

In the following exercises F is a field, *algebraically closed and of characteristic zero*. We follow the notation of the text and that used in class.

1. (**25 points**) You may assume that $L = L_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus L_r$ is an algebra. Let $x = \ell_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \ell_r, y = \ell'_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \ell'_r, z \in L$. We first show that $\pi_i : L \rightarrow L_i$ is an algebra map for all $1 \leq i \leq r$ and that $x = y$ if and only if $\pi_i(x) = \pi_i(y)$ for all $1 \leq i \leq r$.

Let $a \in F$. The calculation

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_i(x + ay) &= \pi_i(\ell_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \ell_r + a(\ell'_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \ell'_r)) \\ &= \pi_i(\ell_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \ell_r + a\ell'_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus a\ell'_r) \\ &= \pi_i((\ell_1 + a\ell'_1) \oplus \cdots \oplus (\ell_r + a\ell'_r)) \\ &= \ell_i + a\ell'_i \\ &= \pi_i(\ell_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \ell_r) + a\pi_i(\ell'_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \ell'_r) \\ &= \pi_i(x) + a\pi_i(y) \end{aligned}$$

shows that π_i is linear and the calculation

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_i([x y]) &= \pi_i([\ell_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \ell_r \quad \ell'_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \ell'_r]) \\ &= \pi_i([\ell_1 \quad \ell'_1] \oplus \cdots \oplus [\ell_r \quad \ell'_r]) \\ &= [\ell_i \quad \ell'_i] \\ &= [\pi_i(\ell_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \ell_r) \quad \pi_i(\ell'_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \ell'_r)] \\ &= [\pi_i(x) \quad \pi_i(y)] \end{aligned}$$

shows that π_i is multiplicative. Since $\pi_i(x) = \ell_i$ for all $1 \leq i \leq r$ it follows that

$$x = \pi_1(x) \oplus \cdots \oplus \pi_r(x); \tag{1}$$

thus $x = y$ if and only if $\pi_i(x) = \pi_i(y)$ for all $1 \leq i \leq r$.

Since $\pi_i : L \rightarrow L_i$ is an algebra map, part (b) (5) follows once part (a) (8) is established.

Let $1 \leq i \leq r$. Since π_i is an algebra map and L_i is a Lie algebra

$$\pi_i([x x]) = [\pi_i(x) \quad \pi_i(x)] = 0$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} &\pi_i([x [y z]] + [y [z x]] + [z [x y]]) \\ &= [\pi_i(x) \quad [\pi_i(y) \quad \pi_i(z)]] + [\pi_i(y) \quad [\pi_i(z) \quad \pi_i(x)]] + [\pi_i(z) \quad [\pi_i(x) \quad \pi_i(y)]] \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Thus $[x x] = 0$ and $[x [y z]] + [y [z x]] + [z [x y]] = 0$ follow by (1).

Part (c). **(12)** Let $\ell' \in L'$ and suppose that $\pi : L' \rightarrow L$ satisfies $\pi_i \circ \pi = \pi'_i$ for all $1 \leq i \leq r$. Then $\pi(\ell') = \pi_1(\pi(\ell')) \oplus \cdots \oplus \pi_r(\pi(\ell')) = \pi'_1(\ell') \oplus \cdots \oplus \pi'_r(\ell')$; the first equation follows by (1). Thus π is unique. A small argument shows that π is linear. Since each π'_i is a Lie algebra map

$$\begin{aligned} \pi([\ell' \ell'']) &= \pi'_1([\ell' \ell'']) \oplus \cdots \oplus \pi'_r([\ell' \ell'']) \\ &= [\pi'_1(\ell') \pi'_1(\ell'')] \oplus \cdots \oplus [\pi'_r(\ell') \pi'_r(\ell'')] \\ &= [\pi(\ell') \pi(\ell'')] \end{aligned}$$

for all $\ell', \ell'' \in L'$.

2. **(25 points)** (a) **(10)** Since $[x y] = y$ and κ is associative

$$\kappa(x, y) = \kappa(x, [x y]) = \kappa([x x], y) = \kappa(0, y) = 0$$

and

$$\kappa(y, y) = \kappa([x y], y) = \kappa(x, [y y]) = \kappa(x, 0) = 0.$$

Now

$$(\text{ad } x \circ \text{ad } x)(x) = [x [x x]] = [x 0] = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad (\text{ad } x \circ \text{ad } x)(y) = [x [x y]] = [x y] = y.$$

Therefore $\kappa(x, x) = \text{Tr}(\text{ad } x \circ \text{ad } x) = \text{Tr} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = 1.$

Since κ is symmetric,

$$\begin{pmatrix} \kappa(x, x) & \kappa(x, y) \\ \kappa(y, x) & \kappa(y, y) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

In any event $\text{Rad } \kappa \subseteq \text{Rad } L$. Let $\ell = ax + by \in L$. Then $\ell \in \text{Rad } \kappa$ if and only if $\kappa(x, \ell) = 0 = \kappa(y, \ell)$ if and only if $\ell = by$. Thus $Fy = \text{Rad } \kappa \subseteq \text{Rad } L$ is a solvable ideal. (This is trivial since Fy is abelian.) Since L/Fy is one-dimensional, it is abelian and thus solvable. Therefore L is solvable which means $\text{Rad } L = L$.

Part (b). **(15)** There are basically two calculations. Suppose $\{u, v, w\} = \{x, y, z\}$; that is u, v, w are x, y, z in some order. Then $[u v] = \alpha_w w$, $[v w] = \alpha_u u$, and $[w u] = \alpha_v v$ for some $\alpha_u, \alpha_v, \alpha_w \in F$. The calculations

$$(\text{ad } u \circ \text{ad } v)(u) = [u [v u]] = [u (-\alpha_w)w] = (-\alpha_w)(-\alpha_v)v = \alpha_v \alpha_w v;$$

$$(\text{ad } u \circ \text{ad } v)(v) = [u [v v]] = [u 0] = 0;$$

and

$$(\text{ad } u \circ \text{ad } v)(w) = [u [v w]] = [u \alpha_u u] = 0$$

show that $\kappa(u, v) = \text{Tr} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \alpha_v \alpha_w & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = 0$. The calculations

$$(\text{ad } u \circ \text{ad } u)(u) = [u [u u]] = [u 0] = 0;$$

$$(\text{ad } u \circ \text{ad } u)(v) = [u [u v]] = [u \alpha_w w] = -\alpha_w \alpha_v v;$$

and

$$(\text{ad } u \circ \text{ad } u)(w) = [u [u w]] = [u (-\alpha_v)v] = -\alpha_v \alpha_w w.$$

show that $\kappa(u, u) = \text{Tr} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\alpha_v \alpha_w & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\alpha_v \alpha_w \end{pmatrix} = -2\alpha_v \alpha_w = -2\widehat{\alpha}_u \alpha_v \alpha_w$. Thus

$$\begin{pmatrix} \kappa(x, x) & \kappa(x, y) & \kappa(x, z) \\ \kappa(y, x) & \kappa(y, y) & \kappa(y, z) \\ \kappa(z, x) & \kappa(z, y) & \kappa(z, z) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -2bc & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2ac & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2ab \end{pmatrix}.$$

There are three natural case to consider.

Case 1: None of a, b, c is zero. Then κ is non-singular. Therefore L is semisimple and hence $\text{Rad } L = (0)$.

Case 2: Two or three of a, b, c are zero. Then $\kappa = 0$ which means that $\text{Rad } \kappa = L$. Since $\text{Rad } \kappa \subseteq \text{Rad } L$ in any event, $\text{Rad } L = L$.

Case 3: Exactly one of a, b, c is zero. Then κ has exactly one non-zero entry (which is diagonal). It is easy to see that $\text{Dim Rad } \kappa = 2$ in this case. Lie algebras of dimension two or one are solvable. Therefore $\text{Rad } \kappa$ is a solvable ideal of L and $L/\text{Rad } \kappa$ is solvable, whence L is solvable and thus $\text{Rad } L = L$ again.

3. (25 points) $V = \mathfrak{gl}(n, F) = \bigoplus_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} F e_{ij}$ as a vector space. We discover the simple $\mathfrak{sl}(2, F)$ -submodules of submodules V by seeing what submodule each e_{ij} generates, using the rule $e_{ij} e_{k\ell} = \delta_{j,k} e_{i\ell}$ for all $1 \leq i, j, k, \ell \leq n$. In the problem $n \geq 2$. Note that $e_{ij} e_{k\ell} = 0$, and thus $[e_{ij} e_{k\ell}] = 0$, if $\{i, j\} \cap \{k, \ell\} = \emptyset$.

Part (a) Such a decomposition is

$$V = \mathfrak{sl}(2, F) \oplus F(e_{11} + e_{22}) \oplus_{j=3}^n (F e_{1j} \oplus F e_{2j}) \oplus_{j=3}^n (F e_{j2} \oplus F e_{j1}) \oplus_{3 \leq i, j \leq n} F e_{ij}.$$

Part (b) We tabulate the results. Note that in each case the dimension of the weight spaces is one, and the weights 0 and 1 can not both appear. Therefore the module is simple by 7.2 Corollary of the text.

Module	$\mathfrak{sl}(2, F)$		
Weight spaces	$F e_{21}$	$F(e_{11} - e_{22})$	$F e_{12}$
Weights	-2	0	2
Maximal vector			e_{12}

Module	$F(e_{11} + e_{22})$
Weight spaces	$F(e_{11} + e_{22})$
Weights	0
Maximal vector	$e_{11} + e_{22}$

Module	$Fe_{2j} \oplus Fe_{1j}$, where $j > 2$.	
Weight spaces	Fe_{2j}	Fe_{1j}
Weights	-1	1
Maximal vector		e_{1j}

Module	$Fe_{j1} \oplus Fe_{j2}$, where $j > 2$.	
Weight spaces	Fe_{j1}	Fe_{j2}
Weights	-1	1
Maximal vector		e_{j2}

Module	Fe_{ij} , where $i, j > 2$.	
Weight spaces	Fe_{ij}	
Weights	0	
Maximal vector	e_{ij}	

(5) for each type.

4. (25 points) You may assume that partial differentiation is a derivation.

(a) (7) This follows from: Suppose that $D : A \rightarrow A$ is a derivation of a commutative associative algebras A over F . For $a \in A$ the endomorphism $D' = \ell_a \circ D$ is a derivation of A .

To prove this we calculate

$$D'(xy) = aD(xy) = a(D(x)y + xD(y)) = (aD(x))y + x(aD(y)) = D'(x)y + xD'(y)$$

for all $x, y \in A$. Since D' is the composite of linear maps it is linear.

(b) (8) Recall

$$\mathbf{x} = \ell_x \circ \frac{\partial}{\partial y}, \quad \mathbf{y} = \ell_y \circ \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{z} = [\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}].$$

We will use:

Lemma 1 *Let $D, D' : A \rightarrow A$ be derivations of an algebra over F and suppose $S \subseteq A$ is a subset which generates A as an algebra. Then $D = D'$ if $D(s) = D'(s)$ for all $s \in S$.*

PROOF: We need only show that $B = \{a \in A \mid D(a) = D'(a)\}$ is a subalgebra of A . Since $B = \text{Ker}(D - D')$, and $D - D'$ is linear, B is a subspace of A . Suppose $a, a' \in B$. Then $D(aa') = D(a)a' + aD(a') = D'(a)a' + aD'(a') = D'(aa')$ which means $aa' \in B$. \square

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}(x) = 0 & \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{x}(y) = x, \\ \mathbf{y}(x) = y & \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{y}(y) = 0; \end{aligned}$$

therefore

$$\mathbf{z}(x) = \mathbf{x}(\mathbf{y}(x)) - \mathbf{y}(\mathbf{x}(x)) = x \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{z}(y) = \mathbf{x}(\mathbf{y}(y)) - \mathbf{y}(\mathbf{x}(y)) = -y.$$

In particular $V_1 = Fx \oplus Fy$ is invariant under \mathbf{x} , \mathbf{y} , and \mathbf{z} .

Let $\text{End}_{V_1}(A)$ be the subspace of endomorphisms T of A such that $T(V_1) \subseteq V_1$. Then $\text{End}_{V_1}(A)$ is a subalgebra of $\text{End}(A)$ and the composite π of the restriction map followed by the identification of endomorphisms with matrices with respect to the basis $\mathcal{B} = \{x, y\}$

$$\text{End}_{V_1}(A) \longrightarrow \text{End}(V_1) \simeq M(2, F) \quad T \mapsto [T|_{V_1}]_{\mathcal{B}}$$

is a map of associative algebras, hence a map of Lie algebras under associative bracket. Note that

$$\pi(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \pi(\mathbf{y}) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \pi(\mathbf{z}) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

It is easy to see that $\text{Der}_{V_1}(A)$ is a Lie subalgebra of $\text{End}_{V_1}(A)$. The restriction

$$\pi' : \text{Der}_{V_1}(A) \longrightarrow M(2, F)$$

of π is injective by the preceding lemma. As $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z} \in \text{Der}_{V_1}(A)$ part (b) follows.

Part (c). **(10)** The calculations

$$\mathbf{x}(x^\ell y^{n-\ell}) = (n-\ell)x^{\ell+1}y^{n-\ell-1} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{y}(x^\ell y^{n-\ell}) = \ell x^{\ell-1}y^{n-\ell+1}$$

show that $\mathbf{x}(V_n), \mathbf{y}(V_n) \subseteq V_n$; hence $\mathbf{z}(V_n) = (\mathbf{x} \circ \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{y} \circ \mathbf{x})(V_n) \subseteq \mathbf{x}(\mathbf{y}(V_n)) + \mathbf{y}(\mathbf{x}(V_n)) \subseteq V_n$ for all $n \geq 0$. Therefore V_n is a left $sl(2, F)$ -module. Now

$$\mathbf{z}(x^\ell y^{n-\ell}) = \mathbf{x}(\mathbf{y}(x^\ell y^{n-\ell})) - \mathbf{y}(\mathbf{x}(x^\ell y^{n-\ell})) = (\ell(n-\ell+1) - (n-\ell)(\ell+1))x^\ell y^{n-\ell} = (2\ell-n)x^\ell y^{n-\ell}.$$

Thus $V_n = \bigoplus_{\ell=0}^n Fx^\ell y^{n-\ell}$ and the direct sum of weight spaces and $Fx^\ell y^{n-\ell}$ has weight $2\ell - n$. Note that not both 0 and 1 occur as weights since two weights differ by an even integer. Thus V_n is simple by 7.2 Corollary of the text. Note that x^n is a maximal vector.

Addendum to Problem 3(b): Let F be any field of characteristic not 2. L is the Lie algebra over F with basis $\{x, y, z\}$ and whose structure is determined by

$$[x y] = cz, \quad [y z] = ax, \quad [z x] = by, \quad (2)$$

where $a, b, c \in F$.

First of all assume $a, b, c \neq 0$. Suppose $a', b', c' \in F$ are non-zero as well. We wish to replace x, y, z by non-zero scalar multiples $x' = \alpha_x x, y' = \alpha_y y, z' = \alpha_z z$ such that

$$[x' y'] = c' z', \quad [y' z'] = a' x', \quad [z' x'] = b' y'.$$

This is equivalent to solving

$$\alpha_x \alpha_y c = \alpha_z c', \quad \alpha_y \alpha_z a = \alpha_x a', \quad \alpha_z \alpha_x b = \alpha_y b'$$

which is done by setting $\alpha_z = \alpha_x \alpha_y \left(\frac{c}{c'}\right)$ and solving

$$\alpha_y^2 = \frac{a' c'}{ac} \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha_x^2 = \frac{b' c'}{bc}. \quad (3)$$

If F is algebraically closed there are always (non-zero) solutions α_y, α_x to these equations. In this case L falls into:

Case 1: $[x y] = z, \quad [y z] = x, \quad [z x] = -y$.

Since $\{x - y, x + y, 2z\}$ is a basis for L ,

$$[x - y \ x + y] = 2[x y] = 2z,$$

$$[2z \ x - y] = 2([z x] - [z y]) = 2(-y + x) = 2(x - y) \quad \text{and}$$

$$[2z \ x + y] = 2([z x] + [z y]) = 2(-y - x) = -2(x + y),$$

it follows that $\boxed{L = \mathfrak{sl}(2, F)}$ with $\mathbf{x} = x - y, \mathbf{y} = x + y$, and $\mathbf{h} = 2z$.

From this point on $F = \mathbf{R}$ is the field of real numbers. Returning to (3) we see that there are solutions $\alpha_y, \alpha_x \in \mathbf{R}$ if a and a' have the same sign, b and b' have the same sign, and c and c' have the same sign. By replacing the basis $\{x, y, z\}$ with $\{x', y', z'\}$ we may assume $a, b, c \in \{-1, 1\}$. Replacing $\{x, y, z\}$ with the basis $\{-x, -y, -z\}$ if necessary we may assume that all of a, b, c are positive or exactly one of these is negative. By reordering $\{x, y, z\}$ if necessary the latter is Case 1. The former is:

Case 2: $[x y] = z, \quad [y z] = x, \quad [z x] = y$.

Let $h = h_x x + h_y y + h_z z \in L$, where $h_x, h_y, h_z \in \mathbf{R}$. We compute $\text{ad } h$.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ad } h(x) &= h_x [x x] + h_y [y x] + h_z [z x] = -h_y z + h_z y \\ \text{ad } h(y) &= h_x [x y] + h_y [y y] + h_z [z y] = h_x z - h_z x \\ \text{ad } h(z) &= h_x [x z] + h_y [y z] + h_z [z z] = -h_x y + h_y x. \end{aligned}$$

The characteristic polynomial of $\text{ad } h$ is therefore

$$\begin{aligned} f(X) &= \begin{vmatrix} X-0 & h_z & -h_y \\ -h_z & X-0 & h_x \\ h_y & -h_x & X-0 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= X(X^2 + h_x^2) - h_z(-h_z X - h_x h_y) - h_y(h_x h_z - h_y X) \\ &= X(X^2 + (h_x^2 + h_y^2 + h_z^2)). \end{aligned}$$

Suppose that $h \neq 0$. Then $\text{ad } h \neq 0$ which means that the minimal polynomial $m(X)$ of $\text{ad } h$ in $\text{not } X$. Since $m(X)$ divides $f(X)$ and the quadratic factor of $f(X)$ is irreducible, $m(X) = f(X)$ which does not split onto linear factors over \mathbf{R} . $\text{ad } h$ is not diagonalizable and $\text{ad } h$ is not nilpotent. In particular $L \not\cong \mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbf{R})$. Justification: if $\phi : L' \rightarrow L''$ is an isomorphism of Lie algebras and $h \in L'$, then $\text{ad } h$ is diagonalizable (respectively nilpotent) if and only if $\text{ad } \phi(h)$ is diagonalizable (respectively nilpotent).

However, L is simple. To see this, we need only show that $L = \mathbf{R}h + [h L] = \mathbf{R}h + T(L)$. For this it suffices to show that $\{h, \text{ad } h(y), \text{ad } h(z)\}$, or $\{h, \text{ad } h(x), \text{ad } h(z)\}$, or $\{h, \text{ad } h(x), \text{ad } h(y)\}$ is linearly independent. The calculations

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{vmatrix} h_x & -h_z & h_y \\ h_y & 0 & -h_x \\ h_z & h_x & 0 \end{vmatrix} &= h_x(h_x^2 + h_y^2 + h_z^2), \\ \begin{vmatrix} h_x & 0 & h_y \\ h_y & h_z & -h_x \\ h_z & -h_y & 0 \end{vmatrix} &= -h_y(h_x^2 + h_y^2 + h_z^2), \\ \begin{vmatrix} h_x & 0 & -h_z \\ h_y & h_z & 0 \\ h_z & -h_y & h_x \end{vmatrix} &= h_z(h_x^2 + h_y^2 + h_z^2) \end{aligned}$$

bear this out.

Now suppose that one of a, b, c is zero. Using the techniques above one can see that there are four cases to consider.

Case 3: $[x y] = 0, [y z] = 0, [z x] = 0$.

Here L is abelian.

Case 4: $[x y] = 0, [y z] = 0, [z x] = y$.

Note $[L L] = \mathbf{R}y$ and $[L y] = (0)$. Therefore L is nilpotent and $(\text{ad } h)^2 = 0$ for all $h \in L$.

Case 5: $[x y] = 0, [y z] = x, [z x] = -y$.

Note $[L L] = \mathbf{R}x + \mathbf{R}y$ is abelian and $[L \mathbf{R}x + \mathbf{R}y] = \mathbf{R}x + \mathbf{R}y$. Thus L is solvable but not nilpotent. Also note that $\text{ad } 2z$ is diagonalizable with eigenvalues $-2, 0, 2$; see Case 1.

Case 6: $[x y] = 0, [y z] = x, [z x] = y$.

Note $[L L] = \mathbf{R}x + \mathbf{R}y$ is abelian and $[L \mathbf{R}x + \mathbf{R}y] = \mathbf{R}x + \mathbf{R}y$. Thus L is solvable but not nilpotent.

We proceed as in Case 2. Let $h = h_x x + h_y y + h_z z$ where $h_x, h_y, h_z \in \mathbf{R}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{ad} h(x) &= h_x[x x] + h_y[y x] + h_z[z x] = h_z y \\ \operatorname{ad} h(y) &= h_x[x y] + h_y[y y] + h_z[z y] = -h_z x \\ \operatorname{ad} h(z) &= h_x[x z] + h_y[y z] + h_z[z z] = -h_x y + h_y x. \end{aligned}$$

The characteristic polynomial of $\operatorname{ad} h$ is therefore

$$\begin{aligned} f(X) &= \begin{vmatrix} X - 0 & h_z & -h_y \\ -h_z & X - 0 & h_x \\ 0 & 0 & X - 0 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= X(X^2 + h_z^2). \end{aligned}$$

Since $X^2 + h_z^2$ is irreducible when $h_z \neq 0$, it follows that $\operatorname{ad} h$ is not diagonalizable unless $h = 0$. In particular the Lie algebras of Cases 5 and 6 are not isomorphic.

There are six isomorphism types of Lie algebras such that (2) is satisfied when $F = \mathbf{R}$, two of which are simple. The reader is encouraged to analyze the Lie algebras satisfying (2) when F is an algebraically closed field of characteristic zero, of characteristic 2, or of characteristic $p > 2$.