa(x, y)t_\alpha = 0$ , which forces the second argument to be zero by non-degeneracy.

Proof of (d): We will show that (d) implies (c), i.e.  $[\mathfrak{g}_\alpha, \mathfrak{g}_{-\alpha}] \subseteq \mathbb{C}t_\alpha$ .

We want to show  $\kappa(x, y)$  is not always zero.

Pick any nonzero  $x \in \mathfrak{g}_\alpha$ . Then  $\kappa(x, \mathfrak{g}_\beta) = 0$  for all  $\beta \neq -\alpha$ . If  $\kappa(x, \mathfrak{g}_{-\alpha}) = 0$ , then  $\kappa(x, \mathfrak{g}) = 0$ . By non-degeneracy, this forces  $x = 0$ .

Proof of (e): We will skip this for now, and revisit with methods from later sections that make this proof simpler.

Proof of (f): Let  $e_\alpha \neq 0$  in  $\mathfrak{g}_\alpha$ . Then there exists a  $y \in \mathfrak{g}_{-\alpha}$  such that  $\kappa(e_\alpha, y) \neq 0$ . Set  $f_\alpha \in \mathfrak{g}_{-\alpha}$  such that  $\kappa(e_\alpha, f_\alpha) = \frac{2}{\kappa(t_\alpha, t_\alpha)}$ .

By (c), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 [e_\alpha, f_\alpha] &= \kappa(e_\alpha, t_\alpha)t_\alpha \\
 &= \frac{2}{\kappa(t_\alpha, t_\alpha)}t_\alpha \\
 &= h_\alpha.
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
[h_\alpha, e_\alpha] &= \frac{2}{\kappa(t_\alpha, t_\alpha)} [t_\alpha, e_\alpha] \\
&= \frac{2}{\kappa(t_\alpha, t_\alpha)} \alpha(t_\alpha) e_\alpha \\
&= 2e_\alpha.
\end{aligned}$$

and similarly  $[h_\alpha, f_\alpha] = -2f_\alpha$ .

Definition:

Let  $\mathfrak{sl}(2, \alpha) = \langle e_\alpha, f_\alpha, h_\alpha \rangle$  as in (f). A priori, this depends on a choice of  $e_\alpha \neq 0$ . We will show that this only depends on  $\alpha$ .

## 18.2 Orthogonality/Integrality Properties

Proposition: Let  $\alpha \in \Phi$ . Then:

- a.  $\dim \mathfrak{g}_\alpha = 1$ . (Note that in general,  $\dim \mathfrak{g}_0 = \dim \mathfrak{h} \geq 1$ )
- b.  $\mathbb{C}\alpha \cap \Phi = \{\pm\alpha\}$
- c. If  $\beta \in \Phi$  such that  $\alpha + \beta \in \Phi$ , then  $[\mathfrak{g}_\alpha, \mathfrak{g}_\beta] = \mathfrak{g}_{\alpha+\beta}$ .
- d. If  $\beta \neq -\alpha \in \Phi$ , then let  $p, q \in \mathbb{Z}$  be the largest such that  $\beta - p\alpha$  and  $\beta + q\alpha$  are both in  $\Phi$ . Then  $\beta + i\alpha \in \Phi$  for every  $-p \leq i \leq q$ , and

$$\beta(h_\alpha) = \kappa(t_\beta, h_\alpha) = \frac{2\kappa(t_\beta, t_\alpha)}{\kappa(t_\alpha, t_\alpha)} = p - q \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

Proof of (a) and (b):

Let  $M = \mathfrak{h} \oplus \left( \bigoplus_{c \neq 0} \mathfrak{g}_{c\alpha} \right) \leq \mathfrak{g}$  as a subspace. By a routine check,  $M$  is an  $\mathfrak{sl}(2, \alpha)$  submodule of  $\mathfrak{g}$ . Recall that  $M = \bigoplus_{\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}} L(m)^{\oplus \mu_m}$  as a direct sum of vector spaces. Applying Weyl's theorem, we also have  $M = \bigoplus_{m \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}} L(m)^{\oplus \mu_m}$  as a direct sum of (irreducible?) modules.

For  $\mathfrak{h}$ , if we have  $[h_\alpha, h] = 0$  for all  $h \in \mathfrak{h}$ , then  $h \in M_0$ . For  $\mathfrak{g}_{c\alpha}$ ,  $[h_\alpha, x] = c\alpha(h_\alpha)x$  for all  $x \in \mathfrak{g}_{c\alpha}$ . But this equals  $2cx$ . So this implies that  $\mathfrak{g}_{c\alpha} \subseteq M_{2c}$ .

Thus  $2c \in \mathbb{Z}$ , and thus  $c \in \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{Z}$ , and  $M_0 = \mathfrak{h}$ .

We then have  $\dim M_0 = \sum_{m \in 2\mathbb{Z}} \mu_m$ . So write  $h = \mathbb{C}t_\alpha \oplus \ker \alpha$  as vector spaces. Consider the action  $\mathfrak{sl}(2, \alpha) \curvearrowright \ker \alpha$ , which is trivial since  $h \in \ker \alpha$ . We  $[h_\alpha, h] = 0$ ,  $[e_\alpha, h] = -\alpha(h)e_\alpha = 0$  since  $h \in \ker \alpha$ , and similarly  $[f_\alpha, h] = 0$ .

Thus  $\ker \alpha = L(0)^{\oplus \dim \mathfrak{h} - 1}$ . Moreover,  $\mathfrak{sl}(2, \alpha) = L(2) = \text{span}(e_\alpha, t_\alpha, f_\alpha)^T$ . But this forces the case that there is no other summand of the form  $L(k)$  for  $k$  even in  $M$ .

Then  $\mathfrak{g}_{2\alpha} \subseteq M_4$ , which must be zero. So  $2\alpha \notin \Phi$ , so  $2\alpha$  is not a root. ("Twice a root is never a root")

So  $\frac{1}{2}\alpha \notin \Phi$ , otherwise we could apply this argument to conclude that  $\alpha$  is not a root and reach a contradiction. Thus  $M_1 = 0$ , since  $c \neq \frac{1}{2}$  implies that there is not summand of the form  $L(k)$  for  $k$  odd in  $M$ . But this forces  $M = \mathfrak{h} \oplus \mathfrak{sl}(2, \alpha)$ .

Motto: reduce the complexity by using the  $\mathfrak{sl}(2)$  module structure and its representation theory!

## 19 Lecture (Friday)

Last time, we saw  $\Phi \subseteq \mathfrak{h}^* = \{\alpha : \mathfrak{h} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}\}$ .

Suppose  $\mathfrak{g}$  is semisimple and  $\mathfrak{h}$  is a maximal toral subalgebra and take  $F = \mathbb{C}$ .

We have the following propositions:

- a.  $\dim \mathfrak{g}_\alpha = 1 \ \forall \alpha \in \Phi$
- b.  $\mathbb{C}\alpha \cap \Phi = \{\pm\alpha\}$ , and  $2\alpha \notin \Phi$  where  $c\alpha : \mathfrak{h} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}, h \mapsto c \curvearrowright \alpha(h)$ . Moreover,  $M = \mathfrak{h} \oplus \left( \bigoplus_{c \neq 0} \mathfrak{g}_{c\alpha} \right)$
- c. If  $\alpha, \beta \in \Phi$  and  $\beta \neq -\alpha$  Let  $p, q \in \mathbb{Z}$  be the largest such that  $\beta - p\alpha$  and  $b + q\alpha$  are in  $\Phi$ . Moreover,  $\beta(h_\alpha) = \kappa(t_\beta, t_\alpha) = p - q \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Proof of (c):

Set  $M = \sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} \mathfrak{g}_{\beta+i\alpha}$ , which is an  $\mathfrak{sl}(2, \alpha)$  module. By (a), we have  $\dim \mathfrak{g}_{\beta+i\alpha} = 1 \iff \beta + i\alpha \in \Phi$ . But for all  $x \in \mathfrak{g}_{\beta+i\alpha}$ , we have  $[h, x] = (\beta + i\alpha)(h)x$  for all  $h \in \mathfrak{h}$ . But then  $[h_\alpha, x] = (\beta(h_\alpha) + i\alpha(h_\alpha))x = (\beta(h_\alpha) + 2i)x$

Then  $\mathfrak{g}_{\beta+i\alpha} \subseteq M_{\beta(h_\alpha)+2i}$ , so  $\beta(h_\alpha) \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Moreover,  $\text{Wt}(M) = 2\mathbb{Z}$  or  $2\mathbb{Z} + 1$ , and in particular  $\dim M_0 + \dim M_1 = 1$ .

Thus  $M$  is irreducible, and  $M \cong L(m)$  for some  $m \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ . Moreover,  $\text{Wt}(M) = \{m, m-2, \dots, -m\}$ , and  $\dim \mathfrak{g}_{\beta+i\alpha} = 1$  for all  $i \in [-p, q]$ . Thus  $\beta + i\alpha \in \Phi$ .

Proof of 8.3(e):  $\alpha(t_\alpha) \neq 0$ . The claim is that for all  $\beta \in \Phi$ , there exists an  $r \in \mathbb{Q}$  such that  $\beta(h) = r\alpha(h)$  for all  $h \in [\mathfrak{g}_\alpha, \mathfrak{g}_{-\alpha}]$ .

There are two cases: if  $\beta = -\alpha$ , then we're done by the previous argument.

Otherwise,  $\beta \neq -\alpha$ . Take  $M = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} \mathfrak{g}_{\beta+i\alpha}$ .

Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Tr}_M(\text{ad } h) &= \sum_i \text{Tr}_M((\text{ad } e_i \circ \text{ad } f_i) - (\text{ad } f_i \circ \text{ad } e_i)) = \sum_i \text{Tr}_{\mathfrak{g}_{\beta+i\alpha}}(\text{ad } h) \\ &= \sum_i (\beta + i\alpha)(h) \dim \mathfrak{g}_{\beta+i\alpha} \\ &= \sum_i \dim \mathfrak{g}_{\beta+i\alpha} \beta(h) + \sum_i i \dim(\mathfrak{g}_{\beta+i\alpha}) \\ &\implies \beta(h) = \frac{-\sum_i \dim \mathfrak{g}_{\beta+i\alpha}}{\sum_i \dim \mathfrak{g}_{\beta+i\alpha}} \alpha(h). \end{aligned}$$

Now consider the killing form  $\kappa(t_\beta, t_\alpha) = \beta(t_\alpha) = r\alpha(t_\alpha)$ , where the last equality is what we are claiming.

Suppose that  $\alpha(t_\alpha) = 0$ . Then  $\kappa(t_\beta, t_\alpha) = 0$  for all  $\beta \in \Phi$ . By the non-degeneracy of  $\kappa$ , we have  $t_\alpha = 0$  and thus  $\alpha = 0$ .

## 19.1 Summary

We have  $\mathfrak{g}$  semisimple, finite dimensional, and  $\mathfrak{h}$  a maximal toral subalgebra (i.e. the Cartan subalgebra). This implies that  $\kappa$  is nondegenerate, and we have a correspondence

$$\begin{aligned}\mathfrak{h} &\Longleftrightarrow \mathfrak{h}^\vee \\ h &\mapsto \kappa(h, \cdot) \\ t_\alpha &\leftarrow \alpha.\end{aligned}$$

This gives a symmetric bilinear form  $(\cdot, \cdot) : \mathfrak{h}^\vee \rightarrow \mathfrak{h}^\vee$ .

For  $\alpha \in \Phi$ , define its *coroot*  $\alpha^\vee = \frac{2}{(\alpha, \alpha)}\alpha$ .

Note that  $(\cdot)^\vee$  is not linear: note that

$$(2\alpha)^\vee = \frac{2}{(2\alpha, 2\alpha)}2\alpha = \frac{\alpha}{(\alpha, \alpha)} = \frac{\alpha^\vee}{2}.$$

Assume that  $\Phi = \{\alpha_i\}$ . Define  $E_{\mathbb{Q}} = \bigoplus_{i=1}^{\ell} \mathbb{Q}_{\alpha_i}$ , and  $E = \mathbb{R} \otimes_{\mathbb{Q}} E_{\mathbb{Q}}$ .

Lemma: If  $\alpha, \beta \in \Phi$ , then

- a.  $(\beta, \alpha) \in \mathbb{Q}$ ,
- b.  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  on  $E_{\mathbb{Q}}$  is positive definite, i.e.  $x \neq 0 \implies (x, x) > 0$ .

An immediate consequence of (b) is that  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  on  $E$  is an inner product.

Proof: For all  $\lambda, \mu \in \mathfrak{h}^\vee$ , we have

$$(\lambda, \mu) = \kappa(t_\lambda, t_\mu) = \text{Tr}_{\mathfrak{g}}(\text{ad } t_\lambda \circ \text{ad } t_\mu) = \text{Tr}_{\mathfrak{g}}(\dots) + \sum_{\alpha \in \Phi} \text{Tr}_{\mathfrak{g}_\alpha}(\dots) = 0 + \sum_{\alpha \in \Phi} \alpha(t_\lambda)\alpha(t_\mu) = \sum_{\alpha \in \Phi} \alpha(t_\lambda)\alpha(t_\mu) = \kappa(t_\lambda, t_\mu) = \kappa(t_\mu, t_\lambda) = (\mu, \lambda)$$

So pick  $\lambda = \mu = \alpha \in \Phi$ . Then  $(\alpha, \alpha) = \sum_{\beta \in \Phi} (\beta, \alpha)^2$ .

Then

$$\frac{1}{(\alpha, \alpha)} = \sum_{\beta \in \Phi} \left( \frac{(\beta, \alpha^\vee)}{2} \right)^2.$$

where  $(\beta, \alpha^\vee) = \dots = \beta(h_\alpha) \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

This means that  $(\alpha, \alpha) \in \mathbb{Q}_{>0}$ .

Summary of properties proved:

Let  $\alpha, \beta \in \Phi$ . Then

1.  $0 \notin \Phi$  and  $\Phi$  spans  $E$
2.  $\mathbb{C}\alpha \cap \Phi = \{\pm\alpha\}$
3.  $\beta - (\beta, \alpha^\vee)\alpha \in \Phi$
4.  $(\beta, \alpha^\vee) \in \mathbb{Z}$

Thus the assignment  $(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h}) \mapsto (\Phi, E)$  defines a **root system**. This only works when  $\mathfrak{g}$  is semisimple and  $\mathfrak{h}$  is maximal toral.

Proof of (3):

We computed  $(\beta, \alpha^\vee) = p - q$ . Then  $-p \leq -(\beta, \alpha^\vee) = q - p \leq q$ . So this must be something on the root stream.

## 20 Monday September 23th

Last time: Let  $\mathfrak{g}$  be finite dimensional and  $\mathfrak{h}$  a maximal toral subalgebra.

Then  $(\Phi, E)$  is a *root system*, and we obtain a bilinear product

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : E \times E &\rightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ (\alpha, \beta) &\mapsto \kappa(t_\alpha, t_\beta). \end{aligned}$$

Examples:  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}(3, \mathbb{C})$  and  $\mathfrak{h} = \mathbb{C}h_1 \oplus \mathbb{C}h_2$  where

Todo: Insert clip image h1, h2

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_1 : \mathfrak{h} &\rightarrow \mathbb{C} \\ h_1 &\mapsto 2h_2 \mapsto -1. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_2 : \mathfrak{h} &\rightarrow \mathbb{C} \\ h_1 &\mapsto -1h_2 \mapsto 2. \end{aligned}$$

To find  $t_{\alpha_i}$ , we need to look at  $\kappa|_{\mathfrak{h}}$ .

Todo: Insert phone image

Since we only need the trace, this suffice, and we find

$$\begin{bmatrix} h_1 & h_2 \\ h_1 & 12 & -6 \\ h_2 & -6 & 12 \end{bmatrix}.$$

We then get  $t_{\alpha_1} = \frac{h_1}{6}$  and  $t_{\alpha_2} = \frac{h_2}{6}$ . Moreover

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle \alpha_1, \alpha_1 \rangle &= \kappa(t_{\alpha_1}, t_{\alpha_1}) = \frac{1}{3} \in \mathbb{Q} \\
\langle \alpha_1, \alpha_1 \rangle &= \frac{1}{3} \\
\langle \alpha_1, \alpha_2 \rangle &= -\frac{1}{6} \\
\langle \alpha_1, \alpha_2 \vee \rangle &= \frac{2\langle \alpha_1, \alpha_2 \rangle}{\langle \alpha_2, \alpha_2 \rangle} = -1 \in \mathbb{Z} \quad \langle \alpha_i, \alpha_i \vee \rangle = \frac{2\langle \alpha_i, \alpha_i \rangle}{\langle \alpha_i, \alpha_i \rangle} = 2 \in \mathbb{Z}.
\end{aligned}$$

This leads to a nice fact: the matrix  $\langle \alpha_i, \alpha_j \vee \rangle$  has  $\mathbb{Z}$  entries, and this is called the *Cartan matrix*.

## 20.1 Ch.3: Root Systems

### 20.1.1 Axiomatics: Reflections

Fix a Euclidean space  $E$ .

Definition: A *hyperplane* in  $E$  is a subspace of codimension 1. A *reflection* in  $E$  is an element  $s \in \mathfrak{gl}(E)$  such that

$$\{E^s := \{x \in E \mid sx = x\} \text{ is a hyperplane } H \text{ and } s(x) = -x \quad \forall x \in E \mid (x, H) = 0\}$$

For nonzero  $\alpha \in E$ , its reflection is

$$\begin{aligned}
S_\alpha : E &\rightarrow E \\
\beta &\mapsto \beta - \langle \beta, \alpha \vee \rangle \alpha.
\end{aligned}$$

with respect to  $H_\alpha = \{x \in E \mid \langle x, \alpha \rangle = 0\}$ , where  $\alpha \vee = \frac{2\alpha}{\langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle}$ .

Lemma: Let  $\Phi \subseteq E$  be finite such that  $S_\alpha(\Phi) = \Phi$  for all  $\alpha \in \Phi$ .

Suppose that  $S \in \mathfrak{gl}(E)$  satisfies

1.  $S(\Phi) = \Phi$ ,
2.  $S(h) = h$  for all  $h \in H$ , and
3.  $S(\alpha) = -\alpha$  for some  $\alpha \in \Phi$ ,

then  $S = S_\alpha$ , i.e. this uniquely characterizes  $S$

Proof:

Let  $\tau = S \circ S_\alpha$ . Then  $\tau(\Phi) = \Phi$  and  $\tau(\alpha) = \alpha$ . This  $\tau \curvearrowright \mathbb{R}\alpha$  by 1, and similarly  $\tau \curvearrowright E/\mathbb{R}\alpha$  by 1 by picking a representative in  $H$ . Moreover, all eigenvalues of  $\tau$  are 1. So the minimal polynomial of  $\tau$  divides  $(t - 1)^{\dim E}$ .

We want to show that  $\tau \mid (t - 1)^N$  for some large  $N$ , which forces  $\tau \mid \gcd((t - 1)^{\dim E}, t^N - 1) = 1$ . For any  $\beta \in \Phi$  and  $k > |\Phi|$ , not all vectors  $\beta, \tau(\beta), \dots, \tau^k(\beta)$ . So  $\beta = \tau^{k_\beta}(\beta)$  for some  $k_\beta$  depending on  $\beta$  (noting that  $\tau$  is invertible.)



Multiplying all of these  $k_\beta$ s together, we can get some  $k_\Phi$  that is larger than  $|\Phi|$ , and so  $\beta = \tau^{k_\Phi}$  for all  $\beta \in \Phi$ . But then  $\tau^{k_\Phi} = 1$  in  $\mathfrak{gl}(E)$ .

### 20.1.2 Root Systems

Definition: A subset  $\Phi$  of  $E$  a Euclidean space is called a *root system* iff

1.  $|\Phi| < \infty, 0 \notin \Phi$ , and  $E = \bigoplus_{\alpha \in \Phi} \mathbb{R}\alpha$
2.  $\alpha \in \Phi \implies \mathbb{C}\alpha \cap \Phi = \{\pm\alpha\}$
3.  $\alpha \in \Phi \implies S_\alpha(\Phi) = \Phi$
4.  $\alpha, \beta \in \Phi \implies \langle \beta, \alpha^\vee \rangle \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Definition: The *rank* of a root system is the dimension on  $E$ .

Definition: The *Weyl Group* of  $\Phi$  is defined as

$$W = \langle S_\alpha \mid \alpha \in \Phi \rangle \subseteq \mathfrak{gl}(E)$$

Note that  $W \hookrightarrow \Sigma_{|\Phi|}$ , a permutation group of size  $|\Phi|$ .

Lemma: If  $g \in \mathfrak{gl}(E)$  and  $g(\Phi) = \Phi$ , then for all  $\alpha, \beta \in \Phi$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} gs_\alpha g^{-1} &= s_{g(\alpha)}, \\ \langle \beta, \alpha^\vee \rangle &= \langle g(\beta), g(\alpha)^\vee \rangle, \\ \langle \beta, \alpha^\vee \rangle &= \langle w(\beta), w(\alpha)^\vee \rangle \quad \forall w \in W. \end{aligned}$$

Proof: Check 1-3 in Lemma 9.1.

Proof of 1: We have

$$gs_\alpha g^{-1}(g(\beta)) = gs_\alpha(\beta) \in g(\Phi) = \Phi \quad \forall \beta \in \Phi,$$

Proof of 2: We have

$$\{g(\beta) \mid \beta \in \Phi\} = \Phi \implies gs_\alpha g^{-1}(\Phi) = \Phi \quad \forall h \in gH_\alpha$$

and so  $gs_\alpha g^{-1}(h) = gg^{-1}(h) = h$ , so  $h$  is a fixed point of this map.

Proof of 3: We have  $gs_\alpha g^{-1}(g(\alpha)) = gs_\alpha(\alpha) = -g(\alpha)$ , and so  $gs_\alpha g^{-1} = s_{g(\alpha)}$  by Lemma 9.1.

Finally, we have

$$\begin{aligned} gs_\alpha g^{-1}(g(\beta)) &= g(s_\alpha(\beta)) = g(\beta - \langle \beta, \alpha^\vee \rangle \alpha) = g(\beta) - \langle \beta, \alpha^\vee \rangle g(\alpha) \\ &= \\ s_{g(\alpha)} &= g(\beta) - \langle g(\beta), g(\alpha)^\vee \rangle g(\alpha). \end{aligned}$$

## 21 Wednesday October 2

Recall from last time:

1.  $|\Phi| < \infty$  and  $\Phi$  spans  $E$ , where  $0 \notin \Phi$
2. If  $\alpha \in \Phi$ , then  $C\alpha \cap \Phi = \{\pm\alpha\}$
3.  $\alpha \in \Phi$ , then  $S_\alpha(\Phi) = \Phi$ .
4. If  $\alpha, \beta \in \Phi$ , then  $\langle \beta, \alpha^\vee \rangle \in \mathbb{Z}$  where  $(E, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$  is Euclidean and

$$S_\alpha : E \rightarrow E$$

$$\beta \mapsto \beta - \langle \beta, \alpha^\vee \rangle \alpha, \quad \alpha^\vee = \frac{2}{\langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle} \alpha.$$

Examples:

In Rank 1:

1. Prop 2 implies  $\Phi = \{\pm\alpha\}$
2. Prop 1 implies  $E = \mathbb{R}\alpha$
3. Prop 3:  $S_\alpha(\alpha) = -\alpha$
4. Prop 4 implies  $\langle \pm\alpha, \pm\alpha \rangle = \pm \frac{2\langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle}{\langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle} = \pm 2$

Rank 1 Diagram: Todo: Insert phone image

In Rank 2: Todo: Insert phone image

Exercise:

- Show that  $\text{ord}(S_\alpha, S_\beta) = 2, 3, 4, 6$  for types  $A_1 \times A_1, B_2, G_2$ .
- Show that  $W(A_2) \cong \mathbb{Z}_3$  and  $W(B_2) \cong D_8$ .

### 21.1 Pairs of Roots

Lemma: Let  $\alpha, \beta \in \Phi$  where  $\beta \neq \pm\alpha$ , then

1.  $\langle \alpha, \beta^\vee \rangle \langle \beta, \alpha^\vee \rangle \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$  Moreover, assuming  $|\beta| \geq |\alpha|$ , we have the following table Todo:  
Insert table
2. If  $\langle \alpha, \beta \rangle > 0$ , then  $\alpha - \beta \in \Phi$ . Similarly, if  $\langle \alpha, \beta \rangle < 0$ , then  $\alpha + \beta \in \Phi$ .
3. Any root string is unbroken and has length greater than 4.

Proof of (1):

By the Law of Cosines, we can write  $x := \langle \beta, \alpha^\vee \rangle \langle \alpha, \beta^\vee \rangle = 4 \cos^2(\theta) \in \mathbb{Z}$ . This restricts the possibilities to  $x \leq 4$ . But  $x = 4 \iff \alpha = c\beta$ , i.e.  $\theta = 0$ , but we are assuming that  $\alpha \neq \pm\beta$ , so this can not happen.

Proof of (2):

Since  $\langle \alpha, \beta \rangle > 0$  and  $|\beta| \geq |\alpha|$ , then  $\langle \alpha, \beta^\vee \rangle = 1$ . But then  $S_\beta(\alpha) = \alpha - \langle \alpha, \beta^\vee \rangle \beta \in \Phi$  by Prop 3. So this is equal to  $\alpha - \beta$ .

A similar argument works for  $|\beta| \leq |\alpha|$ .

Proof of (3): Let  $p, q$  be the largest integers such that  $b - p\alpha, b + q\alpha \in \Phi$  respectively. Suppose that the root stream between these two is broken somewhere, say  $\beta + s\alpha \in \Phi$  and  $\beta + (s + 1)\alpha \notin \Phi$  by counting up from  $\beta - p\alpha$ . Similarly, there is some  $t$  counting down from  $b + q\alpha$  then  $\beta + t\alpha \in \Phi$  but  $\beta + (t - 1)\alpha \notin \Phi$ . In particular,  $s < t$ . From (2), we have  $\langle \alpha, \beta + s\alpha \rangle \geq 0, \langle \alpha, \beta + t\alpha \rangle \leq 0$ .

We have

$$\langle \alpha, \beta \rangle + t\langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle = \langle \alpha, \beta + t\alpha \rangle \leq 0 \leq \langle \alpha, \beta + s\alpha \rangle = \langle \alpha, \beta \rangle + s\langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle$$

where we know that  $\langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle > 0$ .

Since  $S_\alpha(\Phi) = \Phi$  and these  $S_\alpha(\beta + i\alpha) = \beta - \mathbb{Z}\alpha$ , we find that reflections permute the root string. We then find that  $p = \langle \beta, \alpha^\vee \rangle + q$ , and so  $\langle \beta, \alpha^\vee \rangle = p - q \in [-3, 3]$ .

## 21.2 Chapter 10: Simple Roots and Weyl Groups

Definition: A *base* of a root system  $\Phi$  is a subset  $\Pi \subseteq \Phi$  such that

1.  $\Pi$  is a basis for the underlying vector space  $E$ , and
2. Each  $\beta \in \Phi$  can be written as  $\beta = \sum_{\alpha \in \Pi} \kappa_\alpha^\beta \alpha$  where all of the coefficients  $\kappa_\alpha^\beta$  all have the same sign.

The roots in  $\Pi$  are called *simple*. A root  $\beta$  is *positive* (resp. *negative*) if the  $\kappa_\alpha^\beta \geq 0$  for all  $\beta \in \Phi^+$  (resp  $\leq 0$  in  $\Phi^-$ ). The *height* of a  $\beta$  is the sum of the coefficients.  $\Pi$  defines a partial order on  $E$  where  $\mu \leq \lambda \iff \lambda - \mu \in \sum_{\alpha \in \Pi} \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} \alpha$ .

Note that this is defined on the roots themselves, and can then be extended to all of  $E$ .

Todo: Insert phone image

## 22 Monday October 7

Last time:

Lemma 10.2

- a. ?
- b.  $\alpha \in \Pi \implies S_\alpha \curvearrowright \Phi^+ \setminus \{\alpha\}$  by permutation
- c.  $\alpha_i \in \Pi$  and  $S_{\alpha_1}, \dots, S_{\alpha_{j-1}}(\alpha_j) \in \Phi^-$  then  $S_{\alpha_1} \cdots S_{\alpha_j} = S_{\alpha_1} \cdots S_{\alpha_{j-1}}$  for some  $t$ , where the former has  $j$  terms and the latter has  $j - 2$  terms.

Proof of (a): ?

Proof of (b):

Suppose towards a contradiction that  $w(\alpha_j) \in \Phi^+$ . Then consider  $WS(\alpha_j) = -W(\alpha_j) \in \Phi^-$ .

By Lemma 10.2(c), we have  $W = S_{\alpha_1} \cdots S_{\alpha_{j-1}} S_{\alpha_{j+1}} \cdots S_{\alpha_{j-1}} S_{\alpha_j}$ , where this is  $j - 1$  terms. So  $w = S_{\alpha_1} \cdots S_{\alpha_j}$  is not reduced.

## 22.1 Weyl Groups

Recall that the *chambers* are given by the connected component of  $E \setminus \bigcup_{\alpha \in \Phi} H_\alpha$ .

Theorem: Fix  $\Pi$  of  $\Phi$ . Then

- $W \curvearrowright \{\text{chambers}\}$  transitively
- $W \curvearrowright \{\text{bases}\}$  transitively
- $\forall \alpha \in \Phi, \exists w \in W \ni w(\alpha) \in \Pi$
- $W := \{S_\alpha \mid \alpha \in \Phi\} = \langle S_\alpha \mid \alpha \in \Pi \rangle := W_0$
- $W \curvearrowright \{\text{bases}\}$  simply transitively, i.e.  $w(\Pi) = \Pi \implies w = e$ .

I.e. we can describe the Weyl group using only simple reflections

Proof: We will prove (a) – (c) for  $W_0$ .

Proof of (a): Recall the fundamental chamber,  $C(\Pi) = \{x \in E \mid (x, \alpha) > 0 \forall \alpha \in \Pi\}$ . We want to show that any chamber  $C$  is equal to  $wC(\Pi)$ .

Pick  $\gamma \in C$  and  $g \in W_0$  such that  $(g(\gamma), \rho) = \max \{(w(\gamma), \rho) \mid w \in W_0\}$ , which exists because  $W_0$  is a finite group.

For all  $\alpha \in \Pi, S_\alpha g \in W_0$  and so by maximality we have

$$\begin{aligned} (g(\gamma), \rho) &\geq (S_\alpha g(\gamma), \rho) \\ &= (g(\gamma), S_\alpha(\rho)) \\ &= (g(\gamma), \rho - \alpha) \\ &= (g(\gamma), \rho) - (g(\gamma), \alpha). \end{aligned}$$

and so  $(g(\gamma), \alpha) \geq 0$ , because this can never be an equality since  $\gamma \in C$ . Thus  $g(\gamma) \in C(\Pi)$ .

Proof of (b):

This holds because there is a correspondence between  $\{C(\Pi)\} \iff \{\text{bases}\}$ .

Proof of (c):

It suffices to show that  $\alpha \in \Phi$  lies in some base  $\Pi' = W(\Pi)$ . Note that  $\beta \neq \alpha \implies H_\beta \neq H_\alpha$ , and so we can pick a  $\gamma \in H_\alpha \cap H_\beta^c$  for every  $\beta \in \Phi \setminus \pm\alpha$ . Since  $\langle \gamma, \alpha \rangle = 0$  but  $\langle \gamma, \beta \rangle \neq 0$  for all  $\beta \neq \pm\alpha$ , we can choose some  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that  $|\langle \gamma', \beta \rangle| > \varepsilon$  for every  $\beta \neq \pm\alpha$ . Then  $\gamma' \in C(\Pi')$  and thus  $\alpha \in \Pi'$ .

Proof of (d):

By definition,  $W_0 \subseteq W$ , so we need to show the reverse containment. For all  $\alpha \in \Phi$ , we want to show  $S_\alpha \in W_0$ . By (c), there exists a  $w \in W_0$  such that  $w(\alpha) := \beta \in \Pi$ . Then  $S_\beta = S_{w(\alpha)} = ws_\alpha w^{-1}$ . So  $S_\alpha = w^{-1}S_\beta w$ , where each term is in  $W_0$ , so the whole thing is in  $W_0$  as well.

Proof of (e):

Suppose  $W(\Pi) = \Pi$ . Let  $W = S_{\alpha_1} \cdots S_{\alpha_\ell}$  be a reduced expression, which exists by (d). By corollary 10.2b, we have  $W(\alpha_\ell \in \Phi^-)$ . But this forces  $w = e$ .  $\square$

Remarks:

By (d), there is a well-defined notion of *length* for  $w \in W$ . We will now show that  $\ell(w) = n(w) := \#N_w := \#\{\alpha \in \Phi^+ \mid W(\alpha) \in \Phi^-\}$ , i.e. the number of roots that get sent to a negative root.

## 23 Wednesday October 9

Last time:

We have the Weyl group  $W := \{S_\alpha \mid \alpha \in \Phi\} = \{S_\alpha \mid S_\alpha \in \Pi\}$ . If  $W \ni w = \prod i = 1^\ell W_{\alpha_i}$  is a product of simple reflections, then  $W$  is said to be *reduced* if  $\ell$  is the smallest among all such products. Call  $\ell(w)$  the length of  $W$  and let  $n(W) = \#N_W$ . By Corollary 10.2b,  $N_W = \{\alpha \in \Phi^+ \mid W(\alpha) \in \Phi^-\}$ , and if  $W = \prod S_{\alpha_i}$  is reduced, then  $w(\alpha_j) \in \Phi^-$ .

Lemma:  $\ell(w) = n(w)$ .

Proof: Done in class, but see Humphrey's.

### 23.1 Classification

#### 23.1.1 Cartan Matrix

Fix a base  $\Pi \subset \Phi$  of rank  $\ell$ .

Definition: Fix an order  $(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_\ell)$  of  $\Pi$ . Then the *Cartan matrix* is given by  $A_{ij} = \langle \alpha_i, \alpha_j^\vee \rangle \in \text{Mat}(\ell \times \ell, \mathbb{Z})$ .

Examples:

Facts:

- $A$  depends on the chosen ordering of  $\Pi$ .
- $A$  is independent of the choice of  $\Pi$ .
- $A$  is invertible.
- $A$  uniquely determines the root system (up to isomorphism). I.e., if  $A(\Phi) = A(\Phi')$  then there is an isomorphism  $E \xrightarrow{\phi} E$  on the underlying Euclidean space such that  $\phi(\Phi) = \Phi'$  and  $\langle \alpha, \beta^\vee \rangle = \langle \phi(\alpha), \phi(\beta)^\vee \rangle$  for all  $\alpha, \beta \in \Phi$ .

#### 23.1.2 Dynkin Diagrams

Recall from Lemma 9.4 that  $a_{ij}a_{ji} \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$ .

Definition: Given a Cartan matrix  $A$ , its Coxeter diagram is an undirected multigraph  $\Gamma = (I, E)$  where  $I$  is a vertex set and the edge set is given by edges between vertices corresponding to  $i, j$  (where  $i \neq j$ ) with weight  $a_{ij}a_{ji}$ .

Examples:

Note that these diagrams don't encode which roots are longer, so we can decorate these diagrams with arrows to indicate this and obtain a partially-directed multigraph.

Definition: A *Dynkin diagram* is the partially-directed multigraph obtained from the Coxeter diagram by adding arrows on the double or triple edges between  $i, j$  precisely when  $|a_i| > |a_j|$ . (Note that this also occurs when  $|a_{ij}| < |a_{ji}|$ )

Definition: A non-empty root system is *irreducible* if  $\Phi \neq \Phi_1 \oplus \Phi_2$  for some nonempty root system  $\Phi_2$  where  $\alpha \in \Phi_1, \beta \in \Phi_2 \implies \langle \alpha, \beta \rangle = 0$ .

For example:  $\Phi(A_1 \times A_1)$  can be written as  $\Phi(A_1) \oplus \phi(A_1)$  since the off-diagonal entries were zero, so it is reducible.

Facts:

- $\Phi$  is irreducible iff the Dynkin diagram is connected
- $\Phi$  can be uniquely written as the union of irreducible root systems (where the multiplicity of each system appearing is well-defined)

Thus to classify root systems, it suffices to classify connected Dynkin diagrams.

Examples of Dynkin diagrams:

## 24 October 11

Recall from last time the Dynkin diagrams. If  $\Phi$  is irreducible, then its diagram is one of the following:

Definition: A subset  $A = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\} \subseteq E$  is *admissible* iff

- $A$  is linearly independent.
- $\langle v_i, v_i \rangle = 1$  for all  $i$ , and  $\langle v_i, v_j \rangle \leq 0$  if  $i \neq j$ .
- $s_{ij} = 4\langle v_i, v_j \rangle^2 \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$  if  $i \neq j$ .

Define a graph  $\Gamma_A = (V_A, E_A)$  where  $V_A = A$  and  $E_A = \{s_{ij} \mid i \neq j\}$ . If  $\Pi = \{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_\ell\} \subseteq \Phi$  is a base, then  $A := \left\{ v_i = \frac{\alpha_i}{\sqrt{\langle \alpha_i, \alpha_i \rangle}} \right\}$ .

Lemma:

- If  $A$  is admissible, then  $\# \left\{ (v_i, v_j) \in E_A \mid 4\langle v_i, v_j \rangle^2 \neq 0 \right\} \leq |A| - 1$ , and  $\Gamma_A$  contains no graph cycles.
- $\deg V_i \leq 3$  for all  $i$ .
- If  $\Gamma_A$  contains a path  $p_1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow p_t$ , then  $A' := \{p\} \cup A \setminus \{p_1, \dots, p_t\}$  where  $p := \sum p_i$ . Moreover,  $\Gamma_{A'}$  is obtained from  $\Gamma_A$  by contracting this path onto  $p$ .