

Weyl algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$

(1)  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}_n(\mathbb{C}) = \bigoplus \mathfrak{g}_\alpha \oplus \mathfrak{h}$  ( $\alpha = L_i - L_j \Rightarrow \mathfrak{g}_\alpha = \text{lin } E_{ij}$ )  
 $\mathfrak{h} =$  diagonal matrices  $\stackrel{\text{tr}=0}{=} \text{Cartan algebra}$   
 $\Lambda \subset \mathfrak{h}^*$  lattice of weights

$\Lambda$  generated by  $L_i$   $L_i(\text{diag}(a_1, \dots, a_n)) = a_i$   
 $\Lambda_R$  lattice generated by roots  $L_i - L_j$

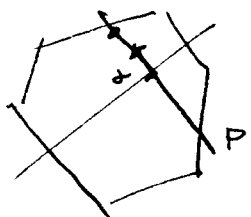
Exercise  $\Lambda / \Lambda_R \cong \mathbb{Z}/n \cong \text{center}(SL_n(\mathbb{C}))$

Proposition 1 Let  $V$  be an irreducible representation. Then any two weights occurring in  $V$  differ by a vector from  $\Lambda_R$

Proof  $\alpha - \alpha'$  root  $X \in \mathfrak{g}_\alpha$   
 $\omega - \omega'$  weight  $v \in V_\omega$   
 then  $Xv \in V_{\omega+\alpha}$

Therefore  $X \in \mathfrak{g}$  does not mix the types of weights:  $V = \bigoplus_{[\omega] \in \Lambda / \Lambda_R} V_{[\omega]}$  or representations. For irreducible representation only one type occurs.  $\square$

Proposition 2 The set of weights is symmetric with respect to  $H_\alpha = \alpha^\perp$  for any  $\alpha$  - root.



For every root  $\alpha$  the algebra generated by  $\mathfrak{g}_\alpha$  and  $\mathfrak{g}_{-\alpha}$  is isomorphic to  $\mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{C})$  (this is a general statement, (from simple alg) but for  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}_n(\mathbb{C})$ ,  $\alpha = L_i - L_j$   $\langle \mathfrak{g}_\alpha, \mathfrak{g}_{-\alpha} \rangle = \text{Endomorphisms of lin}\{e_i, e_j\}$ )  
 Let us fix a line  $P \perp H_\alpha$

② The subspace  $\bigoplus_{\alpha \in \mathcal{P}} V_{\alpha}$  is a representation of  $\mathfrak{sl}_2 \mathbb{C} = \langle \mathfrak{g}_{\alpha}, \mathfrak{g}_{-\alpha} \rangle$ . Therefore the weights of  $\mathfrak{sl}_2 \mathbb{C}$  are symmetric with respect to  $0 =$  intersection point  $P \cap H_{\alpha}$ .  $\square$

Prop 3 There exists an eigenvector  $v \in V_{\alpha}$  s.t.  $Xv = 0$  for  $X \in \mathfrak{g}_{\alpha}$ ,  $\alpha$  positive.  
 (The standard choice of positive roots)  
 $\alpha = L_i - L_j \quad i < j$

Proof Take  $w =$  the vertex which is the most distant from the hyperplane  $H$  dividing positive roots and negative roots. E.g.  $H = \delta^{\perp}$  where  $\delta = \frac{1}{2}$  sum of positive roots. here  $\delta = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n (n+1-2i)L_i$ . Take  $w$  such that  $\ell(w) = \langle w, \delta \rangle$  maximal.

If  $v \in V_{\alpha}$   $X \in \mathfrak{g}_{\alpha}$   $\alpha = L_i - L_j \quad i < j$   
 then  $Xv \in V_{\alpha+\alpha}$   $\ell(w+\alpha) = \ell(w) + j - i > \ell(w)$ .  
 therefore  $Xv = 0$ .  $\square$

Prop 4  $V$  is generated by  $v$  and the elements of  $\mathfrak{g}_{\alpha}$  for  $\alpha$  negative.

Proof We have to show that for  $w = X_1 X_2 \dots X_n v$  with  $X_i \in \mathfrak{g}_{\alpha_i}$   $\alpha_i < 0$  and  $X \in \mathfrak{g}_{\beta}$   $\beta > 0$

the vector  $X X_1 \dots X_n v$  can be expressed by  $X_i' \dots X_i'' v$   $X_i' \in \mathfrak{g}_{\alpha_i}$   $\alpha_i' < 0$ .

The proof is by induction:  $w \in (\mathfrak{g}_{-})^n v \Rightarrow Xw \in (\mathfrak{g}_{-})^{n-1} v$

if  $n=0$  then  $Xw = Xv = 0$

step  $X Y w = ?$   $w \in (\mathfrak{g}_{-})^n v$

We have to consider two cases:  
 to show that  $X Y w \in (\mathfrak{g}_{-})^n v$

3)

1)  $X = E_{ij} \quad Y = E_{kl} \quad \text{if } j \neq k \text{ and } i \neq l$   
 $XYw = 0.$

2)  $XYw = E_{ij} E_{ji} w = (E_{ii} - E_{jj}) w = \text{scalar} \cdot w \in (\mathfrak{g}_-)^n v$

3)  $XYw = E_{ij}^+ E_{jk}^- w = \quad i < j \quad k < j$   
 $= ([E_{ij}, E_{jk}] + E_{jk} E_{ij}) w$   
 $= E_{ik}^+ w + E_{jk}^- \underbrace{E_{ij}^+ w}_{(\mathfrak{g}_-)^{n-1} v \text{ by induction}} \in (\mathfrak{g}_-)^n v$

4)  $XYw = E_{ij}^+ E_{ki}^- w = \quad i < j \quad i < k$   
 $= ([E_{ij}, E_{ki}] + E_{ki} E_{ij}) w$   
 $= -E_{kj}^+ w + E_{ki}^- \underbrace{E_{ij}^+ w}_{(\mathfrak{g}_-)^{n-1} v \text{ by induction}} \in (\mathfrak{g}_-)^n v$

$\cup (\mathfrak{g}_-)^n v$  is a subrepresentation of  $V$ , so it is equal to  $V$ . ▣

Corollary There is only one weight satisfying the statement of Prop 3,  $w \in W$ . It is called highest weight (or dominant weight).

Corresponding weight space is of dimension 1 (since if  $v_1, v_2$  two vectors of the highest weight  $v_1 \sim v_2$  then  $v_2 \notin (\mathfrak{g}_-)^n v_1$ ).

Prop 5 Suppose  $V_1, V_2$  two irreducible representations with the same highest weight.

Then  $V_1 \cong V_2$

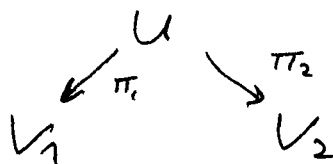
4) Proof Let  $v_i \in V_i$  highest weight vector

$v = (v_1, v_2) \in V_1 \oplus V_2$  a vector of the highest possible weight.

Let  $U = (\mathfrak{g}^-)^n v \subset V_1 \oplus V_2$ .

$U$  is irreducible.

There are maps



which are non-trivial.

Therefore  $V_1 \cong U \cong V_2$   $\square$

Construction of irreducible representations

---

Given a weight  $w \in \Lambda \cap W$   
( $W$  Weyl chamber associated to the ordering of roots)

$$w = \sum a_i L_i \quad a_1 \geq a_2 \geq a_3 \dots \geq a_{n-1} \geq 0$$

$$w = b_1 L_1 + b_2 (L_1 + L_2) + b_3 (L_1 + L_2 + L_3) + \dots + b_{n-1} L_{n-1}$$

1. Find a representation with the highest weight  $(L_1 + \dots + L_i)$   $\Lambda^i \mathbb{C}^n$

2. Take  $\text{Sym}^{b_i} (\Lambda^i \mathbb{C}^n)$  (or  $(\Lambda^i \mathbb{C}^n)^{\otimes b_i}$ )

There is a subrepresentation of the highest weight  $b_i (L_1 + \dots + L_i)$

3.  $\bigotimes_{i=1}^{n-1} \text{Sym}^{b_i} (\Lambda^i \mathbb{C}^n)$  - here again it's

a subrepresentation of the highest weight  $w$ .

5) Exterior power  $(\wedge^i V = V, \wedge^0 V = \mathbb{C})$   
 $\wedge^i V$

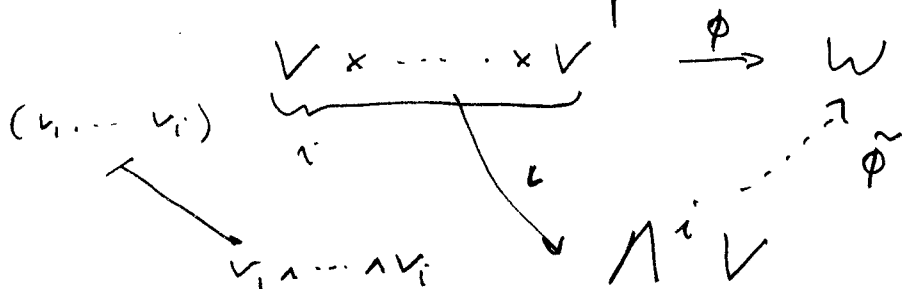
generated by the symbols  
 $v_1 \wedge v_2 \wedge \dots \wedge v_i$   $v_i \in V$  (formally  $V^{\otimes i} / \sim$ )

relations:  $v_1 \wedge v_2 \wedge \dots \wedge v_i = \text{sgn } \sigma v_{\sigma(1)} \wedge v_{\sigma(2)} \wedge \dots \wedge v_{\sigma(i)}$   
 for  $\sigma$  - a permutation

linearity  $(av_1 + bv_1') \wedge v_2 \wedge \dots \wedge v_i = a(v_1 \wedge v_2 \wedge \dots \wedge v_i) + b(v_1' \wedge v_2 \wedge \dots \wedge v_i)$   
 Basis  $e_I = e_{j_1} \wedge \dots \wedge e_{j_i}$  for  $I = (j_1 < j_2 < \dots < j_i)$ ,  $\{e_j\}$  basis of  $V$ .

Universal property For any anti-symmetric

$i$ -linear map  $\phi$



there exists a linear map  $\tilde{\phi} : \wedge^i V \rightarrow W$   
 s.t.  $\phi = \tilde{\phi} \circ \wedge^i$ . The map  $\tilde{\phi}$  is unique.

This construction is universal (functor)

Any map  $V \rightarrow V'$  induces a map  
 $\wedge^i V \rightarrow \wedge^i V'$ .

We get a representation  $\wedge^i \mathbb{C}^n$  of  
 $\mathfrak{sl}_n(\mathbb{C})$ .

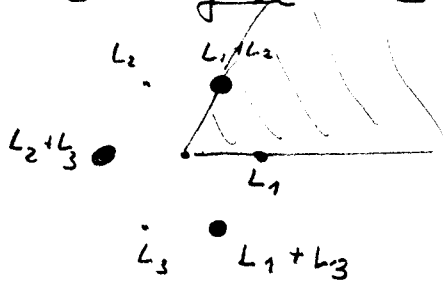
$$g(v_1 \wedge \dots \wedge v_i) = g(v_1) \wedge \dots \wedge g(v_i)$$

The action of the Lie algebra —  
 have to apply the Leibniz rule:

$$X(v_1 \wedge \dots \wedge v_i) = \sum_{k=1}^i v_1 \wedge \dots \wedge X v_k \wedge \dots \wedge v_i$$

6) The vectors  $e_I = e_{j_1} \cdots e_{j_i}$  are eigen-vectors of the weight  $L_{j_1} + \cdots + L_{j_i}$ . Only if  $I = \{1, 2, \dots, i\}$  such weight belongs to  $\mathcal{W}$ .

Picture for  $sl_3$   $i=2$



Note  $\Lambda^n \mathbb{C}^n$  has dimension 1

$e_1 \cdots e_n$  has weight  $L_1 + \cdots + L_n = 0$

It is a trivial representation of  $Sl_n(\mathbb{C})$

(but nontrivial  $GL_n(\mathbb{C})$  representation, which acts by the multiplication by  $\det(A)$ )

Exercise  $\Lambda^{n-1} \mathbb{C}^n \simeq (\mathbb{C}^n)^*$  as  $Sl_n(\mathbb{C})$  representation.

$\Lambda^i \mathbb{C}^n$  is an irreducible representation of  $Sl_n(\mathbb{C})$ , it is generated by  $e_1 \cdots e_i$ .  
The highest weight =  $L_1 + L_2 + \cdots + L_i$ .

Claim If  $v$  is a highest weight vector in  $V$

then  $v^b = \underbrace{v \cdots v}_b \in \text{Sym}^b V$  is a highest

weight vector in  $\text{Sym}^b V$  (but  $\text{Sym}^b V$  does not have to be irreducible)

weight of  $v^b = b$  (weight of  $v$ )

7) Claim If  $v \in V$   $w \in W$  are a highest weight vectors, then  $v \otimes w$  is a highest weight vector in  $V \otimes W$ .

We constructed an irreducible representation of the highest weight  $\omega = b_1 L_1 + b_2(L_1 + L_2) + b_3(L_1 + L_2 + L_3) + \dots + b_{n-1}(L_1 + \dots + L_{n-1})$

$$V(\omega) \subset \text{Sym}^{b_1} \Lambda^1 \mathbb{C}^n \otimes \text{Sym}^{b_2} \Lambda^2 \mathbb{C}^n \otimes \dots \otimes \text{Sym}^{b_{n-1}} \Lambda^{n-1} \mathbb{C}^n$$

$$V(\omega) = (\sigma_-)^{\infty} (e_1^{b_1} \otimes (e_1, e_2)^{b_2} \otimes \dots \otimes (e_1, e_2, \dots, e_{n-1})^{b_{n-1}})$$

We have to take the subrepresentation, since full tensor may be not irreducible

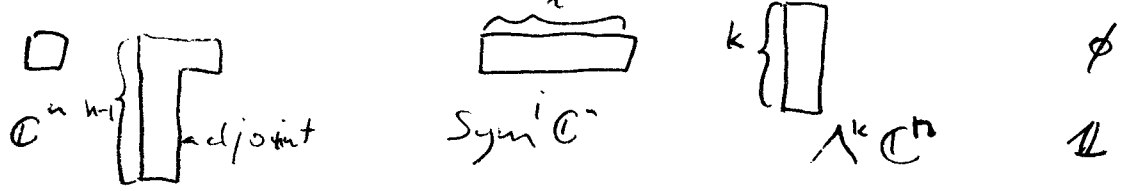
eg.  $\Lambda^1 \mathbb{C}^3 \otimes \Lambda^2 \mathbb{C}^3 = \mathbb{C}^3 \otimes (\mathbb{C}^3)^* = (\text{adjoint rep}) \oplus \text{trivial}$

$$\text{Sym}^2 \mathbb{C}^3 \otimes \Lambda^2 \mathbb{C}^3 = \text{Sym}^2 \mathbb{C}^3 \otimes (\mathbb{C}^3)^* = V_{(2,1)} \otimes V_{(1)} \uparrow \mathbb{C}^3$$

weight

- $L_1$   $\mathbb{C}^n$
- $2L_1 + L_2 + \dots + L_{n-1}$  adjoint  $\subset \mathbb{C}^n \otimes (\mathbb{C}^n)^* = \mathbb{C}^n \otimes \Lambda^{n-1} \mathbb{C}^n$
- $L_1 + L_2 + \dots + L_i$   $\Lambda^i \mathbb{C}^n$
- $k L_1$   $\text{Sym}^k \mathbb{C}^n$
- $0$   $\mathbb{C}$  with trivial action, denoted by  $\mathbb{1}$

We present representation graphically



8) Another method of constructing a representation with given weight  $w$ .

- Universal enveloping algebra  $U(\mathfrak{g})$

$$U(\mathfrak{g}) = \mathbb{C} \oplus \mathfrak{g} \oplus \mathfrak{g}^{\otimes 2} \oplus \mathfrak{g}^{\otimes 3} \dots / \sim$$

~ generated by

$$\textcircled{*} \quad \mathfrak{g}^{\otimes 2} \ni X \otimes Y - Y \otimes X \sim [X, Y] \in \mathfrak{g}$$

$1 \in \mathbb{C}$

Formally: we divide the tensor algebra

$$T(\mathfrak{g}) = \bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} \mathfrak{g}^{\otimes n}$$

by the 2-sided ideal  $I$  generated

by  $\textcircled{*}$ .

Theorem: As a vector space  $\bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} \text{Sym}^n(\mathfrak{g}) \xrightarrow{\sim} U(\mathfrak{g})$

Representations of  $\mathfrak{g} \iff U(\mathfrak{g})$ -modules.

Let  $w \in \mathfrak{h}^*$ . Consider 1-sided ideal of  $U(\mathfrak{g})$  generated by  $X \in \mathfrak{g}_\alpha, \alpha > 0$  and  $H - w(H), H \in \mathfrak{h}$

$$J(w) = \sum_{\alpha > 0} U(\mathfrak{g}) \mathfrak{g}_\alpha + \sum_{H \in \mathfrak{h}} U(\mathfrak{g}) \left( \underset{\mathfrak{g}}{\uparrow} (H - w(H)) \cdot \underset{\mathbb{C}}{\uparrow} 1 \right)$$

Def Verma module associated to weight  $w$

$$M(w) = U(\mathfrak{g}) / J(w)$$

Example  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}_2 \mathbb{C} = \text{lin} \begin{pmatrix} Y & & \\ & H & \\ & & X \end{pmatrix}, w(H) = a$

Any element of  $U(\mathfrak{g})$  is written uniquely as  $\sum_{k, l, n} a_{k, l, n} Y^k H^l X^n$

(In the quotient  $X^k H^l X^n = 0$  for  $n > 0, Y^k H^l = Y^k a^l$ )

The highest weight vector -  $1, H \cdot 1 = a \cdot 1$

But  $M_w$  is not finite dimensional!

Theorem There exists a maximal proper submodule  $K(w) \subset M(w)$  such that  $M(w) / K(w) \cong V(w)$



9) Proof if  $N \subset M(\omega)$ ,  $N$  is the sum of weight spaces for  $\lambda$ . If  $\lambda \in N$  then

$$N = M(\omega). \quad \text{So } K = \sum_{\substack{N \text{ proper} \\ \text{submodule} \\ \text{of } M(\omega)}} N \neq 1.$$

We have a map  $M(\omega) \rightarrow V(\omega)$ .

The kernel is a proper submodule.

It has to be maximal (otherwise  $V(\omega)$  would contain a proper submodule).  $\square$

In our example for  $a \in \mathbb{N}$ !

$$K = \langle Y^k \mathbb{1}, k > a \rangle$$

$$\text{Note } X Y^k \mathbb{1} = k(a - k + 1) Y^{k-1} \mathbb{1}$$

$$\text{so } X Y^{1+a} \mathbb{1} = 0$$

Remark  $M(\omega)$  can be obtained in the following way:

let  $b = \mathfrak{h} \oplus \bigoplus_{\alpha > 0} \mathfrak{g}_{\alpha}$  Lie algebra of the Borel group

$b \rightarrow \mathfrak{h}$  Lie algebra map

$\omega \rightsquigarrow U(\mathfrak{h})$  acts on  $\mathbb{C}$

$\rightsquigarrow U(\mathfrak{b})$  acts on  $\mathbb{C}$  via the map  $U(\mathfrak{b}) \rightarrow U(\mathfrak{h})$

$$\rightsquigarrow M(\omega) = U(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes_{U(\mathfrak{b})} \mathbb{C} \quad \bullet$$

Note  $M(\omega)/K$  <sup>also</sup> defined for nonintegral  $\omega$ , but then it is infinite dimensional.