

INTRODUCTION TO LIE ALGEBRAS - EXERCISES

1. For each of the following cases you are given a set \mathfrak{g} and a bracket $[\cdot, \cdot]$ on \mathfrak{g} . Addition of elements of \mathfrak{g} and scalar multiplication by elements of the complex field \mathbb{C} are to be understood in the obvious sense. In which of these cases is \mathfrak{g} a Lie algebra over \mathbb{C} ? Give reasons for your answers.

- (i) $\mathfrak{g} = \mathbb{C}$ and $[x, y] = x - y$.
- (ii) $\mathfrak{g} = \mathbb{C}$ and $[z, w] = z\bar{w} - w\bar{z}$.
- (iii) $\mathfrak{g} =$ set of all symmetric $n \times n$ matrices ($n > 1$) with complex entries and

$$[X, Y] = XY - YX.$$

- (iv) $\mathfrak{g} =$ set of all continuous complex-valued functions on the interval $[0, 1]$ and

$$[f, g](x) = f(x) \int_0^1 g(t) dt - g(x) \int_0^1 f(t) dt.$$

- (v) $\mathfrak{g} =$ set of all differentiable complex-valued functions on the interval $[0, 1]$,

$$[f, g] = f \frac{dg}{dx} - g \frac{df}{dx}.$$

- (vi) $\mathfrak{g} =$ set of all complex $n \times n$ matrices and

$$[X, Y] = XY^T - YX^T,$$

where the superscript T indicates matrix transposition.

2. Let n be a natural number and for $i, j, k \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ with $i < j$, let $c_{ij}^k \in \mathbb{F}$ be a scalar. Let \mathfrak{g} and \mathfrak{h} be Lie algebras. Assume that \mathfrak{g} has a basis (X_1, \dots, X_n) such that $[X_i, X_j] = \sum_{k=1}^n c_{ij}^k X_k$ for all $i < j$ and assume that \mathfrak{h} has a basis (Y_1, \dots, Y_n) such that $[Y_i, Y_j] = \sum_{k=1}^n c_{ij}^k Y_k$ for all $i < j$. Show that the linear map $\varphi : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{h}$ defined by $\varphi(X_i) = Y_i$ is an isomorphism of Lie algebras.
3. Let \mathfrak{g} be the vector space of all those complex-valued functions of $2n$ variables $q_1, \dots, q_n, p_1, \dots, p_n$ which have partial derivatives of all orders with respect to all variables. Addition of these functions and their scalar multiplication by elements of the field \mathbb{C} are understood in the obvious sense. The *Poisson bracket* $\{F, G\}$ of two functions $F, G \in \mathfrak{g}$ is defined by the formula

$$\{F, G\} = \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{\partial F}{\partial q_i} \frac{\partial G}{\partial p_i} - \frac{\partial F}{\partial p_i} \frac{\partial G}{\partial q_i} \right).$$

Prove that $[F, G] = \{F, G\}$ satisfies all axioms of a Lie bracket.