

THE RADICAL OF THE RESTRICTED UNIVERSAL ENVELOPING ALGEBRA OF A_1

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ABSTRACT. Let \mathcal{L} be the classical Lie algebra of type A_1 with a basis $\{e, f, h\}$ and $[e, f] = h$, $[e, h] = 2e$, $[f, h] = -2f$ over an algebraically closed field of characteristic $p > 2$. Let \mathcal{R} be the radical of the u -algebra \mathcal{U} of \mathcal{L} . Our main result is the obtainment of $(p - 1)/2$ sets of generators of \mathcal{R} , and hence $(p - 1)/2$ criteria for complete reducibility of restricted representations of \mathcal{L} .

Introduction. For the classical Lie algebra \mathcal{L} with a basic $\{e, f, h\}$ and $[e, f] = h$, $[e, h] = 2e$, $[f, h] = -2f$ over an algebraically closed field \mathcal{K} of characteristic $p > 2$, Jacobson [2] showed that a sufficient condition that a representation ϕ of \mathcal{L} be completely reducible is that $\phi(e)^{p-1} = \phi(f)^{p-1} = 0$. Seligman [4] showed a necessary and sufficient condition for complete reducibility of any restricted representation ϕ of \mathcal{L} to be $\phi(e)^{p-1} + \phi(e)^{p-1}\phi(h) = 0$ and $\phi(f)^{p-1} + \phi(h)\phi(f)^{p-1} = 0$. Using the minimal right ideals in the u -algebra \mathcal{U} constructed by Nielsen [3] and by an approach entirely different from those given by Jacobson and Seligman, we obtained a number of generating sets for the radical \mathcal{R} of \mathcal{U} , and hence a number of criteria for complete reducibility of restricted representations of \mathcal{L} including the one obtained by Seligman. Our approach involves only computations within the u -algebra and is easily generalized to give some necessary conditions for complete reducibility of restricted representations of classical Lie algebras of rank $\ell \geq 1$ as was shown by Wong [6]. Throughout this paper unless otherwise stated \mathcal{L} , \mathcal{K} , \mathcal{U} and \mathcal{R} will denote the aforesaid Lie algebra, field, u -algebra and radical respectively.

1. The main theorem and its corollaries.

MAIN THEOREM. *Let \mathcal{L} be the classical Lie algebra of type A_1 with a basis $\{e, f, h\}$ and $[e, f] = h$, $[e, h] = 2e$, $[f, h] = -2f$ over an algebraically closed field \mathcal{K} of characteristic $p > 2$. Then the radical \mathcal{R} of the u -algebra \mathcal{U} of \mathcal{L} is generated by any one of the $(p - 1)/2$ sets of elements*

$$\left\{ e^{p-\nu} \cdot \prod_{j=1}^{2\nu-1} (h + j), \left[\prod_{j=1}^{2\nu-1} (h + j) \right] f^{p-\nu} \right\}, \quad \nu = 1, 2, \dots, (p - 1)/2.$$

COROLLARY 1. *Let ϕ be a restricted representation of \mathcal{L} . Then ϕ is completely reducible if and only if*

$$\phi(e)^{p-\nu} \cdot \prod_{j=1}^{2\nu-1} [\phi(h) + jI] = 0$$

and

$$\left[\prod_{j=1}^{2\nu-1} (\phi(h) + jI) \right] \phi(f)^{p-\nu} = 0,$$

for any one $\nu \in \{1, 2, \dots, (p-1)/2\}$ where I is the identity linear transformation.

The corollary follows since a restricted representation ϕ of \mathcal{L} is completely reducible if and only if ϕ vanishes on the radical \mathcal{R} of \mathcal{U} . In case $\nu = 1$, we have the following result.

COROLLARY 2. (SELIGMAN [4]). *Let ϕ be a restricted representation of \mathcal{L} . Then ϕ is completely reducible if and only if*

$$\phi(e)^{p-1}\phi(h) = -\phi(e)^{p-1} \text{ and } \phi(h)\phi(f)^{p-1} = -\phi(f)^{p-1}.$$

2. Proofs of main theorem and related lemmas. Our proof of the main theorem is quite a computational one. It could in fact be verified by a computer. First we shall establish a few lemmas which will facilitate the proof.

LEMMA 1. *Let $A(h)$ be a polynomial in h over \mathcal{K} and let n be any positive integer. Then*

- (1) $A(h)e^n = e^n A(h - 2n)$,
- (2) $f^n A(h) = A(h - 2n)f^n$,
- (3) $fe^n = e^n f - ne^{n-1}[h - (n-1)]$, and
- (4) $f^n e = ef^n - n[h - (n-1)]f^{n-1}$.

LEMMA 2. *Let n be a positive integer such that $0 \leq n \leq p-2$. Then*

- (5) $e^n(h-n) = (e^{n+1}f - fe^{n+1})/(n+1)$, and
- (6) $(h-n)f^n = (ef^{n+1} - f^{n+1}e)/(n+1)$.

Lemmas 1 and 2 are proved by induction on n .

LEMMA 3. *Let m and n be any two positive integers less than p . Then*

$$f^n e^m = \sum_{j=0}^{\text{Min}(m,n)} (-1)^j j! \binom{m}{j} \binom{n}{j} e^{m-j} \left\{ \prod_{i=1}^j (h - m - n + j + i) \right\} f^{n-j}.$$

PROOF. Using formula (4) we prove the lemma by induction on m . A complete proof is given by Wong in [5].

Next we shall need a theorem obtained by Nielsen to construct the irreducible \mathcal{U} -modules with which we can easily carry out the computations in our proofs.

THEOREM 4. (NIELSEN [3, p. 17]). *Let \mathcal{L} be a classical Lie algebra of rank ℓ with a basis $\{e_1, \dots, e_m, h_1, \dots, h_\ell, e_{-1}, \dots, e_{-m}\}$ over an algebraically closed field of characteristic $p > 7$ and let \mathcal{U} be the u -algebra of \mathcal{L} . Let $E^{p-1} = e_1^{p-1} \dots e_m^{p-1}$, $F^{p-1} = e_{-1}^{p-1} \dots e_{-m}^{p-1}$ and $H(c) = \prod_{i=1}^\ell H(h_i, c_i)$ for $c = (c_1, \dots, c_\ell) \in (\mathcal{L}_p)'$, where $H(h_i, 0) = 1 - h_i^{p-1}$ and $H(h_i, c_i) = \sum_{j=1}^{p-1} (h_i/c_i)^j$, if $c_i \neq 0$. Then the p' right ideals $E^{p-1}H(c)F^{p-1}\mathcal{U}$, in \mathcal{U} , form a complete set of representatives of all isomorphic classes of irreducible \mathcal{U} -modules.*

From Nielsen's theorem when setting $\ell = 1$ we have $H(0) = 1 - h^{p-1}$, $H(i) = \sum_{j=1}^{p-1} (h/i)^j$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, p - 1$, and that $\{e^{p-1}H(i)f^{p-1}\mathcal{U} \mid i = 0, 1, \dots, p - 1\}$ is a complete set of nonisomorphic irreducible \mathcal{U} -modules. This leads us to the following result.

PROPOSITION 5. *Let $m_{p-1} = e^{p-1}H(p - 1)f^{p-1}$, and $m_i = e^{p-1}H(p - 2 - i)f^{p-1}$ for $i = 0, 1, \dots, p - 2$. Then for each $i = 0, 1, \dots, p - 1$, $L(i) = m_i\mathcal{U}$ is an irreducible \mathcal{U} -module having a minimal vector m_i with weight $-i$ and a maximal vector $m_i e^i$ with weight i . $\{m_i, m_i e, \dots, m_i e^i\}$ and $\{m_i e^i, m_i e^i f, \dots, m_i e^i f^i\}$ are two bases of $L(i)$ and $m_i e^i f^i = \delta_i m_i$ for some $0 \neq \delta_i \in \mathcal{K}$.*

PROOF. Since $f^p = 0$, $m_i f = e^{p-1}H(p - 2 - i)f^p = 0$. Hence m_i is a minimal vector. By formula (2) we have $m_i h = -im_i$, hence $-i$ is the minimal weight of $L(i)$. By Lemma 3, $m_i e^{i+1} = 0$, and $m_i e^j \neq 0$ for $j = 0, 1, \dots, i$. Hence $m_i e^i$ is a maximal vector and $\{m_i, m_i e, \dots, m_i e^i\}$ forms a basis of $L(i)$. Again by Lemma 3 we have $m_i e^i f^{i+1} = 0$ and $m_i e^i f^j \neq 0$ for $j = 0, 1, \dots, i$. Hence $\{m_i e^i, m_i e^i f, \dots, m_i e^i f^i\}$ also forms a basis of $L(i)$. Since

$$m_i e^i f^i = (-1)^i i! (i-1)! \left\{ \prod_{j=1}^i [j - (i + 1)] \right\} m_i,$$

the last assertion of our proposition is proved.

LEMMA 6. *Let m and n be any two elements in \mathcal{Z}_p with $m \neq n$. Then*

$$-1 = (h + m)(h + n)g(h) + \prod_{j \in \mathcal{Z}_p^{-(m)}} (h + j) + \prod_{j \in \mathcal{Z}_p^{-(n)}} (h + j),$$

where $g(h)$ is some polynomial in h over \mathcal{K} .

PROOF. Let x be an indeterminate. Since \mathcal{K} is of characteristic $p > 2$, $x^p - x = \prod_{j \in \mathcal{Z}_p} (x + j)$. Computing derivatives of both sides we have

$$\begin{aligned} -1 &= \sum_{i \in \mathcal{Z}_p} \prod_{j \in \mathcal{Z}_p^{-(i)}} (x + j) = (x + m)(x + n)g(x) \\ &\quad + \prod_{j \in \mathcal{Z}_p^{-(m)}} (x + j) + \prod_{j \in \mathcal{Z}_p^{-(n)}} (x + j), \end{aligned}$$

where

$$g(x) = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}_p^-(m, n)} \prod_{j \in \mathcal{I}_p^-(i, m, n)} (x + j)$$

is a polynomial in x over \mathcal{K} . Replacing x by h we have the lemma.

LEMMA 7. *For each $\nu = 1, 2, \dots, 1/2(p-1)$, let \mathcal{N}_ν be the two-sided ideal in \mathcal{U} generated by the two elements $e^{\delta-\nu} \prod_{j=1}^{2\nu-1} (h+j)$ and $[\prod_{j=1}^{2\nu-1} (h+j)] f^{\delta-\nu}$, and let \mathcal{R} be the radical of \mathcal{U} . Then for $\nu = 2, 3, \dots, 1/2(p-1)$, $\mathcal{N}_{\nu-1}$ is contained in \mathcal{N}_ν , and $\mathcal{N}_{(1/2)(p-1)}$ is contained in \mathcal{R} .*

PROOF. By Lemma 6,

$$\begin{aligned} & e^{\delta-1}(h+1) \\ &= -e^{\delta-1}(h+1)[(h+2)(h+3)g(h) + \sum_{i=2}^3 \prod_{j \in \mathcal{I}_p^-(i)} (h+j)] \\ &\equiv -e^{\delta-2}e(h+1) \sum_{i=2}^3 \prod_{j \in \mathcal{I}_p^-(i)} (h+j) \pmod{\mathcal{N}_2}, \text{ by formula (1),} \\ &= -e^{\delta-2}(h+3) \left[\sum_{i=2}^3 \prod_{j \in \mathcal{I}_p^-(i+2)} (h+j) \right] e \\ &= -e^{\delta-2}(h+3)(h+2)(h+1) \left[\sum_{i=2}^3 \prod_{j \in \mathcal{I}_p^-(i+2, 1, 2)} (h+j) \right] e \\ &\equiv 0 \pmod{\mathcal{N}_2}. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, by Lemma 6 and formula (2), we prove $(h+1)f^{\delta-1} \equiv 0 \pmod{\mathcal{N}_2}$. Hence \mathcal{N}_1 is contained in \mathcal{N}_2 .

Assuming that $\mathcal{N}_{\nu-1}$ is contained in \mathcal{N}_ν for $\nu \in \{2, 3, \dots, (p-3)/2\}$, we shall infer that \mathcal{N}_ν is contained in $\mathcal{N}_{\nu+1}$. By Lemma 6,

$$\begin{aligned} & e^{\delta-\nu} \cdot \prod_{j=1}^{2\nu-1} (h+j) \\ &= -e^{\delta-\nu} \left[\prod_{j=1}^{2\nu-1} (h+j) \right] \left[(h+2\nu)(h+2\nu+1)g(h) + \sum_{i=2\nu}^{2\nu+1} \prod_{j \in \mathcal{I}_p^-(i)} (h+j) \right] \\ &\equiv -e^{\delta-(\nu+1)} e \left[\prod_{j=1}^{2\nu-1} (h+j) \right] \sum_{i=2\nu}^{2\nu+1} \prod_{j \in \mathcal{I}_p^-(i)} (h+j) \pmod{\mathcal{N}_{\nu+1}}, \text{ by formula (1)} \\ &= -e^{\delta-(\nu+1)} \left[\prod_{j=3}^{2\nu+1} (h+j) \right] \left[\sum_{i=2\nu}^{2\nu+1} \prod_{j \in \mathcal{I}_p^-(i+2)} (h+j) \right] e \\ &= -e^{\delta-(\nu+1)} \left[\prod_{j=1}^{2\nu+1} (h+j) \right] \left[\sum_{i=2\nu}^{2\nu+1} \prod_{j \in \mathcal{I}_p^-(i+2, 1, 2)} (h+j) \right] e \\ &\equiv 0 \pmod{\mathcal{N}_{\nu+1}}. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, by Lemma 6 and formula (2) we prove that $[\prod_{j=1}^{2\nu-1} (h+j)] f^{\delta-\nu} \equiv 0 \pmod{\mathcal{N}_{\nu+1}}$. Hence \mathcal{N}_ν is contained in $\mathcal{N}_{\nu+1}$. This proves that for $\nu = 2, 3, \dots, (p-1)/2$, $\mathcal{N}_{\nu-1}$ is contained in \mathcal{N}_ν . Next we establish that

$\mathcal{N}_{(p-1)/2}$ is contained in \mathcal{R} by showing that the generators of $\mathcal{N}_{(p-1)/2}$ annihilate all the irreducible \mathcal{U} -modules $L(i)$.

Since by Proposition 5, $L(i)$ has a basis $\{m_i e^n | n = 0, 1, \dots, i\}$, and $m_i e^j = 0$ for $j > i$, $(m_i e^n) e^{(p+1)/2} \cdot \prod_{j=1}^{p-2} (h + j) = 0$ for $i = 0, 1, \dots, (1/2)(p - 1)$ and $n = 0, 1, \dots, i$. Hence for $i = 0, 1, \dots, (1/2)(p - 1)$, $L(i)$ is annihilated by $e^{(p+1)/2} \prod_{j=1}^{p-2} (h + j)$. For $i = (p + 1)/2, \dots, p - 1$, since $\prod_{j=1}^{p-2} (h + j) = \prod_{j=2}^{p-1} (h - j)$,

$$\begin{aligned} (m_i e^n) e^{(p+1)/2} \prod_{j=1}^{p-2} (h + j) &= m_i e^{n+(p+1)/2} \cdot \prod_{j=2}^{p-1} (h - j), \quad \text{by formula (1),} \\ &= m_i \left[\prod_{j=2}^{p-1} (h - j + 2n + p + 1) \right] e^{n+(p+1)/2} \\ &= \left[\prod_{j=2}^{p-1} (-i - j + 2n + p + 1) \right] m_i e^{n+(p+1)/2} = 0, \end{aligned}$$

because if $n + (p + 1)/2 > i$, $m_i e^{n+(p+1)/2} = 0$. If $n + (p + 1)/2 \leq i$, $p + 1 \leq 2n + p + 1 \leq 2i \leq 2(p - 1)$ which then implies $2 = (p + 1) - (p - 1) \leq 2n + (p + 1) - i \leq i \leq p - 1$. Hence $2 \leq 2n + p + 1 - i \leq p - 1$. Since j ranges from 2 to $p - 1$, $\prod_{j=2}^{p-1} (2n + p + 1 - i - j) = 0$. Therefore $e^{(p+1)/2} \cdot \prod_{j=1}^{p-2} (h + j)$ annihilates all $L(i)$ for $i = 0, 1, \dots, p - 1$, and is in \mathcal{R} . Similarly, by Proposition 5 and formula (2) we prove that $[\prod_{j=1}^{p-2} (h + j)] f^{(p+1)/2}$ is in \mathcal{R} . Hence $\mathcal{N}_{(p-1)/2}$ is contained in \mathcal{R} . This proves the lemma.

Our theorem will be proved if we show that \mathcal{R} is contained in \mathcal{N}_1 . For this we need the concept of extent vectors defined by Curtis [1]. The extent of a standard monomial $e^m h^k f^n$ in \mathcal{U} is defined as the integer $m - n$. A nonzero element $u \in \mathcal{U}$ is called an extent vector if u is a linear combination of standard monomials of the same extent, and the common extent is defined as the extent of u and is denoted by $\mathcal{E}(u)$.

PROPOSITION 8. (NIELSEN [3, p. 11]). *If u and v are two extent vectors in \mathcal{U} , then each standard monomial of uv has extent equal to $\mathcal{E}(u) + \mathcal{E}(v)$.*

LEMMA 9. *If $x = u_1 + \dots + u_n \in \mathcal{R}$, where u_j is an extent vector of extent $\mathcal{E}(u_j)$, and $\mathcal{E}(u_i) \neq \mathcal{E}(u_j)$ for $i \neq j$, then $u_j \in \mathcal{R}$ for $j = 1, \dots, n$.*

PROOF. By Proposition 5, for each $i = 0, 1, \dots, p - 1$, $\{m_i e^\nu | \nu = 0, 1, \dots, i\}$ is a basis for the irreducible \mathcal{U} -module $L(i)$, and since $x \in \mathcal{R}$, $0 = m_i e^\nu x = \sum_{j=1}^n m_i e^\nu u_j$. If $\mathcal{E}(m_i e^\nu u_j) > p - 1 = \text{maximal extent}$, $m_i e^\nu u_j = 0$. If $\mathcal{E}(m_i e^\nu u_j) \leq p - 1$, then since $\mathcal{E}(m_i) = 0$ and by proposition 8, $\mathcal{E}(m_i e^\nu u_j) = \nu + \mathcal{E}(u_j) \neq \nu + \mathcal{E}(u_k) = \mathcal{E}(m_i e^\nu u_k)$ for $j \neq k$. Since elements of \mathcal{U} which are of different extents are linearly independent and the $m_i e^\nu u_j$'s are either zero or of different extents, $m_i e^\nu u_j = 0$

for $\nu = 0, 1, \dots, i$. Hence u_j annihilates $L(i)$ for $i = 0, 1, \dots, p - 1$, and $u_j \in \mathcal{R}$ for $j = 1, \dots, n$.

LEMMA 10. *Let $x \in \mathcal{R}$ be an extent vector. If $\mathcal{E}(x) \leq 0$, then $x \in \langle\langle (1 + h)f^{p-1} \rangle\rangle$, the two-sided ideal in \mathcal{U} generated by $(1 + h)f^{p-1}$. If $\mathcal{E}(x) \geq 0$, then $x \in \langle\langle e^{p-1}(1 + h) \rangle\rangle$, the two-sided ideal in \mathcal{U} generated by $e^{p-1}(1 + h)$.*

PROOF. Let $\mathcal{N} = \langle\langle (1 + h)f^{p-1} \rangle\rangle$, and let $\mathcal{E}(x) = -d$ for some $d \in \{0, 1, \dots, p - 1\}$. For each $j \in \{d, d + 1, \dots, p - 1\}$, let $\mathcal{S}_j = \{e^{j-d}A(h)f^j \mid A(h) \text{ is a polynomial in } h \text{ over } \mathcal{X}\}$. \mathcal{S}_j is a vector space over \mathcal{X} and $\sum_{j=d}^{p-1} \mathcal{S}_j$ is the set of all extent vectors in \mathcal{U} of extent $-d$. Our proof is carried out by induction in the following manner: first we show that $x \in \mathcal{R} \cap \mathcal{S}_{p-1}$ implies $x \in \mathcal{N}$. Our next step is to assume that $x \in \mathcal{R} \cap \sum_{j=k+1}^{p-1} \mathcal{S}_k$ for $k \geq d$ implies $x \in \mathcal{N}$, and then to infer that $x \in \mathcal{R} \cap \sum_{j=k}^{p-1} \mathcal{S}_j$ implies $x \in \mathcal{N}$.

When $x \in \mathcal{R} \cap \mathcal{S}_{p-1}$, $x = e^{p-1-d}A(h)f^{p-1}$. Let m_{p-1} be as defined in Proposition 5. Then $0 = m_{p-1}e^d x = \delta_{p-1}A(-1)m_{p-1}$ where $0 \neq \delta_{p-1} \in \mathcal{X}$. Hence $A(-1) = 0$ and $x = e^{p-1-d}B(h)(h + 1)f^{p-1}$ where $B(h)$ is some polynomial in h over \mathcal{X} . Hence $x \in \mathcal{N}$.

When $x \in \mathcal{R} \cap \sum_{j=k}^{p-1} \mathcal{S}_j$ for some $k \in \{d, d + 1, \dots, p - 1\}$, $x = \sum_{j=k}^{p-1} e^{j-d}A_j(h)f^j$ where the $A_j(h)$'s are polynomials in h over \mathcal{X} . For $i \in \{k, k + 1, \dots, p - 1\}$, let m_i be as defined in Proposition 5. Then since $e^{i-(k-d)}x \in \mathcal{R}$ and by Proposition 5, $0 = m_i e^{i-(k-d)}x = A_k(i)m_i e^{i f^k}$. Since $i \geq k$, $m_i e^{i f^k} \neq 0$. Hence $A_k(i) = 0$ for $i \in \{k, k + 1, \dots, p - 1\}$ and $A_k(h) = B(h) \prod_{j=k}^{p-1} (h - j)$ where $B(h)$ is some polynomial in h over \mathcal{X} . Hence

$$x = e^{k-d}B(h) \left[\prod_{j=k}^{p-1} (h - j) \right] f^k + \sum_{j=k+1}^{p-1} e^{j-d}A_j(h)f^j.$$

Now for $\nu = 1, 2, \dots, p - k - 1$, we claim that

$$(*) \quad x \equiv (-1)^\nu e^{k-d}B(h) \left[\prod_{j=k+\nu}^{p-1} (h - j) \right] f^{k+\nu} / [(k + 1) \cdots (p - 1)] \pmod{\sum_{j=k+1}^{p-1} \mathcal{S}_j}.$$

Using formulas (1) and (6) we prove (*) easily by induction on ν . Setting $\nu = p - 1 - k$ in (*) we have $x \equiv y \pmod{\sum_{j=k+1}^{p-1} \mathcal{S}_j}$, where $y = (-1)^{p-1-k} e^{k-d}B(h)(h + 1)f^{p-1} e^{p-1-k} / [(k + 1) \cdots (p - 1)]$. Since y is in \mathcal{N}_1 defined in Lemma 7, $y \in \mathcal{R}$. Hence $x - y \in \mathcal{R} \cap \sum_{j=k+1}^{p-1} \mathcal{S}_j$ and by induction hypothesis $x - y \in \mathcal{N}$. Since $y \in \mathcal{N}$, we have $x \in \mathcal{N}$. This proves the first part of the lemma. Similarly, by Proposition 5, formulas (2) and (5), and Lemma 7 we prove the second part of the lemma.

PROOF OF THE MAIN THEOREM. Since Lemma 7 affirms that $\mathcal{N}_1 \subseteq \dots \subseteq \mathcal{N}_{(p-1)/2} \subseteq \mathcal{R}$. It remains for us to show that $\mathcal{R} \subseteq \mathcal{N}_1$. Let $0 \neq x \in \mathcal{R}$. Since each element in \mathcal{U} is a finite sum of extent vectors, $x = u_1 + \dots + u_n$, where the u_j 's are extent vectors and $\mathcal{E}(u_j) \neq \mathcal{E}(u_k)$ for $j \neq k$. By Lemma 9, each $u_j \in \mathcal{R}$. By Lemma 10, $u_j \in \mathcal{N}_1$ for $j = 1, \dots, n$. Hence $\mathcal{R} \subseteq \mathcal{N}_1$. This completes the proof of the main theorem.

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