

Complete Reducibility of Torsion Free C_n -Modules of Finite Degree

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Abstract

We show that every torsion free weight module with finite dimensional weight spaces over a symplectic complex Lie algebra, which is different from $\mathfrak{sp}(2, \mathbb{C})$, is completely reducible.

1 Introduction and the main result

Let \mathfrak{g} be a simple complex finite dimensional Lie algebra and \mathfrak{h} be a fixed Cartan subalgebra of \mathfrak{g} . A \mathfrak{g} -module, V , is called a *weight*-module provided that the action of \mathfrak{h} on V is diagonalizable. Alternatively, if for $\lambda \in \mathfrak{h}^*$ one defines $V_\lambda = \{v \in V : h(v) = \lambda(h)v \text{ for all } h \in \mathfrak{h}\}$, then V is a weight module if and only if $V = \bigoplus_{\lambda \in \mathfrak{h}^*} V_\lambda$. A weight \mathfrak{g} -module, V , is said to be *torsion free* provided that the action of any non-zero element in $\mathfrak{g} \setminus \mathfrak{h}$ is bijective. Throughout this paper $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sp}(2n, \mathbb{C})$ for some $n > 1$. The main result of the present paper is the following theorem.

Theorem 1. *Assume that $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sp}(2n, \mathbb{C})$, $n > 1$, is a symplectic Lie algebra and V is a weight torsion free \mathfrak{g} -module with finite dimensional weight spaces. Then V is completely reducible. Equivalently, for $n > 1$ the category $\mathcal{T}(\mathfrak{sp}(2n, \mathbb{C}))$ of all weight torsion free $\mathfrak{sp}(2n, \mathbb{C})$ -modules with finite dimensional weight spaces is semi-simple.*

Theorem 1 was conjectured in 1994 by the first and third authors in presentations at conferences in Banff and Detroit. Good evidence for this

conjecture was obtained in [BL3], where it was shown that the tensor product of arbitrary simple torsion free $\mathfrak{sp}(2n, \mathbb{C})$ -modules with finite dimensional weight spaces and any finite dimensional $\mathfrak{sp}(2n, \mathbb{C})$ -module is completely reducible.

We remark that the classification of the simple objects in the category $\mathcal{T}(\mathfrak{sp}(2n, \mathbb{C}))$ is known [M]. The algebra $\mathfrak{sp}(2n, \mathbb{C})$ is the Lie algebra of type C_n , which explains the title of the paper. And finally, the condition $n > 1$ is necessary. For $n = 1$ the algebra $\mathfrak{sp}(2, \mathbb{C})$ is of type A_1 and is isomorphic to $\mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{C})$. It is well-known that in this case weight torsion free modules with finite dimensional weight spaces can have self-extensions. Actually, it can be easily derived from the results of [DFO] that the indecomposable blocks of the category of weight torsion free $\mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{C})$ -module with finite dimensional weight spaces are equivalent to the category of nilpotent representations of the polynomial algebra $\mathbb{C}[x]$. An explicit example of a non-split self-extension of a simple torsion free A_1 -module is provided in [BL2]. We further remark that the statement of Theorem 1 is, in general, false for torsion free $\mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbb{C})$ -modules, $n \geq 1$, on the other hand, the result trivially extends to any direct sum of symplectic algebras. For simple algebras, which are not of type A_n or C_n , simple weight torsion-free modules with finite-dimensional weight spaces do not exist, see [F].

Our approach to the proof of Theorem 1 can be split into three steps. In the first step we use an equivalence of certain categories from [BG] to reduce the question to the case of the so-called *completely pointed* modules, i.e. those weight modules V for which $\dim(V_\lambda) \leq 1$ for all $\lambda \in \mathfrak{h}^*$. In the second step we use Mathieu's twisting functor, [M], and some specific features of the root system of \mathfrak{g} to reduce the study of self-extensions of completely pointed $\mathfrak{sp}(2n, \mathbb{C})$ -modules to the study of completely pointed $\mathfrak{sp}(4, \mathbb{C})$ -modules. These two steps form Section 2. In section 3 we use a direct computational approach to show that completely pointed torsion free $\mathfrak{sp}(4, \mathbb{C})$ -modules do not have self-extensions, and we continue this approach in Section 4 to obtain an alternative computational proof of Theorem 1. In the last section we derive a corollary of Theorem 1 for some parabolic generalizations of the category \mathcal{O} .

2 Proof of Theorem 1

Our proof of Theorem 1, which we present in this section will use the following lemma which will be proven in Section 3.

Lemma 1. *Assume that $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sp}(4, \mathbb{C})$, and V is a simple, torsion free, completely pointed weight \mathfrak{g} -module. Then $\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{W}(\mathfrak{g})}^1(V, V) = 0$, where $\mathcal{W}(\mathfrak{g})$ denotes the category of all weight \mathfrak{g} -modules. In particular, the action of an arbitrary element from the centralizer $U_0(\mathfrak{g})$ of the Cartan subalgebra of $\mathfrak{sp}(4, \mathbb{C})$ on any weight space of an arbitrary extension of completely pointed torsion free simple modules is a multiple of the identity.*

Since every module $V \in \mathcal{T}_n = \mathcal{T}(\mathfrak{sp}(2n, \mathbb{C}))$ has finite dimensional weight spaces, the action of the center $Z(\mathfrak{g})$ of the universal enveloping algebra $U(\mathfrak{g})$ on V is locally finite. Hence, we have the decomposition $\mathcal{T}_n = \bigoplus_{\chi \in Z(\mathfrak{g})^*} \mathcal{T}_n(\chi)$, where $\mathcal{T}_n(\chi)$ is the full subcategory of \mathcal{T}_n , which consists of all modules M such that there exists $k \in \mathbb{N}$ with $(z - \chi(z))^k M = 0$ for all $z \in Z(\mathfrak{g})$. We can further decompose the categories $\mathcal{T}_n(\chi)$ as follows: for $\lambda \in \mathfrak{h}^*$ we denote by $\mathcal{T}_n(\chi, \lambda)$ the full subcategory of $\mathcal{T}_n(\chi)$, consisting of all M , whose *support* $\text{supp}(M) = \{\mu \in \mathfrak{h}^* : M_\mu \neq (0)\} \subseteq \lambda + \mathbb{Z}\Delta$, where Δ is the root system of \mathfrak{g} with respect to \mathfrak{h} . It is obvious that $\mathcal{T}_n(\chi, \lambda)$ is a direct summand of $\mathcal{T}_n(\chi)$. We remark that $\mathcal{T}_n(\chi, \lambda) = \mathcal{T}_n(\chi, \mu)$ if and only if $\mu \in \lambda + \mathbb{Z}\Delta$. According to Mathieu's classification and using [M, Section 9] one gets that every $\mathcal{T}_n(\chi, \lambda)$ is either zero or contains exactly one simple module.

Lemma 2. *Let $\chi, \chi' \in Z(\mathfrak{g})^*$ and $\lambda, \lambda' \in \mathfrak{h}^*$ be such that both $\mathcal{T}_n(\chi, \lambda)$ and $\mathcal{T}_n(\chi', \lambda')$ are non-zero. Then $\mathcal{T}_n(\chi, \lambda)$ and $\mathcal{T}_n(\chi', \lambda')$ are equivalent.*

Proof. If $\chi = \chi'$, then, according to [M, Section 9], the simple modules L from $\mathcal{T}_n(\chi, \lambda)$ and L' from $\mathcal{T}_n(\chi, \lambda')$ belong to the same coherent family. Hence, these modules are related by the so-called *Mathieu's twisting functor* briefly described as follows. Let X_1, \dots, X_n be the set of pairwise commuting root elements of \mathfrak{g} , which correspond to linearly independent roots. Denote by U' the localization of $U(\mathfrak{g})$ with respect to the Ore multiplicative subset, generated by X_1, \dots, X_n . Then the algebra U' has an n -parameter family of automorphisms $\Theta_{(t_1, \dots, t_n)}$ such that $\Theta_{(t_1, \dots, t_n)}(r) = X_1^{t_1} \dots X_n^{t_n} r X_n^{-t_n} \dots X_1^{-t_1}$ provided that all t_i 's are integers and the map $(t_1, \dots, t_n) \mapsto \Theta_{(t_1, \dots, t_n)}(r)$ is polynomial in (t_1, \dots, t_n) for every $r \in U'$. This polynomial nature of $\Theta_{(t_1, \dots, t_n)}$ allows one to extend the class of automorphisms so that $\Theta_{(t_1, \dots, t_n)}$ is

defined for all $(t_1, \dots, t_n) \in \mathbb{C}^n$. Denote by $\hat{\mathcal{F}}_{(t_1, \dots, t_n)}$ the composition of the following functors: $U' \otimes_{U(\mathfrak{g})} -$, twisting by $\Theta_{(t_1, \dots, t_n)}$, and restriction to $U(\mathfrak{g})$. Clearly, this is an endofunctor on the category of all \mathfrak{g} -modules on which the X_i 's act injectively. According to [M, Section 9], there exist $t_1, \dots, t_n \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $\hat{\mathcal{F}}_{(t_1, \dots, t_n)}(L) = L'$. Then it is obvious that the functors $\hat{\mathcal{F}}_{(t_1, \dots, t_n)} : \mathcal{T}_n(\chi, \lambda) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}_n(\chi, \lambda')$ and $\hat{\mathcal{F}}_{(-t_1, \dots, -t_n)} : \mathcal{T}_n(\chi, \lambda') \rightarrow \mathcal{T}_n(\chi, \lambda)$ are mutually inverse equivalences of categories.

To complete the proof it is now enough to show that the statement of the lemma is true when $\lambda = \lambda'$. In this case we again can use the classification in [M] and state that there exists a finite dimensional \mathfrak{g} -module, F , such that tensoring with F and projecting on $\mathcal{T}(\chi')$ defines an exact functor from $\mathcal{T}_n(\chi, \lambda)$ to $\mathcal{T}_n(\chi', \lambda)$. In fact, this functor is a translation functor. Since, according to [M, Lemma 9.1], the highest weight μ of every simple highest weight \mathfrak{g} -module with uniformly bounded dimensions of the weight spaces satisfies either $(\mu, \alpha) \geq 0$ or $(\mu, \alpha) \in \frac{1}{2} + \mathbb{Z}$ for every simple root, this translation does not cross the walls. Hence, by [BG, Theorem 4.1] or [BeGi, Proposition 3.1], it is an equivalence of $\mathcal{T}(\chi)$ and $\mathcal{T}(\chi')$. As tensoring with finite dimensional modules preserves cosets with respect to the weight lattice, we conclude that the categories $\mathcal{T}_n(\chi, \lambda)$ and $\mathcal{T}_n(\chi', \lambda)$ are equivalent as well. This completes the proof. \square

By Lemma 2, in order to prove Theorem 1, it is now enough to show that completely pointed torsion free \mathfrak{g} -modules do not have self-extensions. Now we are going to simplify the situation even more, reducing all the questions to the algebra $\mathfrak{sp}(4, \mathbb{C})$ (alternatively, one can also use computational arguments given in the end of Section 3).

Lemma 3. *Assume that we have chosen a basis, π , of Δ . Let V be a completely pointed simple highest weight (with respect to π) \mathfrak{g} -module. If $\alpha \in \Delta$ is simple and short then every element from \mathfrak{g}_α acts locally nilpotent on V . If $\alpha \in \Delta$ is long and negative then every non-zero element from \mathfrak{g}_α acts injectively on V .*

Proof. This is an immediate consequence of [M, Lemma 9.1]. \square

Corollary 1. *Let V be as in Lemma 3 and let β_1, \dots, β_n be the list of all positive long roots. Then there exists $\lambda \in \mathfrak{h}^*$ such that the support of V belongs to the set $\{\lambda - \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \beta_i : a_i \in \mathbb{R}_+\}$.*

Proof. Let $\pi = \{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n\}$ where α_n is the long simple root. Let μ be the highest weight of V . Then, according to Lemma 3, the set $A = \text{supp}(V) \cap \{\mu - \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} a_i \alpha_i : a_i \in \mathbb{Z}_+\}$ is finite since all roots α_i , $i = 1, \dots, n-1$, are short. It follows now from the PBW Theorem that $\text{supp}(V) \subset \cup_{\nu \in A} \{\nu - \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \beta_i : a_i \in \mathbb{R}_+\}$. Since this is a finite union of cones, we can find a weight $\lambda \in \mathfrak{h}^*$, which generates the cone, containing all these cones. This completes the proof. \square

Proposition 1. *Let V be as in Lemma 3. Denote by U' Mathieu's localization of $U(\mathfrak{g})$ with respect to the negative long root vectors. Then the following statements hold:*

1. *The module $V' = U' \otimes_{U(\mathfrak{g})} V$ has length 2^n .*
2. *Every simple subquotient of this module is a simple completely pointed highest weight module with respect to some choice of a basis in Δ .*
3. *There exists $\lambda \in \mathfrak{h}^*$ such that for every simple subquotient W of V' there exist $\varepsilon_i \in \{\pm 1\}$, $i = 1, \dots, n$, such that $\text{supp}(W) \subset \{\lambda - \sum_{i=1}^n \varepsilon_i a_i \beta_i : a_i \in \mathbb{R}_+\}$.*

Proof. Clearly every simple subquotient of V' is a completely pointed highest weight module for some choice of the basis in Δ .

Let B_r be the ball of radius r in \mathbb{R}^n and b_n denote the number of integer points in $B_b \cap \mathbb{Z}^n$. It is well-known that b_n has a polynomial growth, moreover, this growth is exactly n . Let C be the leading coefficient of the growth polynomial. According to Lemma 3 all negative long root vectors act injectively on V and the same (for the corresponding negative long root vectors) can be stated for all simple subquotients of V' . Hence, the growth of the support of every simple subquotient of V' equals n and the leading coefficient of the corresponding polynomial is not less than $C2^{-n}$. Since the support of V' can be identified with \mathbb{Z}^n , it has growth n and leading coefficient C . Hence the length of V' does not exceed 2^n .

Take a positive long root, β , and denote by U'' the Mathieu's localization with respect to $\mathfrak{g}_{-\beta}$. By the same arguments as above one can see that the support of the module $V'' = U'' \otimes_{U(\mathfrak{g})} V$ has growth n and the leading coefficient $C2^{-n+1}$. By the arguments above its length is at most 2. However, it can not be 1 since V is a submodule, and the growth of $\text{supp}(V)$ is strictly smaller than the growth of $\text{supp}(V'')$. This means that V'' has length exactly 2. Denote by \tilde{V} the second simple subquotient of V'' . From this construction

and using Corollary 1 one easily gets that there exists $\lambda \in \mathfrak{h}^*$ such that $\text{supp}(V) \subset \{\lambda - \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \beta_i : a_i \in \mathbb{R}_+\}$ and, taking λ the minimal possible with respect to the natural order on \mathfrak{h}^* , we get $\text{supp}(\tilde{V}) \subset \{\lambda - \sum_{i=1}^n \varepsilon_i a_i \beta_i : a_i \in \mathbb{R}_+\}$, where $\varepsilon_i = -1$ if and only if $\beta_i = \beta$.

Now let $D \subset \{-\beta_1, \dots, -\beta_n\}$ be a subset of long negative roots. Applying the previous construction to all roots from D we construct simple subquotients of V' , whose support is included into the set $\{\lambda - \sum_{i=1}^n \varepsilon_i a_i \beta_i : a_i \in \mathbb{R}_+\}$, where $\varepsilon_i = -1$ if and only if $-\beta_i \in D$. In particular, this gives us 2^n non-isomorphic simple subquotients of V' . This means that the length of V' is exactly 2^n and the modules constructed above are all simple subquotients of V' . The statement about the supports now follows directly from the construction. \square

For V as above and for $\varepsilon_i \in \{\pm 1\}$, $i = 1, \dots, n$, we denote by $V(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n)$ the simple subquotient of V' , whose support is contained in the set $\{\lambda - \sum_{i=1}^n \varepsilon_i a_i \beta_i : a_i \in \mathbb{R}_+\}$ (here V' and λ as in Proposition 1). We remark that $V = V(1, 1, \dots, 1)$.

Lemma 4. *Let $\varepsilon_i \in \{\pm 1\}$, $i = 1, \dots, n$. Then the following statements are equivalent:*

1. $\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{W}(\mathfrak{g})}^1(V, V(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n)) \neq 0$.
2. $\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{W}(\mathfrak{g})}^1(V(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n), V) \neq 0$.
3. *Exactly one of ε_i , $i = 1, \dots, n$, equals -1 .*

Proof. The equivalence of the first two statements follows by the standard duality arguments, using the Chevalley anti involution on \mathfrak{g} , see for example [FM, Section 5.5].

The fact that V does not have self-extensions is obvious. The existence of a non-split extension of V by $V(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n)$, where exactly one ε_i equals -1 follows from the construction of the module V'' in the proof of Proposition 1 (that V'' is indecomposable follows from the fact that non-zero elements from $\mathfrak{g}_{-\beta}$ act, by construction, bijectively on V''). Hence we have only to prove that for example $\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{W}(\mathfrak{g})}^1(V(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n), V) = 0$ provided that at least two of ε_i are equal to -1 . Assume that W is a non-split extension with submodule V and subquotient $V(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n)$.

By Proposition 1 we have that $\text{supp}(V) \subset S_1 = \{\lambda - \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \beta_i : a_i \in \mathbb{R}_+\}$ and $\text{supp}(V(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n)) \subset S_2 = \{\lambda - \sum_{i=1}^n \varepsilon_i a_i \beta_i : a_i \in \mathbb{R}_+\}$. Since

at least two ε_i are equal to -1 , the intersection of the cones S_1 and S_2 has codimension at least 2 (considering the n -dimensional cube it is easy to see that this codimension is just the number of ε_i , which are equal to -1). Let $-\beta$ be some long negative root (with respect to π), which acts locally nilpotent on $V(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n)$. Since the intersection of S_1 and S_2 has codimension at least 2 and the set of all $\nu \in \text{supp}(V(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n))$, such that $\nu - \beta \notin \text{supp}(V(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n))$ has codimension 1, we can find some weight $\nu \in \text{supp}(W)$ such that $\mathfrak{g}_{-\beta}W_\nu = 0$, moreover, this ν certainly belongs to $\text{supp}(V(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n))$. But the module W is of course generated by W_ν , since W is indecomposable and $W_\nu = V(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n)_\nu$, the latter being in the top of W . This implies that $\mathfrak{g}_{-\beta}$ must act locally nilpotent on W since $W = U(\mathfrak{g})W_\mu$ and $\mathfrak{g}_{-\beta}$ acts locally nilpotent on $U(\mathfrak{g})$ and W_μ . But this contradicts the fact that $\mathfrak{g}_{-\beta}$ acts injectively on V by Lemma 3. \square

Now we are ready to prove our main result.

Proof of Theorem 1. From Lemma 1 it suffices to prove the statement for completely pointed modules. For $n = 2$ the result is given by Lemma 1. Now assume that $n > 2$ and let M be an arbitrary completely pointed torsion free $\mathfrak{sp}(2n, \mathbb{C})$ -module. Assume that M' is a non-split self-extension of M . Choose some basis $\pi \subset \Delta$ and consider Mathieu's localization U' of $U(\mathfrak{g})$ with respect to the set of all negative long roots. Choose t_1, \dots, t_n such that $\tilde{M} = \Theta_{(t_1, \dots, t_n)}(M')$ contains a simple highest weight submodule, say V (existence is given by Mathieu's classification of coherent families, [M]). Since Mathieu's twisting is invertible, the module \tilde{M} will be a non-split self-extension of the module $\hat{M} = \Theta_{(t_1, \dots, t_n)}(M)$.

Now consider the centralizer U_0 of \mathfrak{h} in $U(\mathfrak{g})$. Since \tilde{M} is a non-split self-extension of \hat{M} , we immediately get that every weight subspace of \tilde{M} is an indecomposable module over U_0 . The quotient \tilde{M}/\hat{M} is isomorphic to \hat{M} and hence contains V in the socle. Consider the minimal submodule N of \tilde{M} such that $[N : V] = 2$. This module N will then contain one copy of V in the socle (this one comes from the socle of \tilde{M}) and one copy of V in the top. Since N is minimal, V will be the simple top of N . From the construction of \hat{M} one easily gets that V is the simple socle of \hat{M} and thus N has V as the simple socle as well. The radical of N belongs to \hat{M} . By Proposition 1, the module \hat{M} has length 2^n and all its simple subquotients are $V(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n)$, $\varepsilon_i \in \{\pm 1\}$, $i = 1, \dots, n$. From Lemma 4 it follows that the second socle of \hat{M} can contain only those $V(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n)$ for which exactly one ε_i equals -1 .

Denote V_i that $V(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n)$, for which $\varepsilon_i = -1$ and $\varepsilon_j = 1, j \neq i$. Moreover, since all $\mathfrak{g}_{-\beta}$, where β is a positive long root, act bijectively on \hat{M} we get that the second socle of \hat{M} contains all such V_i . In particular, these modules do not have self-extensions again by Lemma 4. Using Lemma 4 once more, we see that the top copy of V can extend only some of the modules from the second radical of \hat{M} . Recall that the module \hat{M} does not depend on our choice of π but rather on the choice of the long positive roots. Hence it will not change if we choose a different set of simple roots π which preserves the set of long positive roots. Hence similar arguments imply that the top copy of V must extend all modules V_i , which are in the second socle. This implies that the module N has Loewy length exactly 3 and the quotients of its (unique) Loewy filtration, which coincides with the radical filtration, are the following:

$$\begin{array}{c} V \\ V_1 \oplus V_2 \oplus \dots \oplus V_n . \\ V \end{array}$$

Now consider an arbitrary monomial, $u \in U_0$, which is written such that all positive roots are collected to the right hand side. And let μ be the highest weight of V . Applying u to an arbitrary element from N_μ we either immediately go to 0 or arrive to some subquotient V_i and further can proceed only to the socle copy of V . Hence the calculation of the action of u on N_μ takes place in the part of the module N , consisting of the top copy of V , the module V_i and the socle copy of V . Now consider all possible u , which go “through” the module V_n (we recall that α_n is the only long basis root). Now let us determine for which positive roots α it is possible that $\mu + \alpha \in \text{supp}(V_n)$. Certainly it is possible for $\alpha = \alpha_n$. Recall that $\text{supp}(V_n) \subset \{\mu - \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} a_i \beta_i + a_n \beta_n : a_i \in \mathbb{R}_+\}$. Hence, if α is a positive root such that $\mu + \alpha \in \text{supp}(V_n)$ it must be possible to write α in the form $-\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} a_i \beta_i + a_n \beta_n$, where $a_i \in \mathbb{R}_+$. Clearly the only positive root α , satisfying $\mu + \alpha \in \text{supp}(V_n)$ is actually α_n . Hence, the only element $u \in U_0$ that we need to consider is the element $X_{-\alpha_n} X_{\alpha_n}$, where $X_{\pm\alpha_n} \in \mathfrak{g}_{\pm\alpha_n}$.

Let $\mathfrak{a} = \mathfrak{sp}(4, \mathbb{C})$ denote the subalgebra of \mathfrak{g} generated by $\mathfrak{g}_{\pm\alpha_n}$ and $\mathfrak{g}_{\pm\alpha_{n-1}}$. The restriction of N to \mathfrak{a} decomposes into a direct sum of completely pointed modules and their extensions. Moreover, applying the inverse of $\Theta_{(t_1, \dots, t_n)}$ we can make the picture torsion free. Now Lemma 1 implies that the action of the centralizer of the Cartan subalgebra of \mathfrak{a} on N is diagonalizable. In particular, the action of $X_{-\alpha_n} X_{\alpha_n}$ on N , and hence on N_μ , is diagonalizable.

Since this is the only generating monomial of U_0 , “connecting” V with V_n (that is for all other generating monomials of U_0 , which have X_{α_n} on the right, their action on V_μ is trivial since they send V_μ outside the support of the module N), we conclude that the submodule, generated by V does not contain V_n , hence N does not contain V_n . This contradiction completes the proof. \square

We remark, that in the proof of Theorem 1 we really need to treat the case $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sp}(4, \mathbb{C})$ separately. Analogous reduction arguments do not work for the algebra $\mathfrak{sp}(4, \mathbb{C})$ since in this case one would be forced to go down to the algebra of type A_1 , for which the statement of Theorem 1, as we have already mentioned in the introduction, is not true.

3 Proof of Lemma 1

In this section we prove Lemma 1 as well as provide an alternate computational approach to proving that completely pointed torsion free C_n -modules do not admit non-split self-extensions. The authors acknowledge that some of the computational results relating to the algebra C_2 appeared in [C].

Proof of Lemma 1. For computational purposes we fix a Chevalley basis of $\mathfrak{sp}(4, \mathbb{C}) = C_2$:

$$\begin{array}{ll}
H_\alpha &= E_{11} - E_{22} - E_{33} + E_{44} & H_\beta &= E_{33} - E_{11} \\
X_\alpha &= E_{12} - E_{43} & Y_\alpha &= E_{21} - E_{34} \\
X_\beta &= E_{31} & Y_\beta &= E_{13} \\
X_{\alpha+\beta} &= -(E_{32} + E_{41}) & Y_{\alpha+\beta} &= -(E_{23} + E_{14}) \\
X_{2\alpha+\beta} &= 2E_{42} & Y_{2\alpha+\beta} &= 2E_{24}.
\end{array}$$

We also recall from [BL1] that the centralizer U_0 of the Cartan subalgebra \mathfrak{h} in the universal enveloping algebra is generated by the following elements

$$\begin{array}{ll}
H_\alpha & H_\beta \\
D_1 = Y_\alpha X_\alpha & D_2 = Y_\beta X_\beta \\
D_3 = Y_{\alpha+\beta} X_{\alpha+\beta} & D_4 = Y_{2\alpha+\beta} X_{2\alpha+\beta} \\
D_5 = Y_{\alpha+\beta} X_\beta X_\alpha & D_6 = Y_\alpha Y_\beta X_{\alpha+\beta} \\
D_7 = Y_{2\alpha+\beta} X_\alpha X_{\alpha+\beta} & D_8 = Y_{\alpha+\beta} Y_\alpha X_{2\alpha+\beta} \\
D_9 = Y_{2\alpha+\beta} X_\beta X_\alpha^2 & D_{10} = Y_\alpha^2 Y_\beta X_{2\alpha+\beta} \\
D_{11} = Y_{2\alpha+\beta} Y_\beta X_{\alpha+\beta}^2 & D_{12} = Y_{\alpha+\beta}^2 X_\beta X_{2\alpha+\beta}.
\end{array}$$

By direct computation we obtain the following identities in U_0

$$[D_1, D_2] = D_6 - D_5 \quad (3.1)$$

$$[D_1, D_4] = 2D_7 - 2D_8 \quad (3.2)$$

$$[D_1, D_5] = D_3D_1 - 2D_1D_2 + 2D_6 - D_9 - D_7 + D_4 - D_5H_\alpha \quad (3.3)$$

$$[D_1, D_6] = -D_3D_1 + 2D_1D_2 - 2D_5 + D_{10} + D_7 - D_4 + D_6H_\alpha \quad (3.4)$$

$$[D_1, D_7] = -2D_3D_1 + D_4D_1 + 2D_9 + 4D_7 - 2D_4 - 4D_5 \\ - D_7H_\alpha + C_4H_\alpha - 2D_8 \quad (3.5)$$

$$[D_2, D_5] = D_1D_2 - D_3H_\beta - D_3D_2 + D_5 - D_6 - D_5H_\beta \quad (3.6)$$

$$[D_2, D_7] = -D_9 - 2D_7 + D_4 - D_{11} \quad (3.7)$$

$$[D_2, D_8] = D_{12} + D_{10} + 2D_8 - D_4 \quad (3.8)$$

$$[D_4, D_{11}] = -4D_6D_4 - 4D_4D_3 + 8D_7 + 8D_8 + 4D_4D_2 + 8D_{10} \\ - 8D_4 + 4D_{11}(H_\alpha + H_\beta) + 8D_{11} \quad (3.9)$$

Assume now that V is a completely pointed torsion free C_2 -module and W is a self-extension of V . Fix a weight λ of W and select a basis $\mathcal{B} = \{v_1, v_2\}$ of W_λ such that v_1 generates a submodule W_1 of W where W_1 and W/W_1 are isomorphic to V . We claim that W is a completely reducible C_2 -module provided W_λ is a completely reducible U_0 -module. Assume to the contrary that $W_\lambda \simeq U_0v_1 \oplus U_0v_2$ as U_0 -modules and there exists a nonzero vector $v \in Uv_1 \cap Uv_2$. Without loss of generality, we may assume that v is a weight vector of weight μ and $v = u_1v_1 = u_2v_2$ where $u_1, u_2 \in U$. Since W is torsion free we can select an element $u \in U$ such that u acts injectively on W and $uu_1, uu_2 \in U_0$. Then $0 \neq uv = uu_1v_1 = uu_2v_2 \in U_0v_1 \cap U_0v_2 = (0)$. This contradiction implies that $W \simeq Uv_1 \oplus Uv_2$.

For convenience we denote the matrix representations of $H_\alpha \downarrow W_\lambda, H_\beta \downarrow W_\lambda$ and $D_i \downarrow W_\lambda$ with respect to the basis \mathcal{B} by $\Lambda_\alpha, \Lambda_\beta$ and Z_i respectively. Clearly $\Lambda_\alpha = \lambda(H_\alpha)I_2$, $\Lambda_\beta = \lambda(H_\beta)I_2$ and the Z_i 's are each 2×2 upper triangular matrices with equal diagonal entries.

Since W is torsion free we have that $\mathcal{B}_1 = \{X_{\alpha+\beta}v_1, X_{\alpha+\beta}v_2\}$ and $\mathcal{B}_2 = \{X_\beta X_\alpha v_1, X_\beta X_\alpha v_2\}$ are bases for the weight space $W_{\lambda+\alpha+\beta}$. Let K denote

the change of coordinate matrix, i.e. formally we have

$$(X_{\alpha+\beta}v_1, X_{\alpha+\beta}v_2)K = (X_\beta X_\alpha v_1, X_\beta X_\alpha v_2)$$

Multiplying this equation by $Y_{\alpha+\beta}$, $Y_\alpha Y_\beta$, $Y_{2\alpha+\beta}X_\alpha$ and $Y_{2\alpha+\beta}Y_\beta X_{\alpha+\beta}$ respectively we obtain the following equations

$$Z_5 = Z_3 K \tag{3.10}$$

$$Z_6 K + Z_6 = Z_1 Z_2 \tag{3.11}$$

$$Z_9 = Z_7 K - Z_7 + Z_4 \tag{3.12}$$

$$Z_{11} K = Z_7 Z_2 - Z_4 Z_2 - Z_9 - 2Z_7 + Z_4 - Z_{11} \tag{3.13}$$

Equation 3.10 implies that K is a 2×2 upper triangular matrix with equal diagonal entries. Therefore we have that the matrices $\Lambda_\alpha, \Lambda_\beta, Z_i (i = 1, \dots, 12)$ and K are pairwise commuting matrices.

The strategy is to use the identities 3.1 through 3.9 applied to W_λ and equations 3.10 through 3.13 to express each Z_i in terms of $\Lambda_\alpha, \Lambda_\beta$ and K and then to show that K is a diagonal matrix which would complete the proof of Lemma 1.

To begin we observe that Eqn 3.1 implies that $Z_6 = Z_5$, Eqn 3.2 implies that $Z_8 = Z_7$, Eqn 3.3+Eqn 3.4 implies that $Z_{10} = Z_9$, and Eqn 3.7+Eqn 3.8 implies that $Z_{12} = Z_{11}$.

Substituting $Z_1 Z_2 = Z_6(K + I) = Z_3 K(K + I)$ and $Z_5 = Z_3 K$ from Eqns 3.11 and 3.10 into Eqn 3.6 yields

$$0 = Z_3[K(K + I) - Z_2 - (K + I)\Lambda_\beta].$$

Since Z_3 is invertible we conclude that

$$Z_2 = (K + I)(K - \Lambda_\beta) \tag{3.14}$$

In particular, we observe that $K + I$ and $K - \Lambda_\beta$ are invertible.

Substituting $Z_9 = Z_7(K - I) + Z_4$ from Eqn 3.12 into Eqn 3.7 yields

$$Z_{11} = -Z_7(K + I). \tag{3.15}$$

Multiply by $-K$ and substitute $Z_{11}K = Z_7 Z_2 - Z_4 Z_2$ from Eqn 3.13 and $Z_2 = (K + I)(K - \Lambda_\beta)$ from Eqn 3.14 yields

$$(K + I)Z_7(2K - \Lambda_\beta) = (K + I)Z_4(K - \Lambda_\beta).$$

Since $K + I, Z_7, Z_4$ and $K - \Lambda_\beta$ are invertible we conclude that $2K - \Lambda_\beta$ is invertible and

$$Z_7 = Z_4(K - \Lambda_\beta)(2K - \Lambda_\beta)^{-1}. \quad (3.16)$$

Substituting Eqn 3.16 into Eqn 3.15 yields

$$Z_{11} = -Z_4(K + I)(K - \Lambda_\beta)(2K - \Lambda_\beta)^{-1}. \quad (3.17)$$

Substituting Eqn 3.16 into Eqn 3.12 yields

$$Z_9 = Z_4K(K - \Lambda_\beta + I)(2K - \Lambda_\beta)^{-1}. \quad (3.18)$$

Substitute $Z_6 = Z_5 = Z_3K$ from Eqn 3.10, $Z_8 = Z_7$, $Z_{10} = Z_9$ and $Z_9 = -2Z_7 + Z_4 - Z_{11}$ from Eqn 3.7 into Eqn 3.9 yields

$$-4Z_6Z_4 - Z_4Z_3 + 4Z_4Z_2 + 4Z_{11}(\Lambda_\alpha + \Lambda_\beta) = 0.$$

Therefore

$$Z_6 = -Z_3 + Z_2 + Z_4^{-1}Z_{11}(\Lambda_\alpha + \Lambda_\beta).$$

Since $Z_6 = Z_5 = Z_3K$ and $Z_2 = (K + I)(K - \Lambda_\beta)$ we have

$$Z_3 = (K - \Lambda_\beta)((2K - 2\Lambda_\beta - \Lambda_\alpha)(2K - \Lambda_\beta)^{-1}). \quad (3.19)$$

and hence from Eqn 3.10 we have

$$Z_5 = K(K - \Lambda_\beta)((2K - 2\Lambda_\beta - \Lambda_\alpha)(2K - \Lambda_\beta)^{-1}). \quad (3.20)$$

Substituting for Z_6 and Z_2 in Eqn 3.11 we obtain

$$Z_1 = K(2K - 2\Lambda_\beta - \Lambda_\alpha)(2K - \Lambda_\beta)^{-1}. \quad (3.21)$$

Substituting for Z_1, Z_2, Z_5 and Z_7 into Eqn 3.5 yields

$$Z_4 = (2K - 2\Lambda_\beta - \Lambda_\alpha)(2K - \Lambda_\alpha + 2I) \quad (3.22)$$

At this stage we have expressed all Z_i in terms of $K, \Lambda_\alpha, \Lambda_\beta$. If we now substitute for all Z_i in Eqn 3.9 and simplify we obtain

$$(2K + \Lambda_\alpha)(4K - 2\Lambda_\beta - I) = 0. \quad (3.23)$$

Finally we claim that $2K + \Lambda_\alpha$ is invertible. Suppose to the contrary that $2K + \Lambda_\alpha$ is not invertible and take a nonzero vector x such that $(2K + \Lambda_\alpha)x =$

0. It follows that $(2K - \Lambda_\beta)x = -(\Lambda_\alpha + \Lambda_\beta)x$. Since $2K - \Lambda_\beta$ is invertible so is $\Lambda_\alpha + \Lambda_\beta$. Using this we have that

$$Z_1x = K(2K - 2\Lambda_\beta - \Lambda_\alpha)(2K - \Lambda_\beta)^{-1}x = K((2K - \Lambda_\beta) - (\Lambda_\alpha + \Lambda_\beta))x = 2Kx$$

Let $v \in W_\lambda$ have \mathcal{B} coordinates x then the \mathcal{B} coordinates of $X_\alpha Y_\alpha v = (H_\alpha + D_1)v$ are given by

$$(\Lambda_\alpha + Z_1)x = \Lambda_\alpha x + 2Kx = 0$$

This contradicts the assumption that W is torsion free and hence $X_\alpha Y_\alpha$ acts injectively on W_λ . It follows then that $K = \frac{1}{2}\Lambda_\alpha - \frac{1}{4}I$ and hence K as well as all Z_i are diagonal matrices thus completing the proof of Lemma 1. \square

Now that we have proven that there are no non-split self-extensions of simple, completely pointed, torsion free C_2 -modules we can apply induction to provide a computational proof that the same result is true for C_n -modules. This approach has the advantage that it deals directly with torsion free modules and avoids the use of Mathieu's coherent family construction. This result together with Lemma 2 provides an alternate proof of Theorem 1.

4 An alternative proof of Theorem 1

Once again from Lemma 2 it suffices to prove the theorem for completely pointed modules. Assume that W is a self-extension of a completely pointed, torsion free $\mathfrak{sp}(2n, \mathbb{C})$ -module V and let W_1 denote a submodule of W equivalent to V . For a fixed weight λ of W we let v_1 denote a basis of $W_{1\lambda}$ and extend to a basis $\mathcal{B} = \{v_1, v_2\}$ of W_λ . As in the C_2 case, it suffices to prove that there exists a weight space W_λ which is a completely reducible $U_0(C_n)$ -module.

Recall that if $\{\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_n\}$ is a standard basis of \mathbb{R}^n then we can realize the root system Δ of C_n as

$$\Delta = \{\pm(\epsilon_i - \epsilon_j) : 1 \leq i < j \leq n\} \cup \{\pm(\epsilon_i + \epsilon_j) : 1 \leq i \leq j \leq n\}.$$

and a base of simple roots is given by

$$\pi = \{\epsilon_1 - \epsilon_2, \dots, \epsilon_{n-1} - \epsilon_n, 2\epsilon_n\}.$$

Fix a Chevalley basis of C_n given by $\{H_\alpha : \alpha \in \pi\} \cup \{X_\mu : \mu \in \Delta\}$. With this notation, $U_0(C_n)$ is generated by $\{H_\alpha : \alpha \in \pi\}$ together with all *basic*

cycles – i.e. all elements $X_{\mu_1} \cdots X_{\mu_k} \in U(C_n)$ where $\mu_i \in \Delta$, $\sum_{i=1}^k \mu_i = 0$ and no proper subsum is zero. Let \mathcal{S} denote the set of all sequences $\{a_1, \dots, a_k\}$ such that the $a_i \in \pm\{1, \dots, n\}$, $a_i \neq a_j$ for $i \neq j$ and there does not exist a subsequence $1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < i_3 < i_4 \leq k$ with $a_{i_1} = -a_{i_3}$ and $a_{i_2} = -a_{i_4}$. In [BL1], it is shown that for each sequence $\{a_1, \dots, a_k\} \in \mathcal{S}$ the element

$$C(a_1, \dots, a_k) = X_{\epsilon_{a_1} - \epsilon_{a_2}} \cdots X_{\epsilon_{a_{n-1}} - \epsilon_{a_n}} X_{\epsilon_{a_n} - \epsilon_{a_1}}$$

is a basic cycle and further that $U_0(C_n)$ is generated by $\{H_\alpha : \alpha \in \pi\}$ together with $\{C(a_1, \dots, a_k) : (a_1, \dots, a_k) \in \mathcal{S}\}$. In order to prove that W is completely reducible it suffices to show that for each $(a_1, \dots, a_k) \in \mathcal{S}$ the matrix representation $Z(a_1, \dots, a_k)$ of the action of $C(a_1, \dots, a_k)$ restricted to W_λ with respect to the basis \mathcal{B} is diagonal.

Observe that every basic cycle $C(a_1, a_2)$ is a basic cycle of a regular subalgebra of C_n which is isomorphic to C_2 and hence by Lemma 1 its matrix representation $Z(a_1, a_2)$ is diagonal. We also note that if $(a_1, a_2, a_3) \in \mathcal{S}$ where $a_1 = -a_2$ or $a_1 = -a_3$ or $a_2 = -a_3$ then the basic cycle $C(a_1, a_2, a_3)$ is a basic cycle of a regular subalgebra of C_n which is isomorphic to C_2 hence again $Z(a_1, a_2, a_3)$ is diagonal by Lemma 1.

There exists one other type of basic cycle of length 3, namely $C(a_1, a_2, a_3)$ where $a_1 \neq -a_2$ and $a_1 \neq -a_3$ and $a_2 \neq -a_3$. In this case, we have the following identity in $U_0(C_n)$

$$\begin{aligned} [C(a_1, a_2, a_3), C(a_1, a_3)] &= (H_{\epsilon_{a_1} - \epsilon_{a_3}} + D)C(a_1, a_2, a_3) \\ &\quad + AC(a_1, a_2)C(a_1, a_3) + BC(a_3, a_2)C(a_1, a_3) \end{aligned}$$

where A, B, D are constants determined by structure constants of the fixed Chevalley basis for each choice of $(a_1, a_2, a_3) \in \mathcal{S}$. Applying this identity to W_λ and taking the matrix representations we have

$$0 = (\lambda(H_{\epsilon_{a_3} - \epsilon_{a_1}}) + D)Z(a_1, a_2, a_3) + AZ(a_1, a_2)Z(a_1, a_3) + BZ(a_3, a_2)Z(a_1, a_3).$$

Since \mathcal{S} is a finite set, only finitely many constants can occur in such equations. Clearly then we can select a weight λ of W such that $\lambda(H_{\epsilon_{a_3} - \epsilon_{a_1}}) - D$ is nonzero for all choices of $(a_1, a_2, a_3) \in \mathcal{S}$ and hence all such matrices are diagonal.

We now have that all basic cycle of length less than or equal to 3 have diagonal matrix representations. To complete the result we proceed by induction assuming that $k \geq 4$ and $Z(a_1, \dots, a_p)$ is diagonal for all $p < k$.

Consider the basic cycle $C(a_1, \dots, a_k)$ where $-a_1 \neq a_k \neq -a_{k-1}$. In this case we have

$$C(a_1, \dots, a_k)C(a_{k-1}, a_1) = C(a_1, \dots, a_{k-1})C(a_{k-1}, a_k, a_1).$$

Applying this identity to W_λ we obtain

$$Z(a_1, \dots, a_k)Z(a_{k-1}, a_1) = Z(a_1, \dots, a_{k-1})Z(a_{k-1}, a_k, a_1).$$

Since $Z(a_{k-1}, a_1)$ is diagonal and invertible, the induction hypothesis implies that the matrix $Z(a_1, \dots, a_k)$ is diagonal.

For any cyclic permutation $\sigma = (1, \dots, k)$ of the indices it is clear that $C(a_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, a_{\sigma(k)})$ is equal to $C(a_1, \dots, a_k)$ plus a sum of cycles of length less than k . It follows that the argument above handles all basic cycles except those of the form $C(a_1, -a_1, a_2, -a_2, \dots, a_\ell, -a_\ell)$ where $|a_1|, \dots, |a_\ell|$ are distinct elements from the set $\{1, \dots, n\}$ and $\ell \geq 2$. In this case we observe that

$$\begin{aligned} C(a_1, -a_1, \dots, a_\ell, -a_\ell)C(a_\ell, a_1) &= C(a_1, -a_1, \dots, -a_{\ell-1}, a_\ell)C(a_\ell, -a_\ell, a_1) \\ &\quad + AC(a_1, -a_1)C(-a_1, a_2, \dots, a_\ell, -a_\ell) \end{aligned}$$

where A is a constant dependent on the sequence $\{a_1, -a_1, \dots, a_\ell, -a_\ell\}$. Applying this identity to W_λ we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} Z(a_1, -a_1, \dots, a_\ell, -a_\ell)Z(a_\ell, a_1) &= Z(a_1, -a_1, \dots, a_{\ell-1}, a_\ell)Z(a_\ell, -a_{\ell-1}, a_1) \\ &\quad + AZ(a_1, -a_1)Z(-a_1, a_2, \dots, a_\ell, -a_\ell) \end{aligned}$$

Since $Z(a_\ell, a_1)$ is diagonal and invertible, the inductive hypothesis implies that the matrix $Z(a_1, -a_1, \dots, a_\ell, -a_\ell)$ is diagonal. Therefore $Z(a_1, \dots, a_k)$ is diagonal for all $(a_1, \dots, a_k) \in \mathcal{S}$, and hence there exists a weight λ such that W_λ is a completely reducible $U_0(C_n)$ -module. This establishes that W is a completely reducible C_n -module as claimed.

5 An application

Let \mathfrak{a} be a semi-simple complex Lie algebra with a fixed Cartan subalgebra $\mathfrak{h}_\mathfrak{a}$ and $\mathfrak{p} \supset \mathfrak{h}_\mathfrak{a}$ be a parabolic subalgebra of \mathfrak{a} . Let $\mathfrak{p} = \mathfrak{n} \oplus \mathfrak{a}' \oplus \mathfrak{h}^{\mathfrak{a}'}$ be the Levi decomposition of \mathfrak{p} , where \mathfrak{n} is nilpotent, $\mathfrak{a}' \oplus \mathfrak{h}^{\mathfrak{a}'}$ reductive, \mathfrak{a}' semi-simple and $\mathfrak{h}^{\mathfrak{a}'}$ is the abelian center of $\mathfrak{a}' \oplus \mathfrak{h}^{\mathfrak{a}'}$. Assume that $\mathfrak{a}' \simeq \mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sp}(2n, \mathbb{C})$ for

$n > 1$ and consider the category $\mathcal{O}(\mathfrak{p}, \mathcal{T}(\mathfrak{g}))$, which is a full subcategory in the category of all \mathfrak{a} -modules, consisting of all \mathfrak{a} -modules M , that satisfy the following conditions

1. finitely generated;
2. $\mathfrak{h}^{\mathfrak{a}'}$ -diagonalizable;
3. locally $U(\mathfrak{n})$ -finite (i.e. $\dim(U(\mathfrak{n})v) < \infty$ for all $v \in V$);
4. decompose into a (possibly infinite) direct sum of modules from $\mathcal{T}(\mathfrak{g})$, when viewed as \mathfrak{g} -modules.

Theorem 2. *The category $\mathcal{O}(\mathfrak{p}, \mathcal{T}(\mathfrak{g}))$ is a highest weight category. Equivalently, the category $\mathcal{O}(\mathfrak{p}, \mathcal{T}(\mathfrak{g}))$ decomposes into a direct sum of full subcategories, each of which is equivalent to the module category of a finite dimensional complex quasi-hereditary associative algebra.*

Proof. The category $\mathcal{T}(\mathfrak{g})$ is semi-simple and obviously closed under tensoring with finite dimensional \mathfrak{g} -modules. Moreover, every object in $\mathcal{T}(\mathfrak{g})$ has finite length (see e.g. [M, Lemma 3.3]). The standard arguments, as for example in [FKM, Section 4] show that with respect to the action of the center of $U(\mathfrak{a})$, the category $\mathcal{O}(\mathfrak{p}, \mathcal{T}(\mathfrak{g}))$ decomposes into blocks, each of which has only finitely many simple modules. The result then follows from [FM, Theorem 3]. \square

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