

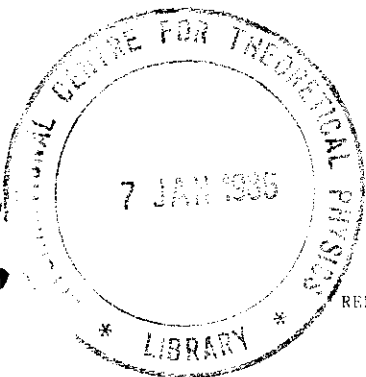


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COLLEGE ON
REPRESENTATION THEORY OF LIE GROUPS
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BASIC NOTIONS FOR LIE ALGEBRA III

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These are preliminary lecture notes, intended only for distribution to participants.

8 Theorem of Weyl

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Definition Let $\mathfrak{g}$ be a Lie algebra and $\rho: \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \text{gl}(V)$ be a representation of $\mathfrak{g}$. The representation ρ is called irreducible if the only subspaces of V which are invariant under ρ are V and $\{0\}$.

The representation ρ is called completely reducible (or semisimple) if V is the direct sum of invariant subspaces V_i , and the restriction of ρ to V_i , $\rho|_{V_i}$, is irreducible for all i . Equivalently, the representation ρ in V is completely reducible if any invariant subspace W of V has a complement W' (i.e. $V = W + W'$, $W \cap W' = \{0\}$) which is invariant under ρ .

Theorem (Weyl): Let $\mathfrak{g}$ be a semisimple Lie algebra over $\mathbb{C}$. Then all finite dimensional representations of $\mathfrak{g}$ are completely reducible.

Proof Let ρ be a finite dimensional representation of $\mathfrak{g}$ in V and let W be a subspace of V invariant under ρ . Assume $W \neq 0$ and $W \neq V$.

Choose $\bar{W}$ a complementary subspace of W in V and let π be the projection of V onto $\bar{W}$ parallel to W .

If A is any projection of V onto W (i.e. $A: V \rightarrow V$ is linear, $A^2 = A$ and $A(V) = W$) then $\ker A$ is a complementary subspace of W in V , this subspace is invariant under ρ if and only if $\rho(X)A - A\rho(X) = 0 \quad \forall X \in \mathfrak{g}$.

We shall modify π to have a projection A satisfying $[\rho(X), A] = 0$ for all $X \in \mathfrak{g}$. Let $F = \{C \in \text{End } V : C(V) \subset W \text{ and } C(W) = 0\}$, then F is a nonzero vector space (because $W \neq 0$ and $W \neq V$). A is a projection of V onto W if and only if $A = \pi + C$ for some $C \in F$.

So we want to find $C \in F$ so that $[\rho(X), C] = [\rho(X), \pi] \quad \forall X \in \mathfrak{g}$.

Define $\sigma: \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \text{gl}(F)$ $X \mapsto \sigma(X)$ where $\sigma(X) \cdot D = [\rho(X), D]$ (clearly $\sigma(X)D \in F \quad \forall X \in \mathfrak{g}, D \in F$ so $\sigma(X)$ indeed belongs to $\text{gl}(F)$). The map $\sigma: \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \text{gl}(F)$ is a representation of $\mathfrak{g}$ into F .

The element $\theta(x) = [\rho(x), \pi]$ belongs to F for any $x \in \mathfrak{g}$, indeed $\pi(V) = W$

and $\pi w = w$ for any $w \in W$

The map $\theta: \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow F$ is linear considering the Chevalley cohomology of $\mathfrak{g}$ with values in F associated to σ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \delta\theta(x, y) &= \sigma(x)\theta(y) - \sigma(y)\theta(x) - \theta([x, y]) \\ &= [\rho(x)[\rho(y), \pi]] - [\rho(y)[\rho(x), \pi]] - [\rho([x, y]), \pi] = 0 \end{aligned}$$

so θ is a 1-cocycle. Since $H^1(\mathfrak{g}, \sigma) = 0$ by the first Whitehead lemma, there is an element $C \in F$ so that $\theta = \delta C$ i.e. so that

$$\theta(x) = [\rho(x), \pi] = \sigma(x) \cdot C = [\rho(x), C] \quad \square$$

Remark. This theorem reduces the study of arbitrary representation of semisimple Lie algebra to the study of its irreducible representations

Proposition. Let $\mathfrak{g} \subset \mathfrak{gl}(V)$ be a semisimple Lie algebra (V is finite dimensional). Then $\mathfrak{g}$ contains the semisimple and nilpotent parts of its elements and the abstract Jordan decomposition coincide with the usual Jordan decomposition

Remark. The last part follows from the fact $\text{ad } X = \text{ad } X_S + \text{ad } X_N = \text{ad } S + \text{ad } N$ is a unique decomposition and ad is injective because $\mathfrak{g}$ is semisimple. For a proof see Humphreys "Introduction to Lie algebras and representation theory" p. 29

Corollary. If $\mathfrak{g}$ is semisimple and $\phi: \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{gl}(V)$ is a finite dimensional representation of $\mathfrak{g}$ and if $X = S + N$ is the abstract Jordan decomposition of $X \in \mathfrak{g}$, then $\phi(X) = \phi(S) + \phi(N)$ is the usual Jordan decomposition of $\phi(X)$.

For a proof see Humphreys p. 30

3. The Levi decomposition

A. Semi direct products

Definition. Let $\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{p}$ be two Lie algebras over k and let σ be a representation of $\mathfrak{g}$ on the vector space $\mathfrak{p}$ such that $\sigma(x)$ is a derivation of $\mathfrak{p}$ for all $x \in \mathfrak{g}$. The semidirect product of $\mathfrak{p}$ with $\mathfrak{g}$ relative to σ , denoted by $\mathfrak{p} \ltimes_{\sigma} \mathfrak{g}$ is the Lie algebra defined as follows

(i) $\mathfrak{p} \ltimes_{\sigma} \mathfrak{g}$, as a vector space is $\mathfrak{p} \times \mathfrak{g} = \{(v, x) \mid v \in \mathfrak{p}, x \in \mathfrak{g}\}$

(ii) The Lie bracket is given by:

$$[(v, x), (v', x')] = ([v, v'] + \sigma(x')v - \sigma(x)v', [x, x'])$$

Lemma. Let $\mathfrak{g}$ be a Lie algebra over k , $\mathfrak{J}$ an ideal of $\mathfrak{g}$ and $\mathfrak{p}$ a subalgebra of $\mathfrak{g}$ such that $\mathfrak{J} + \mathfrak{p} = \mathfrak{g}$, $\mathfrak{J} \cap \mathfrak{p} = \{0\}$. Then $\mathfrak{g} \cong \mathfrak{J} \ltimes_{\sigma} \mathfrak{p}$ where $\sigma: \mathfrak{p} \rightarrow \text{Der } \mathfrak{J}$ is given by $\sigma(x)y = -[x, y]$

Proof. The isomorphism is given by $\sigma: (x, y) \mapsto x + y$, $x \in \mathfrak{J}, y \in \mathfrak{p}$

B. Levi subalgebras

Let $\mathfrak{g}$ be a Lie algebra over k , $\mathfrak{R}$ its radical (i.e. its maximal solvable ideal). Then $\mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{R}$ is semisimple. A Levi subalgebra of $\mathfrak{g}$ is a subalgebra $\mathfrak{S}$ of $\mathfrak{g}$ such that $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{S} + \mathfrak{R}$ as a vector space and $\mathfrak{S} \cap \mathfrak{R} = 0$. Remark that a Levi subalgebra of $\mathfrak{g}$ is isomorphic to $\mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{R}$ and thus is maximally semisimple

Lemma. Let $\mathfrak{g}$ be a Lie algebra, $\mathfrak{R}$ its radical. If $\mathfrak{J}$ is an ideal such that $\mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{J}$ is semisimple, then $\mathfrak{R} \subseteq \mathfrak{J}$. If π is a homomorphism of $\mathfrak{g}$ onto a Lie algebra $\mathfrak{g}'$ then $\pi(\mathfrak{R})$ is the radical of $\mathfrak{g}'$.

Proof Let $\phi: \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{r}$ be the projection map. Then $\phi(\mathfrak{r})$ is solvable, hence zero and so $\mathfrak{r} \subseteq \mathfrak{z}$.

If $\mathfrak{r}'$ is the radical of $\mathfrak{g}'$, as π induces a homomorphism of $\mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{r}$ onto $\mathfrak{g}'/\pi(\mathfrak{r})$ and as $\mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{r}$ is semisimple, so is $\mathfrak{g}'/\pi(\mathfrak{r})$. By the above $\pi(\mathfrak{r}) \supset \mathfrak{r}'$ but the converse is obvious. $\square$

Example $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{gl}(n, \mathbb{K})$ $\mathfrak{z} = \mathbb{K} \text{Id}$ $\mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{z} \cong \mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbb{K})$ which is semisimple. So $\text{rad}(\mathfrak{gl}(n, \mathbb{K})) = \mathbb{K} \text{Id}$.

Theorem Any Lie algebra can be written as the semi-direct product of its radical $\mathfrak{R}$ with a semisimple Lie algebra $\mathfrak{s}$.

Proof We only have to show that $\mathfrak{g}$ admits at least one Levi subalgebra. We do it by induction on $\dim \mathfrak{g}$. If $\dim \mathfrak{g} = 0$, $\mathfrak{g}$ itself is a Levi subalgebra. Let $\dim \mathfrak{g} \geq 1$. We study 2 cases, assuming the existence of Levi subalgebras for any Lie algebra whose radical has a dimension smaller than $\dim \mathfrak{g}$. Case 1 $[\mathfrak{R}, \mathfrak{R}] \neq 0$. Consider $\mathfrak{g}' = \mathfrak{g}/[\mathfrak{R}, \mathfrak{R}]$ and $\pi: \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}'$ the canonical projection. Then $\pi(\mathfrak{R}) = \mathfrak{R}'$ is the radical of $\mathfrak{g}'$. By the induction hypothesis, $\mathfrak{g}'$ admits a Levi subalgebra $\mathfrak{s}'$. Define $\mathfrak{s}_0 = \pi^{-1}(\mathfrak{s}')$. Then $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{s}_0 + \mathfrak{R}$ and $[\mathfrak{R}, \mathfrak{R}] = \mathfrak{s}_0 \cap \mathfrak{R}$. As $[\mathfrak{R}, \mathfrak{R}]$ is a solvable ideal in $\mathfrak{s}_0$ and $\mathfrak{s}_0/[\mathfrak{R}, \mathfrak{R}] \cong \mathfrak{s}'$ which is semisimple, we have (of lemma above) $[\mathfrak{R}, \mathfrak{R}] = \text{rad}(\mathfrak{s}_0)$. As $\mathfrak{R}$ is solvable, $\dim [\mathfrak{R}, \mathfrak{R}] < \dim \mathfrak{R}$ and again by induction $\mathfrak{s}_0 = [\mathfrak{R}, \mathfrak{R}] + \mathfrak{s}$ where $\mathfrak{s}$ is a Levi subalgebra of $\mathfrak{s}_0$. Clearly $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{R} + \mathfrak{s}$ and $\mathfrak{R} \cap \mathfrak{s} = 0$ so $\mathfrak{s}$ is a Levi subalgebra of $\mathfrak{g}$. Case 2 $[\mathfrak{R}, \mathfrak{R}] = 0$ so $\mathfrak{R}$ is abelian. Let $\mathfrak{g}' = \mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{R}$ and $\pi: \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}'$ the natural onto homomorphism. Select a linear map $\mu: \mathfrak{g}' \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$ so that $\pi \circ \mu$ is the identity. For any $X_i \in \mathfrak{g}'$ let $\phi(X_i) = \text{ad } X_i|_{\mathfrak{R}}$ where $X \in \mathfrak{g}$ is such that $\pi(X) = X_i$. (the definition makes sense as $\mathfrak{R}$ is abelian so $\text{ad } Y|_{\mathfrak{R}} = 0$ if $Y \in \mathfrak{R}$).

The map $\phi: X_i \rightarrow \phi(X_i)$ is a representation of $\mathfrak{g}'$, which is semisimple, in $\mathfrak{R}$ and $\phi(X_i) = \text{ad } \mu(X_i)|_{\mathfrak{R}} \quad \forall X_i \in \mathfrak{g}'$. For $X, Y \in \mathfrak{g}'$ let $\theta(X, Y) = [\mu(X), \mu(Y)] - \mu([X, Y])$. Clearly $\theta: \mathfrak{g}' \times \mathfrak{g}' \rightarrow \mathfrak{R}$ (of $\pi \mu([X, Y]) = [X, Y] - \pi[\mu(X), \mu(Y)]$). So $\theta: \mathfrak{g}' \times \mathfrak{g}' \rightarrow \mathfrak{R}$ is a 2-cocycle. It is a 2-cocycle because.

$$\begin{aligned} \delta\theta(X, Y, Z) &= \sum_{x+y+z} \{ \phi(X) \theta(Y, Z) - \theta([X, Y], Z) \} \\ &= \sum_{x+y+z} \{ [\mu(X), [\mu(Y), \mu(Z)]] - [\mu(X), \mu([Y, Z])] \\ &\quad - [\mu([X, Y]), \mu(Z)] + \mu([X, Y], Z) \} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, by Whitehead second lemma, there is a linear map $\nu: \mathfrak{g}' \rightarrow \mathfrak{R}$ such that $\theta = \delta\nu$, i.e.

$$\theta(X, Y) = \phi(X) \nu(Y) - \phi(Y) \nu(X) - \nu([X, Y])$$

which means

$$[\mu(X), \mu(Y)] - \mu([X, Y]) = [\mu(X), \nu(Y)] - [\mu(Y), \nu(X)] - \nu([X, Y])$$

Let us define

$$\lambda: \mathfrak{g}' \rightarrow \mathfrak{g} \quad \lambda = \mu + \nu$$

As $\pi \circ \lambda$ is the identity, λ is a linear injection which is a homomorphism of $\mathfrak{g}'$ into $\mathfrak{g}$ (indeed $[\nu(X), \nu(Y)] = 0$ because $[\mathfrak{R}, \mathfrak{R}] = 0$).

If $\mathfrak{s} = \lambda(\mathfrak{g}')$, $\mathfrak{s}$ is a subalgebra of $\mathfrak{g}$ and $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{s} + \mathfrak{R}$ $\mathfrak{s} \cap \mathfrak{R} = 0$, hence $\mathfrak{s}$ is a Levi subalgebra of $\mathfrak{g}$. $\square$

Definition Such a decomposition $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{R} + \mathfrak{s}$ with $\mathfrak{R} \cap \mathfrak{s} = 0$ is called a Levi decomposition of $\mathfrak{g}$.

Example A Levi decomposition of $\mathfrak{gl}(n, \mathbb{K})$ is given by $\mathfrak{gl}(n, \mathbb{K}) = \mathbb{K} \text{I} + \mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbb{K})$

where any matrix A is written as $A = \frac{\text{tr } A}{n} \text{I} + (A - \frac{\text{tr } A}{n} \text{I})$.

Lemma If $\mathfrak{s}$ is a Levi subalgebra of $\mathfrak{g}$, then it is also a Levi subalgebra of $[\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}]$ and $[\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}] = [\mathfrak{R}, \mathfrak{g}] + \mathfrak{s}$ is a Levi decomposition of $[\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}]$.

Proof At $\mathfrak{L}$: $\mathfrak{R}, \mathfrak{I}$ and $\mathfrak{I}$ is semisimple, $[\mathfrak{L}, \mathfrak{L}] = [\mathfrak{R}, \mathfrak{L}] + [\mathfrak{I}, \mathfrak{I}] = [\mathfrak{R}, \mathfrak{L}] + \mathfrak{I}$
 Note that $[\mathfrak{R}, \mathfrak{L}]$ is the radical of $[\mathfrak{L}, \mathfrak{L}]$ as $\mathfrak{I}$ is semisimple and
 $[\mathfrak{R}, \mathfrak{L}] \subset \mathfrak{R}$ is a solvable ideal. $\square$

C. The Malcev Theorem

If $\mathfrak{L}$ is any finite dimensional Lie algebra and D is a nilpotent derivation of $\mathfrak{L}$, then $\exp D = 1 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!} D^k$ is a well defined automorphism of $\mathfrak{L}$.

$$\text{Indeed, if } D^k = 0, \exp D[X, Y] = \sum_{a \geq 0} \sum_{b \geq 0} \left[\frac{1}{a!} D^a X, \frac{1}{(b-k)!} D^{b-k} Y \right] \\ = [\exp D X, \exp D Y]$$

and everything is well defined as all sums are finite. The homomorphism $\exp D$ is clearly invertible by exhibiting its inverse $1 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k}{k!} D^k$.

Definition If $X \in \mathfrak{L}$ is such that $\text{ad } X$ is nilpotent, the automorphism $\exp(\text{ad } X)$ is called an inner automorphism.

Lemma If $\mathfrak{L}$ is a Lie algebra over $\mathbb{A}$ and $\mathfrak{R}$ is radical, then $[\mathfrak{R}, \mathfrak{L}]$ consists of ad-nilpotent elements (i.e. $\text{ad } X$ is nilpotent $\forall X \in [\mathfrak{R}, \mathfrak{L}]$).

Proof If D is a derivation of $\mathfrak{R}$, we construct $\mathfrak{R}' = \mathfrak{R} \times \mathbb{A}$ with the bracket $[(X, a), (Y, b)] = ([X, Y] + aDY - bDX, 0)$. $\mathfrak{R}'$ is solvable so $[\mathfrak{R}', \mathfrak{R}']$ is nilpotent. As $\mathfrak{R} \times \{0\}$ is an ideal in $\mathfrak{R}'$, $[\mathfrak{R}', \mathfrak{R}'] \cap (\mathfrak{R} \times \{0\})$ is nilpotent. So, $\forall X \in \mathfrak{R}, \forall D$ derivation of $\mathfrak{R}$, $[(X, 0), (0, 1)] = (-DX, 0)$ is nilpotent. This means that $\text{ad } DX$ is nilpotent in $\mathfrak{R}$, thus also in $\mathfrak{L}$. In particular $\text{ad } [Y, X]$ is nilpotent for all $Y \in \mathfrak{L}, X \in \mathfrak{R}$. $\square$

Remark If $\mathfrak{L} = \mathfrak{R} \oplus \mathfrak{I}$ is a Levi decomposition and G is the group of automorphisms of $\mathfrak{L}$ generated by $\exp \text{ad } Z$ for $Z \in [\mathfrak{R}, \mathfrak{L}]$, then $\mathfrak{R}$ is stabilized by G and so $g \cdot \mathfrak{I} = \mathfrak{I}'$ is a Levi subalgebra of $\mathfrak{L}$.

Theorem (Malcev) Let $\mathfrak{L}$ be a Lie algebra, $\mathfrak{R}$ its radical, G the group generated by $\exp \text{ad } [\mathfrak{R}, \mathfrak{L}]$ and $\mathfrak{I}_1, \mathfrak{I}_2$ be two Levi subalgebras of $\mathfrak{L}$. Then, there exists $g \in G$ such that $g \cdot \mathfrak{I}_1 = \mathfrak{I}_2$.
 (for a proof see Varadarajan)

10. A Lie group of a Lie algebra

Definition 1 Let A, B be two Lie groups and s be a Lie homomorphism of B into the group of Lie automorphisms of A .

One defines $A \times_s B$, the semidirect product of A with B relative to s , to be the Lie group on the manifold $A \times B$ with multiplication given by

$$(a_1, b_1)(a_2, b_2) = (a_1, s(b_1)(a_2), b_1 b_2)$$

Lemma 1 The Lie algebra $\mathfrak{g}$ of $A \times_s B$ is given by the semidirect product of the Lie algebras $\mathfrak{a}$ of A and $\mathfrak{b}$ of B relative to σ , where σ is the differential of the map $\sigma: B \rightarrow \text{GL}(\mathfrak{a})$ $b \mapsto \sigma(b) = s(b)_*$.

Proof For any $a \in A, b \in B$ define $a' = (a, e_B)$ $b' = (e_A, b)$
 $A' = A \times \{e_B\}$, $B' = \{e_A\} \times B$. Then $b' a' b'^{-1} = s_b(a')$. A' is a closed normal subgroup of G of Lie algebra $\mathfrak{a}' \cong \mathfrak{a}$, B' is a closed subgroup with Lie algebra $\mathfrak{b}' \cong \mathfrak{b}$. If $\sigma(b) = s(b)_*$, $\exp tX = \exp t \sigma(b)(X)$ for $X \in \mathfrak{a}$ and $(\tau_b(X))' = \text{Ad}_{b'} b' X'$. Thus $(\sigma(Y), X)' = [Y', X']$ ($Y \in \mathfrak{b}, X \in \mathfrak{a}$) and, as $\mathfrak{a}' \cap \mathfrak{b}' = 0$, the map $(X, Y) \mapsto X' + Y'$ is a Lie algebra homomorphism (we have denoted by $X \mapsto X'$ the isomorphism of $\mathfrak{a}$ into $\mathfrak{a}'$ and similarly for $\mathfrak{b} \cong \mathfrak{b}'$). $\square$

Lemma 2 Let $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{a} \ltimes_s \mathfrak{b}$ be a given semidirect product of Lie algebras, and let A (resp B) be a connected simply connected Lie group with Lie algebra $\mathfrak{a}$ (resp $\mathfrak{b}$)

Then there exists a Lie homomorphism s of B into the group of Lie automorphisms of A so that the group $G = A \rtimes B$ has G as Lie algebra.

Proof σ is a representation of B in $\mathcal{A}$ such that $\sigma(Y)$ is a derivation of $\mathcal{A}$ $\forall Y \in B$. Since B is simply connected, there is a representation $\sigma: B \rightarrow \mathcal{A}l(\mathcal{A})$ such that $\sigma_X = \sigma$; each $\sigma(b)$ is an automorphism of $\mathcal{A}$. As A is simply connected, there exists an automorphism of A , $s(b)$, such that $s(b)_* = \sigma(b)$. One can check that the map s is a Lie homomorphism and define $G = A \rtimes B$. Clearly G is Lie algebra. $\square$

Theorem Let G be a Lie algebra over $\mathbb{R}$ or $\mathbb{C}$. Then, there exists a connected simply connected Lie group G whose Lie algebra is isomorphic to G .

Proof We know that $G = \mathcal{R} + \mathcal{I}$, $\mathcal{R} \cap \mathcal{I} = \{0\}$ where $\mathcal{R}$ is its radical (which is an ideal) and $\mathcal{I}$ a Levi subalgebra, hence G is the semi direct product of $\mathcal{R}$ and $\mathcal{I}$. From the above, it is enough to consider the two following cases: G semisimple and G solvable.

If G is semisimple, the adjoint representation is faithful ($x \in \mathcal{A}d X = 0 \Rightarrow X = 0$) so G can be viewed as sitting in $\mathcal{A}l(G)$. Let G' be the corresponding connected Lie subgroup of $\mathcal{A}l(G)$ and G its universal covering. G is a connected simply connected Lie group with Lie algebra G .

If G is solvable, one proves the theorem by induction on $\dim G$. For $\dim G = 1$, it is trivial. If not, take a subspace $\mathcal{A}$ of G such that $[\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A}] \subset \mathcal{A}$ and $\dim G/\mathcal{A} = 1$. Let $\mathcal{B}$ be a 1-dimensional subspace of G complementary to $\mathcal{A}$. Since $\mathcal{A}$ is an ideal, G is the semi direct product of $\mathcal{A}$ and $\mathcal{B}$ relative to σ , where $\sigma(X)Y = [Y, X] \forall X \in \mathcal{B}, Y \in \mathcal{A}$, hence the result by lemma 2 and induction. $\square$

