

# Lie Algebras over Fields of Small Characteristic

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Joint work with Arjeh Cohen

Applications of Computer Algebra  
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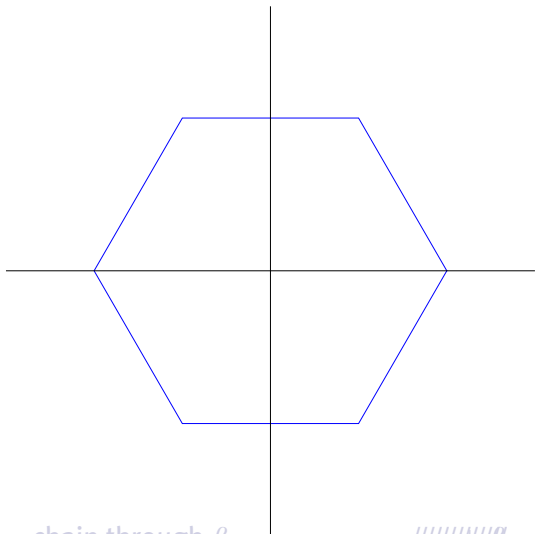
1. Motivation
2. Root Data and Lie Algebras
3. Some Small Characteristic Trouble
4. Some Small Characteristic Solutions
5. Conclusions and Future Research

- ▶ Study groups by Lie algebras:
  - Simple algebraic group  $G \leftrightarrow$  Unique Lie algebra  $L$
  - Many properties carry over to  $L$
  - Easier to calculate in  $L$
  - $G \leq \text{Aut}(L)$ , often even  $G = \text{Aut}(L)$
- ▶ Opportunities for:
  - Recognition
  - Conjugation
  - ...
- ▶ Important tool for Lie algebras: Chevalley basis
- ▶ This talk: *Lie algebras over fields of small characteristic*:
  - What special cases occur?
  - How to compute Chevalley bases?

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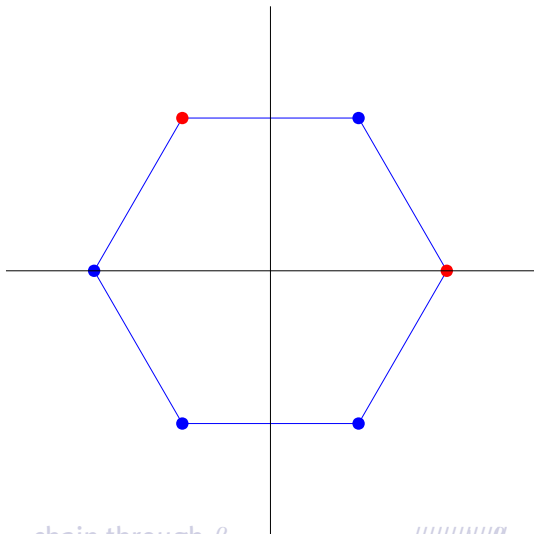


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- ▶ A root system of type  $A_2$
- ▶ A Lie algebra of type  $A_2$

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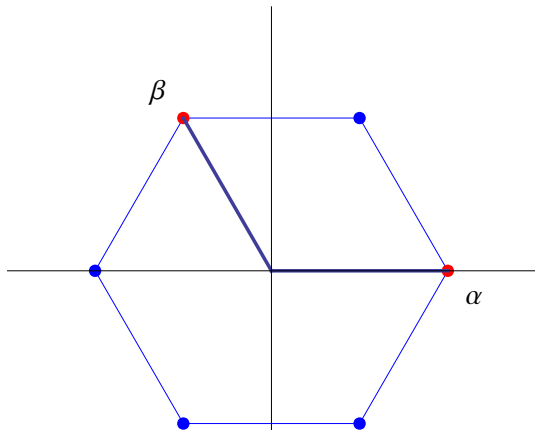
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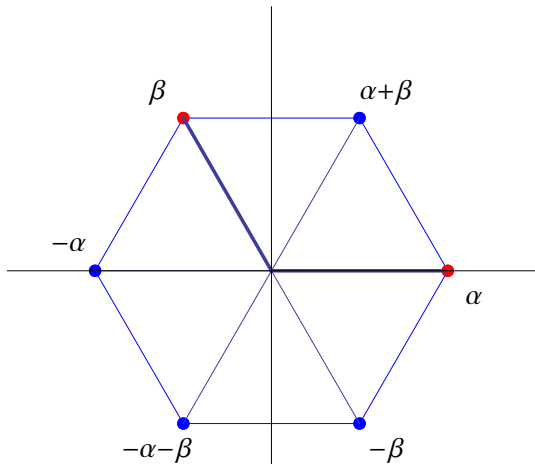
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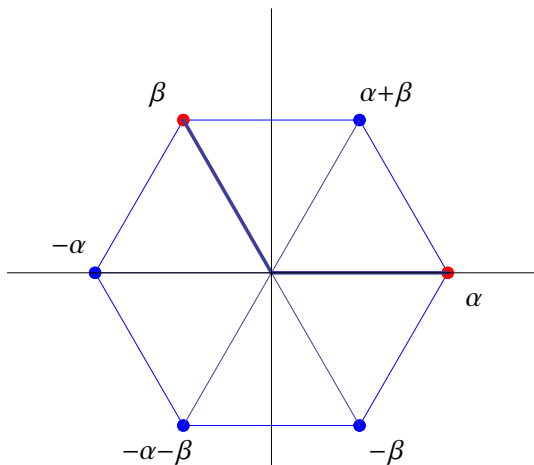
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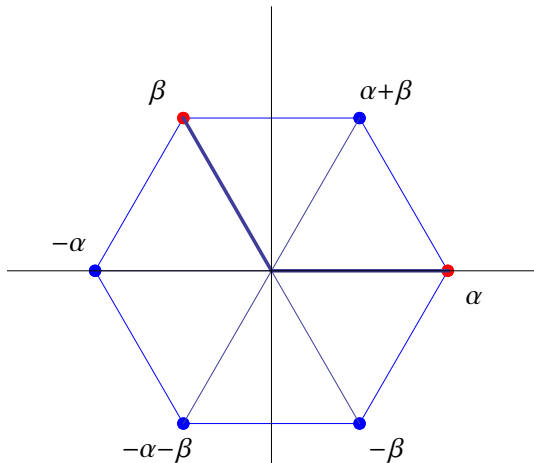
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## Definition (Root Datum)

$$R = (X, \Phi, Y, \Phi^\vee), \quad \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : X \times Y \rightarrow \mathbb{Z},$$

- ▶  $X, Y$ : dual free  $\mathbb{Z}$ -modules,
- ▶ put in duality by  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ ,
- ▶  $\Phi \subseteq X$ : roots,
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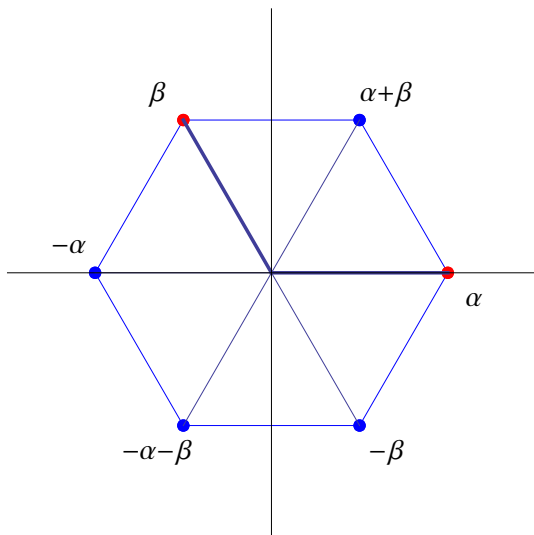
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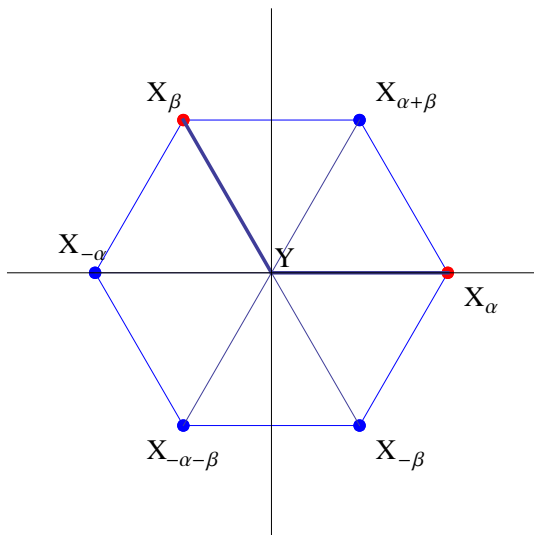
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## Definition (Chevalley Lie Algebra)

$$L_{\mathbb{Z}} = Y \oplus \bigoplus_{\alpha \in \Phi} \mathbb{Z}X_{\alpha},$$

with bilinear antisymmetric multiplication defined by

- ▶  $y, z \in Y$ :  $[y, z] = 0$ ,
- ▶  $y \in Y, \beta \in \Phi$ :  $[X_{\beta}, y] = \langle \beta, y \rangle X_{\beta}$ ,
- ▶  $\alpha \in \Phi$ :  $[X_{-\alpha}, X_{\alpha}] = \alpha^{\vee}$ ,
- ▶  $\alpha, \beta \in \Phi$ :  $[X_{\alpha}, X_{\beta}] = \begin{cases} N_{\alpha, \beta} X_{\alpha + \beta} & \text{if } \alpha + \beta \in \Phi, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$
- ▶ + some extra conditions.

**Such a basis: a Chevalley basis.**

Well known:  $N_{\alpha, \beta}$ 's can be chosen so that  $N_{\alpha, \beta} = \pm(k + 1)$

(algebra)

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$L_{\mathbb{F}} = L_{\mathbb{Z}} \otimes \mathbb{F}$  gives a Lie algebra over  $\mathbb{F}$ .

Why Chevalley bases? Because transformation between two Chevalley bases is automorphism of  $L$ !

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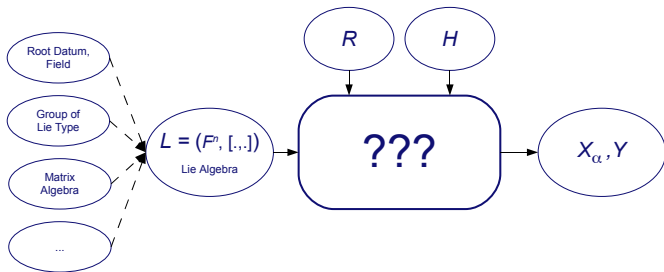
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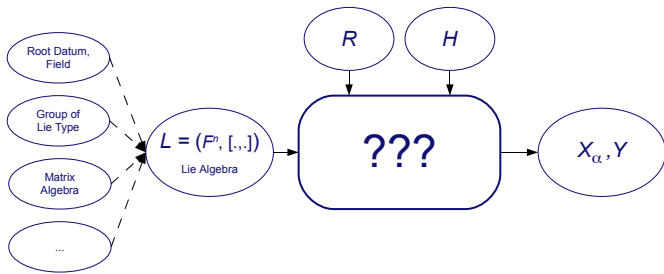
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(Cohen/Murray, indep. Ryba)

Also given: Root datum  $R$ , splitting Cartan subalgebra  $H = Y \otimes \mathbb{F}$   
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Char. 0,  $p \geq 5$ : Implemented in GAP, Magma



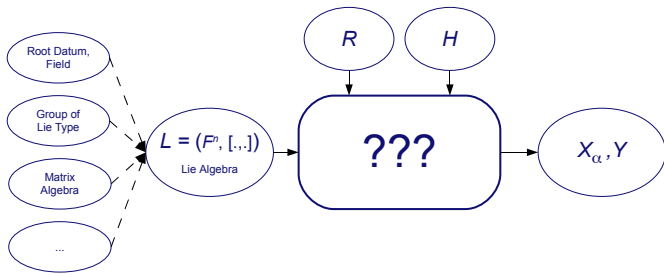
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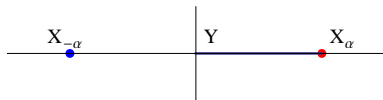
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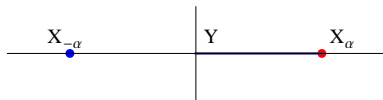
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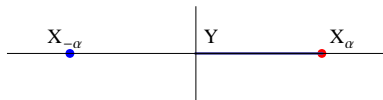
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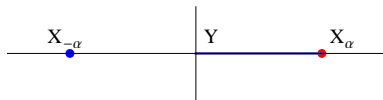
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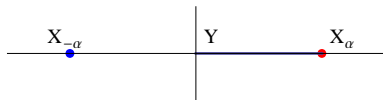
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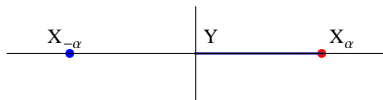
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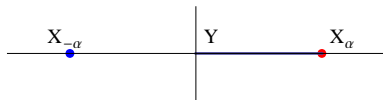
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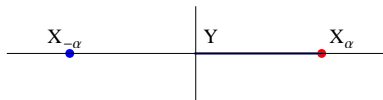
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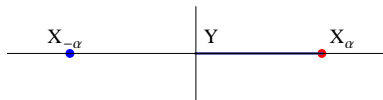
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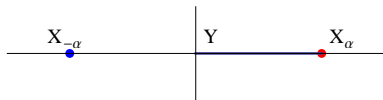
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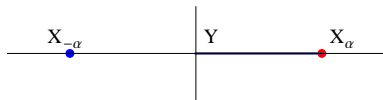
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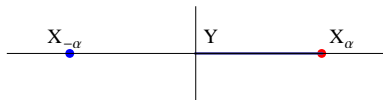
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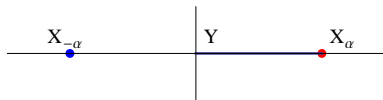
$$A_1^{\text{sc}}: X = Y = \mathbb{Z},$$

$$\Phi = \{\alpha = 2, -\alpha = -2\},$$

$$\Phi^\vee = \{\alpha^\vee = 1, -\alpha^\vee = -1\},$$

$$\begin{aligned} L_{\mathbb{Z}} &= Y \oplus \bigoplus_{\alpha \in \Phi} \mathbb{Z}X_\alpha \\ &= \mathbb{Z}y \oplus \mathbb{Z}X_\alpha \oplus \mathbb{Z}X_{-\alpha}, \end{aligned}$$

	$X_\alpha$	$X_{-\alpha}$	$y$
$X_\alpha$	0	$-y$	$2X_\alpha$
$X_{-\alpha}$	$y$	0	$-2X_{-\alpha}$
$y$	$-2X_\alpha$	$2X_{-\alpha}$	0



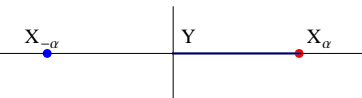
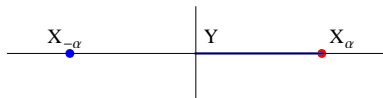
$$A_1^{\text{ad}}: X = Y = \mathbb{Z},$$

$$\Phi = \{\alpha = 1, -\alpha = -1\},$$

$$\Phi^\vee = \{\alpha^\vee = 2, -\alpha^\vee = -2\},$$

$$\begin{aligned} L_{\mathbb{Z}} &= Y \oplus \bigoplus_{\alpha \in \Phi} \mathbb{Z}X_\alpha \\ &= \mathbb{Z}y \oplus \mathbb{Z}X_\alpha \oplus \mathbb{Z}X_{-\alpha}, \end{aligned}$$

	$X_\alpha$	$X_{-\alpha}$	$y$
$X_\alpha$	0	$-2y$	$X_\alpha$
$X_{-\alpha}$	$2y$	0	$-X_{-\alpha}$
$y$	$-X_\alpha$	$X_{-\alpha}$	0

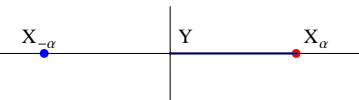
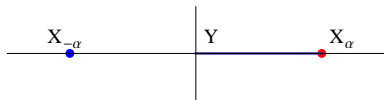


	$X_\alpha$	$X_{-\alpha}$	$y$
$X_\alpha$	0	$-y$	$2X_\alpha$
$X_{-\alpha}$	$y$	0	$-2X_{-\alpha}$
$y$	$-2X_\alpha$	$2X_{-\alpha}$	0

	$X_\alpha$	$X_{-\alpha}$	$y$
$X_\alpha$	0	$-2y$	$X_\alpha$
$X_{-\alpha}$	$2y$	0	$-X_{-\alpha}$
$y$	$-X_\alpha$	$X_{-\alpha}$	0

Observe:

- ▶  $y \mapsto \frac{1}{2}y$  maps  $\text{Lie}(A_1^{\text{sc}}, \mathbb{F})$  to  $\text{Lie}(A_1^{\text{ad}}, \mathbb{F})$ ,
- ▶ So  $\text{Lie}(A_1^{\text{sc}}, \mathbb{F}) \cong \text{Lie}(A_1^{\text{ad}}, \mathbb{F})$ ,
- ▶ Except if  $\text{char}(\mathbb{F}) = 2!$

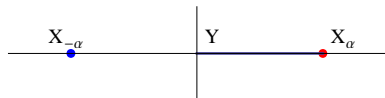
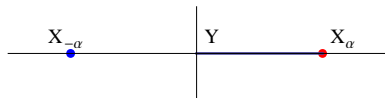


	$X_\alpha$	$X_{-\alpha}$	$y$
$X_\alpha$	0	$-y$	$2X_\alpha$
$X_{-\alpha}$	$y$	0	$-2X_{-\alpha}$
$y$	$-2X_\alpha$	$2X_{-\alpha}$	0

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	$X_\alpha$	$X_{-\alpha}$	$y$	$\mathbb{Z}^1$
$X_\alpha$	0	$-y$	$2X_\alpha$	(2)
$X_{-\alpha}$	$y$	0	$-2X_{-\alpha}$	(-2)
$y$	$-2X_\alpha$	$2X_{-\alpha}$	0	(0)

	$X_\alpha$	$X_{-\alpha}$	$y$	$\mathbb{Z}^1$
$X_\alpha$	0	$-2y$	$X_\alpha$	(1)
$X_{-\alpha}$	$2y$	0	$-X_{-\alpha}$	(-1)
$y$	$-X_\alpha$	$X_{-\alpha}$	0	(0)

- ▶ Use action of  $Y$  to diagonalize  $L$  and find  $X_\alpha$ ,
- ▶ Except if the characteristic is 2!

$X_{-\alpha}$	Y	$X_{\alpha}$
$X_{\alpha}$	$X_{-\alpha}$	$y$
$X_{-\alpha}$	$y$	$X_{\alpha}$
$y$	$-2X_{\alpha}$	$2X_{-\alpha}$

$X_{-\alpha}$	Y	$X_{\alpha}$
$X_{\alpha}$	$X_{-\alpha}$	$y$
$X_{-\alpha}$	$y$	$X_{\alpha}$
$y$	$-X_{\alpha}$	$X_{-\alpha}$

$X_{\alpha}$	$X_{-\alpha}$	$y$	$\mathbb{Z}^1$
$X_{\alpha}$	$0$	$-y$	$2X_{\alpha}$ (2)
$X_{-\alpha}$	$y$	$0$	$-2X_{-\alpha}$ (-2)
$y$	$-2X_{\alpha}$	$2X_{-\alpha}$	$0$ (0)

$X_{\alpha}$	$X_{-\alpha}$	$y$	$\mathbb{Z}^1$
$X_{\alpha}$	$0$	$-2y$	$X_{\alpha}$ (1)
$X_{-\alpha}$	$2y$	$0$	$-X_{-\alpha}$ (-1)
$y$	$-X_{\alpha}$	$X_{-\alpha}$	$0$ (0)

- ▶ Use action of Y to diagonalize  $L$  and find  $X_{\alpha}$ ,
- ▶ Except if the characteristic is 2!

$X_{-\alpha}$	$Y$	$X_{\alpha}$		
$X_{\alpha}$	$X_{-\alpha}$	$y$		
$X_{\alpha}$	$0$	$-y$	$2X_{\alpha}$	$\mathbb{Z}^1$
$X_{-\alpha}$	$y$	$0$	$-2X_{-\alpha}$	$(-2)$
$y$	$-2X_{\alpha}$	$2X_{-\alpha}$	$0$	$(0)$

$X_{-\alpha}$	$Y$	$X_{\alpha}$		
$X_{\alpha}$	$X_{-\alpha}$	$y$		
$X_{\alpha}$	$0$	$-2y$	$X_{\alpha}$	$\mathbb{Z}^1$
$X_{-\alpha}$	$2y$	$0$	$-X_{-\alpha}$	$(-1)$
$y$	$-X_{\alpha}$	$X_{-\alpha}$	$0$	$(0)$

- ▶ Use action of  $Y$  to diagonalize  $L$  and find  $X_{\alpha}$ ,
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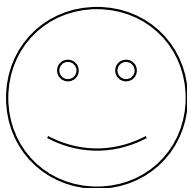
	...	$\alpha^\vee$	$\beta^\vee$	$\mathbb{Z}$
$X_\alpha$		$2X_\alpha$	$-X_\alpha$	$(2, -1)$
$X_\beta$		$-3X_\beta$	$2X_\beta$	$(-3, 2)$
$X_{\alpha+\beta}$		$-X_{\alpha+\beta}$	$X_{\alpha+\beta}$	$(-1, 1)$
$X_{2\alpha+\beta}$		$X_{2\alpha+\beta}$	$0$	$(1, 0)$
$X_{3\alpha+\beta}$		$3X_{3\alpha+\beta}$	$-X_{3\alpha+\beta}$	$(3, -1)$
$X_{3\alpha+2\beta}$		$0$	$X_{3\alpha+2\beta}$	$(0, 1)$
$\vdots$				



	...	$\alpha^\vee$	$\beta^\vee$	$\mathbb{Z}$
$X_\alpha$		$2X_\alpha$	$-X_\alpha$	$(2, -1)$
$X_\beta$		$-3X_\beta$	$2X_\beta$	$(-3, 2)$
$X_{\alpha+\beta}$		$-X_{\alpha+\beta}$	$X_{\alpha+\beta}$	$(-1, 1)$
$X_{2\alpha+\beta}$		$X_{2\alpha+\beta}$	$0$	$(1, 0)$
$X_{3\alpha+\beta}$		$3X_{3\alpha+\beta}$	$-X_{3\alpha+\beta}$	$(3, -1)$
$X_{3\alpha+2\beta}$		$0$	$X_{3\alpha+2\beta}$	$(0, 1)$
$\vdots$				

	...	$\alpha^\vee$	$\beta^\vee$	$\mathbb{Z}$
$X_\alpha$		$2X_\alpha$	$-X_\alpha$	$(2, -1)$
$X_\beta$		$-3X_\beta$	$2X_\beta$	$(-3, 2)$
$X_{\alpha+\beta}$		$-X_{\alpha+\beta}$	$X_{\alpha+\beta}$	$(-1, 1)$
$X_{2\alpha+\beta}$		$X_{2\alpha+\beta}$	$0$	$(1, 0)$
$X_{3\alpha+\beta}$		$3X_{3\alpha+\beta}$	$-X_{3\alpha+\beta}$	$(3, -1)$
$X_{3\alpha+2\beta}$		$0$	$X_{3\alpha+2\beta}$	$(0, 1)$
$X_{-\alpha}$		$-2X_{-\alpha}$	$X_{-\alpha}$	$(-2, 1)$
$X_{-\beta}$		$3X_{-\beta}$	$-2X_{-\beta}$	$(3, -2)$
$X_{-\alpha-\beta}$		$X_{-\alpha-\beta}$	$-X_{-\alpha-\beta}$	$(1, -1)$
$X_{-2\alpha-\beta}$		$-X_{-2\alpha-\beta}$	$0$	$(-1, 0)$
$X_{-3\alpha-\beta}$		$-3X_{-3\alpha-\beta}$	$X_{-3\alpha-\beta}$	$(-3, 1)$
$X_{-3\alpha-2\beta}$		$0$	$-X_{-3\alpha-2\beta}$	$(0, -1)$
$\vdots$				

	...	$\alpha^\vee$	$\beta^\vee$	$\mathbb{Z}$
$X_\alpha$		$2X_\alpha$	$-X_\alpha$	$(2, -1)$
$X_\beta$		$-3X_\beta$	$2X_\beta$	$(-3, 2)$
$X_{\alpha+\beta}$		$-X_{\alpha+\beta}$	$X_{\alpha+\beta}$	$(-1, 1)$
$X_{2\alpha+\beta}$		$X_{2\alpha+\beta}$	$0$	$(1, 0)$
$X_{3\alpha+\beta}$		$3X_{3\alpha+\beta}$	$-X_{3\alpha+\beta}$	$(3, -1)$
$X_{3\alpha+2\beta}$		$0$	$X_{3\alpha+2\beta}$	$(0, 1)$
$X_{-\alpha}$		$-2X_{-\alpha}$	$X_{-\alpha}$	$(-2, 1)$
$X_{-\beta}$		$3X_{-\beta}$	$-2X_{-\beta}$	$(3, -2)$
$X_{-\alpha-\beta}$		$X_{-\alpha-\beta}$	$-X_{-\alpha-\beta}$	$(1, -1)$
$X_{-2\alpha-\beta}$		$-X_{-2\alpha-\beta}$	$0$	$(-1, 0)$
$X_{-3\alpha-\beta}$		$-3X_{-3\alpha-\beta}$	$X_{-3\alpha-\beta}$	$(-3, 1)$
$X_{-3\alpha-2\beta}$		$0$	$-X_{-3\alpha-2\beta}$	$(0, -1)$
$\vdots$				



	...	$\alpha^\vee$	$\beta^\vee$	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\text{GF}(3^m)$
$X_\alpha$		$2X_\alpha$	$-X_\alpha$	$(2, -1)$	$(-1, -1)$
$X_\beta$		$-3X_\beta$	$2X_\beta$	$(-3, 2)$	$(0, -1)$ (!)
$X_{\alpha+\beta}$		$-X_{\alpha+\beta}$	$X_{\alpha+\beta}$	$(-1, 1)$	$(-1, 1)$
$X_{2\alpha+\beta}$		$X_{2\alpha+\beta}$	$0$	$(1, 0)$	$(1, 0)$
$X_{3\alpha+\beta}$		$3X_{3\alpha+\beta}$	$-X_{3\alpha+\beta}$	$(3, -1)$	$(0, -1)$ (!)
$X_{3\alpha+2\beta}$		$0$	$X_{3\alpha+2\beta}$	$(0, 1)$	$(0, 1)$
$X_{-\alpha}$		$-2X_{-\alpha}$	$X_{-\alpha}$	$(-2, 1)$	$(1, 1)$
$X_{-\beta}$		$3X_{-\beta}$	$-2X_{-\beta}$	$(3, -2)$	$(0, 1)$
$X_{-\alpha-\beta}$		$X_{-\alpha-\beta}$	$-X_{-\alpha-\beta}$	$(1, -1)$	$(1, -1)$
$X_{-2\alpha-\beta}$		$-X_{-2\alpha-\beta}$	$0$	$(-1, 0)$	$(-1, 0)$
$X_{-3\alpha-\beta}$		$-3X_{-3\alpha-\beta}$	$X_{-3\alpha-\beta}$	$(-3, 1)$	$(0, 1)$
$X_{-3\alpha-2\beta}$		$0$	$-X_{-3\alpha-2\beta}$	$(0, -1)$	$(0, -1)$ (!)
$\vdots$					

	...	$\alpha^\vee$	$\beta^\vee$	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\text{GF}(3^m)$
$X_\alpha$		$2X_\alpha$	$-X_\alpha$	$(2, -1)$	$(-1, -1)$
$X_\beta$		$-3X_\beta$	$2X_\beta$	$(-3, 2)$	$(0, -1)$ (!)
$X_{\alpha+\beta}$		$-X_{\alpha+\beta}$	$X_{\alpha+\beta}$	$(-1, 1)$	$(-1, 1)$
$X_{2\alpha+\beta}$		$X_{2\alpha+\beta}$	$0$	$(1, 0)$	$(1, 0)$
$X_{3\alpha+\beta}$		$3X_{3\alpha+\beta}$	$-X_{3\alpha+\beta}$	$(3, -1)$	$(0, -1)$ (!)
$X_{3\alpha+2\beta}$		$0$	$X_{3\alpha+2\beta}$	$(0, 1)$	$(0, 1)$ (! <sup>2</sup> )
$X_{-\alpha}$		$-2X_{-\alpha}$	$X_{-\alpha}$	$(-2, 1)$	$(1, 1)$
$X_{-\beta}$		$3X_{-\beta}$	$-2X_{-\beta}$	$(3, -2)$	$(0, 1)$ (! <sup>2</sup> )
$X_{-\alpha-\beta}$		$X_{-\alpha-\beta}$	$-X_{-\alpha-\beta}$	$(1, -1)$	$(1, -1)$
$X_{-2\alpha-\beta}$		$-X_{-2\alpha-\beta}$	$0$	$(-1, 0)$	$(-1, 0)$
$X_{-3\alpha-\beta}$		$-3X_{-3\alpha-\beta}$	$X_{-3\alpha-\beta}$	$(-3, 1)$	$(0, 1)$ (! <sup>2</sup> )
$X_{-3\alpha-2\beta}$		$0$	$-X_{-3\alpha-2\beta}$	$(0, -1)$	$(0, -1)$ (!)
$\vdots$					

	...	$\alpha^\vee$	$\beta^\vee$	$\mathbb{Z}$	$\text{GF}(3^m)$
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$X_{\alpha+\beta}$		$-X_{\alpha+\beta}$	$X_{\alpha+\beta}$	$(-1, 1)$	$(-1, 1)$
$X_{2\alpha+\beta}$		$X_{2\alpha+\beta}$	$0$	$(1, 0)$	$(1, 0)$
$X_{3\alpha+\beta}$		$3X_{3\alpha+\beta}$	$-X_{3\alpha+\beta}$	$(3, -1)$	$(0, -1)$ (!)
$X_{3\alpha+2\beta}$		$0$	$X_{3\alpha+2\beta}$	$(0, 1)$	$(0, 1)$ (! <sup>2</sup> )
$X_{-\alpha}$		$-2X_{-\alpha}$	$X_{-\alpha}$	$(-2, 1)$	$(1, 1)$
$X_{-\beta}$		$3X_{-\beta}$	$-2X_{-\beta}$	$(3, -2)$	$(0, 1)$ (! <sup>2</sup> )
$X_{-\alpha-\beta}$		$X_{-\alpha-\beta}$	$-X_{-\alpha-\beta}$	$(1, -1)$	$(1, -1)$
$X_{-2\alpha-\beta}$		$-X_{-2\alpha-\beta}$	$0$	$(-1, 0)$	$(-1, 0)$
$X_{-3\alpha-\beta}$		$-3X_{-3\alpha-\beta}$	$X_{-3\alpha-\beta}$	$(-3, 1)$	$(0, 1)$ (! <sup>2</sup> )
$X_{-3\alpha-2\beta}$		$0$	$-X_{-3\alpha-2\beta}$	$(0, -1)$	$(0, -1)$ (!)
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1. Motivation
2. Root Data and Lie Algebras
- 3. Some Small Characteristic Trouble**
- 4. Some Small Characteristic Solutions**
5. Conclusions and Future Research

$$L_{\mathbb{Z}} = Y \oplus \bigoplus_{\alpha \in \Phi} \mathbb{Z}X_{\alpha},$$

- ▶  $y, z \in Y$ :  $[y, z] = 0$ ,
- ▶  $y \in Y, \beta \in \Phi$ :  $[X_{\beta}, y] = \langle \beta, y \rangle X_{\beta}$ ,
- ▶  $\alpha \in \Phi$ :  $[X_{-\alpha}, X_{\alpha}] = \alpha^{\vee}$ ,
- ▶  $\alpha, \beta \in \Phi$ :  $[X_{\alpha}, X_{\beta}] = \begin{cases} N_{\alpha, \beta} X_{\alpha + \beta} & \text{if } \alpha + \beta \in \Phi, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

Trouble:

1. Multidimensional eigenspaces,
2. Root chains are broken,
3.  $k + 1 \equiv 0$ , so  $N_{\alpha, \beta} \equiv 0$ ,



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## Steinberg, 1961

Complete list of multiplicities of roots, for root data of adjoint type

## Cohen, R., 2008

Complete list of multiplicities of roots, for all root data

Char.	Root datum	Eigenspace dims
3	$A_2^{sc}$	$3^2$
3	$G_2$	$1^6, 3^2$
2	$A_3^{sc}, A_3^{(a)*}$	$4^3$
2	$B_n^{ad} (n \geq 2)$	$2^n, 4^{(n^2-n)/2}$
2	$B_2^{sc}$	$4^2$
2	$B_3^{sc}$	$6^3$
2	$B_4^{sc}$	$2^4, 8^3$
2	$B_n^{sc} (n \geq 5)$	$2^n, 4^{(n^2-n)/2}$
2	$C_n^{ad} (n \geq 3)$	$2n^1, 2^{n^2-n}$
2	$C_n^{sc} (n \geq 3)$	$2n^1, 4^{(n^2-n)/2}$
2	$D_4^{(a),(b),(a+b)*}$	$4^6$
2	$D_4^{sc}$	$8^3$
2	$D_n^{(a)*}, D_n^{sc} (n \geq 5)$	$4^{\binom{n}{2}}$
2	$F_4$	$2^{12}, 8^3$
2	$G_2$	$4^3$
2	all remaining cases	$2^N (N =  \Phi^+ )$

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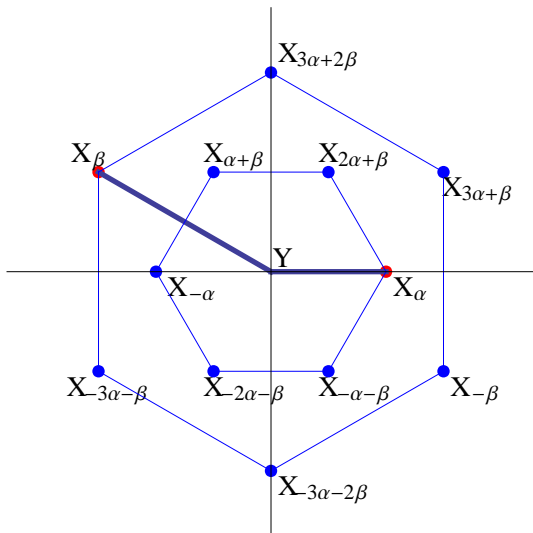
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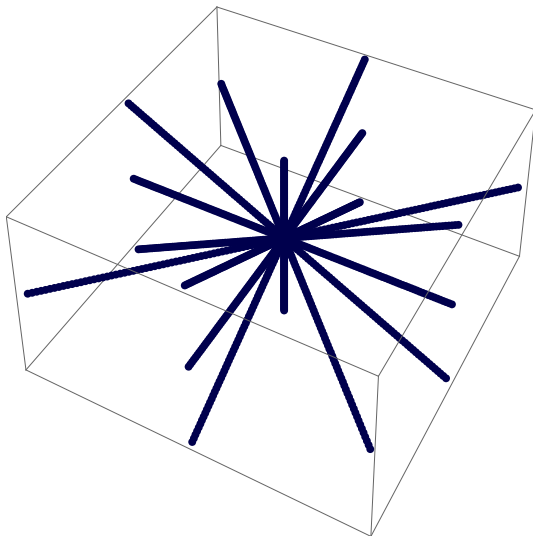
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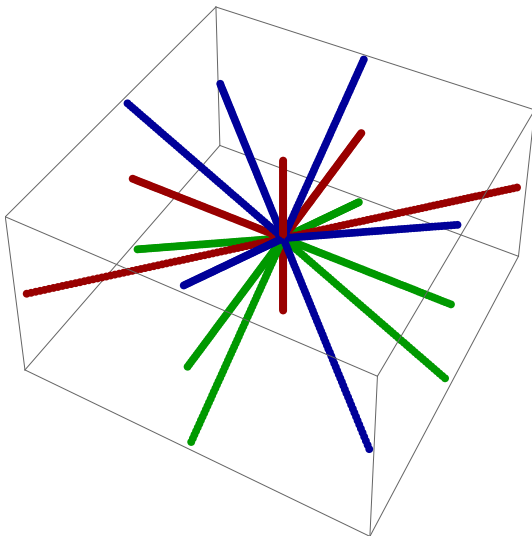


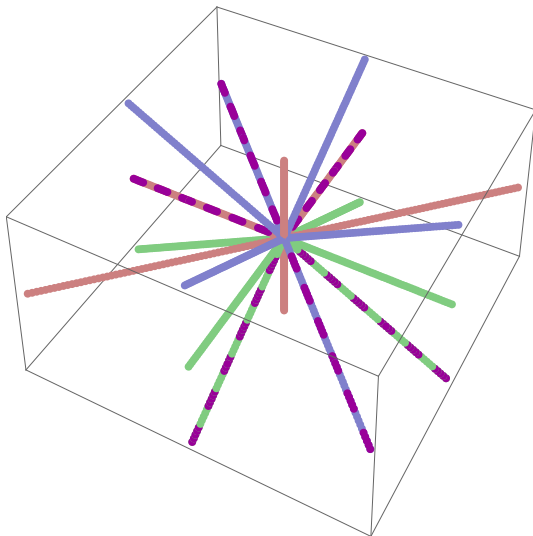












Solving many small puzzles,

- ▶ For  $N_{\alpha,\beta} \equiv 0$ :
  - Pinpoint scalar multiples of roots in a smart order,
- ▶ For multidimensional eigenspaces:
  - “Pivot” using eigenspaces with smaller dimension,
  - Intersect with nontrivial ideals (MeatAxe),
  - Consider  $\text{Der}(L)$ ,
- ▶ General methods:
  - Find root chains in  $[\cdot, \cdot]$  instead of eigentuples,
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- ▶ **Main challenges for computing Chevalley bases in small characteristic:**
  - Multidimensional eigenspaces
  - Broken root chains
- ▶ **Found solutions for majority of the cases,**
- ▶ **Bigger picture:**
  - Recognition of groups or Lie algebras,
  - Finding conjugators for Lie group elements,
  - Finding automorphisms of Lie algebras,
  - ...
- ▶ **Questions?**

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  - Broken root chains
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