

# New Constructions of Exceptional Simple Lie Superalgebras in Low Characteristic Using Tensor Categories

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Arun Kannan (MIT)

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IPAM Workshop on Symmetric Tensor Categories and Representation Theory © UCLA

## Lie Algebras in STCs

- An (operadic) Lie algebra in an STC  $\mathcal{C}$  is an object  $\mathfrak{g} \in \mathcal{C}$  and a morphism  $B : \mathfrak{g} \otimes \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$  such that

$$B \circ (1_{\mathfrak{g} \otimes \mathfrak{g}} + c_{\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}}) = 0;$$

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- In general might not satisfy  $\text{gr } U(\mathfrak{g}) = S(\mathfrak{g})$  (PBW Theorem).

## Examples of Lie Algebras in STCs

- $\mathfrak{gl}(X) = X \otimes X^*$  with bracket  $B$  given by

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- $\mathfrak{gl}(X)$  is always PBW; the others are PBW at least for any Frobenius-exact  $\mathcal{C}$ .

## Another Example

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- A Lie algebra  $(\mathfrak{g}, [\cdot, \cdot])$  in  $\text{Rep } \mathbb{K}[t]/(t^p)$  is an ordinary Lie algebra equipped with a nilpotent derivation of degree at most  $p$ :

$$t.[x, y] = [t.x, y] + [x, t.y]$$

(so that  $[\cdot, \cdot]$  is a morphism in the category).

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- Representation theory of an affine group scheme  $G$  over  $\text{Ver}_p$  is controlled by underlying ordinary group scheme  $G_0$  and its Lie algebra  $\text{Lie}(G)$ .



**Proposition:**  $\text{sVec}_{\mathbb{K}}$  is a full subcategory of  $\text{Ver}_p$  if  $p > 2$ .

**Proof.**

If  $J_{p-1} \in \text{Rep } \mathbb{K}[t]/(t^p)$  has basis  $\{v, t.v, \dots, t^{p-2}.v\}$ , then can show  $J_{p-1} \otimes J_{p-1} = J_1 \oplus (p-2)J_p$  with  $J_1$  spanned by

$$w = v \otimes (t^{p-2}.v) - t.v \otimes (t^{p-3}.v) + \dots - (t^{p-2}.v) \otimes v.$$

Because  $p$  is odd,  $c_{J_{p-1}, J_{p-1}}(w) = -w$ . After semisimplification, we get  $L_{p-1} \otimes L_{p-1} = L_1$  and  $c_{L_{p-1}, L_{p-1}}$  is multiplication by  $-1$ . Hence  $L_{p-1}$  tensor generates  $\text{sVec}_{\mathbb{K}}$ .  $\square$

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2. Semisimplification functor being symmetric monoidal (not exact!) is a window from ordinary rep theory to super and  $\text{Ver}_p$  rep theory.

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4. Semisimplification is not always PBW. Consider free Lie algebra in characteristic 3 on generators  $x, y$  modulo elements of degree 4, equipped with derivation  $d$  given by  $d(x) = y, d(y) = 0$ . As a Lie algebra in  $\text{Rep } \mathbb{K}[t]/(t^3)$  it semisimplifies to a “Lie superalgebra” spanned by  $\{z, [z, z], [z, [z, z]]\}$ .

## Example: $\mathfrak{gl}_6$

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$(\mathfrak{gl}_6, \text{ad } e_{56})$  is a Lie algebra in  $\text{Rep } \alpha_3$ .

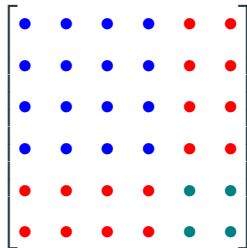
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- It decomposes as  $\mathfrak{gl}_6 = 16J_1 \oplus 8J_2 \oplus (J_1 \oplus J_3)$ :



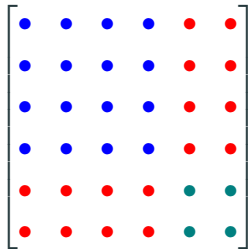
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- Therefore, its semisimplification is  $\mathfrak{gl}(4|1) = 16L_1 \oplus 8L_2 \oplus L_1$ .

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- Associates a Lie superalgebra to two unital composition algebras.
- We saw several of these in the previous talk and saw how semisimplification plays a role in their construction at a conceptual level. Will present an alternative construction here.

## The Result

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**Theorem (K).** These Lie superalgebras can be constructed by semisimplifying an exceptional Lie algebra in characteristic 3 equipped with a nilpotent derivation of degree at most 3.



## Kac-Moody Lie Superalgebra

- The setup:  $A \in \text{Mat}_n(\mathbb{Z})$  such that diagonal entries are either 2 or 0; if  $a_{ii} = 2$ , declare  $i$  to be an even index, if  $a_{ii} = 0$ , declare  $i$  to be an odd index. Define the Lie superalgebra  $\tilde{\mathfrak{g}}(A)$  over  $\mathbb{K}$  to be the free Lie superalgebra on generators  $\{e_i, f_i, h_i\}_{1 \leq i \leq n}$  subject to the relations:

$$[e_i, f_j] = \delta_{ij} h_i; \quad [h, e_j] = a_{ij} e_j; \quad [h, f_j] = -a_{ij} f_j; \quad [h_i, h_j] = 0,$$

and let  $\mathfrak{g}(A)$  be  $\tilde{\mathfrak{g}}(A)/I$ , where  $I$  is the maximal ideal trivially intersecting  $\mathfrak{h} = \mathbb{K}h_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathbb{K}h_n$ .

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- The Elduque and Cunha Lie superalgebras are of this form (or “related”).

## Semisimplification in Action

The 133-dimensional simple exceptional Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{e}_7$  can be written  $\mathfrak{e}_7 = \mathfrak{g}(\hat{A})$ , where

$$\hat{A} = \left[ \begin{array}{ccccc|cc} 2 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 2 \end{array} \right].$$

The generator  $e_7$  is ad-nilpotent of degree 3, so can view  $\mathfrak{e}_7$  as an Lie algebra in  $\text{Rep } \alpha_3$  w.r.t.  $\text{ad } e_7$ .

## Semisimplification in Action

Its semisimplification is a finite-dimensional simple exceptional Eldque and Cunha Lie superalgebra  $\mathfrak{g}(A)$  of superdimension  $(66|32)$ , where

$$A = \left[ \begin{array}{ccccc|c} 2 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \end{array} \right].$$

Idea: the copy of  $J_2$  spanned by  $e_6$  and  $[e_6, e_7]$  in  $\mathfrak{e}_7$  became an odd generator (resp.  $f$ ) in the semisimplification. **Demonstration.**

## Other Comments

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- Can do this more generally by adding commuting Chevalley generators. For instance, semisimplifying  $\mathfrak{e}_7$  with respect to  $e_1 + e_7$  gives another Elduque and Cunha Lie superalgebra. We can get most of them this way by looking at the right Cartan matrix and comparing dimensions.

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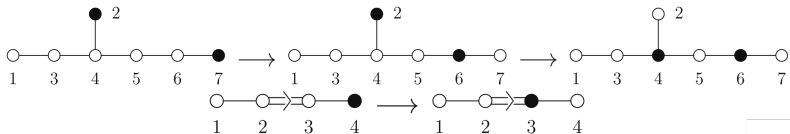
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- If  $e$  and  $e'$  lie in the same nilpotent orbit, then the semisimplifications of  $\mathfrak{g}(A)$  w.r.t.  $e$  and  $e'$  are isomorphic. This gives us large class of realizations (next slide).

## Other Comments

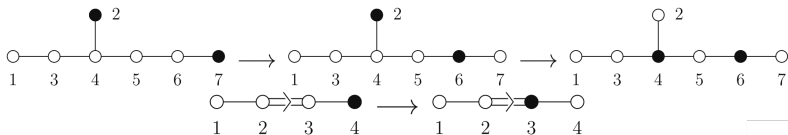
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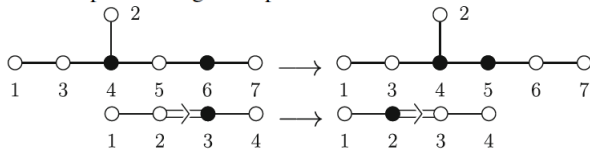


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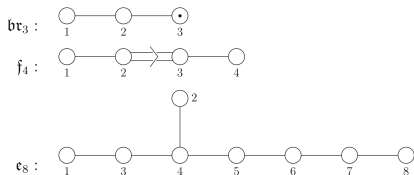
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# Summary of Results



Lie algebra	Nilpotent element	Lie superalgebra
$\mathfrak{br}_3$	$e_1, e_2$	$\mathfrak{br}_{2,3}$
$\mathfrak{f}_4$	$e_1$ $e_4$ $e_1 + e_4$	see $(\star)$ below $\mathfrak{g}(1, 6)$ see $(\star)$ below
$\mathfrak{e}_6^{(1)}$	$e_1, e_2, e_6$ $e_1 + e_2, e_2 + e_6, e_1 + e_6$ $e_1 + e_2 + e_6$	$\mathfrak{g}(2, 6)^{(1)}$ $\mathfrak{g}(3, 3)^{(1)}$ $\mathfrak{g}(2, 3)^{(1)}$
$\mathfrak{e}_7$	$e_1, e_2, e_7$ $e_1 + e_2, e_2 + e_7, e_1 + e_7$ $e_1 + e_2 + e_7$ $e_2 + e_5 + e_7$ $e_1 + e_2 + e_5 + e_7$	$\mathfrak{g}(4, 6)$ $\mathfrak{sl}(5; 3)$ $\mathfrak{g}(4, 3)$ $\mathfrak{f}_4$ ; see $(\star\star)$ below $\mathfrak{g}(1, 6)$
$\mathfrak{e}_8$	$e_1, e_2, e_8$ $e_1 + e_2, e_2 + e_8, e_1 + e_8$ $e_1 + e_2 + e_8$ $e_1 + e_2 + e_6 + e_8$	$\mathfrak{g}(8, 6)$ $\mathfrak{g}(6, 6)$ $\mathfrak{g}(8, 3)$ $\mathfrak{g}(3, 6)$

## Follow-Up Problems

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- Which nilpotent derivations give the same semisimplifications and why?
- Study the representation theory of these exceptional Lie superalgebras by semisimplifying representations of the exceptional Lie algebras they come from.
- What is the notion of a Kac-Moody Lie algebra in the Verlinde category? Given such a notion, how does it relate to semisimplifying a Kac-Moody Lie algebra in  $\text{Rep } \alpha_p$ ?

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- Semisimplify other algebraic objects (like distribution algebras of affine group schemes). What happens?

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- More generally: what theorems that extend from vector spaces to supervector spaces extend to the Verlinde setting? What new things do we get along the way?

## References

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