

Exercise sheet 4

Exercise 15. *The radical of \mathfrak{g} .* Give a proof of the following proposition (without using Theorem 1.2.19 for part (3)):

Proposition 1.2.16. Let \mathfrak{g} denote a finite dimensional Lie algebra.

- (1) $\mathfrak{g}/\text{rad } \mathfrak{g}$ is semisimple.
- (2) If \mathfrak{g} is semisimple, then the center of \mathfrak{g} is trivial. Moreover, $\mathfrak{g} = [\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}]$.
- (3) If \mathfrak{g} is simple, then \mathfrak{g} is semisimple.

Exercise 16. *The adjoint representation.* Recall the following theorem.

Ado's Theorem. Let \mathbb{k} be a field of characteristic 0. Then any finite-dimensional Lie algebra over \mathbb{k} is isomorphic to a Lie subalgebra of $\text{Mat}_{n \times n}(\mathbb{k})$ (for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$) whose Lie bracket is given by the commutator of matrices.

Use Proposition 1.2.16 (2) of Exercise 15 to give a proof of this theorem for semi-simple Lie algebras.

Exercise 17. *Cartan subalgebras.* Give a proof of the following statement:

A nilpotent Lie subalgebra \mathfrak{h} of a finite-dimensional Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} over \mathbb{C} is a Cartan subalgebra if and only if \mathfrak{h} is “self-normalizing”, i.e. if and only if $\mathfrak{h} = N_{\mathfrak{g}}(\mathfrak{h})$, where

$$N_{\mathfrak{g}}(\mathfrak{h}) := \{X \in \mathfrak{g} \mid \text{ad}_H(X) \in \mathfrak{h} \text{ for all } H \in \mathfrak{h}\}$$

is the *normalizer* of \mathfrak{h} in \mathfrak{g} .

Hint. It is always true that $\mathfrak{h} \subset N_{\mathfrak{g}}(\mathfrak{h}) \subset \mathfrak{g}_0$, where $\mathfrak{g}_0 = \bigcap_{H \in \mathfrak{h}} \ker((\text{ad}_H)^{\dim \mathfrak{g}})$. If $\mathfrak{g}_0 \neq \mathfrak{h}$, apply Lie's Theorem 1.2.7 to $\{\text{ad}_H \mid H \in \mathfrak{h}\}$ acting on the \mathbb{C} -vector space $\mathfrak{g}_0/\mathfrak{h}$.

Exercise 18. *The root space decomposition for \mathfrak{sl}_{n+1} .* Let $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}_{n+1}(\mathbb{C})$ and let

$$\mathfrak{h} = \{\text{diag}(\lambda_0, \dots, \lambda_n) \mid \lambda_j \in \mathbb{C}, \lambda_0 = -\sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j\}.$$

Moreover, let (e_0, \dots, e_n) denote the standard basis of \mathbb{C}^{n+1} and set $E_{ij} = e_i \otimes e_j^*$ for all $i, j \in \{0, \dots, n\}$. Show the following:

- (a) \mathfrak{h} is a Cartan subalgebra.
- (b) $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{h} \oplus \bigoplus_{i \neq j} \mathbb{C}E_{ij}$ is the root space decomposition. Moreover, determine the $\alpha_{ij} \in \mathfrak{h}^*$ for which $\mathbb{C}E_{ij} = \mathfrak{g}_{\alpha_{ij}}$ holds.
- (c) $[\mathfrak{g}_\alpha, \mathfrak{g}_\beta] = \mathfrak{g}_{\alpha+\beta}$ for all $\alpha, \beta \in \mathfrak{h}^*$ with $\mathfrak{g}_\alpha \neq \{0\}$, $\mathfrak{g}_\beta \neq \{0\}$ and $\alpha + \beta \neq 0$, while $[\mathfrak{g}_\alpha, \mathfrak{g}_{-\alpha}] \subset \mathfrak{h}$.
- (d) $X \in \mathfrak{g}$ is regular if and only if $X \in \text{Mat}_{(n+1) \times (n+1)}(\mathbb{C})$ with $\text{tr } X = 0$ has $n + 1$ distinct eigenvalues.

Hint. Work with the Jordan basis for X and use the Jordan decomposition of X and ad_X .